MAXTACK PRO SPIN and MAXDRIVE PRO
Perfected for Dunlop by a Chinese company, these new rubbers have been acclaimed by top players as some of the best ever made

50+ and all to play for with Dunlop
The Island Chairman ....

THE FIRST ROUND in the battle for the chair in the boardroom of the English Table Tennis Association has been won by John Prean with a substantial majority — 69 per cent of English leagues taking the line that his unbounded enthusiasm to stop the membership decline at least is worth giving him a chance to see what he can do.

Early in the New Year, the election procedures will begin again for the following season. Perhaps the new supreme will have insufficient time to even start some of the wide-ranging policy changes he advocates so strongly. Chairmen of the ETTA still of course have to justify most of their actions to the National Council but a few years ago came the new and rather unusual change of rules that allowed the chairman to nominate personally his vice-chairmen.

The present five vice-chairmen Peter Charters, Colin Clemett, Alan Ransome, Ian Whiteside and Brian Spicer now find themselves working with a chairman who did not choose them. It will be hoped by all that they will regard the next few months as a test period after which a new chairman, probably John Prean re-elected will then find out who wishes to carry on and who wishes to opt out.

The first reaction to the election result is that Mr Charters is poised to resign at the next National Council meeting on January 10th. This might also present an opportunity for the new chairman to divide selection from coaching. Keith Ponting is poised to resign at the end of the season.

The sport is bigger than any one person. The clearly outlined division of opinion revealed during this by-election could harm table tennis in England. It is important that people look beyond personalities and with diplomacy as the key, continue their efforts to promote the game.

Few will doubt that the new chairman is a man dedicated to the sport. It has been said and I would support the view, that it is virtually impossible for a person to take the ETTA chair who is still wholly occupied in his or her business or profession if the job is to be done properly.

That is a factor that might have contributed to the defeat this time of Aubrey Drapkin but England will expect that he will carry on as honorary treasurer and that the new chairman, the man who has the time, will steer the ship with diplomacy.

JOHN WOODFORD

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS
Compiled by Fiona Brown and John Woodford

This new monthly column will be pitched at a different point to its predecessor Rubberneck. The Editors hope to include some amusing off-beat stories, some factual, some frank opinions and something to interest all readers, a daunting task indeed.

Allegiance

When players move to another country usually to work or study, thoughts often turn to their possibly changing allegiance, possibly nationally or if not for club teams.

The appearance in Nice last month of Xie Saike, one of China’s best penholders over the last decade, one time ranked No 2 in the world, currently No 9 and a World Cup finalist is a case in point. Is it really right that a player of this calibre should appear in a European Cup event? Clearly, it is inside the rules, but there could be a case to make a change.

In Europe of course, there is a two-year qualification requirement. For example a player like Carl Prean would have to wait two years should he elect to play for West Germany instead of England and two years is a large slice out of a player’s career.

No promises

Some ten years have elapsed since table tennis appeared as a regular weekly column in the national press. Many readers will recall Chester Barnes’s fun-filled material in the Daily Mirror. How we managed to get away with that is something to interest all readers, a sort of column for so long was a mystery.

However, The Daily Telegraph has expanded and enhanced its sports coverage in the last few months, more space, much better pictures and generally a better presentation to compete with The Independent, who have been carrying some table tennis stories from Richard Eaton.

If we can help by buying the Telegraph on Tuesdays to read the new table tennis column we have been awarded, it could become a permanent feature during the season. No promises have been made by the Telegraph, so it is really an experiment requiring a positive response by you.

Sorry about Tuesday night phone calls from female admirers from the coaching world, currently to the cleaners at the Isle of Wight motor show recently when a challenger from the audience beat him in convincing fashion to claim a £100 prize - no prizes for guessing the identity of the local hero!

Police cop civil service

The Police B team comprised Dave Newton (Lancashire), Chris Jacobs (Essex) and Neil Sutton (Surrey). Phil Cawser (Essex), Richard Campbell (Surrey) and Pete Roberts (Kent) formed the Civil Service B team. Dave Newton won two sets in three, but lost two-straight to Phil Cawser, while Chris Jacobs, playing with a combination bat of two black rubbers, narrowly took all three. Neil Sutton managed a deuce in the third win over Richard Campbell to secure a 6-3 victory for the Police.

However the Police did not have it all their own way. Their veterans team of Bill Ingram (Lancashire), Dick Emmerson (Herts) and Mick Pratley (Essex) went down heavily to Phil Newton (Surrey), John Jordan (Kent) and the Civil Service National Veterans Champion, Alan Jesson (Notts). Phil Newton and Alan Jesson each recorded a fine performance to give the Civil Service an 8-1 win.

Results:
K Rodger b R Beckham 19, 19; b G Holmes 14, -18, 11; b N Standen 15, 18.
P McCabe b R Beckham 21, -16; b G Holmes 18, 20; b N Standen 14, 14.
D Birkett It R Beckham -12, -13; b G Holmes -12, 20, -16; b N Standen 14, -12, 13.
D Newton It P Cawser -14, -16; b R Campbell -14, 18; b P Roberts 19, -19, 14.
J Jacob b P Cawser 19, 18; b R Campbell 21, 18, 17; b P Roberts 19, -13, 19.

L’Affair Lomas

ESTTA Press Officer David Lomas is being plagued by late night phone calls from female admirers from the coaching world but with the true resolve of a confirmed bachelor he says (tongue in cheek) “I suppose that I will just have to learn to live with it, I don’t mind the calls but before midnight please ladies!”

Martin Mashed

Former Irish international Martin Kinsella, now an exhibition table tennis player for Colin Denton’s International World of Sport, was taken to the cleaners on December 2nd when he won the Pondus invitation cup for the second time. Semi-final victim was Jacques Secretin and the final loser was Andrzej Grubba who led 15-12 in the third but Des came back to win 21-16.

Douglas Jackpot

DESMOND DOUGLAS snatched a pot of gold (£2,000) in Copenhagen on December 2nd when he won the Pondus invitation cup for the second time. Semi-final victim was Jacques Secretin and the final loser was Andrzej Grubba who led 15-12 in the third but Des came back to win 21-16.
BRIGHT REFLECTIONS
by Richard Eaton of The Sunday Times

SUDDENLY it looks brighter. Table tennis, which was in danger of sliding off the nation's sports pages altogether, looks as though it might have something to sell to the image makers after all.

That is something I firmly believe after going to the National Top Twelve championships at Soham in October, even if some of the TV people apparently don't. A pity one or two of them weren't there because the experiments were interesting. Further improvements next time and the sport might start to attract some attention.

Blue tables and orange balls are potentially a promotional advance and so, according to a survey of more than a hundred people, is the eleven-up scoring system. This, you may remember, was the first time in the history of the game that 21-up was not used for an official event.

