ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN 1984

DES LIFTS THE GLOOM
by George R. Yates

Aber the most depressing of English performances in the team events of the Norwich Union English Open Championships, at the Brighton Centre over the period Jan. 26/28, Desmond Douglas brought the sparkle back for home followers when, for the second time in his illustrious career, he laid his hands on the Oldroyd Cup as winner of the men's singles event.

It was a brave lightplay by the Birmingham left-hander in the final as he turned a 0-2 deficit into a 3-2 win against the unseeded Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia, victor over the Polish No. 1 Andrzej Grubba in another 5-game marathon.

Douglas, in his semi encounter, had no such problems with Federal Germany's Rumanian import Georg Böhmm who had twice been taken to a 5th game by Milivoj Karakasevic of Yugoslavia and Seiji Ono, Japan's former world champion.

In the wake of Douglas lay the ambitions of Dutchman Henk van Spanje, beaten 14, 13, -15, 18, Ille Lupulescu of Yugoslavia (13, 13 and 18), Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden, in the quarters, then Böhmm and finally Broda of the high serve/clout brigade.

But what of the feat by the red-headed Philip Bradbury, a qualifier, in beating no less a personage than French ace Jacques Secretin -18, 17, 22, 17 in the first round. No matter the Bucks boy went out in the next round to Sweden's Jorgen Persson in straight games. Phil had his hour of glory, and what an hour!

Douglas apart no other English player got beyond the second round with Graham Sandley a first round faller to Jonas Berner of Sweden as was Skylet Andrew to Michael Daugaard of Denmark and John Hilton to Kenny Jackson, the latter 19 in the 5th.

In Rd. 2, apart from the demise of Bradbury, Avon's Andy Creed, after beating Mark Thomas of Wales, was dismissed by Ralf Wosik of Federal Germany, Colin Wilson was seen off by Grubba, Jackson by Ono, and Alan Cooke by Leszek Kucharski, the Polish No. 2.

One looked in vain for an English quarter-finalist in the women's singles event where players from Russia, France, Sweden, Holland and Czechoslovakia held the stage. Karen Witt, still plagued with back trouble was forced to scratch leaving matters in the hands of Lisa Bellinger, Joy Grundy, Alison Gordon and Carole Moore.

EASY PASSAGE

Lisa, after a first round bye and an easy passage against Scotland's Liz Robb, was shown the door by Holland's up-and-coming Mirjam Kloppenburg whilst Joy, a first round victor over Shirley Williams of Wales, fell at 14 in the 5th to Miyuki Uezono of Japan.

Allison was taken out by Menni Weizades of Sweden in Rd. 2 whilst Carole fared no better against Federal Germany's Katja Nolten in Rd. 1. And, of the lower order, Sarah Sandley fell to Muriel Monteux of France and Mandy Reeves to Kloppenburg.

Eventual winner was Anita Zakharian of the Soviet Union, who beat Brigitte Thiriet of France in the final, after higher-rated Valentina Popova had fallen to the French girl in the semis.

It was without prior notice that the Soviets included Miss Popova in their party but the non-arrival of the second seed, Marie Hrahova of Czechoslovakia, not to mention the top seed Bettine Vreisekoop of Holland - allowed Referee John Wright to include the Russian ace in an otherwise denuded pack.

Better fortune attended English efforts in the men's doubles with Cooke and Sandley reaching the final only to be beaten by the Swedes, Johnny Akesson and Persson. But it was a good run for the English pair taking in such combines as Bohm/Heiko Wirkmer (FRG), Bengtsson/Berner (SWE), Broda/Jiri Javurek (TCH) and Juzo Nukazuka/Ono (JPN).

Douglas, paired with Wosik, went out to the eventual winners but how about the first round success of the Moore brothers, Adrian and Stephen, of dear old Sussex by the sea in eliminating Bela Mesaros and Karakasevic of Yugoslavia!

Susan Collier and Mandy Sainsbury
reached the quarters of the women's doubles before losing to Kumiko Nothira and Yoshiko Shimauchi of Japan, the more likely pairs, Lisa and Jackie Bellinger and Alison Gordon and Carole Moore going out, respectively, to Patricia Germain and Thiriet and Popova/Zakharian.

FIRST TO APPLAUD

ITTF Treasurer, Jean Mercier, was the first to applaud the final victory of Germain and Thiriet over Nothira/Shimauchi in the final.

Spreading the titles round the Japanese came into their own in the first to applaud the final victory of Andrew/Moore going out, respectively, to Bruno Parietti/Monteux (FRA) and Andrew/Blunt.

Kucharski/Jolanta Szatko, failed, the first beaten 3-2 by Sweden.

The Brighton Centre is without doubt the first to applaud the final victory of Gordon/Grundy successful team final and the Soviet Union beat England I 3 Norway 0.

Both Sandley and Douglas, representing England I, took their leave of the proceedings on their first visit to the tables losing 0-3 to Poland, Grubba beating Sandley and Kucharski besting Douglas with the doubles also going astray. England II, Andrew and Hilton, fared no better being beaten 3-0 by Yugoslavia. And, even in the plate competition, England I (Sandley and Cooke) were beaten 3-1 by the Netherlands in the semis with Cooke registering our only success against Bob Kucharski/Jolanta Szatko.

Norwich Union Insurance Group Publicity and Public Relations Dept. PO Box No. 48, Norwich NR1 3TA

Tel: (0603) 22200

Telex: 97388 Fax (0603) 693266

30th January, 1984

Dear Tom,

I felt that this year's Open at Brighton was the best ever. The venue and its facilities together with the excellent accommodation at the Metropole made the tournament one of the most prestigious in the European calendar, your stars at Harting are to be congratulated on their hard work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ALAN HYDES,
Sales and Marketing Manager,
Table Tennis.

Photographic coverage by Murray Corbin of Wimbledon and Stephen Line of Shoreham-by-Sea.

Dunlop Sports Company Limited
97 Bridge Road, Horbury,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 5NN.
Tel: (0924) 276321

31st January, 1984

Dear Tom,

I felt that this year's Open at Brighton was the best ever. The venue and its facilities together with the excellent accommodation at the Metropole made the tournament one of the most prestigious in the European calendar, your stars at Harting are to be congratulated on their hard work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

KEN HURST
Public Relations Manager

TIDE TURNED

All-in-all a sad, sad day was Thursday, Jan. 26, but, as reported previously, the tide turned with Demon Des providing the big wave.

Overall success however did come England's way both from a venue aspect and in the final. The Brighton Centre is without doubt an admirable venue with a restaurant overlooking the sea, and ancillary facilities par excellence.

Just yards away was the imposing Metropole Hotel affording luxury accommodation both for players and officials alike... never mind the price of liquid refreshment! That's another story as was the disappearance of certain prizes and Clive Oakman's coat containing his car keys.

A splendid after the event dinner followed by disco was in the best traditions of a major tournament and, who knows, two years hence, we may have an entry comparable with the Federal German Open in Duisburg. The venue and hotel deserve it.

It certainly impressed both our sponsors Norwich Union, and Dunlop Sports Co, who provided the equipment as evidenced by the two letters received by ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn herewith reproduced.

TEAM EVENTS

MEN
Round 1
Federal Germany 3 Canada 1
Round 2
Federal Germany 3 Sweden 2
Yugoslavia 3 England II 0

Misuro bt Andrew 18- 21. 16; Ipekolu bt Bills 19- 16;
Karasev/Lupulescu bt Andrew/Hilton 20- 14;
Indjuk 3 Germany 2
Shimokawa 19- 16; Robinson lost to Daugaard -15;
France 3 England II
Parieti bt Wales 13- 22; Birchou/Secretetin lost to Hannaford/Wilnis 11- 17; Parieti bt
Canada 19- 15;
USA 3 Netherlands 1
Czechoslovakia 3 Norway 0
Poland 3 England I
Grubba bt Sandley 15- 19; Kucharski bt Douglas 14- 22;
Grubba/Kucharski bt Cooke/Douglas 15- 18;
after final:
Yugoslavia 3 Poland 2
Mesaro bt Bohn 15- 14; Ipekolu lost to Wilnis -12 -12;
Karasev/Lupulescu bt Bohn/Wilnis 19- 15;
Mesaro lost to Wilnis 18- 16;
Ipekolu bt Bohn 17- 23;
3 Japan 3 Ireland 2
Ono bt Steven 14- 18; Nakazuka bt Andrew 6- 7;
Nakazuka/Ono bt Robinson/Welvis 19- 16;
France 3 U.S.S.R. 2
Birchou/Minkevich 14- 17; Parieti lost to Rosenberg -10 -15, -12; Birchou/Secretetin lost to Minkevich/Assenberg -13-16; Birchou bt Rosenberg 16- 13; Parieti bt Minkevich 20- 17;
England 3 Czechoslovakia 1
Kucharski bt Javurek -15 -18; Grubba bt Broda 10- 14;
Grubba/Kucharski bt Javurek/Assenberg 15- 18;
Birchou bt Minkevich 19- 17;
Canada 3 England II
Hauth bt Wilkins 20- 14; Daugaard bt Thomas 15- 20;
France 3 Poland 0
Grubba bt Birchou 19- 19; Kucharski bt Javurek, -12, 15;
Grubba/Kucharski bt Birchou/Secretetin 18- 11.
Final:
JAPAN 3 Poland 1
Ono bt Kucharski 13- 15; Nakazuka lost to Grubba 17 –19-21;
WOMEN
Round 1
England II 3 Germany 0
Gordon bt Polk 10- 16, 17.
Round 2
Japan 3 England II
Uezono bt Gordon -17. 15, 13; Simauchi bt Grundy 10- 12;
Simauchi/Yamamoto lost to Grundy 15-16, 20;
Simmauci bt Gordon -10, 19, 18;
England II 3 Federal Germany 0
Norway 3 Ireland 0
Folkeson bt Leonard -16, 14; Hague bt Red 17, 11;
Pickhosn/Hagen bt Leonard/Red 20- 16, 17;
Scotland w.o. v South Korea
Czechoslovakia 3 Wales 0
Kasalova bt Tyler 9- 13; Masarikova bt Williams 15- 10;
Kasalova/Masarikova bt Tyler/Wilnis 17, 17;
France 3 Poland 2
Switzerland 3 England I
Wolffslost bt Witt -17 -13; Weizadas bt Moore 9- 16;
Weizadas/Wojsik lost to S. Bellinger/Moite -17-15;
Weizadas bt Witt 13–21, 21; Wolffslost bt Moore -20-14, 14;
U.S.S.R. w.o. v Canada
Quarter-finals:
Sweden 3 Netherlands 0
Shimauchi bt Janena 10- 15; Uezono bt Kleppen -21, 10;
Simmauci/Yamamoto bt Janena/Kloopenbourg 18, 15;
Canada 3 Scotland 0
Pottun bt van Spanje 15, 17; Hage. bt Robb 22, 13;
Pickhosn/Hagen bt Rob/Smith -16, 16;
Kasalova/Masarikova, France 0
Masarikova bt Thiriet -16, 17; Kasalova bt German 21- 15;
Kasalova/Masarikova bt German/Wojsik -12, 21-18;
U.S.S.R. 3 Sweden 0
Popova bt Weizadas 18- 18, 18; Zakharian bt Wittorsson 18;
Khasanova/Popova bt Swensson/Weizadas 11, 18;
Semi-finals:
Japan 3 Norway 0
Shimauchi bt Hagen 10- 22; Uezono bt Folkoson 16-17;
Shimauchi/Yamamoto bt Folkoson/Hagen 16- 12;
U.S.S.R. 3 Czechoslovakia
Popova bt Kasalova 17- 14, Zakharian lost to Masarikova -21;
Khasanova/Popova bt Kasalova/Masarikova 9- 16;
Zakharian bt Kasalova 14- 25, 19.
Final:
U.S.S.R. 3 Japan 0
Popova bt Shimauchi -16, 11, 20; Zakharian bt Uezono 14, 13;
Khasanova/Popova bt Shimauchi/Yamamoto -16, 16.
TEAM PLATE COMPETITION
MEN
Round 1
Sweden 3 England II 2
U. Bengtsson lost to Andrew -16 -17; Persson bt Wales 16- 17;
Persson bt Andrew -13, 15, 13; Bengtsson bt Welvis 9- 15, 11;
Denmark 3 Wales 0
Haut bt Wilnis 20- 14; Daugaard bt Thomas 15- 20;
Haut bt Wilnis 19- 16; Rob/slost to Daugaard -15;
England II 3 Scotland 0
H. van Spanie bt Hann 16- 16; Vlieg bt Wright 9- 15;
Pottun/van Spanje bt Hannaford/Wilnis 17- 12;
England II 3 Norway 0
Sandley bt Galdeon 16- 18; Cooke bt Johansen 12- 15;
Cooke/Sandley bt Galdeon/Johansen 17, 13.
Semi-finals:
Sweden 3 Denmark 1
Aksam lost to Haut -19-14; Berner bt Daugaard 19, 21;

Netherlands 3 England 1

Round 1

Sweden 3 Netherlands 0

Final:

England 3 Canada

Women's Round 1

Scotland w/o.

Federal Germany 3 Denmark 1

Women's Quarterfinals:

A. Akesson/Persson bt van Spanje/Siev 16:17.

Final:

Potton bt Sandley 18:18.

Netherlands 3

Round 1

Scotland w/o.

Federal Germany 3 Denmark 1

Women's Singles: Round 3:

A. Grubb (POL) bt R. Wosik (FRG) 17:13.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Broda

Men's Doubles:

Aspinall/B. Bailey (Sheff) bt A. Crook/J. Hobbs (Swan) 20:20.

Final:


Mixed-Doubles Winners:

SEIJI ONO/YOSHIKO SHIMAUCHI of Japan; struggles to keep a straight face while losing finalists JOLANTA SZATKO, far right, laughs as her partner, funny-man LESZEK KUCHARSKI. tries to shoot me down.

Two pairs in the Men's Doubles, Left to Right, JONNY AKESSON/JORGEN PERSSON of Sweden, commiserate with GRAHAM SANDLEY/ALAN COOKE of England for nearly going all the way in the finals.

A smiling youthful looking TOM BLUNN, Chairman of The ETTA, gets down to the height of NOHIRA & SHIMAUCHI, losing Finalists in the Women's Doubles (CORONATION CUP) while the victorious PATRICIA GERMAIN and BRIGITTE THIRIET of France puts on a show for the camera. NANCY ROY-EVANS, Hon. Secretary of the European TT Union, on the left in the picture, shares the moment of excitement and hilarity.
Desmond Douglas en route to recapturing the men's singles title he last won in 1980.

Seiji Ono and Yoshiko Shimauchi, Japan's winners of the mixed doubles title.

Johnny Akesson and Jorgen Persson, Sweden's winners of the men's doubles.

A general shot of the finals centre in the Brighton Centre.

Vladislav Broda the beaten men's singles finalist.

Brigitte Thiriet of France, the beaten finalist in the women's singles showing her frustration.

Anita Zakharian, winner of the women's singles.
EUROPEAN LEAGUE

DEFEAT AVENGED

It was at Eastleigh on March 9 last year that England suffered a humiliating 6-1 defeat at the hands of Federal Germany in the Super Division of the European League when only Desmond Douglas was successful with a 17, 18 win over Peter Stellwag in the penultimate set. Still smarting from that reverse a like score was registered by England in Berlin on Feb. 15 of this year when only Graham Sandley suffered defeat when beaten 7 and 18 by Ralf Wosik to level the scores at 1-1 after Douglas had beaten Georg Böhm in the curtain raiser. But thereafter, in front of a 2,000 audience, it was England in the driving seat with only one set, the men’s doubles, going to a deciding game. Douglas was not only successful in his two singles but also partnered Sandley and Alison Gordon to success in both doubles. Joy Grundy found little difficulty in beating the young Annette Greisinger whilst Sandley came good in the penultimate set. In the curtain raiser, it was England in the driving seat with only one set, the men’s doubles, going to a deciding game.

Yugoslavia, the defending champions, despite Draganut Surbek losing both his singles ran out 4-3 victors over Sweden in Nova Gorica where Zoran Kalinic accounted for both Erik Lindh and Top 12 champion Jan-Ove Waldner. The win maintained the Slovakian’s advantage over Czechoslovakia at the top with one match remaining. Scores:-

Yugoslavia 6 5 1 27 15 5
Czechoslovakia 6 5 1 24 18 5
Poland 6 4 2 25 17 4
Sweden 6 3 3 25 17 3
England 6 3 3 21 21 3
Hungary 6 3 3 20 22 3
Federal Germany 6 1 5 10 32 2
France 6 0 6 16 26 0

March Fixtures

6th England v France (Gulflord)
7th Hungary v Yugoslavia

NARROW VICTORY

Following the narrow 4-3 victory by Italy over Austria in Carrara (no scores to hand) on Feb. 15 all will depend on the outcome of Italy’s final fixture at home to the Netherlands in Agrigento on March 7 as to which of the two countries will be promoted. Undoubtedly this match will provide the grand finale to the season both teams going into the fray unbeaten in Division 1.

Meanwhile at the other end of the table Belgium suffered their fifth successive defeat when, at home to Finland on Feb. 14, they were beaten 6-1 by Thierry Cabrera saved the ‘white-wash’ in beating Jukka Ikonen. Scores:-

T. Cabrera lost to J. Jokinen 14 -13.
D. Lemny lost to J. Ikonen 15 -18.
B. Lippens lost to B. Hargreaves 17 -16.
Cabrera J. M. Salve lost to Romon/Jokinen 19-20.
Saweki K. Bogataj lost to Jokinen/Greiffberg 14-14.
Cabrera lost to Jokinen 19-19.
Lerst lost to Jokinen 23-23.

Denmark, despite last season’s win from the Super Division, chalked up their first win in Division 1 by beating Spain 4-3 in Granada where the scores were:-

J. M. Pales bt L. Hauth 17 -18.
R. Casares lost to J. Harkamp 17 -14.

M. Sanahups lost to O. Hauth 18 -15.
I. CayrePanes bt Harmpark Hauth 11 -19.
K. Pales/K. Godse bt Harmpark Hauth 18 -17.
Pales lost to Harkamp 21 -20.
Casares lost to Hauth 9 -10.

DIVISION 1

P W L F A Pts
Netherlands 5 5 0 26 9 5
Italy 5 5 0 22 13 5
Finland 6 4 2 28 14 4
Austria 5 2 3 18 7 2
Denmark 5 5 4 21 14 1
Spain 5 5 1 11 24 1
Belgium 5 5 4 20 3 0

March Fixtures

7th Italy v Netherlands (Agrigento)
Denmark v Belgium (Holstebo)
Austria v Spain (Judenburg)

CHAMPIONS

Luxembourg, as a result of beating Switzerland 4-3 in Strassan on Feb. 15, after their 6-1 win over Ireland in Belfast in a brought forward March fixture to Jan. 30, have championed Division 2. Norway, with one match to play at home to Guernsey are the runners-up.

In Strassan, Luxembourg were much indebted to Andre Hartmann who, in the final set with the match score tied at 3-3, beat Thierry Miller 11 in the 3rd to seal the home victory and promotion. Scores:-

Y. Mass bt T. Miller 18 -16.
A. Hartman lost to T. Buis 18 -21.
C. Reich lost to B. Hirzel 17 -20.
Hartmann lost to Buis 17 -20.
Mrie/Buis lost to Buis 17 -18.
Hartman lost to Buis 17 -21.

March Fixtures

1st England v Federal Germany
2nd Belgium v Denmark
3rd Poland v England
4th Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia

C. Risch lost to B. Hirzel 17 -20.
O. Hauth bt B. Hirzel 17 -20.
Mesi lost to Busin 19 -22.
Slevin/Heasley lost to Busin/Hauth 15 -11.
Slevin lost to Hauth 11 -16.

Guernsey, at La Mare de Carteret Secondary School, Castel, went down to their fifth successive defeat when beaten 6-1 by Ireland, whose only loss was suffered by Tom Heasley who lost to Ian Powell. Scores:-

I. Powell lost to Slevin 19 -10.
M. Pipet lost to Heasley 14 -9.
O. Powell lost to Reid 26 -14.
Powell/Pipet lost to Slevin/Heasley 15 -17.
Powell lost to Heasley 18 -10.
Powell lost to Heasley 17 -19.

March Fixtures

Scotland chalked up their second win at the season’s home to Norway as reported by Denis George in his Scottish notes.

DIVISION 2

P W L F A Pts
Luxembourg 6 5 1 32 10 5
Norway 5 4 2 24 11 4
Switzerland 6 4 2 18 44
Scotland 5 2 3 17 18 2
Ireland 6 2 4 19 23 2
Wales 5 2 3 12 23 2
Guernsey 5 0 5 5 30 0

March Fixtures

Wales v Scotland
Scotland v Guernsey (Mar. 3rd)

Cover picture

The BBC’s Tony Gubba interviews England’s Desmond Douglas after his men’s singles victory over Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia at the Brighton Centre in the Norwich Union English Open.

Photo by S. J. Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.
A very pleasant evening was had by all members present at the Final's night party after the Norwich Union English Open Championships at Brighton on Saturday, 28th January, 1984. John McDonnell, our Chairman, hosted a sherry reception prior to the Dinner, to which we had invited members of the Swaythling Club to join us.

Two draws were made, the fact that Ernie had been kind enough to enable us to give a further six prizes of £25. The lucky members were: £100 P. Norman and G. Collins £50 Mrs. E. Prean and K. Stanley £10 H. Stevens and L. Thompson £25 R. Rolfe, A. Ross, Mrs. M. Kennedy, K. Panting, G. Cole, G. Campbell.

Linda McDowell, the wife of our Chairman, had kindly provided some gifts which were drawn for amongst those ladies present.

Our next function will be after the A.G.M. on Saturday, 7th July, 1984 so please make a note in your diary.

We do now have a couple of weekends and week courses, Britain’s top freelance player/coach available for certain dates in forthcoming season for coaching (individuals, groups, clubs, leagues, counties) weekend and week courses, exhibitions, etc.

Phone Dave Constance 0202 420411
E.T.T.A. Chairman TOM BLUNN discourses on LIMITED LIABILITY

fact there was a walk out of the construction workers four days prior to the event starting, and there was no option but to submit.

The final result is well known and at one time there was a potential loss of about £100,000 with creditors pressing on all sides. Writs were threatened but none were actually served on the officers and very good arrangements were made which reduced the final loss to £75,000. Fortunately, there was a guarantee fund of £50,000 available which had been provided by the leagues and this was used to pay off the last creditor over a period of six years during which time the guarantee fund had grown to £75,000 due to favourable interest rates.

DILEMMA

But the personal dilemma of the officers was highlighted and the decision taken to relieve them of the intolerable burden. In the first instance a rule change gave the officers the right to call upon the financial resources of the ETTA, and follow on with a call on the counties and if these two sources proved insufficient then the officers and the members of the National Council would have to pay the balance between them. This is just about as far as an unincorporated body could go without meeting the practical difficulties of trying to recover money from every member when there is not even a register of individual membership.

As a limited company the position is quite different. The financial liability is limited to whatever the members decide to risk. Membership can be restricted to the 25 officers and they can agree to risk as little as £1 for each league. On this basis, any liability for breaks of contract, failure to pay a creditor or legal damages and costs would first be paid out of the resources of the ETTA including all assets, and any balance would come out of the capital fund provided by the leagues. Any shortfall thereafter would be lost by the creditors and not from any table tennis funds or personal possessions of the officers.

This arrangement, of course, has its drawbacks. Some commercial concerns might want to limit the credit which they allow the ETTA, or even require to charge on our assets for any loans. Whilst such conditions are restrictive, they are not prohibitive and the ETTA has a very good reputation for paying its debts so this particular matter is not regarded as a great problem.

Whilst it seems to be an easy matter to change the status of the ETTA, it is not as simple as it seems. The whole constitution has to be re-written in terms required by the various Companies Acts without changing the principles agreed to by successive AGMs. The conduct of the many meetings held by the ETTA in one form or another will have to comply with the law. Many legal documents and official forms will have to be completed each year. Our financial position will come under annual scrutiny but we have nothing to fear in that direction.

The foundations have been laid and the detailed work commenced with the assistance of professional legal advisers. It will take time and will cost money but the result will be worth all the trouble. Our voluntary helpers should not have to lose their personal possessions before giving their services to the benefit of the members.

13th INTERNATIONAL CLUB HARD BAT TOURNAMENT

GIBBS AGAIN!

Despite a smaller than usual entry, entirely because of re-arranged Halex National League matches, there were some really excellent matches at the Barnet TT Centre on Sunday, Jan 29.

With three former champions in the draw namely Henry Buist, Laurie Landry and Stuart Gibbs, other contenders seemed hard to find. However both Derek Somers and Dave Jones nearly proved the critics wrong.

Derek, a Middlesex veteran player, proved a little awkward for sharp shooting twice-winner Buist from Kent. Derek’s close over-the-table game and tight defence got him through in the third game. The quarter-final between Jones, a junior international in the early fifties and now a Berkshire veteran, and Landry, a previous winner, proved to be a real classic with Dave retrieving from both sides and coming in with his own hits from time to time but running out of steam in the third.

The final was a real beauty with Gibbs showing mastery in control in defence and sheer brilliance in attack, eventually outwitting the tiring Laurie in the third game.

Mary Symes showed her superiority among the women by winning all three events and showing that steadiness pays off. A really excellent day of table tennis, with rallies, was enjoyed by all and it was good to see former internationals. Phyllis Lauder and Len Adams still putting up a good show. With five former internationals taking part and Barbara Andrews, another, helping with presentations, there was still the flavour apparent. The Club was again most grateful to the Barnet Centre for their continued support and help.

Results:-

M. S. Q-F.
S. Somers (Mi) bt H. Buist (K) -16, 18, 16;
L. Landry (Mi) bt D. Jones (Bk) -19, 17, 15;
G. Battrick (E) bt D. Finlayson (E) -8, 7;
S. Gibbs (E) bt J. Payne (MILHO) -19, 13,

S. GIBBS AGAIN!

W. S. S-F's:
M. Symes (Mi) bt P. Rogers (E) -11, 10;
S. Kilford (Bk) bt S. Hickman (E) -19, 20;

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: SYMES bt Kilford 11, 7.
M. S-F's:
Battrick/Buist bt Gibbs/Squier 10, 11.

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: LANDRY/SYMES bt Gibbs/Squier 11, 15.

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: BAITRICK/BUIST bt Adams/Landry 18, 15.
W. S. S-F's:
L. Adams (Mi) bt W. Davis (Bk) -19, 18, 19;

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: BAITTRICK/BUIST bt Adams/Landry 18, 15.

W. S. S-F's:
L. Musong (Mi) bt P. Hickman & P. Lauder (E) -20, 13;
S. Kilford/S. Squier (Bk) bt Rogers-A. Willis (E) -17, 20;
M. Symes (Mi) bt P. Rogers (E) -17, 15;
X. D. S-F's:
Landry/Symes bt Davis/Kilford 16, 12;
Gibbs/Squier bt Battrick/Rogers 10, 11.

Final: LANDRY/SYMES bt Gibbs/Squier 11, 21.

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: Wills bt Adams -19, 17, 16.

Wills bt Squier 12, 14, 14.

W. S. S-F's:
D. Adams (Mi) bt H. Buist (K) -16, 18, 16;
L. Landry (Mi) bt D. Jones (Bk) -19, 17, 15;
G. Battrick (E) bt D. Finlayson (E) -8, 7;
S. Gibbs (E) bt J. Payne (MILHO) -19, 13,

GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: SYMES bt Kilford 11, 7.

GIBBS AGAIN!

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GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: BAITRICK/BUIST bt Adams/Landry 18, 15.

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GIBBS AGAIN!

Final: BAITRICK/BUIST bt Adams/Landry 18, 15.
The wintry weather conditions in January abated sufficiently to enable all twelve Area* Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships to go ahead as scheduled on the weekend of Jan. 28/29.

It was disappointing to discover, however, that in several areas some teams failed to appear without prior notice. This has been a growing problem in recent years: such absences obviously disrupt the anticipated playing schedules and cause unnecessary journeys for some schools.

The following teams were expected to take part in the three Regional Finals at Leeds, Stroud and Orpington on Feb. 26 with the winners going forward to the Grand Finals on Saturday, March 24 at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire:

**NORTH REGION**

*Area 1 (Thornaby)*
- B19 Newcastle Royal Grammar (Tyne & Wear)
- G19 Prior Purglove School, Guisborough (Cleveland)

*Area 2 (Leeds)*
- B19 Hanson Upper, Bradford
- B16 Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield
- G13 Castleford High, Wakefield

*Area 3 (Fleetwood)*
- G13 Archbishop Grammar, Barrow (Cumbria)
- G13 Archbishop Crammar Middle, Leeds

A "clean sweep" for West Yorkshire teams against opposition from Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire. Kettlethorpe's 5-3 win over Bury Grammar avenges last year's defeat.

**MIDLANDS & WEST REGION**

*Area 5 (Market Drayton)*
- B19 King Edward VI, Stafford (Staffs)
- G19 Codshall High (Staffs)
- B16 King Charles I, Kidderminster (Hereford & Worcester)

*Area 6 (Northampton)*
- B19 Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby (Warwickshire)
- G19 Weston Favell Upper, Northampton (Northants)

*Area 7 (Plymouth)*
- B19 Redruth (Cornwall)
- G19 Hayesfield, Bath (Avon)

*Area 8 (Southampton)*
- B19 Bournemouth Boys' (Dorset)
- G19 Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater (Somerset)

*Area 9 (St. Neots)*
- B19 Bedford Modern (Beds.)
- G19 Ipswich (Suffolk)

*Area 10 (Maidenhead)*
- B19 North Oxon Technical College (Oxon)
- G19 Goffs', Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

**SOUTH & EAST REGION**

*Area 11 (Barntol)*
- B19 Stepney Green (Inner London)
- G19 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)

*Area 12 (Croydon)*
- B19 St. Joseph's College, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)

*Area 13 (Newmarket)*
- B19 London Secondary Schools' Association (Suffolk)

Several unexpected non-arrivals in this Area. Current holders return with Goff's (G19) and Maiden Erlegh (B16) (Syed brothers and company) seeking further glory.

**ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**
by David Lomas

It's quite some time since we saw a Warwickshire national title. Could they mount a strong challenge in the form of Lawrence Sheriff this year? At least they inflicted the only defeat on the powerful West Midlands line-up. Merridale (B11) look to be strong contenders.

*Area 13 (Wolverhampton)*
- B19 Bournemoum Boys' (Dorset)
- G19 Cheltenham College, Swindon (Wiltshire)

No Devon qualifiers. Cornwall dominate boys' events.

*Area 14 (Warwick)*
- B16 Coleshill, Birmingham (West Midlands)
- G19 Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby (Warwickshire)

Heced Burna (B16) look strong. Three-pronged attack from Hampshire in the shape of Walthampton.

Four former national finalists in this Area are through. B13 and B11 Suffolk winners could do well at Orpington.

**EA NORTH REGION**

*Area 15 (Aylesbury)*
- B19 Alderley Edge, Cheshire (Cheshire)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

**EA SOUTH REGION**

*Area 16 (Cambridge)*
- B19 Ampthill, Bedfordshire (Bedfordshire)
- G19 Ipswich High (Eds.)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 17 (Newport)*
- B19 Cardiff High, Newport (Gwent)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 18 (Southend)*
- B19 Eastbourne, East Sussex (East Sussex)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 19 (Reading)*
- B19 Oxford City Academy, Oxford (Oxon)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 20 (Sheffield)*
- B19 Sheffield Grammar, Sheffield (Sheffield)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 21 (Stoke)*
- B19 Tunbridge Wells, Kent (Kent)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

*Area 22 (Sunderland)*
- B19 Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (Tyne & Wear)
- G19 Goffs, Cheam (Herts)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.
Cleveland County Chairman, Colin Davison, travelled to London’s Heathrow Airport on the morning of Friday, Jan. 20 to meet the Japanese team, only to find no trace of the 12-strong party. It was later confirmed that the flight from Tokyo had not taken off due to snow and that the Japanese team were still grounded at Tokyo Airport. So Colin returned home to Cleveland. Later in the day it was learned via the E.T.T.A.’s telephone answering service in Hastings that the Japanese were hoping to make it to Cleveland via Amsterdam and would arrive at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning into Heathrow, just a few minutes before they were due on court at Thornaby Pavilion.

Colin made a second trip to Heathrow from Cleveland, Tournament Referee, Bob Edon, re-scheduled the team event so that the Japanese could play their matches in the afternoon, and British Midland Airways managed to catch up one and a half hours on the late Heathrow to Teesside flight so that the Japanese could arrive in time to play.

After more than twenty-four hours actually travelling in addition to the time spent waiting at Tokyo Airport, to the relief of the Organisers and appreciation of the tournament at large, the Japanese came straight onto the tables, won the Women’s team event, reached the final of the Men’s and a day later dominated the individual events in the seven-nation tournament.

**BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN’S TEAM**

After a couple of close calls, the England team of Carl Bean and Graham Sandley excelled to win the Men’s section of the Butterfly International team event. In their first match against Jaques Generation, Alan Cooke repeated his Humberside win over Prean, 15 in the 3rd. However, Sandley was on form throughout this match, beating Ian Kenyon and to clinch the win, Cooke at 17 in the 3rd.

After beating Grove 3-0, England were stretched by the brilliant play of Henk-van Spanje playing for the Netherlands/Canada combined team. Van Spanje beat both Prean and Sandley, but the greater consistency of the English pair were too much for Joe Ng of Canada, and England went through to the final to meet Japan.

In the final it was Prean’s turn to shine. Sandley opened well by beating Seiji Ono 13 in the 3rd. Then Prean came into his own winning two straight against Juzo Nakazuka and two 19’s against Ono. The only England loss was the double where the Japanese clearly had the edge.

To reach the final, Japan were never extended: They beat Byker-Newcastle, Ormesby and Ellingtonborough all 3-0.

