Household Name
There is no doubt that the name of Carl Prean is becoming household to the populace at large following his exploits in the Tokyo World Championships and, subsequently, in the Norwich Union Masters, in Kingston, Jamaica and in the 555 World Cup in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Anything concerning our sport to set tongues wagging is all to the good and one can only hope that a re-surgence of interest, both in playing and watching, will ensue.

What a 16-year-old lad can do must be a challenge for others to emulate and nought but good can come of it. Meantime let us congratulate the youngster from the Isle of Wight who is doing his best, not only for himself, but for the sport generally.

After fifteen years with the same printing concern, in the Editor's backyard so to speak, readers will have observed the changeover to more distant pastures. From Bolton that is! Our thanks go to Messrs. Wallace (Printers) Ltd., of Bolton for a job well done and a welcome to Frank A. Slugg & Co. Ltd., of Trowbridge, Wilts, who now take on all the headaches.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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26th EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
EM '83 MALMO

ROLL OF HONOUR

Boys' Team:
SOVIET UNION
Cadet Boys' Team:
SWEDEN
Boys' Singles:
JAN-OVE WALDNER (Sweden)
Boys' Doubles:
NICKY MASON and CARL PREAN (England)
Girls' Team:
SOVIET UNION
Cadet Girls' Team:
HUNGARY
Girls' Singles:
OLGA NEMES (Rumania)
Girls' Doubles:
LISA BELLINGER and JEAN PARKER (England)
Mixed Doubles:
JORGEN PERSSON (Sweden) and OLGA NEMES (Rumania)
Boys' Doubles:
NICKY MASON and LISA BELLINGER and CARL PREAN (England)
Girls' Doubles:
JEAN PARKER (England)
Girls' Doubles:
RENAZ CASALOVA and RENATA LINDNEROVA (Czechoslovakia)

Carl and Lisa, bronze medal winners in the mixed doubles in Malmo.

MEDALS GALORE

by Peter Charters

Lisa Bellinger and Carl Prean led England's attack on the available medals in Malmo, over the period July 22-31, 1983, and emerged with the best ever tally - two gold, two silver and two bronze.

Carl and Lisa had a hand in all the medals won (Lisa winning a medal in each event in which she played) but received outstanding support for the two gold medals - Nicky Mason with Carl in the boys' doubles and Jean Parker with Lisa in the girls' doubles.

Jean's contribution was no less significant in the Girls' team event where they took silver losing in the final to Russia. In the mixed doubles Carl and Lisa took bronze (as in the previous year) whilst each managed a medal in their respective singles, both losing to the one player ranked above them on the European and World ranking lists. Carl lost in the final to Jan-Ove Waldner whilst Lisa went out to Olga Nemes in the semi-final.

The team events brought out some satisfying performances from the England players. The Junior Boys' team finished in fifth place which was the highest place possible after the team had gone down, initially 3-5 to Rumania in the first stage and then, in the second stage, to an inspired Hungarian side. The Hungarians undoubtedly saved their best performance of the championships for the English team, not matching it before or after.

Even Carl, who did not play in the match against Rumania, fell before the onslaught going down to their No. 2 Andras Krenhardt although it was Carl who provided England with the one victory in the team's defeat. Apart from this the England boys looked com-
fortable with convincing wins over Luxembourg, in which Philip Huggon made a creditable debut, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and finally reversing the result against Rumania in their 5th-6th play-off match. Both Alan Cooke and Nicky Mason produced some good performances and when considering the whole Championship both showed great promise.

ONE BETTER

The Junior Girls’ team went one better than the previous year in taking the silver medal. Lisa of course was the backbone of the team, being undefeated in singles up to the final but the doubles was the revelation. Lisa and Jean, a pair that at the English Junior Open had struggled against much lesser opposition, produced the best results ever at the European Youth Championships for a girls’ doubles pair.

They lost only twice during the entire Championships, to Federal Germany and to Russia in the final of the team event. They later won the gold medal with a succession of 2-straight victories. Sue Collier came into the team against Iceland and Federal Germany winning two of the three singles she played including a victory over the German No. 2 Anja Spengler.

The Cadet boys’ team improved their final position from 13th in Hollabrun to 5th having the misfortune to draw Czechoslovakia in their first group. The Czechs and the Swedes dominated the Cadet boys’ events. Andy Syed and Jimmy Stokes only lost twice as a team, 1-3 to Czechoslovakia -Andy beating Josef Braun the No. 2- and by the same scoreline to Federal Germany this time the doubles being the one victory. The boys showed a lot of character in the 5th/6th play-off against Yugoslavia where they were 0-2 down and well behind in the doubles but fought back to a 3-2 match win.

But what of the Junior Boys’ team final in which the Soviet Union from being 1-4 in arrears, brought off a sensational 5-4 win against Sweden whose Jan-Ove Waldner lost 21-22 to Andrei Mazunov in the seventh set to rock the Swedes back on their heels!

England’s Cadet girls thought they had a bad draw in the first groupings with the holders Russia but as it transpired they were in an even more difficult position as Rumania proved to be nearly as good as the Russians and in fact provided the Cadet individual champion.

CLOSE AFFAIR

The first match loss 2-3 to Rumania (Jill Powis winning both her singles including a victory over Ottlia Badescu the individual champion) was a close affair and both Jill and Debbie Soothill at times throughout the team event played well. Performances however were patchy, rarely did the girls play well at the same time. Jill’s results were good enough to get her seeded for the individual event; for the first time the Cadet individual draws were done after the team events to provide information for seeding. Andy Syed was seeded in the Cadet boys as were Andy and Jimmy in the Cadet boys’ doubles.

There was English interest in the singles events right to the end. Five players reached the last sixteen of their event. Carl, Nicky and Alan in the Junior boys, Lisa in the Junior girls and Andy in the Cadet boys. Carl’s performance was no less creditable because it was expected; one year after winning the Cadet European title it took the skills of the holder Jan-ave Waldner to stop Carl taking the Junior championship. Lisa reversed her only loss in the team event by defeating Flera Khasanova of Russia in the quarters but went out to European Top 12 winner Olga Nemes of Rumania in the semis.

The doubles gold medals gave real pleasure not only to the team but to those of us who enjoy the sound of the National Anthem on such occasions. Both pairs stood proudly on the top tier of the rostrum. the only disappointment for Lisa was that the Union Jack used for the team event was replaced for the individual events by the flag of St. George.

Both boys’ and girls’ doubles finals had been played at the same time and due to some inspired play by Jean Parker in the second game of their 2-straight victory, the girls were in time to watch the boys clinch their gold in the third game. Lisa and Carl again won bronze in the mixed, losing to the same pair Jorgen Persson and Olga Nemes asin Austria at the same stage.

Some early accommodation problems were overcome, otherwise the stay in Malmo was both enjoyable and rewarding. Success there was but some invaluable experience and lessons learned. It was very pleasing to hear England openly talked about as one of the stronger European table tennis nations. Team spirit was high and as usual Don Parker led the show in a spirit of relaxed confidence, firmness and humour.
THE LAST FLING OF THE FUNNY BATS
AN ANALySiS....
by John Prean

Having looked forward to the European Youth Championships all year in the end I stayed at home and missed the best performance by an English junior team since it all started in 1955. Six medals tell the story of a marvellous success.

Was it a golden autumn or a new spring? Was it, as jealous competitors often said, a funny bat bonanza or a real dawn of English Table Tennis? Our players have used combination bats so well over the years, only the Chinese have used them better.

Still, let us keep an open mind about the legislative holocaust unleashed at the I.T.T.F Congress in Tokyo where even wood, the purest surface of all was banned, where a new service rule emerged which is completely incomprehensible. Are we heading for a period where the game will be played only by university professors and umpired by barristers? In an age like this only the bravest dare look into the future. I noted with sadness that sixty years, a Sport that can hard success now depends as much on what others decide off the table as what the player does on it. Is that a change make a difference? I don't see why. The forefront loop is getting stronger, the Lentec pimples are very versatile. Opponents still have to get the ball back.

"English Table Tennis took a big step forward" I wrote of last year's event "and there is now plenty to build on". That was done. This is the big event that makes or breaks the whole junior season. I congratulate the captains Don Parker and Peter Charters on their success that eclipsed everything any English junior team had ever achieved. These chaps have a real feel for the junior game and that is what it is all about, where it all starts.

Can we do it again? I would have felt confident that we could have improved on our six medals and even become the top junior nation in Europe if the rules for once had been left alone. Lisa and Carl would still have been there. So would Billy Gleave who gave up his membership which we have witnessed for so many years, a Sport that can compete with others?

Unless our top players achieve regular and consistent international success and our publicity efforts slip into top gear there is no chance of media coverage which inspires children to take up our Game rather than another more often seen on Television.

We undoubtedly have such players as Malmo showed, as Tokyo showed, as Malmo showed, as Tokyo showed a real assault at the various Sei-finals : C. Tiugan (ROM) 14. 17.

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CADET GIRLS' SINGLES
Round 3:
1. C. Batori (HUN) bt N. Kudashkina (RUS) 7, 6.
Round 2:
1. M. Anderson bt J. Oven (SWE) 6, 1.
Round 1:
1. C. Batori bt N. Kudashkina (RUS) 7, 6.

BOYS DORABLES
Quarter-finals:
1. T. Krsnik (YUG) bt J. Powis (ENG) 19, 21.

OTHERS
Girls' Doubles:

BOYS' DOUBLES
Quarter-finals:
1. M. Anderson bt J. Oven (SWE) 6, 1.

OTHERS
Girls' Doubles:

BOYS' DOUBLES
Quarter-finals:
1. T. Krsnik (YUG) bt J. Powis (ENG) 19, 21.

OTHERS
Girls' Doubles:

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OTHERS
Girls' Doubles:

BOYS' DOUBLES
Quarter-finals:
1. T. Krsnik (YUG) bt J. Powis (ENG) 19, 21.

OTHERS
Girls' Doubles:
ENGLAND TEAM RESULTS

BOYS

England finished 2nd to Rumania in Group D First Stage.

England finished 2nd to Hungary in Group I Second Stage.

England finished 3rd to Czechoslovakia and Federal Germany in Group B Second Stage.

England finished 4th behind the Soviet Union, Rumania, Belgium in Group A First Stage.

England finished 2nd to Belgium in Group B First Stage.

England finished 2nd to Poland in Group C Second Stage.

England finished 2nd to Belgium in Group G Second Stage.

CADET BOYS

CADET GIRLS

ENGLISH INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

ENGLISH TEAM RESULTS

CADET BOYS

CADET GIRLS

The combination of Carl Prean and Nicky Mason proved unbeatable in the Boys’ Doubles event in Malmo.
CARLAND LISA MAKE THE GRADE

Both England’s Carl Prean and Lisa Bellinger are included in the revised classifications of the International Table Tennis Federation, released on June 30, which, for World purposes, are headed by reigning champions Guo Yuehua and Cao Yanhua of the People’s Republic of China, the victors in Tokyo.

Young Prean comes in for the first time at No. 25 as does Lisa at No. 34 in the women’s category. Desmond Douglas is demoted from No. 7 to No. 16 in the men’s list the top European being Mikael Appelgren, Sweden’s European champion. Likewise Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands heads the European challenge on the distaff side. Jill Hammersley-Parker, now retired, is included at No. 40 having previously occupied 16th place.

John Hilton, previously at No. 43 has been omitted but newcomers, apart from Prean, comprise Kim Ki Taek of South Korea, Zsolt Kriston (Hungary), Cho Jong Chol (North Korea), Patrick Renverse (France), Juzo Nukazuka (Japan), Bela Mesaros (Yugoslavia) and Stefan Dryszel (Poland).

Ni Xialiang of China heads the newcomers in the women’s list, at No. 7, immediately followed by Fumiko Shinpo of Japan.

The new rankings are (previously in brackets):-

**Men**
1. Guo Yuehua (CHN) (1)
2. Cai Zhenhua (CHN) (2)
3. Jiang Jialiang (CHN) (5)
4. Wang Huiyuan (CHN) (8)
5. Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) (14)
6. Xie Saike (CHN) (15)
7. Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (4)
8. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) (9)
9. Fan Changmao (CHN) (17)
10. Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (22)
11. Chen Xinhua (CHN) (29)
12. Kim Ki Taek (KOR) (-)
13. Erik Lindh (SWE) (6)
14. Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (15)
15. Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (16)
16. Desmond Douglas (ENG) (17)
17. Park Lee Hee (KOR) (18)
18. Eric Boggan (USA) (23)
19. Seiji Ono (JPN) (25)
20. Milan Orlovski (TCH) (27)
21. Cho Yong Ho (PRK) (29)
22. Kim Wan (KOR) (30)
23. Andrzej Grubba (POL) (21)
24. Jacques Secretin (FRA) (18)

**Women**
1. Guo Yuehua (CHN) (1)
2. Yang Young Ja (KOR) (18)
3. Qi Boxiang (CHN) (3)
4. Tong Ling (CHN) (1)
5. Huang Junqun (CHN) (2)
6. Dai Lili (CHN) (5)
7. Ni Xialiang (CHN) (-)
8. Fumiko Shinpo (JPN) (-)
9. Geng Lijuan (CHN) (11)
10. Betty Vriesekoop (HOL) (7)
11. Kim Gyong Sun (PRK) (29)
12. Marie Hrachova (TCH) (21)
13. Valentina Popova (URS) (12)
14. An Hae Sook (KOR) (13)
15. Olga Nemes (ROM) (22)
16. Tian Jing (CHN) (19)
17. Emiko Kanda (JPN) (30)
18. Rie Wada (JPN) (27)
19. Pu Qijuan (CHN) (10)
20. Fliura Bulatova (URS) (21)

On the International Front

**Men**
25. Carl Prean (ENG) (-)
26. Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (20)
27. Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (36)
28. Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (-)
29. Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (33)
30. Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (28)
31. Chi Man Kuen (HKG) (38)
32. Norio Takashima (JPN) (26)
33. Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (41)
34. Hong Chol (PRK) (47)
35. Cho Jong Chol (PRK) (-)
36. Gabor Gergely (HUN) (25)
37. Georg Bohn (FRG) (44)
38. Leszek Kucharski (POL) (31)
39. Miho Yoneda (JPN) (35)
40. Patrick Renverse (FRA) (-)
41. Kenichi Sakamoto (JPN) (45)
42. Diao Ming (CHN) (39)
43. Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (-)
44. Mashhiro Maehara (JPN) (29)
45. Vong lu Veng (HKG) (37)
46. Janos Molnar (HUN) (35)
47. Bela Mesaros (YUG) (-)
48. Barbara Lippens (BEL) (-)
49. Jaime Molina (ESP) (36)
50. Stefan Dryszel (POL) (-)

**Women**
1. Guo Yuehua (CHN) (1)
2. Jiang Jialiang (CHN) (5)
3. Qi Baoxiang (CHN) (3)
4. Huang Junqun (CHN) (4)
5. Dai Lili (CHN) (5)
6. Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) (14)
7. Ni Xialiang (CHN) (-)
8. Fumiko Shinpo (JPN) (-)
9. Geng Lijuan (CHN) (11)
10. Betty Vriesekoop (HOL) (7)
11. Kim Gyong Sun (PRK) (29)
12. Marie Hrachova (TCH) (21)
13. Valentina Popova (URS) (12)
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15. Olga Nemes (ROM) (22)
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17. Emiko Kanda (JPN) (30)
18. Rie Wada (JPN) (27)
19. Pu Qijuan (CHN) (10)
20. Fliura Bulatova (URS) (21)
**EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

First shock of the season in the European League has been the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Division 1 thus posing the query by Austria as to what happens about relegation in a division now comprising seven teams?

Otherwise all seems set fair for another exciting season with France restored to the Super Division replacing Denmark who, in turn, will now meet promotees Spain who have replaced Norway in Division 2.

Portugal have lost their place by relegation from Division 2 with Guernsey taking over but losing their opening match away to Wales in Cardiff in a fixture brought forward to Sept. 11. Scores in this encounter won 6-1 by Wales were:-

A. Griffiths bt M. Pipet 11, 10; M. Thomas bt I. Powell 13, 18; L. Tyler bt J. Gallienne 14, 15; M. & N. Thomas lost to Pipet/Powell - 20, -18; M. Thomas/Tyler bt Powell/Gallienne 14, 12; Griffiths bt Powell 20, 11; Thomas bt Pipet 9, 9.

Future fixtures for the home countries are:-

**Super Division**

Oct. 12
England v Sweden (Sunderland) Nov. 9

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**EUROPEAN CALENDAR 1983-84**

**1983**

Oct. 12 EUROPEAN LEAGUE (2) Oct. 19 European Club Cup - Preliminary Round
Fairs Cities Cup - Second Round

Oct. 28/30 Swiss Open (Osten)
Nov. 4/6 Nordic Championships (Iceland)
Nov. 9 EUROPEAN LEAGUE (3)
Nov. 11/13 Hungarian Open (Miskolc)
Nov. 30 Europe Club Cup - Third Round Fairs Cities Cup - Second Round

Dec. 1/4 Danish Open (Aalborg)
Dec. 9/11 Finnish Open (Helsinki)
Dec. 14 EUROPEAN LEAGUE (4)

**1984**

Jan. 11 EUROPEAN LEAGUE (5) Jan. 18 European Club Cup - Semi-finals Fairs Cities Cup - Third Round
Jan. 26/28 Norwich Union Open English (Brighton)

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**EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS SEASON 1983/84**

**Men's Section**

**DRAW**
Heinzelman Reutlinger (FRG) v Lisboa E. Benefica (POR) or Pellicer Canali (ITA)
TTC Wettstein (SUI) v Vitkovice (TCH) *Club de 7 a 9 (ESP) or Raiffeisen Langenlois (AUS) v Olympija Ljubljana (YUG)

*DT Echternach (LUX) or KPK (FIN) v Kremlin Bicetre (FRA)
TTC Simix Julich (FRA) v *AO Peralta (GREE) or Hassy perfection Soham (ENG)

(NOR) v Bronshoj BK (DEN)
Stockhams Sparvagars (SWE) v Royal Villette (BEL)

*nv de Veluwe (HOL) or Universitatea Craiova (ROM) v BP Spartacus (HUN)
Women's Section

Statistik (B. HUN) v *R. Match Pantheon (BEL) or Olympiacos S.C. (GRE)
Odense BK (DEN) v Amicale Laique (FRA)

Varberg BK (SWE) v EMI Ellenborough (ENG)
Fiat Carrelli (ITA v Vitkovice (TCH)
Kaiserberg Butterfly (FRG) v La Palette Esch/A (LUX)

**Sylla** (HOL) v Tolna Iforos Lobogo (HUN)
TTC Uster (SUI) v Atus Judenburg (AUS)

Club de 7 a 9 (ESP) v STK Mladost (YUG)

*First Round ties.
During the past four seasons, England's Cadet team (Under-14) have been involved in a Quadrangular event with Denmark, Federal Germany and the Netherlands. This year it became the turn of this country to host the championships. However, during last year's European Youth Championships in Hallabrunn, both France and Sweden asked to be included and, after consultation with the other countries, they were admitted to the tournament. So, at the Eurosport Village, Shotley, near Ipswich, over the weekend of the 10th/11th June 1983, the six teams came together for what turned out to be a "mini European Cadet Championships". All six counties were using the occasion to give their top Cadets valuable experience before this year's European Championships and the standard of play was extremely high.

Play began on Saturday, 18th, with a team event played on Swatthling Cup lines (9 singles) although at the Jury meeting on the Friday all six countries agreed to a doubles match, making ten sets in total. The six counties were divided into two groups of three, their positions being determined by their finishing position in the last Europeans, and the groups were as follows:-

Boys Group I Group 2
1. Netherlands 1. Netherlands
2. F.R. Germany 2. Sweden
3. Denmark 3. England

Girls Group I Group 2
1. Sweden 1. Netherlands
2. England 2. F.R. Germany
3. France 3. Denmark

Results from these first group matches were as follows:-

Boys' Group I
Netherlands 1 Federal Germany 9
Boys' Group 2
England 4 Sweden 6
Girls' Group I
England 6 Sweden 4
Girls' Group 2
Netherlands 4 Federal Germany 6

Boys' Group I
Federal Germany 10 Denmark 0
Boys' Group 2
Sweden 8 England 2
Fallby bt J. Stokes 15, 11;
Von Scheele bt M. Syed (M) 13, 10;
Bergstrom lost to A. Syed (A) 19, -13, -16;
Von Scheele bt Stokes 13, 16;
Fallby lost to A. Syed (A) -18, -11;
Bergstrom bt M. Syed (M) 14, -9, 14;
Von Scheele/Fallby bt A. Syed (A)/A.
Dixon 14, 8;
Von Scheele bt A. Syed (A) 11, 22;
Bergstrom bt Stokes 16, 18;
Fallby bt M. Syed (M) 16, 18.

Girls' Group I
England 9 France 1
Davis bt Coubat -23, 19, 14;
Powis bt Leclerc 10, 13;
Soothill bt Gouache 17, 20;
Powis bt Coubat 10, 12;
Davis lost to Gouache -15, -11;
Soothill bt Leclerc 6, 17;
Powis/Soothill bt Gouache/Coubat 17, 19;
Powis bt Gouache 17, 10;
Soothill bt Coubat 16, 15;
Davis bt Leclerc 12, 18.

Girls' Group 2
Federal Germany 9 Denmark 1
Boys' Group 1
Netherlands 8 Denmark 2
Boys' Group 2
England 8 England 2
Stokes bt Marmurek -18, 17, 18;
Syed (A) bt Bauer 12, 14;
Dixon bt Gaten 16, 19;
Syed (A) bt Marmurek -18, 7, 20;
Stokes lost to Gaten 18, -19, -11;
Dixon bt Bauer 17, -23, 17;
Syed (A)/Stokes lost to Gaten/Bauer 22, 15, -17;
Syed (A) bt Gaten 11, -16, 11;
Dixon bt Marmurek -19, 19, 18;
Stokes bt Bauer 17, 17.

Girls' Group 2
Sweden 7 France 3
Girls' Group 3
Sweden 6 Girls 4

England 5 Netherlands 3
Syed (M) bt Boon -15, 22, 14;
Dixon bt Van Haren 22, 18;
Stokes bt Boute -15, 16, 21;
Dixon lost to Boon -18, -16;
Syed (M) lost to Boute -17, 21, -19;
Stokes bt Van Haren 6, 16;
Dixon lost to Boute -18, -19;
Stokes bt Boon 16, 18.

Girls' Group 1
England 1 Federal Germany 5
Davis lost to Bohning -19, -19;
Powis bt Reckziegel 12, 23;
Soothill lost to Nolten -15, -16;
Powis lost to Bohning -17, -15;
Davis lost to Nolten -14, 17, -17;
Soothill lost to Reckziegel -12, -13.

Sweden 2 Netherlands 5
(Third Group I v Third Group 2)

On Sunday, 19th, Individual events were held. Initially all players were drawn into three groups of 6 players, one from each country.

Finally the players were re-grouped into six groups of 3 players competing for the four medal places with Sweden proving invincible in the Boys events and the Federal Republic of Germany making a complete sweep of the Girls event.

Final group results were:-

Individual Events - Boys (continued)

Final Positions

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11
On Saturday, the Organisers were privileged to have the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich in attendance to make the Team Awards, whilst on Sunday, Alan Ransome, Vice-Chairman of Tees Sport, the Butterfly (UK) Ltd distributors, presented individual medals.

For England, the weekend began with mixed results. The Boys fell to Sweden 8-2 but beat France 8-2, thanks to a fine treble from Adrian Dixon as well as a hat-trick from Andrew Syed, who also won the two sets against Sweden. The Boys, however, started well. A 6-4 win over Sweden was followed up with a 9-1 thrashing of France. Jill Powis, as expected, was the star being unbeaten and she was ably backed up by Debbie Soothill with two wins against Sweden and a treble against France.

The evening play-offs saw England Boys edge home 5-3 against the Netherlands with Andrew Syed being rested, and here Jimmy Stokes became the hero with three fine wins. This left England in 3rd place.

But what a disastrous evening for the Girls against the Federal Republic of Germany. Following a narrow -19-19 defeat for Louise Davis, Jill Powis equated the scores with a close victory over the German No.3. Then the rot set in with the German girls taking over and winning the next four sets including a -17-15 defeat for our No.1 Jill Powis by Ilka Bohning, the German no.2, so we had to be content with the Silver Medal.

For England, the Individual events also provided mixed fortunes. In the Boys' event Stokes played well in a strong Group 1, finishing second to Thomas Von Scheele (Sweden), the eventual winner, whilst in Group 2 Andrew Syed finished a rather disappointing 4th, losing two sets. In Group 3, where England had two contestants, Mathew Syed had a good run, finishing third with Dixon also a creditable fourth.

The final play-offs saw Stokes finish in sixth overall, Mathew Syed ninth, Andrew Syed tenth and Dixon 11th. The Swedish boys dominated, Johan Falby finishing second behind Von Scheele, Steffen Fetzner (Federal Republic of Germany) third and J. Philippe Gatien (France) fourth.

In the Girls event the Federal Republic of Germany dominated throughout, taking first, second and third places with Emmanuelle Coubat (France) in fourth place. Jill Powis had a terrible first group, losing -11 -11 against Ilka Bohning and also going down to Louisa Hallner (Sweden). Final England po'Silons were:- Powis seventh, Hammond (having a good second day) eighth, Soothill eleventh and Davis fourteenth.

Altogether an excellent tournament and hopefully continuing with Sweden provisionally agreeing to run it in Gothenburg (1984) and France in 1985.

**U.S. Open Results:**

(Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, June 8-12) by TIM BOGGAN

**Men’s Team**

Final: USA “A” (3)-Canada “B” (0):

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**Group 4**

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(Boggan attacked marvellously the first two games, then (perhaps unconsciously) settled into playing too conservatively. Huging acclimated, began (“YEAHHH!”) picking in one-ball winners, and Boggan, with opportunities, let both the 3rd and 4th games slip away at 19. At the beginning of the 5th, the spectators gave both players a standing ovation. Coming into the end game, Boggan, up 17-14, lost 5 in a row- reminiscent of his 19-16-up-in-the-5th collapse (on this same court!) in the final of the U.S. Open form that had enabled him to beat both Eric and Sweden’s Appelgren).