No doubt some of the players are hoping it is the last. For them don't. A pity one or two more of them picked up wins against Sweden and back each week, has

Sportsmanship
Douglas, who took his defeat with exemplary sportsmanship, is, on this evidence, no worse a player than he used to be - provided he takes care to keep fresh. His conqueror, Alan Cooke, making the day-long traipe to Falkenberg in Sweden and back each week, has become better.

Cooke attacks faster, harder, and above all earlier. Much less often did we see the cautious attitude that made him retreat from the table and throw the ball up.

The breakthrough into world class may be imminent.

Between the two of them and Carl Prean, who is adding to his already considerable international experience by commuting to Bad Hamm in Germany, England has every reason to hope for an improved future. Skylet Andrew may have something to add to that as well.

But best of all, the England selectors made one of the most exciting and enterprising decisions they have made for years. They decided to include four youngsters as wild cards into the Top Twelve, and were prepared to take the brickbats hurled at them for that.

Full marks for judgement and courage. If we don't produce one world class player out of the quartet of Michael O'Driscoll, Christopher Oldfield, Andrea Holt, and Claire Potts, then I am a Dutchman.

These four were splendid. All of them picked up wins against older, stronger, and vastly more experienced players, with the five foot, six and a half stone Claire symbolising the role of giantkiller.

O'Driscoll ended with four wins, which was a fine achievement in that sort of company. Yet I was told that he was not playing as well as he had been when he and Oldfield picked up gold medals for England in the European junior championships!

Donald Parker and Paul Day can be proud of the work they have put in with them. There is no cause for complacency, but I believe that if the same attitude and effort is maintained, the future of English table tennis is in the making - and it looks good.

A tournament for all standards
by Mike Hanley

SO you thought you weren't good enough to play in Open Tournaments!

Here is a totally new tournament format for 1987. The Yorkshire 2-Star Open to be played on January 31st at Hud- dersfield Sports & Leisure Centre will be a one-day "Graded Tournament". The events to be played will comprise Mens Singles, Women's Singles, Mixed Class 2 Singles, Mixed Class 3 Singles and Mixed Class 4 Singles, and will appeal to players of all standards from International to local league.

With the extension from the very popular Mixed Class 2 events more players will be given the chance to enjoy competitive Table Tennis in the Mixed Class 3 event, open to all except the top 200 men and 20 women and who have not, during the past two seasons, been registered for any teams in either the County Championships (Senior Divisions) or Schildkrot British League.

The Tournament will be run with group play in the first round of all class events and players will be able to enter up to 2 class events plus the open singles.

Atmosphere
Why not give Tournament competitions in a social atmosphere a try. If you would like any further information or an entry form, please ring Mike Hanley on 0757-702282 or write to him at 53, Green Lane, Selby Y08 9AN.

KENT 2-STAR AT GILLINGHAM CANCELLED

THE Kent 2-Star senior tournament scheduled to take place at Gillingham on February 21 and 22 has been cancelled due to lack of organisers.
It has all been worthwhile

A message from the new chairman

Dear Table Tennis Friends,

My first reaction, after it had all sunk in, is one of immense gratitude for your confidence and support — to all those who encouraged me to try and never faltered, to all who supported me. The old friendships that were strengthened, the new ones that were forged — win or lose — made everything worthwhile.

It is not and never was a north/south situation, because I enjoyed just as much support in one part as another. This is one country, one association and that is the only way.

In the end it was about greater public accountability, greater membership involvement, better service to members, common purpose.

It will remain the sport we enjoy so much.

It was about the future of table tennis, about change. If we are to compete with other sports — for members, for media support, for TV, for funds — we have to change.

We shall need new people, new ideas. I invite all members who want to contribute, to serve the sport at national level to write to me. I want to see new talent coming forward in the service of the sport.

They will join our present volunteers. We shall explore new areas, new initiatives. More will be going on and more members will have opportunities to serve the sport and to express themselves. We shall work as a team.

Above all, let it be a fresh start. Let us remember the great traditions of the past, forget more immediate conflicts and work together for a greater future in the interests of all our members.

Thank you again for your confidence. John

Woodfield One Star Junior and Senior Tournament

Junior boys
With the 3rd and 4th seeds being eliminated at an early stage the way was clear for the 1st and 2nd seeds Adrian Thorp and Robert Till to contest the final, but Robert was no match for the Top local junior Adrian who after a close first game won comfortably 19, 10. The singles finalists then combined to contest a closely fought final in the Boys doubles against the number two seeds Ian Hudgitt and Mark Stretton but losing 22-20 in the deciding game.

Junior girls
All four seeds reached the semi final, where Jane Winter overcame the Staffordshire rival Louise Sherratt in a match which could have gone either way, however Jane was no match for Helen Lowes who although suffering from jet lag after returning from a holiday in America won comfortably two straight.

The top Warwickshire pair of Nicola Meddings and Alison Ledwith comfortably won the doubles without dropping a game defeating Jane Winter and Alison Flaherty in the final.

Mens
With 5 of the mens seeds reaching the quarter final stage there were no major upsets except the defeat of the number 2 seed Steve Dunning in one of the best matches of the day by Andy Hare who won -22, 14, 22 only to be beaten in the next round. Adrian Thorp who the previous day won the junior boys title reached the final by beating the surprise semi-finalist Kevin Rogerson from Cheshire in the semi final.

Malcolm Framin the No 1 seed after having a close match with Eddie Wilkes who was the only player to take a game off him, comfortably won the final where his experience overcame the enthusiasm of the fast improving Adrian Thorp.

Due to some entries not turning up the organisers had a major problem pairing up the players in the doubles who found themselves without a partner. However it was a very closely fought event with the number 2 seeds John Hancock and Eddie Wilkes just failing to win the title after having close matches in both the quarter and semi finals being beaten by Andy Hare and Mike Brown in an excellent final - 15, 22, 21.

Womens
The Scottish No 2 Janet Smith had a comfortable passage through to the final where she eventually beat Sandra Roden the Worcestershire number 2, 11 and 12. A good performance in both the womens singles and veterans singles by Janet Hunt from Worcester who defeated No 7 England Junior Helen Lower and the experienced Mike Tew in the respective events. In the doubles Sandra Roden and Mandy Hyton had a tough time in reaching the final but they easily overcame Jane Winter and Alison Flaherty in the final 14 and 9 to inflict the second doubles final defeat over the two days for the Staffordshire youngster.

Results

Junior boys - Semi finals
Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton) b Ian Hodgett (Tamworth) 14, 13; Robert Till (Walsall) b Ian Barsted (Stoke) 12, 19, 12.

Final: Thorp b Till 19, 10.

Junior girls - Semi finals
Helen Lower (Wolverhampton) b Sally Hughes (Oxford) 16, 16; Jane Winter (Tamworth) b Louise Sherratt (Stafford) - 15, 18, 18.

Final: Lower b Winter 10, 16.