The Women’s team event was won by Japan where Yoshiko Shimauchi proved to be the player of the tournament. Shimauchi beat both Carole Moore and Joy Grundy comfortably, and then combined with Tomoko Yamamoto to win the doubles. The best set of the final was the opener where Carole Moore defeated Miyuki Ufzono after losing the first game 1-6. Neither Japan nor England were really stretched before the final, each winning by the maximum score of 3-0, except for Alison Gordon’s victory over Ufzono in the match between Japan and Gillette Reading which concluded at 3-1.

**Individual events:**

**JAPAN SWEEP THE BOARD**

With twenty-four hours to recover from their long journey, the Japanese were in better form for the individual events, winning all four titles. The 1979 World Champion, Ono, was a popular winner of the Men’s Singles beating his team mate Nakazuka in the final. Ono’s toughest set was in the quarter-final where he beat Skylet Andrew at 17 in the 3rd. He was also stretched a round earlier by the Canadian, Joe Ng, which set he also won at 17 in the decider. In the semi-final, Ono beat Sandley in straight games. However, had Sandley been able to clinch the first, which he lost 21-23, it could well have been a different story. In Ono’s quarter of the draw Cooke made a surprising exit to Juzo Nakazuka in the first game -19, played well to take the second and 3rd against Mrs. Moore to reach the final and after losing the first game -19, palyed well to take the 2nd and 3rd against Mrs. Moore to clinch the title.

Both doubles events were won by the Japanese after Nicky Mason and Cooke had pinched the first from Ono and Nakazuka in the Men’s final. Jean Parker and Joy Grundy who did well to reach the final, found Japan’s Shimauchi and Yamamoto too skillful in the Women’s final.

The prizes were presented by Cleveland County Council Chairman, Bill Emerson, with the Japanese party taking the largest-ever haul of prize money from Cleveland back to Tokyo.

**MEN’S TEAM**

Semi-finals:

England 3 Tarmac Wolverhampton 0


EnglancvOno bt Tan/Wilson 13, -19, 16.

Final:

JAPAN 3 England 1

Sandy bt Ono 20, 17, 12; Prean bt Nakazuka 19, 19; Prean/Sandley lost to Nakazuka/Ono 9, -18, 14.

WOMEN’S TEAM

Semi-finals:

England 3 Denmark 0

M. Uezono bt C. Polk 19, 7; Y. Shimachi bt K. Kruse 14, 8; Shimachi/Uezono bt Kruse/Polk 19, 12.

Final:

JAPAN 3 England 1

Uezono bt Moore 16, -13, -14; Shimachi bt Grundy 14, 9; Shimachi/T. Yamamoto bt Grundy/Coore 20, 10; Shimachi/Coore 12, 9.


Prean bt Nukazuka 10, 17; Ono bt Nakazuka 17, 12; Prean bt Nakazuka/Ono 9, -18, 14.

WOMEN’S TEAM

Semi-finals:

England 3 Denmark 0

M. Uezono bt C. Polk 19, 7; Y. Shimachi bt K. Kruse 14, 8; Shimachi/Uezono bt Kruse/Polk 19, 12.

Final:

JAPAN 3 England 1

Uezono bt Moore 16, -13, -14; Shimachi bt Grundy 14, 9; Shimachi/T. Yamamoto bt Grundy/Coore 20, 10; Shimachi/Coore 12, 9.
CLOSE ENCOUNTER
AT GATESHEAD

On one of the worst nights of snow conditions ever known in the North East, England and Japan played out a close international match at Gateshead Leisure Centre in front of 200 or so fans who had braved the Arctic conditions to watch the table tennis.

England built up a 3-2 lead after both the Men's and Women's Doubles had been won and Carole Moore repeated her win over the Japanese defender M. Uezono for the third time in three days. The strength of Japan's two men, Ono and Nukazuka, proved too much against the England trio of Hilton, Sandley and Cooke. Japan won all three Men's Singles and this, together with a singles win by Y. Shimauchi over Alison Gordon proved just enough on the night to give the visitors a 4-3 victory.

Cleveland County Council's Chairman, Bill Emerson, congratulates Japan's Yoshiko Shimauchi after beating Carol Knight Moore (extreme left) in the women's singles final in the Cleveland Open table tennis championships. Also pictured are men's singles winner, Sieji Ono (second right) and the runner-up, Juzo Nukazuka, both of Japan.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEADING DOUBLES AVERAGES—TO END OF '83

Compiled by Doug Moss.

Qualification (3 matches). This is a supplement to the singles averages given in previous edition.

SENIOR PREMIER

W L %
Andrew/Jackson (£) 3 a 100
Massey/Shorten (Sy) 3 a 100
Gurney/Munt (Wa) 2 l 67
Fletcher/Hill (Y) 2 l 67
Morgan/Palman (Wa) 2 l 67
Wilson/Mitchell (Mi) 2 l 67

DIV. 2A

Jukes/Washington (Wol) 4 a 100
Kitchen/Palmer (Sy) 4 a 100
Dowsett/Weah (Sh) 3 l 75

DIV. 2B

Lambert/Turton (Dv) 2 l 67
Moore/Moline (Sy) 2 l 67
Perrott/Cohen (Ae) 3 0 100

DIV. 3A

Worthington/Deaville (Ch II) 3 a 100
Hunt/Redley (Ut) 3 a 100

DIV. 3B

Pears/Dew (ICO) 4 0 100
Clarke/Green (Ha) 3 a 100
Rushe/Craig (So) 4 l 75

DIV. 3C

Wooding/Bushell (Bu) 3 a 100
Owen/Oxens (Ht) 3 l 75
Dawes/Hodgson (Dv) 4 a 100
Bardwell/Hillard (Hu) 3 a 100

DIV. 3D

Hammond/Sexton (Sy III) 3 a 100
Stevenson/Stevenson (Nk) 3 l 75
Mudge/Brown (E II) 4 a 100
King/Hussey/Hussey (Sy II) 3 l 75

Women's Singles averages - omitted from previous report
Sheila King (Sy II) 5 a 100
Yvette Brown (E) 4 a 100
Jane Barfield (Sy II) 3 a 100
Michelle Hamps (Sy III) 3 l 75
Zarina Hussey/Ellis (Sy II) 3 l 75
K. Hayden (E III) 2 l 67

VETERANS PREMIER

W L %
Allan/Ball/Haliday (Bk) 3 9 75
Bax/Clockwood (E) 2 67
Bruss/Garter (K) 2 67
D'Ary/Schofield (Cf) 2 67

VETERANS 2A

Norton/Allan (Hu) 3 0 100
Wood/Belterg (Wo) 3 l 75
Dicks/Hunt (Wo) 4 a 100
Jones/Porter (Nk) 3 l 75

VETERANS 2B

Bali-Kowalski/Watts (Sy) 2 1 67
Lamprell/Somers (He) 2 1 67
Seaford/Chars (He) 4 a 100
Bush/Cooper (Dv) 3 l 75
Lush/Clegg (Ha) 2 l 67

VETERANS 3A

Tyler/Tyler (He II) 3 a 100
Mills/Hussey (Wi) 2 1 67
Taylor/Fowler (Ch) 2 l 67

VETERANS 3B

No qualifiers.

JUNIOR 1C

James/Hunt (Co) 3 a 100
Oxley/Hook (W) 3 l 75
Clement/Stevenson (Io) 4 1 80
Hunter/Neale (W) 2 1 67

JUNIOR 3D

Steward/Rayment (Nk) 2 1 67
Patton/Thompson (El) 3 a 100
Jenkins/Wilsen (Nk) 2 1 67
Wilde/Smith (Sy II) 2 1 67

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SPOTLIGHT ON . . . PHILIP BRADBURY

By John Oakley of the Press Association

Philip Bradbury has no ETIA contract, has not been invited to training camps and has not played for England, except at Under-21 level, this season. Yet he is the only challenger to Alan Cooke as the most improved player in the English game.

Gifted with a golden touch Bradbury, though no blushing violet, has never quite realised just how good he is.

At critical moments in key matches he has become nervous and gone into his shell instead of producing the free-flowing strokes that come so easily to him in practice.

But in recent months this 19-year-old red-headed has begun to show far more aggression. He is hitting the ball harder and though still apt to have occasional attacks of nerves his talent is beginning to bloom.

At the English Open in January he showed his class in beating Jacques Secretin in four games and he did it in style, forcing the great Frenchman back from the table and hitting some screaming winners.

Secretin was highly impressed and sportingingly said: “Bradbury played really well. This boy could have a great future”.

Another landmark was when he won the Bath Two-Star Open, also in January. He beat Kenny Jackson in four games and in the final and though it was not a top quality field Bradbury was well pleased.

“It was the first English Open senior tournament I had ever won” he said, “and I was really chuffed”.

Perhaps the easiest way to judge Bradbury’s advance this season is by his progress on the Lentec computer. He was twelve at the beginning of the season, then moved up to ten and in the latest list reached his highest-ever position of sixth.

Computers can sometimes be false gods but in Bradbury’s case he earned his place. He has not played so many Two Star events as some points-chasing players, Bucks, his county, are not in the premier division and, unlike most of his leading rivals, he is not a full time player.

He works at least two days a week for his wealthy builder father, Peter, and sometimes four. “The amount I work depends on whether there are big tournaments coming up” he says, “I always do a couple of days but if there is an important event at the weekend dad lets me off for practice. But at other times I do a fair whack”.

In the National League Bradbury plays number one for Gillette Reading and is inclined to scoff at his own record with a throw-away line: “I’ve only got about 50 per cent. That’s not too hot”.

Yet his victims in League games this season have included Paul Day, Kenny Jackson, Alan Cooke, Alan Fletcher, Colin Wilson, Don Parker, Steve Turner, Nigel Eckersley and Max Crimmins, hardly a bunch of incompetent performers.

His big ambition is to gain a regular place in the England team. “I’d love to play for England in the big events like the World and European championships or the European League” he says, “Then you would know you had really arrived”.

To do that he needs to move up perhaps another two places on the computer and prove that he is undoubtedly one of the top four men in the country.

Des Douglas, Carl Prean and Graham Sandley seem permanent fixtures at the top of the rankings but Bradbury has beaten Alan Cooke, the number four, on the last two occasions they have met though he admits that he finds the fast top spin of number five Skylet Andrew “pretty difficult”.

His biggest weakness in the past has been his temperament. He has been apt to get annoyed with himself when things have gone wrong and his confidence has sometimes dropped like a plunging thermometer.

Now there are signs that he is beginning to mature. His confidence is on a higher level and his concentration is beginning to improve.

Yet it is his new-found aggression that in the long run could prove his greatest asset. “In the past I used to be quite happy to just block because I’ve always preferred to play people who come at me,” he says.

“Now I’m getting my forehand in more for points and it has been paying off, “I’m playing a lot better and I’ve also been practising much harder, I used to mess about a lot when practising or not think about what I was doing. Now I practise with a definite purpose in mind”.

Only time will tell whether Bradbury can go right to the top but he has certainly come a long way in the past four years.

Though he began on his tenth birthday - “My father dug out some old bats from the garage and bought me a small table” - he was never among the top cadets though he did make it to number nine in his final Under-14 year.

Progress was still slow for a while but then in his Under-16 year he shot up the junior rankings from 25 to four and was selected for the European Youth championships in Poland.

He went again to the European Youth in Czechoslovakia the following year where he and John Souter were the key players in the junior team and then made the transition to the senior game without problems.

He played for England in the Commonwealth Games in Bombay in his first senior season and then, representing England, won a major event in Portugal.

Since then there have been ups and downs but there is no doubt about his enthusiasm for the game.

For example, at the beginning of February he had to go into hospital for an operation on two wisdom teeth. After three days in hospital and another three without practice he insisted on playing in the Essex Three Star Open at Harlow.

It was a wise move for he reached the semi-final before losing 21-17 in the third to Dave Hannah, the Scottish number one.

This was his best Three Star performance of the season and if he can continue in the same vein he could soon be taking over that number four spot.

Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew will both have something to say about that but it could be a very open three-cornered race for this prestigious position.
Beneficial Trust
Junior Grand Prix

SVED WINS AGAIN

Andrew Syed, the 15-year-old Reading player, made it a hat-trick of wins in the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix series when he won the Cleveland "Select" tournament at Eston on Feb. 19. Syed now looks certain to top the Grand Prix points table with two more domestic tournaments to play plus the Beneficial Trust English Junior Open in May. His final opponent was Andrew Cunningham from Beckenham, the final score being 21-15, 21-17.

Lisa Bellinger, the England No. 1 Junior and No. 2 Senior from Dunstable, was the winner of the Girls' singles. Joanna Shaw (Wakefield) was her final opponent, the scores being 21-10, 21-8. This win puts Lisa level at the top of the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix points table with Susan Collier (Maidenhead) who was surprisingly beaten in the quarter-final.

The Boys' doubles was won by Darren McVitie and David Blackburne with a final win, albeit very close, over promising cadets Bradley Billington and Lee Brown 18, -15, 17.

Lisa captured a second title when in partnership with Teresa Moore they defeated Joanne Shaw and Laura Goldsmith -14, 17, 17.

Mr Geoff Geary Financial Director of Beneficial Trust presented the main prizes.

Beneficial Trust are a company with a national network of branches offering a range of banking services who chose table tennis for their sponsorship because their company sees the youth of today as being their best involvement for the future.

COTSWOLD SELECT

Prior to, in the Cotswold 'Select' at Gloucester Leisure Centre over the weekend of Feb 4/5 Andrew Syed had a final victory over Chris Bartram of Kent - just as he did at Hinckley - winning 12, -16, 9 (writes Alf Pepperd).

In the semi-finals Andrew beat Murray Jukes whilst Bartram disposed of David Goode. And again, as at Hinckley, the boys' doubles title went to Jukes and Adrian Dixon, the defeated finalists on this occasion being Andrew Dodd and Steve Dorking beaten 10 and 18.

Berkshire's Susan Collier was the winner of the girls' singles with a final 21, -18, 16 win over Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw. Miss Shaw and Laura Goldsmith repeated their Hinckley success by again winning the girls' doubles, their victims on this more recent occasion being Debbie Soothill and Cheryl Clarke, beaten 14 and 19.

In the cadet category the boys' singles was won by Matthew Syed who, as at Hinckley, beat Derbyshire's Bradley Billington this time more tightly at 24 and 19. Andrea Holt the beaten girls' singles finalist at Hinckley, was the title winner at Gloucester beating Lisa Robins of Beds 15 and 16 after Andrea had beaten Kerry Hall (Dy) and Lisa had got past Amanda Shufflebotham of Oxon in the semis. In the boys' semis Syed accounted for Sean Gibson (La) and Billington disposed of John Ellis of Wales.

In an all-Yorkshire U-12 boys' singles final Michael O'Driscoll beat Chris Oldfield 13 and 19 whilst the two Derbyshire players, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington fought out the U-12 girls' singles with Kerry the winner 16 and 20.

O'Driscoll and Nicholas Ryder won the cadet boys' doubles beating Billington and Gibson 17, 17 and 18 whilst the counterpart girls' event was won by Claire Potts and Andrea Holt with a final 15, 16 win over Melanie Carey and Lisa Robins.

There were 15 tables in play throughout the weekend but out of 15 local entries only David Smith of Gloucester got as far as the semi-finals of the boys' doubles. David and his partner, Rodney Thomas of Bournemouth, then crashed out to the eventual winners Jukes and Dixon.

Current leaders in the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix:

Boys
1. Andrew Syed (Berk) 40
2. Chris Bartram (Kent) 28
3. David Goode (Middx) 18
4. Andrew Dodd (Kent) 16
5. Philip Huggon (Lanes) 14
6. Jimmy Stokes (Berk) 14

Girls
1. Lisa Bellinger (Beds) 30
2. Susan Collier (Berk) 30
3. Joanne Shaw (York) 28
4. Teresa Moore (Sussex) 22
5. Jill Powis (Staffs) 20
6. Debbie Soothill (Cumbria) 18

The top five boys and girls will share a pool of £2,300 prize money at the end of the season.

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JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS FOUNDATION

It is very encouraging to see the list of members increasing steadily each month and, in fact, we now have over 100 members and Patrons. Apart from individual members we would like to thank the following Clubs, Leagues and Associations and their respective committees for joining the foundation:-

Aldershot & Dist. TTL
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East Kent Youth League
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Obviously we are equally indebted to the individual members and we would also like to thank the people who are selling the raffle tickets for the Cornilleau table to be drawn at the English Junior Open. John Jaques have also very kindly donated a table which we will use to raise money after the Open.

As we have now raised over £1,000 it is possible to start planning a provisional programme. We have written to the English Championships Committee for permission to enter players (possibly 2 teams) in the English Junior Open. And, following the Open.

If any members have any suggestions or nominatiQns of players they feel would benefit from the foregoing arrangements, please send them to the Foundation at The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, Nr. Lancaster, LA2 8AN. Likewise, if any individual would like to join the foundation, and thereby help English Junior table tennis please send £1 a (payable to Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation) to the same address.

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COURSE 3
August 6th- 11th
LEICESTERSHIRE 'CLOSED'
By Phil Reid

The Leicestershire Closed, staged at the Granby Halls, were remarkable for the number of seeds who got through, being almost invariably successful. Chris Rogers was a triple winner, taking the men's singles, men's doubles and won the third easily. Rogers, partnered by Martin Pickles was even more extended against Gannon and Phil Smith in the men's doubles, winning a nailbiting -18, 18, 21. With his sister, Karen Smith, also a triple winner, Chris comfortably took the mixed, ultimately beating Grahame Hall and Julie Revill by Martin Pickles was even more exciting -18, 18, 21. With his sister, Karen Smith, also a triple winner, Chris comfortably took the mixed, ultimately beating Grahame Hall and Julie Revill.

Meanwhile, the singles path was another story, withColin Truman, much to the disappointment of Mike Jackson, who had travelled all the way from Cambridge in search of expediates. The junior events were a triumph for Enderby's David Grundy who beat David Aldwinckle in a thrilling final. Earlier the peroxidated head of Kevin Woodhouse was prominent, taking Aldwinckle to 19 in the third and partnering Grundy to win the doubles.

All-in-all an excellently-organised tournament, thanks to Pat Pickles, Sheila Aldwinckle and organiser lan McKelvey who worked hard all day. Sponsored by Exclusive Kitchens, The T-shirts, donated by sponsor Ernie McLeish were a prominent feature of a happy tournament.

Results:
Final: ROGERS bt Gannon 21, 19, 11.
W. S. F. S.: K. Smith bt J. Heath 16, 11; Miss V. Hall bt J. Revill 23,11.
Final: SMITH bt Hall 9, 14.
Final: ROGERS bt Gannon 16, 11.
Final: GRIMLEY bt Clark 18, 13.
Final: MURRAY bt Clark 12, 19.
S. S. F. S. : Pickles bt M. Bell 9, 16; S. Grier bt D. Aldwinckle 9, 12.
Final: GRIEW bt Pickles 17, 14, 11.
B. S. S. F. : Aldwinckle bt M. Bell 11, 18; D. Gannon bt G. Aldwinckle 19, 12.
Final: GRIMLEY bt Aldwinckle 16, 19, 18.
Hard Ball Singles: Final: M. NEWMAN bt R. Rogers 9, 17.
M. D. Final: ROGERS/PICKLES bt G. Chapman 18, 18, 21.
W. O. Final: SMITH/REVILL bt J. & J. Heath 8, 10.
K. S. Final: ROGERS/SMITH bt J. & J. Heath 9, 16.
J. D. Final: GRUNDY/WOODHOUSE bt Aldwinckle/Clark 15, 11.

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
4TH ROUND AND QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS

Wilmott Cup
Zone 1: Bolton v Preston Zone 2: Stockton v Harrogate Zone 3: Leicester v Hull Zone 4: Birmingham v Norwich Zone 5: Southend or Milton v Reading Zone 6: Willesden or Milton v Reading Zone 7: Hastings v Medway Zone 8: Poole v Salisbury Quarter-finals Zone 2 v Zone 1 Zone 4 v Zone 3 Zone 6 v Zone 5 Zone 8 v Zone 7 Carter Cup Zone 1: Hartlepool or Ormsby v Northumberland Zone 2: Bradford v Preston Zone 3: Hinckley v Chesterfield Zone 4: Wolverhampton v Bedford Zone 5: Ipswich v Brentwood Zone 6: Dagenham v North Middlesex Zone 7: Crawley/Horsham v Reading Zone 8: Bournemouth v Plymouth Quarter-finals Zone 2 v Zone 1 Zone 4 v Zone 3 Zone 6 v Zone 5 Zone 8 v Zone 7 Bromfield Trophy Zone 1: Northumberland v Ormsby Zone 2: Sheffield - BYE Zone 3: Chesterfield v Derby Zone 4: Dunstable v Wolverhampton Quarter-finals Zone 2 v Zone 1 Zone 4 v Zone 3 Zone 5 v Zone 6 Zone 7 v Zone 8

COMPLETION DATES
Round 4 - March 11/84
Quarter-finals - April 15/84

The finals of all four events will take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield on Sunday, June 10/84 commenc ing at 2.30 p.m.

It was Willesden who ousted the defending Wilmott Cup holders, North Middlesex, in Round 2, and not Wilmott Cup holders, North Middlesex, in Round 2, and not Willesden who, inadvertently, won their name into the February issue. Ed.

YORKSHIRE CADET CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Rea Balmford

O'DRISCOLL DOMINATES

The Yorkshire Cadet Closed Championships, held at the Moor Grange School in Leeds, was dominated on the boys’ side by nationally ranked cadet Micky O'Driscoll, who made a clean sweep, collecting both singles titles and sharing the doubles with Dewsbury colleague Nicky Ryder.

The left handed O'Driscoll, ranked at No.4, was top seeded, but his final opponent in the Cadet Boys’ Singles came from outside the national list, shock newcomer from Wakefield, Andy Ball, taking out Ryder (16) and Chris Oldfield (8), while Mark Ward (18) also fell by the wayside to the up-and-coming Neil Simms, who was O'Driscoll's victim in a tight semi-final.

On the girls’ side it was No.2 seed Hazel Kavanagh (15) who held the aces at Cadet level, sharing the doubles with top rated Caroline Dada (10) and then proving just too steady for her doubles partner in a straight games singles final.

The remaining title - Under-12 GS-went, as expected, to top seed Debbie Toole, whose ability to close her opponent down is likely to prove a big asset as her career develops.

Simms, who plays in Doncaster, faced O'Driscoll for a second time in the Under-12 Boys’ final, having put paid to the hopes of Oldfield (15, 23), but, once again, the Dewsbury boy proved just too strong.

Results:
Under-14 Events: Boys Singles: Micky O'Driscoll (Dewsbury) bt Neil Simms (Doncaster) 22, 18; Andy Ball (Wakefield) bt Chris Oldfield (Sheffield) 15, 20;
O'DRISCOLL bt Ball 16, 19.
Girls Singles: Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) bt Debbie Toole (Pontefract)-12,17,16; Caroline Dada (Bradford) bt Janine Harrison (leeds) 12, 15; KAVANAGH bt Dade 18, 19.
Boys Doubles: O'Driscoll/Nicky Ryder (Dewsbury) bt Andrew Jenkins/lee Rogers (Doncaster) 20, 16;
C. Oldfield/Simms bt Mark Ward/Mark Oldfield (Sheffield) 13, 16.
Girls Doubles: Hazel Kavanagh bt Debbie Toole (Pontefract)-12,17,16; Caroline Dada (Bradford) bt Janine Harrison (leeds) 12, 15; KAVANAGH bt Dade 18, 19.
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C. Oldfield/Simms bt Mark Ward/Mark Oldfield (Sheffield) 13, 16.
The Martin Essex 3-Star was denuded of all its top players by the clash with the Federal German Open. Then it was denuded of its second best by their own failings.

Of the eight players or pairs seeded to reach the finals in the four main events, only two did so, the No. 2 seeds in the two doubles events. The men’s final was between the No. 4 and 7 seeds, and the women’s between the No.5 and 8.

Men’s No. 1 seed John Hilton was the first casualty, losing in the first round to Richard Jermy. No.2 seed Sylklet Andrew, on whom local hopes were pinned, lasted to Round 3 before succumbing to an out-form Stuart Palmer.

Neither victor lasted. Jermy nept out to Stephen Moore in the next round and Palmerto Nigel Eckersly in his next round, the quarter-final.

Eckersly was back almost to his bubbling best after a lean spell which had seen him drop from No. 6 to 24 in the rankings in 18 months. He was looking very sharp- and so was his wit - as he came within an ace of reaching first game. But at 16-19 she reeled off from Harlow. She looked like finding seeds in the two doubles events.

The Martin Essex 3-Star was denuded to win 19, 17.

The first casualty, losing in the first round and found that their styles knitted so well that they raced to the title without dropping a game.

Suzanne Hunt picked up a second losers’ medal, with Karen Rogers, and will be kicking herself for some loose backhands in vital stages of both games of the final.

The Class 2 singles attracted its usual big entry and gave the also-rans a chance to shine. Keith Richardson shone more than the rest and secured a final victory 13, 18 over Dave Gannon. It was the last chance for both of them to enter a Class 2 event as they have now moved into the top 50.

A passing thought: Why do so few females enter the event now? When it was first launched the sport received enormous publicity when Jill Hammersley (as she was then) beat all the men. We could do with a bit more publicity, even if it is sexist.

Top veterans Derek Schofield and Pete D’Arcy did not have things their own way for a change. Ralph Gunnion turned the clock back a few years and dug out some form of old to dump them both, D’Arcy in the first round 19.

Results:-

ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

by Ron Fosker

Mr. Stuart Russell, Director, Martin the Newsagent Pic. presenting David Hannah (Scotland) with his cheque for £300 following his victory in the Mens’ Singles.

Photo by Michael Johnson.

Mr. Stuart Russell, Martin the Newsagent Pic, presenting Fiona Elliot (Stafhs) with her cheque for £150 as winner of the Women’s Singles.

Photo by Michael Johnson. Ingatestone
GOOD INDIVIDUAL WINS...

LESTER BERTIE over David Rook ... ADRIAN & STEPHEN MOORE, both thumping David Barr ... Followed by TERESA MOORE beating SUE COLLIER ... PHIL SMITH two-straight against Andy Wellman ... GARY LAMBERT whipping John Payne 8,7 ... ELAINE SHORT punishing Mandy Reeves 10 and 18 ... JULIET HOUGHTON'S -14, 13, 18 victory over Claire Maisey. MARTYN LIVERMORE snatching the third against Richard Beckham RICHARD STEVENSON'S fantastic display of skills in mastering John Taylor in the 'Match Of The Day' when they met in Senior 3D Norfolk/Herts clash, says Referee RAY HOGG ... RICHARD VENNER smashing Terry Haley 5 and 19 ... DAVID HARDING'S over Trevor Bunn . . . ALLAN STALLARD creeping home in the third against Henry Buist . . . GEOFF ALDWINCKLE also in the third against Wally Allison . . . VALERIE GILLAM defeating Mary 'The Bat' Clegg, 15 and 14 . . COLIN ALLOP - two-straight against John Garland ... MIKE PEARSON'S over Ernie Brown . . . DAVID GRUNDY against Sean Gibas . . . JOHN BURLET against Ian Sharp . . . MARTIN PACKHAM'S victories over Jason Hergaty and Matthew Poulsen . . . ROY THOMAS'S in the third when up against the 'Offensive' Paul Elphick . . . ADRIAN BOLTON and TIM SHEPPARD, both in form against lan Sharp . . . SARAH WEBB and KAREN TESTA over Julie Mills . . . JANE SUTTON, fantastic in beating Helen Mawbey . . . Nice one! DAVID HODSON landing the third against Tony West, but then losing also in the third to DAVID COLE. I like the look and aggression of young David . . . PAUL GOODING - excellent in the third against Karl Ball . . . Of course, One could call these 'Near Wins'.

SENIORS
Division 2A: Cambridgeshire 7 Lancashire 2nd 3; Worcestershire 3 Derbyshire 7; Yorkshire 2nd 3 Warwickshire 2nd 7; Suffolk 8 Staffordshire 2nd 2.

Yorkshire suffered a 3-7 defeat by the visiting WARWICKS Team of KAREN GROVES, JOAN HARDEN, BARRY JOHNSON, LESTER BERTIE and RICHARD TANNER, on Jan. 14 at Bradford. Referee ALEC HEAD wit-

essed a concentrated effort from his Team of Melanie Seaton, Julie McLean, David Rook, David Indricks and Richard Whiteley, but Warwicks had a little in reserve, in case it was needed.


Division 2B: Sussex 6 Berkshire 4; Devonshire 7 Middlesex 2nd 3; Kent 6 Wiltshire 4; Dorset 6 Avon 4.

Leaders KENT, with the combined skills of JULIET HOUGHTON, CAROL SPAIN, JOHN BURLETON, GARETH SPENCER and DAVID 'Diddy' DODD, took on bottom of the table WILTSHIRE - a good composition of Claire Maisey, Janet Parker, Kevin Satchell, Kevin Edwards and Steve McBean, at KINGS PARK YOUTH CENTRE, Etham, and just managed to beat them 6-4 in a classical exhibition of skills. DOREEN LEVEY, Press Officer of Kent TTA, reports that due to advertising the match on Radio Kent and in the local papers and shops, over 120 spectators were attracted to this spectacle, which was played in a most sporting manner.

The eighth set featuring Dodd and Satchell brought excellent rallies with plenty of long attacking strokes from both players, finishing with the still improving Dodd winning at 20 and 10. JULIET HOUGHTON'S confrontation with Claire Maisey also brought lots of excitement with both ladies giving very impressive performances. Juliet got her spectacles in front in the third to win at 18. The Master of Ceremonies was the popular STAN BASDEN and special thanks must go to him, along with MIKE HANRAHAN and GLYN OWENS, for their hard work leading to the staging of the match. I thank you Doreen, but must point out that I am only writing this report as a compliment to you for the very good work you are doing, because when I received the score-sheet, I noticed that neither the Referee Alan Openshaw nor the Team Captains had met my request for 'christian names'. Your detailed report therefore saved the day.


Division 3A: Leicestershire 2nd 6 Clwyd 4:

Durham 2 Cheshire 8; Cheshire 2nd 3 Nottinghamshire 7.


Division 3B: Wiltshire 2nd 6 Dorset 2nd 4; Somerset 2nd 1 Hampshire 9; Berkshire 2nd 8 Isle of Wight 2.

In the Wiltshire/Dorset match, with the score even after the eight, Wiltshire then pulled out 6-4 winners. It was their HELEN WILSON and STEVE DAVIES, who, in the last two sets, defeated Pat Baldwin and the other Steve Davies, respectively. ALAN DUKE was the Referee at Swindon.


Division 3C: Northants 2nd 3 Northants 1st 7; Herefords 4 Beds 6; Glamorgan 7 Oxon 3; Bucks 7 Worcs 2nd 3; Glous 9 Hunts 1.

NOT ONE OF THESE SCORE-SHEETS HAD A CHRISTIAN NAME ON IT. DISAPPOINTING!

Division 3D: Kent 2nd 7 Cambridgeshire 2nd 3; Essex 2nd 8 Suffolk 2nd 2; Norfolk 7 Hertfordshire 3; Sussex 2nd 5 Essex 3rd 5; Surrey 2nd 7 Norfolk 2nd 3.

At FELLOWS CRANLEIGH, Upton Park, ESSEX 2nd entertained Suffolk 2nd by giving them a good whipping. Essex, with LISA HAYDEN, KIM MUDGE, STEVEN WHITE, STEVE DETTMAR and STEVE DORKING, proved much too strong in skill for the promising SUFFOLK TEAM of Susan Butcher, Kathy Brierley, Julian Hall, Terry Dowsett and Chris Shelter. The Referee was BARRY GRAINGER, again.

Top 4: Essex 2nd: Surrey 2nd: Kent 2nd: Norfolk.

VETERANS
Premier: Cheshire 9 Middlesex 0; Kent 4 Essex 5; Nottiringhamshire 3 Lincolnshire 6; Leicestershire 5 Berkshire 4.

CHESHIRE were at it again. This time, they nullified and "white washed" a pretty good Middlesex...
Team, composed of Mary Symes, Babs Adedayo, Don Smith and Bill Brookham, for whom it must have been a miserable journey back home. Cheshire’s DOREEN & DEREK BROOKHAM, for whom it must have been a miserable journey back home. At Gravesend, KENT experienced full demoralisation by AVON, when in a 4-2 win. Roy’s Teammates were BETTY BONNER, especially in the Mixed, may feel himself lucky to have got away with this 6-4 result. His Team is now worried over the cookie crumbles sometimes.

This is also a very competitive division, and another 5-4 result, this time in favour of the said Leaders HAMPSHIRE against Dorset, confirms this point. RAY YATES informs that Hampshire needed to win this one if they were going to retain leadership of the division. After the seventh set of the match, Dorset at home in Bournemouth, had a 4-3 margin. MAURICE SHAVE then levelled and with points and victory left in the hands of JOHN HARVEY who was about to face Brian Bickell, after two very tension filled games, Brian fell to a pair of 18’s. Well done Hants, who, after this occasion, were represented by the courteous, well spoken, lovely and amiable DIANE WINMILL, and KEN JILES. For DORSET, there were also Mrs. D. Robins and Dave Woodcock. The Referee was HAROLD FELTHAM.


JUNIORS
Division 2A:
Leicestershire 5 Lancashire 5: Warwickshire 2 Yorkshire 2nd 8: Cambridgeshire 5 Bedfordshire 5: Derbyshire/Cheshire - no result?

Division 2B:
Middlesex 2nd 7 Gloucestershire 3: Glamorgan 4 Hertfordshire 6: Sussex 6 Dorset 4.

Bottom Team GLAMORGAN - Jane Sully, Joanne Lee, Kelvin Roberts, Anthony Jones and Brian Fernandez, suffered another defeat, this time by ANITA JERMYN, tracey BAINES, JIMMY WALSH, MIKE LAVENE and PETER HARRIS of HERTFORDSHIRE. Glamorgan seemed to have played much more successfully after they were 1-5 down, because they did not lose their sixth game until the very end of the match, which was contested at Abercynon Social Club where the Referee was E. J. THOMAS.