**Women’s Singles**


(Boggan attacked marvellously the first two games, then (perhaps unconsciously) settled into playing too conservatively. Huging acclimated, began (“YEAHHH!”) picking in one-ball winners, and Boggan, with opportunities, let both the 3rd and 4th games slip away at 19. At the beginning of the 5th, the spectators gave both players a standing ovation. Coming into the end game, Boggan, up 17-14, lost 5 in a row- reminiscent of his 19-16-up-in-the-5th collapse (on this same court!) in the final of the U.S. Open form that had enabled him to beat both Eric and Sweden’s Appelgren).

**Women’s Singles**


(lee and Kim, the former world-ranked Korean women who’ve played against one another for 10 years now, were clearly better than the rest of the field. Perhaps in the very near future the U.S. National Team might very well be confused with the Republic of Korea team?)

Lee Soo-ja, victor over Kyung-ja Kim in the women’s singles final. Photos by Malcolm Anderson, Chairman, Photographic Committee. USTTA.
WORLD CUP TABLE TENNIS

Sixteen players drawn from the six continents gathered together in Barbados for the fourth 555 World Cup, held at the Community College near Bridgetown from August 29th to September 3rd, 1983.

Play commenced with four groups of four players with the first and second in each group going forward to contest the quarter finals whilst the remainder battled for 9th to 16th positions. The event got off to a cracking start with an exciting match between Mikael Appelgren of Sweden and Park Lee Hee from Korea. The enthusiastic Barbadian audience greeted every good rally and particularly any successful drop shot with tremendous applause and often including leaps into the air worthy of the most ardent Manchester United fan. Park won the first game 23-21, Appelgren the second 22-20 and after nearly an hour Appelgren emerged the victor by 21-15. This long match highlighted what was to become the major problem for most of the players—that of heat and humidity, which created perspiration in profusion. It was difficult for the players to importantly stay dry in order to grip the racket and to get the ball to rise smoothly off the hand. Perspiration dripped from the forehead on to the racket, the table and the floor, so as Referee I instructed the umpires to be lenient in their attitude towards frequent breaks for towelling and, more importantly, to dry in order to grip the racket. Otherwise, some excellent all action games would have gone to expedite and in my judgement would then have taken much longer as the more frequent changes in service would have required even more attention to drying the hands.

Eight matches per evening for three evenings were required to complete the groups but it was on the first night that the sensations started when Zoran Kalinic of Yugoslavia, who was in top form with his angled block and had his conqueror in the final of the European Youth Championships. He followed this up with a win against the local hero Robert Earle of Barbados and went on to head his group with a third victory, this time over the highly ranked Korean, Kim Kaye Taek. The spectators were very British in their desire to cheer the underdog and the sight of a 16-year-old taking on senior players meant that Carl received tremendous support each time he played and was given what was probably the loudest applause when the players came into the arena for the closing ceremony.

Appelgren, Kalinic, Prean and Eric Boggan of the U.S.A. filled the first four places in the quarter finals and were joined in draw order by Surbek, Jonyer, Waldner and Lindh, the last named being a last minute replacement for the injured Orlowski of Czechoslovakia. This meant that there were three Swedish players in the quarter finals and all were successful including a win by Waldner over Prean in five games. Had the quarter finals been best of three like the groups, Carl would have been through to the semi-finals, he held a 2-1 game advantage. Kalinic joined the Swedes in the semi-final but had the misfortune to be in the same half as the best of them, Mikael Appelgren.

Both semi-finals went the full distance, Appelgren beating Kalinic 21-17 and Waldner ousting Lindh 21-19 in the deciding game. The third game of the Appelgren/Kalinic match was marred by some excessive towelling by Kalinic in spite of repeated appeals by the umpire. Whether or not it was the only reason, the towelling became minimal in the last two games after a stern lecture to Kalinic from myself during the five-minute break.

The placement matches produced some excellent table tennis, including an exhibition type match from the two Chinese in deciding 9th and 10th places. Carl Prean played Jonyer of Hungary for 5th or 6th place and although Carl lost 18 in the third, one particular rally brought the longest period of sustained applause heard throughout the whole event.

A capacity crowd gathered for the final in which the greater experience of Appelgren carried him through against the play and services of young Waldner, despite a momentary loss of touch in the second game.

Mention of services brings up the problem that umpires will have in the months ahead in operating the changes in the service laws. Stamping the foot on service will be the easiest one for the players to adapt to and umpires will soon recognise the difference of a stamp from a service action which involves a raising and lowering of the foot. Not letting the racket fall below the level of the table surface is a matter of adjustment for most players but unless the two-colour racket regulation is in force, a harshness in this matter seems unreasonable. Where most of the difficulties will come is in the requirement for the ball to be struck in service level with some part of the body. It will be as difficult for the umpire to judge this as it would be for a tennis umpire to judge a foot fault. Despite the fact that there is a law which requires a player to serve so that the correctness of his serve can be checked by the umpire, in my opinion there is a danger that many services will be called as ‘fault’ by the umpire when in fact they comply with the letter of the law. It is only by standing level with the player and on the opposite side of his body that the point of impact can be truly judged and the umpire will be sitting at a 45° angle to the line of demarkation.

However, the main impressions from the 555 World Cup in Barbados will be the hot and humid conditions that had to be endured by the players, the enthusiasm of the spectators and the inexplicable early losses by both the Chinese players. The accommodation at the Rockley Resort Hotel was de-luxe first class and during the day everyone enjoyed the sea, sun and sand of Barbados.

RESULTS

GROUP MATCHES

Group A
M. Appelgren bt Park Lee Hee -21,20, 15; bt I. Jonyer 17, 11; bt M. Alvarez 10, 15; Jonyer bt Alvarez 18, 8; bt Park Lee Hee -8, 19, 20.
Park Lee Hee bt Alvarez 14, 16.

Group B
E. Lindh bt Kalinic -9, 17, 18; bt Pinkewich 10, 10.
Cai Zhenhua bt Lindh -17,15,19; bt Pinkewich 7, 5.

Group C
C. Prean bt J-O. Waldner -14, 27, 10; bt R. Earle -18, 9, 6; bt Kim Ki Tae -18,14, 13.
Waldner bt Kim Ki Tae 19, -16,21; bt Earle 13, -12, 11.
Kim Ki Taek bt Earle 21, -16, 11.

Group D
E. Boggan bt D. Surbek 18, -21, 12; bt S. Eboh 8, 18.
Surbek bt Jiang Jialiang 18, -19, 12; bt Eboh 11, -13, 6.
Jiang Jialiang bt Boggan 16, -14, 13; bt Eboh 17, 14.

Play for Positions 13-16
Eboh bt Earle 20,20; bt Pinkewich 19, 20.
Alvarez bt Earle 11, 15.

Play for Positions 9-12
Cai Zhenhua bt Park Lee Hee 16, 12.
Jiang Jialiang bt Kim Ki Taek 12, -18, 15; bt Cai Zhenhua 21, 19.
Kim Ki Taek bt Park Lee Hee 15, 19.

QUARTER-FINALS
Appelgren bt Surbek 21, 15, 19.
Kalinic bt Jonyer 11, 12, -16, 19.
Waldner bt Prean -18,19, -11, 12,11.
Lindh bt Boggan -14, 11, 18, 7.

Play for Positions 5-8
Jonyer bt Surbek -10, 19, 18.
Prean bt Boggan 16, 17.
Jonyer bt Prean -20, 17, 18.
Boggan bt Surbek -21, 18, 15.

SEMI-FINALS
Appelgren bt Kalinic -15, 19, -21, 6, 17.
Waldner bt Lindh 18, -17, -14, 7,19.

Play for Positions 3 and 4
Lindh bt Kalinic 16, -17, 16.

FINAL
Appelgren bt Waldner 14, -13,12,17.

WANG IN COMMAND
Throughout 1983 Jamaicans will be celebrating 21 years of Independence and as part of these celebrations Rothmans and Air Jamaica presented the prestigious Norwich Union Masters table tennis tournament at the National Arena, Kingston from May 23 to 28.

During the six days of the tournament players from the People’s Republic of China, Hungary, Hong Kong, Poland, Sweden, Yugoslavia, United States, England and Jamaica entertained the crowds with a display of the sport at the highest level.

Ten of the sixteen players who competed were World ranked and it was therefore inevitable that there would be some surprises- indeed few thought that Chiu Man Kuen of Hong Kong would reach the final beating the World No.2 Cai Zhenhua in the semi-final - and probably the biggest and most popular with the knowledgeable Jamaican audience was the 6th place achieved by 15-year-old Carl Prean of England.

Although it was not possible for everyone to be successful on the table, all the players, officials and journalists from overseas enjoyed the ‘open arms’ hospitality so traditional with Jamaicans and all vowed they would return. End results were:-

First: WANG HUIYUAN bt Chiu Man Kuen 19, 13, 14.

Final POSITIONS
1 Wang Huiyuan - Norwich Union Masters Trophy and £4,000
2 Chiu Man Kuen - £2,000
3 Jiang Jialiang - £900
4 Cai Zhenhua - £800
5 Z. Kalinic - £675
6 C. Prean - £600
7 E. Boggan - £525
8 A. Grubba - £450
9 I. Jonyer - £375
10 Z. Kriston - £325
11 U. Carlson - £275
12 J. Molnar - £225
13 D. Seemiller - £1 75
14 S. Andrew - £1 50
15 E. Virgo - £125
16 C. McNeish - £100.
The Magic of China's Pingpong Players
by He Zhou

The Chinese paddlers bagged six gold cups at the 37th WTTC, only one missing from their historic sweep of all seven at the 36th WTTC.

The battle of the 37th World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) was fought like an ill-matched tug of war: at one end were 20 Chinese paddlers, and at the other 470 contestants from 86 countries and regions throughout the world. But when the smoke finally cleared after 12 days of tough play from April 28 to May 9 in Tokyo, the Chinese had won the battle and taken away six gold cups, only one short of their historic sweep of all seven golds at the last WTTC.

The whole competition seemed to be under the spell of the Chinese magic. Often, competitors like Erik Lindh of Sweden had already seen the light of victory and were one game, or even just a single point, from consigning the Chinese to oblivion.

But it was Lindh who made an early exit from the tournament after his men's singles match against China's No.2 player, Cai Zhenhua. Lindh led Cai 2:1 and came up from behind in the fourth to tie the game at 20-all. Had he looped a little more steadily, had he struck a bit more fiercely, had he waited more patiently for his opponent to make a mistake,... he would have advanced to the semi-finals to challenge the defending champion, China's Guo Yuehua. But the two final points fell to Cai and Lindh failed in his bid to break the Chinese monopoly.

Indeed, the WTTC - like this one - have been dominated by the seemingly unstoppable Chinese for more than 20 years; and many top players - including the Chinese themselves - feel China's reign should be broken to make the sport more accessible. To date, no effective way has been found and China's reign continues.

So what is the Chinese magic? No one is sure, but clues do exist.

In their own eyes, China's players seem to enjoy a kind of psychological edge which has undoubtedly helped them through many tough games. In their Swaythling Cup matches against Sweden this year, the Chinese "won a victory more of will than of technique," as chief coach Li Furong put it. And in the women's single finals, Cao Yanhua of China also won a largely psychological victory over Yang Young Ja of South Korea. This confidence is not totally unfounded; since 1961, China have bagged almost every crown they contested in the men's and women's team events, with the exception of a copper trophy in the women's team competition at the 27th WTTC.

That elusive edge may also be based on tough psychological conditioning. Before every major international competition, the players and coaches undergo a sort of group therapy with team psychoanalysts. Weaknesses are analysed, difficult situations predicted and an "I-can-eventually-beat-you" spirit instilled. Before the 37th WTTC, players were given a 43-item questionnaire probing possible pit falls, including their reactions to unfamiliar styles and unpredictable referees.

Technique, too, plays no small part in China's success along with a talent for creativity and refinement. China has contributed 13 of the 21 major technical innovations in the sport from 1902 to 1982, according to research by Japanese pingpong experts. Seven of the 12 important improvements made to pingpong bats during the same period have also come from China. Near-table fast attacks, the high-toss service, the combined application of strikes and loops, the use of double-quality bats - all have helped the Chinese to rule over international play. Opposing players have sometimes been heard muttering dark hints - only half in jest - about China's latest 'secret weapons' for an upcoming tournament.

Another possible factor is team spirit - or "collective wisdom", as the Chinese put it. Their current motto is "to win the glory for the motherland," not for themselves. In the team events, coaches usually put up their most suitable players, rather than their best. In the men's finals at the 37th WTTC, coach Li Furong replaced world champ Guo Yuehua with Jiang Jialiang, a newcomer to the championships. Guo sat on the bench, watching and cheering. The competitors are also backed by a number of players who never appear in international events - sparring partners who imitate the most challenging possible opponents and help their teammates get used to their styles.
over. But it spurred thousands of people to take up pingpong, fostering a new generation of outstanding players and filling China’s trophy rooms. The sport even acquired a diplomatic passport in 1971 - when Chinese and American sportsmen met at the 31st WTTC, for the first contacts between the two countries since 1949. The events ushered in the era of pingpong diplomacy, and pingpong nearly acquired a place as the national sports symbol of China.

There are now nearly 100 million pingpong fans in the country, and about 2,000 spare-time sports schools give regular pingpong training courses. It’s anyone’s guess whether this will sustain the Chinese magic in the face of ever-stronger challenges from abroad.

But with one tenth of China’s one-billion people at the tables, nothing seems impossible.

Following the world championships in Tokyo, a Chinese team visited Europe and played two matches in Holland both of which resulted in “white-washes” for the European sides. In Veenendaal, before 500 spectators on June 18, a reinforced Dutch side were beaten 5-0 with the same scoreline appertaining in Breda on the following night when 1,200 spectators saw Ulf Carlsson, Milan Orlowski and Dragutin Surbek suffer the same fate.

Scores:-
in Veenendaal
H. v Spanje lost to Chen Jian -14, -13.
M. Orlowski lost to Guo Yaohua -19, -19
R. v Spanje lost to Chen Xinhua -10, -14
H. v Spanje lost to Guo -12, -15
R. v Spanje lost to Chen Jian -10, 10

in Breda
U. Carlsson lost to Guo -19, -21
D. Surbek lost to Chen Jian 16, -17, -16
Orlowski lost to Chen Xinhua -11, -19
Surbek lost to Guo -21, 15, -23 (after being 19-16 up!)
Carlsson lost to Chen Xinhua -14, -21

Henk van Spanje, the 18-year-old Dutch champion in season 81/82, has signed up for Ormesby in the Halex National League.

Bettine Vriesekoop has written a letter to the Dutch Association (NITB) saying that she is now a professional. The NITB answered by asking what does it mean? Please explain what you want to say and what are the consequences for you and the NITB? We wait.
ETTA in £45,000 deal with Charles Church

English table tennis received a welcome boost at the beginning of the season with the news that Camberley-based property developers, Charles Church, are to sponsor the ETTA annual Invitation Event for an initial period of three years. Speaking at a London press conference on 15th September to announce the sponsorship, ETTA chairman, Tom Blunn, said: “We are delighted to welcome Charles Church to table tennis sponsorship and hope that the company will be able to reflect on a sound investment in three years’ time.”

“We have always prided ourselves on being able to attract some of the world’s most exciting players to the tournament”, said Mr. Blunn, “and we are keen to maintain the standards of presentation we have pioneered in the use of theatres and conference centres. With the support of Charles Church the future is assured and we are looking forward to an excellent event in November.”

The new sponsors, Charles Church, are no strangers to table tennis, having supported many local events in the South-East of England, where most of their building takes place. “Involvement with a major table tennis event like the Charles Church Championship is a natural progression for us” said deputy managing director John Duggan. “The company’s philosophy is building homes of quality so it makes sense for us to sponsor a tournament between players of the highest class.”

This year’s event, to be known as the Charles Church Championship, will be held at the superb venue of the Wembley Conference Centre, but at the new time of 6.30 p.m. on Friday, 18th November. Table tennis fans who travel up to the Centre after work on Friday afternoon will have time for a drink before the six-man tournament. Confident they can expect to see some tremendous matches from the World-class players - including a possible confrontation between England’s Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean.

For Douglas, twice the holder of the title, there will be more at stake than the UK’s highest prize, £1,600, and a successive hat-trick. There is the knowledge that, since his emphatic victory over Prean at the Norwich Union English Closed Championships in February, the 16-year-old Isle of Wight schoolboy has completely overshadowed the 28-year-old Birmingham professional. The No. 1 ranking which was on his head without question for the last seven years has been wrested from him by a piece of computer software; he elected to read of Prean’s performances at the Norwich Union Masters in Jamaica in May; and he felt the increased pressure as Prean finished sixth in the World Cup. Douglas has more than one point to prove at Wembley.

Many observers who have watched Prean in the last six months feel that the gap has unmistakably narrowed but the Solent superstar is not the only challenger who will worry Douglas. Invitations have also been extended to four other World ranked players and, of these, the European Youth Champion, Jan Ove-Waldner, is the most dangerous. Waldner, like his fellow Swede Stellan Bengtsson before him, has what can only be termed as “a presence” on court - he can never be written off. However if anyone is to deprive Waldner, it might be the wily Secretin. The Frenchman gave a superb lesson in tactics at the Norwich Union Welsh Open last January to leave Appelgren nonplussed from a barrage of slow balls. At that time, he was galvanised into action by a fall in the European rankings. On 18th November the showman in him will respond to the theatre-like atmosphere, and the memory of his final defeat last year by Douglas.

The magnificent Charles Church Championship trophy pictured against a backdrop of one of the company’s houses.

The other players invited are Park Lee Hee of the Republic of South Korea and Poland’s popular Andrzej Grubba but the final line-up will be known at the October draw. Only then will Prean and Douglas know their first opponents barring the path to one of the most-prized titles in English table tennis.

The BBC-television tournament will follow the same format as in previous years with the six players drawn into the two groups and the top two of each group progressing to two knock-out semi-finals. Tickets, priced £4.50 and £3.50, are available from the English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, TN34 1HF, Tel (0424) 433121 or Centre Box Office (Credit Cards accepted) Tel: 01-902-1234.

See Page 45 for special ticket offer available to Table Tennis News readers.
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Mr. Charlie Atkinson, Senior Technical Officer for the British Sports Association for the Disabled, who retired at the end of April, 1983 was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Charlie began work with the late Sir Ludwig Guttmann in 1948 helping to organise the first Sports Day for Paraplegics. In 1961 with the founding of the British Sports Association for the Disabled he transferred to them and has worked on behalf of all disabled athletes. In the early days of B.S.A.D. he toured the country extensively assisting in the formation of many clubs and all BSAD regions. He also continued on a voluntary basis his work for paraplegics for both the British Paraplegic Sports Society and the International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation.

Throughout the world disabled athletes and organisations will be pleased to hear that his devotion to the cause has been recognised.

Mr. Charlie Atkinson lives in Limes Avenue, Aylesbury.

1st DROYLSDEN CHALLENGE CUP by Joe Beadle

Stephen Scowcroft of Lancashire and Mark Hankey of Cheshire made up the quartet figuring in the Round Robin matches which resulted:

S. Andrew bt K. Beadsley 13, 19; bt M. Hankey 13, 19; bt Scowcroft 18, 16.

Beadsley bt Scowcroft -18, 12, 12; bt Hankey 18, 11.

Scowcroft bt Hankey 21, 14.

Over the Moon

BRENTWOOD Table Tennis supremo Graham Moon is seen holding the English Table Tennis Association's Merit Award at the Annual General Meeting of the Brentwood Table Tennis League on Tuesday, May 17, 1983.

Recommendations for this new award are considered by the ETTA Honours Committee who report to the Management Committee. Their nominations are then forwarded to the National Council for final approval.

Many applications were received from all over the country but after going through all the procedures only six have been approved. Graham Moon is the very first recipient of this Merit Award which is an acknowledgement of his outstanding services to the sport of Table Tennis.

Graham formed the Brentwood Table Tennis Club in 1956. He has seen the club grow from just one team to that of fielding seven teams in the Brentwood League. In addition the Club enters two teams in the Junior League run at Shenfield Sports Hall.

Over the years Graham has brought many famous players and coaches to the Brentwood Club. From meagre beginnings into successful organising three coaching sessions a week on six tables is undoubtedly a tremendous achievement.

Many players have been introduced to the sport of table tennis through Graham's efforts over the past twenty-seven years. To each one he has emphasized the maxim of playing to the best of their ability in a sportsmanlike manner.

In the 1982/83 season no less than five players received invitations to the ETTA National Junior Trials. Nine of the fourteen Brentwood League 'Closed' championship titles were won and also five players who represent the Brentwood Club were finalists in the Essex Closed championships and three became title-holders.

Graham has been President of the Brentwood League for the past fourteen years and was chosen as the Brentwood Sports Council's "Sports Personality of the Year" in 1982.

It is in recognition of all his qualities - he could be described as the "Gentleman of Table Tennis" - that the ETTA has made Graham one of the six people successfully nominated and the very first to be presented with the Merit Award certificate.
Hello everyone, and welcome to my interesting, topical and controversial presentation. As the newly appointed Press Officer of the County Championships Committee, I can see an opportunity to create and establish more than two divisions. This is my only annoyance with the NL Organisation, because a situation has arisen, where, nearly every Tom, Dick and Harry is in a NL Team. The result is that this need had to be filled with more players from the Counties, whose teams, as time goes by, will get weaker and weaker. Playing in the NL should have remained an ambition for those players who had really proved themselves to be worthy of playing professionally.

THE MEDIA AND PROMOTION

The promotion of table-tennis today in the U.K. is being made impossible, due to the lack of interest shown by the National Pres, the Radio, and the Press. It is therefore clear to me that if all branches of the media are against us, we must sit back for a while, think, look at what we are and are not doing in comparison to other sports who have established themselves in the last ten years. We must try to fool ourselves that the "world is totally against us". You see, the media are really cute cookies, and they know their business, which is knowing what there is a great demand for. They are professionals. I know what I am talking about. During the last twenty years, I have gained much of this experience in these fields:- Pop Star, Agent, Photo-journalist and Insurance Broker. Each phase prepared me for the other. If the media is not convinced that you have a viable product, you have to set about convincing them by selling them facts. You should have seen the nets that were used in the recent LONDON YOUTH GAMES. All of the tension cords were missing. I complained to the Organisers about this after the first round of Games at Crystal Palace, but it was not until I complained a second time, after the finals were played, that I realised the importance of the tension cords was not known to the assembly staff. Please note that (1) the CADET RANKING TOURNAMENT is on Nov. 26, (2) the JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENT is on Nov. 27. (3) the SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND will be held at BIRMINGHAM ATHLETIC INSTITUTE on Nov. 25-26, and (4) the JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND will be held again at St. Neots on Dec 17/18.

 Gee Wez! Is not that JIMMY CONNORS some player/competitor....

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS must be phoned through to the ETTA 24 Hour answering service within 24 hours of the matches being played. Well, alright then, this is a determined request. It helps us to help you...... Should any of you ripe young men require information for entry to the UNOFFICIAL VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, scheduled for Helsinki in early June next year, please contact the ETTA by phone or letter. Congratulations to Mr. T. SNOWDON and best wishes on his appointment as DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NORTH. Have you yet entered the KENT JUNIOR 2-STAR on Nov 5/6 or the MIDLAND 3-STAR on the following weekend? ...I hope that you are aware of the LAW CHANGES 1983, regarding "serving" and the "racket"....The second NATIONAL COUNCIL meeting is on Oct 15. The last day for payment of affiliation fees is Nov 15, while Nov 30 is the last day on which the COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS should send a list of their local Leagues to the ETTA. You should have felt the feeling that National Council and other meetings would be dull and uninteresting without the presence of the dapper, well spoken and ebullient ALAN SHEPHERD. ...Do you realise that every year, the SPORTS COUNCIL is sponsoring your table-tennis leisure to the tune of £130, 524? This is added to the £60,634 which the ETTA raises through affiliation fees. When the Sports Council withdraws its help, which is expected to be soon, you will realise what a cheap time you have been having... The maximum prize limit of a
COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Williams reports from.....

BEDFORDSHIRE

YOUNG CHAMPION

A coaching course run by Peter Hirst recently at the Lea Manor Recreation Centre has resulted in a number of players taking their club coach award in September.

Young Lisa Robins is the region’s new under -13 champion. Lisa won the title in the Eastern Region finals of the Sealink Youth Cup held at Milton Keynes. Not being content with just one brilliant performance, she also won through to the final of the U-16 championship, losing out to England senior No. 2 Lisa Bellinger from Dunstable.

Success continued for both in the Sealink National finals held at Crystal Palace. Lisa Bellinger, the top ranked junior and the title holder, was surprisingly beaten into second place in the final. Lisa Robins defeated her doubles partner - JOANNE COOK: What a pity young CARL BALL did not find it necessary to make much effort in the Junior Boys’ final against his Kent comrade - CHRIS BARTRAM: Is not RACHEL KNIGHT of Middlesex a lovely young lady? With her latent TT skills and also her tournament experience, she should now be well encouraged to go out there, throw a little caution to the wind for a season, and really play, play, play! She might realise that the others are even more scared than she is. I have got a lot of respect and admiration for this young lady, but I think that she is losing her way a little: JULIET HOUGHTON also had a marvellous tournament. She has shown notable improvement, but like Rachel and many others, is scared to make a mistake. Kent has a skilful bunch of youngsters around. Will they catch them after all or are they becoming napping? I think so!

DAVID FAIRHOLM wishes it to be known that when he or other National Coaches are leading Courses in or near your area, you Coaches should make an effort to join in. The obvious reason being that ideas and techniques can be discussed and it gives the National Coaches a better idea of what goes on in the provinces and how.... It is a pity that all Coaches cannot be reassessed every three years. What a lot of mistakes and misunderstandings would be cleaned-up!.....