Junior boys doubles - Semi finals
Robert Till (Walsall)/Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton) b M Gwilt/I Barsted (Stoke) 12, 18; Ian Hodgett (Tamworth)/Mark Stretton (Walsall) b Steven Crompton (Hyde)/Daren Howarth (Manchester) 11, 18.


Junior girls doubles - Semi finals
Nicola Meddings/Alison Ledwith (B’ham) b Sally Hughes/D Barnett (Oxford) 19, 11; Jane Winter (Tamworth)/Alison Flaherty (Walsall) b Zoë Buchanan (Hyde)/Paula Hughes (Worcester) 17, 10.

Final: Meddings/ Ledwith b Winter/Flaherty 12, 13.

Cadet boys - Semi finals
Matthew Parr (Stoke) b Neil Vernon (Wolverhampton) 18, 18, 19; Lee Francis (B’ham) b Jason Thompson (Dudley) 15, 11.

Final: Parr b Horton 7, 13.

Cadet girls - Semi finals
Nicola Meddings (B’ham) b D Barnett (Oxford) 7, 16; Sally Hughes (Oxford) b Joanne Foxall (Stoke) 15, 19.

Final: Meddings b Hughes 13, 19.

Mens singles - Semi finals
Malcolm Francis (Brighton) b Eddie Wilkes (Stoke) 8, - 19, 9; Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton) b Kevin Rogerson (Hull) 11, 18.

Final: Francis b Thorp 14, 17.

Womens singles - Semi finals
Janet Smith (Scotland) b Janet Dunning (Wolverhampton) 12, 14; Sandra Roden (Dudley) b Helen Lower (Walsall) 12, 14.

Final: Smith b Roden 11, 12.

Mens doubles - Semi finals
Andy Hare/Mike Brown (B’ham) b Mike Tew (Macclesfield)/Eddie Griffiths (Macclesfield) 13, 18; John Hancock/Eddie Wilkes (Stoke) b Andy Frain/Dunne (B’ham) 23, - 17, 19.

Final: Hare/Brown b Hancock/Wilkes - 15, 22, 21.

Womens doubles - Semi finals
Sandra Roden (Dudley)/Mandy Hyton (B’ham) b Joanne Chubb/Jane Dunning (Wolverhampton) 15, - 16, 11; Jane Winter (Tamworth)/Alison Flaherty (Walsall) b Jenny Robinson/Durley (B’ham) 22, 19.

Final: Roden/Hyton b Winter/Flaherty 14, 9.

Veteran singles - Final
Griffiths b Evans - 18, 14, 15.
DISAPPOINTMENT at the unavailability of local hero and England No 1 Des Douglas for the tournament, due to a European cup clash in Nice on Saturday 8th was somewhat overcome by the presence of Takehiro Watanabe, the current Japanese doubles champion who went on to win both the singles and doubles title in a quiet workmanlike manner.

His closest clash of the day was with Adrian Dixon (Wolverhampton) in the last 16 who took him to a deciding game which he won 21-18.

In the semis Watanabe had had a 2 straight win over John Souter but both games were close (18, 20).

In the other half of the draw Skylet Andrew had had a smooth passage and always looked in command. His surprise semi-final opponent was Steve Mills who beat John Hilton in the quarters after Hilton had earlier defeated No 4 seed and runner up from the first Stiga Grand Prix tournament, Jimmy Stokes.

The final disappointingly petered out in the second game after Skylet had been 20-17 up in the first, only to lose the initiative and the game 22-20. Takehiro Watanabe then took command and ran out the victor in straight games.

From a local point of view the highlight of the finals was when Jill Harris and Fiona Elliot won the women's doubles title defeating Jackie and Lisa Bellinger in a close three game match.

The tournament was well attended on the Sunday with about 300 spectators milling around the best matches, all afternoon. Most of them stayed on to see Simon Hobson from the sponsors, Stiga, present the trophies and cheques.

Results

Men's singles Semi-finals: T. Watanabe (Jap) b J Souter (Mi) 18, 20.
S Andrew (E) b S Mills (Y) 11, 13.
Final: Watanabe b Andrew 20, 13.

Womens singles Semi-finals: L Bellinger (Bd) b J Harris (St) 16, 10.
A Gordon (Bk) b S Collier (Bk) 5, 12.
Final: A Gordon b L Bellinger 16, 10.

Mens doubles Final: Andrew/Watanabe b Crimmins/Baker 14, 10.
Womens doubles Final: Harris/Elliott b Bellinger/Bellinger - 22, 19, 16.
A BASIS of shock results, a good helping of fighting spirit, and a spot of international flavour were the ingredients of the inaugural event of the Stiga Grand Prix series, the Yorkshire and Humberside 3 at Halifax, which should produce a palatable diet through the 1986/7 season.

Benevolent, but firm guidance from Tony Chatwin and Stuart Sherlock kept play on schedule, the task of the organizers were made simple by a Leisure Centre staff for whom nothing was too much trouble and Lewis Ward’s team of umpires operated with their usual efficiency, all of which enabled the players to enjoy their vitally important role, without which all else is completely irrelevant - that of playing table tennis.

There was a chance to appreciate the class, skill and lightning reactions of Desmond Douglas as he powered his way through to the £400 Mens Singles title with the loss of only one game - to John Souter in the semi-final for which the absent Skylet Andrew was nominated - while his defeated opponent Jimmy Stokes can point to his own successes en route with victories over Gideon Joe Ng, the second seed from Canada (quarters) and Alan Cooke in the penultimate round.

The talent of 18 year old Stokes was there for all to see as he battled gamely in a heavy final defeat, but he is tomorrow’s man; today it is still Douglas and he lived up to his World No. 18 ranking as he completed a thoroughly professional demolition job.

The interest level, which kept some 300 spectators at the Sunday finals, was built up with early wins by Glenn Baker over Phil Bradbury, Michael O’Driscoll (Kevin Satchell), David Dodg (Steve Scowcroft), Eddie Smith (Barry Johnson) before Nicky Mason dismissed seeded Irishman Colum Slevin and Paul Whiting shut the door on Canadian No. 1 Lisa Bellinger by the unseeded Karen Smith, who had already accounted for the higher rated Juliet Houghton in Round 1. That, however, was the end of the road for the Leicester girl, for Mandy Sainsbury, victor over Marian Domonkos, jointly seeded at 3, saw her chance and grabbed the vacant final spot to face Alison Gordon.

Pick of the finals was a thrilling England - Scotland MD clash in which Dave Hannah-John Broe, after dropping the first game to Douglas-Cooke at 17 and then trailing 13-18 in the second, clawed their way back to 24-22 and equality. They had it all to do again as the home pair led 17-13 and 20-17, but then Hannah took the game by the scruff of the neck, three times crashing the ball past Douglas to edge his side in front before the Scots finally took it out, again at 24-22.

Results

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** Desmond Douglas (Birmingham) b John Souter (Middx) 14, -13, 17; Jimmy Stokes (Reading) b Alan Cooke (Chesterfield) 19, -12, 18.