DORSET travelled to Goring TTC, Worthing, and took on a very promising SUSSEX TEAM of SALLY WESTON, LYNNE TRUSSELL, PAUL “Hitman” ELPHICK, SIMON KEMPTON and the fast up and coming MARTIN PACKHAM, who has had much help from the one and only MALCOLM FRANCIS. Dorset, with Samantha Scott-Pawson, Suzanne Hegarty, Rodney Thomas, Jason Hegarty and Mathew Poulson, were struggling early and as a result, were 2-4 down after the sixth. However, they added another two sets to their tally when RODNEY THOMAS and SAMANTHA SCOTT-PAWSON defeated Paul Elphick and Sally Weston, respectively. Sussex’ successes came from PACKHAM’S victories over Poulson and Hegarty: ELPHICK’S against Hegarty; KEMPTON over Poulson;

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**PLAYER PARTICIPATION** (extracted by DOUG MOSS)
Details are given below of (1) the number of players who have taken part in the 3 sections of the Championships this season, and (2) the number of those who are top ranked players (January 1984 list).

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Section</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>Total No. of Females - 399</th>
<th>Total No. of Males - 662</th>
<th>Grand Total of Players - 1.051</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>In Top 20</td>
<td>In Top 50</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31 (top 40)</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>Veterans</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>226</td>
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**DIVISION 2A**
Bedfordshire 1 Avon 8: Clwyd 3 Huntingdonshire 6: Northamptonshire 1 Cheshire 2nd 8: Oxfordshire 2 Worcestershire 7:

**BEDFORDSHIRE**, with Audrey Robinson, Peter Cutting, Doug Folds and Colin Gill, just managed to stop full demoralisation by AVON, when in the seventh set, Doug beat Roy Smith 19 and 14. Roy’s Teammates were MURIEL HOOKER, MIKE BAKER and TONY BROWN. The Referee was D. AYRES.

Top 4: Cheshire 2nd: Worcestershire: Huntingdonshire: Bedfordshire. (AVON spells trouble in 5th, especially with 2 matches in hand).

**Division 2B**
Hampshire 2 Sussex 7: Berkshire 2nd 3 Dorset 6: Essex 2nd 4 Hertfordshire 5: Middlesex 2nd 7 Kent 2nd 2:

**BERKSHIRE**, still without a win even after playing middable DORSET, did really put up a good show here but are still destined for the drop’, it would appear. However, their Margaret Lee, Colin Dyke, Bob Holliday and Bert Foster, I understand, are in good spirits and enjoying themselves. DORSET was made up of JOYCE COOP, CYRIL BUSH, DENNIS JOYCE, and BUNNY ELLIS. Referee ROBIN LOCKWOOD was ably assisted by Umpire DEREK CROMBIE.


**Division 3A**
Cheshire 3rd 5 Buckinghamshire 4: Clwyd 2nd 2 Wiltshire 7: Huntingdonshire 2nd 2 Hertfordshire 2nd 7: Cumbria 5 Wiltshire 4:

In a low scoring match, HUNTINGDONSHIRE’S Shelly Holland, Brian Spittlehouse, Ken Green and Roy Fisher could not compete equally with SYLVIA TYLER, GEOFF BAXTER and TERRY WILSON of HERTFORDSHIRE, and were only able to record two victories in the Men’s Doubles and a Singles, when KEN GREEN stopped Terry Wilson by 15 and 11. The match was played at St Neots under the supervision of Referee W. WALKER.

**PETER BUXTON** of CUMBRIA went to the table to face John Cleveland of Wiltshire and with the score levelled at 4-4, he set about John’s downfall to bring in a 5-4 verdict and full points for Cumbria, after, on the whole, a very nearly, evenly contested match, with five sets going to three. For Cumbria there were also CLARICE ROSE, RAY CARR and EDDIE BUXTON, while Gwen Hazell, John Ford and Don Morris, made up a very unfortunate WILTSHIRE side. The match was played at Natland, Kendal, and the Referee was J. TAYLOR.

Top 4: Cheshire 3rd: Buckinghamshire: Hertfordshire 2nd: Clwyd 2nd:

Division 3B:
Hertfordshire 3rd 4 Wiltshire 2nd 5: Somerset 4 Surrey 5: Dorset 2nd 4 Hampshire 2nd 5:

Second placed SURREY travelled out to Yeovil to play SOMERSET and had to wait for eight games before winning, before the sixth, their Vera Beesley played well but could not contain BETTY BONNER, especially in the third. With the resultant 3-3 score, BRIAN SIIVIMONDS and JOHN GARLAND then dispatched Colin Allsopp and Ray Thornton, respectively, to make it 5-3 in favour of Surrey. ERNIE BROWN then polished off Mike Pearson, to claim Somerset’s fourth rubber. Surrey No 1 Veteran and Captain FRANK HAMS, who played only in the Mixed, may feel himself lucky to have got away with this 6-4 result. His Team is now worried over the cookie crumbles sometimes.
LYNE TRUSSELL’S defeat of Suzanne Hegarty, and also in the Boys Doubles, The Referee was the conscientious H. J. WEBB.


Division 3A:
Nottinghamshire 8 Cumbria 2: Cheshire 2nd 8 Cleveland 2nd: Lincolnshire 2nd/Northumberland???

Two struggling Teams - Notts and Cumbria met at the SYCAMORE SOCIAL CLUB, Notts, and the home Team of KAY MAYALL, BEVERLEY AMATT, H. J. WEBB. The Referee was the industrious H. J. WEBB.

In the local Staffs/Warwicks clash, Referee DEREK SHERRATT reports that at 3-3 and with four of those six sets finishing in the third, WARWICKSHIRE were giving Championship contenders STAFFORDSHIRE quite a fright. However, in the last four sets, HELEN LOWER, KEVIN LAWRENCE, ANGELA SANDERS and NEIL HARRIS did not drop a game and romped home against Lisa Spilsbury, Nick Selton, Tracey Green and Dave. Thomas, respectively, of Staffs, while the other two participants VERANDRA CHAUHAN (Warwick), who won one of his singles, and Matthew Harvey (Staffs), looked on in amazement. Derek Serratt gives full marks to all of the players for their fierce but always sporting contribution to this local Derby. Thank You! Derek!


Division 3C
Avon 7 Hampshire 3: Cornwall 2nd 10 Avon 2nd 0 (W/O): Avon 7 Wiltshire 2nd 3:

Leaders AVON, whose First Team of KAREN TESTA, JAYNE KIMBER, PAUL LEWIS, JAMES FLETCHER and ROBERT CHANDLER, remain unbeaten after spanning third from bottom HAMPShIRE, at Frome, under the supervision of Referee PAT ARCHDALE, a very well-admired and elegant lady. Hampshire, with Sarah Hammond, Caroline Jenvey, Andrew Davies, Christos Hannides and Alan Charles, after their victory in the Girls’ Doubles, had to wait until the last two sets for the other two wins when SARAH HAMMOND overcame Karen Testa 18, 21 and CHRISTOS HANNIDES came through against Robert Chandler 18 and 19.

WILTSHIRE 2nd, just above bottom of the table Avon 2nd, fell to fourth placed SOMERSET, but this did not happen through the lack of effort on the part of either Julie Mills, Karen Richards, Howard Phillips, Martin Edwards or Richard Morgan. Somerset, on the day, were forced to struggle all the way and it was not until the ninth game was finished and SARAH WEBB had defeated Julie Mills, that victory

Young and promising MARTIN PACKHAM of SUSSEX.

for the cider-landers was assured. There was no feedback from Referee WENDY PRYCE, but this seemed to have been a nice little match between two promising Teams. The match was fought at Taunton.


Division 3D
Essex 2nd 7 Surrey 2nd 3:
Suffolk 5 Kent 2nd 5:
Norfolk 2nd 1 Norfolk 1st 9:

Leaders ESSEX 2nd crushed the until-then contenders SURREY 2nd 7-3 and could therefore be hailed as winners of this division, unless madness reign in the next couple of matches. Unfortunately for Surrey, Captain PETER CORNER could not field his strongest side, due to the illness of Neil Davis and the unavailability of Nicola Taylor. On the other hand, with his Julian Dudman losing his two sets, replacements RICHARD ‘The Loop’ JONES and JANE ‘The Face’ SUTTON played well and drew much praise from Peter.

The Referee was the industrious BARRY GRAINGER, yet again. O.K. Barry? For Essex there were GILLIAN PATTEyn, HELEN MAWBEY, TONY ‘Temper Temper’ WEST, BERNIE LAZARUS and DAVID COLE, while Karen Wilde and David Hodson made up the Surrey contingent.

Top 4: Essex 2nd: Surrey 2nd: Kent 2nd: Norfolk.
COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Williams reports from.....

BEDFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED

Lee Holmes, playing to his potential, beat No. 1 seed Neil Stanley in the semi-finals of the Bedfordshire County Junior Tournament held at Bedford Trucks on Jan. 22, but lost to David Murgatroyd in the final.

Results:-

Away to Cambs at Wisbech, Lisa Robins and Joyce Mitchell ably assisted Peter Edwards, David Murgatroyd and Chris Wright to a 5-5 draw in the Junior County match. The girls won both their doubles and singles. Edwards won the only singles for the boys and partnered by Murgatroyd won the doubles.

The seniors visited Herefordshire and although playing one short won the match 6-4. David Sharpe, Andy Coughty and Gawton comprised the Beds team competing against M. Owen, M. Morse and Mrs. S. Segust. Sharpe won both his singles whilst Conquest lost his. The boys took the doubles 11 and 19 against M. Owen and M. Morse. The Beds girls came up trumps, each winning their singles and beating Mrs. L. Morse and Mrs. S. Segust 12 and 9 in the doubles.

The two contested sets made the final score 6-4 for Bedfordshire.

Gerald Hammond, Bedfordshire’s Secretary and International Umpire was invited to appoint the Norwich Union English Open at Brighton and had the honour of umpiring the mixed doubles final.

Dunstable & AHW entertained Jaques Generation ( Fareham) in a National League match on Jan. 8.

The Dunstable team were David Sharpe, Ian Doughty, Les Wooding and David Cartwright. Jaques Generation playing without their No.1 had Graham Toole, Ramish Bhalla, Chris Shetler and Martin Gilbert.

Dunstable & AHW started well with Sharpe beating Bhalla -15, 15 and 16, and Doughty winning against Toole 20, -15 and 15. However the next two sets were won by Gilbert and Shetler bringing the teams level. Sharpe, playing No. 1 for Dunstable & AHW, lost the next set against Toole 15, 10. But the last three sets went to Jaques with Doughty, Wooding and Cartwright losing respectively to Shetler, Bhalla and Gilbert. The final result a win for Jaques Generation 5-3.

This was the same result as when

Jaqes entertained Dunstable & AHW at home. Dunstable then losing out after leading 3-1.

Cippenham (Slough) were the next visitors to Dunstable on Jan. 29. Ray Tilling, Phil Bevan, Frank Eans and Alec Watson played the home team of Sharpe, Lisa Bellinger, Doughty and Jackie Bellinger.

Sharpe was unlucky to lose his first set which had the audience on the edge of their seats. Bevan took a thrilling third game to win 11, -19 and 20.

Doughty 15-5 up in the first against Watson finally took it 23-21, but lost the next two. Sharpe lost to Watson.

The Bellinger sisters had the men on their toes as I’m sure they would agree, Lisa winning both her singles the first against Tilling 18, -17, 18 and, in a cracking set against Eans 19, 18, 14. Jackie also in a good game against Eans winning -15, 18, 14. The score 2-2 at the break.

It was left to Jackie to decide the match in the last set against Watson but although she fought bravely and had poor Aec on the run throughout she lost -20, -17. The final score Dunstable & AHW 4 Cippenham 4.

The next day was away to Tulse Hill Rams on Feb. 5. Sharpe, Wooding, Jackie Bellinger and Stuart Lines (playing in his first National league match) started off well winning the first two sets. Jackie dropped a set and newcomer Lines lost both his. Sharpe and Wooding won both theirs making the score for Dunstable & AHW 5-3.

Jackie and Lisa Bellinger have both been to Norway as guests of the Norwegian ITA together with Pia Ellason (Sweden) to participate in a women’s tournament.

Luton women beat Cambridge 5-4 in a home Rose Bowl match at Old Boys club.

Scores (Luton names first) were: J. Dimmock lost to J. Palmer, 15, -21, -9, D. Campbell bt G. Shaw, 23-21, 15, 3, A. Robinson bt D. Foster, 16, 14, Campbell lost to P. Row, 10, 22, Dimmock bt G. Shaw, 11, -22, 20, Robinson bt G. Shaw, 15, 13, Campbell lost to J. Seckerson, -8, -9, Robinson lost to Palmer, -12, -12.

Luton now meet either Wolver­hampton or Birmingham in the Zone final.

In the Carter Cup Bedford beat Milton Keynes 5-1. This now puts them in the Zone final.

The Luton League Senior and Divs. 2, 3 and 4 tournaments were held at Bedford Trucks on Feb. 5 with the following results:- Divs. 2, 3 & 4 Final: M. Jarratt J. Shekerson. Divs. 2, 3 & 4 Div. 2 Final: G. Shaw/M. Jarratt bt T. Harris/Seckerson.
M. D. D. Cartwright/B. Thompson bt J. D. Foster/M. Lyons.

Played up to the final were the Men’s singles, Women’s singles and Veterans’ singles. These finals will be played on ‘Finals Night’ (date to be decided).

M.S: D. Cartwright v K. Thompson W.S: Julie Dimmock v Lisa Robins V.S: J. Wooliscroft v B. Bowron

Brian Halliday reports from......
who are making their mark at local league level are Clare Plumridge, Rachel Watts, Tracey Hooker, Lisa Coulson and the talented Mike Adams from Bracknell.

Congratulations to the hard-hitting Keith Hodder on winning the Cadet event at Exeter and also to Graham Kemp who has had many excellent wins over Berkshire senior players this season.

Maidenhead held their closed championships recently. This event is gaining an enviable reputation both for the quality of its entry and its expert presentation which has set the standard for closed tournaments. The organisers did a brilliant job with the scheduling of numerous events and it was obvious that both players and spectators appreciated all the work done on their behalf.

Steve Everard, who is developing into a very good third ball attacker, took his first Maidenhead Men's Singles title at the expense of Steve Bridge. Everard had put paid to favourite Alec Watson's, 'chance in the side final, when Dave Jones found the Bracknell loop too penetrating in the other semi. Mary Stafford took her score of singles titles to ten and there were excellent performances from Bob Davis and Roger Martin who won five events between them.

The Bracknell championships were held at the Amersham Institute sports hall at Arborfield. The men's singles was won by your notewriter for the first time - after many years of honest endeavour. Barry Piercey was the runner-up. Taryn Napier-Vallis won the ladies' singles and Graham Kemp again impressed with two titles, the second gained with Keith Hodder in the men's doubles - the youngest winners ever. The all-action ex-Bracknell Sportsman of the Year Eddie Cripps walked off with the veterans' title for the fifth time. Alan and Sylvia Bruton took the mixed - a popular win for a couple who have done so much to further the sport in Berkshire over many years.

Les Wooding reports

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

EXCITING VICTORY

There can be only one headline forthwith this column this month. That must reflect the exciting victory of our own Philip Bradbury over the European No. 4 Jacques Secretin in France in the English Open. Together with my colleague Sylvia Coombs from Milton Keynes I was privileged to be able to watch this match which must surely rank as the best performance ever a Buckinghamshire man. Never mind Secretin's after-match comments about the plastic ball nor the fact that Philip succumbed quietly in the next match; this was the 'arrival of our best-ever home grown male player. Philip has always given credence to his own County and there is little doubt that everyone in Buckinghamshire will wish the 19-year-old every good wish in his attempt to make the full England side.

Before the English 'Open' Philip had helped us to yet another victory. This time the defeated team were Worcesteshire. Both Karl Bushell and I were also unbeaten but the two ladies Jacquie (note the new sophisticated spelling) Farwell and Linda Phelps struggled against Sandra Roden and Linda Reid before Linda recorded the 'only ladies' victory.

Buckinghamshire 7 Worcesteshire 3
K. Bushell bt K. Calvert 13. 12. 17; L Wooding bt Nick Mytton 12. 8; F. Bradbury bt Steve Horton 14. 12; P. Phelps/S. Farwell bt L. Reid/S. Mytton 10. 8; Bushell/Bradbury lost to Horton/Walton 18. -16. -19; Bushell bt Mytton 17. 12; Farwell bt Reid 13. -12; Bradbury bt Walton 12. 18; Phelps bt Reid 11. 13; Wooding bt Horton 18. 7.

Cheshire Veterans 5 Buckinghamshire Veterans 4
The first defeat of the season for Buckinghamshire. Len Pratt's performance was disappointing and may lead to Brian Savage making his debut.


CARTER CUP

The last Buckinghamshire side, Milton Keynes, were kicked unceremoniously out of this year's competition by Bedford, a side they overcame last season. Anthony Gorman recorded the home side's only victory beating Neil Stanley. Andrew Trott and Gavain Black both proved too strong adding the scalps of Richard Lines and Richard Green to that of Anthony to record a record 8-1 victory.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cippenham 4 Tulse Hill Rams 4
Dunstable & AHW 4 Cippenham 4
Tulse Hill Rams 3 Dunstable & AHW 5

Excellent performances from both Cippenham and Dunstable & AHW saw the Buckinghamshire Club sides improve their bottom half positions in the division.

The South Bucks'side started the day with a tremendous draw at home to title favourites Tulse Hill Rams. Ray Tilling 'sheared' the opposition with excellent victories over Des Charlery and John Dennison. Those redoubtable defenders Alec Watson and Frank Earis forced the draw at the expense of Junior Facey.

The next episode staged the local derby between the Buckinghamshire sides. As on their previous encounter the match resulted in all honours even. Lisa Bellinger stopped Ray Tilling's excellent run, recording her first maximum of the season with the win over Phil Bevan. Watson "the old fox" was again too experienced for youngsters Ian Doughty and Jackie Bellinger outplaying and out-thinking both of them. David Sharpe was the only home side player to fail to record a victory, a feat unhappily copied by Earis for Cippenham.

In true story book fashion the best result was yet to come. With a team devoid of Lisa Bellinger (on European Top 12 duty) and Doughty (taking a race horse to Newmarket) it was Sharpe, Wooding, Bellinger and Stuart Lines who galloped to the season's major upset at the expense of the Rams. After easily winning the first game against me, Charlery lost all his confidence and was only a shade of his former self. After this unexpected first match result the usually exuberant Tulse Hill side adopted a melancholic attitude, a situation fully exploited by the visitors. Sharpe was never in serious trouble against Charlery nor Dennison and Facey was well beaten by both Jackie Bellinger and myself. Making his debut Lines suffered from the usual first match nerves and never really did himself credit.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

With the AHW TTC conceding their match against March, Cippenham became the last surviving Buckinghamshire side in this season's competition.

A brilliant maximum three wins from earned them a well-deserved and most unexpected victory over R.C.T. 'A', the Aldershot League champions. With their National League players Tilling and Bevan ineligible for this competition Cippenham suffered a further blow when Dave Poutney became unavailable and had to be replaced at a few hours' notice by Peter Swinn, who added further to the South Buckinghamshire side's discomfort when it was discovered that his bat did not conform to the new regulations.

Cippenham got off to a great start when Watson defeated David Phelps but the Aldershot side soon moved in front with wins for Ramish Bhalia over Peter and Andy Thomas over Earis. If the match had a turning point it came in the fourth set when Watson recorded a superb two straight win over Ramish, one of the stars of Jacques Generation's success this year in the Halex National League. Frank followed up with a comfortable win over David but two more wins for R.C.T. by Thomas over Peter and Bhalia over Frank left the home side 4-3 up. Most of the excitement was still to come as Watson lost the first game 16-21 to Thomas and then won the second 21-12 only to face a deficit of 14-20 in the decider. The 'old fox' somehow reeled off six points in a row and then took the third 23-21 amid great jubilation from the home bench.

Left with the responsibility of playing the last set Swinn changed an 8-10 deficit in the final game to record a 21-17 victory to give Cippenham a 5-4 well deserved victory.

Watson bt Phelps 7. 12; Swinn lost to Bhalia 7. -18; Earis lost to Thomas 17. -15; Watson bt Bhalia 13. 10; Earis bt Phelps 8. 10; Swinn lost to Thomas 14. -14; Earis lost to Bhalia -16. -14; Watson bt Thomas 16. 12. 21; Swinn bt Phelps 19. 11. 17.
Cambridgeshire
FIFTH SUCCESS FOR KEITH

Keith Richardson won the men’s singles title for the fifth time at the John Jaques Cambridgeshire Closed played at the new Soham Sports Hall.

He ended a run of three consecutive wins by MBS St. Neots clubmate Mick Withers, who beat him in the final. In the semi-finals, Richardson had beaten Geoff Davies and Harper beat Andy Withers, so all four top seeds came through the matches, recovered sufficiently to beat Colin.

KNOCK-OUT CUP

Cippenden Rogues (Slosh) 9 County Arms Choppers (Milton Keynes) 0

The Rogues staked their claim as favourites for the competition with this convincing win over the Choppers. Clive Hawley gave notice of his potential with a convincing win over Peter Holliday. Withers, despite certain health problems throughout the tournament, recovered sufficiently to beat Colin.

Peter Holliday, from March, won the boys’ singles for the first time in his last season as a junior. He beat Wesley’s Neil Burgess, who had beaten Tim Ashman, last season’s winner in the semi-final.

Helen Gipp, from Aldrington, in only her second season, won the Girls’ singles, beating Wisbech’s Helen Smith, the top seed.

The Cadet events were dominated by Wisbech, who boasted all four finalists. Twelve-year-old Johnny Collins, with partner Chris Dexter, won the Pye Telecom Merit Award as the most promising newcomer.

Louise Ward, who won the Girls’ last season, missed out this time, losing in the final to Ruth Hutchinson.

John Ashman completed a hat-trick of wins in the veterans’ with a straight games win over Pye’s Mervyn Grant.

Brian Richardson, who has competed in the championships for about 12 years without winning a title, at last received some reward for his enthusiasm and endeavour by winning in a doubles event.

In the men’s partnering Julian Wheel, they knocked out Harper and Keith Richardson, winners of this event for the last seven seasons, in the semi-final, and then disposed of Davies and Withers in the final.

His other win came in the mixed when with Joanne Palmer, they beat Martyn Livermore, in his first final, and Hilary Finch.

In the women’s doubles, Hilary and Alison Edge had a narrow victory over Joanne Palmer and Yvonne Driver.

The Restricted singles was a walk for Cambridge University’s Paul Dilger, who beat March junior Paul Oldroyd in the final.

The fact that two committee men reached the final of the Handicap Singles should have aroused some sarcastic comments, but surprisingly it didn’t.

Chairman Brian Judd was a popular winner beating County Coach Geoff Ward 41-38, 41-39. Brian started on 25, while Geoff was on 18. It looked like good handicapping to me in view of the closeness of the result.

Apart from early problems with the lights which delayed the start for about 20 minutes, the tournament went well with the new venue and a repeat next season looks likely.

Results:

M.S: Semi-final
Final: Richardson bt Withers
B.S: P. Holliday bt B. Burgess 18. 11.
Pye Telecomm C.G.O: R. Hutchinson bt T. Smith 17. 15.
V.S: J. Ashman bt M. Grant 17. 10.
Pye Telecomm M.D:
B. Richardson/J. Wheel bt Davies/Withers 17. 15.
Pye Telecomm M.D:
X.D: B. Richardson bt M. Livermore/Finch 11. 19. 11.
Restricted Singles:
Handicap Singles:

Hassy Sohan are now in the happy position of being able to lose a match and still retain the Hale National league Championship.

Jeremy Williams reports from……

CORNWALL

SCHOOLS ACTIVITY

Much of the activity in Cornwall this month focuses on schools table tennis, in particular the Cornish Schools Individual Championships held at Launceston on Sunday, Feb. 12.

 Possibly a record entry, probably the highest ever standard and certainly the best-ever tournament all contributed to the fine atmosphere. Highlights of the day- the Boys’ U-16 final where Mark James came from 5-17 down in the third to defeat Graham Reed, that being the County NO.1’s first win over Reed in four outings and he then capped a good day by winning the U-19 event in convincing style over a then demoralised Reed. Equally exhilarating was the Boys’ U-19 final with Alison Clemens coming from the brink of defeat to beat Esme Stevenson in another “deuce” in the third. Also very encouraging was the refreshing fluency of the U-11-year-aids which promises much for the future of Cornish table tennis.

Cornwall Schools Championships finals.

Boys U-16: James bt Reed 14. -11. 22.
Boys U-13: D. Ly bt Mark Sargent 17. 15.

NATIONAL TEAM KNOCK-OUT

St. Ives A 4, BCI Bridgwater A 5

St. Ives faced a tough task at home to Bridgwater in the first round of the National K.O. and the 1980 quarter-finalists went down 4-5. John Bassett’s victories over Somerset players Crabtree, Lee and Wilson gave the Cornishmen hope especially when Nigel Cock defeated Wilson but it was not to be and the West Cornwall Champions are out in the last hurdle.

Picture Start
CORNWALL SENIOR KNOCK-OUT

Dereham (Truro), Falmouth Docks A, St. Austell A and Redruth A are all semi-final, but there is no place for St. Ives A, controversially eliminated by Redruth whose team of Robert Prenndergast, Steve Lobb and Melvin Starkie produced an excellent performance to spoil St. Ives’ five year unbeaten record in this competition.

CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

The不幸的acci sed sustained by St. Austell No.1 Barry Cornelius means that he will be out of action for the time being, and his team were certainly affected by his absence when they were held 4-4 at home to Camborne in the Cornish Inter-Town League. St. Ives made amends for recent disappointments and by virtue of a hard fought 5-3 win at Launceston now move into second place. Redruth 8 Truro 0; Launceston 5 St. Ives 5; St. Austell 4 Camborne 4; Redruth 8 Truro 0; Helston 0 Falmouth 8;

LEAGUE TABLE

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Much rests on the big crunch match on Wednesday, March 7 when St. Austell entertain St. Ives, where victory for St. Austell is essential if they are to reach April's final.

John Taylor reports from.....

CUMBRIA

The county side’s results have improved lately in that the Veterans’ team recorded the first win of the season beating Wiltshire 5-4. Ray Carr (W) was the hero for Cumbria, winning both his singles two-straight and also taking the men's doubles with Peter Buxton (B). Buxton could only win one of his singles but this was in the final set and the clinched victory for Cumbria with a comfortable win over the visitors’ No.2. Eddie O’Hara (B) lost both his singles, but extended his opponents to three games. He did however score a good mixed doubles win with Clarice Rose (W).

The Junior side could only manage two sets at Nottingham. The girls once again proved the best half of the side, with Jane Usher (W) winning her singles and also taking the doubles with Karen Backhouse (B). The inclusion of Ian Sharp (M) back at No.1 was to no avail for the boys. Sharp and Chris Brockbank (B) came close in their doubles but couldn’t win a game.

John Backhouse (B) on his county debut did however manage to take a game off his opposite No.3.

Key (B) Barrow, (M) Millom, (W) Westmorland.

Results:

Sad news from the Westmorland League is that with the start of the new year upon us they are still looking for a Secretary and Treasurer. At present the Chairman Bob Gale is doing all three jobs. I am sure Bob is well capable of carrying on, but the situation does not augur well for the future of the league. Indeed in their January newsletter the League are appealing for more clubs, teams and players for next season. To quote match secretary Charles Usher..... "a big effort is needed by all of us to enlarge the league again in order to survive.”

On the playing side Queen Katherine 'A' head Div. 1 with 14 pts. from 4 matches. Nearest challengers appear to be Melling with 10 pts from 3 matches. Queen Katherine 'C' lead Div. 2 with 18 pts from 5 matches. Ambleside 'A' are the only other unbeaten side with 11 pts from 3 matches. Dave Milbeck (Q.K.A') heads the Div. 1 averages with 100% from 12 sets, Geoff Baines lies second with 76%. In Div. 2 Mark Tadross (Q.K. 'C') and Dave Phillips (Ambleside 'A') both have 100% records.

The County tournament is to be held at Kendal's South Lakeland Leisure Centre on Sunday, 1st April and the new bat regulations will be in force.

Latest news from the Carlisle and District League is that last season's champions and runners-up have changed places. Scotby 'C' consisting of Brian Bell, Alec Craib and Paul Watson are unbeaten and look a strong set and he clinched victory for Cumbria with a comfortable win over the visitors’ No.2. Eddie O’Hara (B) lost both his singles, but extended his opponents to three games. He did however score a good mixed doubles win with Clarice Rose (W).

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Malcolm Allsop reports from.....

DERBYSHIRE

INCREASING COSTS

The DerbyTwo-Star Junior Open takes place at Moor Lane Sports Centre on Sunday, March 25. The Tournament is sponsored by the Derby City Lottery with total prize money of £330. I feel that the increasing cost of facilities is to blame for the recent drop in membership, not the ETTA, County or Local League membership fees. Fewer facilities are available for a free back room in which to put up a table, the competition for space means that landlords have realised they can charge, and efforts have to be made to provide suitable accommodation at a cost players are prepared to pay, persuade players to pay more or budget for lower membership.

The Spondon Leisure Centre in Derby, until last year a company-sponsored facility, asked their teams to provide suitable accommodation at a cost-a Band for the facilities- a two room building capable of housing two tables. Not unnaturally the T.T. players could not afford to relax. Millom C.C.'s Ian Sharp is out on his own in the averages, still unbeaten after 13 sets.

The Barrow and District League first division race is now a two-horse race once again following Falmouth's 6-4 win by Millom F.P. over leaders Vickers. Millom F.P. are still four pts behind but have a game in hand. Star of the match was Tim Pachul who won all his singles. Tim was backed up by a win each from brother Andrew and Sharp plus the doubles. For Vickers Alan Fay and Andrew Murphy both won two singles each. On this occasion Neil Yardley couldn’t help his team mates with a win. Things are hotting up also in Div. 2. Leaders Vickers 'D' have a four point lead over Washington who have a game in hand. Washington, namely Billy Thompson, Alan Fullard and Johnny Lowes have had some good results lately, including 8-2 wins over leaders Vickers 'D' and Roose Cons who were lying second but have now slipped to fourth. Young John Backhouse and veteran Ken Gilmour are both having a great season for Vickers ‘D’, and are well backed up by Jimmy White and Karen Backhouse.

A new Leisure and Community

25
Centre opens in Hands Road, Heanor this month and this will provide welcome extra facilities in the Eastwood League area. A room for table tennis is provided capable of being used by three teams for matches each evening. The cost will be £1.5 per night, Le. £5 per team per night. Any interested should contact the Eastwood Secretary, Les Allwood.

Plans are still going ahead for the new building in Derby, near the Moor Lane Sports Centre and adjacent to the new athletics track; being organised by the Derby Table Tennis League and the Derby Athletics Club. A hall 120 x 40 feet, changing rooms, showers, toilets and stores on the ground floor. On the first floor, overlooking the main hall, will be a lounge, bar, kitchen, committee room, children's room and gymnasium.

The Council have granted a 30-year lease and building will commence later this year.

"What we envisage is a multi-purpose Sports Hall" says Malcolm Hearn (Derby T.T.L. Chairman). "Primarily it will be for table tennis and athletic club members. But there will be times when we will be looking to let the facilities to other sporting organisations."

Personally, I hope that table tennis has such a boom that it will be fully utilised for table tennis.

**DERBYSHIRE INTER-TOWNS LEAGUE**

In the fourth-stage matches, Derby Veterans made certain of being the Champions of the Veterans' Division being held for the first time this season. Charlie Horn won a maximum in an 8-2 win over Buxton with B. Ashfield obtaining their best success. Dave Inkley won a maximum for Eastwood who gained their first win by 6-4 at the expense of Chesterfield.

In Division One, Terry Bull won a maximum for Eastwood 1st in a 7-3 victory over Matlock 1st; whilst in Div. 2 Barry Taylor, David Geaves and Geoff Harvey won a maximum for Eastwood 1st in a 7-3 win over Peterlee.

In the fifth stage of matches, Eastwood clinched the Div. One Title for the first time, with an 8-2 victory over Burton. Billy Fowkes won a maximum for Eastwood with good support from Ernie Lough and Tony Holland; Paul Harvey winning 2 for Burton.

Burton completed their Veterans' fixtures with a 6-4 win over Chesterfield, with 3 wins from Pete Bentley and 2 from Terry Gadsby.

**FINAL TABLE: VETERANS:**

Div. 4-3-1: 0-28: 1: 7
Burton 4-3-0-1: 28-12: 6
Eastwood 4-2-0-2: 14-26: 4
Buxton 4-1-0-3: 15-25: 2
Chesterfield 4-0-1-3: 15-25: 1

**BURTON LEAGUE:**

Quite an interest in Burton regarding all-family teams, and Burton seems to have provided quite a few in recent years! The Smith children representing the Wulfric team this season are the latest in a long line of family teams.

In the 1979 Summer League, two family sides met each other on June 14. Ray, Gary and Pete Carr representing Marston's met the Drakelow team of Parys and lost 2-8, daddy of the Marston's team Ray Carr winning his side's 2 sets against Ray and Len.

Speculation now abounds of when the next all-family clash will occur. What about a challenge to Derby? Derby could provide Shipleys, Hears, Forsters, Horns, and Weightmans.

Granville Aces lead Div. 1 despite a strong challenge from Bretby A; Central Red lead Div. 2 ahead of Uxtoxeter; Bass Specials have a good lead on Hill Street White in 3; Hill Street Red have a precarious lead over Granville Jacks in Div. 4; whilst Granville Diamonds lead Div. 5 above George Street. The position at this stage appears to favour Granville retaining their title as leading Club in the County.