The TULSE HILL RAMS, on their first NL outing at Dunstable, came away with a 7-1 victory. On the 16th of this month, they play away at BOURNE, Middlesex, while on Nov 6, they are at home in Tulse Hill School, entertaining LANSDOWNE MEDWAY.... Congratulations and Best Wishes to our new PRINTERS. What talent spotters you must be..... I end by expressing my Special Thanks for the Tournament Officials. Without you we would have nothing to think about it. You all are wonderful, lovely, jolly people. Bless You All, I Love You Dearly. Adios.
those participating the results showed in the men the top 4 to be Sharpe, Doughty, Marc Lyons and Andy Conquest. Whilst in the ladies Lisa Robins and Julie Dimmock were the top players.

The Luton A.G.M. was held in July and resulted in the following officers being elected:-
Chairman M. Williams
Secretary Mary Williams
Treasurer G. Hotard.

Earlier the County A.G.M. was held with the main officers being re-elected as follows:-
Chairman - M. Williams (Luton)
Secretary - G. Hammond(Bedford)
Treasurer - D. Smy (Dunstable).

The Leighton Buzzard Committee is as follows:-
Chairman G. Pepper
Secretary J. Dimmock
Treasurer D. Banks.

These notes would not be complete without the County congratulating Jackie and Lisa Bellinger on their season's achievements. They have both been tremendous ambassadors for the game in England.

By the way, they are now in the coaching business, give them a ring on Dunstable 62331 if you are interested.

Detailed write-ups of other leagues in the County will be in future issues.

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Brian Halliday reports from.....

BERKSHIRE

SENSATIONAL MERGER

The major news during the summer came from the Gillette-Reading club who announced a sensational merger with National League Premier Division side BWF Wamdsad. The amalgamation of Berkshire's two leading clubs means that local supporters will have the chance of seeing three home matches, played at the same time, at a central venue. The linking of Berkshire's top players under one banner should have the dual effect of an increase in standards coupled with improved match presentation. The majority of the ex Wamdsad players all come from Reading's highly successful Omega Club, who have dominated the local scene for some years. Their obstacle to further progress has been the lack of class facilities, however ambitious plans have been made to build a new club with provision for six tables. Land has been acquired and some progress on the project has already been made. The club hope to have the facility in use by the new year.

Table tennis availability 24 hours a day is the ambition and if the keenness and dedication of Omega's international players is anything to go by, then the dream of new premises can become a reality very quickly.

The Concentration of Resources Scheme should help the Omega club realise their ambitions as it has helped the Old Gords Club of Maidenhead, another ambitious outfit who have benefited from the members' dedication to the game.

New season prospects in the four local leagues are as exciting as ever. Omega may not dominate the Reading League this year, and Sonning Common have lost Neil Abbott who has had to retire from the game on his doctor's advice. The top division looks wide open, however Polish Club could spring a surprise with their strong all round squad. Woodley have sunged Daryl Windsor and look to be stronger than usual. In Maidenhead Castle Hill must be favourites again especially as they have signed Bob Davis. Nearest challengers here may be Springfield Kestrels who have signed the reliable Dave Jones to replace Simon Rowland who is giving the league a miss this season.

In Bracknell the top news comes from Gillette who have transferred their players to the Moss Club due to lack of premises. They have signed Bob Sym and dragged big Jim Stokes out of retirement to mount a challenge which should see them take the league title.

The County Trials produced all sorts of surprises. Michael Childs romped away with the honours in the men's event with an unbeaten record. Neil Westwater had a superb day with wins over ranked players which must have caught the eye of the Selection Ranking Committee. The ladies' event produced a three way tie with Ruth Champion just winning in a count back situation. In the Boys' event Paul Savins won easily enough but several lads took the chance to demonstrate their improvement, notably Keith Hodder, Darren Jones, Simon Martin, and Philip Salmon who impressed in the lower group matches. The junior girls went much as expected while the veterans' event produced a full quota of interesting and dramatic results. Dave Jones, who seems to specialise in winning this event, again went through unbeaten.

The relegation of the County 1st team from the Premier Division was a bitter pill for the county, but the overall strength of players available should ensure a swift return to the top strata. The selectors will have a difficult task to decide whether to rely on their established senior players for the senior 2nd team or to bring in our young junior internationals. The dilemma is a difficult one as the latter players should also be playing in the Junior Premier County weekenders.

The veterans' squad are geared up for the supreme challenge of the Premier Division matches. Competition for team places is as fierce as ever and the successful team of last season is under pressure from a very competitive set of veterans for team places. The recent notes from Mike Watts concerning the state of the veteran game in England, and advocating its expansion, with some very progressive ideas, has been received very warmly in Berkshire. After all the veteran game is the game of the future - your future whether you like it or not.

More international honours for Berkshire youngsters this summer with Sue Collier, Andy Syed and Jimmy Stokes representing England in the European Youth Championships in Sweden. The coming season should see fresh honours for this talented trio and they could well be joined by Andy's brother Matthew. This young man has a quite extraordinary defence for one so young and it is difficult to see who in England will be able to challenge him at Cadet level.

While on the subject of honours it was particularly gratifying to learn of the honour bestowed by the E.T.T.A. on Harold Larcombe, our highly esteemed and respected President. The accolade of Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. is one that Harold is very proud of, and He is in Berkshire are very well aware that the honour has been merited by his selfless devotion to the game over many years.

Geoff Waters reports from.....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

REMARKABLE RECORD

Before having a look at the season ahead, there are a few competitions from the back end of last season that need a mention.

The Newmarket Construction League in its first season was won by the Ely League. They finished with 47 points, nine ahead of March, the runners-up. Wisbech were third with 36, with Cambridge 35 and Haverhill 24. The remarkable thing about Haverhill's 24 points is that all were won by one player - Andy Withers, who went through the competition unbeaten.

The trophy was presented to Clive Woolard, the winning team's captain, at the Cambridgeshire Annual General Meeting on June 7.

Two more of the County's trophies were competed for in the Summer months.

The Keke Mistry County Cup, played for by Cadet teams from the Member Leagues within the County Association, was again won by Wisbech. They won all their three matches in great style with young Johnny Collins going through the competition without a defeat. They beat March and Cambridge 8-1 and Haverhill 8-3. Darren Rayner and David Ross gave Collins good support with four singles each, while Catrina Adamson won two.

March came second with a 6-3 win. 
over Cambridge and 7-2 against Haverhill. Roger Money did best for them with four singles wins.

In the other match Cambridge just beat Haverhill 5-4 with a good team effort where all the players won at least one set. Mark Midgley, Nathan Hudson, Paul Dewey and Denise Hinks all won a singles, while Midgley and Hinks won the mixed. Denise looks a very good prospect and followed up her runners-up spot in the County Championships by going unbeaten in this competition.

A new trophy presented by County President Les Constable and aptly named the Constable Cup was competed for during the height of the heatwave in July. Each League were to enter their best under-21 player to play a round robin for the trophy but the day proved something of a disappointment. Only three Leagues sent a player and it was easily won by Stuart Palmer from the Ely League.

He beat Martyn Livermore (Cambridge) and Peter Holliday (March), while Livermore beat Holliday to finish second.

The County will have four teams in the County Championships this season adding a second junior team. The two first teams will be competing in the second division, the junior team having gained promotion last season, while the second teams will play in the third.

There is little change in the playing staff for the new season, although Geoff Davies has come back after taking a year away from the game following his marriage.

Julian Wheel is the only one of last season’s junior team to be over age and no doubt he will be pressing for a place in the senior second team.

The county will have three teams in the National League with Hassy Soham now having two teams and March one. Soham will have the same squad as last year when they won the Premier Division title for the second time. Their second team will be under the management of John Ashman and will consist of local players. Their squad will consist of Brian Richardson (brother of Keith), Julian Wheel, Tim Ashman, Peter Holliday and Trevor Smith. March will have the same players as last season with the addition of Geoff Davies.

Malcolm Allsop reports from....

DERBYSHIRE MARVELLOUS EXPERIENCE

The highlight of the Summer was the selection of Alan Cooke for the European Youth Championships in Sweden, which we hope will be a stepping stone to greater achievements by the Dronfield youngster. Playing the Swedish Juniors anywhere is a challenge, but in their own Country must have been a marvellous experience.

Alan is the first player to represent Derbyshire at these Championship, although Derby’s Paul Harmer represented England a long time ago.

On the administration scene, Colin Hartland stepped down as Chairman of the Derbyshire Association and it appears a worthy successor has been found in the guise of Ernie Lough, who should make an ideal partnership with County Secretary Les Allwood.

Philip Vickers takes over the captaincy of the County Senior Team, upon the premature retirement of Neil Marples, at a time when there is a crying need for stability within the County teams.

The withdrawal of a second team from the County Championships has eased the worries of Treasurer/President Danny Blair with 90% of last season’s expenditure going on County teams; but is no consolation to the ladies who are keen to represent the County. Unfortunately, it was the lack of interest among the men players which caused the withdrawal.

No such problems lie in the Junior Ranks where captain Keith Weightman has an abundance of players challenging to get into the team.

Andrew Henry, Paul Harvey, Nigel Adams, Louise Forster and Joanne Weightman are the players still available from last season’s Championship winning team and will retain their places for the first match, at least. Bradley Billington, David Smedley and Kevin Gauldew are challenging for the boys’ places, and Bradley will be given an early opportunity to show his paces.

The girls’ challenge will come from Kerry Hall, Julie Billington, Julie Forster, Andrea Wood and Sarah Padley.

Louise and Joanne still have two further seasons in the Junior grade, so the younger contenders may have to wait their chance patiently. However the strength of the junior contingent, especially from Chesterfield, makes a second Junior Team a priority for Derbyshire next season.

Vic Hallam ‘B’ of the Eastwood League won the Derbyshire Challenge Trophy with victory by 5-1 in the Final over International Combustion (Derby League). The Competition between the Handicap Team Champions of the Leagues within Derbyshire will again be organised by Malcolm Heam for the coming season.

Alfreton 1st won the Division One Championship of the Derbyshire Inter-Town League on games average after a very close contest; with Derby winning Division Two and the Junior Division.

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The Inter-Town League will be organised by Brian Smith again this season, and an interesting possibility is the introduction of a Veterans’ and Ladies Division.

Granville School gained the Title of ‘Club of the Year’ with teams competing in the Burton, Derby and Lichfield Leagues.

Ably coached by Ian Knights, the School’s teams won Divisions One, Four and Five of the Burton League; and had Nigel Adams and Paul Harvey representing them in the County Junior team.

The Divisions in the Burton League finished:-

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<tr>
<td>Div. 5: Granville Cubs</td>
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The Chesterfield League are to be congratulated upon reaching the Final of the Wilmut Cup in their first year. Unfortunately they did not bring the Cup back, but I look forward confidently to the time when they bring one of the National Team Competition Trophies back to Derbyshire.

Kerry Hall brought one National Trophy back to Derbyshire when she won the English Schools Under-11 Girls’ Singles at Mansfield Leisure Centre, and good performances were also provided by Julie Billington and To Thug Dung.

In the Chesterfield League’s Swale Cup Final, the Chesterfield Activity B team of Derrick Marples, Jackie Billington and John Padddison proved too strong and too consistent for Hunloke, represented by Martin Kinsella, Mick Padley and David Ridgard, to successfully justify their position as favourites.

The Divisions of the Chesterfield League finished:-

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<tr>
<td>Div. 1: Activity A</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Div. 2: Mary Swanwick B</td>
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<td>Div. 3: College of Tech</td>
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<td>Div. 4: Bryan Donkins B</td>
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<td>Div. 5: Dronfield A</td>
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<td>Div. 6: AGD E</td>
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<td>Div. 7: Kit. Creation B</td>
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<td>Div. 8: YMCA B</td>
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St. Andrews 1st (Stephen Yapilog, David Yapilog and Stephen McCarthy) regained the Premier Division Title in....

23
Derby, but only with a better sets record than runners-up Mechanics 1st (Ivor Warner, Doug Fouls, Trevor Kerry and Robert Albutt), but the retirement of David Yallop and Stephen McCarthy will affect not only the strength of St. Andrews' teams during this present season, but also the strength of the Premier Division and the Derby representative teams.

The Divisions of the Derby League finished:-

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Champions</th>
<th>Runners-up</th>
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<tr>
<td>Div. 1:</td>
<td>Darbus 1st</td>
<td>RR&amp;A 1st</td>
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<td>Div. 2:</td>
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<td>Div. 3:</td>
<td>Darbus 1st</td>
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<td>Div. 4:</td>
<td>YMCA 3rd</td>
<td>Granville 2nd</td>
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<td>Div. 5:</td>
<td>Derbyshire Building/Vikings 1st</td>
<td>Star 2nd</td>
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<td>Div. 6:</td>
<td>Darbus 4th</td>
<td>Memphis 2nd</td>
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<td>Div. 7:</td>
<td>Sandiacre 4th</td>
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The Derby Junior Two-Star Tournament takes place on Sunday, March 25th 1984 and, at the time of writing, a Sponsor is being sought although the Derby League is hopeful that the Derbyshire Building Society will continue their support.

John Holland reports from......

ESSEX

SOME OPTIMISM

Essex face the new season with some optimism. Our senior first team narrowly failed to win the Premier Division of the County Championships last term, pipped on the post by Middlesex. This campaign shall have Skylet Andrew in our ranks, making a threesome with Kenny Jackson and Ian Horsham to match any of our rivals. There is strength in depth to back them up too, led by stalwart Dave Newman and Tony Penny. In the absence of these five, Les Edie was the unbeaten winner of the senior trials held in August- closely followed by Des Charley, 'Closed' champion Kevin Caldon and Peter Hayden. We have more than enough good men to fill the three senior teams being fielded (one up on last season). The women's line-up is much more fragile, in both the best and worst senses' Lisa Hayden gained valuable Premier experience last season but found it tough at the top. The women's trial was by Elaine Sayer, England ranked 29 last season. Lisa and Kim Mudge were joint second. First team selection is likely to be from these three.

Our juniors should be good enough this time to win a place in the Junior Premier in 1984-85 after being edged out by Berkshire in the very last match last season. The boys will be at least as strong as last year with Richard Darnell, Steve Dorking and Andrew Barker currently occupying the top three slots in the rankings, pending the junior trials. Our top girls, Lisa Hayden and Alison Barker, scarcely put a foot wrong last season and both are eligible again. Other rapidly improving younger players will be challenging for their places too. Watch out for Tony West, England No.1 Cadet last season and holder of the North Yorkshire 2-Star Open Cadet singles title; and Tanya Holland, who won her first 'Open' Cadet singles at the new Pulse Hill 1 Star in September, and was runner-up for the Under-17 title too. The juniors are now getting more encouragement than for a few seasons from the appointment of a new energetic coaching officer, Stuart Gibbs. The recent decision of a Special General Meeting of the County Association to increase the membership fee by a modest 50p may help Stuart to find the resources he needs.

Optimism prevails too among the veterans. Last season our two teams finished fourth and second respectively in the Premier and Division 2B. Among those pressing for a first team place are likely to be new vet., Alan Stallard (Dagenham) and Brian Parrish who tells me that he has won the 'Closed' title for the last two seasons. After winning two out of eight singles last campaign my own chances of staying among the elite are less than magnificent. However, all will be revealed by Phyl. Lauder shortly after the trials at Fellows Cranleigh. Congratulations, by the way, to Phyllis for her richly deserved ETTA award. Also to Graham Moon, doyen of the Brentwood TIC for 27 years, a great champion of young players, who received the same award. The final source of optimism is the National League. Our two teams in the Second Division (South) are Dagenham F.C. and Witham F.C. (formerly Caine Valley, in which guise they won promotion from the Third Division last season). They are paired in the first fixture of the season, on Sept. 18. Witham may struggle, having lost the services of Douggie Bennett and Malcolm Francis from last year's line-up. The stalwarts are likely to be Robin Lang, Nicky Standon, Terry Dowsett and Peter Hayden. Manager Peter Hill is a firm believer in encouraging home grown youngsters, so we may see debuts for one or more of the following hopefuls - Steve Tilson, Neil Sweeting and Bernie Lazarus.

Dagenham are fed up to the back teeth with being the nearly men of the 2nd Division. They have led the pack to the very last match for two successive seasons only to crash out at the death. Peter Cranmer's men are absolutely determined to pull off promotion this time. The line-up is likely to be Dave Newman, Tony Penny (new signing), Kevin Caldon, Stuart Gibbs, Dave Randall and Steve Dettmar. The toughest challenge for the title may come from South Triangle. Dagenham Motors remain loyal with their generous sponsorship and the team will continue to get excellent support home and away. The Daggers have a great set-up for promotion and this time I believe they'll make it.

The final cause for (guarded) optimism is our 'Open' tournaments. Inclusion of our Junior 2-Star within the new Grand Prix set-up is very welcome and takes off some of the pressure experienced last year in the absence of sponsorship. The Senior 3-Star is again receiving sponsorship from Martin's forwhich we are sincerely grateful.

Of course there are plenty of causes of well-founded pessimism in our game at present but, in my present Micawberish mood I'll pass them over. Let me end by adding to the chorus of congratulation to the remarkable Carl Prean. A safe prediction for 1983-84 is that this young man will continue to improve and astound his knockers despite the bizarre rule changes inflicted on us all by the ITIF on its ineffable wisdom.
of the U-16 Boys' team event, beating Wales' best pair "en-route".

Jenny Ellery (Glos), partnered by Melanie Cary (Bridgewater), took the Girls' U-16 team title in a very closely fought match which went to a deciding doubles set which required a third game to settle it. Sadly we had no entries in the Girls' U-13 team or individual events and this will have to be duly remedied.

The team events took their toll on our stamina and although our best places in the individual events were somewhat quixotic, it is interesting to note that Dale Saunders played 14 sets which represents around 4 hours play, Garry Thomas 13 sets, Keith Rodway and Howard Williams (Stroud) played 10 or more during the day.

There were, however, some epic results:- Julia Evans (Cheltenham) as gritty a competitor as ever was beating Sarah Webb a highly-ranked Somerset Junior, Keith Rodway, who reached the semis of the U-13 Boys' beating a half-fit Tony Wilson in the U-16 event, Aarron Beckett in the U-16's with a good win over one of the rated Oxley brothers (Swindon) avenging his defeat in a recent County match.

And last but not least Jenny Ellery's tremendous set in the quarters of the Girls' U-16 v Evelyn Wright, the Welsh No.1 Junior, when after leading 20-15 in the third lost 23-25 with all but one of the match points. As if to demonstrate her fighting ability Evelyn took her semi-final 31-29 in the third and was also pushed all the way by Jenny's partner Melanie Carey in the final which again needed a decision.

Paddy concludes his report on the Sealink Youth Cup by saying:- With the exception of two all our players played up to and in many cases above their standard; WELL DONE GUYS & GALS, FITNESS???

County A.G.M.

Held in the Board Room of Gloucester Leisure Centre with 21 members present and fronted by new Chairman Mr John Bunn of Stroud, the following Officers were duly elected PLUS 3 Members from each member League.

L. Davis, President
J. Bunn, Chairman
J. Reeves, Vice-Chairman
P. Jackson. Hon. Coaching Officer.
G. Wrightson-Warner, Hon. Umpires Secretary.
J. Boyd, Hon. Minute Secretary.
Mrs. J. Golding, Hon. Team Secretary
D. Colwill, Hon. Tournaments Secretary
A. Pepperd, Hon. Press/Publicity Officer.

Cheltenham Representatives:- J. Reeves, P. Cruwys and R. Russell; Gloucester:- R. Marshall, N. Symonds and one other. Stroud's Representatives would be appointed at their forthcoming A.G.M.

Gloucester City have appointed their very first Table Tennis Magazine Secretary. He is Mr. M. J. Maxwell, of 13 Pine Tree Drive, Upton Lane, Gloucester. Gloucestrians you have little or no excuse now for not obtaining T.T.N. (instead of reading someone else's copy). Why not contact Mike for a regular monthly copy, it will only cost you 60p.

Still with the City, after many years of faithful service as Treasurer, Norman Saunders has handed the financial reins over to Alan Perratt. I'm pleased to say that Norman is still on the City committee.

In January 1981, with Les Smith, I visited the studios of Independent Local Radio Severn-Sound, the purpose of our visit being to get weekly publicity through the medium of broadcasting. Les and I were at the time interviewed by Nigel Dean, Head of Severn-Sounds Sports. I am sorry to say, after almost three years of working with Nigel on regular weekly table tennis broadcasts that he is leaving his native Gloucester and Severn-Sound to take up a new post in television as part of the sports production team at T.V.S. based at Southampton (it seems as if he wants to be close to Carl Prean??!!!). "Good luck Nigel!", your radio work is our loss but indeed Southampton and Hants gain, and thanks for all your help to me, especially on interviews.

After two years of hectic negotiations, The Rudford and Higheadon T.T.C. one of the largest clubs in the County have at last made a positive start on the initial foundations of their new playing headquarters, next to the village hall at Rudford. With league matches being played almost every night of the week it was just not possible to use the village hall. Builders commenced work in early September. I hope in November's edition to report that at least the main building will be up, however the new club room when erected will not be available for play this season as members will be putting the finishing touches to it during the winter months. When fully completed it is anticipated that membership will be considerably increased.

Richard Russell of Cheltenham was, prior to Christmas last year, the County's No.1. He is now, I understand, leaving Gloucestershire to take up residence in Avon. He has successfully applied for registration in Avon, but wishes to extend his thanks to Gloucestershire Officials, especially Peter Cruwys and Paul Gleed of Cheltenham, for their help in the past. We wish him all the best in Avon.

It is rumoured that Nina Tsakarians, our No.1 woman, is playing exceptionally well, her current ranking among the seniors is No. 38. This, of course, does not do Nina full justice, but because of her 4-5 month stay in Japan early this year she obviously lost out on a lot of computer points. I think well before Christmas we shall see Nina in the top 12-15, that's of course if she does not take off again for Japan.

County Trials

Only eight players (Men) of several invited turned up for the trials, 13 in all were ranked. Women's trials were again not held, but a list was duly formed by the Selectors. Rankings Code:- G= Gloucester, C= Cheltenham, S= Stroud.

Men
1. Darren Griffin
2. Andrew Golding
3. Paul Jackson
4. Sylvester Callum
5. Graham Slack
6. Martin Lane
7. Steve Moreman
8. Paul Gleed
9. Stuart Beattie
10. Aarron Beckett
11. David Smith
12. Alvin Thomas
13. Craig Saunders

Women
1. Nina Tsakarians
2. Christine Iacopi
3. Cathy Robb
4. Jenny Ellery
5. Heather Colwill
6. Claire Symonds
7. Julie Bearcroft
8. June Hall
9. Wendy Ruffles
10. Janet Brier

Very early last season an unsuccessful attempt was made to promote a COUNTY LEAGUE, with best available players within the County to play the best. It did not work out for reasons which are now irrelevant.

Undeterred, this season the County have appointed a C.P.L. Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of John Boyd to try and get the C.P.L. a going concern.

I am delighted to report that John contacted me towards late September, with the following news. The Providence Capital Life Assurance Co. WILL SPONSOR the C.P.L. So it very much looks as if the whole project will be a fruitful and going concern for this season. More news on this exciting new venture next month.

Doreen Leyey reports from.....

KENT

DEEP FELT LOSSES

At the A.G.M. of the Kent T.T. the retiring Chairman, Mr. C. Wright, opened his report on a sad note by recording the deaths of the previous Chairman, Frank -Ballard, and our Umpires Secretary and former National Councillor Mrs. Joan Zeiske - both losses being deeply felt by us all.

Thanks went to Bob Groves (retiring
Treasurer) who despite a serious illness and operation still managed to keep things on the straight and narrow offering much sensible advice.

To Bill Lavis for stepping in as Umpires Secretary - Roy Pugh who does so much development work for so little reward.

To Allen Fisher who has held 8 different positions as well as full time coaching - and to all other members and officers of the Executive Committee.

The New Chairman is David Cue of Ashford, a true blue "Man of Kent" for the last 20 years with Canterbury and Ashford Leagues currently Chairman of Ashford.

The New Treasurer is Jeff Sargent, City Accountant, and keen Leigh (Tonbridge) cricketer.

Allen Fisher continues as Secretary-Roy Pugh Development.

It was pointed out that this was the fourth A.G.M. in succession when three major officers were not known. It would seem that it is far easier to help develop players to high standard than to 'find people to administer our sport so that those players can flourish.

Whilst our County Administration is at its weakest, and we certainly need much MORE administration back-up coming through from the Leagues, our playing potential is certainly amongst the best in the Country.

The current crop of Cadets are perhaps the strongest on record with the top fifty boys' list having seven Kent lads. Juliet Houghton (Ton) being the only Girl at No.5. To add to this in the top hundred Men's list having seven Kent lads.

The County A.G.M. was very much a case of 'Status Quo', all officials being re-elected. An important change at the next meeting was that of Vice-Chairman. Dick Johnson has served the League loyally and conscientiously in that position for many years. He beat top-seeded England No. 22 Michele Hams in the semi but found Lisa Hayden too steady as did Juliet Houghton in their semi.

The Junior field has five Kent boys and in the Girls' list Juliet jumps in at No.1. Janet "Mac" Smith (Bromley) was the losing finalist in the final at the Honnington Open.

The U.13 events started first and were played right through to the finals.

The U.11 singles were dominated by Juliet Houghton and Andy Cunningham (Ton). Tracy Ashdown (Folk) was the losing finalist and together she and Juliet won the Girls' doubles. Barden (T.W.) was the runner-up to Cunningham having beaten Paul Amos in the semi. The finalists met again in the doubles final where the two "lefties" Cunningham and Jonathon Huckle (Wool) beat Barden and John Ferguson (That).

With Jonathon Huckle having only lost -20 in the third to No. 2 seed Andy Houghton - a good effort for a 9-year-old!! The only other surprise was Tony Kasteleine (Ash) knocking out David Fulton (Ton) in a tough quarter-final. Rutherford beat Tony in the semi and in the final he beat Harrison. Lynn Roberts (Brom) easily won the Girls' Singles over Rebecca Butcher (Sitt) and together they won the doubles. In the Boys' Doubles Rutherford and Fulton were too strong for Harrison and Tim Sydenham of Tunbridge Wells.