**Final:** Douglas b Stokes 7, 7.

**Mens doubles - Semi-finals:** John Broe/Dave Hannah (Scotland) b Nicky Mason (Bexhill)/Phil Bradbury (Aylesbury) 10, 16; Douglas/ Cooke b Glenn Baker/Max Crimmins (Surrey) 16, -14, 17. **Final:** Broe/Hannah b Douglas/Cooke 17, 22, 22.

**Ladies singles - Semi-finals:** Alison Gordon (Reading) b Andrea Holt (Lancashire) 13, 12; Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury) b Karen Smith (Leicester) 11, 12. **Final:** Gordon b Sainsbury 18, -15, 16.

**Ladies doubles - Semi-finals:** Marian Domonkos/Thanq Mach (Canada) b Fiona Elliott/Jill Harris (Staffs) 15, 15; Gordon/Sainsbury b Jean Parker (Preston)/Sally Weston (Sussex) - 18, 18, 9. **Final:** Domonkos/Mach b Gordon/Sainsbury - 18, 12, 16.

**Veteran singles - Finals:** Derek Schofield (Stockport) b Matt Sheader (Grimbsy) - 11, 10, 15.

**Class 2 singles - Finals:** Benny Robertson (Newcastle upon Tyne) b John Burleton (Kent) - 18, 13, 18.
Syed celebrates in style

PANORAMIC Bath’s young defensive ace, Matthew Syed, celebrated his sixteenth birthday in style on November 2nd with two exciting wins against Ormesby’s Keith Rodgers and Nigel Eckersley which helped Bath to record a resounding 7-1 victory and move up to the head of the premier division table ahead of Steelstock Wolverhampton.

With Desmond Douglas on international duty in Italy, Steelstock took advantage of the new ‘one player’ rule to postpone their match against Butterfly Cardiff but the move has drawn criticism from Cardiff press officer Nancy Roy Evans, “We had advertised the fixture quite widely and were anticipating a large crowd. The request for postponement 10 days beforehand made it difficult to advise all likely supporters and we now have to pay for the facility at the Sports Centre, where I know we will have difficulty in getting a new booking at short notice.”

The decision to postpone seemed surprising as the Steelstock squad is surely strong enough, even without Des, to have held its own against the Cardiff club but as Steelstock’s press officer Vernon Dodd explains “We consider it vital to put out a full strength side at all times and most clubs are grateful to see Des because he attracts the crowds. The league could well be won or lost in sets average and we don’t want to take any chances.”

Bradford’s investment

In the second division north Bradford Investments have strengthened their squad with the signing of Preston based former Grove player Steve Turner. Twenty seven year old Turner takes over the No 1 mantle for Bradford who will undoubtedly benefit from his three years of experience with the Grove squad.

Ashford take upper hand

Even the eleventh hour signing of aggressive penholder David Tan could not save C & L Nittaku from a sound thrashing by Ashford in their second division south encounter. The 8-0 scoreboard was Nittaku’s first ever whitewash in a division where Kenny Jackson, Max Crimmins, Glen Baker and David Goode have swept all before them so far this season.

Leicester lead the way

Leicester have cruised to further victories against Crusaders Lincoln, 8-0, and Byker Newcastle, 7-1, with the loss of single set so far this season. Byker’s Dave Godbold overcame Maurice Newman in two close games in the November fixture which was marred by the absence of a fourth player for the Newcastle team.

Leicester’s Man of the Match award, Abbott to receive the Man of the Match award. Abbott scored straight games successes at vital points in the match, firstly over Greg Barden and then junior international Juliet Houghton. The result took Ramlosa into second place in the table behind South London side Rejects, who have the benefit of a season’s experience at this level of competition.

Ramlosa rule?

The third division south has experienced quite a shake up this season with the arrival of Team Ramlosa Essex and Countrymen Tunbridge Wells. There were fireworks when the two met at the Pitsia Leisure Centre on 2nd November but guest of honour, Mark Cox MBE, the former English tennis star, had no doubt in nominating Ramlosa’s Alex Abbott to receive the Man of the Match award. Abbott scored straight games successes at vital points in the match, firstly over Greg Barden and then junior international Juliet Houghton. The result took Ramlosa into second place in the table behind South London side Rejects, who have the benefit of a season’s experience at this level of competition.

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Schildkrot British League

Results
including matches played 211.86

Premier
Rotherham 8 MBS St Neots 0; Omega Reading 1 Grove 7; Panoramic Bath 7 Ormesby 1; Omega Reading 3 Rotherham 5; Grove 6 MBS St Neots 2.

First
Trebor Dagenham FC 5 Chan Construction 3; TSP Larkhall 7 West Warks/Birmingham 1; TCB Dolphins 7 Byker Newcastle 1; Express Torbay 6 Omega Claw 2; West Warks/Birmingham 2 Trebor Dagenham FC 6; Byker Newcastle 6 TSP Larkhall 2; TCB Dolphins 1 Express Torbay 7; Chan Construction 7 Omega Claw 4.

Second North
Steelstock Wolverhampton 6 Kinggro Insurance 2; Bradford Investments 5 March 3; Sincll Lincoln 7 Oldham 1; Kinggro Insurance 2 Ormesby 6; March 4 Steelstock Wolverhampton 4; Bradford Investments 5 Sincll Lincoln 3; EAE Waveney 5 Oldham 3.

Second South
Medway 2 Global Plymouth 6; Gunnersbury Triangle 5 Follows Cranleig 3; C & L Nittaku 6 TSP Larkhall 2; Ashford 6 Jaques Fareham 2; Global Plymouth 7 Gunnersbury Triangle 1; Follows Cranleig 5 Medway 3; TSP Larkhall 3 Gunnersbury Triangle 5; C & L Nittaku 0 Ashford 8; Global Plymouth 5 Jaques Fareham 3.

Third North
Ormesby 2 Grove 6; Chan Construction 8 Vickers Barrow 0; Leicester 8 Crusaders Lincon 6; Byker Newcastle 1 Unity Leeds 7; Vickers Barrow 0 Ormesby 8; Crusaders Lincon 1 Chan Construction 7; Leicester 7 Byker Newcastle 1 Grove 6 Unity Leeds 2.

Third South
Countryman Tunbridge Wells 5 Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3; Rejexts 4 Team Ramlosa Essex 4; Abeng Warriors 5 Deptford Rams 3; Ashford 6 Erreys Print 2; Team Ramlosa Essex 5 Countryman Tunbridge Wells 3; Deptford Rams 0; Abeng Warriors 4; Ashford 2; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3 Erreys Print 5.

Third East
Britannia Ipswich 4 Well Connected Wellingborough 4; Britannia Ipswich 7 Witham Town FC 1; Smiths Motors Peterborough 4 Trebor Dagenham FC 6; Well Connected Wellingborough 7 MBS St Neots 1; AHW Pioneers 2 Norwich Foxwood 6; Trebor Dagenham FC 2 Britannia Ipswich 6; Norwich Foxwood 7 Smiths Motors Peterborough 1; AHW Pioneers 4 Well Connected Wellingborough 4; Witham Town FC 4 MBS St Neots 4.