**DERBY LEAGUE:**

140 players entered the Derby Divisional Championships at the St Ralph Sherwin School, with the ladies having a good day to take three of the eight titles.

**Results:**

Premier Div: S. Yallop bt B. Fowkes 7. -15; 13;
Div. 1: S. McNeil bt A. Hearn -18. 16. 16;
Div. 2: A. Hearn bt Robert Scott-Birchall 15. 15;
Div. 3: Louise Forster bt Reg Woor 12. 12;
Div. 4: Amanda Dawkins bt Andrew Barratt 13. 21;
Div. 5: Henry Li bt John McNeil -16. 16;
Div. 6: Henry Li bt John McNeil 16. 16;
Div. 7: Cheryl Fisher bt Ian Smith 14. 18.

**EASTWOOD LEAGUE:**

The Eastwood Championships were held at the Belper Sports Centre. The Taylor family were in evidence with Barry runner-up to Terry Bull in the Men's Singles and winning the Men's Doubles with Clive Spatle; whilst wife Alison was runner-up to Joanne Weightman in the Women's Singles, and won the Consolation Singles.

**Results:**

M.S. Terry Bull bt Barry Taylor 8. 9;
W.S: Joanne Weightman bt Alison Taylor 19. 20;
M.D: Clive Spatle bt Ernie Lough/J. Weightman 10. 12;
V.S. Dave Inkley bt Lough 20. 10. 20;
C.S. Mrs. A. Taylor bt Jeanett Lough 20. -17. 18.

In Div. One, Rolls Royce 'A' beat Neville EMV by 7-3, but the surprise was the first defeat of the season for Terry Bull 18. -18. -17 against Ernie Lough, and keeps Rolls Royce in line for a Championship double, with the A team top of Div. One and the B team top of Div. Two.

Harry Black reports from.....

**DURHAM DISAPPOINTING RESULT**

Durham, following their creditable draw against Northumberland, disappointed when beaten 8-2 by Cheshire at Shirey Row. Lack of experience told against Darren McVitie and David Blackburne when confronted by the likes of Brian Johns, Mark Hankey and Wayne Percival despite seven of the ten sets going to a decision.

**Results:**

A. Gelder bt M. Hankey 17. -18. 14; lost to S. Johns -20. 20;
D. McVitie lost to Johns 19. -14. -17; Isloot W 21. 21;
B. Roadhouse lost to Penrall 21. -21. 11; lost to Hankey -19. 16;
J. Yarnell lost to J. Deakin -19. -18;
J. Suddick lost to A. Williamson -12. -17;
Blackburn/McVitie bt Johns/Per除夕 13. -17. 15;

Sunderland 'A' still lead the men's division of the Durham County Senior League but another close run-in is envisaged. With only one match to play, against South Shields, maximum points are essential as their closest rivals, Peterlee, who include both McVitie and Blackburne have to play Sunderland 'B' and Philadelphia 'A'. Sunderland's 'A' match away to Philadelphia 'A' was declared void by the County Management Committee for failure to comply with League rules.

The Ladies' Division title has been retained by Sunderland 'A' despite another round of matches still to be played. This also applies to the Junior Boys' Division and Peterlee who have also kept their title.

In the national Carter Cup competition Sunderland were well beaten 7-2 in their home tie against Hartlepool. Philip Stafford gained Sunderland's two sets beating both Nigel and Neil Rafferty but he lost to Andrew Holland. Sunderland's other youngsters, Steve Dixon and Glen Robinson, showed promise but lacked experience.

Sunderland, in the Wilmott Cup, had a resounding 6-0 win over Tyne-Side Summer at Byker but, in the next round, they were beaten 7-2 in their home tie against Hartlepool. The scoreline was not really a true reflection as four of the five sets went to three but Stockton had that little bit extra when required. Scores (Sunderland names first):-

Cilligan lost to Ian Plummer -15. -19; lost to Steve Brunskill 13. -10. -18;
David Goodger lost to Malcolm Corrigan 13. -16. -18; lost to Plummer 15. -20. -16;
Terry Gaider lost to Brunskill 17. -17. 24.

Westmorland concede their tie to Sunderland in the J.M. Rose Bowl whilst the girls have yet to play their tie against Northumberland.

Washington TIC slipped up in the bid for promotion in Div. 3 North of the
John Holland reports from....

ESSEX

CHANCE OF TITLE

Our Vets first team have given themselves a chance of the Premier Division title of pulling off a famous 5-4 win against Kent, at Gravesend. On this occasion it wasn’t the deadly duo of ‘Stan the Bat’ and Maureen Pemberton which pulled us through; the maximum man this time was newcomer Alan Stallard. He won the Men’s Doubles with Stan as well as defeating Henry Buist and Ron Etheridge. It was Alan who wanted the table at 4-4 to face Ron in the clincher. Yes, this 33-year-old has nerves of steel! Now Alan is assured of a first team place for the crunch match against Cheshire. Kent and Cheshire clash in March. It was good to see Bobby Stevens back in action in the first team, playing as a late substitute for the injured Fred Lockwood.

Meanwhile the Vets 2nd team lost their unbeaten record in losing 4-5 to Herts. 1. A Ray Murray double against Derek Somers and ‘Digger’ Lamprill helped save our faces in an excellent match.

The new Vets ranking list is as follows:-

1. S. Battrick
2. F. Lockwood
3. A. Stallard
4. J. Holland
5. B. Parrish
6. R. Murray
7. L. Farrant
8. R. Herbert
9. G. Booth
10. P. Morris
11. E. Todd
12. M. Cooper

At the other end of the age scale, in Junior 3 (d), our second team defeated Surrey 117-3; the team was Tony West, Bernie Lazarus, David Cole, Gillian Patten and Helen Mawbey. Bernie and David each won two singles and Gill scored a convincing win over Karen Wilde. This win probably assures the team will become divisional champions.

On the tournament front the juniors have performed solidly without gaining any more trophies. The Trust Cotswold Junior Select brought out the best in improving Steve Dorking. He progressed to the last eight with a series of fine victories. In the last sixteen he defeated Adrian Dixon (Staffs.), “deuce” in the third, then only fell at 19 in the third to the beaten finalist, and England No. 3 Chris Bartram (Kent). This must have given him the confidence to do even better in the remaining Selects of this season.

Lisa Hayden fell to the Welsh No.1, defender Evelyn Wright, in the group, but this was no disgrace. Tanya had a group of mixed fortunes in the under-17’s, defeating group winner, Helen Perrott 20 in the third, in a cracking set, scoring an easier win over Debbie Simmonds (Surrey); but losing 25-27 in the third to Sarah Webb, the Somerset defender. Helen won the group on points! In the cadet girls singles Tanya reached the last eight with a good win over Caroline Dada, Yorks No. 1 but then succumbed to Adrea Holt (Lancs), the eventual winner. Damian Holland lost in the last sixteen of the under-14 boys’ and the semi-final of the under-12 boys’ to the same player, the all-action Chris Oldfield (Yorks). I was again mightily impressed by this young man and am inclined to share Les D’Arcy’s prediction of ‘future superstar’. David Grifiths also showed up very well in the cadets. He won his group and won well against Nicky Felton (Warwicks).

Ron Foster reports elsewhere on the Martin Essex 3-Star (brilliantly organised and run, and surely the best yet) but let me mention the exploits of a few Essex faithfuls.

Kenny Jackson, semi-final with Nigel Eckersley was a classic in which he recovered from the brink at 17-20 down in the third by some heroic hitting. It would have been a super final. Stan Battrick scored a notable feat of sorcery in outsmarting the brilliant George Evans (Wales) to reach the semi-final of the. There he fell to the howitzers from that less-than-geriatric looping arm of young Ralph Gunnion (Warwicks). Richard Darnell had a good win in the Class II singles over England-ranked Martyn Smith (Avon). Tanya didn’t survive her women’s group but scored her first ever win over Alison Boxall (Herts). Lisa comprehensively beat Yvonne Hall (Leics.) in her group but became entangled in the defensive spider’s web of the Staffordshire chopper, Jill Powis. Jill won the group despite losing to Yvonne. Still Lisa’s win over Yvonne was ‘unexpected’, in the parlance of the Lentec computer, and trails in a nice bucketful of computer points for the Essex youngster. Jeannie Smith had an excellent “deuce” in the third win over Teresa Moore (Sussex).

Our senior 2nd team maintained their unbeaten status by defeating Suffolk 8-2. The team was Steve Detttar, Dave Dorking, Steve White, Lisa Hayden and Kim Mudge. Also in Division 3(d) the third team travelled to achieve a creditable draw with Sussex II. Richard Darnell scored a maximum, beating Jemmett and Rowden in singles and taking the doubles with Chris Knight. The improving Chris also beat Jemmett. The other Essex team members were Terry Halely, Liz Hammond and Jeanine Smith. The new senior ranking lists have now been issued.

County League Table

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On the National League front, in Div 2(S) Dagenham F.C. have continued their relentless winning streak at Reading (8-0) and Gunnersbury (7-1). Against Reading Daggers fielded their strongest team of Dave Newman, Tony Penny, Kevin Catterall and Steve Detttar. Stuart Gibbs came in for Dave Newman against Gunnersbury and took a maximum. Witham Town F.C. have sustained two more home defeats, both 2-6 at the hands of Dolphins (Brighton) and Gwent. Against Dolphins both Peter Hayden and Nicky Standlee beat Smith. In the Gwent match Peter beat Armstrong and Robin Lang beat Hobbs. For both matches the team was Standlee, Hayden, Lang and debutant, 17-year-old Neil Sweeting. So Witham are staying true to their promise of blooding young players but still have one foot in the abyss.

A very tense championship battle is unfolding in Div 1 of the Braintree League. It is between three teams; Witham Town, Rayne and Colne. Witham have used an astonishingly large squad of fourteen players with Ian Graham the only player to complete more than 50% of fixtures so far. Among others he is supported by Robin Laing, Mark and Neil Sweeting.
Mark has just won the Vets singles in the Chelmsford 'Closed' in his first season as an over-40. Cole feature Terry Dowsett, Martin Speight (his eighth league?)! Adam Courtney, John Andrews and Steve Kearns. The Rayne squad is Terry Pleasance, John Leigh, Mark Bannister and Michael Shortern. Witham have yet to play both Rayne and Cole so it is guess whether Witham will hang on to their narrow one point lead.

The men's singles seedings for the Brantree 'Closed' have just been issued. They are: 1. Robin Laing (the home team), 2. Terry Doughty (thrice former champion), 3. Terry Pleasance and 4. Martin Speight. Could it be the turn of in-form Terry Pleasance this year?

Please Essex Leagues don't forget to keep me informed of events in your neck of the woods. Ring Billericay 59634 or write to 41 Foxhunter Walk, B'cay, CM11 1DZ.

Alf Peppert reports from…..

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RELENTLESS PURSUIT

I wrote a small article headed, "Parents in table tennis", in December's 1983 issue. I note in the national press first week of February that - Physiotherapist Mike Varney of Tottenham Hotspur fame has put pen to paper and written the following, "School boy soccer prodigies are being burnt out by pushy parents, well you can take up to seven matches sometimes a week. Mr. Varney goes on to say that over ambitious coaches drum tactics and strategy into parents as they play up to seven matches sometimes a week. Mr. Varney mentioned.

The point I would like to make is that at several Junior tournaments I have attended over a period of four or five years there have been similar occasions when I have personally witnessed the sports victims that Mr. Varney mentioned.

Every youngster and perhaps very sports players DO NEED the services of a good understanding Coach and adviser, but both of the latter should remember at all times that they are handling people with flesh and blood inside of them, Not Silicone Robot Chips.

The time this appears in print we shall once again be coming to the end of another season of grass roots League play. Frantic efforts to stage Finals Night for some, a short lay-off for others and then all the hassle of frenzied activities for Committee men/women to commence staging plans for next season's activities.

The Provident Capital County Premier League visited Cirencester in early January. It is the intention of the CPL/Committee to move the League around the County as much as is possible, so that these matches can be seen by a wide variety of enthusiasts. The Leisure Centre at Cirencester proved again as excellent venue but spectator wise not very encouraging. However in an endeavour to try to get something concrete going in this fair Cotswold town, Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham ran a coaching session for some 14 or 15 Juniors and a small number of Adults. This took place on Sunday January 21st. Peter wishes to propose sincere thanks to Trevor Jones (who just happens to live in Cirencester) for coming along and helping out with the 3½ hour session. It is quite possible Peter may be running another coaching class over there at some future date.

Mike Maxwell our T.T.N. representative is doing a great job in and around Gloucester with his distribution of our National Magazine. Talking to our Editor last June, I asked the following question:- About how many copies of T.T.N. are sent out toreaders within the County and the Chairman thinks I'm correct when I quote George's answer as being EIGHT, thanks to Mike I am sure there are far more in circulation now.

Talking about spreading the gospel of table tennis news two comparatively new clubs in the Gloucester City League namely:- Larkhay and Cinderford have started their own Club news letters. This outward sign of enthusiasm prompted me to seek out further news of each respective club. Let's take Cinderford for starters, this club has evolved from a small group of local enthusiasts to a thriving club in less than four years.

When the Forest of Dean League wound up through lack of support in April 1979, John Freeman was determined that table-tennis in the forest area would not disappear, and together with his brothers, Craig and Dale. The former in Gloucester as most promising young player of the season and 12-year-old Dale is NO.1 3 on the Lentec ranking list. That surely can't be bad. I conclude the Cinderford Club's efforts are on a sad note. This past season they took up Headquarters in an old building at the White Hart Hotel in Cinderford. Things there, as they well know, are far from good, rain enters the building, making playing very dangerous, the building itself is very narrow, complaints have been officially lodged and are not answered.

From what I know of the Foresters and their love of table tennis, they will rise to the occasion and put what is wrong right. Just how they will do it, I don't know as yet, BUT THEY WILL.

Another up-and-coming club is Larkhay also in the City League. A very young club indeed not quite yet four years old, formed in the summer of 1980 as a direct result of the enforced closure of the Churchdown Club. The latter was formed at the start of the 1976-77 season with one team in Div. 6 and one team in Div. 8. The club's elected Officers were Alan Perrett (Sec) and Roger Smith (Treasurer). The club played at Churchdown United Services Club for four seasons and finished with teams in Divs. 4 and 6.

Building alterations found the table tennis section having to seek new premises in the summer of 1980, and this duly led to acquiring the church hall in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote. Both teams transferred to the new headquarters with Alan Perrett continuing as secretary, but with a new Treasurer Phil Jones. The teams started the 1980-1 season in Divs. 3 and 5 with a
new player Mike Maxwell who has proved the club’s most successful player gaining top averages in Divs. 2 and 3 winning the Div. 3 City singles in 1982 and partnering Alan Perrett in becoTing Intermediate doubles champions in the same year.

Meanwhile the Club’s Secretary Alan Perrett was elected on to the Gloucester T.T.A.’s ex-committee in 1982 and has since become the City’s Treasurer. Mike Maxwell was also elected to the Association’s Committee and is now the official distributor of Table Tennis News for Gloucester.

The Larkhay expanded for the 1983-4 season with three additional teams and now has teams in Divs. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7. Alan Perrett was elected Chairman, a new post this year, with Phil Jones as Secretary and Mike Maxwell as Treasurer.

The Club is now the home venue for the Gloucester City Team in the Cotswold Ladies League, and is considered amongst one of the best venues in the City League.

The Club has purchased identical shirts to be worn by all players when representing Larkhay and is under going a decorating process which has run the club’s finances to stretching point.

On the playing side the club has entered all five teams in this season’s Handicap K.O. tournament. They have had two teams in the Cheltenham Superleague and Gloucester has not got one. For the future the club realises that they will only continue to flourish if youngsters are readily available, every aspect for youth is there just waiting to be grasped, indeed their best players are juniors. Arron Beckett 16-years-old, No. 1 County Junior and ranked No. 48 on the English computer list.

The following entered The Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior, ALL local lads:- Aarron Beckett, David Smith, Howard Williams from Stonehouse, Neil Gingell from Stroud and finally Craig and Dale Saunders from Lydney.

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COUNTY REPORTS

First Senior match of the new year, Gloucestershire entertained Hunts at the C.E.G.B. just outside Gloucester. Still maintaining their unbeaten record the home side notched up their highest score of the season beating the visitors 9-1. And now with Worcestershire 2nds, Herefordshire & Northants left to play we hope to maintain the same steady play perhaps the Championship may come our way.

A special word for Hunts Helen Bardwell she won the visitors’ sole set by beating her close friend Tina Tsakarisanos -19, 19, 13. Considerable sympathy could well be shown to Hunts No.2 Jill Randell as she was called in to play at the 11th hour and was hardly up to this standard. It’s interesting to note that this was Nina’s first-ever defeat in County play at Senior level.

Gloucestershire Juniors v Sussex played at the Nailsworth Boys Club 28/1/84. In the early stages this was a match which had every indication of going Glo-shires way - David Smith, Craig Saunders and Aarron Beckett each won their respective singles at the very start of the match to give the home side a 3-0 lead, but had other ideas and Glo-shire only won one more set to eventually lost 4-6.

David Smith is to be congratulated upon winning both his singles and especially a fine -21, 7, 14 victory over Paul Elphick who was No. 24 in the Country at the time.

BETS AND PIECES

The following entered The Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior, ALL local lads:- Aarron Beckett, David Smith, Howard Williams from Stonehouse, Neil Gingell from Stroud and finally Keith Rodway from Nailsworth. There were two local lassies - Jenny Ellery and Claire Symonds from Gloucester.

Only one player who was local actually got to the finals, a lady who got to the finals that was David Smith partnered by Rodney Thomas of Bournemouth. They were beaten by the eventual champions.

One of my Stroud informants (007%) Alan Lardner tells me that in a recent 1st Div Stroud League match well known veteran singles at Andrew Golding 16,21 and thus ended Andrew undefeated singles run in the Stroud League since 1977. Andrew is the County’s current No.3.

Also from Stroud, Dave Lewis reports record breaking doubles. In the 1st Div Woodchester “B” beat Forest Green 6-4, nothing unusual about that. But the doubles pairing of Alan Giles and Paul Bowcott overcame Peter Harris and Robin Wynyn in what must rate the marathon doubles set of the year, 28-26, 32-34, and 41-39 PHEW - that’s surely a game and a game again.

And finally the Prean’s (January) report captioned - "The Isle of Wight and Beyond". Now I always enjoy reading other peoples report, but as far as I could make out only one person from the 1.0.W. had any specific mention, emphasis was greatly on the beyond aspect. Could we all have a little bit more news please John of OTHER players and activities on that lovely little Island home of yours, I’m sure it would be appreciated.

David Cosway reports from.....

HAMPISHIRE

WINNING WAYS

Only one full set of county matches since my previous report. The senior team continue their winning way at the top of their division with a 9-1 defeat of Somerset. Graham Green lost the one when deputising for Derek Holman. If they get past the Isle of Wight later this month, only Berkshire on March 31 stand between them and the championship. The Isle of Wight match is to be played at Hambledon, and I do not think that even the importing Dunlop increase is likely to affect Carl Prean this time. It is the other sets Hampshire must win! The junior team continue to disappoint. I thought they had a good squad this season but they have failed to put their game together at county level. They followed their 3-7 defeat by Wiltshire with a similar loss to Avon. Sarah Hammond won her singles and combined with Caroline Jenvey to win the girls’ doubles but the only boys’ success was Christos Hannides winning one singles. The Veteran A team followed their 1-8 loss to Hertford by going down 2-7 to Sussex. Ray Lush and Ged Holly win a singles apiece for Hampshire. The Veteran B team put their chances of the Div. 3B championship in jeopardy when they trailed Dorset 2nd 3-4. At this stage Maurice Shave from 15-20 down in the third fought back to win 22-20 against M. Toole and then John Harvey clinched the 5-4 win in his final singles. Ken Giles won both his singles as did Maurice.

Two fine home wins by Jaques Generation since Christmas in the premier division of the National League. A 6-2 win over Tibbar London, with Prean winning 2 but taken to 19 in the third by David Woolston and Prean won 2 and Mark Oakley and Tony Clayton one each. The 4-4 draw with Ormesby produced all one could expect from a spectator point of view but I would think Generation must be a little disappointed at the crowds they attract. Surely there are more people who could support this go-ahead club. Prean and Cooke again won their two sets but a sadly out-of-touch Ian Kenyon and the improving Oakley failed to score. Mark has come on immensely this season and is now almost a very good player! It only needs a few more points per game to put him well up the rankings. Dutch No.1, Henke van
Spanje, lost his first sets of the season, and his cause was not helped when his serve was called on several occasions.

Speaking to National Umpire Graham Quinn after the game, I understand that van Spanje was in fact called for three occasions.

Some of his serves are below the table, some are served straight off his hand while others are served with the ball behind his body. Yet he says he was not foul served at all at the English Open! I really do think the service situation is getting slightly out of hand. Of course players should be called if they foul service but consistence must be shown by the umpires. I watched the English Open at Brighton and V. Broda was serving similarly right through the competition but was not called until the last game of the final. Quite rightly he could not understand what he had done differently.

Some umpires it would appear are out for a quiet life and do not want to cause controversy. The new laws do, unfortunately, make it very difficult to spot bad service but I wonder whether there is not something we can do to make the service less crucial to the winning of the point. Even at local level the service now dominates. But how can it be changed? Therein may lie the answer to one of the many problems that beset our game, but a clamp-down throughout by all umpires may help to change the ways of the errant server!

The Hampshire Junior Closed held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton on Jan. 15 attracted one of the best entries over-and-much-larger than the senior event. The quality, especially in the younger categories, was also encouragingly high. Portsmouth's Mark Wilding retained his boys' title from an entry of 57. In the semi Andrew Davies of Aldershot beat Jason White of Basingstoke 20, 18 while Mark beat Alan Charles of Southampton 13, 15. Mark won the final.

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tising and maintains her interest, she will win a lot of matches for us.

We'll need kind remarks of Laurie Selby and of course Murray Corbin, particularly at a time when one is under fire elsewhere. I am a supporter of the County Championships and that is why I feel entitled to criticise them at times in the hope of making them better.

Our 1st Division is over bar the annual prize giving. Ryde (Jim Daly, Mike Turner and Roger Tolfrey) have quietly established a winning lead. Main interest therefore is around who will be second. Philip Nicholls won our Junior Ranking tournament without losing a game. This was a tie for second place between Matthew Kittle, Robert Waterhouse and Julian Ury. 26 took part, better than for some years, if not quite up to the great days when every junior event attracted over 40, a great help to one young player.

That is what English Table Tennis needs again. I have little sympathy with the cries of those who do not wish us to combine and vision. It is time we combined again in such an enterprise. It needs a decision of considerable imagination and vision. It is time we combined again in such an enterprise. It needs a major act of faith to pull English Table Tennis out of its present decline, a time to be brave.

Philip Reid reports from....

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEAGUE AFFAIRS

With nothing much happening on the County Championships front, I will switch to the leagues in the county, by courtesy of Terry Bown (editor of Leicester's "Top Spin") and John Shade who edits Hinckley's "Loop". The Hinckley League junior side playing in the Carter Cup beat Stafford 5-1 and await the winners of Nottingham and Leicester to see who tackle next. David Grundy lost the first set against Stafford but some inspired play by Marcus Bellot and Kevin (Peroxide) Woodhead gave Hinckley a well-deserved win.

In the Holt Cup, Kingscroft or EM EB will play Castle Mead in the final. Kingscroft, leading Division 1 with the seemingly ageless John Iliffe still 100% look as though they might perform the double, despite strong challenges in the league from Castle Mead and Brockington. In the second division two Ashby Parva teams are locked together at the top with 77 points each but Malcolm Shield (Croft), with 100% tops the individual averages. In Div. 3 Ferry-Pickering are leading, thanks to S. Carson-Rowland who has lost only once in 33 outings. Downes Sports top Div. 4 but - oddly - it is a member of Ashby Parva who tops the averages - by the name of Alec Downes!

On the Leicester League front, the veterans lost 9-1 to Nottingham, only a doubles win preventing a "white-wash". In the league Div. 1 is led by holders Knighton Park and they, like Chris Rogers, are 100%. John & Shipman, spearheaded by Colin Truman and the enthusiastic Graham Hibberd, are ahead in the second division whilst Div. 4 sees Post Office hanging on to the lead with Alan North (Kingfishers) topping the averages. Dave Roche spearheads Rolls Royce in Div. 5 whilst Braunstone Avenue top Div. 6 with British Shoe's Peter Simpson still 100%. Div. 7 is headed by University, Nigel Burke (LUCA) topping the averages.

Desford Tubes are in top spot in Div. 8 but LBS's Steve Wright tops the averages. Raj Modha, leading Ewforth to the top of Div. 9 whilst the young Groby side top Div. 10 with Dave Berry (County Hall) and Mick Box (British Shoe), with 89%, jointly topping the averages. Eric Jackson's 100% means that Magna Travellers top Div. 11 although I have heard that Jonathan Read (Knighton Park) has spoiled Eric's - with an expeditious win - unusual so far down the league. Promoted from Div. 18 last season, Newark have thoroughly justified the committee's huge jump in them to Div. 12 by being 100% at the half way stage with Shrikant Naran heading the individual averages. Wigston Fields head Div. 13 with the experienced Brian Leeson (County Hall) 100%. Div. 14 sees Pollards Social heading the chart, no doubt inspired by Mick Wann's 100%.

Similarly Paul Morley's 100% sees National Westminster Bank leading Div. 15 and Michael Welsch's 100% has enabled British Shoos top Div. 16. Vernon Bardsley (City Council) tops Div. 17 but it is fellow newcomers Wanlip who lead the way.

There are two resignations in the offing in the Leicester League next season. Ian Holdridge, who has done such a magnificent job as press correspondent for the "Leicester Mercury" has decided to call it a day whilst Div. 7 secretary Simon Grew, after only one season of excellent service has graduated to Cambridge and he will be sorely missed both from an administrative and playing point of view. Finally, a couple of mistakes I would like to correct in the January edition of the 'News'. Ian Brown (Leicester) was amongst those who attended the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed, thus putting up their entry by 50%. The other correction was pointed out by Norman Pegg Competition (3 women), and South West Middlesex are uncontent if our Premier teams win their Divisions!

Our Ranking Lists were examined in January and the lists show remarkably little change. In the top 10 of the Men's list, Mark Mitchell has dropped from No.3 to No.5 and John Souter has been promoted from 5 to 3. Tony Stark has been dropped from the No.9 place (he seems to have dropped out of table tennis) and Percy Collino has been promoted from No. 12 to take the vacancy. On the Ladies' List, Angela Mitchell has been toppled from the No.1 position she has held so long. This in no way reflects on Angela's performance, but just indicates the improved standard of Sarah Sandley who takes her place. Further down the list, Sally Prowen has been dropped with the subsequent promotion of Rachel Knight and Lesley Souter, now 7 and 8, and Jan Svenson and Gillian Blench have come in at 9 and 10. So far as the Boys' list is concerned, Chris Herbert and Kevin Lewis have changed places (now 4 and 5 respectively) and so have Philip Szerkeres and Lee Nokes (currently 6 and 7). The Girls' List has altered even less; the only difference is that So Ching Man has been brought in at No. 9 and the rest have been pushed down one place.

Everything is going ahead for the Middlesex Junior Closed although, as usual, entries are not coming in very fast. Why do players leave posting their entries until the last minute? And then they get upset if the entry is not accepted! The event is being held at Avenue School on 3rd and 4th March.

Our Inter-League Championships are proceeding well, and at the halfway stage Willesden are unbeaten in the Victor Barna Competition (3 men), North Middlesex are unbeaten in the Norman Pegg Competition (3 women). Wembley 1st are unbeaten in the Birmingham Competition (Juniors), and South West Middlesex are unbeaten in the Ted Connell Competition (Veterans). Does this mean that our
winners are already decided? Or will there be a come-back from some other League to upset the final outcome?

Finally I have had a letter from Harold Pearce who tells me that Lensbury Table Tennis club, which plays in the Central League, is holding their Golden Jubilee Dinner at the main headquarters at Broom Road, Taddington, Middlesex, on Friday 30th March. The occasion will also mark the 50th year in table tennis of Harold and of Phyllis Lauder, both of whom are founder members of the Club. If anyone is interested in going along, tickets are available, price £1 10s. 0d. from George de Villiers, 33 Priory Road, Acton Green, London W4 5JA, telephone 01-995 0071. We hope the occasion will go well and send our best wishes to both Harold and Phyllis, who have both given so much to our sport.

Don Pritchard reports from.....

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Apologies for lack of information so far but we now hope to put this right until the end of the Season.

In Men’s Division 1 Burton and Cheltenham are leading the way. Burton have yet to lose a match and Potteries “A” had been defeated by Cheltenham “A” 9-1 in the latest match played. Burton is in second place after losing to Stratford 7-3. In Junior Div. 2 Bromsgrove and Loughborough are challenging strongly for the lead. The first team was round 5 5-7 against Coventry “B” and the second team played 5-5 against Wolves “B” 9-1.

Wolves “A” in Men’s Div. 3 are yet unbeaten but they are closely followed by Cheltenham “A” who beat Coventry “B” 8-2 and Market Drayton 6-4. Leamington “A” beat Shrewsbury 7-3 and second-placed Kidderminster beat Wolves “A” 6-4. MIDDLETOWN “B” lost to Wolverhampton 6-4 but losing to the team that should they have any difficulties the next time playing.

In National League Norwich Foxwood have played two more matches, both of which ended as draws - the same result as the first half. This leaves the team still unbeaten but we notice that the team’s matches against the top twelve-year-old. Let us hope that he retains his interest in the sport as he grows up and we should have another England-ranked senior player.

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It must be a record - Norfolk having three men in the rankings as issued by the computer. Richard Stevenson in the Seniors, Philip Logsdon in the Juniors, and Neil Pickard in the cadets. A brief moment of glory for Richard as I see in the current list which has just arrived that he has now disappeared from the top 150. Philip on the other hand is still there, and playing National League, County and competing in some tournaments should remain there in his last season as a junior. He also has achieved an ambition to be both Junior and Senior champion of Norfolk and must be ranked in the County as No.1 player at both levels. It seems strange not to have Doug Bennett at No.1 after all these years but Doug does not practise so much these days, and certainly does not worry too much about losing in league matches like he used to. Playing in National League fixtures however he gives his all even though he has been demoted to No.2.

Neil seems to improve every time I see him and no player in this County be they senior or junior can presume they have got an easy draw if they come up against this five foot nothing twelve-year-old. Let us hope that he retains his interest in the sport as he grows up and we should have another England-ranked senior player.

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official. D.I.Y. may be alright for league matches but not in front of an audience. The other problem we had was a fairly common one in that people nip out for a natural break between sets and then come back and break the concentration of the players usually at a crucial point. We are asking for doors to be blocked whilst play is in progress and anyone who leaves the hall to listen for a game to end before coming in.

In the King’s Lynn championships all I have managed to glean is that Peter Hallicott beat Roger Lewis in the final (both players from Cambs) but in the junior final Norfolk’s Stephen Fox beat Halliday. At Wymondham David Unwin beat Stephen Howlett. Stephen must be getting a bit fed up with these players who suddenly come through to the final as last year Simon Steward beat him. Unwin from Thetford has been away from the action for some time after being a successful junior, but has returned to some effect. Les Rayment reckons he is among the best we have in Norfolk.

Met Geof Keer of the Diss League recently. This club has only recently affiliated to the County and seems to be going from strength to strength. It consists of players mainly from the local area, that is the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk and Geof says there are none of the big guns from Ipswich coming to medal hunt. It is a truly rural area but not true that some teams have to move the pigs out of the way before a match.

The Personality of the League must be Yvette Brown who now lives and works in the area although still playing there are none of the big guns from Essex II. A Junior to watch in my humble opinion is Louise Winter. At 14 has the build, temperament and enthusiasm to make the name known. I will watch her progress with interest.

An exhausting 12 hours has just been spent by the organising committee mainly Dennis and Margaret Calver) at the Norfolk Junior Championships, 91 Juniors of various ages, talents and sizes competed at the Carter Leisure Centre in my home village of Drayton. This venue took the place of Dereham School which became unavailable after many years. It turned out that this new venue was what we had needed for a long time, roofed for the tables, warm with plenty of room for spectators - of whom there were many.

Suffice to say dozens of games were played, no tears were apparent, and many youngsters went home tired and happy, and we hope looking forward to next year. The only set I will mention is that which normally ends Junior Championships and quite often fails to live up to its possibilities - the boys’ U.17 final. This year however words cannot describe the interest and tension of this match between Logsdon and Simon Steward. Three hard games with all the shots in the book and a few out of it. Philip triumphed at 19 in the third eventually but both players were applaudled off the court.

Our thanks for the sponsorship from Taverham Garden Centre towards these championships. (an off-the-cuff remark heard after the match was that match was played between Gordon Logsdon and John Vaughan - though they were not on court).

Our each Anglian League staggerers from match to match, the interest seems to have gone from this once prestigious competition. I am sure it could once again become what it used to be. Someone somewhere must have some ideas how to re-vamp it. It is only through Stan Honor that the League exists at all now. Incidentally Stan qualified as a County Umpire in December.

In the Wimlott Cup Norwich have now to travel to Birmingham in the zone final after beating North Hunts. 9-0. Whatever happened to the Norwich Rose Bowl entry?

Dennis Millman reports from…..

NORTHANTS

FIFTH SUCCESSIVE WIN

Yet again it is the County Juniors who get the lion’s share of the honours in County Championship matches. Although the confident way they gained a fifth successive win this season when they defeated Worcestershire, makes one wonder, and not for the first time, why such talented players fail to make a greater impact at senior level.

On this occasion the boys Andy Edmonds, Andy Trott and Richard Bashford won the singles, while the girls Maxine Shears and Donna Furniss had to be content with the doubles. Edmonds was particularly impressive with his second straight singles win giving Northants a winning lead, and Trott showed commendable determination in eroding a huge third end deficit to take the final rubber and so give Northants a fifth successive win.