The U.15 singles were won by Juliet Houghton and Andy Cunningham (Brom). Tracy Ashdown (Folk) was the losing finalist and together she and Juliet won the Girls' doubles. Barden (T.W.) was the runner-up to Cunningham having beaten Paul Amos in the semi. The finalists met again in the doubles final where the two "lefties" Cunningham and Jonathon Huckle (Wool) beat Barden and John Ferguson (That).

The U.17 Girls' was again won by Juliet Houghton and Andy Cunningham (Brom). Tracy Ashdown (Folk) was the losing finalist and together she and Juliet won the Girls' doubles. Barden (T.W.) was the runner-up to Cunningham having beaten Paul Amos in the semi. The finalists met again in the doubles final where the two "lefties" Cunningham and Jonathon Huckle (Wool) beat Barden and John Ferguson (That).

The U.19 singles were won by Juliet Houghton and Andy Cunningham (Ton). Tracy Ashdown (Folk) was the losing finalist and together she and Juliet won the Girls' doubles. Barden (T.W.) was the runner-up to Cunningham having beaten Paul Amos in the semi. The finalists met again in the doubles final where the two "lefties" Cunningham and Jonathon Huckle (Wool) beat Barden and John Ferguson (That).

When Joe Kennedy (Beck) failed in his efforts to win the Men's title for a record sixth time in succession. "Old Boy" Andy Mitchell came back after four years rest to knock Joe out in the 2nd round and "Big John" Burleton won all his sets 2-straight on the way to the final where he comfortably disposed of David Dodd.

The achievement of the day was when 14-year-old Juliet Houghton won the Women's Singles beating Manja Ball (Folk) in the semi and Mrs. Carol Spain (Brom) in the final 17-19.

Results:-
M.S.: John Burleton (Beck)
M.D.: Burleton/Joe Kennedy
W.S.: Juliet Houghton (Ton)
W.D.: Houghton/Janet Smith (Brom.)
V.S.: Manja Ball/Kennedy
V.D.: Henry Buist (N.W.K.)
Kentish M.S.: John Kasteleine (Med)
Kentish W.S.: Mrs. Pam Butcher (N.W.K.)

Man of Kent
Singles: Paul Amos (Med)
Kent Junior Closed.
This was held at the same venue on the Bank Holiday Monday.

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The current crop of Cadets are perhaps the strongest on record with the top fifty boys' list having seven Kent lads. Juliet Houghton (Ton) being the only Girl at No.5. To add to this there's 13-year-old Michael Harrison (T.W.) who recently beat Greg Barden in the final at the Honnington Open and also beat Michael Rutherford in the Sealink event.

The Junior field has five Kent boys and in the Girls' list Juliet jumps in at No.1. Janet "Mac" Smith (Bromley) was the losing finalist in the final at the Honnington Open.

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The U.17 Girls' was again won by Juliet Houghton and Andy Cunningham (Brom). Tracy Ashdown (Folk) and, with Janet Smith, won the doubles over the two Allisons Hunt (Med) and Woolvven (Ton).

Cunningham reached both finals but found the effort of playing twenty sets in eight hours too much and was only able to offer token resistance to Andy Dodd (Wool) in the singles and together they lost to Chris Bartram and Bernard O'Grady of Woolwich in the doubles.

Tulse Hill Open
Bartram won the B.S. beating K. Ball (Folk) in the final. Chris disposed of Andy Dodd in his semi and Ball beat Paul Amos (Meday) and Cunningham at 19 in the 3rd.

Juliet Houghton won the G.S. beating Tanya Holland (Ex) 14, 19 in the final. Tanya had a good run beating Rachel Knight and Lisa Hayden on the way. In the Cadets Rutherford lost to Damian Holland in the semis disappointing Holland who seems to be a bogey player for Michael.

On the Sunday David Dodd got a well deserved win over David Wells (Mi) in the Men's Final. Burleton, Bartram and Andy Dodd all reached the quarters before going out to higher England-ranked players. Paul Namdjou won the Class 2 mixed singles. Carol Colegate (Brom) reached the final in her first Open tournament for many years. She beat top-seeded England No. 22 Michele Hams in the semi but found Lisa Hayden too steady as did Juliet Houghton in their semi.

Bournemouth Open 11th September 1983
14-year-old Juliet Houghton from Tonbridge seems to be continuing her successful run - she won the Girls' and Women's singles - and, with Clare Brooks from Croydon, won the Women's Doubles, and with 12-year-old brother Andrew, reached the final of the Senior mixed doubles.

NEWS FLASH!!!
Janet "Mac" Smith (Bromley) celebrated her 18th birthday recently with an extra present - Scottish selection for the Quadrangular Home International series and for Scotland v Turkey in 1st European League match of the season.

Philip Reid reports from.....

LEICESTERSHIRE

"STATUS QUO"

Not much to report about at the two A.G.M's I have attended.

The County A.G.M. was very much a case of 'Status Quo', all officials being re-elected. An important change at the Leicester and District League A.G.M. was that of Vice-Chairman. Dick Johnson has served the League loyally and conscientiously in that position for many years and has decided not to continue, although happily he retains his place on the league committee with his Divisional Secretary's post.

Pat Pickles, Simon Grieuw and Eddie Cross are all new Divisional Secretaries and we welcome them as indeed we do Barry Hobson, for several years League Secretary and now carrying the title of Coaching Secretary.

Ian McKelvey, who has recently married Catherine Hollingsworth (congratulations Ian and Catherine) has decided not to continue as League Secretary and has handed the reins over to Assistant Secretary Mike Smith, in turn has handed over his position to Tony Lapworth. The League have taken the unprecedented step of refusing a club's application for membership. The particular club has a history of trouble with the league, in fact their name has appeared on the
agenda at almost every meeting and the league have decided to give them one season, at least to put their house in order.

Speaking on a personal note, I have, I'm afraid, been 'under the weather' again. Recovering nicely from my stroke I have had a cartilage operation that started to get better, I had an ulcer on the other leg! However every cloud has a silver lining and I was immensely cheered with words of encouragement from Jack Carrington (Bournemouth) Les D'Arcy (Wakfield) and Mike Jackson (Cambridge). Thank you gentlemen - I really appreciated it!

Iris Moss reports from.....

MIDDLESEX

GEOFF CALLS IT A DAY

Sadly I have to report that after 35 years on the Middlesex Executive Committee, Geoff James has decided that "enough is enough" and that the time has come for him to resign. While appreciating that no-one is indispensable when a member has undertaken the variety of tasks that Geoff has done, he is bound to be missed. Looking through old Minutes and Handbooks, I find that Geoff was Inter-League Secretary from 1949 to 1961; County Umpires Secretary 1950-1951; Referee of our Closed Championships 1952-1962; Referee of the Open Championships since they started - 26 times in all; Deputy Chairman 1964-1974 and Chairman from 1975 to 1983. And that is apart from serving on Sub-Committees such as Selection, Rules, Appeals, etc. Over these years, his guidance to other members of the Committee has been invaluable. Thank you, Geoff, for all you have done for Middlesex Table Tennis.

So Middlesex start a new era under the Chairmanship of Michael Close, with Len Pilditch stepping into the Deputy Chairman's position. Len is also taking on the mammoth task of running our Middlesex 3-Star Open with Stuart Dane as his Assistant Referee. Apart from that, there are not many changes in the Committee and their various undertakings, except that David Miller has had to resign (temporarily we hope) on health grounds. I have agreed to take on the editorship of our Bulletin, but we will be able to inveigle him back on to the Committee when his health has improved.

The job of trying to get sponsorship for table tennis gets more and more worrying. I would be the first to admit that I am by no means the best person for this job; I am too easily discouraged.

But we have been unsuccessful in finding anyone who will take on the job so I just despair on and try my best. Has anyone got any ideas of how I should go about it? Or better still are there any volunteers to take the job on? It seems ridiculous that popular Tournaments should teeter on the brink of cancellation every yearwhilst officials go cap in hand trying to whip up the necessary subscriptions. That is certainly the case where the Middlesex Open is concerned and no doubt it applies to other Tournaments, too.

Entries to our Inter-League Competitions are 3 down on last year's entries and the reduction is all in our Junior (D.W. Birmingham) Competition. Judging from the entry for our Junior Closed Championships there is no lack of young talent in Middlesex, so the drop in teams for the Junior Inter-League Competition is rather worrying. Is it caused by League officials not being willing to take the youngsters around - or could it be the lack of a Middlesex Schools Association? Tony Pacitto is trying to rouse interest in the latter once again, and we wish him luck. While we are willing to do anything we can to help Tony, there is no-one on the Committee at the moment who has the time to do much more than they are already doing.

Finally, I would like to mention that dates for our Closed Championships have been fixed. The Senior event will be held at E.M.E.B. Club on 19th and 20th November and the Junior Closed on 3rd and 4th March 1984, hopefully at Aylestone. Would Middlesex players please note the dates and ensure that we have a bumper entry this season.

Ashley Bennett reports from.....

NORTHANTS

FEARS UNFOUNDED

Fears that the county's governing committee would collapse were proven unfounded, as during the summer it was "re-born", with the new members outnumbering the survivors of last season's committee. Mrs. Barbara Gibbs accepted the vital position of General Secretary, without which the association could not work, and Ian Baldock became Chairman. The Match Secretary's role was split into three. Chris Handshaw becoming the senior side's secretary, Alan Edmonds, the Junior Secretary and Dennis Millman handling the Veteran team. Other members include Brian Dangerfield (Treasurer), and youngsters Ashley Bennett and Keith d'Arcy who were elected Publicity Secretary and Schools Representative respectively.

Despite organizational problems, the enthusiasm of the players in the county is good. There is, however, a feeling of disappointment and maybe some disagreement with the positions of the teams in the County Championships. Both senior sides have been placed in Division 3C. The juniors also have reason to grumble, having finished second in Div. 3 North Midlands last season, they failed to gain promotion and must remain in Div. 3B this season.

On the league front, Northampton can look forward to having the strongest Premier Division for many years. Holaers ACC 'A' have a weakened side, after the loss of Ken Coller, Ian Martin and Nat Richardson. However, Brian Wooding and John Sanders still head the team, with Stephanie and Ron Dunkley in support. Runners-up Abington have added Steve Lyon to their formidable trio of Keith Jones, Brian D'Hoooge and Tim Chamberlain. 3rd Placed Barclaycard are unchanged, the Gallo brothers, Romano and Dave, combine with Mandy 'Wallis to form this experienced side.

Together with these 'proven' sides, there are also two strong contenders which are newly formed. Lings 'A', with County Champion McKim, Town Champion Richardson, Ashley Bennett and Chris Handshaw, who between them also hold both County and Town doubles titles, form a possible title-winning squad. A new-look Whithworth Rd team should also do well with Ian Hawes, Steve Kendall and Dave Marsh concentrating their efforts in Northampton at the expense of the Kettering and Wellingtonboro leagues. With two or three other sides containing good young players, and new arrival Adrian Roper to look out for, there is going to be fierce competition for the honours in the forthcoming season.

Also, a new National League team has been set up within the county. Playrite Northampton will play in Division 3 East. The squad consists of McKim, Richardson, Wooding, Hawes, Gary Alden and Rod Marchant. Hopefully this will create a greater interest within the county for table tennis. Their home venue will be Lings Forum Sports Centre in Northampton.

In Kettering there seems to be two main contenders for the title. Kettering Town 'A', with McKim, Handshaw, Andrew Edmonds, and John Palmer, and Rothrobo', who can call on the Nicoll brothers, Keith and Ken, to head their attack. Some competition may also come from E.M.E.B. who field Steve West and Mark Cole in their team.

The top team in Wellingtonbоро should be E.M.E.B., who field Ken Nicoll, Palmer and Graham Bull. The holders Chapmans 'A' despite losing the services of McKim and Brian Dangerfield, still have a strong side consisting of Handshaw, Edmonds, and Mark Nannya. Town 'A' would appear to be out of contention with the loss of Hawes and Kendall severely weakening the team.

In Daventry the dominance of the G.E.C. club from Rugby shows no sign of faltering. The 'A' team, which is spearheaded by the Randle brothers, Mark and Iain, seems likely to retain their title. The 'B' of them rarely lose singles or doubles in this league.

27
A good season is in prospect for table tennis in Northants.

Pauline Long reports from.....

NORTHUMBERLAND
87 TEAMS IN CONTENTION
The Summer League season was finally completed on Aug. 31. Eighty-seven teams contested eleven Divisions, and all winners and runners-up were to receive their trophies at the end-of-season Presentation night on Sept. 23 at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington. The successful teams were as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Division</th>
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North Shields YMCA 'A' and Washington 'A' were to play each other for the Premier League Championship, while the former team completed a notable season by also appearing in the handicap Knock-Out Cup Final, their opponents on this occasion being Blyth Town B.C.

The junior and senior County trials were held on Sept. 10 and 17 respectively, and the ranking lists should be available in time for the next edition of "Table Tennis News". Once again, however, some of the senior players were conspicuous by their absence, and with only one team playing this year, this raises the question of whether or not it should be selected from players who have taken the trouble to put their reputation on the line at the trials. It should be interesting to see just who is prepared to play regularly for the senior team in order to try and gain promotion from Div. 3A. Meanwhile the junior team will again be in the Junior Div. 3A, and although both Neil McMaster and Karen Wilkinson are now over age, we will still have Eddie Smith, Peter Curry, Keith Patterson and Thomas Blackman, all available. Clare Mouzon will, of course, be giving the junior team priority, but will probably play in both teams when the junior and senior teams are scheduled to play at home.

The Newcastle National League team made a disastrous start to the season when they were thrashed 1-7 at Bath. They had problems even before they started because failure to attract a sponsor left them short of cash, and that meant travelling on the day of the match. For various reasons, they were unable to choose their full team, and eventually fielded Chu Van Que, Peter McQueen, Tony Gelder and Nigel Jobling. Chu was the only player to win a set. Meanwhile, the second team also disappeared in being held to a 5-5 draw against South Yorkshire III at Byker Community Centre. They have had to make a few changes to their team from last season as Cliff Olsson and Dave Godbold have now left to form their own team at Washington in Div. 4, but their replacements, Eddie Smith and Keith Patterson, did not disgrace themselves, as they each won a singles. Alan Matthewson won both of his matches, but Neil McMaster rather surprisingly lost both his sets. It is, of course, early days yet, but both teams look as if they will have a long hard road to travel this season, and much will depend on who is available regularly and how the new players will adapt to National League play.

The Northumberland League season was to commence on Sept. 19, and it is hoped that everyone will enjoy their season be it good or not everyone can win promotion, and someone unfortunately has to be relegated at the season's end. Most of the main posts of the County Executive Committee remain in the same hands, but we welcome new members Alan Hill, Ray Main-Brown and Henry Ross in addition to the existing Committee.

Finally, belated congratulations to Shirley Laver and Durham's Tom Robinson, who became engaged at the end of last season, and are expected to marry sometime next year. Best wishes go to you both for your future happiness.

Tony Carey reports from.....

NORTH WALES
ALAS NO JUNIORS
Clwyd field three teams in this season's County Championships - one in the senior Div. 3A and two veteran sides in Divs. 2A and 3A. But, alas, we have no junior team.

The domestic programme for North Wales is well in hand and the North Wales Championship dominated by Denbighshire will be held in Towyn (Rhyl) this season. The North Wales Counties League with no new members will produce a full programme for seniors, juniors, veterans and women in their respective divisions.

The table Tennis Association of Wales has given permission for the Rhyl League to organise the first Welsh Open Veteran Championship to celebrate their 50th year in 1985. Provisional entries would be welcome to estimate the size of the event. Singles and doubles events in the 50, 60, and 70-year-old groups are contemplated.

The East Denbighshire Summer League in their 16th year again proved a success. As usual the tournament was well supported and organiser Charlie Bayliss had his work cut out to complete the event by 11 p.m.


Tony Carey reports from.....

SOMERSET
TO BE OR NOT TO BE
No - I have not spent the summer reading Shakespeare and looking for some lines of prose to include in these notes - it is just that I think this title covers what I see as the future of our Senior and Junior teams this season.

After recording one of our best seasons at both levels for some time, there is cause for optimism, as we have now got a sound base from which to launch ourselves into the realms of the higher leagues, a feat which in itself will raise the standard of our play.

The enthusiasm is there amongst the players, coaches and those connected with Somerset Table Tennis. We also have gained the services of an experienced coach in Tony Russe from Weston-super-Mare who has introduced a training programme for our Senior and top Juniors on lines similar to our Regional Junior Squad sessions (which are starting to bear fruit of good quality after much nurturing at the roots). These sessions should produce fitter and better players, which should be reflected in their play, not only at County level but also in Open competitions, which I sincerely hope they will compete in, especially the younger ones like David Lee, Lee Sadler and David Wilson.

We have seen the considerable benefit gained by our Junior Girls and Boys over the past two seasons from the Tournament Circuit and I am sure the same would apply to the Seniors. Who knows - perhaps in the not too distant future we will have a Senior horde attending an Open Competition similar to our Junior horde. Perhaps this will not happen until our Juniors have matured to the Senior ranks and carried their own pattern forward as a general routine for success. The initiative is already being taken by our latest and welcome addition to the Ladies ranks of Rebecca Russe from Avon, who has been through the progressive steps of the tournament circuit throughout her playing career with some considerable success at different levels and is aiming to prove herworth in the Senior ranks.

"There is no substitute for that experience." The junior scene is proceeding slowly but smoothly along prepared routes towards the common
goal of success in winning. However, we have suffered a heavy blow recently with an unfortunate accident to our No.1 Junior boy, Mark Bryant, who suffered a broken arm. This is especially hard for Mark coming at a time when he was building up to the final regional trial in September, where I am sure he would have done well and gained a coveted invite to the National Trials in November and put Somerset's name on the Junior Boys list for the first time. This would keep the boys up with the girls, as Melonie last season became the first girl on the Junior computer list since our stalwart for many years, Jill Green, made her mark there. Get well soon, Mark, and show that you can still reach that list by winning matches on the tournament circuit.

This temporary loss will present the selectors with quite a problem, but it might also prove a spur to the other heir-apparants to show their worth and solve that problem.

We seem to be reasonably well off for Junior Girls with Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb, Fiona Stuart and Kirsty Witham, another recruit from Avon and also another talented player has come into our fold, this being Kate Lines from Hampshire, who has taken up residence at Millfield School, Street.

Our Cadets on the Girls' side look reasonably strong with Melonie still there to set the pace for the group following, consisting of Mandy Williams, Claire Brazier, Joanna Webber, Joanna McKenna, Tina Sadler, Sharon Fewing and Paula Davey. The Cadet Boys are Paul Smith, Paul Fowler, Neil McKenna and James Webber. All these Cadets are progressing very well for their ages, and the signals for success in the future appear to be Green all the way. However, Table Tennis being the unpredictable sport it is, I must sound a note of caution here and say we must heed the amber, the red will show very quickly. I mean by this that there is a long way to go yet and we must keep the momentum going both on the players' and the coaches' side. The players have a hard but essential part to play in this, as it will involve them in a lot of self-discipline and dedication with some sacrifice of other pursuits. However, I am sure they will find the rewards adequate compensation, and it will help to solve the inevitable headache for our coaches of separating the wheat from the chaff. The first will germinate; the second will drift away.

Another aspect which I feel is important to the development of our players is that the boys keep on their own. To think for themselves in matches and practice sessions, especially the older juniors who should be reasonably aware of what basic tactics to adopt and what exercises to perform. This will give the coaches more time to devote to the second and third echelon of our pyramid of players.

Since my last report the Somerset flag has flown high in two major Junior Tournaments, the first being the Sea-link Youth Cup Regional Final for Wales and the West at Thornbury Sports Centre on Sunday 4 June. In this we had Melonie throwing aside the disappointment of her poor performance in the English Schools Individuals at Mansfield and turning in a true performance of her ability and England Rankings position. Her record for that day was Winner U.13 Individuals, Winner U.13 Team with Tracy Scott-Pawson from Dorset, Winner U.16 Team with Jenny Ellery of Gloucester, Runner Up U.16 Individual to Evelyn Wright, the Welsh No.1 Junior 21-19 in the third. Some day!

In addition to this, we had the other U.13 Girls finalists in Claire Brazier and Joanna Webber with Mark Bryant reaching the U.16 semi-final.

The second big event after this was of course the National Finals held at the Britannia Leisure Centre, Shore-ditch, London, and here Melonie produced another fine performance, only losing one match, and that to the eventual U.1 3 winner, Andrea Holt, of Lancs. and therefore finishing runner-up. So, a very good season for Somerset to look back on with regard to the Tournament Circuit from our wins in the Bridgend Open in August to the Sealink Trials on 25 June.

By the time this epistle goes to press we will have already started on our wanderings around the country at weekends, with the Swansea Open on Sept. 10. I hope to report some success for us in my next report. Until then, read your copy of the Table Tennis News from cover to cover and keep with the scene!

Jack Chalkley reports - from....

**STAFFORDSHIRE**

**EFFORT AND ACTIVITY**

Although, at the time of writing, the winter season is only just beginning to get under way in most leagues, nevertheless, at County level, considerable effort and activity has already taken place to hold trials and to draw up the September ranking lists.

At senior level, Mark Evans had a good day and moves back to fourth spot, notable absences from the list being Greg Hallam and Paul Barnett, neither of whom wish to be considered. This is particularly surprising in Greg's case and I, for one, hope that there will be a change of heart before the end of the season. Both Andrew Bellingham and Jill Harris retain their No. 1 positions, but in the ladies' ranking, Amanda Hegarty and Rachel Roberts, both of whom had good trials, move up above Fiona Elliot and Janet Dunning.

Top positions remain more or less as expected at junior level, but amongst the cadets, with standards changing quite rapidly - from one season to the next, the selectors' task presented a number of problems which may need further careful consideration as the season progresses.

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**County League dates are Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 10, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, with Mar. 17 held in reserve for contingencies. This season sees a change in the composition of the teams in Divs. 1 and 2 - they now fall into line with the other divisions with each team consisting of four players, men or ladies. Stone "A" and Walsall "A" are promoted to Div. 1 to join Potteries "A" and "B", Wolverhampton "Alt and Stafford "A" and the 2nd Division consists of Leek "A", West Bromwich "A", Stafford "B", Wolverhampton "B", Lichfield "A" and Potteries "C". In all, 29 teams have entered and we still hope for a late entry to make Div. 5 up to six teams. Andrew Waters continues as County League secretary.

Other dates for your diary - Woodfield Tournament Nov. 5/6 (juniors on the 5th), County Closed March 18, Wolverhampton Closed Jan. 15, Stafford Closed Jan. 28/29, Potteries Closed March 11. The County Closed will again be held at Northwood Sports Centre. No date has been fixed yet for the Malcolm Scott Cup, which will again be organised by the Wolverhampton League at the Woodfield.

At the recent County committee meeting, David Roberts (Staffs. Schools TTA secretary) reported-on a full programme of events forthe coming season. All events are centred at King Edward VI High School in Stafford on Thursday evenings, and most Thursdays are taken up. They have made excellent progress at Schools
level over the last few years and the County welcomes the contribution being made to table tennis at junior and cadet level.

Ian Bullock reports from.....

SUFFOLK

UPSURGE IN INTEREST

It gives me great pleasure to be asked to contribute to the magazine on behalf of the county. I hope I shall be able to give justice to the upsurge in interest in the game which is taking place in the various areas and, n passing, must mention the enthusiasm of the players, many of whom are gaining valuable experience on the tournament circuit and who will ensure a successful future for Suffolk.

Paul Gooding of Ipswich was invited to his first Cadet ranking trial at Shotley in June and finished 24th which was a creditable performance considering his absence for four months due to injury prior to the competition. He climbed to 19 by the end of the season.

John Kitchener, our leading Senior player, has played regularly with Thorn-EMI Ellenborough in the National League and is ranked at 28 for the Seniors at the moment. Both these players were influenced by the late Jim Kenworthy whose death came as a great shock to Ipswich enthusiasts. Jim has been greatly missed as he was a coach who had time for anyone who wanted help.

SENIORS

We look forward to the coming season with mixed feelings as the Senior I team prepare to enter the higher ranks of Division 2A in the County Championships. Can they maintain the winning ways of 1982/83 when they so handsomely won Division 3D? Congratulations are due to John Kitchener, Stuart Palmer, Mick Palmer (Capt.), Julie Dowsett and Sue Welham for a fine team effort. Special mention must be made of our two ladies who played in every match. Julie at No.1 finished with 100% record while Sue failed to win on only one occasion and they were unbeaten in the doubles. Nor must we forget the two reserves, Russell King and David Henderson, both of whom played at very short notice and contributed towards the team’s success.

A second Senior team has been entered in Division 3D so competition for places will be intense at the trial on Sept. 18 to which 30 men and 16 women have been invited. Keep up the good work, Edna and Denis!

Juniors

East American League 1982/83

Two teams were entered, one in the A Division and the other in the B. Shaun Caraccio, Paul Gooding, Nigel Howe, Wayne Shaw, Julie Mortimer and Jane Mitchell played for the A team which finished second to Norwich “A”. The B team, however, went one better by winning Division B. They were represented by Wayne Shaw, Michael Wright, Andrew Hutchinson, Keith Norman, Jayne Mitchell and Susan Croton.

Ipswich A v March ‘A’ 8-2 W
Kings Lynn ‘A’ 8-2 W
Wisbech ‘A’ 9-1 W
Dereham ‘A’ 5-5 D
Norwich ‘A’ 3-7 L

Junior Div. A

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Ipswich Bv March ‘B’ 6-4 W
Lowestoft ‘A’ 9-1 W
Yarmouth ‘B’ 10-0 W
Wisbech ‘B’ 10-0 W
Norwich ‘B’ 6-4 W

Junior Div. B

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As reported in our earlier issue, the Juniors competed in Division 3D and found the standard of play much higher than in the Anglian League. We are looking for an improvement this season as they expand their experience.

Many thanks to Jack Perkins who has managed the teams so successfully and best wishes to Paul Hutchinson who takes over at the start of the new season.

There has been a marked increase in the number of Suffolk Junior players who have been invited to attend the St. Neots Centre of Excellence. Following a trial on June 12, Richard Hutchinson, Darren Jones, Chris Nicholls, Michael Wright, Sylvia Kenyon and Claire Nicholls will now be joining Shaun Caraccio, Paul Gooding and Wayne Shaw on their monthly excursion beyond the county boundary. I understand that Suffolk now occupy around 25% of the places available.