Third West
Jolliffe Poole 8 Panoramic Bath 6; Duchy Launceston 3 Express Torbay 5; Express Gwent 8 Omega Reading 0; Panoramic Bath 1 Leominster 7; Express Torbay 2 Jolliffe Poole 6; Duchy Launceston 0 Express Gwent 8; KCD Stiga 6 Omega Reading 2.

Schildkrot British League Fixtures

December
12th P Ormesby v Steelstock Wolverhampton
P MBS St Neots v Omega Reading
P Grove v Butterfly Carduff
P Rotherham v Panoramic Bath
1 Dagenham v TSP Larkhall
1 Omega Claw v TCB Dolphins
1 Chan Construction v Byker Newcastle
1 Express Torbay v West Warks/Birmingham

January
4th P Rotherham v Ormesby
P Grove v Omega Reading
P Panoramic Bath v Butterfly Carduff
P Express Torbay v Dagenham FC
1 Omega Claw v TSP Larkhall
1 Chan Construction v TCB Dolphins
1 West Warwickshire/Birmingham v Byker Newcastle

Schildkrot British League handbook from the ETTA office

Schildkrot British League
(as at 311.86)

Premier
P W D L F A Pts
Panoramic Bath 4 8 0 0 22 10 20 6
Steelstock Wolverhampton 3 4 2 1 0 20 4 8 5
Grove Market Drayton 3 1 0 0 17 7 7 4
Rotherham 3 2 1 0 17 7 7 4
Butterfly Carduff 2 0 0 0 0 0 8 2
Ormesby 2 1 0 0 10 4 14 5
Omega Reading 4 0 0 4 4 28 0
MBS St Neots 4 0 0 4 4 25 0

Second North
P W D L F A Pts
Medway 2 Global Plymouth 6; Gunnersbury Triangle 5 Follows Cranleig 3; C & L Nittaku 6 TSP Larkhall 2; Ashford 6 Jaques Fareham 2; Global Plymouth 7 Gunnersbury Triangle 1; Follows Cranleig 5 Medway 3; TSP Larkhall 3 Gunnersbury Triangle 5; C & L Nittaku 0 Ashford 8; Global Plymouth 5 Jaques Fareham 3.

Second South
P W D L F A Pts
Medway 2 Global Plymouth 6; Gunnersbury Triangle 5 Follows Cranleig 3; C & L Nittaku 6 TSP Larkhall 2; Ashford 6 Jaques Fareham 2; Global Plymouth 7 Gunnersbury Triangle 1; Follows Cranleig 5 Medway 3; TSP Larkhall 3 Gunnersbury Triangle 5; C & L Nittaku 0 Ashford 8; Global Plymouth 5 Jaques Fareham 3.

Third North
Ormesby 2 Grove 6; Chan Construction 8 Vickers Barrow 0; Leicester 8 Crusaders Lincon 6; Byker Newcastle 1 Unity Leeds 7; Vickers Barrow 0 Ormesby 8; Crusaders Lincon 1 Chan Construction 7; Leicester 7 Byker Newcastle 1 Grove 6 Unity Leeds 2.

Third South
Countryman Tunbridge Wells 5 Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3; Rejexts 4 Team Ramlosa Essex 4; Abeng Warriors 5 Deptford Rams 3; Ashford 6 Erreys Print 2; Team Ramlosa Essex 5 Countryman Tunbridge Wells 3; Deptford Rams 0; Abeng Warriors 4; Ashford 2; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3 Erreys Print 5.

Third East
Britannia Ipswich 4 Well Connected Wellingborough 4; Britannia Ipswich 7 Witham Town FC 1; Smiths Motors Peterborough 4 Trebor Dagenham FC 6; Well Connected Wellingborough 7 MBS St Neots 1; AHW Pioneers 2 Norwich Foxwood 6; Trebor Dagenham FC 2 Britannia Ipswich 6; Norwich Foxwood 7 Smiths Motors Peterborough 1; AHW Pioneers 4 Well Connected Wellingborough 4; Witham Town FC 4 MBS St Neots 4.

Third West
Jolliffe Poole 8 Panoramic Bath 6; Duchy Launceston 3 Express Torbay 5; Express Gwent 8 Omega Reading 0; Panoramic Bath 1 Leominster 7; Express Torbay 2 Jolliffe Poole 6; Duchy Launceston 0 Express Gwent 8; KCD Stiga 6 Omega Reading 2.

Rearranged: Leominster v KCD Stiga 30th November 1986
**Europe League**

**England on top**

ENGLAND lead the European League's first division after three rounds of competition.

At the Angel Centre, Tonbridge, on Wednesday 26th November Desmond Douglas, Skylet Andrew, Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot swept to a 6-1 win over Italy. The only resistance came from Italy's Lorenzo Nannoni in the second game as he maintained consistent form to subdue Skylet Andrew and avoid the whitewash. Nannoni was Italy's best player on the night but even he could offer no answer.

Desmond Douglas b Massimo Costantini 18, 11; Skylet Andrew b Lorenzo Nannoni 15, 16, 19; Lisa Bellinger b Giorgio Zampini 16, 11; Douglas/Andrew b Costantini/Bisi 16, 19; Douglas/Fiona Elliot b Costantini/Zampini 17, 19, 16; Douglas/Fiona Elliot b Costantini 19, 19.

**Match Results:**

**Super Division:**

England v Turkey 6, 3, 2

England v Iceland 6, 3, 1

England v France 6, 3, 1

England v Germany 6, 3, 1

England v Austria 6, 3, 1

**Division One:**

Austria 6, 3, 1

England 6, 3, 1

Italy 6, 3, 1

Switzerland 6, 3, 1

**Austria Shredded at Linz**

ENGLAND shattered the Austrians 7-0 at Linz as they leaked high over their second hurdle on the way to the promotion path in Division 1 of the European League.

The previous occasion when England met Austria, Desmond Douglas lost a couple, so that was one factor in the decision to rest him for this match, but fortunately for England, they now have such capable players around as the two selected Carl Prean and Alan Cooke, both of whom now seem to have the ability to upset almost any player in Europe.

**Struggle**

England selectors also voted to omit Lisa Bellinger for tactical reasons, although Fiona Elliot had a mighty struggle as deputising to overcome Barbara Witsche late in the third game, 21-19.

Prean, now just as happy if not happier playing on the mainland, flashed a 10-0 lead in their deciding game and seemed to have found a slow-to-get-underway and lost the first, but in the second game Eckel and Bauer were humiliated and only chalked up four points.

With Bulgaria safely in the premier division and doing well, it is difficult to see how England can trip up on their way to a showdown in Germany against West Germany in April.