Northants Firsts also ended on the winning side but unfortunately the victims were Northants Seconds who nevertheless put up a resolute battle before going down 3-7. As usual Graeme McKim and Ian Hawes were in fine form taking five sets between them, while Glennis Hooper and Dorothy Marsh won a close doubles. It was nice to see Tim Chamberlain and Phil Snelling return to the county ranks but Chamberlain must have viewed his comeback with mixed feelings as he went down to both Snelling and Stew. West. Margaret Malty still riding high after her deserved but unexpected singles campaign in the Midland Bank County Closed added the additional point.

The Veterans received a heavy defeat at the hands of Cheshire for whom Mike Tew and Syra Lynnychs impressed. Keith Jones and Joyce Porter fully extended the opposition but a solitary singles from Jones was the only reward.

Even this was greater reward than either Keith or Joyce received at the recent Northampton League Tournam­ent for when play ended at 11.30 p.m. neither had won a title. However when examined more closely this was almost certainly due to the organisers decision to play both women’s singles and doubles on Friday evening, with an open hard-bat event on the Saturday, a decision not readily acceptable to the ladies who normally play a prominent part in the final proceedings.

Keith had a different problem, for when time was called at 11.30 he remained unbeaten in five different events with the impossible prospect of eight further sets to complete. Now having rested on his laurels, he can look forward to a new date when hopefully he can add to his already impressive list of honours.

Results of Completed Events:


On the league scene, the attempt of McKim, Handsaw and Edmonds to win three league titles seems likely to founder on the lack of supporting players at Northampton, where since the start of the campaign both Ashley Bennett and Nat Richardson appear to have abdicated from the Lings ranks, leaving the side vulnerable to the kind of opposition always provided by Abington Nomads Keith Jones, Brian D’Hooghe and Tim Chamberlain.

At Wellingborough, with Brian D’Hooghe and Mark Nannery completing a Chapman’s quintet, things seem more promising, with Chapman’s holding a substantial lead over Electricity as the following table indicates.

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<td>Higham ‘A’</td>
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At Kettering the situation is more encouraging although Rothborough ‘A’, with Keith Nicoll, Ken Nicoll and David Steele in full flow, have produced some splendid results of late but McKim’s fleetness of foot is likely to inspire his Town colleagues to even greater things.

Luton League Table

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<td>Thrapston ‘A’</td>
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<td>Wellingborough Town</td>
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Pauline Long reports from.....  

NORTHUMBERLAND  DOORSTEP PRIVILEGE

On January 23, we were privileged to see top class table tennis on our doorstep when the Japanese team made their first visit to Tyneside to play a friendly match against England at Gateshead Leisure Centre.

They could not have picked a worse night from the point of view of spectators, as the snow and icy road conditions kept the crowd down to about 150. Those who were able to get to the venue were treated to an entertaining match in which Japan just had the edge. Graham Sandley lost the last set of the night to former world champion Seiji Ono, and England, who at the time led 3-2, eventually won 4-3. Carole Moore produced the home country’s best performance by beating Ono in her singles encounter and partner Alison Gordon to victory in the women’s doubles. England’s other success was in the men’s doubles, which was won by Sandley and Alan Cooke.

The Northumberland County Junior side, had yet another 10-0 victory, this time away to Lincolnshire on Jan 21. Keith Patterson, Thomas Blackman, Peter Curry, Clare Mouzon and Denise Wilkinson were all unbeaten. They now have only one match left to play, against Lincolnshire’s first team who are second in the table, and as the latter team have already lost one match against their neighbours, a sensational defeat to stop Northumberland from winning the Div. 3A title. All three boys, in fact, have yet to lose a singles set, and in the first five matches, only four sets in all have been conceded.

The Tyneside Summer League representative sides had mixed fortunes in the National Knock-Out competitions. In the Wilmott Cup, the senior men were represented by Dave McAllister, Malcolm Lusk and Andy Hammett, but they were beaten 0-6 by the Sunderland League. However, the Cater Cup team (David Watson, Darren Shaw and Damien Linskil) entertained the Stockton League, and duly won 5-1, with David and Darren taking two sets each, and Damien one. They will face an uphill task in the next round, however, as they will take on the highly successful Northumberland League side of Keith Patterson, Thomas Blackman and Peter Curry - the full County junior side.

The outlook continues to be bleak for the Byker Newcastle first team in Div. 1 of the Halex National League. They lost 1-7 away to Grove Market Drayton, with Tony Gelder beating Phil Bowen to take the lone set, but fared even worse at the hands of Tarmac Wolverhampton by failing to take even one set in a 0-8 defeat.

The second team also suffered two heavy defeats, by 1-7 against South Yorkshire II (Peter Curry winning the only set), and by 0-8 to South Yorkshire III. However, they gained a very creditable draw with fourth-placed Ormesby III to salvage another precious point, and results of that match (Byker Newcastle names list are as follows):

BYKER NEWCASTLE II 4; ORMESBY III 4

Ray McMeekin bt Craggs 10-12, 6-4; bt Dave Craggs 10-12, 6-4; bt Dave Craggs 10-12, 6-4.

The next important date for the juniors will be the Northumberland Junior Closed Tournament on Feb. 25 at Scatsoots Wood Sports Centre. Details will appear in the April edition of “Table Tennis News”.

Gerald Green reports from.....

SHROPSHIRE  NATIONAL LEAGUE

In a tense Division I match Grove just managed to force a draw at home against Ormesby. The Drayton side had a bad start when Jonathan Hilton lost his first set of the season - to Scottish International John Broe. A tired Hilton arrived from the ‘Open’ at Brighton only minutes before he was due to play and struggled to find form against the sharp Scot. Matters then deteriorated as Steve Scowcroft struggled in similar fashion and could not cope with the quick attacking style of Lindsay Taylor. Phil Bowen then beat Kevin Green with a splendid all-round display of attack but Malcolm Green was unable to maintain momentum against Steve Brunskill. It all came down to Hilton's third and leave Grove 1-3 in arrears. Hilton then proved too experienced for Taylor and although Scowcroft really struggled against Brunskill he showed his character to win comfortably in the third. Bowen couldn’t match the consistency of a determined Broe, which left Grove 3-4 down. To his credit Malcolm Green gave a fighting performance in the all-important last set to beat his namesake Kevin and save the day for Grove.

Grove 2 suffered another reverse when they found Pengelly Sports too strong for them and lost 0-8. However they did gain a 5-3 victory over Solihull and so completed the double over the Birmingham side. Man of the match was Colin Wilson with two wins, with Keith Sillitoe and brothers Stan and Joe Deakin contributing one each.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Telford’s A and B teams crashed in the final fixture in Division 3, the A team of D. Elkin, M. Langford and G. White beating the B team of D. Russell, G. Clibborn and R. Fettes 7-3. So the A side have suffered only one defeat all season and finished with ten points from their six games. The B side finished with three points.

Telford Veterans played their last Div. 2 fixture and now have to sit back and wait to see if they get promotion. The team of M. Beaman, N. Maycock and J. Holding travelled to Coventry and came away with an 8-2 win. Averages: Beaman 18/21, Holding 13/21 and Maycock 10/21.

Unbeaten performances by Malcolm Green and Paul Barnett enabled Grove to record an impressive 7-3 win against Coventry. Neither of the players were troubled and Grove’s third player young Tim McGill gained valuable experience at Senior level.

TOURNAMENTS

Players from the Grove gave good performances in the Cotswold Junior Open with 10-years-old Claire Marshall taking full advantage of the draw to reach the last 16. Victoria Boyd underlined her recent progress when beating England-ranked Carolyn Bateman. Dawn Wickstead gave another fine performance to reach the last 16 before losing a close set against No.1 seed Claire Potts. McGill was in typical fighting form to reach the closing stages of the Cadet boys’ singles before losing by the closest of margins to Justin Goodall of Pontesbury. Goodall had played splendidly to oust England-ranked Nick Ryder and Colin White of Devon before losing a superb set to finalist Bradley Billington of Derbyshire.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Shropshire Schools Individual championship honours went to an outsider.

The championships attracted a large entry with the eight events being keenly contested and tournament favourites justifying their top seed places.

But a stranger to Shropshire competitions, Louise Davis, the England-ranked junior and Worcestershire county star, proved to be the most successful player on view.

Davis qualified for the competitions as a pupil at Bridgnorth’s Oldbury Wells School. In fine style, she captured both the under-19 and under-16 girls’ titles.

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Ashcroft, the top seed, emerged victor over Townsend in an excellent final. Both semi-finals proved to be closely contested with T. Hanley losing to Ashcroft and Townsend the narrow victor over Marshall.

Under-11 boys’ singles saw the closest of all the semi-finals as Edward Knighton of Market Drayton Junior emerged victor after beating clubmate Paul Ainsworth, of Woore Primary School 23-21, in the deciding game. Both boys displayed a range of shots beyond their years.

34
In the under-13 girls' singles, there was victory for Victoria Boyd at 19 in the decisive over schoolmate Johanna Dyke in the final in which the two Grove School pupils gave an excellent display of attacking play.

The strength of Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, was the dominant factor in the under-13 boys' singles with Simon Cooper a close winner over David Morris in an excellent final.

Cooper had reached the final with a series of hard hitting displays beating Grove's Andrew Boughey and Gregory Lovatt and the Pontesbury duo of Adrian Phillips and Andrew Crowther. Meanwhile Morris faced a string of schoolmates with Chris Day, Neil Thomas and, in the semi-final Paul Corfield, all victims of the talented Mary Webb player.

In the under-16 girls' singles the England-ranked starlet, Davis, captured the first of her two titles when she beat Grove School's Stephanie Thornecroft in the final.

It was Thornecroft who upset the seeding with the defeat of schoolmate Dawn Wickstead in the semi-finals. Julie Bloor fell to Thornecroft in the quarterfinals. Johanna Dyke displayed excellent form to reach the semis before losing to Davis who, one round earlier, had beaten Grove girl Nicola Thornecroft.

Telford's Paul Fisher was the winner in the under-16 boys' singles final. He scored a win over Mary Webb's Cooper. The tournament favourite, David Williams (Grove) fell to Fisher in the semi-finals, John Lumley, of Mary Webb was in tremendous form before losing to Cooper in the semi-final. Williams had hard fought wins over Shrewsbury's Gary Thompson and Pontesbury's Darrell Corfield.

In the under-19 girls' singles, Davis had a well deserved final win, but was extended by Grove's Alison Barker. Sisters Nicola and Stephanie Thornecroft were the semi-finalists. Nicola reached her semi by outstaying Gina Brown and Dawn Wickstead.

Top seed in the under-19 boys' singles Colin Wilson, stamped his authority on the competition beating the in-form Fisher to retain the title he won a year ago. Tim McGill and John Lumley, both impressed before losing to Wilson and Fisher respectively.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS

The younger age groups kept Shropshire's flag flying in the area finals of the National Schools team championships. The matches were played at the Grove and resulted in Market Drayton Junior U-11 Boys, Grove U-11 Girls and Mary Webb, Pontesbury U-13 Boys all qualifying for the Regional finals. Already through to this stage are Market Drayton Junior, School U-11 Giris. It was a disastrous day for the highly rated Grove U-16 Boys and U-19 Giris. Both potentially strong teams they had to be content with runners-up spots.

GRADE SINGLES

Grove players dominated the January Graded Singles tournament taking all five sections.

Colin Wilson repeated his November success in Grade 'A'. He emerged victorious despite suffering defeat in the Group matches at the hand of Justin Goodall. Wilson turned the tables when the two clashed in the final.

The fine unbeaten display in Grade 'B' gave Grove's improving Karen Rogers a well-deserved success against Matthew Jeffery in the final. The most deserving victor of the day must have been the reliable Ray Gibson who underlined his recent superb progress by taking the Grade 'C' title.

Grove's Paul Brown also underlined his progress in Grade 'D' by beating clubmate Audrey Barnett in the final.

Claire Marshall took Grade 'E' after a series of hard fought matches, with Jonathan Day of Pontesbury her final victim.

SHROPSHIRE INTER CLUB LEAGUE

The League went ahead despite Oswestry teams being snowbound. Shrewsbury went to the top of Div. 1, and with one series of matches remaining in section two a bright finish is inevitable. The Shrewsbury duo of Ian Baker and Keith Williams were in excellent form to beat the former leaders Stafford 3-1. Baker was unbeaten. The Shrewsbury pair continued in good form to beat Grove Kidsgrove 4-0 and Telford 3-1 with Baker again unbeaten.

Grove Clayton went to the top of 2 following victories by the Barry Turner, Adrian Brolore duo over Pontesbury Lefties 4-0. They also beat Grove Farcroft 4-0. Grove Salisbury proved to be a different proposition and with Tim McGill beating Turner and Brian Eaton beating Brolore the result was a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Grove Alexandra and Grove Bughtingsdale remain unbeaten at the top of Div. 3 with the Alexandra duo of Matthew Jeffery and Steven Eaton unbeaten against Grove Ercall and Jeffery repeating the dose against Grove Walkmill, where his team registered a 3-1 win. Simon Stones and Simon Edwards of Bughtingsdale gave Grove Hinstock a severe 4-0 beating and went on to hammer Grove Norton 4-0 despite a promising performance by Audrey Barnett.

Tony Carey reports from ...
EXETER ONE-STAR JUNIOR
Feb. 11.

Somerset hordes were once again heading West to seek fulfilment and confidence boosters and to gain experience for the future.

This tournament has suffered some criticism in the past in relation to the late timing of events, but I would say that this one went a long way to dispel this past reputation, with very hard-working Exeter officials hardly having time to partake of sustenance the whole day. They kept matters flowing quite smoothly without too much time-wasting, but as in all tournaments these days the time-table was upset by third game sets. But I saw this as a healthy sign of the pronounced improvement which is being made at all ages and a pointer to its healthy future.

My one and only criticism which I know will be taken in the spirit in which it is meant, is that a larger array of official umpires suitably attired would have given that little extra polish "which the occasion demanded. The comment made in the column last season, that "A defeated player is less likely to concentrate on umpiring a match in an event for which they have no further part to play and could upset the players for whom they are officiating." But I will give credit to the officials for ensuring that all Semis and Finals were given an adult umpire.

Now all that has been said, I will continue with the interesting part, mainly who won what. As in the Gloucester Tournament, there were ups and downs in our fortunes. Some examples are a surprise, One of the big shocks for our contingent was the eclipse of Bryan by Payne in the boys'. This came after Philip had struggled through previous sets and Mark was on song. So this time the cat caught the canary, and reached the final to meet a very fine player in Rodney Thomas who survived a tough semi against the Cornwall No 1, Mark James. This seemed to activate Rodney into top gear against our Philip.

But undaunted Somerset fans - we still had some present - and future talented players gave the Somerset flag a concerted push up the flag-pole of the victory rostrum. The major honours went to Melanie, playing to her No.1 seeding, in winning the U14 girls' singles title, beating that fine up-and-coming Devon girl, Jane Wright, in the final, who had previously knocked out the No. 2 seed, Julie Norman of Berkshire in a fine semi. I am sure Adrian will be working very hard with Jane before they meet again to produce a counter to the new serves and topspins which Melanie had developed since they last met. But our success was not only about the win of Melanie but of the general performance of our fledglings. You can be sure that they will not be allowed to rest on their laurels but will be encouraged to further heights.

Melanie made it a fine double when she partnered another much-improved player, Avon's No.1 Helen Parrott, to win the U17 girls' doubles heading Wiltshire's Claire Hunter and Jenny Neale, who had put out Sara Webb and Sarah Hammond in the semis, with a good understanding of each other's play.

The U17 girls' final saw Helen and Sarah Hammond in opposition, as in last year's tournament, with the tenacity of Sarah pulling her through in the end. Well played, Sarah and hard luck, Helen - almost another double. Sarah Webb seeded No.1, was beaten by Helen in the semis.

But the weekend was not over yet, as the Bridgewater girls had a vital competition the next day, this being the 3rd round of the Bromfield Trophy, at home on Sunday afternoon to a strong Bournemouth team of Samantha Scott-Pawson, Suzanne Hegarty and Tracy Scott Pawson. Our team was Melanie Clark against Kate and Kate Lines. We expected a hard battle when we heard they had beaten Swindon in the previous round, but our forecast proved to be right when the first set went to Suzanne two-straight against Sarah. The next was between Melanie and Tracy with the first going our way 21-23. Then it was all to play for the second, but in the third Melanie's game started to flow fluently as we have seen so often in the Bridgewater Premier and Bristol 1st Division and she won 21-7. This levelled the score at one-all. The next set went to Samantha against Kate 12 and 8. This put Bournemouth in the driving seat again, but only for a short period as Melanie gave another display of her talents with good spin serves, loops and smashes to beat Suzanne 11 and 17 and put us levelpegging again. The next set brought together two of the finest styles in Sarah and Samantha and a good match looked in prospect but once again we fell behind with the greater experience of Samantha proving decisive and winning 10 and 14. We slipped further behind when Kate lost to Tracy 15 and 17.

The point was really on at this stage with Bournemouth leading 4-2, and the big clash between Melanie and Samantha to come. And what a battle this proved to be, with Samantha winning the first 21-13. Then Melanie came storming back in the second to win 21-19 and continued the momentum to clinch the set at 19 in the third - and we were once more in with a chance. The crunch came in the next set between Kate and Suzanne. The first game went to Suzanne 15 and you could sense the air of an imminent victory in the Bourne10uth camp. However, our Kate seemed to be fired with renewed determination to show what a fine player she is, and this she proceeded to do in the next two, gaining confidence as her serves and backhand topspin shots hit their targets, winning her the two games 13 and 10. And the smile of satisfaction on her face lit up the whole room, at the same time easing our tensions like a drowning man clutching a lifebelt.

This win put the whole match back on a knife-edge again, the final set being between Sarah and Tracy and with that clash to decide the winners I would have hesitated to put a set on the result. What a nerve-racker it proved to be with Sarah winning the first 21-15, then Tracy fought back to win the second 21-17 and the tension showed in the faces of both players. But in the third Sarah produced the more steady and aggressive play to win 21-14. Well played, all and young girls of both teams and for competing with the true spirit of a team effort and true sportsmanship.

Thank you also, Allan, for your sincere congratulations and good luck wishes for the next round. My one regret on that day was the total lack of support from the Exe, but I hope the Bridgewater and Exeter officials will attend in large numbers for the District fraternity in a spectator capacity, especially regarding the younger ones who will have to step into the shoes of today's stars as they move up in age groups. More esprit de corps required in the coaching! I gained us the match by a tick against Bournemouth and now in, one of then1 being selection for the Bournemouth camp. However, our U16s, with the performance of our fledglings. You can be sure that they will not be allowed to rest on their laurels but will be encouraged to further heights.

Since my last report a lot of water has passed under the bridge, and I am afraid it has carried with it the hopes of a Somerset Senior or Junior team making that great leap forward that I predicted at the start of the season. Various factors have been contributory to the position we are now in, one of them being selection problems in picking our county teams when dates clash with tournaments in which our top Juniors are competing, thus preventing their inclusion in Senior teams, which we hoped to do and for which some are challenging - a healthy sign. Also, some players to whom I was looking to spearhead the was head either suddenly lost form or had a sudden loss of form and therefore instead of being able to select from the pinnacle of our pyramid, we have had to call on either older players, who have given good service in the past, or younger players who may by their style of play cause some confusion in the minds of less experienced players whom they meet in their local leagues.
and other county teams. We have had some degree of success with this ploy, but some players have had their confidence jolted when they have met good opponents. I suppose philosophically we can look on this season as “swings and roundabouts”. This is alright for a brief period of transition, but will not get us on that launching pad and the road to higher things, for which we had high hopes.

But all is not gloom and despondency, as I am happy to report that we still have some very determined Juniors putting up some very encouraging performances in their local leagues of Bridgwater, Yeovil and, in some instances, in the Bristol 1st Division, gaining that vital ingredient experience which with hard work leads to excellence and being winners - the most vital factor in the game. I know that I will be challenged on my last statement within my territory, but I also know that others will agree.

I am pleased to report that our current No 1 boy, Mark Bryant, is back in action and showing his best form in the Bridgwater Premier League for PCA and a county match the following week. Our No.2 boy, Philip Payne, is also enjoying a fine run of successes in the same division, and performed very well for our senior 2nd team against Hampshire 1st with a notable set against Chris Shetler which he only lost because of a slight lack of concentration and the greater experience of his opponent. Well played, Philip, but I only wish you would practise as hard as you play matches! Our county trials for U-12 and U-14 boys and girls confirmed that the flow of promising players is still there. Some of the matches were very encouraging. There were no great ups but nearly every player by the end of the day had the satisfaction that he or she had been made to fight for every point and if their rate of progression continues unabated then the future looks very bright. For the visiting girls and Neil Harris and Kevin Lawrence both had straight wins to remain unbeaten in their singles. The other unbeaten side in Division 3B is Northants and there is the makings of an exciting climax to the season when the two teams meet at Walsall on March 31. Staffs will need to win this match as Northants have a superior sets average so good support from the County is needed on that day to help our side along.

The senior seconds are finding the pace in Div 2A rather hot. Having won their first two matches, they are now hovering very close to the relegation zone after losing the last three. The last involved a long trip to Suffolk to meet a strong home side led by John Kitchener and Stuart Palmer and the resultant 8-2 defeat was perhaps no surprise. Jill Powis was the only singles winner and with Amanda Hegarty gained a doubles win also. Dave Hanney replaced the unavailable Stan Deakin, but neither he nor Mark Evans or John Hancock were able to register a win.

In the County League, Potters A have already retained the Div 1 title with one match to play. Stafford A are the likely runners-up but they could be overtaken in the final round of matches. West Bromwich A head Div 2 although Leek A have the same number of points. Leek B have a narrow lead in Div 3, but the closest contest is forth Div 4 title with Lichfield B, Walsall C and Potters D neck and neck. Each
play one of the weaker teams in their final matches so sets average is likely to be the deciding factor, and there is only one set between the three of them at the moment. In Div. 5, Potteries E look probable winners.

**Diy. 1**
- Pts: Day 1 4 5 2 1 6
- Stafford B 6 1
- Walsall B 4 6
- Lichfield 4 1
- Stafford C 3 4
- Wolverhampton A 2 3
- W'hampton A 1 5
- Walsall A 1 4

**Diy. 3**
- Pts: Day 3 4 1 6
- Leek B 6 1
- Wolverhampton C 4 6
- Walsall C 4 1
- W'hampton C 3 4
- Stafford E 3 1
- Telford 3 4
- West Brom 1 3

**IPSWICH & DISTRICT LEAGUE**

Quarter finals in the Beattie Trophy, to be played on March 10, are as follows:- W'hampton A v Stafford; Potteries E v Walsall B; Lichfield B v Walsall C; Potteries C v Potteries D.

The finals will be held at the Woodfield Club on March 25.

The two main surprises in the Wolverhampton Closed Tournament were the unseeded Janet Dunning reaching the final of the Women’s event, beating both Jill Powis and Fiona Elliot on the way, and the defeat of Jill Powis in all three of the finals that she played. As expected, Andrew Bellingham and Jill Harris retained their singles titles.

**SUFFOLK**

Congratulations to Joyce Love on being selected as reserve umpire for the European championships in Moscow in April.

To Sue Welham and Julie Dowsett on entering the Senior Lentec Ranking List at 73 and 75 respectively.

To Andrea Ambrose, Rosemary Bullock, Karen Perkins and Lisa Mayne on being chosen to attend a trial at St. Neofs Centre of Excellence.

To 14-years-old Richard Hutchinson on having won more games than anyone else - 44 to be exact - in the Premier Division of the Ipswich and District League and finally to the two Senior and two Junior Ipswich teams who are all undefeated.

**NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The County had mixed fortunes in their competition with Garuccio, Hutchinson and Jones winning all their sets to put out North Herts in the Carter Cup whilst our girls, Julie Mortimer, Sylvia Kenyon and Claire Nicolls came away from Wolverhampton empty-handed in the Bromfield Trophy. The title holders included Angela Sanders, Jill Powis and Dawn Gardener and the vast experience of these three left our girls with plenty to think about.

The Dixon/Jukes partnership is obviously one to be reckoned with. Taking the senior pairing of Bellingham and Dixon, both boys followed up from their junior doubles win in the English Closed, and we also have to congratulate them on winning the Cotswold junior doubles more recently. Referring back to the English Closed, Staffs. players - all from Wolverhampton - figured in all three doubles finals. The County mixed champions Adrian Dixon and Amanda Hegarty won the junior mixed and Amanda, partnered by Jill Powis, lost over three in the girls’ doubles. Congratulations to all concerned.

Mike Leach, the Wolverhampton secretary, also tells me that Wolverhampton teams are again doing well in the National competitions. The girls beat Ipswich 9-0 in the Bromfield Trophy and their women’s team beat local rivals Birmingham 5-3 in the Rose Bowl. I also hear that Jim Hayward, the Wolverhampton coach and long-time County Coach is retiring at the end of this season - at least from all practical coaching. I haven’t had a chance to speak to Jim direct, but more news next month. Jim reached the 3-star coaching level in 1981 and has been closely involved with table tennis for over 45 years.

At schools’ level, Staffordshire is restricted to the formal county boundary. Nevertheless, three Staffordshire teams are through to the regional finals - the last 12 nationwide- of the ESTTA team championships. King Edward’s School, Stafford, provided the first boys’ team from the county to reach this stage, with Michael and Andrew Dilger reaching the Men’s doubles and Craig Wilson making up the under-19s team. Hanley High were the successful under-16s side, and Codsall High were surprising winners over the strong Market Drayton Grove School at the under-19 girls level.

In the New Year Lentec Computer Ranking lists there are no less than 15 entries from Staffordshire. Whilst I hold a personal view that ranking lists beyond, say, 25 have little meaning and in the case of table tennis prompt players to chase all over the country gathering points to move them up the ladder- without otherwise benefitting themselves or table tennis generally- I must nevertheless congratulate all those concerned for their hardworking efforts and success. Jill Harris is described as the best climber, moving up ten places to No.7, but she is followed by Fiona Elliot (No. 10), Amanda Hegarty (No.18), Craig Wilson (No.34) in the women’s list. Andrew Bellingham reaches his highest position, No. 23, in the men’s list, with Andrew Rich (No. 53), Craig Bakewell (No. 75), and Stan Deakin (No.108) also listed. At junior level we have, Adrian Dilger (No. 16), Richard Hayward (22), Steven Meigh (40) and Kevin Cartwright (49) in the Boys and Jill Powis (3), Amanda Hegarty (7), and Angela Sanders (25) in the Girls. Two girls feature at cadet level, Helen Lowe at No.19 and Louise Sherratt at No. 19.

Finally, if anyone reading these notes feels they have a story to tell about table tennis in Staffordshire, a news item even if only of local interest but worth recording or a point of view to express of general interest, please ring me on Stafford (0785) 822013. I will do my best to include a mention of it in this column.

Ian Bullock reports from......
and it is good to see teams from the lower divisions reaching the quarter-final stage.

**Surrey**

GLORIOUS CONFIRMATION

Bubbly Jane Barella, the Surbiton table tennis sensation, gloriously confirmed her high English ranking by taking the women’s singles title at The Challenge Trophies Surrey Senior Closed held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre.

Despite the absence of the injured Michele Hams, Jane’s win confirmed to all those doubters that she is at last reaching out for that Surrey No. 1 ranking so long held by Lorraine Garbet.

Indeed, Lorraine, who was seeded one, bowed out of the competition in the semi-final to Croydon’s Lesley Popkiewicz. Linda Clementt, current holder of the only women’s place in the Surrey first team and No. 2 seed, didn’t last long succumbing to the talents of the veteran Joan Warren.

And so to the final. . . . Popkiewicz, looking calm and relaxed, hit out well to take the first game 21-19. Barella, generally a slow starter, got her forehand loop going to perfection in the second winning easily. Although Jane looked tense in the third, she had enough determination to see her through 21-16 to become the Challenge Trophies Senior Champion.

In the Women’s Doubles, Barella and Garbet joined forces as No. 2 seeds lifting the title by defeating top seeds Warren and Popkiewicz in a superbly entertaining final.

Barella’s triple title ambitions looked through to the final to Croydon’s Lesley Popkiewicz. Linda Clementt, current holder of the only women’s place in the Surrey first team and No. 2 seed, didn’t last long succumbing to the talents of the veteran Joan Warren.

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Barella and Garbet had already found the going tough most notably in their quarter-final against Joan Warren and Emil Emecz where they scraped home 23-21 in the third.

Mike Hammond was in a mean mood in the final, however, and seemed intent on blasting his opponents into the back wall. With Baker over-hitting badly, Hammond and Garbet were too strong and thus denied Jane her maximum of titles. The Mixed title did give Lorraine her second win however.

Hammond was also involved in the Men’s Doubles final. Partnered by Andy Sexton, their opponents were the holders of the title Mark Oakley and Glen Baker.

Sexton and Hammond had already fought hard to justify their No. 2 seeding knocking out the partnerships of Hannah/Garraway and Mason/Bole. Baker/Oakley did not drop a set reaching the final.

The final itself was a really entertaining affair. One game all and the adrenalin flowing, Hammond cruised into a fighting top gear which had everyone on the edge of their seats. At “deuce” in the third, all four of the players appeared to decide that they would not lose a point no matter what and the rallies were absolutely breathtaking. But there has to be a winner, and Baker/Oakley snaffled the extra points to win 24-22. Great stuff. . . .

In the Veterans’ Singles, the performance of the tournament came from Ron Wilde when he defeated No. 1 seed Gordon Chapman. For this, Ron was awarded The Fred Joyce Memorial Trophy for the most notable achievement of the day. The most distraught competitor of the day must have been Mike Hammond reports from . . .

Photo by Murray Corbin.
Graham Brown after his first round exit in the veterans' at the hands of Ron Langheim.

The Veterans' Final was contested between two Thames Valley League players Frank Hams and No.2 seed John Garland. At one stage, Frank looked dead and buried but he fought superbly to lift the title and end what had been a keenly contested event.

The Men's Singles saw all the ranked Surrey players enter except Max Crippins. The top eight seeds all reached their quarter-final placings, Chapman being particularly impressive in thrashing Rupert Bole in round 4.

In the semi, Sexton, Hammond and Chapman all fell to higher seeded opponents, but Glen Baker disposed of third seed Steve Holloway.

David Hannah, Scottish No.1 and top seed, had struggled in round four against seed 16 Junior Facey winning only 20-15. Hannah did not seem in top gear in his semi with Mark Oakley either, but won through to the final fairly comfortably in the end.

In the other semi, second seed Nicky Mason thashed the hide off Baker. However, Nicky looked in the final as though he thought he couldn't win and had little trouble confirming his top seeding to become The Challenge Trophies Surrey Champion.

Like all recent newcomers to the Surrey scene, I always thought that the sprightly and slightly eccentric mad-cap photographer who hurtles over barriers to gain exclusive snaps of the action is nothing rabbitty but there is nothing rabbity about Murray's "illegal service". Perhaps I was hearing things...... Ho-hum......

I thought that the small band of organisers, marshalled by that man of many words, John Hammond, did extremely well before, during and after the tournament. One is always going to have the problem of a few people disappearing when it is their turn to umpire (slightly selfish this....) but other than that I was most impressed. Come on John...... If you don't run this tournament next year then who is?

The Croydon & District League held the Closed Championships at St. Mary's High School Sports Hall, a new and very satisfactory venue. The tournament was sponsored by Rodan UK Ltd.

John Somervell says "A warren is accepted as ground occupied by rabbits, but there is nothing rabbitty about the Purley Warren family." (Brilliant...... You should be writing this column, Johnny ) Connie and Joan, the husband and wife team of former internationals, claimed three singles titles between them plus a share in a doubles one. Joan avenged her defeat in last year's women's final at the hands of Lesley Popkiewicz, and Connie, having squeaked through the match of the Championships in his semi-final vs Phil Smith 26-24 in the third, claimed his crown against Dave Crowley which match also settled the Veterans' title.

Young Martin Lowe of Kenley had a marvellous weekend winning the Junior Singles without dropping a game and also the Divisions 2 and 3 title. In each event he defeated the higher county-ranked David Hodson. The Stiga equipment prizes, donated by Rodan UK Ltd, were presented by the League's President Mrs. Joan Bourne who, in turn, received a floral tribute from the League Council as did, to the vociferous applause of the spectators, Margaret Jones, who prepared and dispensed the refreshments bar so well.

The Dartford League are hoping to hold their Presentation Dance on Saturday, May 19th and details of this can be obtained 'from Janice Brook during the day on 222-8111 (ex.212). Their top 8's tournament will be held at Irving Sports on Monday, 2nd Apr commencing at 6.30 with the Juniors. In the League table which I have, there is nothing between Irving Sports A & B, Southwark A, and Abeng A in the top division.

Of course I don't like blowing my own club's trumpet (not much.......) but Chessington are a magnificent double by winning both the Thanes Valley League and the Leatherhead, Epsom and District League. If they can hold off the now wilting challenge of Elmbridge and Graham Spicer, Mike Hammond, Peter Matthews and Graham Roberts should lift the Thanes Valley title for what I believe would be the fifth year running. Even I'm losing count. In the Leatherhead, Graham is joined by Geoff Green, Bob "Plonker" Minson, and Graham Brown. Their only real danger is now Fetcham A but Messrs. Holder, Pearson and Tracey will make it difficult for the Chessington lads.

I wonder if there is enough interest for Surrey to enter a second County Veteran team in the County Championships..... Mike McGrath, Graham Brown, Ron Wilde, Ron Langheim etc. etc. No doubt we'd have trouble finding sufficient to a lady player. It might be worth a few phone calls Mike.... (Kercher, that is).

Finally, I would like to thank Tom Blunn, Albert Shipley and George Yates for the opportunity afforded at Brighton for League Reps to chat to them. A good idea...... I hope you found it useful. It's a pity Andy Brown went out in the first round of the Open..... I really think he'd have given a few of our Internationals a run for their money.... Seriously Andy, if you want to enter the Open and tournaments like it then good luck to you.