The County Junior Ranking Trials took place at Stowupland Sports Centre on Sunday Sept. 11, the results being:-

Boys

1 Paul Gooding
2 Shaun Caraccio
3 Richard
4 Darren Jones
5 Andrew
6 Wayne Shaw
7 Michael Wright
8 Nigel Howe
9 Chris Nicholls
10 Philip Marshall
11 Paul Wright

Girls

1 Julie Mortimer
2 Sylvia Kenyon
3 Jayne Mitchell
4 Claire Nicholls
5 Lisa Mayne
6 Julie Billham
7 Andrea Ambrose
8 Karen Perkins
9 Carol Leech
10 Rosemary
11 Julie Dawson

SCHOOLS

Both in the Individual and Team Championships the County was largely represented by schools “from the Ipswich area. Bedfordshire turned out very strong teams in the team event and eliminated most of the Suffolk challenge at the Area Finals at St. Neots. Philip Marshall, Guy Barker, Rupert Gunhardt, J. Wood, Jayne Mitchell, Lisa Mayne and Karen Perkins all played for Suffolk at the National Finals in Mansfield. Due to an administrative error, Andrew Hurley was unable to participate.

Whilst the game appears to flourish in the Primary Schools it is sad to see some Secondary Schools withdrawing from the Schools’ League in Ipswich. It is hoped that the children who have the ability will not be prevented from entering the National Competitions and that in the not too distant future we shall see a stronger challenge from the Northern and Western parts of the County.

COACHING

Terry Gilbert and Hilyar Dowsett are to be congratulated on gaining their One-Star Diploma Coaching Awards recently. Less than three years ago it is fair to say that Terry, Hilyar and Jack Perkins were the only three active qualified Club coaches in the Ipswich area and they have since been joined by Ian Bullock, Steve Bond and more recently by Paul Hutchinson, Ken Burrows, Kathie Brierley and Bernie Studd, who qualified this year. It is encouraging to see that all these newly qualified coaches have established their own coaching clinics. Terry Gilbert also runs sessions forth the top juniors and all the representative players are selected from this group. We mustn’t forget the many Dads who have also helped with the coaching. The current success of our Juniors is in no small measure due to the endeavours and enthusiasm of the coaching staff. Long may it continue!

Finally, it is gratifying to see the Ipswich and District League go from strength to strength, under the guidance of Joyce Love and her committee, with an overall increase of 6 teams. The League provided a team of umpires and helpers at the Butterfly International Cadet Championships held at the Eurosports Village at Shotley in June. The Swedish boys and the German girls showed their superiority in an excellent Tournament and it is hoped that future events of this calibre will be held at the same location.
venue. We are also grateful to the League for providing trophies for the winners of our recent Mini League Competition which was contested by the four coaching clinics in the Ipswich area.

Michael Green reports from.....

SUReY

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Greetings to everybody in Surrey Table Tennis Federation your brand new press correspondent.

Perhaps you would like to make a note of my address - 48 Stokesby Rd. Chessington, phone 01-397-3180 (01-283-7101 x 3238) I’d like to hear from League Press Secretaries, National League Team Secretaries, County Captains, Schools Organisers... Anyone with information which could be used in this column.

The most notable Surrey achievement since the last issue has to be Mike Hammond’s triumph in capturing the title of Stiga Schools International Champion at Gloucester.

Sponsored by Southborough Boys’ School’s Parents and Teachers Association, Mike remained unbeaten during the team event playing for England “A”, although he had a couple of narrow squeaks against Fullerton and Worrell representing England “B”.

In the individual event, Mike topped his group winning all four sets without dropping a game.

In the semi, Kent’s David Dodd was Hammond’s next victim although this one went to three. In the other semi, Devon’s Gary Lambert defeated our own Mark Oakley thus setting the final as a repeat of the English Schools which Lambert won.

Lambert, undoubtedly the favourite, cruised to victory in the first game. A severe ticking off from the watching Nicky Mason then spurred Hammond into action, and his blistering forehand smash began to dominate proceedings helping Mike to easily take the second and third games and thus the title.

Surrey tournament dates are as follows:- Nov. 12/13 Surrey Junior Closed at Elmbridge..... Jan. 8/9 South of England Junior at Woking..... Feb. 4 County Senior Closed at Elmbridge..... March 17/18 South of England Senior at Woking and then a sufficient sponsor-ship can be found - Norman Hooper is the man to contact).

The seventh annual Surrey Schools Metropolitan Inter-borough Championships were held at Monks Hill Sports Centre Croydon at the end of last season and resulted in Merton Schools retaining the Stiga Trophy.

Merton’s winning side consisted of:- Andy Sexton, Melville Taylor, Deren Hams, Richard Jones, Michele Hams, Jane Kinnard, and Tracey Eveleigh. The individual event winners were:- U19B Andy Sexton (Merton), U19G Michele Hams (Merton), U17B Andy Hardy (Kingston), U17G Claire Brooks (Croydon), U15B Adam de Gay (Croydon), U13G Mandy Dewsbury (Croydon), U13B Richard Jones (Merton). Thanks to Croydon Schools’ T.T.A. for running the event and to David Lomas for the information.

Ted Simpkin tells me that John Diggins and Ted Woodgate have retired from the coaching scene in Guildford after thirteen hard working years and Dai Jones has stepped in to take over from them.

Ted is currently undertaking the preparation of a History of the 50 years of the Guildford League to be published in time for the 1984 A.G.M.

Some of the results of the Guildford Closed organised by Janet Guess are as follows:- Ramesh Bhalla beat Steve Woodgate in the final of the Open Singles.... Sarah Cresswell beat Kerry Merritt in the Women’s.... Bhalla and Steve Hodder beat Ian Schwartz and Graham Outrim in the Open Doubles.... There were ten other events contested.

Some of the winners from the Dulwich Closed:- Men’s Singles - John Dennison, Women’s Singles - Janice Seabrook, Veterans - Danny Kinnard, Junior - Lyn Bennett.

And in the Wandsworth:- Men’s Singles - Steve Holloway, Women’s Singles - Janice Seabrook, Veterans, Frank Hams (any details of the Surrey Veteran’s Team?) Junior - Michele Hams.

In the Thames Valley League, the Chessington team of Ru Bole, Peter Matthews, Mike Hammons, and Graham Roberts took the League title for the fourth year running.

John Woodford reports from....

SUSeX

PAT FOILS THE CHAUVINISTS!

PAT VALES. (Worthing) the South’s answer to Josie Ransome in the field of crusading for women’s table tennis, has made a breakthrough. She has become the first female member in the history of the Sussex Table Tennis Association to be elected to the senior selection committee. The Sussex county association was formed in 1946, so the male-dominated ban- tion remained intact for 37 years.

Bert Fretwell remains in the hot-seat as chairman, but it got a little hotter than usual at the July annual meeting and there is a feeling that after the coming season, Bert will be taking a well-earned retirement and leave the trench warfare to younger men.

Sussex county championships trials took place on September 4th, long after this column was written, but I do know that Graham Gillett the reigning Sussex champion who spends much more time writing rock music, has been signed by Dolphins in the National League for 14 matches. That plus the musical scene will leave Gillett little time for the county championships. Neither will the Moore brothers have much spare time on National League week-ends. Stephen Moore is to play for St. Neots and Adrian Moore travels even further to Bath, whilst Nicky Mason, fresh from gold medal triumphs in Malmo continues to take the bottom place in the popularity polls with most Sussex officials by continuing to play for Surrey.

Best news of the year concerning venues comes from Burgess Hill where a devoted bunch of men have come up with the Sidney West Sports Centre which will be used as a 6-table venue for certain events and practice and also as the headquarters for Dolphins in the National League.

Universally popular Rachel Mackrell, three times the Sussex champion is to spend a fourth and last season with the county to complete her studies at the Brighton Polytechnic here in Eastbourne, but how Eastbourne are going to maintain their usual Rose Bowl challenge with Diane Griggs expecting twins, remains to be worked out.

Mary I. Rose reports from.....

WARWICKSHIRE

RENEWED ENTHUSIASM

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and can now get back to the table tennis scene with renewed enthusiasm.

The County finished the season with final placings of:-

Premier Division "A" - 5th team

31
'B' Team (Division 3) - Winners
Junior A' Division 2A - 3rd
Junior B' Division 3B - Winners
These placings were a much better record than had been expected at the beginning of the season.

County Badges were presented at the end of the season to:-
A' Team - Carl Morgan (B'ham)
Juniors - M. Thomas, J. Singh
(Coventry)
County Junior Rallies
It is hoped to organise at least 4 junior rallies during the 1983/84 season. Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington and Nuneaton have offered to stage these events. Details will be circulated later.

Rugby and District Association
Ian Flower
All those who knew Ian were stunned by his sudden and tragic death on June 9.
Ian started playing for the Oakfield Dukes six years ago and he was taken under the wing of Alan Atkins. Ian's rapid progress enabled the Dukes to win promotion for their second season in the Coventry Division 12.
Ian represented both Rugby and Coventry juniors in the Midland League and in 1981 was a member of the Coventry junior team that won Div. 3.
He will be sadly missed by all those connected with table tennis in Rugby and Coventry. We offer our condolences to his parents and to his sister.

Rugby - Midland League
The Men's team just managed to avoid relegation last season and therefore will stay in Div. 2, and our Junior team finished next to bottom of Div. 5 of the Midland Junior League. We are hoping for improved results this campaign.

Warwickshire League
Rugby finished the season in 2nd place in the Warwickshire League. This was an excellent performance and we are justly proud of our players: Michael Thomas, Ian Randle, Mark Randle, Lynne Stanbridge and Fran Philby. The Warwickshire Association unfortunately do not provide runners-up trophies, but an anonymous donation has been made to enable us to purchase a small award for each player.

West Warwickshire Invitation Tournament
The West Warwickshire Annual Invitation Tournament was again sponsored by the Alliance Building Society. Many of Birmingham's top players entered including Alan Fletcher the England-ranked No 11. Most players find the West Warwicks Tournament an early chance to get some good match practice before the start of the season and the County trials. The tournament was played over the period Sept. 6/10.
The Men's Final was won by the fast-improving Carl Morgan who was last year's runner-up. He defeated Fletcher 13, and 15.
The Women's title went to Sandra Peakman in a replay of last year's final with Di. St. Ledger, but this time taking her revenge winning 10 and 14. Well played Carl and Sandra.
The Doubles event was won by N. Mayo and C. Hughes against B. Johnson and N. Anson.

National League
Dunlop Birmingham lost their opening match in the Premier Division of the Halex National League beaten 6-2 by Ellenborough but can take heart from the performance of debutant Fletcher.
Ellenborough won the championship 2 years ago and are again one of the title favourites and proved much too strong for the Birmingham side.
Fletcher defeated Mark Mitchell as did Derek Munt to notch up Dunlop's two wins, but Fletcher took England international Sandley to a decider.
Thanks to all of you who supplied me with information for my notes, I hope this will continue and once again I state my thanks and telephone number. Miss M. I. Rose, 45 Springfield Crescent, SOLIHULL, West Midlands, B92 9AE. Home Telephone Number 021-743 7773.
I wish you all a successful and enjoyable Season.

Doug Moss reports from.....

WORCESTERSHIRE

SCHOOL OF SPORT
The most exciting news concerns the setting up of a School of Sport for Table Tennis at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester. I initiated this as a member of the Regional Development Advisory Panel and ultimately things started to move when Frank Southam (Worcester Chairman), Bryan Merrett and myself met a Regional Sports Council Officer, the Worcester City Leisure Officer and a County Council representative at the Worcestershire Education Offices. The final arrangements provide for coaching and administration to be funded by a Regional Sports Council Participation grant of £300 in the first year, the use of school buildings subsidised by the County Council, the Worcester League being committed to a maximum investment of £500 and the City Council giving a grant of £955 towards the cost of 3 top class tables, court surrounds and Tungsten Halogen lighting. Apart from the facilities for the School of Sport first class conditions will be available for County Championship matches, tournaments etc. The School of Sport Management Committee has Frank Southam as Chairman, with Bob Wingate (Treasurer), George Brett (League Sec.), Molly Hough and myself as Secretary, plus the assistance of Bryan Merrett, who will be in charge of the School of Sport coaching/training sessions.

The County Senior team trials have been held with the usual upsets of the form book! In the men's section Murray Jukes was unbeaten, to strengthen his position as the present County Champion. Nick Bottomley was in great form beating both Trevor Washington and Steve Dunning. Trevor and Steve were victims of Murray and Dunning was also beaten by Ken Walton, who was in good form. Simon Claxton was not available, being on holiday, and Jeremy Duffield will again be giving preference to football and not competing for a County team place.
Alison Westwood put up an excellent performance in the women's trial. She had not been available for most of last season but came back to win all but one of her sets, losing to Sandra Roden. Mandy Mytton played confidently, attacking strongly and winning her sets except against Alison. So they finished up as joint leaders. Sandra played well and in immaculate style. She had an exciting set with Mandy losing 19 - 19. Debbie Hough was also in good form coming back from 2-9 in the 3rd game against Mandy to 15-all but finally losing at 17. A surprise was the form of Lynda Reid, last season's No.1, who won her first set against Annette Snee but then lost all her others. Louise Davis, the County Champion, was not available being on the Hammersley-Parker Advanced Training Course. During the close season Louise has played for an England Junior team at the English Open at Worthing in April playing against Sweden and Wales. She also played in Cadet International matches at Ipswich in May competing against France and Germany. Annette Snee, who played well for the County 2nd team last season, and showed some form at the Trials, is unlikely to be available as she is going to Bradford University.

The Junior Trials were held on Sept. 11 and at present I have news that the most successful players were Dean Kloos (Worcester), Tim Holder (Bromsgrove), and Mark Roden (Kidderminster) with Helen Jones and Lisa Hunt, both of Kidderminster.

Good news is that the Portman Building Society is providing some sponsorship for the County Junior team. The players will have track suits bearing the Society's name.

The news of League entries is disappointing. The larger Leagues, namely Dudley, Kidderminster and Worcester have each been reduced from 6 to 5 Divisions but the smaller Leagues have fared better. Bromsgrove has gained 3 teams and Evesham 1. Malvern, which had 4 Divisions and 44 teams last season, has lost 2 but still in a good situation with 42 teams in this area. There would seem to be a loss of approximately 25 teams over the County.
Various reasons are put forward for the falling off in players, such as unemployment and redundancy situations, players being short of money and finding difficulty in affording to play, and factories closing down with loss of playing facilities. I find the question of affording the game rather surprising taking account of the money spent on other sports. The situation in the County shows a satisfactory state of affairs in the smaller and more rural areas but with the decrease in the urban areas. I think a factor which is that with the number of multi-purpose Sports Centres increasing rapidly, people are widening their interests and perhaps not prepared to be committed to regular League matches.

Evansham is the first I know of whose League match results are being computerised, with League Tables and players’ individual averages being issued monthly. I know that John Myton, who did all the work for the 4 Divisions, is most relieved’

Les D’Arcy reports from.....

YORKSHIRE

GREAT TO BE BACK

It’s great to be back again after the break, although like many of you, I have been playing throughout the Summer in the Yorkshire League which has been won by Yeadon for the first time. Mick Wilcockson (Sturge ‘A’) wins the Merit. A.C.A. ‘B’ are the 2nd Division winners with their top player, Graham Whylife, taking the Merit. Missed a couple of matches in July to attend David Fairholm’s T.T. Coaching Course at Crystal Palace. Internationals Colin Wilson and David Barr made P.E. very strenuous, but enjoyable, if one has masochistic tendencies. They also set a splendid example as key members of a large but friendly coaches’ squad. It was also a privilege to meet the still enthusiastic leader of English table tennis coaching for so many years, Jack Carrington.

Jack’s profound knowledge and interest in our sport commanded respect from those who had the pleasure of speaking to him on the course. The former international, Stuart Gibb, now playing in the National League, said on the final day that he is still a powerful force to be reckoned with. Also met Murray Corbin, who has a feature in this Magazine. Murray is one of the Game’s great characters with an exuberant cheerful disposition which provides a tonic for lesser mortals. Murray’s bat is almost as unique as he is, about one inch thick and made of balsa wood; it is indeed a fearsome weapon to strike through the guard of all but the strongest. Thanks for the inspiration, Murray.

It was something special being with you and the other players at the Palace, regards to all, especially David Fairholm who concluded a memorable course by guiding us through the maze of London traffic back on our way to Yorkshire.

Many of our own coaches have not been idle during the off-season and have looked upon the breathing space as a good opportunity to build for the future.

From a coaching development point of view the highlight of the pre season was a Coaching Conference held at Batley Sports Centre attended by fifty one members, coaches and other representatives from Yorkshire and Humberside. Donald Parker, National Coach, made his usual first class contribution with three interesting and informative lectures. His comprehensive and authoritative account of the World Championships in Tokyo, particularly his first - hand knowledge of the England players’ triumphs and defeats was most interesting and well received by the knowledgeable audience.

Don, with Jill, gave additional prestige to the Conference with delegates valuing the opportunity of meeting her during the break periods.

Tony Ross gave a well prepared and fluently presented lecture on the Y.T.T.A. ‘Development Plan’ of which he is the author. He implored delegates not just to read it but to go back to their leagues and do something about it. Cyril Villiers, The Director of the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, gave a masterly performance as Conference Chairman. He remarked that the Y.T.T.A. Development Plan was the best one he had seen. Thanks to them all and to the Y.T.T.A. Chairman, Alec Head, who welcomed delegates, to Trevor Firth, Sports Centre Manager, and his staff, to Peter Taylor, Jill Tickner, David Townden and all delegates who gave their support and encouragement.

Another popular event was a two weeks coaching course for young players at King’s School, Pontefract, which attracted over two hundred visitors from local schools during the first week to be given coaching and sample play on sixteen tables sponsored by Dunlop. The second week’s course was restricted to forty two players who attended daily, with several England-ranked players forming part of the twenty four strong advanced section.

Several outstanding sporting personalities visited the Course, including Jill Hammersley-Parker with husband Don; World Skipping Champion, Albert Rayner who has the World Record of 128 skips in 10 seconds. Albert showed course members and visitors how skipping could be used as part of table tennis training. Cyril Villiers and Roger Rothery, Wakefield’s Festival Organiser who presented the prizes at the end of the Course.

Results:

‘A’ Group Alaric Bassano bt Michael O’Driscoll
‘B’ Group Kevin Sangster bt Gary Fleming
Intermediate Graham Cook bt Rackish Rao
Cup Most improved(1st week) Hellen Everard
Most improved(2nd week Advanced) Julian Ryder
Most improved(2nd week Intermediate) Martin Bimrose

All members of the Intermediate’s course passed Halex awards.

Your correspondent had the privilege of being involved in this course which on four of the ten days commenced at 9.45 a.m. and finished at 10 p.m. This was in order to accommodate parents and friends who wanted to join in the fun. Also on one of the evenings a guest team from the Oldham Advanced Training Centre went down 6 sets to 14 against a team chosen from the Course.

Several coaches who gave their services voluntarily were Rowden Fullen, Graham Bailey and Neil Cafferty. Rowden and Mick Wilcockson who are both Regional Coaches, assisted Donald Parker to train six student coaches for their club coach award which they duly passed.

Thanks to all concerned and to school master David Harrison, the Pontefract School Staff and to the equipment suppliers at whom the Course would not have been possible.

New Season.

The new Yorkshire League season starts with a number of new faces on the Yorkshire Management Committee. One of the most welcome will be super organiser Graham Cee of Rotherham, the dynamo behind the South Yorkshire National League Club for whom he and his Committee have obtained no less than seventeen sponsors. The three main ones being: South Yorkshire County Council - a good example for other councils to follow; Morte’ Sport Shop and the Youth Training Scheme.

Graham will be combining his National League work with his new job as the Yorkshire League Match Secretary and will be using his computer to produce regular league tables and individual statistics. A recent event organised by Graham and his team’s sponsors was a South Yorkshire Disabled team v one of the club’s National League sides. I enjoyed the match which was well organised and will no doubt be the forerunner of others. Billy Leake, top player for the disabled team has been chosen to represent England in the European Paraplegic T.T. Champs in Munich mid-October and will be hoping to add to his growing collection of medals.

Margaret, wife of E.S.T.T.A. Chairman, John Arnold, is the only lady on the otherwise all-male Yorkshire Committee and Keith Hurley, with
flashing pen, from the same local league as Margaret (Wakefield) fills the vacancy of Minute Secretary. Former Yorkshire T.T.A. Chairman, Geoff Scruton is back in the thick of it again. This time as General Secretary of the Harrogate League. It was nice to see Geoff at the recent Yorkshire pre-Ranking Trials insisting on players making a fair service. Hope other umpires take your example.

**Welsh Corner**

by H. ROY EVANS

The Welsh season started with the Glamorgan Round Robin, the men's section being won by Penarth's Jeff Rigby, who seems mostly to do well in this kind of event. He was certainly again above players regarded as better than him. Nick Williams being 2nd, and David Griffiths 3rd.

Jayne Sully headed the women, followed by Vicki Skeats, Pam Grant, Theresa Petty, Joanne Lee and Chantal Nicholls.

Kevin Roberts was No. 1 in the junior section, with Anthony Jones second, Anthony Hopkins third, and Mark Russ fourth, followed by rankings down to No. 22.

**THE SWANSEA OPEN**

The following weekend was a busy one for the top Welsh players. First came the Swansea Open, which resulted in an almost total eclipse for the Welsh international squad, but the emergence of Junior No. 1. Nigel Tyler as a real senior hope.

After a two-straight defeat of No. 1 seed Alan Griffiths, seemingly a bit out of touch, Nigel went on to an equally impressive semi-final win over Nigel Thomas.

In the other half, Kevin Satchell was much too sharp for a sluggish looking Mark Thomas, and beat George Evans to qualify for a tilt at David Hannah. Kevin must still be kicking himself for he led 20-15 in the third against the Scottish No. 1. who is always a bonny fighter, and showed that very quality in coming from behind for a tremendous win.

In the final, Hannah took the first at 17, but Nigel Tyler lead at 20 in the second, only for the Scot to repeat his ‘survival act with a surge that gave him that game and the title.

The other member of the Welsh squad - Gary Wilkins - played disappointingly to lose to Bryn Tyler.

Tony Healan was beaten by Brian Jeanes, who was then beaten in straight games by Hannah.

Lesley Tyler was in good form to take the women’s event, and although the opposition was not very strong, she did well to beat Avon’s promising junior Helen Perrott, who had a good semi-final win over Elaine Short. Lesley’s semi-final victim was the Londoner Linda Clemett, who beat an out-of-touch Shirley Williams (nee Cain). Heidi Cotter had a very good game against Elaine Short, and then seemed to have the junior girls’ title in her grasp, with a fine win over a fine win over Helen Perrott, and leading Evelyn Wright 20-13 in the second game of the final, only to perpetrate a series of ridiculously rash shots to lose 20-221 Heidi gained some consolation with a good win in partnership with Jayne Sully against Lesley Tyler and Shirley Williams.

Nigel Tyler had little trouble taking the boys’ title, beating Anthony Jones in the semi and Kelvin Roberts in the final. Kelvin had beaten Anthony Hopkins in his semi.

There were no Welsh contestants in the cadet boys’ final, but the cadet girls’ event brought about an extraordinary change. Evelyn Wright had beaten Melanie Carey from Bath with ease in the semi-final of the junior girls, but Melanie, deciding she now knew how to beat Evelyn, inflicted a crushing defeat on the Welsh girl in the cadet final.


**EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

Wales won its opening European League match, beating newly-promoted Guernsey at Cardiff 6-1. Guernsey are a little bit out of their depth in this division, and the problem for better players is to maintain concentration. This was very noticeable in the doubles when Ian Powell and Mark Pipet registered Guernsey’s only win by beating Mark and Nigel Thomas who just couldn’t put their game together at all.

Powell was easily the best Guernsey player, and he looked capable of better things when he played against Alan Griffiths. No set went to three games, and Guernsey look like having a tough time in Division 2. Wales, too, will need to tighten up if they are to win any more.

Jeremy Williams reports from.....

**CORNWALL**

**SHOCK RESIGNATION**

The season began in Cornwall with the shock resignation of County Secretary/Treasurer Tom Honey after 14 years at the helm of Cornish table tennis. Tom was first elected Secretary in 1968/69 and a year later took over the job of Treasurer. In the mid-seventies he really “set the ball rolling” initiating many new tournaments and in so doing raising the playing standards of Cornish table tennis to probably its highest ever level. Tom’s untimely resignation marks the beginning of his new challenge as Secretary of the West Cornwall League. The vacant jobs will be left in the capable hands of Miss Barbara Rapsey (Secretary) and Eddie Curnow (Treasurer). Future enquiries should be made to Miss Rapsey at 15, Trelanerd East, Truro.

The playing situation looks pretty bright this year; for the first time there will be 2 Cornwall Junior teams, both should enjoy a fair amount of success in Division 3C, particularly the 1st team who must have their eyes on the league title.

Our Seniors will probably face some changes due to the premature retirement of last year’s No.1 Sharon James and the availability of Jon Woolllins may also be in doubt when he goes to Birmingham University shortly.

The County rankings seem to have regained a little sanity this season and as issued by the Selection Committee, they are now as follows:-

**MEN**

1) J. Bassett (St. Ives); 2) B. Cornelius (St. Austell); 3) J. Williams (Falmouth);
4) J. Woolins (Launceston); 5) J. James (Camborne); 7) N. Cock (St. Austell); 10) G. Reed (Falmouth).

WOMEN
1) A. Clemens (Camborne); 2) S. Rapsey (Truro); 3) S. Collins (Callington); 4) B. Rapsey (Truro); 5) J. Menzel (Camborne); 6) E. Stevenson (Bude); 7) K. Broczek (Launceston).

BOYS
1) James; 2) Reed; 3) A. Hunt (Launceston); 4) A. Vingoe (Camborne); 5) M. Peters (Falmouth); 6) P. Tran (Launceston); 7) M. Standley (Bude).

CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE
About to enter its' second season, the Cornish League looks to be even more keenly contested than last year. Can the Cornwall teams play as well as they did last year or will St. Austell once again come out on top?

GIRLS
1) Clemens; 2) Stevenson; 3) Broczek; 4) L. Jewell (Falmouth).

COUNTY MATCHES
An immaculate performance by our Junior 1st team enabled them to secure a 6-3 victory over our near neighbours Global Plymough in the opening match of the season on the 22nd of October. Promotion will be on the cards for them this season, but the seconds will have to fight hard for survival.

JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER
What will happen to the money?
A panel of four persons will meet at least twice yearly to decide how to allocate the money over the following six months.

DETIALS OF THE SCHEME
What do you have to do?
Please become a member of the Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation (all contributions are welcome but £10 enables you to become a member) by writing a cheque to The Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation, The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinhilme, Lancaster LA2 9AN.

What is the benefit of contributing to the Scheme?
Naturally I hope that you will feel that contributing directly to the development of English table tennis in general and junior play in particular is a worthy cause. As well as writing to individual members, Table Tennis News will be informed of the activities of the Foundation.

ACCOUNTABILITY
Each September as a member you will get a financial statement an indication of the publicity received and most importantly, the range of players helped.

ADDRESS:
I enclose £10 to become a member.
The Halex National League began on 18th September with many changes evident in the divisions, teams and players. Perhaps the most significant from a championship viewpoint is the arrival of Jaques Fareham in the Premier Division and the addition of Alan Cooke as a back-up to their World Cup star, Carl Prean. The Prean-Cooke duo, with Ian Kenyon in support, could rattle the top three, Ormesby, Hassy and Thorn-EMI Ellenborough.

The first indication will be on Sunday, 2nd October, when Fareham take on Ellenborough.

In the First Division, Tarmac Wolverhampton having signed Douggie Johnson from Ormesby and Carl Morgan from Chan, look certain to be in the running. Literally "in the running". Manager Paul Chester has issued a challenge to any other team in the league to field two faster men over two miles than Andy Bellingham and Andy Rich.

HOW THEY LINE UP

Premier Division
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough
1 Graham Standle, 2 Mark Mitchell, 3 Colin Wilson, 4 Dave Tan, 5 Nigel Tyler, 6 Lloyd Lewis.
Tibhar London
1 Dave Wells, 2 Max Crimmins, 3 Richard Jermy, 4 David Dodd.
Unity Bradford
1 Skylet Andrew, 2 Steve Turner, 3 Steve Sharpe, 4 Martin Firth, 5 David Indricks.
Gillette Reading
1 Phil Bradbury, 2 David Barr, 3 Andy Wellman, 4 Karen Witt, 5 Dave Reeves.
Dunlop Birmingham
1 Alan Fletcher, 2 Ian Horsham, 3 Barry Johnson, 4 Derek Munt, 5 Pat Glynn, 6 Rupert Sterling.
Ormesby
1 Donald Parker, 2 Nigel Ekersley, 3 Henk Van Spanje, 4 Richard Yule, 5 Lindsay Taylor.
Jacques Fareham
1 Carl Prean, 2 Alan Cooke, 3 Ian Kenyon, 4 Mark Oakley, 5 Tony Clayton, 6 Glen Baker.
Hassy Soham
1 Paul Day, 2 Kenny Jackson, 3 John Souter, 4 Nicky Mason, 5 Dave Hannah.

First Division
Gillette Reading
1 Martyn Smith, 2 Andrew Syed, 3 John, 4 Tony Stokes, 5 Mandy Sainsbury, 6 Alison Gordon.
Byker Newcastle
1 Chu Van Que, 2 Pete McQueen, 3 'Benny' Robertson, 4 Tony Gelder, 5 Andrew Clark.

Second Division
Butterfly Cardiff
1 Mark Thomas, 2 Nigel Thomas, 3 Andrew Healan, 4 Gary Wilkins, 5 Andrew Jones, 6 Nick Williams.
Ormesby
1 John Broe, 2 Kevin Green, 3 Steven Brunskill, 4 Michael Laird, 5 Chris Metcalfe.
Tarmac Wolverhampton
1 Douggie Johnson, 2 Andy Bellingham, 3 Carl Morgan, 4 Andy Rich, 5 Tony Isaac.

Second Division North
March Halex
1 Steve Palmer, 2 Andy Withers, 3 Geoff Davies, 4 Robert Swift, 5 Mick Palmer, 6 Gary Jordan, 7 Paul Oldroyd, 8 Paul Holmes.
Salford TG
1 Kevin Beardsley, 2 Billy Gleave, 3 Ian Johns, 4 Tony Boasman, 5 Mike Stead, 6 Tony Taylor, 7 Wendy Walker.
Chan Construction
1 Phil Gunn, 2 Lester Bertie, 3 Ian Gunn, 4 Richard Tanner, 5 K. Chan Sincil Lincoln.
1 David Gannon, 2 Stuart Worrell, 3 Martin Pickles, 4 Matt Sheader, 5 Brian Allison, 6 Denis Worrell.
Tarmac Wolverhampton
1 Trevor Washington, 2 Steve Dunning, 3 Adrian Dixon, 4 Craig Bakewell, 5 Mark Evans, 6 Richard Hayward, 7 R.F.S. Stockton.
1 Malcolm Corking, 2 Ian Plummer, 3 Terry Murphy, 4 Steve Souter, 5 Phil Crawford, 6 Jevon Chan.
Bradford Hermit
1 David Rook, 2 Jeff Brook, 3 Richard Whiteley, 4 Trevor Dyson, 5 Malcolm Cummings, 6 David Hope, 7 David Bottomley.
South Yorkshire
1 Chris Rogers, 2 Keith Rodger, 3 Tony Sanderson, 4 Shaun Browne, 5 Mark Illingsworth

Third Division North
Byker Newcastle II
1 Nigel Jobling, 2 Neil McMaster, 3 Mark Young, 4 Alan Matthews, 5 Edward Smith, 6 Peter Curry, 7 Keith Patterson.
Vickers Barrow
1 Andrew Murphy, 2 Neil Yardley, 3 Alan Fay, 4 Alan Manson, 5 Stan Halesworth, 6 Mike Yardley, 7 Chris Brockbank.
Ormesby III
1 David Blackburne, 2 Anthony Wattis, 3 Stuart Craggs, 4 David Fewsdale, 5 Charlie Watson.
Washington
1 David Svenson, 2 Daman McCivle, 3 Cliff Olsson, 4 David Godbold, 5 Tom Tobson, 6 Robert Reed, 7 Alan Thompson, 8 Doug Lawrence, 9 Anthony Black, 10 David Cobbett.
Unity Bradford II
1 Keith M'Kandla, 2 Ian Duxbury, 3 Craig Render, 4 Mark Griffin, 5 Paul Russan.
Unity Bradford III
1 Paul McCreith, 2 Keith Pickles, 3 Joanne Shaw, 4 Julie Speight, 5 Rachel Beaumont, 6 Sylvia Broadbent, 7 Paul Clare.
South Yorkshire II
1 David Illingsworth, 2 Brian Carney, 3 Neil Bailey, 4 Paul Longstone, 5 Clive Guest.
South Yorkshire III
1 Brian Bennett, 2 Glen Roberts, 3 Russell Thompson, 4 Nicky Newton, 5 John Hopkins, 6 Michael Scott, 7 Caroline Oldfield, 8 Neil Simms.

Witham F.C.
1 Nicky Standen, 2 Robin Lang, 3 Peter Hayden, 4 Terry Dowsett, 5 Bernard Lazarus, 6 Steve Tilson, 7 Neil Sweeting.
Cranfield Halex
1 Brian Jeanes, 2 George Evans, 3 Andrew Evans, 4 K. Phillips, 5 Jeremy Hobbs, 6 Warwick Armstrong, 7 Graham Sell, 8 Steven Gibbs, 9 Peter Pitfield, 10 Paul Williamson, 11 Jeffrey Turner.
Spicer New Malden
1 Malcolm Francis, 2 Steven Holloway, 3 Martin Shuttle, 4 Andrew Sexton 5 Graham Bateman, 6 Andrew Hardy: 7 Neil Sutton, 8 Malcolm Wilde.
Dagenham F.C.
1 Dave Newman, 2 Anthony Penny, 3 Kevin Caldron, 4 Stuart Gibbs, 5 Steve Dettmar, 6 Dave Randall, 7 Shaun White.

T.C.B. Dolphins
1 Mick Brown, 2 Phil Smith, 3 Graham Gillett, 4 Keith Horton, 5 Phil Richardson, 6 Richie Venner, 7 Gary Bonner, 8 Paul Elphick.
Gunnersbury Triangle
1 Jonathan Proffitt, 2 Simon Proffitt, 3 Walter Mascarenhas, 4 David Goode, 5 Peter Harry, 6 Jonathan Goode, 7 Paolo Cheng, 8 Steve Gennari, 9 Ken Muhr.
Larkhall Clapham
1 Percy Collino, 2 Paul Namdjou, 3 Derek Holman, 4 Michael O'Leary, 5 Gordon Chapman, 6 David Harding. 
Third Division South
Dunstable
1 David Sharpe, 2 Lisa Bellinger, 3 Ian Doughty, 4 Jackie Bellinger, 5 Gary Hamilton, 6 R. Harman, 7 S. Lines, 8 D. Cartwright.
Ashford
1 Michael Hammond, 2 Peter Simmonds, 3 Rupert Bole, 4 Darryl Windsor, 5 Mark Butler, 6 Steve Everard, 7 Les Cresswell.
Cippenham
1 Ray Tilling, 2 Clive Young, 3 Frank Ears, 4 Steve Brindle, 5 David Proudney, 6 Alec Watson, 7 Graham Trimming, 8 Terry Hill Rams
Tulse Hill Rams
1 Des Charley, 2 Andrew Cunningham, 3 Julian Facey, 4 John Dennison, 5 Anthony Briscoe, 6 Fashat Rasul, 7 Neville Miller.
Lansdown Medway
1 Bob Brown, 2 Andy Mitchell, 3 Ray Namdou, 4 Graham French, 5 Mike Ling, 6 Paul Bannister, 7 Neil Harris.
Jacques Fareham II
1 Chris Bartram, 2 Graham Toole, 3 RAM Richardson, 4 Chris Shetler, 5 Mark Wielding, 6 M. Gibert.
Bourne Ruislip
1 John Burleton, 2 Les Eadie, 3 Martin Lees, 4 Viv McCarthy, 5 PaulBeckham, 6 Paul Colvin.
Jolliffe Poole
1 Rodney Thomas, 2 John Robinson, 3 Jason Creasey, 4 Steve Davies, 5 M. Hughes, 6 R. Ellis.
Third Division East
M.B.S. St. Neots II
1 Stephen Babby, 2 Chris Ogle, 3 Keith Willett, 4 Graham Booth, 5 Keith Lakin, 6 Helen Bardwell, 7 Dave Hyde.
Nottingham Racket Sense
1 Brian Hill, 2 Robert Watson, 3 Trevor Berry, 4 Martin Bishop, 5 Cecil Davis, 6 Adrian Bolton, 7 Tim Shepherd, 8 Terry Bull.
Halex Lincoln
1 Steve Brophy, 2 Russell Harper, 3 Andrew Wignall, 4 R. Hodson, 5 Andrew Burwell, 6 Ian Speight, 7 Mike Thornley, 8 M. Budman.
Hassy Soham II
1 Brian Richardson, 2 Trevor Smith, 3 Peter Holiday, 4 Julian Wheel, 5 Tim Ashman.
Playrite Northampton
1 Graeme McKim, 2 Nat Richardson, 3 Rod Marchant, 4 Brian Wooding, 5 Ian Hawes, 6 Gary Alden.
Coles Waveney
1 Philip Lugsden, 2 Russell King, 3 Mick Broughton, 4 Trevor Bunn, 5 David Smith, 6 David Henderson, 7 Norwich Foxwood.
Grove Market Drayton II
1 Doug Bennett, 2 Richard Stevenson, 3 Martin Stevenson, 4 Mick Musson, 5 Simon Steward, 6 David Honor, 7 Paul Durrant.
Halex Grantham
1 David Skerritt, 2 K. Phillipson, 3 C. Boyd, 4 Simon Pullen, 5 Ian McDonald.
Third Division West
Global Plymouth
1 M. Short, 2 Gary Wiltshire, 3 Tony Sweet, 4 Elaine Short, 5 P. Weldon, 6 K. Buddell, 7 A. Sainsbury.
WW Solihull
1 Andrew Pilgrim, 2 Kevin Pilgrim, 3 C. Clad, 4 P. Dunnett, 5 N. Anderson, 6 Graham Williams, 7 Barry Crutchley, 8 Phil Hillier.
Tarmac Ladies
1 Jill Harris, 2 Karen Groves, 3 Fiona Elliot, 4 Jill Powis, 5 Janet Dunning, 6 Amanda Hegarty, 7 Tracey Spencer.
Holts Salisbury
1 David Constance, 2 Simon Heaps, 3 Mark Werner, 4 Mark Holt, 5 Terry Bruce, 6 J. Warner, 7 Alan Holt.
Tarmac Kernow
1 John Bassett, 2 Barry Corneillius, 3 Jeremy Williams, 4 Jon Woolpins, 5 Ian James, 6 Mark James, 7 Andy Hunt.
Hereford Times
1 Mark Owen, 2 Michael Owens, 3 Murray Jukes, 4 Andy Castillo, 5 Willie Ahern, 6 D. Daniels, 7 Ray Cooke, 8 T. Mason.
Grove Market Drayton II
1 Stan Deakin, 2 Joe Deakin, 3 Keith Stillitoe, 4 Colin Wilson, 5 Alison Baker, 6 Julie Ballard, 7 Colette Sean.
Pengeley Torbay
1 Paul Whiting, 2 Gary Wilson, 3 Mark Ellett, 4 Paul Giles, 5 Carol Butler, 6 Brian Pengelly.

THE FIRST RESULTS
Sunday 11th September 1983
PREMIER DIVISION
Thorn EMI Ellenboro vs Dunlop Birmingham 2
Ormesby 8 Unity Bradford 0
Jacques Fareham 7 Gillette Reading: 1
FIRST DIVISION
SIB Bath 7 Byker Newcastle 1
Butterfly Cardfit 2 Tarmac Wolverhampton 6
Ormesby II 3 MBS St. Neots 5
Grove Market Drayton 5 Gillette Reading II 3
SECOND DIVISION NORTH.
RIS Stockton 2 Salford TG 6
Tarmac W/hampton II 1 Chan Construction 7
South Yorkshire 6 March Halex 2
Salford TG 2 March Halex
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
TCB Dolphins v Larkhall Clapham 7
Dagenham FC v Cranfield Halex
Gunnarness Triangle v Gillette Reading III
Spicer New Malden v Witham FC
Sunday, 16th October
TCB Dolphins v Larkhall Clapham
Dagenham FC v Gillette Reading III

FIXTURES
PREMIER DIVISION
Sunday, 16th October
Hassy Soham v Jaques Fareham
Thorn EMI Ellenboro v Ormesby
Dunlop Birmingham v Gillette Reading
Tibhar London v Unity Bradford
FIRST DIVISION
Sunday, 16th October
SIB Bath v Grove Mkt Drayton
Butterfly Cardfit v Ormesby
Tarmac Wolverhampton v Gillette Reading II
Byker Newcastle v MBS St. Neots
SECOND DIVISION NORTH
Sunday, 16th October
Sincll Lincoln v South Yorkshire
RIS Stockton v Tarmac W/hampton II
Salford TG v March Halex
CHAN Construction v Bradford Hermits
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
Sunday, 16th October
Vickers Barrow v Byker Newcastle II
Unity Bradford III v Ormesby III
South Yorkshire II v Unity Bradford II
Washington v South Yorkshire III
THIRD DIVISION SOUTH
Sunday, 9th October
Lansdown Medway v Ashford
Sunday, 16th October
Jolliffe Poole v Dunstable
Ashford vs Cippenham
Bourne Ruislip v Tulse Hill Rams
Jaques Fareham v Lansdown Medway
Saturday, 23rd October
Lansdown Medway v Bourne Ruislip
Sunday, 23rd October
Vickers Barrow v Byker Newcastle II
Unity Bradford III v Ormesby III
SOUTH Yorkshire II v Unity Bradford II
Washington v South Yorkshire III
THIRD DIVISION WEST
Sunday, 16th October
Holls Salisbury v Grove Mkt Drayton II
Launceston Kernow v Pengeley Torbay
Hereford Times v Tarmac Ladies
Sunday, 30th October
WW Solihull v Tarmac Ladies

SPECIALISING IN TRAVEL FOR SPORTS PEOPLE
Call Andy Orrah (0532) 505321
With International or top representative levels of Table Tennis - then we are talking a “different ball game”. The three player teams are of a distinct advantage, where match averages are of prime importance to each individual player and all players play each member of the opposing team. Where rankings govern the rankings of County and National positions of each player.

If you are a Mr. Average player (like me), do not feel deprived or “hoodwinked” with all the propaganda into believing that playing three player leagues are far superior - they are not - it is all “hogwash”.

Players who specialise in “Duplicates-play”, lose out as only one doubles set is contested in three player matches. In “four” player matches, two doubles are played midway, adding greater interest to matches, thus changing the pattern of a match drastically, widening the scope of play, as the doubles experts wield their bats.

Top players, many of whom are good friends of mine, but are very selfish, ruthless (playwise, that is) and they have to succeed at “top level”. We must not confuse issues, however, and we must decide what side of the line we need to be on - to play at the top there is little time to sit on committees - which you may have noticed.

The more players playing Table Tennis the better. Sadly emphasis on the financial side of playing all sports is a major stumbling block. Halls, fees, subs etc are forever increasing, driving many clubs out of existence.

Do not be fooled - follow the Ilford Table Tennis League’s good sense - play “four player formula”.

P.S. Please do not poach other club’s players, or I will get the blame.

VIC ELSTON
Clarion Secretary
30 Belvedere Road, Leyton E.10

TOP PLAYERS IN POVERTY TRAP
“The E.T.T.A. don’t care about us in the local leagues. They are only interested in our top players and internationals...” This is what I hear all too often as I travel the country.

It is an understandable view and one widely held. It demonstrates the gap between those at the top of our Sport and those at the roots. A decade or more ago I felt the same way - until I discovered the full story which was and still is, that England players are greatly underpaid, that they are in a poverty trap from which they escape only as a result of family or other support or by leaving the country.

Far from spending thousands to send our stars abroad, the world such ventures are subsidised by the Sports Council. The meagre cost to the E.T.T.A. is covered over and over again by our few Television Events and sponsorships. This income is obtained for only one reason. That we have a few players who are world class whom we can therefore sell to Television. Nobody would watch you and me.

The Association and theMembership is in ‘pocket’ to the tune of many thousands of pounds each year as a result of the efforts and skills of our top players.

To add further insight to ‘life at the top’: I am the father of the player who last season was No. 3 in England, played in the World Championships and may be said therefore to be in full receipt of all that English Table Tennis can bestow.

The facts of the matter so far are that it has cost me thousands of pounds to keep him playing at this level. I don’t complain; there are worse ways of spending my money and what he has achieved has repaid me many times over. There must be others who might have done as well but the resources were never available to them. Ours is a Sport of big costs and small rewards.

Far from being the E.T.T.A.’s pampered darlings, our top players contribute infinitely more in measurable cash terms than they ever take out.

Nobody will apparently do anything about this injustice about which I wrote in these columns long before Carl ever started playing.

There is money about, but we prefer to spend it on other things, rather than the one thing which would produce mass support and give the Sport a place in the sun: Players who command mass support and give the Sport a great story which we can bestow.

Do not be fooled - follow the Ilford Table Tennis League’s good sense - play “four player formula”.

P.S. Please do not poach other club’s players, or I will get the blame.

ERIC A. PENTLAND
28 Ashfield Grove, Gorton, Manchester.
M187JR.

DO NOT BE FooLED
The three or four player team formation still remains a major arguing point between many Table Tennis players. Indeed, in recent years Leagues using the ‘four player’ line-up have drastically suffered - strength wise.

However, the subject involves many complex issues, all involving many individual needs important to us, the players, and the Leagues we wish to play for.

Is International progress or County Table Tennis of prime importance? Top Division one league play, or merely the bread and butter of most leagues - the average league players, who battle away each week for their local clubs. Also the many committee members, Umpires and Tournament organisers, who are all very vital people that give up many of their spare hours to run our sport.

As far as the average player is concerned, it does not matter one iota if they play 3, 4 or even 5 player teams. As long as they have fun, enjoy the evening, have a laugh win or lose. They will be there next week. Below Division one - in most leagues the standards are very well organised and even standards of play,

ROLL ON NEXT YEAR
I have just surfaced from the English Schools Table Tennis Association International held at Gloucester Leisure Centre 1st to 3rd July, 1983. A County Umpire, I was umpiring from 6.30 p.m. Friday, all day Saturday from 9 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Play was on 17 tables (although not always all in use at the same time) and there were a tremendous number of matches to get through (and umpire) with team matches and individual events.

Umpires were ‘on the go’ most of the time, only stopping for lunch! It sounds very tiring and it certainly was,

POSTBAG
SPORTING CHANCE
During the Summer a European table tennis tournament forthe disabled was held in Paris and I, together with three other players, were fortunate enough to be invited to represent Great Britain.

Apart from the host country others to participate came from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, East Germany, Holland, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

The extremely high standard of play achieved by the opposing teams was most impressive, and we were totally out-classed - and soundly beaten! We were prompted to enquire how this standard had been gained, despite the obvious physical disadvantages.

The representatives I spoke to (from France, Belgium and Holland) told me of the tremendous encouragement, coaching and advice they receive from top class able-bodied sportsmen. They donate their time generously and seek only to help players compete successfully.

If anything similar is available in this country, then as members of a disabled sports club we have yet to hear of any such support being offered by our own sportsmen and women. Could we not give it a try and at least give our teams a sporting chance when competing - we’ve a very long way to go to improve on our Paris efforts.

JOHN PREAN
The Barn, 12 Marlborough Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight. PO331AA
but it's definitely a tournament that I would always attend if invited. The international flavour is something not to be missed, nor is the team event atmosphere with team members clapping their players' won points as well as many of those of their opponents.

Almost throughout the event, sportsmanship abounds, how refreshing in this day and age. It's a shame that the non-table tennis playing public are not witness to this, it would surely bring a great deal more respect for our game from the public, something lacking at the moment. There could also be a larger foreign participation, but I presume finance is the stumbling block.

I have only one criticism - the venue is too warm. Spectators and umpires alike must feel uncomfortable - heaven knows what the players feel. Just a few of my thoughts about the event. Lastly, I must acknowledge the unending hard work of Eddie Mitchell, without whom there would be no tournament. Thanks Eddie and roll on next year.

BARRY GRANGER COUNTY UMPIRE,
14 Galsworthy Avenue,
Chadwell Heath,
Essex.

A CONNECTION BETWEEN INCREASED FEES AND DECLINING NUMBERS

I have recently completed a study of the changes in the membership of the Cheltenham T.T.A. in the period 1960-1983. In this period the number of teams competing in the Cheltenham League rose from 49 in the 1960-61 season to a peak of 79 in the 1977-78 season. For 13 seasons (1966/67 to 1978/79) the number of teams remained at 71 or over, but since the 1978/79 season numbers have declined sharply, from 74 to 53 last season.

One can readily identify many factors that may explain this decrease but the one thing that has struck me most forcibly is the relationship between an increase in fees, agreed at the AGM in the closed season, and a decrease in the number of teams entering the league in the immediately following season. I can summarise this relationship by observing that the statement that this is in fact followed by a decrease in the total of teams and that no increase in fees is followed by no loss in the total of teams, is true 18 times out of 22. (i.e. 82% correlation).

Obviously you wish to be assured that this is not just a coincidence. I do not wish to quote endless figures, so perhaps the following details will suffice. Firstly in the 22 seasons studied, fees were increased in 11, and were not increased in 11: Team totals increased in 8 seasons, decreased in 9, and remained unchanged in 5. Thus in the two sets of figures being compared, there is no significant bias which would lead to an inevitable correlation (as would happen if, in the majority of cases, fees were increased and team totals decreased). But of the 9 seasons -when team totals decreased, 8 occurred in seasons when fees were increased at the AGM immediately preceding the season. If the correlation is valid one would expect small increases in fees to lead to small decreases in team totals and larger increases to lead to larger losses. This is indeed the pattern: taking the figures up to the 1981/82 season and averaging them one arrives at a figure of a loss of one team for every 6.8% by which fees are increased. At the 1982 AGM in view of the financial deficits of the 2 previous seasons which had depleted our reserves and in view of the increased anticipated expenditure in the 1982/83 season, fees were increased by 73%. Using the 6.8% figure, this should have led to a loss of 11 teams. In fact we lost 12. At the 1983 AGM, aware of the loss of teams in the previous season, fees were not increased. Again taking figures from previous seasons, I found that the average increase in teams when fees were not increased was 1.5. I therefore predicted we would have 56 teams entering our league for the 1983/84 season. I gave this figure to members of the County Association but not to anyone in the Cheltenham Association who might have been influenced to regard it as a target that had to be achieved. We now know that exactly 56 teams have entered for the 1983/84 season. Of course, it is chance that the increase is exactly the average, but without these figures who would have predicted any increase at all after a succession of decreases in the previous seasons?

Let me stress that I am pointing out a correlation. I am not stating simple cause and effect. I readily acknowledge that increased fees are only one factor in the decrease in the numbers of teams in our league. I happen to believe that it is the crucial factor but it would take me many paragraphs to justify this, so let me just make the following points.

The quantity of table tennis played in Cheltenham is increasing consistently, but players are not playing in the league. Coaching is flourishing, as are 2 non-affiliated youth leagues. Older players, in many cases disenchanted by the modern game, play informally among themselves, as lawn tennis players often do. Perhaps as interesting as the figures of league teams are the figures for individual entries to the Cheltenham tournaments. In the years concerned the tournaments were held at the same venue at the same time of year. The figure is for 1981-108; 1982-126; 1983-140. Ever since 1960, there has been a considerable turnover of teams in the Cheltenham league - even in our rest season we lost 10 teams but gained 18. What is happening now is that we are continuing to lose teams at the average rate, but we are failing to replace the losses with new teams. Potential new teams either concentrate on coaching and play within the club.