**Results:**

A Cooke b J Bar 15, 14, C Prean b W Bauer 7, 8, F Elliot b Wiltscbe 11, 8, 19, Prean and Cooke b Eckel and Bauer 15, 16, 4, Prean and Elliot b Eckel and Wiltscbe 12, 15, Prean b Bar 19, 19, 9, Cooke b Bauer 13, 15.

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**European League**

**Super Division: Matches played October 15th**

**Bulgaria 2, Poland 5**

Mariano Lukov b Andrzej Grubba 16, 14, 13; Stephan Stefanov b Leszek Kucharski 15, 15, 14; Daniela Gergelcheva b Jolanta Szatkow 18, 16; M Lukov/S Stefanov b A Grubba/L Kucharski 16, 19; S Stefanov/D Gergelcheva b A Grubba/J Szatkow 19, 21, 11; Mariano Lukov b Leszek Kucharski 16, 18; Stephan Stefanov b Andrzej Grubba 16, 14, 14.

**Hungary 2, Czechoslovakia 5**

Tibor Klampar b Janos Pumpsky 14, 18, 13; Zsof Honvold b I Miroslav Cervova 20, 18, 17; Csilla Batorff b Marie Hrachova 12, 20, 15; Z Kriston/Z Harczi b B Pysiik/Jokinen 19, 20, 17; Z Kriston/Z Harczi b J Kromk/M Grman 19, 18, 13; Z Kriston/Z Harczi b J Pansky/1 M Grman 19, 18, 13.

**Sweden 6 France 1 at Nassy**

Mikael Appelgren b Didier Serres 19, 18; Daniel Wintersdorff b Patrick Enverse 16, 18; Bjarne Worskob b Nicee Welsh 18, 19; M Serres/D Appelgren b M Welsh/C Welsh 18, 19, 19.

**Yugoslavia 7, Netherlands 0 at Jesenice**

Ilja Lupulescu b Henk van Spane 19, 19, 13; Zoran Kalinic b Paul Haldan 16, 15; Branka Kalinic b Gerdi Keen 21, 15; I Lupulescu/Z Kalinic b H Spaanse/P Haldan 11, 15, 10; Z Kalinic/B Batinic b Hv Spaanse/G Keen 20, 16; Ilja Lupulescu b Paul Haldan 18, 10, 17; Zoran Kalinic b Henk van Spane 16, 10, 16.

**Division One**

18.10.86: Austria 0, England 7 at Linz

Gottfried Bar b Carl Prean 19, 19, 9; Bauër b Alan Cooke 13, 13.

18.10.86: Denmark 3, Finland 4 at Nyborg

Lars Hauch b J Arnok Jokinen 19, 18, 19; Jan Harkamp b Mika Pyykko 20, 17; Charlotte Polk b Sonja Greberg 16, 14, 15; L Harkcap h J Jokinen/P M Pykko 16, 10; J Harkcamp/C Polk b J Jokinen/S Greberg 9, 18, 21; Lars Hauch b Mika Pyykko 18, 8; Jan Harkamp b Jarno Jokinen 9, 21, 16.

18.10.86: Norway 1, Federal Germany 6 at Lilleborgen

Morten Gustavsen b Rubeb Rebek 11, 16, 18; Rott Blikken b Ralf Wosik 18, 12, 12; Marianne Blikken b Olga Nemes 19, 7; M Gustavsen/R Blikken b J Rebek/R Wosik 11, 13; M Gustavsen/M Skarpenes b J Rebek/O Neme 17, 13; Morten Gustavsen b Ralf Wosik 21, 18; Rott Blikken b Rubeb Rebek 12, 16.

18.10.86: Turkey 4, Italy 3 at Istanbul

Gurhan Yaldiz b Francesco Manneschi 18, 11; Oktay Cimen b Massimo Costantini 15, 19; Selda Dogan b Alessandro Busnard 17, 15; G Yaldiz/C Cimen b M Costantini/F Manneschi 15, 15, 20; G Yaldiz/S Dogan b M Costantini/G Zampini 20, 11; Gurhan Yaldiz b M Costantini 18, 20; Oktay Cimen b Francesco Manneschi 13, 12.

**Division Two**

18.10.86: Switzerland 3, Wales 4 at Muttenz

Thierry Miller b Nigel Thomas 16, 9, 16; Stefan Renold b Nigel Tyler 19, 10; Brigitte Hirzel b Lesley Tyler 12, 9, 17; T Miller/S Renold b N Thomas/L Tyler 18, 17; T Miller/M Frey b N Tyler/L Tyler 17, 18; Thierry Miller b Nigel Tyler 17, 14, 17; Stefan Renold b Nigel Thomas 17, 13.

4.10.86: Luxembourg 2, Switzerland 5 at Strassen

Daniel Wintersdorff b Stefan Renold 15, 14; Yves Maas b Thierry Miller 17, 17; Peggy Regenettter b Monika Frey 16, 13; D Wintersdorff/Y Maas b T Miller/S Renold 17, 20, 14; Y Maas/P Regenettter b T Miller/M Frey 18, 19; Daniel Wintersdorff b Thierry Miller 20, 19; Yves Maas b Stefan Renold 18, 19.
OFFICIAL NEWS

TOM BLUNN FUND
The original conception of a Testimonial Fund obviously had to be changed on the death of Mr. Blunn and it has now been titled the Tom Blunn Memorial Fund. Therefore, contributions are still welcome and the proceeds will be devoted to purchasing an item commemorating the long service by Tom to the E.T.T.A.

E.T.T.A. RULES
A copy of the booklet containing the rules for 1986/87 is now available for reference purposes.

ADDRESS LIST
Two copies of this useful booklet are available for League/County secretaries.

E.T.T.A. HANDBOOK
Copies of the 1986 Handbook are still available, free of charge, to Leagues on the basis of one per club. Please let us know your requirements.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING
Would you kindly bring the attention to your members to the availability of specially designed Christmas Cards having a table tennis theme. For a pack of eight cards containing two each of four designs the cost is £1.25 per pack plus 25p per order for post/packing, available from the E.T.T.A. office.

Europe Top 12

DESMOND Douglas, Carl Prean and Lisa Bellinger have booked their places in the 1987 Europe Top 12, to be played in Basle, Switzerland, from 2-4 January. Prean has played very little international table tennis this season, choosing to concentrate his schedule around Bundesliga matches for GW Bad Hamm. His performances for Bad Hamm suggest that he is in good form and likely to make a serious impression in the mens top 12.

Douglas finished second in 1986 when he provided a nail biting crescendo to the gruelling round robin event, losing only one match to the champion, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden.

Lisa Bellinger contests her first Europe Top 12, in Basle, having maintained the No. 10 position which she first reached in August 1986.