John Woodford reports from SUSSEX

Difficult Decisions

Rising stars like Hosham's Sally Weston and many others have to make some extremely difficult decisions in these days of choked tournament calendars and their choices cause many a heartache for themselves and local officials at both levels, county and local league.

The Horsham girl has elected to go for the tournament circuit almost every weekend, senior and junior events, which means she is not available for many Crawley and Horsham league events including the Crawley championships. In a similar situation, England No.4 junior Teresa Moore (Bexhill) cannot appear regularly in Sussex events and the Rose Bowl and others.

Miss Weston is now the leading Sussex player at No. 36 on the Lentec rankings, but even she is mystified as to exactly where the points have come "from. The regular monthly Lentec lists are extremely valuable from the publicity angle, even allowing for errors and there is no doubt that entries for most tournaments have increased because players want to know how they are getting on. Eastbourne juniors are the first team to win a title as the new Division 1 champions of the Sussex junior inter-league championship's Robert Warner, Andy Banks and Simon Hancock are the team members involved. In other Sussex towns there are of course stronger individual players on the national ranking lists but as described above, as individuals they are often too busy at other events to make regular team appearances locally.

Sussex veterans are almost home and dry to win their division and 'win promotion to the vets' premier class next season - Mike Rowden, Gerry Batt-Rawden and Val Gillam are the successful quartet. Newspaper sub-editors keep coming up with "Moore's Merrier" headlines.

At the Norwich English Open at Brighton, Stephen and Adrian Moor produced the results of a lifetime, when at breakfast time in the first round of the men's doubles they thumped out the top seeds Mesaros and Karakasevic 18 and 15.

Since then the deadly Bexhill duo have played each other twice. In the National League for Avon, Adrian was the winner in a classic duel but a fortnight later at the Hastings championships, Stephen got his own back and for the first time shot up the national rankings to 46, to lead his brother for the first time.

Talking of Hastings, the Stamos Sussex Open, one of the most popular 2-star early tournaments will be forced
to play this year at the Hastings Sports Centre where the seating is certain to be more Spartan than the White Rock Pavilion. The White Rock complex is being refurbished during the autumn. However, playing conditions will be excellent and there will be more room for the tables, so that is something to look forward too, even if the seafont is a few minutes’ walk away. A walk on the pier after a defeat was always a tonic!

ALL STARS IN

By some quirk of the calendar it looks as though all the top Sussex players will be available to play in the all-Sussex championships at Lancing Sports Centre on April 1st, where the Moores will be top-seeded and the reigning champion Graham Gillett will be seeded second. This time last year Gillett was sharp enough to knock-out the brothers but they have moved slightly ahead in 1984, especially after hammering the Yugoslavs at Brighton, so whether Gillett will be able to do a repeat he is still playing well - remains to be seen.

Exceptional interest will also be generated in the women’s singles championship held at the moment by Rachel Mackriell. Three players can stop her - Sheila King, unbeaten in the all-Sussex championships at Lancing and the doubles with John while Mackriell, King and Weston and then the delectable French connection - the pair's team played in Anglesey. A walk on April Fools Day - the fillies still playing well - remains to be seen. This time last year Gillett was sharp enough to knock-out the brothers but they have moved slightly ahead in 1984, especially after hammering the Yugoslavs at Brighton, so whether Gillett will be able to do a repeat - he is still playing well - remains to be seen.

Both Rhyll Youth Club teams played in Anglesey, the “A” team with enthusiastic club leader Les Edwards. Andrew Harrison and Ashley Lee beat Holyhead “C” and their “B” team of Shaun Johnson, Dennis Taylor and Perry Lee defeated Llanfachraeth. Results:-

O.S. Racketlife Cup
Llandudno Jctn “A” 6 Malpas 4
Presbyter “A” 10 St Mary’s 0
Landsmore “A” 10 Holyhead 0
Caergwrle 6 Clwyd 8
C.S. Sheen Cup
Holyhead “B” 9 Colwyn Bay F.S. 0
Wrexham Victoria 0 H.C. 9
Rhyldannog “C” 9 Greasford 0
Holyhead “C” 7 Rhyll “A” 10
Doatra “A” 5 Millers Cottage 3
Dunlop Wrexham 2 Llanfachraeth 6
Beltech 3 Colwyn Bay “B” 6
Llanfaethlu 2 Gresford 6

NORTH WALES CLOSED

Terry Turner became the only second player to win the A. T. Finney Cup, made in 1897, for the third successive season when taking the North Wales Counties Closed men’s singles title. A game down and losing the second to former junior international Paul Griffiths, Terry fought back and just edged home in an exciting decider. In the semis Terry beat last season’s runner-up Neil Thomas while Paul defeated John Hook.

Sheila Rogers, our younger veteran, retained the women’s singles title with a final victory over Sue Roberts, a former junior cap. In the semis Sheila just got home 22-20 against fellow veteran Barbara Williams whilst new junior cap Karen Buckle was beaten by Sue.

Keith Fitzsimmons won the men’s veteran singles from an entry of 23 defeating holder Don Hobbs in the final. Keith beat Peter Williams and Don beat Meiron Williams. Sheila Rogers beat Barbara Williams in the women’s veterans with Pru Oakes, making her veteran debut, losing in the semis.

The tournament was well organised by Bill Curtis and his Llandudno committee. The prize was the lowest on record with, for example, only 45 in the men’s singles - a far cry from the 129 record entry. The championships were held at Colwyn Bay Leisure Centre, Eirias Park on Feb. 19. Other results:-

Mary Rose reports from

WARWICKSHIRE

Well played DES

Pride of place this month must surely go to Birmingham’s Desmond Douglas on regaining the National English Open, Men’s Singles title at the Brighton Centre in February, which he first won in 1979/80. Desmond won an exciting final against Vladislav Broda.

It made a most satisfying end to an enjoyable few days’ table tennis for a party of supporters on the Birmingham Area, including myself. It was good to see two of Warwickshire's National Umpires Tim Huc and Geoff Taylor officiating at the Championships, they certainly had a very heavy programme but I’m sure they enjoyed every minute. I was surprised to see only one Worcs/Warwickshire competitor in the Qualifying Rounds, Lesley Smith from Birmingham who beat Michele Baker in Round 1 but lost to Sarah Sandley in the 2nd.

COUNTY RESULTS


Senior 2 v Yorkshire 2
The County improved their chances of winning Div 2A by a wide 7-3 win.

Junior 1 v Yorkshire 2
A most disappointing result for our Junior first losing 8-2 which leaves them 2 points down on the Birmingham Area, including myself. It was good to see two of Warwickshire’s National Umpires Tim Huc and Geoff Taylor officiating at the Championships, they certainly had a very heavy programme but I’m sure they enjoyed every minute. I was surprised to see only one Worcs/Warwickshire competitor in the Qualifying Rounds, Lesley Smith from Birmingham who beat Michele Baker in Round 1 but lost to Sarah Sandley in the 2nd.

COUNTY JUNIOR RALLY

The first session of a series of Coaching Rallies for Juniors and Cadets - which in the past have been so successful and beneficial to our younger players, was held at Higham Lane School, Nuneaton on Sunday Feb. 12.

Invitations had been extended to selected Juniors, and affiliated leagues were invited to submit further nominations. Bob Montgomery (Coaching Officer) was very pleased with the response made from the Juniors, 11 boys and 4 girls attending the course. The Juniors have been very responsive and well behaved and later discussions were made as to how future sessions would be conducted.

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NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS

Birmingham men's team represented by Barry Johnson, Phil Gunn and Carl Morgan moved into the 4th Round of the Wilmott Cup after a 5-2 win against Cambridge. Unfortunately, the women's team of Karen Groves, Sandra Peckman and Di St Ledger were beaten 5-3 at Wolverhampton, in the Reserve Bowl. Sandra was in fine form winning 2 singles.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Birmingham look to have lost their chance of winning the 1st Division of the Midland League but the 'B' team's position in Div. 2 looks much brighter, they have dropped just one point from 4 matches.

In Div. 1 of the Veterans' League the 'A' Team are well placed. Oxford top the division but Birmingham have a match in hand.

LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS


NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dunlop Birmingham are still looking for that elusive first point of the season in the Premier Division of the National League. In the match against Thorn EMI, Dunlop are represented by Dougie Johnson, 52. Phil Gunn, 75. Barry Hayward, 77. Michael Browne, 85. Lester Bertie, 86. Ian Gunn, 91. Derek Munt and 114. Richard Tannier. With Dunlop's facilities were not available on Feb. 5 and the match was quickly transferred. As expected the Ellinborough squad won in convincing style 8-2. Kevin Beadsley playing his first match for Dunlop won one against Martin Munt and looks to be a good signing for the Birmingham side. Dunlop's other win was by Derek Munt, again against Mitchell.

To conclude on a happy note I would like to congratulate Lorraine and Barry Johnson on the birth of their first baby - a girl, Rebecca.

Laurie Selby reports from......

WILTSHIRE

QUEEN OF SWINDON

Claire Maisey boomeranged back from a six months trip to Down Under in December as Swindon's table tennis queen at the closed tournament. Sporting a koala bear on her sweater, she swept to the women's singles title and made it a double triumph with another victory in the mixed.

Claire who returned to Swindon at Christmas defeated Janet Parker in an action replay of last season's final.

There was no doubt about the opening game which Claire won emphatically but she had to come from behind to take the second.

The men's final also had an air of familiarity as top seed Steve McBean stepped up to beat Andrew Metcalfe in another repeat.

McBean had beaten Metcalfe in a league match the previous week, but the stylist Metcalfe showed he was a different proposition in the final of a tournament.

McBean staged a great recovery but still couldn't stop Metcalfe from winning the first game. Then the former Yorkshire county player showed his class as he cruised to victory to regain his title.

McBean gained some consolation by winning the men's doubles with Andrew Oxley. They beat the holders, Metcalfe and Steve Davies, in a seesaw three game battle.

The mixed also produced a real cliffhanger before the new partnership of Miss Maisey and Brian Powell triumphed in a nail-biting third game over holders McBean and Mrs. Parker.

Miss Maisey hit her third final in the women's doubles, playing with Alison Boyce. But after winning the first of a three game thriller, they went down to the holders, Parker and Tracey Watkins.

Basil Thompson became the veterans' champion when he beat Ernie Howell, many times former Swindon champion, in the final.

Longest game in the tournament came in the divisional singles when Martin Edwards beat Helen Wilson 34-32 in the second game.

The tournament was staged at Pinehurst sports club and the trophies were presented by Mr. Len Smith, chairman of Wiltshire T.T.A.

Results:-


Final: McBean bt Metcalfe 16-12, 22-14, 18-6
X.D: Semi-finals: B. Powell/Maisey bt Metcalfe/Watkins 17-16, B. McBean/Parker bt A. Oxley/D. Aldridge 13-11, Final: Powell/Maisey bt McBean/Parker 12-5, 6-13, 14-12

Div. II men's singles: Miss M. Nelson bt Miss J. Neale 11-3, 5-9, 16-11
Div. III women's singles: Miss J. Maisey bt Miss D. Nelson 13-11, 13-7, 13-10
Div. III women's doubles: Miss M. Page bt E. Sy 17-10, F. Parker bt S. Robbs 18-17, 20-18, Final: Page bt Fisher 15-10

Family Fortunes

A Wiltshire family clocked up a hat-trick of titles in the Horological Sports Association's national table tennis championships.

The titles went to the Oxley family of Cherhill, near Caine, who played for Wiltshire T.T.A.

The U-15 boys' singles also produced a big shock when a neat piece of work by Ian Neate earned him the championship.

Michael Oxley was the hot favourite - a view underlined when he beat Neate in straight games in the U-17 semi-final.

But Neate learned a lesson from his defeat and played a brilliantly controlled game to reverse the result.

The youngest age group provided a nail-biting final before Paul Timmis clinched it after surviving a couple of match points against Mark Nelson.

There were few surprises in the finals of the other events. Lorraine Cox had a straight win in the U-15 girls' singles against Alison Stevens. But Alison had some consolation in the U-13 boys' singles final when she defeated Rachael Watkins.

The junior divisional singles final was a much more closely contested affair, Jasvinder Singh beating Paul Oxley in the deciding game.

Hook and Andrew Oxley won the boys' doubles but had a real struggle before beating Martin Edwards and Mark Powell who surprised second seeds Michael Oxley and Richard Vowles in the semis.

The tournament was held at Pinehurst and Ross Hayzel, president of the Swindon League, presented the trophies.
Blick International of Swindon. Three brothers - Andrew, Michael and Graham - took the team trophy when they defeated the London Clock Company in the final.

Michael Oxley (jun) won the junior championship, beating Andrew in the final.

And dad - Michael Oxley (sen) - got in on the act too. He walked away with the veterans' singles.

Andrew was also runner-up in the men's singles and Julie Mills of Caine, the women's singles.

They beat Dodd and Edwards - put Wiltshire 3-2 in front. They beat Dodd and Burleton 16-18, 16-18.

Kent came back again with Burleton beating McBean 11, 14. But Wiltshire's hopes rose when Mrs. Parker took the opening game 18 against Carol Spain. But then it all went wrong and she lost the next two.

Satchell lost to Dodd 20-10, leaving Wiltshire needing to win the last two sets to snatch a draw.

They seemed to be in with a chance when Claire Maisey won the opening game against Juliet Houghton, ranked ninth in England junior. But the youngster was not put off and went on to win 14, 13, 18.

Edwards beat Spencer 16-13, 19 "in the "dead" rubber. Now the pressure is on Wiltshire to snatch points from their remaining two matches against Avon and Dorset.

**VETERANS**

Wiltshire veterans' team battled through a blizzard to complete their January double date with matches against Cumbria and Derbyshire.

They were warmed up by a 7-2 win over Clywyd but next day slid to a 5-4 defeat by Cumbria.

Both Don Morris and Gwen Hazell were in top form for Wiltshire and won all their singles.

The Cumbria match was a real nail-biter with the home side winning the final set.

Results:

- v Clyde Roy Williams lost to John Ford 18 - 9, 7, Carl Harrison bt Dennis Waters 17 - 18, Raj Howland lost to John Cleveland 17 - 19, 14 - 14.
- Harrison/Barbara Williams lost to Don Morris/Gwen Hazell 16 - 19, 18 - 14, Williams/Howland lost to Fiona/Ford 19 - 12, 15 - 12, Mrs. Williams lost to Mr. Hazell 16 - 19, 18 - 14, Williams lost to Water 19 - 12, Howland lost to Ford 19 - 13, Harrison bt Cleveland 5 - 13.
- v Clywyd Eddie O'Hara lost to Ford 16 - 17, 14, Peter Buxton lost to Morris 19 - 11, 17 - 15, Cap Carr bt Cleveland 21 - 12.
- O'Hara/Clarice Rose Waters bt Hazell 6 - 12, Carr/Buxton bt Ford/Waters 17 - 16, 16 - 14.
- Rose lost to Hazel 14 - 18, 14, O'Hara lost to Morris 10, 16 - 15, Carr bt Ford 16, 20, Cleveland bt Buxton - 13 - 16.

Wiltshire veterans' second team scored their second victory of the season when they beat Herefordshire thirds 5-4.

It was a fighting display by the visitors who battled to victory after being 2-4 down.

Results:


Wiltshire's junior second team have come off second best in their last two matches.

They went down 4-6 against Somerset and 3-7 against Avon.

**RESULTS**

v Somerset: P. Payne lost to Howard Phillips 16 - 18, 10 - 19, D. Woodward lost to R. Morgan 4 - 6, 14 - 11, J. Bryant bt M. Edwards 16 - 17.
- Payne bt Morgan 10 - 17, Miss Carr bt Miss Richards 12 - 12, Bryant lost to Phillips - 19 - 14, Miss Webb bt Miss Mills 19 - 8, Woldood lost to Edwards 15 - 16, 16 - 16.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Swindon women's team is on the road to honours again in a national competition.

They won their third round match against Bristol in the Rose Bowl competition.

The Swindon girls, who reached the final last season won 5-1. Tracey Watkins set Swindon on the winning trail against Bristol when she opened the match with a 16, 15 win over Dawn Whitaker.

Then Janet Parker carried on the good work by beating Tina Shortman 11, 19, Claire Maisey made it 3-0 with a comfortable 15, 16 victory over Helen Perrott.

Tracey's - 21 - 14 defeat by Tina caused only a brief pause in Swindon's march to victory.

Claire swept past Dawn 11, 4 and Janet sewed it up for Swindon by beating Helen - 17, 16, 19.

Swindon now meet Plymouth.

Doug Moss reports from.....

**WORCESTERSHIRE SECOND TITLE FOR MURRAY**

Murray Jukes continues to be the highlight of our news. In the second of the Beneficial Trust Senior Prize Junior Tournaments at Gloucester he and Andrew Dixon took their second doubles title to confirm their class - which we hope is recognised! Murray also did very well in the Singles to reach the semi-final. He beat players ranked above him and finally lost to Andrew Syed (England No.2 junior). This should see him rise in the national rankings. We wish him success in the Beneficial Trust Tournaments.

The County I team had a vital match, in the relegation struggle, against Derbyshire. Alan Cooke played and of course made all the difference to Derbyshire who were without any points. Simon Claxton was introduced to the team and he, Jukes and Trevor Washington all played well to win one singles each. The men's doubles was very close with Murray and Trevor losing for the first time this season at 16 in the 3rd game and women's doubles was even closer with Louise Davis and Alison Westwood losing at 19 in the deciding point. Unfortunately the ladies have only won 3 events so far.

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for the 1st team, with Alison and Lynda Reid each having 1 singles win and also combining to win the one doubles. The County II team visited Buck's, whose team included Phil Bradbury. A 3-7 loss resulted with Sandra Roden winning her singles and combining with Lynda Reid to win the doubles. Ken Walton and Steve Horton did well to beat Bradbury and Bushell in the men’s doubles 19 in the third.

The Junior team also lost 3-7 against the strong Northants team. Dean Kloos was again successful in the boys’ doubles, on this occasion being paired with a promising young player, Lisa Jones. Les and Helen Jones played very well to win their singles.

The Worcester School of Sport at Christopher Whitehead School, grant-aided by the City and County Councils and the Regional Sports Council, is going very well. Bryan Merrett is normally in attendance and Jim Hayward and Peter Cruwys have also been in charge. Improvement in standard of play is already evident and with an initial 3 year programme, I am sure this is one of the best things to happen in the City of Worcester for some time. It is now in charge of an enthusiastic team under the guidance of its Rensennet Centre, Dudley, which also received grants, is going well. There are 40 players involved, mainly of cadet age. There are sessions on Friday evenings when “beginners” are included and players of better standard take part on Saturday mornings. Peggy and John Mytton also have coaching programmes in Evesham, which can be seen from the performances of their cadet players.

Leagues are now proceeding with their individual championships. The preliminary Rounds of the Dudley championships are on 4 March with Finals on the Community Centre. On 1 April, Malvern and Evesham championships are in March - Malvern on 4th and Evesham on 17th. Worcester League have the Junior Championships on 10 March and Seniors the following day - both at Christopher Whitehead School. The championships will be completed over the weekend and there will be a social function later in the season for presentation of trophies.

In the Kidderminster League the Harriers Club dominate the scene. Their A team, including Alec Westwood, Paul Osman and Ken Burton, are unbeaten and head Div. 1. In the 2nd Division it is interesting and pleasing to note that at least 5 ladies of good standard (Alison Westwood, Mandy Westwood, Sandra Roden, Stella Hembury and Wendy Bagott) take part.

Two 12-year-old Worcester girls, Kerry James and Nicola Jones, had their first experience of Open Tournament play when they entered the Cotswold Junior and acquitted themselves well. The girls reached the quarter-final of the Cadet Girls’ Doubles before losing to Julie Billington and Kerry Hall. Nicola reached the quarter-final of the U-12 event when she again met Julie Billington. Kerry, in her Cadet group was 16-19 down in the third against one opponent and won 21-19.

At the time of writing the County Closed Senior championships have just been completed. Claxton was in great form beating the No. 1 and 2 seeds (Jukes and Washington) to take the Men’s Singles title again. He and Ken Walton also did very well to win the Men’s Doubles title beating Jukes and Washington in the Final.

Results:
V.S. (M): M. Wood bt L. Davis 17, 10.
V.S. (W): J. Hunt bt S. Jukes 17, 12, 12.

Les D’Arcy reports from …

YORKSHIRE

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Congratulations to Donald Parker, National Coach (North) on his forthcoming introduction to the new England Senior Trainer/Coach to take effect after the European Championships. Don has made an outstanding contribution to coaching and the stimulation of interest in table tennis during his all too short stay as coaching supremo par-excellence in Yorkshire. Your friends in all parts of the County and further afield will join me in wishing you well in mastering your new challenge and will follow your future progress on the international front with great interest. To Peter Simpson, who takes over from Don the future could be equally challenging. Your coaching in many cases is so high and the talent in depth so rich that to maintain the impetus is a giant size task.

Coaches in Yorkshire will certainly look forward to hearing your views and plans for the future. Three coaching courses will take place at Pontefract Kings School from July 28 to Aug 5. Club coaches wishing to become 1 diploma coaches; for school children and another for adults. Specific details later. Will be sending you an invitation, Peter.

YORKSHIRE CADET CLOSED

Called in to Moor Grange School on Feb. 12 to see the wealth of young talent mentioned earlier. Yorkshire Tournament Secretary, Rea Balmforth, was in charge of an enthusiastic team of officials which included Y.T.T.A. Chairman, Alec Head, Treasurer, Maurice Pennock, Bevan Walker, Keith Shepherd, Mrs. Bob Ryder and help from many parents which all went to make it an enjoyable afternoon. Was particularly impressed by the youthfulness of some of the competitors. Probably the youngest was 7-year-old Sally Marling, a keen ‘tiny tot’ with flowing footwork and, I’m told, very powerful concentration. One of the Hull spectators, from where Sally hail’s, also informed me that this young lady has not yet learned the significance of winning and losing and plays for no other reason than because she loves to. What a wonderful philo­sophy. Even if you don’t become a champion, Sally, although the indications are that you will, your future looks very bright. Eight-years-old Andrew Nicolls from Selby and caught my eye with a new arm of stroke which are a credit to one so young and to his mentor, Regional Coach, Mick Wilcockson. Mick informed me that his youngest protege, 5-year-old Richard Clark, is not yet ready for County Championships’ How late starters, John Hilton, David Barr and my wife, Joyce who played against David last year at Crystal Palace (friendly) would have welcomed someone like Mick being around in their formative years. However, all three are making up for lost time. Most of you will have read John Oakley’s excellent article on Joyce in the February issue of T.T. News; John, the popular Lancastrian, needs no introduction to anyone in or out of table tennis, they must have heard of him. Joyce is in a completely different category. She is a grandma with six children and twelve grandchildren and is not known outside the bottom division of the Wakefield League in which she started playing this season with no previous league experience. Joyce went to the World Vets. Championships in Gothenburg as a spectator nearly two years ago and liked it. In June she will be there again at Helsinki, this time as a player. It is rarely too late or too early to start table tennis. Richard Coulson, the Bradford Hermits’ Boss, mentioned an experiment one of his colleagues was trying with short-legged tables for the very young. With the present trend it could be well worthwhile.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

SHEFFIELD

In recent weeks I have had the opportunity of speaking to the Sheffield and District League’s Hon. Gen. Sec. and prolific Publicity Officer, John Hatfield. John’s professional approach is one of the main foun­dation stones of success in this largest of all Yorkshire Leagues with 163 teams and near 750 players.

John has the gift of motivating players and officials by taking the trouble to find out interesting facts about them and give credit where it is due.

Congratulations to Mrs. Pat Bray of Hull and Dist. T.T.A. on the production of a very comprehensive Newsletter including a profile of Joe Naser, Yorkshire League results and Rankings; Hulls Schools T.T., Individual
Championships details; Coaching Topics and League Tables for all of Hull's 9 Divisions.

To 16-years-old Joanne Shaw and 18-years-old Steven Sharpe on their selection for the Yorkshire Senior team to play in the County Premier Division Championships Feb. 25/26 in Essex - the first time two Wakefield players have achieved such a joint distinction. We wish them and the other members of the team; Alan Fletcher and Kenneth Beadsley a successful weekend.

To Graham Coe, the irrepressible team manager and organiser of the very successful South Yorkshire National League Club who recently survived an horrific road crash after an encounter with black ice on the M1. No one else was involved and Graham is now back in action doing his many tasks for table tennis including work as Match Secretary of The 'Morte for Sport' Yorkshire League. Graham is also at work training his 1st team squad to face National League rivals, Unity of Bradford, in a £150 challenge to decide the top table tennis team in Yorkshire.

The contest will be run in conjunction with the Sports Festival Table Tennis Spectacular at Leeds University on April 7. Further details from Maurice Pennock Tel: 0423-56404 or from me Tel: 0924-366420.

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**COACHING COURSE**

Enjoyed speaking to student coaches at the Barnsley T.T. Leagues' Club Coaches Award Course directed by National Coach for the North, and organised by Barnsley's Coaching Secretary, Geoff Williams and League Chairman, Jim. Summerscales. The two enthusiastic Barnsley officials are working hard to put their League on the county coaching map and judging by the general high calibre of the 16 students taking part at the well equipped Doncaster Road Dunlop Centre the dream could soon become reality.

The Wakefield T.T. League have also become recent recipients of the Dunlop Sports Company's sponsorship when the Alan Hydes, Dunlop Centre was opened at Kettlethorpe Community Centre on Feb. 14.

**HUMBERSIDE LEAGUE**

The third series of matches in the Humberside Leisure Services-sponsored Humberside Table Tennis League saw Scunthorpe M.B. surprisingly comfortable winners over Hull Vikings, and the South Bank side now join the other Hull outfit, Kingston Tigers, in top spot on 19 points.

Dave Skerratt, the only unbeaten man in the League, opened the match with a three game win over Joe Naser, and he followed up with two more successes which took him four point clear at the top of the rankings Points List.

Naser won his other two, but this was the only time the struggle held established by the Scunthorpe team was broken.

In the Tigers - Grimsby Mariners clash, Matt Sheader got Mariner's off on the right foot with a win over Sean Madden, and thus drew level with the Hull man in second spot in the Ranking Points table but, although the highly-ranked Grimsby veteran went on to complete a fine maximum with wins over Mike Harrison and Nick Farnill, his side finished on the wrong end of a 6-3 result.

Third player to come through without a defeat against his name was Brian Allison, and he led the way in a 7-2 victory by Grimsby Pirates at the expense of struggling Scunthorpe Spinners, as well as gaining a four point boost in the Individual chart.

**HUMBERSIDE T.T. League Match details:**

Scunthorpe M.B. 7(Skerratt 3, Andy Kelly, Andy Thompson 2 each); Hull Vikings 2 (Naser 2); Hull Kingston Tigers 6 (Madden. Harrison. Farnill 2 each); Grimsby Mariners 3 (Sheader 2); Grimsby Pirates 7 (Allison 1, Ian Walker, John Whitlefield 2 each); Scunthorpe Spinners 2 (Dave Barnes 2).

**Humberside Leagues**

League Table: Scunthorpe M.B. 19pts; Hull Kingston Tigers 19; Grimsby Pirates 15; Hull Vikings 14; Grimsby Mariners 14; Scunthorpe Spinners 2.

Rankings Points Table (inc 13 places): D. Skerratt 25; S. Madden and M. Sheader 21; J. Naser 20; B. Allison 19; M. Harrison 18; M. Farnill 11; J. Naser 20; B. Allison 19; M. Kelly 13; J. Bult and I. Walker 12.

**THE ENGLISH OPEN**

After Cleveland, it was the English Open at Brighton, where vastly improved facilities were available at the Brighton Centre.

Mark and Gary again carried the Welsh colours, but succeeded in getting double figures in only two of the six games played against the Japanese.

Lesley Tyler, brought over from France specially for this event, and Shirley Gain-Williams lost 3-0 to Czechoslovakia, but with reasonably respectable scores.

It was evident that Brighton air did little for Mark Thomas. He lost 3-0 to Avon's Andy Creed, whom Wilkins has beaten twice recently. Gary himself played quite well against England's new "hope" Alan Cooke, going close in the opening game, and actually taking the third before Alan came back decisively to win the fourth.

In the doubles, the Welsh and Gary lost 3-0 in the third to Kenyon and Wells. Lesley Tyler had a very promising game with the Japanese girl Shim-
Shirley went down badly to Joy Grundy. The girls lost in the doubles to Collier and Sainsbury.

Mark and Lesley bowed out to the French pair Martin and Thiriet in the second round of the Mixed, whilst Gary and Shirley had the distinction of taking the first game from Desmond Douglas and the Japanese Shimokawa before the latter settled down to play as a pair.

THE LANCASHIRE OPEN

It was unfortunate that Mark Thomas, Wilkins and Manning found themselves in the same half in the Lancashire Open. However, Trevor had his own back to some extent by beating No.2 seed Alan Fletcher and then eliminating Gary. Thomas, after Gary and Shirley had the distinction of as a pair.

Some good wins, then beat Trevor, and advanced to the semi-final, where he beat Jimmy Stokes, but Gary showed no signs of liking to play against a women, and only just scraped home against Mandy Sainsbury. Tony Healan, too, although he beat Alison Gordon, didn't look very convincing.

Mark slowed Syed down, and beat the English No.1 Junior convincingly, Nigel beat Alison Gordon, but Gary lost poorly to Stokes. Healan, concentrating more; beat Mandy in the last set.

Scores:
N. Thomas bt A. Syed 21-11, 11-8, 11-9; bt Alison Gordon 14-15.
G. Wilkins bt Mandy Sainsbury 14-13, 13-20; lost to Stokes - 17-19.
T. Healan bt Gordon 13-12, 13-21; bt Sainsbury 18-17.

Cranfield Colours weakened by the absence of George Evans, who had to have an operation on his playing arm, lost 2-6 to Larkhall. The Gwent side had to call on Paul Williamson to make his debut, and recalled Warwick Armstrong.

Captain Andrew Evans, lost his opening set to Percy Collino, but Brian Jeans levelled the scores by beating David Harding. Warwick took Derek Holman to three but lost, and Paul found the wily Gordon Chapman too much for him.

Jeans brought dismay to Cranfield supporters when he lost to Collino, but Armstrong revived their spirits with a fine win over Harding. Still in with a chance, Evans lost rather easily to Chapman, and Williamson went further downhill when he lost the same set to Holman.

Scores:
W. Armstrong lost to D. Holman; bt Harding 16-22, 16.
P. Williamson lost to Chapman - 13-7; lost to Holman - 14-19.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

On the way back from the English Butterfly Cardiff went to Reading, Mark and Gary being joined by Tony Healan, and Nigel Thomas, coming back after being rested for some in different form.

Butterfly won 6-2, the first set on being a scintillating affair between Nigel Thomas and young Andrew Syed, which the latter just won. Mark Thomas beat Jimmy Stokes, but Gary showed no signs of liking to play against a women, and only just scraped home against Mandy Sainsbury. Tony Healan, too, although he beat Alison Gordon, didn't look very convincing.

Mark slowed Syed down, and beat the English No.1 Junior convincingly, Nigel beat Alison Gordon, but Gary lost poorly to Stokes. Healan, concentrating more; beat Mandy in the last set.

Scores:
W. Armstrong lost to D. Holman; bt Harding 16-22, 16.
M. Thomas bt Mandy Sainsbury 14-13, 13-20; lost to Stokes - 17-19.
T. Healan bt Gordon 13-12, 13-21; bt Sainsbury 18-17.

Craniel Colours weakened by the absence of George Evans, who had to have an operation on his playing arm, lost 2-6 to Larkhall. The Gwent side had to call on Paul Williamson to make his debut, and recalled Warwick Armstrong.

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VETERANS' RANKING LIST
by Mike Watts

Mark Hankey with a final win over Peter O'Arcy was the winner of the men's singles event in the 1984 Manchester Closed championships. Caroline Hemming being crowned women's champion following her victory over Ooreen Schofield.

Husband Oerek took the veterans title, beating O'Arcy in the final. Whilst winner of the boys' singles was Keith Weatherby who beat Lynne Harrison in the final.

Results:

MS: M. Hankey bt O. Schofield 14. 16.
P. O'Arcy bt K. Weatherby 14. 17.
MD: M. Hankey bt J. & R. Weatherby 17. 12.

POT SHOT

by Budimir Vojinovic,
Novi Sad
SOHAM LOOKING STRONG
The confidence expressed by Hassy Soham’s captain, Paul Day, seemed more than justified by the performances of the defending champions on 29 January and 5 February. While the Cambridgeshire club were notchting up two 7-1 victories for their matches in hand, nearest challengers, Thorn-EMI Ellenborough and Ormesby both dropped vital points.

Ellenborough, without Graham Sandle, lost four successive sets when they visited Gillette Reading and just scrambled the draw. Ormesby, meanwhile, found Carl Prean and Alan Cooke in irrepressible form at Jaques Fareham- the unbeaten record of their Dutch champion, Henk van Spanje, demolished by the two young England players.

Of the four top sides in the Premier Division, only Jaques Fareham and Hassy Soham have yet to meet; their first scheduled meeting still awaiting rearrangement from last October. “I shall be less than amused if we’re forced to play the match with our two Senior internationals away at the European Championships”, says Jaques Fareham manager Charlie Childs. “At full strength we could give Soham a close run as all their players are orthodox for us.

Full strength for Fareham includes one of the best orthodox players in the league at No.4, Tony Clayton. “The computer ranking obviously can’t take account of styles and quality”, said Childs defending the former international’s playing position. “And if players don’t go round the tournaments, or when they play for other countries, these anomalies in club rankings are bound to occur.”

“It’s not even unusual”, he claimed and reeled off half a dozen players in as many seconds. “Just look at our old player Simon Heaps, who now plays for Holts Carpets Salisbury, there’s no way he would be as low as No. III in the country on a merit list".