For its annual tournament our league has the use of a large hall which, although ideal in other respects, has a floor which becomes slippery with condensation after a few hours' play; it appears to be of cement with a coat of some kind of composition on top. The usual remedies for condensation such as keeping a current of air moving across the floor, keeping the air temperature down to that of the floor, or reducing the humidity of the air, are not practicable in this case and we cannot resurface the floor. I shall be most grateful if any of your readers can tell me of any other methods of reducing condensation or the slipperiness of the floor which we have found to be successful in similar circumstances.

J. B. O'DOHOUGIE
Hon. Secretary,
South-West Sussex T.T.L.
15 Mariners Walk,
Rustington,
West-Sussex. BN16 2ER
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As many of you may know - after 13 years and 91 issues - I’m no longer the editor of Table Tennis Topics. The current USTIA E.C. voted 4-3 to install a new editor at Colorado Springs.

Topics was a big part of my soul life. I started it in 1970. Changed the small format into a tabloid. Began with 16 pages and at one time had as many as 60 pages an issue. I saw each issue of Topics as an historical document - I wanted all those who loved the game, the sport, to be reflected there, and in all their infinite variety (I wanted a born again Christian, sharing his newfound humanity, to understand and accept the occasional euphemism of a cuss word). I wanted the paper to be human.

I always tried to be up front with what I strongly believed in (my prejudices, if you like), but I always tried as fairly as I could to give everybody a voice, whether he agreed with me or not. I saw the openness of the paper as a system of checks and balances on anyone in the USTTA, including myself, who might consciously or unconsciously be abusing his power.

Now, like the years of our lives, all that is gone, eh?

Well, not quite. For now, with everyone’s help I’m going to start a new, independent newspaper.

Why? Because it’s what I feel I must do.

I’m seriously thinking of trying to make a living in table tennis and intend to begin making the changes in my life that might bring this about.

I loved doing Topics, this little history of the USTIA - as I hope I’ll equally enjoy doing the larger 50-year one I’m even now gathering material for.

I don’t think it’s physically possible for me to leave table tennis. Sentimentally, I still have that first cup I won - in 1940; a cup now partially broken and so tarnished as to be used, unsentimentally; by me as an ash tray. Sentimental; Unsentimental....

One like me, a Libra, has to keep a judgment, a balance.

Give me a try. I’m not just a good stud. I have the track record - the energy and desire - to turn out a new paper thousands of table tennis fans will soon be reading.

TIM BOGGAN.

12 Lake Avenue.
Merrick. New York 11566
U.S.A.

Timmy’s NORTH AMERICAN World of Table Tennis tabloid is on the streets and is published monthly except Feb-Mar. July-August. Sept-Oct and Nov-Dec (bimonthly) for 12 dollars. Vol. 1 No.1 (July-August) is out now. Ed.
TABLE TENNIS AT THE CROSSROADS

**by Stan Proffitt**

Let’s look in depth and try to solve the reason as to why the game is losing popularity. We can all glance over our shoulders and say that X club had so many members and teams; to the day when the special trains were puffing Wembley way from all parts of the country, and if you hadn’t a ticket in October for the English Open, there was little or no chance of getting one. Many reasons unconnected with the game which one may point out of course; but with POSITIVE methods a whole host of imaginative ideas may well bring back the thrills and therefore the crowds, to place table tennis firmly on its feet. A new, perhaps younger element, with energy and fresh outlook at the top. The accent on marketing rather than accountancy predominant, and to waive a whole lot of bureaucracy from the Rules Committee. Certainly it occurs in progressive business; and big time Table Tennis is certainly that. There is nothing wrong by introducing intelligent players who have sampled the loneliness of the “middle”, to be groomed for management or administrative positions. Something must be done thereabouts. Those long-standing members of the I.T.T.F. have been clinging on to their positions and have now exhausted all their thoughts, which in the main are negative. Take for instance the new ruling for the next world championships. Apparently the doubles events are going to be best of three instead of five. This will save money in that the tournament will be one day less. Nothing wrong with this. In fact I applaud it. But it is putting the cart before the horse and only dealing with the symptom and not the cure. Negative - do you agree?

The West Germans made an abortive attempt to rejuvenate the game by large individual sponsorships and brought many world class stars into their leagues. At the outset it caused a sensation. Gradually, however, this noble attempt failed. In fact the Federal German national team has since been relegated to Category 2. Leastways they are to be commended for making a noble effort. Thus, if the big boys came a cropper you are entitled to believe nothing can succeed. But if only the STANDARDISATION OF THE RUBBER ON THE BAT IS UNIVERSALLY ADOPTED. Not a deal of crowd-pulling progress will be made without it. It is nonsense to Mister Average spectator as to why simple shots go every which way. How are they to know or understand not only the surface on either side of the bat is of different rubber with, in some cases, glues adhering the rubber making for further complications? No wonder the spectator is mystified, particularly when a game promises much and is then “killed” stone dead by those horrible spin services. The laws governing the game in other major sports. specify the equipment to be used worldwide; cricket, football, golf, boxing etc.

No such infantile ideal as to let it run wild. Television has taken snooker to its heart in that it is easy to follow, and what a crowd pulling operation it has proved.

Standardising rubber however would straight away put the “cat amongst the pigeons” for the manufacturers who annually strive to get a large slice of the cake and would fight tooth and nail to keep it as normally for obvious reasons.

Paradoxically, the ITTF would lose out on this score in that they, in turn, are subsidised by rubber royalties. Now, let’s have a look at another part of the equipment. A bee in my bonnet has been buzzing for a number of years for I was convinced in 1937/8 that the height of the net came down too drastically from 6’6” to 6’.

I suggest to reintroduce it slightly higher (could be 6’4”) which would cut out a number of ugly reaction shots (bent arm etc.), slow down the pace infinitesimally; allowing the respective participants to get into the correct position for their shots and thus bring back skills with elegance and more long and exciting rallies. That’s what the media expects.

The higher rankers would not necessarily lose their positions. Luck would thereby be eliminated. Definitely much easier to follow for Mister Average spectator and let us hope that once again the modern trains and coachloads would be gliding Wembley way.

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**A.G.M. HIGHLIGHTS**

ETIA Chairman, Tom Blunn, on taking over from the President, Maurice Goldstein aBE., at the AGM held at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London on July 9, paid tribute to Ron Crayden who was retiring from the position of Vice-Chairman Selection/Coaching, after five years loyal service. He then introduced his successor, Peter Charters.

Mr. Blunn then thanked those Councillors who had retired for all their hard work, namely: Mr. C. Wright (Kent), Mr. G.A. Williamson (axon) and Mr. A.M. “Tony” Ross (Yorkshire).

The meeting agreed to the award of Hon. Life Membership to Mr. K.T.O. Ponting (Devon) in recognition of his long service to the game, especially as Administrator of the Halex National League and Club Knock-out Competitions, and more recently in firmly establishing the National League. The President presented the Life Member badge and Keith spoke of the enjoyment and friendships he had known over the years, and thanked his wife for her support.

On the proposal of the Chairman, on behalf of the National Council, the meeting agreed on a further term of three years for the retiring Vice-Presidents:- Mrs. E. Betts, Messrs. F.E. Clay, G.M. Daniels, H.T. Edwards, H. Flinton, C.C. Hames, T.M. Honey, L.W. Jones, J.M. McDonnell, D.D. Ploes, Dr. D. Ryde MB BS FRCGP and D.R. Tremayne. Additional Vice-Presidents elected were:- Mr. Emlyn Jones, Mr. H. Larmacbe, Mr. J.C. McKim and Mr. D.J. Moss.

The Deputy Chairman, Mr. George R. Yates, presented the Ivor Montagu Award to Tony Ross in recognition of his innovative contributions and his persistent advocacy of progressive ideas, remarking that this was the first time that the award had been made twice to the same person.

The President, Maurice Goldstein, presented the Malcolm Scott Award to Ron Crayden for his varied services over very many years and for the good will he had generated. The presentation was greeted with acclaim and Ron expressed his surprise and gratitude.

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**INTERNATIONAL CLUB**

The International Table Tennis Club of England is in a position to make a contribution towards expenses of any young player who may otherwise be unable to attend and play in an E.T.T.A. Junior Ranking Tournament. Please apply in the first instance to Hon. Secretary, Laurie Landry. at 3 Osney Way, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 2NB.
Where Do We Go From Here? .... Asks Tom Blunn, Chairman ETTA.

First let me welcome you all to a new season, whether it be the fiftieth, as in my case, or the first as I hope it will be with some of you. Each season brings new problems as well as new adventures. The ETIA seems to divide its time between the two.

First the problems. A document headed "Meeting the Cost" was circulated to all leagues and counties prior to the 1983 AGM and was the subject of a discussion there. The outcome was a recommendation to the National Council to proceed with resolutions to be put before the 1984 AGM to increase the unit cost of affiliation from the commencement of the 1984/85 season. Various alternative suggestions were considered but a straightforward increase in the basic fee was considered to be the simplest way of raising extra income. The need for extra income was fully stated in the document circulated and no doubt will be re-stated many times between now and the 1984 AGM.

Let me state now that the increase will not be exceptional but will be sufficient only to bring our personal fees into line with Sports Council thinking, and with other related sports. If I can stick my neck out I would say something around (2p) per week per playing member.

The first objective is to survive by replacing the money which is no longer available to us in the same amounts. The next objective is to regain an increase in membership. Mainly due to the recession we have lost over 10% of our membership in the past two years and this alone is costing over £8,000 each season in lost affiliation fees. This has lost us the benefit of the inflation linked rate of fees.

The third objective, of course, is the progress in every direction and some progress will be made this season. You will read elsewhere in this issue of the two new and exciting sponsorship agreements which have recently been negotiated. First there is the "Charles Church Championship" which will be a televised international invitation event at The Wembley Conference Centre on Friday, Nov. 18, 1983. The second is the Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix which covers the six main junior events of the season and provides the financial encouragement the juniors need.

Both sponsorships are the result of months of hard work by the backroom staff who are to be applauded for their efforts and their enterprise. Both sponsorships are for an initial period of three years and if successful there is no reason why they should not continue.

Sponsorships do not necessarily provide instant money for the ETIA. The money received is spent on promoting the events and as in both these cases, paying the prize money to the successful players. The promotion of the events and the attendant publicity can only benefit the game and create an added interest.

The ETIA's plan for the 1990's is proceeding satisfactorily and will form the basis for future grants from the Sports Council - quite a lot depends on the success of the plan.

The Manpower Services Scheme has met with a setback, as the estimated costs exceed the maximum grants available and an alternative though, less extensive, scheme is now being developed.

It is intended to build on the recent success of our younger players by providing them with as much international competition as possible, within the financial resources available.

The next twelve months are very important and could well see a turn for the better in the fortunes of the ETIA. If not, it will certainly not be for the want of trying.

WILL YOU PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM 20th SEPTEMBER, 1983 FOR TOM AND EDNA BLUNN TO: 25 Peasholm Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Phone: Scarborough (0723) 352028

LANCASHIRE LIFE
by George Yates

ON REMAND

Both Bolton's Shaun Browne and Stephen Cowley were considered by Lancashire's selection committee when they met to draw up their initial ranking lists.

But as Browne has yet to appear before the county committee for a misdemeanour committed last season, on the occasion of the second Premier Division weekend of the County Championships, and Cowley - recently returned, yet again, from Australia - has no track record as yet, their names have, for the time being, not been included.

Bolton's other leading player, Stephen Scowcroft, retains his third position of last season behind Donald Parker and Steve Turner, both of Preston.

Cowley's wife, Nikki (nee Hamilton), has been included in the women's list which is again headed by Preston's Joy Grundy and Jean Parker.

Top boy in the county is Philip Huggon, also of Preston (this league certainly has the monopoly), but top girl is from elsewhere, namely Andrea Holt of Bury. Andrea also starts out as the No.1 Cadet girl in the country.

Rankings:

Men
1 Donald Parker (Pr)
2 Steve Turner (Pr)
3 Stephen Scowcroft (Bo)
4 Philip Huggon (Pr)
5 Keith Williams (U)
6 Steve Bevan (Fl)
7 Paul Rainford (Pr)
8 Peter Flint (Wa)
9 Philip Aspinall (01)
10 Paul Hutchings (U)

Women
1 Joy Grundy (Pr)
2 Jean Parker (Pr)
3 Amanda Goodwin (01)
4 Nikki Cowley (Bo)
5 Paula French (U)
6 Caroline Hemming (Wa)
7 Andrea Holt (Bu)
8 Carolyn Scowcroft (Bo)
9 Susan Hughes (U)

Boys
1 Philip Huggon
2 Colin Hogarth (Fl)
3 Howard Leigh (Bu)
4 Sean Gibson (Pr)
5 Philip Crankshaw (Fl)
6 Lee Browne (Ro)
7 Les Molyneux (U)
9 Nigel Greenwood (Bu)
10 David Carse (Bu)
6 Lee Browne (Ro)
8 Les Molyneux (U)
9 Nigel Greenwood (Bu)
10 David Carse (Bu)

Key: Bo = Bolton, Bu = Bury, FI = Fleetwood, Li = Liverpool, Oldham, Pr = Preston, Ro = Rochdale, So = Southport, Wa = Warrington.

Do not forget the international match at Bury's Castle Leisure Centre on Thursday, Oct 13 (7 p.m.) between England and Sweden - this following their meeting in the European League match at the Crowtree Leisure Centre, Sunderland on the previous evening. Tickets for the Bury venture can be had from Mr. Stan Leigh of Heywood Sports at 83 Manchester St., Heywood, Lanes. Price £2 (adults) £1.50 (children). Please include a s.a.e. with orders.
Tyneside Summer League Closed Tournament

by Pauline Long

thirteen events

The Tyneside Summer League's Annual Closed Tournament was played at Scotswood Sports Centre, Newcastle, on July 23, and although only 59 competitors took part as against over 70 the previous season, the standard of play was very good. Thirteen events were staged on eight tables, and because of the small entry, all were played in group form, making a total of 224 matches, and ensuring that everyone had a reasonable number of games.

The men's singles was won by Peter McQueen, who comfortably defeated Durham's Tony Gelder in the final, and McQueen also took the men's doubles title, when in partnership with Cliff Olsson, he was successful against Gelder, and Tom Robson. Caron Buglass easily won the women's singles, her final victim being Pauline Long, who earlier scored a surprise 16, 12 victory over Durham's Shirley Gelder. Another notable performance was Karen Wilkinson's 18 in the third victory over Christine Burke, but she fell to Pauline in the semi-final only by 18, 19 - an excellent effort for someone not yet in the women's ranking list.

Meanwhile, Caron forged ahead to her second title of the day - the women's doubles in partnership with Christine Burke. Losing finalists were Durham's Lyn Spensley and Joan Siddick. Neil McMaster won his last tournament as a junior with a final victory over Eddie Smith, who at least gained partial consolation by winning the junior doubles in partnership with Peter Curry. The day really, however, belonged to the vastly improved left-hander Keith Patterson, who reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles, the semi-finals of both, the men's doubles and junior singles, and the final of the junior doubles. In fact, with only seven matches remaining, he held the key to the order of play. This performance, together with that of Smith and Curry, should at least partly compensate for the loss of the McMaster's services to the County junior side in the coming season.

Results:

Men's Singles:
Peter McQueen bt Tony Gelder 16, 10.
Women's Singles:
CARON BUGLASS bt Pauline Long 8, 19.

Men's Doubles
McQUEEN/CLIFF OLSSON bt Tony Gelder/Tom Robson -16,16,16.

Women's Doubles:
BU GLASS/CHRISTINE BURKE bt Lyn Spensley/Joan Siddick 10, 17.

Junior Singles:
NEIL McMaster bt Eddie Smith 16, 16.

Junior Doubles:
SMITH/PETER CURRY bt Keith Patterson/Steven Waugh 15, 13.

Cadet Singles:
DAVID WATSON bt Michael Roughley 15, 17.

Cadet Doubles:
JOHN MORTON/PAUL SWIFT bt Roughley/Gordon McKeown 20, -14, 11.

U-11 Singles:
STEVEN RIGGINS bt Malcolm Dunn 10, 7.

Diy. 1 Singles:
MICHAEL BANNON bt Bill Thompson 14, 16.

Diy. 2 Singles:
PAUL BULLARS bt Bill Hodgkins 11, 14.

Diy. 3 Singles:
KAREN WILKINSON bt Swift -18, 16, 18.

Diy. 4 Singles:
IAN Phipps bt Mike Dunn 17, 21.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Easy Passages
by Keith Panting

Both the Heathcote club and Thorn EMI Ellenborough, both of the North Middlesex League, had matters very much their own way in winning, respectively, the Ormesby and Gainsford Cups.

Dave Wells spearheaded Heathcote to their 5-2 win over Woodfield of Wolverhampton whilst Ellenborough's Sarah Sandley and Angela Mitchell recorded two wins each against 4 T's, Southampton, Helen Williams losing the only set of the match, to Sarah Hammond after the Londoners had taken a decisive 5-0 lead. Scores:-

Ormesby Cup
Heathcote 5 Woodfield 2
D. Dodd lost to T. Washington 21,20, 19.
P. Collino bt S. Dunning 15, -13, 18.
D. Wells bt A. Rich 14, 18.
Dodd bt Dunning -21, 7, 11.
Wells bt Washington 13, -20, 14.
Collino bt Dunning 17, -19, -10.
Wells bt Dunning 19, 17.

Gainsford Cup
EMI Ellenborough 5 Four T's 1
S. Sandley bt C. Davies 16, 13.
H. Williams bt S. Sinanan 9, 12.
Sandley bt Sinanan 7, 16.

Mitchell bt Davies 14, 14.
Williams lost to Hammond -21, 10, -19.

For their pains, Thorn EMI Ellenborough have been drawn away to Varbergs BTK of Sweden in the women's section of the Europe Club Cup of Champions. Hassey Perfection Soham, winners of the Halex National League's Premier Division, booked their passage in the counterpart men's section by being drawn away to AO Peratatalva of Greecel Ed.

National Inter-League Championships

Two Titles for Wolves by Keith Panting

The junior representative teams of the WolYerhampton League achieved fame at the premises of Massey Ferguson Ltd., Coventry on June 5 when their boys won the Carter Cup, beating Plymouth 5-1, and their girls claimed the Bromfield Trophy with a convincing 5-0 win over North Middlesex.

North Middlesex, however, saw off the challenge of Chesterfield to win the senior Wilmott Cup for men whilst Leicester, from being 2-3 down, staged a recovery to win the J.M. Rose Bowl 5-3 against Swindon.

Maurice Goldstein, OBE, the President of the E.T.T.A. presented the awards and also thanked the Coventry and District League forthe staging and his Warwickshire colleague, Geoff Taylor, who undertook the duties of Referee. Scores:-

Wilmott Cup
North Middlesex 5 Chesterfield 1
C. Wilson bt M. Kinsella 13, 11.
M. Mitchell bt A. Cooke 20, 19.
D. Wells bt M. Billington -19, 9, 10.
Wilson lost to Cooke -12, -13.
Wells bt Kinsella 11, 14.
Mitchell bt Billington 18, 15.

J.M. ROSE BOWL
Leicester 5 Swindon 3
J. Revill lost to T. Watkins 18, -19, -19.
K. Smith bt J. Parker 11, 17.
S. Hunt lost to J. Maisey -12, -13.
Smith bt Watkins 13, 16.
Revill lost to Maisey -10, -10.
Hunt bt Parker 19, 10.
Smith bt Maisey 15, 18.
Hunt bt Watkins 13, 16.

Carter Cup
WolYerhampton 5 Plymouth 1
R. Hayward bt K. Buddell 12, 8.
Dixon bt Buddell 11, 12.
Hayward lost to Lambert 16, -16, -16.
Jukes bt Wilson 19, 21.

Bromfield Trophy
WolYerhampton 5 North Middlesex 0
J. Powis bt A. Boxall 21, 11.
F. Elliot bt L. Souter 15, 9.
A. Hegarty bt L. Goldsmith -11,19,15
Elliot bt Boxall 18, 20.
Powis bt Goldsmith -20, 15, 14.
The "VETERAN" Scene 'by Mike Watts

Not so many years ago players dreaded the thought of reaching the ripe old age of 40. You were finished—nothing to look forward to and nowhere to go. But suddenly all that has changed. The cry now is for more competition: more recognition and more interest; not only at national level but now at World level. During last season the first "Unofficial" World Championships took place in Gothenburg, Sweden, and plans are well advanced for the staging of the next World event in Finland. Over 450 players took part in Gothenburg including an enthusiastic party of 26 players from this country. A total of 2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals were won by English players and no doubt more players will go to Finland in 1984 and, hopefully, the number of medals won will increase.

So what can we do here in England to increase interest?

Recently a Computer Ranking Scheme was introduced for Seniors and Juniors—what about the veterans? It does not need much imagination to produce a similar scheme for veterans and can easily be handled without the aid of a computer. A suitable and suggested scheme could be:

1. Open Tournaments
   Points should be awarded (suggest 2) for winning up to quarter-final position including one point for entering. From quarter-final stage, points would be awarded:
   - Losing Quarter-Finalist 4 points
   - Losing Semi-Finalist 8 points
   - Losing Finalist 16 points
   - Winner 32 points

2. English Closed
   Double the points scored for Open Tournaments including entries (2 points)

3. County Championships
   For each single game won, points would be awarded:
   - Premier Division x 5
   - Second Division x 3
   - Third Division x 1

What would this produce? Well, I have taken account of those events included in Table Tennis News last season, together with all the results from County Championships and have produced a ranking list of the top 50 players. For Open Tournaments this takes account of the following events:


Final positions for 1982/83 based on these tournaments together with County Championships were won by English players and no doubt more players will go to Finland in 1984 and, hopefully, the number of medals won will increase.

What else would Veterans like to see?

The most immediate thoughts which have been expressed from a number of sources, is to take the Veterans event out from the Norwich Union English Closed and to arrange a completely separate English Closed Veterans Tournament organised on the lines of the World Veterans, with separate events for the Over 40, Over 50, Over 60 and Over 70 at Singles and Doubles, male and female. This could even act as a qualifying competition for the World Veterans event. A complete package covering one night's hotel accommodation, entry to one event (others charged separately) and a Saturday night dinner (and dance) would ensure an enjoyable weekend soley for Veterans.

All that I have discussed so far involves the competitive programme. What it now needs is a central point to provide the organisation to cover these requirements.

My suggestion is to form a Veterans

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HEWOD SPORTS
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Contact Mavis, Stan, Andy and Howard Leigh, for a Friendly Efficient Service.

STOP PRESS: NEW. Black Friendship with Blue Sponge (1.5, 2.0m) ONLY £7.99
Association affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association as a Directly Affiliated Club. The E.T.T.A. for some time has been debating the merits of "Elite" membership without coming to any definite conclusions. Here would be a chance for a body to prove that it could work and be able to quantify the benefits of "elite" membership. Without going into too much detail at this time, membership would offer:

1. A membership card which eventually would produce benefits from certain quarters (i.e. special discount prices for goods or entry to E.T.T.A. major events).
2. An elected Committee to run the affairs of the Association albeit the constitution would aim to be as simple as possible.
3. Members would receive a full circulation of Open Tournament forms. That is, those catering for Veterans' events.
4. A copy of Table Tennis News would be included in the membership fee.
5. Space permitting, a regular Veterans' column in Table Tennis News with news, views, results, analysis and ranking lists.
6. The committee would organise periodical ranking tournaments.
7. The probability of a 100 Club.
8. An assembly yearly which could coincide with the Veterans' National Championships and dinner dance.

As already stated, the constitution should be simple - no frills - such as:
1. To set up a committee consisting of, say, 3 members: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.
2. To hold a general assembly annually. Members to be elected? Annually/Biennially.
3. To promote table tennis amongst the Over 40s.

I envisage membership fees to be set at around £10 to £15 annually. The income would then allow the Association to grow both in terms of finance and members without hindrance.

What do you think?
An expression of interest would be appreciated and in this respect I would be grateful to hear from you. All you have to do is to return the slip at the bottom of this article to me. On receipt of 30 names indicating approval to such a scheme a meeting will be convened somewhere in the Midlands to discuss and, hopefully, initiate the scheme.

Just as a final statistic. Did you know that in 1982/83 Essex Veterans Inter-League had 8 divisions with 6 teams entered in total with a minimum of three players per team, that makes 135 players at Veteran level. In addition, Derek Schofield told me that for the Cheshire County trials for season 1983/8446 players have been invited. In these two Counties alone there are more than enough members to form two clubs!

To: Mike Watts,
53 Solway, Hempstead Park.
Hailsham, EAST SUSSEX, BN27 3HB

Having read your article, "The Veteran Scene", I would confirm my interest in the formation of a Veterans Association and would consider joining it and when formed.

Signed ____________________________
(Name) ____________________________
Address ____________________________

Telephone No. ____________________ (home)
__________________________________ (business)

PLEASE RETURN BY: 28 October 1983

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**SEE TOP CLASS TABLE TENNIS**

**WITH TABLE TENNIS NEWS!**

In a special deal, available only to Table Tennis News readers, the English Table Tennis Association is offering huge reductions on ticket prices for this season's major events: the CHARLES CHURCH CHAMPIONSHIP at Wembley Conference Centre on Friday, 18th November, 1983; and the NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN at The Brighton Centre on Thursday to Saturday, 26th - 28th January, 1984.

Collect the two vouchers in the October and November editions of Table Tennis News and the ETIA will allow you 50p off for each voucher (maximum of two per ticket) submitted with an application for tickets for the CHARLES CHURCH CHAMPIONSHIP. The exciting six-man tournament, involving both Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean, begins at 6 p.m.

And, for even bigger discounts, save the NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN vouchers which will appear in the October, November, December and January editions. Each voucher entitles you to a discount of 12½% on the price of advance tickets purchased from the ETIA. Collect all four and you could see some of the best players in the World at half-price!
"LENTEC" COMPUTER RANKINGS
by Peter Charters,
Chairman ETTA Selection Committee

For Computer Ranking to become generally accepted, some fundamental changes in peoples attitude towards the concept of ranking are necessary.