Eckersley wins in Portugal

by Albert Shipley

AS the mists of late October descended upon England, Nigel Eckersley, Steve Mills and I flew off to the sunshine of Faro, Portugal, where the players had been invited to take part in the 14th Faro Open, celebrating the Feira of Santa Iria. Our hosts installed us in the comfortable Hotel Eva, overlooking Faro harbour.

Practice facilities were provided at a local club and at the tournament venue before play started in earnest on Sunday morning. Although Nigel and Steve were drawn in opposite halves, neither of them were seeded, which was surprising as an English player, Dave Wells, had won the event in 1985.

Sunlight

Steve Mills was made to fight all the way, with the possible exception of his first round match where he disposed of a qualifier, 11 and 13. After two further rounds he met the No 1 seed, Pedro Miguel of Sporting Club Lisbon in the quarter final and won in two close games, 16 and 21. His semi-final match attracted a great deal of attention as it was against a clubmate of the No 1 seed, one Nuno Dias by name.

Facing into the sunlight, Steve lost the first game to 18 and then won an easy game 11 before having to start the third game at the end of the table which gave everybody sightings problems and in no time at all he found himself 8-0 down, changing ends 10-2 in arrears. It was then a question of fighting back with maximum concentration and in the strange conditions Steve faced defeat at 20-18 down. However, it was a feature of all the Portuguese players that in tight situations they tended to panic and tried to win points without working but all credit to Steve, who played tight and advanced to the final at 20 in the third. In all games, service played an important part as the Portuguese were not accustomed to the heavily spun services used in English tournament play.

Slow

In the other half, Nigel Eckersley first disposed of a qualifier 9 and 12 but in round two met the former Portuguese No 1, José Alveeiro from the famous Beneficia Club, whose knowledge of the slow conditions paid off with an opening game win of 18. This sharpened Nigel's concentration to play the percentages and avoid unforced errors, a tactic which paid off with two game wins of 10 and 13. His next opponent must have had an easy draw for his skill was minimal and we will only remember him as a Vincent Purkart lookalike! Next came the No 2 seed, José Portela from Lisbon in the quarter final and again the choice of end was vital in that Nigel won the first game 17 and was then made to fight all the way before taking the second 20. In the semi-final Nigel faced yet another José, Barrero this time, who had impressed us whilst practiseing and in the opening rallies he looked a class player but again an inability to deal with spin services was his weakness. Once again the "end" factor showed up in the score, Nigel advancing to the final 10, 21.

In the circumstances, both English players did well to reach the final for it is not always easy to win when you are expected to do so as the opponents all have nothing to lose and the dead tables under poor lighting tend to equalise skill factors. The final was not an exhibition game as, having come so far, both players were keen to win. The wider range of skills plus a few more years of experience gave Nigel Eckersley the edge and he ran out a worthy winner 17, 18.

For a tournament with only singles events in seven categories, the trophy table was covered in silverware and we were all curious to know who had won them. The custom apparently is to give trophies in accordance with the scale of entries and if an event had 64 entries then 12 trophies would be given. In addition, trophies were given to the Club with the most entries, the Club that had travelled the furthest distance, the youngest player, the oldest player, etc. etc. It made a change from computer ranking points and sent away a lot of players carrying a tangible momento of their participation.

Abundance

The scale of hospitality shown to us created a feeling of inadequacy in that the return given but our hosts seemed more than happy for our players just to add an international flavour to their tournament.

Whilst our crowded calendar can be a nuisance at times, there is no doubt that the abundance of opportunity and the attention paid to playing conditions in England does give a playing strength in depth that few Mediterranean countries possess but then when the sun is shining out of a clear blue sky, who wants to play table tennis anyway?
Chinese Changes

Crisis in Table Tennis

By Huang He

At a Symposium held in Beijing mid-April, some 20 experts from across the country expressed a deep concern about the rising crisis in China's table tennis. They recalled that our players had recently suffered a series of setbacks. Whereas China took six of the seven titles at both the 1983 and 1985 World Championships, the number dropped to one at the 1984 Asian Junior Championships, and to three at the 1986 edition without a single one for the boys' three events. The juniors presented a no better picture. At the first Euro-Asia tournament early this year No. 1 player Jiang Jiali had four losses and one win and No. 2 Chen Longcan five losses and one win.

"A few years back," said Xu Yinsheng, President of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, "some people wouldn't believe when we talked about an imminent danger. 'You're crying wolf,' they argued. 'Aren't you still carrying off one gold after another?' Now we can see there's no ground whatsoever for blind optimism."

Head coach

Li Furong, former head coach of the Chinese national table tennis team, said that with table tennis included in the coming Olympic Games many countries are doing their utmost to develop this sport. We must find out the causes for our decline.

There are five causes according to talks given at the symposium.

Firstly, we have painted our future in rosy colours, thinking that we don't have to make much effort to maintain our supremacy in the table tennis world. We often say, "Let's start from scratch." But there's no need to match the world.

Secondly, over a long period we haven't created new ideas in our training methods to keep abreast with the rapid progress in table tennis techniques in the world.

Thirdly, we've failed to keep a good balance among the different styles of play. There are too few exponents of our traditional "pen-hold fast-attacking" game.

Fourthly, we are not well-informed on the developments abroad. As a result, our training is not aimed at true targets.

Lastly, we have relaxed our efforts in team management and educational work.

Many suggestions were made at the symposium for a radical solution of the above-mentioned problems. To improve the present grave situation, we must first of all bring up a strong army of reserve forces. For this purpose it is necessary to train a large number of qualified instructors for primary and middle schools and spare-time sports schools, so that table tennis will be further promoted at the grass roots level.

Technical matters

Other proposals made at the symposium included the setting up of a national junior table tennis team, the holding of discussion meetings on technical matters, and the rewarding of special prizes for technical innovations and the cultivation of young talents as depth for teams at various levels.

Irish Affairs

By Tony Morton

Anne Leonard as expected won a second title in the ladies singles beating Caroline Leonard from Limerick, comfortably 21/14, 21/15.

Irish Open - Galway

Hilton Menealey, a 23-year-old Belfast joiner won the second Irish ranking tournament of the season, the Connaught Open in Galway when he defeated the number one seed Andrew Dennisin in the final - 12, 18, 9.

There was a major surprise in the second round when Kevin Keane, the reigning Irish champion and winner of the South Co. Dublin Championships was beaten by Galway teenager Sean Spelman the Irish No. 1 Junior - 13, 14, 19. Spelman went on to lose to Menealey 18, 17 in the semi-final.

Anne Leonard despite being a little below par, had too much class for her opponents in the ladies singles. She beat Caroline Leonard 19, 13 in the semi-final and then came back from a first game reverse to beat Jennifer Reid in the final - 16, 14, 14.

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Anne Leonard despite being a little below par, had too much class for her opponents in the ladies singles. She beat Caroline Leonard 19, 13 in the semi-final and then came back from a first game reverse to beat Jennifer Reid in the final - 16, 14, 14.
Steelstock shunted Chinese-style in Nice

reports John Woodford

STEELSTOCK Wolverhampton, champions of the Schildkrot British League expected to clash with a power-laden French team when they travelled to Nice to contest the quarter-finals of the European Club Cup but they did not expect to find themselves against the former World No 2 and World Cup finalist Xie Saikc.