Rankings, Soham, and Fareham apart the league boils to a climax in March with the forthcoming fixtures to decide the Championship: Ormesby at Soham on Sunday 11 , 1982 v 1983 champions at Enfield on Sunday 25.

£2,850 in prize money at stake.

GROVE SCOTCHED
In the First Division, Scotland’s John Broe was Ormesby’s hero as the leaders, Grove, were forced to a surprising draw. A late night for John Hilton at the Norwich Union English Open the previous day seemed to affect the eyelids of the Grove No. 1 as Broe powered through 21-16, 25-23 in the first set of the match.

Lindsay Taylor and Steven Brunskill took the score to 1-3 in Ormesby’s favour and Broe’s second win secured the point while Tarmac Wolverhampton reduced Grove’s sets advantage at home to Byker Newcastle.

“We’ve had the tougher fixtures first”, said Tarmac dynamo Paul Chester, “while Grove have got the top teams to come. I think SIB Bath on 4 March will be difficult for them, even though they won 7-1 in the first half. Bath are still in with a chance of the prize money and will be competing hard”, he warned.

Of their own chances on 11 March Chester remained optimistic. “Douggie (Johnson) has only lost two so far and, to be honest, we haven’t noticed that the ‘two-colour’ bat rule has made any difference to his standard. And Carl Morgan is a very reliable No. 3 even against Grove. Only one set going the wrong way cost us a point in the first half.”

LUCKLESS STOCKTON
Beleaguered Stockton, sponsored by Ryersley Insurance Services, needed an injury to No. 4, Phil Crawford, like Desmond Douglas needs a sheet of antiloop. Already in desperate relegation straits in Second Division North, Stockton’s Malcolm Corking and Trevor Murphy put up a spirited resistance at March Hales but went back up the A1 smarting from another 6-2 defeat.

Almost inevitably, the season draws to the South Yorkshire v Chan Construction showdown on 25 March at Rotherham’s Brian O’Malley library. The big two merely flexed their muscles against Tarmac Wolves and Sincil Lincoln at the end of January.

Ironically, Chan, with an 8-0 win, had a harder match than South Yorkshire did in recording 7-1. Lincoln’s

DAGGERS’ HIGH PERFORMANCE
Dagenham FC, sponsored by their local motor retail company, have accelerated away from any possible challenge by Larkhall Clapham in Second Division South. Just a single set defeat, by Tony Penny to combination bat player Babs Aredayo, has been inflicted on the successful Essex club in the last two matches.

The previous week Aredayo had lead his club, Gunnersbury Triangle, as they slumped to a 3-0 deficit against the visiting Spicers, Maiden. Gunnersbury’s David Goode lead the brief revival before Spicer’s Andy Sexton dismissed the younger of the Proffitt brothers, Simon, for both points.

However, the improved scoreline provided a glimmer of hope for the relegation-threatened Gunnersbury, and matches in the nearfuture against Witham FC and Gillette Reading could prove a lifeline for their survival. England commitments for Alison Gordon and reported German measles for Mandy Gains might weaken the Reading third team.

STAN IN FORM
Stan Haleswth, the Vickers No.4, gave the Barrow-in-Furness club a rare point when he won both sets against the higher placed Unity Bradford II in Third Division North. On the same day, Thomas Blackburn did the same for Byker Newcastle in the local derby against Ormesby III; the two draws virtually ensuring the demise of Unity III. South Yorkshire, however, continue relentlessly.

TULSE HILL SLIDE
Cippenham, lying sixth, seemingly had little hope when promotion chasers

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NATIONAL LEAGUE
by Robert Oldfield

SECOND DIVISION NORTH
South Yorkshire II 10 9 1 0 60 20 19
Chan Construction 10 9 0 1 56 24 18
Selhurst Target Gold 9 7 1 0 24 23 14
March Hales 10 6 0 4 40 40 12
Bradford Hermites 9 2 1 6 31 41 5
Tarmac Wolverhampton II 9 2 1 6 27 45 5
Sincil Lincoln 9 1 1 7 25 47 3
RIS Stockton 10 0 0 10 16 64 0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
Dagenham FC 11 11 0 0 78 12 22
Larkhall Clapham 10 10 0 0 78 12 22
Lincoln 10 6 2 2 48 32 14
 Venezuelan Colours 10 2 4 4 37 43 8
Gillette Reading II 10 2 4 4 35 45 8
Witham FC 9 0 3 81 0 25 53 2
Gunnersbury Triangle 10 0 2 8 27 53 2

THIRD DIVISION NORTH
South Yorkshire II 9 9 0 0 82 10 18
Washington 10 7 0 3 54 26 13
South Yorkshire III 10 6 2 2 52 28 14
Ormesby III 9 8 2 2 48 32 14
Unity Bradford II 9 3 2 4 38 38 8
Vickers Butterfly Cadiff 10 2 2 6 32 48 4
Rotherham’s Brian O’Malley library. The big two merely flexed their muscles against Tarmac Wolves and Sincil Lincoln at the end of January.

Ironically, Chan, with an 8-0 win, had a harder match than South Yorkshire did in recording 7-1. Lincoln’s

David Gannon was unlucky to lose both sets narrowly in the third and both Phillip Smith and Stuart Warrill were determined not to give Chan an easy victory.
Tulse Hill visited the Centre in Slough. Yet Chairman, Frank Earis, said afterwards, "Before the match I would have been delighted with one point, now I'm disappointed we didn't get two" - "Both Tilling and Earis were in magnificent form", reports Graham Trimming. "Ray Tilling in particular and Trevor Kerry sealed the 5-3 victory. Nottingham and Norwich Foxwood, the favorites for the promotion place, both played well but Playrite Northampton have a chance if the leaders slip.

**WILD WEST SHOOTOUT**

The Third Division West title hinges on a shootout between the leaders, Holts Carpets Salisbury and Pengeley Sports Torbay on Sunday 11 March. Both were in command form at the end of January as they destroyed Tarmac Ladies and Grove II respectively.

**FIXTURES**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Sunday, 11th March
- Tubbah London v Thorn EMi Ellenborough
- Hassy Soham v Ormesby
- Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- Gillette Reading v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- South Yorkshire II v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Ormesby II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

**SECOND DIVISION EAST**

Sunday, 11th March
- Norwich Foxwood v Ormesby
- Cippenham v Bourne Ruislip

**THIRD DIVISION SOUTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- Halsey Lincoln v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton

**THIRD DIVISION NORTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- South Yorkshire II v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Ormesby II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

**THIRD DIVISION WEST**

Sunday, 11th March
- Solihull v Hereford Times
- Larkhall Clapham v Grantham Town

**THIRD DIVISION EAST**

Sunday, 11th March
- Halsex Lincoln v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton

**THIRD DIVISION NORTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- South Yorkshire II v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Ormesby II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

**THIRD DIVISION SOUTH**

Sunday, 11th March
- Halsey Lincoln v Tarmac Wolverhampton
- Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton

**THIRD DIVISION WEST**

Sunday, 11th March
- Holts Salisbury v Pengeley Torbay
- Global Plymouth v Grove Mkt Drayton II

**PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS**

Sunday, 5th February

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

Sunday, 29th January
- MBS St. Neots II v SIB Bath
- Gillette Reading II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**

Sunday, 29th January
- Channel 8 2 4 0 48 47 8
- Salford TG 3 0 2 4 48 47 8

**SECOND DIVISION EAST**

Sunday, 29th January
- MBS St. Neots II v SIB Bath
- Gillette Reading II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

Sunday, 29th January
- MBS St. Neots II v SIB Bath
- Gillette Reading II v Tarmac Wolverhampton
DOUGLAS AND WITT
CONSOLIDATE

The first issue of the Lentec Computer ranking lists in 1984 show Desmond Douglas and Karen Witt even more firmly entrenched in the No. 1 position. Amongst the top 20 there has been very little movement but Alan Cooke continues his improvement to the No. 4 position.

It is interesting to speculate whether not the downward movement of players like John Hilton and Dougie Johnson is due to the new two colour racket regulation. Both players previously used a racket with the same colour rubber on each side, each with a vastly different effect. The exception to this theory is Carl Prean who has maintained his No.2 position.

Rankings, points and previous position in brackets are:-

### Men

1. Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1) 177
2. Carl Prean (IOW) (2) 82
3. Graham Sandley (Mi) (3) 807
4. Alan Cooke (Dy) (8) 561
5. Skylet Andrew (E) (5) 560
6. Philip Bradbury (Bl) (10) 545
7. John Hilton (Ila) (4) 525
8. Kenny Jackson (Ia) (12) 522
9. David Wells (Mi) (7) 509
10. Max Crimmings (Ily) 487.5
11. John Wilson (Mi) (19) 459
12. John Stout (Mi) (13) 446.5
13. Nicky Mason (Sy) (14) 422
14. Donald Parker (La) (11) 413
15. Dougie Johnson (Wa) (19) 412
16. David Barr (Bk) (15) 389.5
17. Alan Fletcher (Y) (118) 384.5
18. Paul Day (Ia) (17) 381
19. David Dodd (K) (21) 378
20. Mark Mitchell (Mi) (20) 363
21. Steven Turner (La) (16) 361.5
22. Chris Rogers (Le) (22) 339.5
23. Andy Bellinger (Ia) (23) 312
24. Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (24) 301.5
25. Kevin Beadles (Y) (26) 283
26. Kevin Satchell (Wi) (27) 282.5
27. Andy Wellman (Bk) (28) 275
28. Richard Jermyn (Hel) (32) 277.5
29. Carl Morey (Wa) (29) 277
30. Ian Kenyon (K) (31) 274
31. Steve Mills (Y) (25) 272.5
32. David Tan (Mi) (28) 259.5
33. Stephen Sciccoffra (La) (34) 256.5
34. Chi Van Que (Nd) (38) 249.5
35. Andy Creed (Av) (50) 245
36. Dave Constance (Dy) (33) 243
37. David Reeves (Bk) (42) 242
38. Barry Johnson (Wa) (36) 224
39. Tony Claydon (Dy) (47) 222
40. Keith Richardson (Ca) (51) 221.5
41. Ian Horsham (E) (35) 210
42. Peter Taylor (He) (45) 206.5
43. Mark Oakley (Sy) (43) 204.5
44. Lindsay Taylor (Ch) (139) 204
45. John Kitchener (Sk) (381) 202
46. Steven Moore (Sa) (56) 201
47. Phil Brown (La) (41) 187.5
48. David Gannon (Lo) (54) 183.5
49. Billy Gleave (Ch) (40) 182
50. Stuart Palmer (Sk) (160) 179
51. Adrian Moore (Sa) (148) 177
52. Philip Gunn (Wa) (44) 176
53. Gareth Spencer (K) (791) 170.5
54. Steve Sharpe (Y) (49) 167
55. David Newman (E) (46) 161
56. Steve Halloway (Sy) (63) 160.5
57. Gary Lambert (Dy) (58) 157.5
58. Rick Harper (Ca) (74) 151.5
59. Andy Rich (Oi) (150) 147.5
60. Glen Baker (Ily) (82) 140
61. Chris Bartram (Kl) (69) 140.5
62. Tony Sanderson (Y) (52) 140
63. Paul Jackson (Av) (83) 133
64. Malcolm Green (Sp) (59) 132.5

### Women

1. Karen Witt (Bk) (1) 641.5
2. Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2) 360
3. Joy Grundy (La) (4) 362
4. Alison Gordon (Bk) (3) 357.5
5. Caroline Moore (Ov) (5) 344
6. Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (6) 255.5
7. Jill Harris (St) (7) 225
8. Karen Harris (La) (14) 201
9. Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) (9) 200
10. Susan Coiller (Bl) (18) 182.5
11. Fiona Elliot (St) (10) 177
12. Sarah Sandley (Mi) (11) 158
13. Joanne Shaw (Y) (21) 156
14. Suzanne Hunt (Li) (131) 150.5
15. Jean Parker (La) (12) 149.5
16. Helen Williams (Mi) (17) 141.5
17. Karen Groves (Wa) (18) 130
18. Mandy Reeves (Mi) (20) 124
19. Carol Butler (Dv) (151) 120.5
20. Nina Tsakarisianos (Ov) (18) 117.5
21. Angela Mitchell (Mi) (19) 108
22. Carol Spain (K) (32) 95.5
23. Mary Danbow (Ch) (21) 89
24. Rebecca Russe (Av) (38) 82
25. Sandra Peakman (Wa) (37) 78.5
26. Helen Bardwell (He) (24) 75.5
27. Elaine Sayer (E) (125) 71.5
28. Jenny Collins (Bl) (125) 67
29. Melody Hill (Y) (126) 64
30. Amanda Hegarty (Po) (27) 64
31. Melanie Seaton (Y) (29) 62
32. Jane Barelia (SY) (128) 61.5
33. Debbie Sciccoffra (Ca) (481) 60.5
34. Yvonne Hall (It) (42) 59.5
35. Julie Revell (Le) (33) 56
36. Sally Weston (Sx) (31) 53.5
37. Christine Peacock (La) (30) 53.5
38. Helen Shields (Y) (35) 51
39. Jill Powis (St) (34) 50
40. Teresa Moore (S1) (46) 49
41. Michelle Hams (Sy) (36) 47
42. Cheryl Butterly (U) (41) 44.5
43. Julie Dimmock (Bk) (391) 40
44. Deborah Simmonds (Sy) (501) 38.5
45. Taryn Napier-Vallis (Bl) (445) 36
46. Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (43) 35
47. Julie Mclean (Y) (441) 34
48. Elaine Hammond (E) (5) 32.5
49. Claire Maisey (Wi) (49) 29.5
50. Lisa Haydon (E) (45) 29

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Mandy Reeves of Middlesex who moves up two places from No. 20 to No. 18. Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.

Nigel Eckersley of Cheshire and Cleveland’s Carole Moore remaining at Nos. 24 and 5 respectively.
The annual British Universities Championships were this year played at Swansea University over the weekend of Feb. 4/5, the five events attracting over 150 entries yet again. Despite a number of non-arrivals the tournament continued from this season's U.A.U. Championships in the quality in depth of the players involved, giving hope of success to more individuals than ever before. Indicative of the strength of the entry was the seeding of the reigning singles champions at Nos, 6 and 7 respectively.

Unfortunately the sea air could not entice No. 1 men's seed Dave Gannon of Aston to appear, but the organisers were to suffer no other major absentee. In the bottom quarter of the draw Strathclyde's dynamic Brian Wright, last year's runner-up, looked determined to go one better, powering his way through the tricky Brian Bennett and the big-looping Stuart Richards of Exeter for a place in the last four.

In the top quarter the famed retrieving of Bristol's Richard Russell, the No. 7 seed, was found wanting against the patient approach of Sheffield's Phil Aspinall who then rode out the challenge of Glasgow's David Lee for a semi-final place. In the second quarter 3rd seeded Iain Fullerton of London coasted through the early stages before Loughborough's Mark Illingsworth upset the formbook with an ominously assured display of hitting. Elsewhere the demise of defending champion Neil Bailey of Sheffield was seen when the Southampton whirlwind Joe Okosieme found his big-hitting best.

U.A.U. champion Paul Rainford of York was in no mood for Okosieme's tricks and despatched the South coast giant 2-straight to complete the semi-final line-up. Here Aspinall seemed intent on adding to the upsets but eventually Illingsworth's weight of shot wore his opponent down. In the other semi Wright and Rainford fought out a marathon struggle, the Scot eventually forcing victory. By comparison with the semis the final was a scrappy affair with Wright seemingly overeager, and after a tight first game Illingsworth ran away with the set to leave the Scot wondering what had gone wrong. Much the calmer man the Loughborough No. 1 took every chance to attack with power and accuracy and looked a very worthy champion in the end.

The women's singles was unevenly affected by withdrawals but the top 5 seeds were present and the number of players of county standard or better was greater than anyone could remember. Making her first attempt, Birmingham's Sarah Sandley was seeded No. 1, with local heroine Lesley Tyler 2nd seed, and these two duly reached the semis untroubled. Former champion Cheryl Buttery of Nottingham, and Sheffield's reigning champion Janet Deakin, seeded 3 and 7 respectively came through to a last eight meeting, where, despite a recurrence of back trouble. Cheryl hit ferociously to settle an old score against a strangely subdued Miss Deakin. The other quarter featured the season's biggest upset, the vastly underrated Cara Rowe of Keele putting out Sheffield's Lesley Broomhead at "deuce" in the third after Lesley had a match winning point called let.

At the penultimate stage the steady compact game of Sandley tempered Buttery's steel and Rowe's dash was abruptly halted by the lovely Miss Tyler. In the final the crowd was treated to a classic contest of counter-hitting and looping, Lesley's nervous start being the only difference between the two in the first game. In the second Lesley made a supreme effort, taking the fight to Sarah with flowing drives on both wings. However, lady luck seemed stacked on Sarah's side and a storming last 10 points saw the English international come out on top to take the women's title.

In the men's double, the No. 2 seeds, Bailey and Aspinall of Sheffield took two very well-earned golds, being fully extended in every set and finally triumphing over Rainford and Mercer of York. In the women's doubles Sheffield's strength was evident again with Broomhead and Deakin following their male comrades in adding the British title to their U.A.U. success with a final victory over London's Gillian Sharpe and Debbie Brown. In the mixed Sandley gained her second title partnered by Steve Barby who played a fine lead once the big loops began to land, eventually trimming out the lively 'funny bat' combo from London, Fullerton and Sharpe.

With the chances of a British team going to the World Student Champs. looking good, several claims were staked over the weekend in a fine tournament, and the annual match between the universities and polys in March will have even greater significance this year as players press for inclusion.
POSTBAG

RIGHT TO REPLY

There are so many untruths in the January issue of Wright Report, that I felt I must exercise my right to reply.

I am glad that John Prean feels that the Charles Church International at Wembley was fun, I can assure him that it was anything but, especially for Carl.

Granted, Carl did have an excellent Worlds and Commonwealth, and nobody can ever take that away from him but he was not the only one. England actually sent a TEAM, not only Carl Prean and he cannot live on these results for ever. To the Press one is only as good as one’s last result, they need something sensational to write about, and people judge on what they are seeing when they are seeing it, not something that they have read about in a newspaper or magazine.

Regarding Carl’s European League debut. The account given by John Prean is totally incorrect. Carl’s instructions were to be at the Airport to meet me and the rest of the team at 9.45 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Rooms were booked at the Bonnington Hotel for Des, Carl and myself for the previous evening, the decision whether to use these rooms was entirely that of each individual. Carl chose to stay, Des did not, he made his own way to the Airport. The following morning I was just have likely to have done. Had Carl, or any other member of the team wished to alter the meeting arrangements, a telephone call was all that was needed, either to myself or to the E.T.T.A. Despite this, I did enquire on my arrival on the Monday evening who, if anybody had booked in. I was told that Carl had and that he was in bed. The following morning I went down to breakfast at 8.15 and looked for Carl, after breakfast I looked for him again, rang his room, but there was no reply. I looked once more in the dining room and in the lounge, but there was no Carl, so I left for the Airport at 9.05 a.m.

Later Carl explained that he had made no provision for a call and had slept until the hotel cleaner woke him. Then, instead of doing what he should have done and getting himself to the Airport, he decided to cause havoc by ringing all and sundry, wasting yet more time and he finally arrived at the Airport at 10.25. I understand that during one of the telephone conversations the ludicrous suggestion was made that Carl had been left behind on purpose!! I can assure you that I have made hundreds of such trips and have never lost a player yet, and to journey all the way to Poland with a third of the team missing is totally unthinkable.

The journey was a long one. Poland is a long way off, and believe me the Travel Agent does know his job. I can also assure you that we do not have a policy which dictates that our players arrive as tired as possible. It is all part of a player’s conditioning to be ready when asked to play. There is no time for acclimatisation, and this is a fact which is accepted by all teams in the European League. If a player cannot adapt to the type of conditions, whatever they may be, then they should decline the invitation to play. One final point on this trip - it was sheer luxury compared with the one to Kuala Lumpur. Travel is something we have to learn to live with and we are not on our own - we have the Swedes who had a 23 hour journey immediately prior to playing and still managed to survive.

Carl was not picked for the Swedish Open, and the Selection Committee has no need to explain why a player is not picked for any particular event, but why describe his non-selection for this event as a tragedy? There is no guarantee that he would have had one or two good wins in Sweden, it is a very strong tournament, and anyway he had ample opportunity to gain the required points that he needed for the Top 12 and the E.L. matches and the two foreign tournaments for which he was selected. Totally untrue also are John Prean’s remarks about my apparently being uninterested in Carl’s off-form spell. I have spoken to him on three separate occasions, about him regaining his form, and of course I told him that it was a batch of inferior inverted rubber and a batch of inferior pimpled rubber which was causing the problems.

In his column John has blamed - change of rules, rubbers, travel, small rooms, cold water,” cash shortages, selectors and myself for the loss of Carl’s form. Is there a possibility that he could have got it wrong?

I too, have a very talented son, who at the age of 17 is ranked No.1 in the U.K. for both Long Jump and the 100 metres. When he has had a bad day, I do not go rushing home to put pen to paper, writing to the Athletic’s Weekly and blaming everything from his coach to the sand or his spikes or the direction of the wind. I try to help him to make sure that it does not happen again at the next meeting, and am grateful for any help or assistance which he receives.

Carl had a very busy competitive schedule after his very successful and strenuous Commonwealth and Worlds, playing in the English Junior Open, the Norwich Union Grand Prix and the European Youth Championships. He was invited to an England Senior Training Camp at the end of August, but a reply came from John to say that Carl would not be attending as he was resting after a strenuous season. A very sensible decision, which I respected. However, no sooner had he declined the invitation to the Camp when he was invited to play in the World Cup in Barbados. He accepted this invitation, which I feel was a mistake. Although this was a prestigious event, Carl would have been better resting.

Carl did not attend any senior training camps in the first half of the season, the excuse being that he could not have time off school. A criptic remark from John on each training camp reply form asked why we did not arrange camps over a weekend so that Carl could attend. With such a congested calendar of 14 weekends taken up by National League matches and the various grades of tournaments, etc., this is impossible. If a player has to turn down an invitation to attend a training camp for academic reasons, I respect this as it is near impossible for players to make a reasonable living playing table tennis. However, Carl did manage to take a week off school when we played Poland in the European League, and another week when we played Sweden in the European League, another week for the Swiss Open and another week for the Hungarian Open and E.L. Match. He could take time off school to compete, but not to train. It is a mistake to train BY competition, one should train FOR competition.

Let us look at some of the problems that Carl has encountered this season. In Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo he was winning at least 3 out of 5 services, but with the new service rule and colour change, he is lucky if he wins three per game now.

Carl’s receive of short service is poor. He lacks the flair that he had in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo.

Most of all, this season Carl has lacked the FIGHT that he had in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo. Could it be his way of rejecting the pressures and expectations that have been placed upon him, has it been too much for him? Many players have been ruined because of too much pressure too soon. A player needs to be nurtured. Carl has time on his side.

What about the opposition? They are not a bunch of idiots where material players are concerned. They may lose on the first few encounters, but they do learn how to play against the material. There may be the odd rabbit who finds difficulty playing against it, but in the main it can be overcome. A lesson that was learned with John Hilton was that when a player had learned how to play him we had to be selective in our choice of his opponents, and this has been successful.

Many players have had to adjust to the new rules, but what adjustment has been made by Carl? I have spoken
to him about this but has the advice been accepted? I think not. As a captain I want success for the player and will support the player through thick and thin, but if you are captain, coach, trainer, call it what you will, it is a two-way process, one cannot work without the co-operation of the other. We need to work as a TEAM, a word that seems to be lacking in John Prean's vocabulary.

PETER SIMPSON
ETTA NATIONAL TRAINER/COACH
9, Lisker Avenue,
Otley, West Yorks.
LS21 1DG

UNDER-21
A great deal of thought is being given to the far-reaching T.T. development plan. Inevitably, the gestation period is long.

Meantime, we seem to be remarkably successful at encouraging young players to enter tournaments - the passport to serious play. Then, at 17, we encourage all but the best of them to stop.

It's a big jump from the U-17 group to senior events. Why not a U-21 age group? (Perhaps it could replace the Junior boys' doubles - could anyone argue that it would not be more valuable?).

May I suggest an item on the agenda for the next National Council meeting or perhaps the ETIA Management Committee could take a lead with some proposals.

LES BRIDGES
30 Inwood Road,
Bridgwater, Somerset,
TA67PP

THE PLASTIC BALL
In your last issue John Woodford writes "... the next move can only be from the ITIF"; Peter Charters writes "... the argument is only with the ITIF".

Why?
The ITIF approves balls from a large number of manufacturers. Unlike most national Associations, the ITIF does not see approval as merely a fund-raising operation; we spend over $5,000 every year on tests.

The Dunlop ball has been around a long time and has been used a great deal in international matches. It seems that some players do not like it; perhaps the ITIF should find out exactly why, and spend a few thousand more dollars to devise some new criteria other than those which all balls, including the Dunlop, have to pass; that is to say our conformity and regularity tests for weight, size, bounce, sphericity and veer.

Perhaps, on the other hand, the ITIF should do nothing of the kind. National Associations have a choice of eighteen balls they can use in international competitions. Any Association which finds that the ball it has selected is not liked by its players is at liberty to resolve the matter in any way it chooses, without instructions from the ITIF.

TONY BROOKS
Secretary-General
ITTF

OLYMPIC ELIGIBILITY
The concern about Olympic eligibility expressed by E. B. Hall in his letter (your February) provides a good opportunity of explaining the new situation to your readers and, I hope, reassuring those who share his misgivings.

There are three important points to be made clear.

First, table tennis remains an "open" sport. None of the steps which had to be taken to obtain Olympic recognition of table tennis - the definition of Olympic eligibility and the laying down of regulations for its application - have any relevance whatsoever to any table tennis event other than Olympic ones. No one needs to pay the slightest attention to paragraph 2.1 of our rules unless he has an ambition to participate in the 1988 Olympic Games or any Regional Games held under the auspices of the IOC. So our Olympic involvement has not affected the way in which our Olympic rules have added the possibility of a glittering honour for a few players (only 144, from the whole world, will compete in 1988). It has added something else as well, which I shall mention later.

Second, those players who do not want to keep open for themselves the option of remaining eligible for the Olympic Games will still be able to derive a considerable income from table tennis. I cannot imagine what young players think they mean when they announce that they are "turning professional"; we have no distinction between amateurs and "professionals". What we do now have are some rules which players must observe if they want to remain eligible for Olympic selection. For example, advertising contracts with commercial sponsors can be made, but not direct - only by Associations on players' behalf; prize money can be accepted, but only at tournaments recognised by the ITIF.

The rules are not complicated, and no doubt the ETIA will ensure that all English players are fully aware of them before they come into effect next August; until the 23rd Olympiad, that is to say the four years preceding the 1988 Olympic Games, the rules do not apply. In the meantime, anyone who would like a more detailed explanation of the eligibility code can write to the ITIF Secretariat at 53 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, E. Sussex, TN37 6AV, for a copy of leaflet TI 0 (at post free).

It has been possible to introduce uncomplicated rules because of the new climate of thought which has developed in the Olympic movement over the past few years, and because our sport has never had to resort to hypocrisy or subterfuge to serve some nebulous concept of amateurism. In the ITIF's initial submission to the IOC, we stated quite simply the object of our proposed Olympic eligibility code: "... to ensure that players in Olympic table tennis competitions are not subject to commercial influences or restraints and that the competitions themselves are, as far as possible, similarly free from concerns other than those of pure sport".

We believe that the code will make some progress towards this end without in any way inhibiting the activities of table tennis players, even the minority who will set their sights on participating in the Olympics.

Finally, for those who are still unconvinced that the entry of table tennis into the Olympic Games will be of nothing but benefit to the sport, there is the matter of the money. The ITIF, even though it has one hundred and eleven people sitting on its Council and committees and so many obligations to commercial sources to follow, has not been slow to rise to the challenge which faces the international and national governing bodies as a result of the increasing influx of funds from commercial sources into all sports. Five years ago the ITIF's successful "initiative in inviting the co-operation of the biggest sports promoter in the world to set up the World Cup. Other prize money events are proliferating, and the eligibility code will help to keep control of the sport where it should be - in the hands of the national Associations and their international federation. And soon, in four years' time, table tennis will get its share of the Olympic television fees. How this money will be spent - and it will not amount to less than a million dollars - will be an interesting subject for debate among the 121 Associations which make up the ITIF. Certainly, the benefits from it will ultimately reach not only a few hundred Olympic hopefuls but also a high proportion of the thirty million other players in the table tennis world.

TONY BROOKS
Secretary-General
ITTF

53 London Rd.,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN37 6AY

BENEFIT FOR ALL
Mr. Prean, what on earth is happening to our game? Do we ever get to a month when there is not something to pull table tennis to pieces over, together with people who spend a lot of time trying to make it run smoothly? Very few things on this earth would run as we would wish, and sometimes we have to compromise instead of sticking knives in people and organisations who are trying to make it work for the benefit of all.

This latest episode of boycotting a ball Which has been in recognised use for thirteen years I find strange,
especially as soon after a new rule has come in regarding rubber colours and service rule changes.

John Prean stated in the last magazine that Carl has lost the enjoyment of the game when having to play with 'Dunlop' balls although he had done so before with success. What about the unknown number of players who have had to try to compete against combination bats over the last few years and when anybody spoke up they were told that they should learn to play against them. At least with a ball it is the same for both players and no-one has an advantage which can hardly be said of the rubber differences.

I only hope that after all this fuss about the type of ball that some players think they are above playing with, whether it be genuine or, as I suspect in retaliation for other reasons, that commonsense will prevail and that the finances of the game will not suffer in order to gratify the few, for in the long run, it is a lot easier to lose financial support from the players than to gain it.

As a last note on the combination bat, I can only say that over the last three years I have attended most junior events of any importance and have been very disappointed at the number of poor games that have presented themselves, not through the lack of potential skills that most players have but solely through errors being forced upon them by the equipment used against them.

With the introduction of the new rules on colours and service I look forward to an improvement in standards of play for the benefit of both player and spectators alike.

BRIAN BOXALL
17 Willow Close, Cheshunt, Herts.
EN76RY

BOYCOTT SUPPORT

My letter concerns two areas of controversy. Firstly, I would like to express my support for Carl Prean's boycott of the English Open. Clearly the low number of entries and the absence of top players from many counties indicates the widespread dislike of the "Barna" ball. John Prean's comment that most league and tournament players would choose not to use it is quite correct in my opinion. (TV-AM, 26/1). I hope that Carl's playing career does not suffer because of this protest, as he is acting with great conviction.

The EITA will suffer great loss if the English Open cannot attract "the cream of the world's players" (another quote from TV-AM) in future years. May I urge those of you who agree with me to sign the petition being circulated currently.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Stuart Greenberg's letter in the December issue. I am most offended at being referred to as a "trickster" and "con-man". Yes, I use a combination bat, Friendship/Lentec Swing. Before I am accused of plagiarism, I believe I used this combination before Carl Prean. Perhaps Mr. Greenberg would give consideration to the following points:-

1. The same service action with either side produces different effects. No trick as anyone can try it for themselves. A good argument for combination bats.

2. Combination bats are more difficult to play with than reverse both sides (if you twiddle). Therefore, in practice it is necessary to practice point winning systems, to enable you to decide which side of the racket you use for each stroke. Successful players do this as it is more use to them than a book of spells, and it means that they are more likely to win.

3. Using pimples is no advantage unless the ball is struck firmly, which causes the pimples to bend. I believe that this encourages a more positive attitude, which is often enough to unsettle an opponent.

4. The 2 colour rule has cancelled out any exploitation for the combination bat player. 2 colours does not make the player any easier to play against. Only being aware of the effects of pimples or anti-loop will help here.

5. If combination bats are such an unfair means by which to fool an opponent, then surely more players will use them, particularly as so little skill is thought to be needed in the first place.

I suspect that Mr. Greenberg hoped that combination bat players would disappear (as if by magic) after the 2 colour rule came into effect. He is bound to be a little upset if that is true.

Like Carl Prean (see January issue) I will continue to use my present racket, and I would consider myself to be 'fully competent with reverse both sides. In future, I hope that Mr. Greenberg or anyone else will give more thought to their own game, and much more thought to any criticism which they may wish to level at fellow players who choose to use equipment which they cannot handle. I think that this would be, better for the game than calling other players con-men.

JERRY DEMPESEY
Flat 8, Yarnton Court, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1AT.

THE BALL CONTROVERSY

Perhaps you will allow me to reply to the unjustified slur on the petition against the plastic ball made by Peter Charters in the February edition of Table Tennis News. Charters said "John Holland's petition at Hinckley seems to have been conducted in a manner such as to make his findings questionable". He does not explain that gnomic remark but let a little mud stick.

Before his article appeared I had a conversation with Mr. Charters and Mr. Blunn, at the Cotswold 'Select', about the plastic ball. Peter claimed that names had been collected at Hinckley from players who had not even read the petition from 'who had not known that they were giving an undertaking not to participate in tournaments using the plastic ball as from next season. Of course, that is a load of nonsense as far as I have been able to determine. The signatories are in a position to repudiate their action if they choose to do so but that is another matter.

In my interesting chat with Messrs. Charters and Blunn the latter indicated that he had vetoed the appearance of my letter explaining the petition in Table Tennis News. It is worthwhile to get such occasional glimpses of the inner processes of our democratic Association.

JOHN HOLLAND
41 Foxhunter Walk, Billericay, Essex.
CM11 1DZ

Not so, John, no such veto of your letter to Albert Shipleys which reads:

Dear Mr. Shipleys,

The enclosed petition against plastic balls was started at the English Junior 'Closed', at Hinckley, on Dec. 3, 1983. Among the signatories so far are many of the leading junior, cadet and senior players in England, coaches and parents. The signatories decline to support tournaments using plastic balls as from next season.