The E.T.T.A.'s Computer Ranking List is produced from a number of specified results over a given period, the formula having been previously stated. Once the formula and the programme have been produced then the Ranking Lists will be on a firm mathematical basis. The lists issued are not necessarily an order of merit or ability.

Naturally, the formula is designed to get as close to a merit list as possible but the truth is that there is no such thing in Table Tennis as a Ranking List in order of ability. The more successful players will be higher on the Computer Ranking List than the less successful players but it cannot reflect a player's exact ability.

The most acceptable form of ranking claimed to be an order of ability would be the result of a Round Robin event. Repeat this event on the following day and you would be likely to end up with a different order. Prior to the use of a computer, No. 1 spot was usually the easiest to fill; the degree of difficulty increasing as more names were added. The computer can as accurately separate No. 99 from 100 as it can No. 1 from 2.

The adoption of system for Table Tennis came about because the Selection Committee considered that ranking (unlike selection) should not be a matter of opinion in deciding the merits of one player's standard in comparison with others. Before the introduction of the computer system, the Committee were attempting to take the English Table Tennis fraternity away from the idea that it was possible to produce a list which stated that a player ranked at No. 12 for example, was better than the person at No. 13. Rankings before computerisation were done as factually as humanly possible, the Committee being divided into two panels, Ranking and Selection, in order to emphasise the point. The logical extension of this ranking policy was computerisation. The 'Lentec' Company were prepared to back the venture with the provision of computer services, and the E.T.T.A. were pleased to accept.

The advantages of Computerised Rankings are many. Because the computer can cope with numbers beyond human capability, many more players can be involved without loss of mathematical accuracy. It gives the players a chance to estimate, if not their exact position, an approximate one. It provides a great source of interest for players not near enough to the top end to come under the Selection Panel eye. It shows general trends of improvement or otherwise. Computer Rankings are not directly affected by human preferences or by any pre-conceived notions about individual players.

The only opinion involved in Computer Rankings is in the production of the formula. The policy which is used to set up the system is decided by the Ranking Panel, but it followed the established principles that the Selection Committee had worked to when the ranking had been done manually. The system of weightings, bonuses and specified events had been used previously but with the computer came the need to quantify them. There are reasons for this system:- support for the National Championships, 3 Star and Select Tournaments; the belief that to win for your country was your best victory; that the winner of an event in theory was the best player on the day; that the Selection Committee believe that it is unwise for top players in particular to compete too often in one season; that the number of results should not be too few or too many- neither would be satisfactory; this is the type of thinking that resulted in the policy for the Computer Ranking formula.

The introduction of the 'wins only' system this year, after the experimental wins/losses format of the first season, has brought with it the realisation that he/she who plays most goes up. Apart from the obvious answer that they...
would still need to win, it does seem that the weighting and bonus factor has by and large overcome the problem. The computer could undoubtedly cope with including every result played for, but apart from the currently insurmountable volume of work in collation, coding, input etc., it would encourage players to compete in every available event - a move which would be opposed by most (if not all) coaches and certainly by the current Selection Panel, who would like to see top end players 'peak' for the 'big' events.

Having adopted a computer system of Ranking, the resultant list must be accepted in full knowledge that fortune can affect ranking positions. Factors outside the players control - e.g. good or bad draw, luck, illness, availability or otherwise, can play a part. Add to this the feeling of one degree under on the day, weaknesses against certain styles of play (or bats) and it can be seen that a Ranking List of any significant length cannot reflect ability at all accurately. This is where the change of attitude is needed. The primary need for the Ranking List is as a seeding list. This was the case before the use of the computer and it remains so.

Ranking by opinion has many built-in limitations but if manual Ranking Lists are preferred, then all the inherent weaknesses must be accepted. The computer is impartial and impersonal. When available, it seems to be the better alternative.

The "Lentec" Computer Ranking Scheme 1983/84

The National Selection Committee have agreed that for the coming season the scheme will continue with a wins only system.

Calculation of Points

The formula is as follows:

**Expected Win Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Difference</th>
<th>Points Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-50</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 and over</td>
<td>x weighting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unexpected Win Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Difference</th>
<th>Points Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-50</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 and over</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WEIGHTING**

Results in different events will continue to be of differing values. Points won will be multiplied by the weighting for the event. Weighting factors will be as follows:

Senior
- All National League (other than Premier & First)
- All County Championships (other than Premier)
- National Club K.O. Competition
- National Team K.O. Competition

(Weighting (x 1))

2 Star Open Tournaments
- National League - First Division

(Weighting (x 1.5))

County Championships - Premier Division
- European Club Cup and Fair Cities Cup (Men & Women)
- National League - Premier Division
- International U-21 events

(Weighting (x 2))

3 Star Open, Ranking Trials, Friendly Internationals and International Opens (other)

(Weighting (x 3.5))

English Closed and Commonwealth Championships
- European Opens (specified), European League and European Top 12

(Weighting (x 4))

European/World Championships

(Weighting (x 4.5))

Junior/Cadets
- County Championships (other than Premier Division)

(Weighting (x 1))

2 Star Open Tournaments

(Weighting (x 1.5))

County Championships Premier Division
- Selects, Ranking Trials and friendly Internationals

(Weighting (x 3.5))

English Closed
- International Opens and European Youth Championships

(Weighting (x 4.5))

**BONUS POINTS**

These would be awarded as follows:

**European/World Championships**
- Winner (60 pts)
- Runner-up (40 pts)
- Losing Semi Finalists (20 pts)
- Losing Quarter Finalists (10 pts)

European Top 12
- Winner (50 pts)
- Runner-up (40 pts)
- 3rd Place (30 pts)
- 4th Place (20 pts)
- 5th Place (10 pts)

International Opens
- Winner (50 pts)
- Runner-Up (30 pts)
- Losing Semi Finalists (20 pts)
- Quarter Finalists (10 pts)

English Closed
- Winner (45 pts)
- Runner-Up (25 pts)
- Losing Semi Finalists (15 pts)
- Quarter Finalists (8 pts)

3 Star, Selects, Other International Opens
- Winner (30 pts)
- Runner-Up (16 pts)
- Losing Semi-Finalists (10 pts)
- Losing Quarter Finalists (5 pts)

2 Star Opens
- Winner (10 pts)

**STARTING FACTORS**

Players on the final 1982/83 Ranking lists would be awarded points on the new lists by the following method:

**Senior Men**
- Divide final 1982/83 score of 2

**Senior Women**
- Divide final 1982/83 score by 2

**Junior**
- Divide final 1982/83 score by 2.5

**Cadets**
- Divide final 1982/83 score by 3

**Responsibility**

The National Selection Committee will retain responsibility for all lists issued. Players may be withdrawn from the lists if he or she has not competed for a reasonable period.

Up to a maximum of six ranking lists will be published for each category. Publication dates would be decided by the Ranking Panel as appropriate.

**Selection/Ranking**

Peter Charters, as the newly elected Vice-Chairman, Selection and Coaching, in succession to Ron Grayson, will chair this season's Selection Committee comprising:- Peter Simpson (National Team Trainer/Men's Team Captain), Nicky Jarvis (Women's Team Captain), Donald Parker (Junior Captain) and Peter Hirst (National Coach).

The Ranking Committee will comprise Bryan Marrett (National Coach), Mike Kercher and Peter D'Arcy, again under the chairmanship of Peter Charters with Mike Watts (Assistant General Secretary) being the secretary of both committees.

**Approved Balls**

The following brands and grades of ball are the only ones which are licensed for the 1983/84 season:-

- Dunlop Super 3-Crown and 2-Crown
- Halex Ultra 3-Star and 2-Star
- Schildkrot 3-Star and 2-Star
- T.S.P. 3-Star and 2-Star
- Nittaku 3-Star and 2-Star

Members are reminded that only a brand and grade of ball licensed by the E.T.T.A. may be used in play within, between or organised by any organisations which are affiliated or in Good Standing.

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### Cricket Rankings

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### Boys

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Ken and Mary Mitchell have forsaken the Isle of Man and moved to 2 Vale Cottages, Wyck Hill, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucs. (Phone: 0451 31000.) Ken was the former secretary of the Bolton Table Tennis League of which he is a life-member.

E.G. WHITE
On Sept 12 George White, Vice-Chairman (Administration), vacated 142 Pampisford Road, Purley, Surrey and is now in temporary residence at Yew Tree Cottage, Chazez Heath, Reading RG4 7UF., prior to moving into a new house in Newbury, Berks in about two months time.

ITTF. ETTU and ETTA senior officials Colin Clemmott and Albert Shipley sleep off the Tokyo night-life with a nap over the North Pole. (where I took the photo.)

By courtesy of John Woodford.

TRANSATLANTIC
Brian Webster, the voluble Scot who came into prominence at the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh, has taken himself off to America for a year. Desirous of receiving correspondence whilst away his address is: c/o Marvin A. Van Vlymen. 6742 Menden Hall Road. Indianapolis 46241. U.S.A.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
21 Claremont.
East Sussex TN34 1HA

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(Constitution, laws in full and international regulations) £2.50 each
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Blue or maroon (single motif) (100% polyester) 4½ inch blade £2.00 each

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Please add 25p per order post & packing
Arrangements are well advanced for the organisation of the Association’s eighteenth annual National School Team championships, now sponsored by the Dunlop Sports Company (see separate story).

County Schools’ Associations will be staging their county qualifying events this term because entries must be in by Dec. 17 at the latest. Then come the twelve area finals (Sat/Sun Jan 28/29, 1984). Winners go forward to one of three Regional Finals at Leeds, Stroud and Orpington (Sunday, Feb. 26) and thence the National Finals at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire on Saturday, March 24.

The Dunlop ESTIA Individual Championships are due to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 5, 1984. There are no area or regional stages in these Championships: counties must nominate their entrants by no later than March 23, 1984.

Full details concerning the Association’s competitions and other useful information can be found in the new edition of the Official Handbook which is now available for 60p (including postage) from the ESTIA General Secretary, L. C. Henry, 158 Ashover Road! Old Tupton Chesterfield, Derbyshire S42 6HG.

If you are interested in entering any of the ESTIA competitions you are advised to contact your local schools’ association or write (s.a.e. please) to the ESTIA Competitions Secretary, E. J. Mitchell, 6 Quinton Close, Matchborough West, Redditch, Worcs. B98 DEL

Gary Lambert receives the Stiga Team Trophy from Mr. Ken Young, Managing Director of Rodan (UK) Ltd on behalf of the England ‘A’ teams at the Stiga Schools International Championships at Gloucester.

**DUNLOP TO SPONSOR ENGLISH SCHOOLS’ TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

The English Schools’ Table Tennis Association will benefit by over £20,000 through a sponsorship agreement with Dunlop Sports Company.

Dunlop have agreed to sponsor the ESTIA national school team championships at area, regional and national levels and the individual championships for the next three years. In addition to making a substantial cash contribution, they will also provide tables, nets, balls and posts for these events.

Commenting on the new agreement, Mr. John Arnold, Chairman of ESTIA, said: “I am delighted that Dunlop, as leading British manufacturers of table tennis equipment, have decided to support the ESTIA. This generous sponsorship will give our organisation greater strength, and will help us to improve further the standard of table tennis in English schools. This will, in turn, have a beneficial effect on the game as a whole.”

Earlier this year Dunlop announced their sponsorship of table tennis at senior level through a four year £80,000 agreement with the English Table Tennis Association, and the funding, with the Sports Council, of five specialist centres in Yorkshire and Humberside.

John Arnold (centre) chairman of the ESTTA, signs the agreement watched by Dunlop commercial director Geoff Mortimer (left) and table tennis manager Alan Hydes.
Stiga Schools International Championships

The ninth annual Stiga Schools International Championships which took place at Gloucester Leisure Centre on July 1/2/3 were once again dominated by English schools players.

All the six teams and individual events were won by players from England. Over 150 players from England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Norway were involved and seventeen Stiga tables were in use.

The team events involved players of four (selected from a squad of five) playing eight best-of-three singles sets plus two doubles. England ‘A’ won all six events ranging from Cadet to Senior (U19) for boys and girls.

The overall team results were: 1. England ‘A’ 2. England ‘B’ 3. Ireland 4. Scotland

The Stiga team trophy was presented by Mr. Ken Young of Stiga distributors Rodan (UK) Ltd and was received on behalf of the England ‘A’ teams by Gary Lambert (Exmouth Comprehensive School).

The individual events saw Berkshire players do particularly well. Andrew and Matthew Syed won the intermediate and Cadet titles respectively whilst Sue Collier retained her intermediate girls title. New names on the trophies are Michael Hammond (Surrey Metropolitan), Christine Peacock (Lancashire) and Debbie Soothill (Cumbria).

Big surprise in the senior girls event was the defeat of Jean Parker by Lesley Broomhead who then lost to Christine Peacock in the semi-final.

Mention must be made of the sterling work put in on the press and publicity side of the championships by Gloucestershire press officer, Alf Pepperd, and freelance sportswriter, Ed Martin. Ed made three live radio broadcasts on the Saturday on the local "Severn Sound" station.

The championships were organised on behalf of the ESTTA by Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, who was supported by quite an army of volunteer helpers.

RESULTS:

Senior Boys:
- Michael Hammond (Surrey Met.) bt Gary Lambert (Devon) -12, 13, 12
- Third: Mark Oakley (Surrey County) & David Dodd (Inner London)

Girls:
- Susan Collier (Berkshire) bt Amanda Hegarty (West Midlands) 17.-17,25.
- Third: Sarah Hammond (Hampshire) and To Thuy Dung (Derbyshire).

Cadet Boys:
- Matthew Syed (Berkshire) bt John Ellis (Wales) 17, 18

Senior Boys: England ‘A’. Left to right: Mark Oakley, Gary Lambert, Michael Hammond, John Reed (NPC), David Dodd, Mark Werner.

Senior Girls: England ‘A’. Left to right: Fiona Elliot, Helen Bardwell, Sylvia Broadbent (NPC), Lesley Broomhead, Christine Peacock, Jean Parker.

Intermediate Girls (Indiv. Event). Left to right: Sarah Hammond (3rd), Amanda Hegarty (2nd), Susan Collier (1st), To Thuy Dung (3rd).

Congratulations and best wishes to ESTTA Competitions Secretary, Edward J. Mitchell, who married Miss Jane Newsome at Bradford Registry Office on August 20th.

Left to right: Mr. Joan Arnold (ESTTA Chairman) (guest), Edward J. Mitchell, David Lomas (Best Man).

Photos by John O’Sullivan

Girls:
- Debbie Soothill (Cumbria) bt Lesley Souter (Middx.) 15, 21.
- Third: Lisa Hayden (Essex County) and Claire Potts (Cheshire).
This year’s ITTF Biennial General Meeting was notable for the number of rule change proposals on the Agenda. Several of them were concerned with constitutional matters, such as the recognition of the ITTF’s new responsibilities resulting from Olympic recognition, but in this article I should like to consider only those changes which directly affect play.

First, I think it will be helpful to give a brief explanation of terms. In the ITTF the word “rules” is used as a collective term for the Constitution, the Laws and Regulations of various types. Of these, the Laws are the fundamental principles which govern play at all levels and which provide the basis for international uniformity. They are normally adopted by all Associations for all types of events, although exceptionally an Association may introduce variations for events in which only its own players take part. For recognised international competitions, such as open tournaments and international matches, there are additional regulations known as the Regulations for International Competitions. They apply to all such competitions except where the Associations concerned or, in an open tournament, all the players taking part, agree in advance to allow some modification. In an open tournament, any such modification must be made clear in the entry form so that anyone entering knows and accepts the change that will apply for that competition. Finally, there are special regulations that apply to the top grade events, such as World, Continental and Open International Championships. In the ITTF Handbook, the Laws are contained in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 contains the Regulations for International Competitions and it includes a few which apply only to the top grade competitions, where these are only slight variations of the more general regulations. The regulations which apply only to World Championships are in Chapter 5, which deals also with the procedures for the organisation of that competition.

The main group of changes was intended to place some limitation on the advantage that can be gained by the use of a combination racket, particularly in service. The most widely publicised of these is the so-called “two-colour” requirement, under which the two surfaces of the racket blade must be of clearly different colours, whether or not the two surfaces are of the same type and whether or not both sides of the blade are used for striking the ball. This principle was adopted as a Regulation for World, Continental and Open International Championships, although it is possible that individual Associations may decide to apply it to other competitions within their own jurisdiction which are limited to their own players. Unlike all the other changes, which come into effect on the first day of the next playing season (1st July in the northern hemisphere), the introduction of this change was delayed until 1st January 1984 to allow manufacturers and distributors to adjust the stock levels of existing single-colour rackets.

Three changes were made to help a player determine the type of surface with which his opponent strikes the ball. Firstly, a player is now required to tell his opponent and the umpire each time he intends to change his racket during play, even if he is simply reverting to a racket which he has already used in that match, and to allow them to check the replacement racket if they wish to do so. Under the previous rule he was obliged to offer for examination any racket he intended to use during a match before he used it, but he could do this by showing several rackets at the start of a match and then changing from one to another during the match without any further notification. Secondly, the racket must be above the level of the playing surface from the last moment at which the ball is stationary on the server’s free hand until the ball is struck in service, so that it will no longer be possible to “twiddle” the racket while it is hidden below table level until just before the ball is struck. Thirdly, to combat the type of service perfected by some players in which the ball is struck in service while it is hidden by the server’s body, it is now a requirement that the ball, when struck, must be no further forward than the rearmost part of the server’s body, other than his arm, head or leg. Finally, a player (and, in doubles, his partner) must not stamp his foot during service, an action which has been used to disguise the sound of the racket on the ball and thus to prevent an opponent from judging the nature of the striking surface. All of these four requirements have been incorporated in the Laws, so that a failure to observe any of them results automatically in the loss of a point.

The only other changes to Laws are that it is now forbidden to strike the ball with the racket blade, which is not covered with one of the specified covering materials, pimpled rubber or sandwich rubber, and that a match can no longer consist of a single game. The changes to International Regulations are mostly of interest to referees or organisers rather than to umpires, but there are a few which directly affect the conduct of play. The function of end line judge was abolished, so that there will be not more than two in the playing area, the umpire and the assistant umpire (except, possibly, in World Championships where a stroke counter is appointed when the expedite rule is in operation). If a player breaks his racket during play he is now allowed a brief period of practice with the replacement racket, although he is still required to have the replacement in or near the playing area so that there is no unnecessary interruption of the continuity of play. It should be noted that this provision for brief practice does not apply when the racket is changed voluntarily.

The restrictions on clothing were slightly relaxed to allow a more generous use of contrasting colours, such as in panels along the side seams of a shirt or shorts, and in club matches it is now permissible to use the name of a club on the back of a shirt. Of more significance was the introduction of a new principle, the authorisation by the ITTF of clothing designs. In future a manufacturer or designer must submit to the ITTF details of any proposed design, in the form of colour photographs showing front and side views of the garment being worn. If the garment is considered by the ITTF to comply with the spirit and intention of the regulations the manufacturer will be authorised to insert an ITTF logo to show that the design has been officially authorised. Thereafter, such a garment may not be ruled illegal by a match official although any question of the legality of an unauthorised design and any other question of the acceptability of playing clothing will, as before, remain the responsibility of the referee. The object of this optional authorisation procedure is to encourage greater consistency of interpretation of the clothing regulations and to allow some measure of experimentation in design without abandoning all attempt at control.

There were several detail changes to the seeding regulations. The maximum numbers of seeded places in knock-out competitions are now specified for various numbers of entries, in addition to the minimum numbers already defined. It is now permissible for seeded players to be given byes in the first round of a knock-out event at the discretion of the organisers, rather than simply as a consequence of the number of entries and the number of available places. This means, for example, that with 62 entries and a first round of 64 places the organisers could decide to give one of the second round seeds a bye in the first round and to hold a qualifying competition for some of the first round places. In World, Continental and Open International Championships all doubles matches will be decided by the best of three games and the same will apply to the singles qualifying matches in World Championships, although in all three
types of competition the matches in the singles events proper will continue to be decided by the best of five games. Team events held at Open International Championships, which were formerly regarded as invitation events, are now recognised as international matches and the system of play has been specified, based on the Swatylhing Cup and the Corbillon Cup procedure. It is, perhaps, worth mentioning here a change which was actually made by the Council at its meeting in 1982 but which will appear in the Handbook for the first time in 1983. The practice period at the start of a match was standardised at two minutes, whether or not the players concerned had already played on the table, whereas previously the period could in some circumstances be limited to one minute.

The application of some of the new Laws, particularly those concerning service, will undoubtedly present fresh problems, both to players and to officials. It will be very interesting to see, over the coming season, how well people adapt to the changes and how effective the changes are in achieving their objectives.

This article first appeared in the Table Tennis Report the monthly magazine published by the TAMASU Co. Ltd of Tokyo, Japan. Ed.

Rule Changes 1983

The rule changes summarised below have been agreed by the ITTF Biennial General Meeting and the new rules will appear in the 1983 Handbook.

All changes except No. 1 (racket surfaces) come into effect on 1st July 1983, and Associations should therefore ensure that their officials and umpires are advised of them as soon as possible.

From 1st January 1984

1. In World, Continental and Open International Championships, the surfaces of the two sides of the racket, whether used for striking the ball or not, and whether the two surfaces are the same or not, are to be of clearly different colours, starting on 1st January 1984.

From 1st July 1983

2. It will be illegal to strike the ball with an uncovered side of a racket.

3. If a player wishes to change his racket during play, even if he is reverting to a racket used previously in the match, he must show the replacement to the umpire and his opponent and allow them to examine it.

4. The racket, as well as the free hand, must be above the level of the playing surface during service.

5. When the ball is struck in service it must not be further from the net than is the player’s body, other than his arm, head or leg.

6. A player who stamps his foot when serving will lose a point.

7. A match can no longer consist of one game.

8. The requirements of the clothing regulations are to be relaxed slightly and a system of authorisation of designs is to be introduced.

9. The function of end line judge is abolished.

10. A player who replaces a broken racket is to be allowed a brief period of practice, although he is required still to have the replacement in the playing area.

11. Upper limits have been set for the numbers of seeds in a knock-out competition.

12. All doubles in World, Continental and Open International Championships will be the best of three games.

13. Team competitions at Open International Championships are to be recognised as international matches and a playing system has been specified.

14. Seeded players in knock-out competitions may be allowed byes in the first round, at the discretion of the responsible management committee.

15. Not more than eight players from an Association need be separated in the draw under the rules for seeding by Association nomination.

Tony Brooks
Secretary-General

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

From time to time we receive requests from clubs in Europe to put them in touch with clubs in England with a view to arranging matches both home and away. Whilst these requests often indicate a preference for the London area, we would like to compile a directory of English clubs who would be interested in receiving details of such requests. Please ask any of your clubs that are interested to contact the E.T.T.A. Office.

ADVERTISING

It is interesting to note that Alec Brook, an E.T.T.A. Vice-President, has never missed an issue, since he went into business in 1948, to advertise with us whenever a magazine has been produced. This more recently as A.D.B. (London) Ltd., 49-53 Harrow Road, London W2 1JH. Keep up the good work Alec. Ed.

PLAYERS’ REPRESENTATIVE

Warwickshire county player Barry Johnson of 64 Willow Drive, Cheswick Green, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4HW has been elected as the players’ representative for the 1983/84 season with the right to attend National Council Meetings of the E.T.T.A.

MARRIAGE

ANTHONY SAINSBURY-MANDY SMITH

Top-ranking Newbury table tennis player Mandy Smith was married on Saturday, May 21st, at St. Mary’s Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington. Mandy is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Smith whilst Anthony Graham is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Sainsbury of Stoney Lane, Thatcham.

The bride was given away by her father and attended by adult bridesmaids Wendy Parker and Nicola House. Child bridesmaids were Lucy Sainsbury, Emily Sainsbury and Katie Sainsbury. Page was Andrew Dawkins and the best man Robert Sainsbury.

A reception was held at Shaw House School after which the couple left for a honeymoon in Austria. Mandy has represented England on many occasions at table tennis, both at junior and senior level. She works as a secretary in a Newbury bank and currently is listed at No.5 in the Lentech computer rankings.

Anthony and Mandy reside at 16 Croft Lane, Speen, Newbury, Berks.
E.T.A. 100 CLUB
by Doreen Stannard

On the warm evening of Saturday, 9th July, following the A.G.M., members of the Club gathered (when they could find it) in a small wine bar in the back streets of Holborn, Wc1.

John McDonnell of Norwich Union fame took his position as Club Chairman for the first time and accompanied by his wife, Linda, greeted everyone on arrival with the usual sherry. The food was excellent in a refreshingly unusual venue although, being a wine bar, one illustrious member was disappointed that it turned out to be a pub with no beer.

Our Premium Bonds have been quietly coming up in the low prizes, with the result that there were five £25 prizes available in the draw. Winners were as follows:

£100 - Mrs. A.A. Mcllreath
£ 50 - Michael Close
£ 25 - John’ Burnett
£ 10 - Dick Roffe
£ 25 each to Tony Ross, Albert Shipleys, Phil Norman, Geoff Scruton and Richard Scruton.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

MR. J. KENNEDY of 5 Portbury Close, Clayton Road, Peckham, London SE15, has been suspended from the privileges of membership of the English Table Tennis Association for a period of twelve months, commencing on 23rd September 1983.

This means that he may not take part in any table tennis activities held under the auspices of the E.T.T.A. or of any member association, league or club.

A.W. Shipleys
General Secretary

BILL EVANS

It is with regret that we report the news of the death of Bill Evans, formerly of Dunlop Sports Co., a well known figure in table tennis during the 1950s, 60s and 70s, being also a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. Bill, who lived at West Moors, Dorset, helped many players with his kindness and advice and, in association with Victor Barna, was responsible for Dunlop’s table tennis business for many years.

Indeed, having joined Dunlop at their Waltham Abbey factory in 1926 he completed 50 years service prior to his retirement where he was responsible for supplies and distribution.

Bill, who was 74, leaves a widow, Ivy, two daughters, Margaret and Marilyn and a son, Bill, who is managing director of Dunlop New Zealand.