The opposition to plastic balls is almost universal, although there are notable exceptions such as Graham Sandley. It is an opposition based on the fact that these balls have markedly different characteristics in play from approved, quality, celluloid balls. It is unreasonable to expect players to produce their best form, let alone an attractive spectacle, when they are obliged to make adjustments of timing and strokes to accommodate the plastic ball.

Of course, opposition to the plastic ball is not new. At all levels of the game, players have been grumbling about them for years. For most players it has not been too much of an issue since they so seldom have to play with them. Even in the County Championship, sponsored by Dunlop for some years, where they are supposedly to be used, teams often come to an understanding before the game to use a different ball, even if it may be enclosed, hypocritically in a Dunlop box. I have played for three seasons in Veterans' divisions of the C.C. without ever once using the plastic ball. And let us not pretend that it's only the old codgers who will go to such length to avoid them.

Now the sponsorship which accompanies the command to use the plastic ball is welcome. Obviously, the ETTA, the English Schools, I.T.A., and other bodies in the sport receive Dunlop sponsorship, want to retain it. If the price of continued Dunlop
sponsored use of the plastic ball then it is too high. What is needed is the re-entry into urgent discussions with the Company to seek to persuade them that they should cease to produce the plastic ball and move into celluloid balls. This is to be done in the direction of standardisation. At the same time, we should urge upon the next biennial meeting of the ITTF that approval should be confined to celluloid balls which meet the specifications.

The full text of the petition is as follows: "The undersigned wish to protest at the use of plastic balls in major English Table Tennis competitions. These balls produce a different bounce from all other approved makes which are manufactured in celluloid. This causes players to make uncharacteristic errors and detracts from the spectator value of the sport. "We decline to support any more tournaments which use the plastic balls after the 1983-84 season." Yours sincerely,

JOHN HOLLAND

As does your letter to the Editor.... Dear George,

I enclose a letter recently sent to Mr. Shipley concerning plastic balls. Please publish it in the letters column of 'Table Tennis News' along with this letter. Although the petition is critical of current policy of the Association its objectives are the constructive ones of minimising unfairness to players and enhancing the spectator appeal, and, hence, the rehabilitation of table tennis.

Copies of the petition form can be obtained from me at the above address. May I suggest that Table Tennis News readers who sympathise with the petition raise it as a motion at the Management Committees of their local leagues and County Associations. I should be most interested to hear of the reaction gained from such initiatives. If those of us who oppose the plastic ball - the courage of our convictions it should not be long before the majority of our National Councillors both share and proclaim our views and instruct the A to take relevant action on behalf of the overwhelming majority of members.

What the papers (and players) say...

"Carl Prean was just about England's most effective force at the N.U. English Open.... Yesterday the 16-year-old who boycotted the tournament because he refused to play with plastic balls, will be more than interested to know that the men lost at break-time, and the women by the coffee break: and Desmond Douglas concluded England's most disastrous morning for very many years with a tirade in support of his absent colleague.... The Association did not speak to us about the ball - they just think about themselves and getting money from the contract. Your heart's not in it when it's like that.... You are not only playing the opponent. You're fighting the ball as well!" - The Guardian.

"After watching all 4 England teams being beaten in the second round Douglas said: 'I don't think anyone is happy with the plastic Dunlop ball. Carl Prean was criticised for boycotting the championship because of the ball - but it could be he is better off not playing..... the Association should not have signed the contract. They should have examined the interests of the players.' - Daily Express.

"Disaster day for England..... players blaming the plastic ball... threatening to boycott the English Closed at Bletchley in March..... players say it produces an uneven bounce...." - Daily Mail.

"Widespread criticism by players of the Dunlop plastic ball is rapidly increasing.... it is possible that in addition to Carl Prean Douglas may boycott the English Championships in Bletchley....." - Daily Telegraph.

"There was more trouble at the N.U. English Open. In this Championship yesterday over the choice of non-celluloid balls..... Swedish Team Coach Coach Glenn Osth revealed that top three Swedes had stayed away because of the ball (Top 3 in Europe as well -)" - Daily Express.

"Plastic Ball out of Favour at Brighton" (headline - Daily Telegraph).

"Several leading overseas players indicated they would not return to this country's le-aging event if a plastic ball and not a celluloid one were used again.... Jacques Secretin, the former European Champion..... stalked off complaining about the ball.... the late withdrawal of the two top seeds looks meaningful against such a background of discontent...." - The Guardian.

"The plastic ball came in for more criticism..... precise complaints... are that it feels hard and heavy, that it has a more rapidly-falling trajectory, the bounce is unpredictable.... The Swedish Coach commented: 'One of the reasons that the top 3 Swedish players are absent is because of the plastic ball. This tournament will not attract the top European players in future unless there is a change to celluloid balls' " - Daily Telegraph.

"Plastic ball stays - know table tennis chief" (headline - Daily Mail).

"I might have won with it - but they should still burn it" Desmond Douglas quoted in The Guardian.

"Prean.... but it was a decision that might have cost him his future England place - despite widespread support among players...." - Daily Express. Desmond Douglas ('Carl Prean should be cheered for what he has done' said Douglas after his. victory) "The selectors should have picked him on ability and not hold a grudge" - Daily Express.

"The decision has nothing to do with Carl's boycotting the ball - his results have not been all that good recently", Chairman ofSelectors Peter Charters quoted by The Guardian (Richard Eaton) describing Prean, victor over 1979 world champion Seji Ono a week earlier and still unbeaten in England's National League.

Plastic Balls for All?

Deeply moved by the handful of readers who have told us, often at great length, that there is too much Prean in IT News I propose to give the floor to others and act only as a linkman. There were, incidentally, 63 columns of County News in the Feb. issue of which I occupied less than two.

Mr. Woodford tells us that 'the whole world has rejected the plastic ball'. Then why are we getting so much stick? Mr. Oesth, the Swedish Coach, tells us that his leading players (currently No.1, 2 and 3 in Europe) will not play in the English Open if we continue to use that ball. Desmond Douglas and another English player (whom I dare not mention) tell us that they will play in no further plastic ball events after the Bletchley Closed. Mr. Charters, Chairman ofSelectors, tells us that "there could be a case for standardisation around the use of plastic," which I mean by your "standardisation around the use of plastic" proposals, Mr. Charters: Do you really want everybody to play with Banna Super Balls, since that is the only one made of plastic, all others being celluloid. I have travelled far and wide and have never found a local league match that was played with such balls. Please, tell us what you mean by your "standardisation around the use of plastic" proposals, Mr. Charters: Do you really want everybody to play with Banna balls?

Further interesting revelations follow into the workings of our Selection Committee, or at any rate a majority of this. Parochial junior events take precedence over Foreign Opens, because, it seems, of the Sponsors, just as the Sponsor appears supreme in the choice of balls. It seems to matter little, if at all, that the majority of players do not like the ball.

I am sure Mr. Woodford's advice was well meant and I take his point that the player who made the stand against the ball may not be picked for the European Championships. If so, one asks modestly what they have been feeding into that famous computer all these years, because in that the player emerges obstinately in list after list at No.1 or No.2. If that means that he is really not in the best 5, then one can only marvel at the selection thought processes until one remembers that we are in the year of 1984. As Desmond Douglas said: "The selectors should have picked him on ability and not hold a grudge".
Mr. Charters accuses Mr. Snodell (whom I have never met) and me of making offensive comments and then says that our well thought out letters are 'silly'. We at any rate did not suggest that everybody should play with Barna balls.

Yes, we do think it is tragic that our favourite sport has sunk to such depths, that we see hours of darts and bowls on the box, even Bridge and Chess, whilst we get next to nothing.

That shows how low we have fallen in the esteem of our fellowmen and Mr. Charters who is high in the ETTA should address himself to that problem. He is in national office. We are not. My offer, as a serious and successful businessman, to look at ETTA books was not taken up. I do not accept the point that voluntary officers have to be inefficient. Sport has to be run like a business. Otherwise it fails, just as badly run businesses fail.

If you offer yourself for election, you run the risk that some people do not like what you do and that they will say so. That is democracy. Under Fascism there is of course no criticism. The last line was fought because of this. I left my native land for this reason. I am entitled to say what I think.

I say to Mr. Charters, in the nicest possible way, that I do not think we are making the most of the talent of our players, that we treat them badly and that our international performances leave much to be desired. The membership may one day require more of him than his warm advocacy of the Barna ball.

His job is to produce winning England Teams. By that he will be judged, not the unearthing of imaginary slights from those whose devotion to the Game may be just as great as his. He, not just the players, are on trial. I say this to him because I like him and because I want him to devote all his considerable energies to the task he has been given.

JOHN PREAN

12 Marlborough Rd., Ryde, Isle of Wight.
P0331AA.

MYTHS DISPELLED

I think that it is about time that the small army of funny bat club players rallied to my support. My offer for the defence of funny rubber. There are two myths which seem to have become ITTF/ETTA lore both of which need to be dispelled.

Firstly, there is the assumption that pimples/anti-loop allow poor players to cope with any level of skill by guaranteeing that the ball is returned in an unplayable state to the luckless and "cheated" opponent. If anyone thinks that, instead of storming off in a huff after losing to a combination bat player they should ask him to let them try out the bat. I've lent mine to a number of people who find it almost impossible to control - never mind predict the return. The point which I've never seen made in print is that while long pimples may be difficult to play against they are even more difficult to play with. Not only do they require maximum concentration but also a great improvement in footwork. The limp block at full stretch, which goes back with fast reverse rubber either never reaches the net or dollies-up off any funny rubber.

You have to get behind the ball and play a stroke, and for a reactive blocking attacker, like I was, this can come as something of a shock - both mentally and physically. The second myth relates to the "boring" games which always seem to be the fault of funny bat players. That was patently disproved in this year's English Open. The high serve and bash tactics of Broda in the final against Douglas provided little entertainment. Most keen-eyed and what TV punters must have thought of it as an all irrelevant advertisement for the game I shudder to think. In total contrast Broda's quarter-final the day before against an anti-looper was a great match.

Unlike the knowledge of funny bat players I'm not belittling or underestimating the skill of Broda and Douglas. I'm just pointing out that their confrontation had about as much to do with table tennis as a western gunfight and as entertaining to spectators as small bore rifle shooting. Certainly not a spectacle likely to get us even a weekly spot on Channel 4 behind boys' boxing and basketball.

But perhaps we should examine the "boring" statement a little more closely. I don't find matches with funny bat players boring, because I know what they are doing. While, by their nature, these surfaces produce some mysterious shots the majority of returns are predictable and consistent. Rather than boring I find them enthralling and instructive. If some spectators are bored it's presumably because they do not understand (i.e. haven't bothered to find out) just what's going on. Like it or not anti-loop and long pimpled rubbers are part of the game and it's about time players, officials and coaches accepted the situation.

While on the subject of coaching, again, this is an area where the funny rubber player is at a disadvantage. No one would expect that anyone should learn the fundamentals of the game with anything but "standard" rubber on a sensible blade and while a coach would be giving good advice to any improving player not to use 2.5m Mark V on a carbon fibre blade what right has he to ignore the player with funny rubber?

There is no doubt that some rubbers suit some players better than others but many players whose game is naturally suited to funny rubbers in the sport's mindless pursuit of churning out armies of little rollers. Young and old alike who make the decision to play with anti-establishment rubber are left to experiment with compounded errors without the benefit of any advice while the little and not so little rollers and pushers are left in the dark when it comes to playing the "cheats".

Let us suppose that 25 years ago long pimples and not reverse sponge had replaced hard bats. Imagine the furor reverse sponge would now be creating. "Cheats" would develop heavy back spin from the topspin stroke (which would have been a push or what is now a conventional chop shot) etc. But (ha, hal their heavy topspin, vicious side spin and deadly smash would be contained by the conventional (long-pimpled) surface. Funny isn't it? But it may have something to do with the prevailing "get in first" attitude.

So how about it "cheats"? Why not get into print and try to achieve respectability for what is a legitimate variation to the sport. And also how about it ETTA and freelance coaches? Why not set up some performance improvement courses specifically angled towards play with and against funny rubber. If you can't beat us...

N.A. KENDRICK
31 Glebelands,
Claygate, Surrey.
KT100IF.

MUCH FAVOURED

I refer to the article by Murray Corbin in the No. 139 December issue. In his last paragraph he refers to John Taylor, Sec. Herts veterans' team, and his suggestion to improve play by injecting more competition with the number of points awarded for each score Le. total of 4.

This is a system we have used in the Matlock, Derbyshire League for some years now, and we can verify that the competition is much favoured.

Every set is played for - no taking two players to 'win' a match and the unlucky team who lose a few at 6-4 still pick up a considerable number of points Le. two as against nil.

I have also suggested this same system for the Chesterfield League but without success at their AGM. I would ask any league to consider this system for furthering interest with 4 points being won for 10-0 or 9-1, 3 pts for 8-2 or 7-3, 2pts for 6-4 and 1 pt for a 5-all draw. You will notice the reduction in points for a draw.

LES HEWITT
Diploma Coach/Player
39 Highland Avenue,
Newbold, Chesterfield,
Derbys. S41 7AU

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Near the back of the programme for the recently held NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, an article by JOHN WOODFORD states, "Now that
This season's failed to make it a hattrick in the mixed M.S: Q-F's:
S. Sharpe (V) bt K. Beadsley (V)
S. Scowcroft (La) bt N. Oavis (V)
S. Mills (V) bt S. Brunskill (Cv)

won by Bolton's Stephen Scowcroft was again held at Featherstone Sports

M. Stead (V) bt

W.O: Final:

W.S: S-F's:
Stead bt Mills

X.O: Final:

Centre, on Jan. 7, when 150 entries

including 123 for the men's singles

in the semis by fellow Tyke, Michael

had a final win over Joanne Shaw.

J. BURROWS (Y)/SHAW bt Ryalls/M. Seaton (V)

15. -18. 18;

17. 12;

19. 10;

10, 14.


Dilst of Holland took over the
duties of what has been over a period of 24 years during

Mrs. Evans concludes her report -

"I am standing down now because I

have enjoyed to the full my involve-
ment with European Table Tennis. It

has taken me to very many places; it

has brought me an ever widening

circle of friends, not only work friends,

but many others with similar dedication
to our game.

"I am profoundly grateful to all the

Associations and their officials at all

levels who have helped me in my task,

and whose support has been of

so much support to me. To our Exe-

cutive and Management committee

members I say a sincere Thank you

for all your help. I hope that I may

retain the friendship of all for always.

If your greatest claim to fame in the
table tennis world was that you were

once in the team that finished runners-

up in Division 50 of the London Civil

Service League one would not expect
to read a great deal about the player
in Table Tennis News.

If you were told the following season
that you had to remain in the same division and may play expect-
ad promotion because a better player
had joined the club, one would not
expect the same journal to be
swamped with letters or complaint.

If as a person of 6' 7" you had to play

in the basement of a Government
building only 6' high against a man

with only one leg, he game 5, then
drive that player 35 miles home

,who else but the six people playing

would know if it?

If this player spent a lot of his own
time teaching underprivileged kids of

colours and background to play a
good forehand smash because that'

was the only shot he knew he would

not be mentioned in any coaching

manual.

If the man I am writing about was

still alive to read this letter he would

say there are thousands of people

who play our game and do the same

(anther is).

But I feel that Police Inspector

Steve Dodds who died as the result of

the Harrods bombing was a person

who makes our game the great one

that it is and not only does it produce

champions but gentlemen and heroes.

New Scotland Yard

Name and address supplied.

PONTEFRACT

1-STAR OPEN

FIRST SUCCESS FOR

SCOWCROFT

By R. B. Govan

This season's Pontefract 1-Star Open

was again held at Featherstone Sports

Centre on Jan 7. The 150 entries

were accepted for the eight events

including 123 for the men's singles

won by Bolton's Stephen Scowcroft

whose first open success this was.,

Top seed Steve Mills was eliminated

in the semi by fellow Tyke, Michael

Stead, whilst Scowcroft despatched

Steve Sharpe. Lancashire also provided

the winner of the women's singles in

the person of Christine Peacock who

had a final win over Joanne Shaw.

Scowcroft took a second title, with

Sharpe in the men's doubles, but

failed to make it a hatrick in the mixed

when, with Chary Clarke of Warrington,

the Lancashire duo lost to Kevin

Beadsley and Miss Shaw. Results:-

B.S: S-Pa:
F. Lopodid (Nk) bt H. Newton (V) -19, 18, 19;
F. Curry (Nk) bt A. Bassano (V) 11, 19.
Final: LOGSDON bt Curry 9, 8.
G.S: S-Pa:
Shaw bt H. Brownlow (V) 11, 11;
Clarke bt J. Ward 10, 9.
Final: SHAW bt Clarke 14, 11.
V.S: S-Pa:
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt M. Broughton (Nk);
B. Allison (C) bt M. Norris (Ch)
Final: O'ARCY bt Allison 9, -14, 18.

The Biennial General Meeting of the

E.T.T.U.

was held at the Hotel

Sport, Moscow on April 19, 1984

commencing at 9.30 a.m.

In conveying notice to member
countries Mrs. Nancy Evans, the Hon.

General Secretary, writes - "I am

writing this as the last report I shall

make as Honorary General Secretary

of the European Table Tennis Union."

"Mrs. Evans has been associated

with the Union since it was first

thought of in 1957, and became its

first Hon. Sec/Treasurer in Zagreb in

April 1960. She remained in that
dual office until 1972 when Mr. Henk'van

Dilst of Holland took over the

Treasurershership. Her period of office, therefore, had

been over a period of 24 years during

which time the Union has set up

European Championships, European

League, Europe Club Cup of Cham-
pions, Europe Top 12, European Youth

Championships, Coaching Schemes for

Trainers and Young Players, and

exercised control over the Fairs Citys

Cup and International Open Champions-

ships."

"I am surprised to learn that he and

his commuting commitments to Dusseldorf after his

one-year contract expires at the end of

"I am profoundly grateful to all the

Associations and their officials at all

levels who have helped me in my task,

and whose support has been of

so much support to me. To our Executive

and Management committee

members I say a sincere Thank you

for all your help. I hope that I may

retain the friendship of all for always.

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still alive to read this letter he would

say there are thousands of people

who play our game and do the same

(anther is).

But I feel that Police Inspector

Steve Dodds who died as the result of

the Harrods bombing was a person

who makes our game the great one

that it is and not only does it produce

champions but gentlemen and heroes.

New Scotland Yard

Name and address supplied.
Despite the arctic weather prevailing across the central belt in mid-January very few of the entrants failed to reach the Jack Kane Centre in Edinburgh for the second classification tournament of the season.

David Hannah and Richard Yule both reached their last round confrontation with 6 wins apiece and no losses. David won the first at 20, then Richard hit top form to win the second at 16 and go on to turn 10-7 in the third. Then David staged a comeback and won 21-14 much to Richard’s chagrin at losing a seemingly winning lead.

Young Brian Wright (Glasgow) did well to finish 3rd, whilst David Mcilroy and John Broe slumped to 6th and 7th respectively.

Carole Dalrymple won the women’s top group with Lynn Johnston in 2nd place. Janet Smith was unfit and did not play.

The European League - Division 2

Played at Alexandria Community Centre on Feb. 11 with their top players competing in the Federal Germany Open. The Norwegians sent what amounted to a second team and paid the penalty losing a tight match 3-4 in the 3rd end of the 7th set.

Hannah won his two and Carole Dalrymple returning to the side for the first time since breaking her collarbone last September. struggled at first but soon found her form, won her singles and then combined with Hannah to win the mixed - Scores:

Hannah lost to M. Gustavsen -13 . - 13
O. Hannah bt G. Gustavsen 22 . 18;
C. Dalrymple bt A. H. Skutle 17 . 17;
Hannah / B. Wright lost to G. and M. Gustavsen 9. 15 . 17;
D. Mcilroy lost to G. Gustavsen -16. -11;

STTA Rankings Usts - January 1984

Women:
1. (1) Carole Dalrymple (St)
2. (2) Janet Smith (K)
3. (4) Lynn Johnston (St)
4. (5) Diane Greig (Wal) 5
5. (15) Ela Struthers (S)
6. (8) Eleanor Meenan (W of S) 5
7. (19) Lynn Davren (W of S) 5
8. (1) Scottish Junior Ed.

Key:
Ab = Aberdeen
Ed = Edinburgh
F = Fife
Mo = Monklands
St = Stirlingshire
W = West Dunbarton
W of S = West of Scotland

THE PONTINS GRAND EASTER TABLE TENNIS FESTIVAL. 1984

At Pontins, Seacroft Holiday Centre, Hemsby-On-Sea. Near Great Yarmouth

From Tuesday, 24th April to Saturday 28th April.

For further information, please contact TREVOR OPENSHAW

Telephone 01-858 9402.

Do you get fed-up with travelling nearly every weekend to Tournaments, then arriving back home, late, feeling tired and hungry after driving you or your children around?

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There will be eight events - Open Singles. Ladies’ Singles. Veterans’ Singles. Men’s and Ladies’ Doubles. Mixed Doubles. and Boys’ and Girls’ U-14 and U-17 Singles. All Competitions start in Groups.

Three Meals a Day and Top Class Cabaret every night. The average fee. including VAT is at an average £55-£60. Children aged 2-14 at half price.

All this for 4 days. not forgetting a Prize Fund of £1.000 in money and Holiday Vouchers.

By the way. if you are not or as soon as you are not involved in the Tournament. there is a wide selection of organised activities.

PLEASE C & B THERE! MISS THIS AND BLAME YOURSELF.

Why not contact TREVOR ‘Roly Poly’ OPENSHAW immediately?

Murray Corbin.
Les bridges the Generation Gap

Since veteran table tennis star Les D’Arcy, aged 62, joined 12-year-old schoolboy champion Chris Oldfield in the Public Works side playing in the Super Division of the Sheffield League, experts have been scratching their heads to decide if the age difference constitutes a record.

Significant age gaps are not unusual in a sport popular among young and old but half a century between two players in the same team at such a high level of play takes some beating.

Retired school teacher D’Arcy from Wakefield is rapidly becoming a phenomenon in the local game. Four appearances for PWD have brought ten wins out of 12 for the _county coaching secretary who also plays in the Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield Leagues.

He started playing at Wakefield YMCA in 1934 and represented the town’s juniors in the Yorkshire League in 1937. He went on to represent Wakefield seniors on numerous occasions including last season when he also captained the veterans to the _county title.

FITNESS

D’Arcy who was born five years before the English Table Tennis Association was founded, won a silver medal in the over-60 World Championship in Gothenberg last year. He keeps abreast of the latest developments in the game by constantly modifying his combination bat.

The former PE and Science teacher has six children and 12 grandchildren. One grandchild plays in the Oxford League in the same team as his _own father, D’Arcy’s eldest son, Michael.

A non-smoker and non-drinker, D’Arcy cites a sensible diet and regular exercise as a secret of his fitness but confesses to keeping late nights because of his work on the Yorkshire Committee.

Just 50 years and four months younger than D’Arcy is team-mate Chris Oldfield, the Sheffield Under-14 champion who is ranked No.8 England cadet.

Last weekend he reached the last eight from a huge entry in the Cotswold junior select at Gloucester and claimed several notable scalps to improve his national ranking before losing a ding-dong struggle to England No.1 Matthew Syed.

And the statisticians’ verdict? They agree that the pair are unique for a team in the Sheffield top division but the all-time league record belongs to Abbeydale’s Ray Hibbins and Simon East, who appeared in Division Three in the 1974-75 season at the respective ages of 70 and 17.

NORTH BOURNE, MOUTH

CLUB 1-STAR

WELL PLAYED ANDY

by C. B. Cashell

A strong entry and many exciting matches in this 1-Star event on Feb. 5 which Alf Bridle and his helpers did well to finish by 9.30 p.m.

Avon’s Andy Creed played exceptionally well to beat Martin Abbott of Dorset in the men’s final as did Carol Butler in winning 2-straight against Scottish-ranked Janet Smith.

Results:-

MS: G-F, M. Abbott (Do) bt R. Bute (Sy) 15. 15; A. Creed (Av) bt G. Wilson (DY) 22 . 14.

W: S-F, Creed (Av) bt J. Smith (D) 22 . 14.


W: S:

J. Smith (Do) bt B. Clark (Ha) 19. 16.


M: D-

ABBOTT/WERNER 100) bt P. Giles (Av) 16. 16.

W: D:

CLARK/SKEVINGTON bt L. Travis/VI. Williams (Sy) 19. 18.

X: D: ABBOTT/SKEVINGTON bt M. Francis (Sy)/Smith 19 12.

B: G. HUGHES (Av) bt O. Woodridge (Sy) 18. 16.

G: WILLIAMS bt S. Hegarty (Do) 17. 17.

NATIONAL TRAINER/COACH

After the European/Championships in Moscow the position of the National Trainer/Coach will be transferred from Peter Simpson to Donald Parker.

Peter will take up the position of Senior National Coach within the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme after seven years at National Trainer.

During his time the English team have had notable successes which entitles Peter to be regarded as England’s most successful Trainer so far.

In the reshuffle Donald, at 25, moves into the Trainer’s position having been Junior Captain for the last five years.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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Mr. H. Mallett,
Brackenhurst, Les Hubits,
St. Martins, Guernsey,
Channel Islands.
PH:- (0481) 3B972
Derbyshire’s Alan Cooke made a triumphant return to British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock on Feb. 4 - he was unbeaten there in the Quadrangular event earlier in the season - picking up the men’s singles title and a cheque for £1,000 which went with it thanks to the generosity of Kirkby Central (Bolton) Ltd., the Vauxhall-Opel car dealers.

Joy Grundy was the winner of the counterpart women’s event with a final victory over her Preston teammate Jean Parker victor, in the semis, over the No.2 seed Jill Harris.

Lancashire’s Stephen Scoworth, of Bolton, was the unexpected finalist in the men’s singles and, in front of his home crowd, performed quite remarkably against Cooke in the final as he had done in disposing of Andrew Fletcher, in the quarters, and Kevin Beadsley, a former title holder, in the semis.

Shocks there were as the No.1 seed John Hilton, after a tight opening set victory over Andrew Leigh (-20,13 and 19) was dismissed by Stanley Deakin of Staffs (17, -13, 11) whilst Alan Fletcher, the No.3 seed, was ousted on his first visitation to the tables by the Colquhurd Welshman, Trevor Manning from Wrexham.

No better men’s doubles final had been witnessed at Lostock for many a year which on this occasion was fought out by Cooke and Andy Creed against Beadsley and Fletcher. It brought the house down with a 24-22 third game win for the Derbyshire/Avon duo.

For once in a considerable while Derek Schofield was denied a retention of his veterans’ Singles title giving second best to Matt Shearer of Grimsby in the final. But what an entry from the veteran fraternity with former internationals Bertie Kerr of Scotland and Cornelius J. of England contained in the pack.

Fiona Elliot and Jill Harris had the compensation of winning the women’s doubles title after eliminating the holde-rrs, Karen Groves and Sandra Peakman in beating Joanne Shaw and Debbie Soothill who had their hour of glory in outing Joy Grundy’ and Jean Parker in the semis.

The introduction of a Class 2 mixed singles event proved highly successful and filled in the day admirably with continuous play from 9.30 a.m. until close on 10 p.m. Right from the word go, the tournament went with a swing, not even a spot of bother and not a single complaint about the ball!

Thanks must go, yet again, to David D. Ploewes, the Divisional Executive Director for Personnel and Training of the new combined Hatfield/Lostock Division in particular and to British Aerospace Dynamics in general for their continued support. And, of course, to John Culshaw, local manager of Gardner Merchants, THE caterers, whose buffets are renowned throughout the land.

Results:-
Men’s Singles: Quarter-finals:
- K. Beadsley (V) bt S. Deakin (St) 20. 14.
- D. Scoworth (La) bt A. Bellingham (St) 17, 18, 17.
- M. Thomas (Wat) bt T. Manning (Wat) 14, 13.
- A. Cooke (W) bt N. Eckerley (Co) 10, 20, 10.

Semi-finals:
- Scoworth bt Beadsley 17, 17.
- Cooke bt Thomas 14, 13.

Final: COOKE bt Scoworth 17, 19.

Women’s Singles: Quarter-finals:
- J. Grundy (La) bt D. Soothill (Sa) 3, 12.
- F. Elliot (St) bt J. Shaw (W) 21, 17.
- J. Parker (La) bt M. Rods (Roo) 10, 15.
- J. Harris (St) bt S. Parkman (Wat) 8, 9.

Semi-finals:
- Grundy bt Elliot 13, -17, 12.
- Parker bt Harris, -12, 9, 20.

Final: GRUNDY bt Parker -20, 12, 9.

Men’s Doubles: Semi-finals:
- Cooke/A. Creed (Ayr) bt P. Bowen/J. Hilton (La) 12, 13.

Final: COOKE/CREED bt Beadsley/Fletcher -12, 20, 22.

Women’s Doubles: Semi-finals:
- Shaw/Soothill bt Grundy/Parker 20.
- Elliot/Harris bt K. Groves (Wat)/Peakman 22, 12.

Final: ELLIOT/HARRIS bt Shaw/Soothill 16, -19, 25.

Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
- D. Schofield (Co) bt G. Brook (Wat) 14, 16.
- R. Kerr (St) bt C. Benson (Sc) 9, 17.
- F. D’Arcy (Ch) bt G. Sharpley (La) -17, 8, 18.
- M. Shearer (U) bt A. Hartshorn (La) 18, 13.

Semi-finals:
- Schofield bt Kerr 12, 17.
- Shadrow bt D’Arcy 11, 17.

Final: SHEADROW bt Schofield 21, 17.

Class 2 Mixed Singles: Quarter-finals:
- A. Rich (St) bt S. Bevan (La) 14, 20.
- B. Johns (Ch) bt T. Dyson (V) 14, -20, 21.
- Shadrow bt P. Hooper (Ayr) 11, 20.
- D. Gannon (La) bt J. Deakin (St) -18, 21, 15.

Semi-finals:
- Rich bt Johns 15, 11.
- Gannon bt Shadrow 17, 4.

Final: RICH bt Gannon 5, -21, 8.

‘EVENING CHRONICLE’ Northumberland 2-Star Tournament Saturday, May 5th, 1984 At Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington

The Northumberland T.T. Association are pleased to announce that this season’s 2-Star tournament is once again sponsored by the ‘Evening Chronicle’ and that the prize fund will total £1,260. £250 top prize is for the winner of the men’s singles whilst the winner of the women’s singles will receive £100, and the Class 2 singles has £70 awaiting the winner.

Concordia Leisure Centre has proved to be a popular venue with players in the past and the organisers are hoping for a big entry. Players requiring accommodation can be catered for at the Moat House Hotel at an inclusive price of £9 per person for bed and breakfast. Entry forms are available from: Aubrey Drapkin, 49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE26 1OZ. ‘Phone: 0632-514983

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18 Cedar Mansions, Poole Road, Bournemouth BH4 9DE
Tel: 0202 760 348
INTERNATIONALE
DEUTSCHE MEISTERSCHAFTEN

Poland's Andrzej Grubba was the winner of the men's singles event in the Federal German Open played in the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle, Duisburg over the period Feb. 9/12. Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner was the beaten finalist.

In the semi Grubba beat Desmond Douglas' (19, 17, 14) whilst Waldner accounted for Wilfried Lieck the 38-year-old German who, in the second round, eliminated Carl Prean (11, 19, -17, 15). In the same round Graham Sandley was beaten by Patrick Renverse (16, 13, 17) whilst Alan Cooke was a first round faller to Austria's Gottfried Bar who won -18, 12, -17, 22.

Winner of the women's singles was Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary who beat Tarine Antonian of the Soviet Union. A full report will be afforded in the next magazine the end results being:-

M.S. a-f:s-
A. Grubba (POL) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 19, 17, 14;

Final
GRUBBA bt Waldner 18, -18 -9, 19.
2. Dan (HUN) bt S. Bulatova (URS) -15, 17, -15, 18;
N. Antonian (URS) bt M. Kloppehn (HUN) 11, 8, 8;
Fial. OLSJ bt Antonian 16, -15, 14.
Shaweg (ENG) 12, 19.
WID: Bulatova/A. Zakharian (URS) bt M. Bojani (HUN)-14, 17, 17.
MT: SWEDEN bt Poland 3-2.
Waldner bt Grubba 19, -16, 13.
Appelgren bt Kucharski 15, 9; Appelgren bt Grubba 18, -16.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

March 1984
8/10 NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED
Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Finals: Saturday, March 10 (10.30 a.m.)
9/11 Polish Open (Poznan) - A Norwich Union Grand Prix Event.
11 Halex National League (13)
East of England 2-Star Open (North Hykeham, Lincs.)
Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open (The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham Civic Centre). Start 8.45 a.m.

17/18 South of England 3-Star Open (Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Rd., Woking, Surrey) Start 9.36 a.m. each day. Finals Sunday at 5.30 p.m.
18 Edinburgh Youth and Junior 2-Star Open, Meadowbank SC., Edinburgh
18 Cheshire Junior 1-Star
24 English Schools Team Finals (Lea Green, Matlock)
25 Derby Junior 2-Star Open 31 County Championships (7)
31-Apr 1 Junior Premier Counties Competition
April 1 Monkslands 2-Star Open (Monkslands Leisure Centre, Coatbridge)
Durham 2-Star Open
7/8 Junior Ranking Tournament (Shetley, Nr. Ipswich)
8 Bedford 1-Star Open

14/15 Beneficial Trust Essex Junior 'Select' (Harlow)
14/22 14th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Moscow)
15 Hartlepool 1-Star Open
21 South Yorkshire 2-Star Open, Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham. Start 9 a.m. entries close March 31 to:- Stan Wainwright, 129 Mount View Road, Sheffield 58 FJ.
21/22 Grieson, Grant Tunken Wells Junior 2-Star Open. The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent. Start 9 a.m. each day. Entries close March 20 to:- Mrs. D. Gibbs, Marigolds, Green Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2DE.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Subscriptions: Miss B. Davies, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HA. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Marketing: Mr. Brian Spicer, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HA.

Distribution: Mrs. E. Doreen Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. BL16JH. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

'Editorial: Mr. George Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

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