Trinite Sports (Nice) overcame Steelstock (Desmond Douglas, Phil Bradbury and Nicky Mason) 5-2. The French team Xie Saike, Brocoheat and Martin is a side difficult to beat in Europe but in the same way that players cannot just change sides in the European League it hardly seems fair that a player of this calibre should be eligible to play in a European cup event - he is studying in Nice. However, perhaps the Chinese penholder is past his best. He trailed 15-19 in the third game again Douglas but somehow he found a touch of Oriental magic to win the last six points.

Such was the "weight" of the French side however, even if Douglas had completed his maximum - he beat Martin and Brocoheau - it is doubtful if Steelstock would have scraped through.

But, it was a gallant effort. Phil Bradbury, always the man from Aylesbury capable of pulling off the big surprise only lost 22-20, 25-23 to Martin whilst Mason in the biggest match of his career managed to notch 19 points against Xie Saikc in the second game.

Following victories in Hungary and Greece Steelstock deserved a better draw than they got in France. They could have drawn a West German side and made progress to the final.

A bouquet for Caroline ....

From our rival badminton

CAROLINE Searle, wife of Rob Oldfield the former vice-chairman ETFA public relations has received a written bouquet from a Danish journalist. Miss Searle who graduated from Miss Searle who graduated from the Academy of Fine Art and usually thankless the task can be.

Caroline Searle is now based at the headquarters of the Badminton Association of England, whilst Rob Oldfield is now working in Leicester but they manage to return to their Sussex cottage at Hurstpierpoint most week-ends.

JUNIOR EVENT CANCELLED

THE Middlesex 2-star Junior Open scheduled for May 23rd and 24th will not take place. The Middlesex Committee have informed the ETFA tournaments committee that the venue is not big enough and the sponsorship is not sufficient to undertake a larger venue.

...... that's good!!
**County Championships**

## Northumberland victory over Gloucestershire

*by Doug Moss*

### Senior 2A: Cheshire 7 Warwicks 3

- Wors: 5 Yorks. 2, 5; N'berland 9 Glos. 1; Leics. 8 Cambs. 1.

The two promoted teams met with Northumberland having a resounding 9-1 win over Glos. Darren Griffin in the final event for Glos. with a win over Neil McMaster. Wors. improved on last season with a draw against Yorks. 2. Murray Jukes won 2 singles for Wors. and Mick Stead did the same for Glos. I; Leics. 8 Cambs. 1. With Northumberland having a tight score line of 2-2. Pauline Hul and Mary Johnson (W) over Glos. at 4-4, Vette Hoek (C) played well to beat Julie Dinnick 19-19, 19, and then in final set Trevor Smith (C) pulled back from 10-15 in third to beat Peter Edwards 23-21 Steven Hewitt (Nk) unseating the last season,ist his 3rd and narrowly lost to Chris Rogers 18-10, 19-10.

### Senior 3A: Warwicks 2, 6 Lincs. 4

- Worcs. improved on last season Withers (Ca) did well to beat Phil Smith at deuce in 3rd and narrowly season. Surrey 2, the other provinces going to a decider. Mark continuing his unbeaten run of last division, had a draw against Yorks. 2. Murray Jukes - won all their singles matches against Somerset 2 the team made a draw.

### Junior 2A: Derby 2. 5 Warwicks 5; Yorks. 2. 8 Gwent 5; Suffolk 6 Cheshire 6; Beds. 7 Staffs. 2. 3.

A very close match between Derby 2/Warwicks, proceeding 2 all, 3 all, 4 all to a draw! Julie Forster and Penny Corden made a significant contribution for Derby winning their 3 events and Leigh Jeffries and R Sin (Wa) won all their singles matches.

### Junior 2B: Cornwall 4 Devon 6; Sussex 7 Berks. 3; Herts 5 Middlesex 5

- Sussex, on demotion from Premier Division, got off to a good start. They had a 7-3 win over Berks. But there were some tight matches at the final event when Alan Cole (Sx) beat Julian Jones - 19, 20, 20! Middlesex, in the same situation, did not fare so well with a draw against Herts. T Cutler (Ms. No 1) won both his singles events.

### Junior 3A: Cheshire 2. 4 N'berland 2; Clywd 3 Durham 7; Cumbria 4 Lake 6.

- New team Northumberland started well with a win. It was the girls, Sharon Norman and Jill Schieff, who won 3 of the 4 events for Cheshire. Michael Curry, Steven Pennman and Stephen Coverdale (N) won all the boys singles events.

### Junior 3B: Northants 1 Herts 0; Beds. 6 Middx. 2. 3.

- The promotees, Northants and Northumberland were each able to take only 1 event in their first matches.

### Junior 3A: Hants. 4 Glos. 6; Cornwall 2. 4 Beds. 6; Avon 8 Dorset 2; Warwicks. 2; Somerset 8

- The Oxon/Essex match was very close with match score proceeding 2 all, 3 all and 4 all. In the final event J. Leith (E) made no mistake beating J. Paul 13 and 14.

### Junior 3B: Berks. 2 Herts. 5; Kent 2. 10 Middx. 2. 3.

- The Oxon/Esssex match was very close with match score proceeding 2 all, 3 all and 4 all. In the final event J. Leith (E) made no mistake beating J. Paul 13 and 14.

### Vets. Premier: Essex 9 Hants. 0; Middlesex 8 Wors. 1.

The promotees, Hants. and Worcs., had a hard time in their first matches gaining only 1 event between them. Janet Hunt (W) beat Kather Nunn (Mo) 10 and 17. Hants. although losing 9-0 went to a decider in 6 sets.

### Vets. 2A: Northants 1 Yorks 8; Essex 2. 8 Leicester 1; Herts. 7 Notts. 2.

- Notts., down from Premier Division, had a disappointing start losing to Herts. 2-7, although 2 of their losses were at deuce in the 3rd game. The promotees, Northants and Northumberland were each able to take only 1 event in their first matches.

### Vets. 2B: Berks. 5 Wiltshire 4; Dorset 5 Surrey 4; Hants. 2, Kent 2. 9; Bucks. 6 Middx. 3.

- As predicted Bucks., on relegation, Alec Watson (Bu) continued his winning ways but had a hard match against Norman Stiffkin 22 and 19. Surrey made a late start against Dorset losing 1-4 down. They fought back to take the last 2 events, both at 18 in third game, but lost 4-5.

### Vets. 3A: Beds. 1, Cheshire 3. 5; Hants. 6 Lanc. 3.

- Newcomers, Beds. 2 Lancs., were beaten. It must have been disappointing for Lancs. that the Cheshire team did not have a lady player and forfeited 2 events. For Cheshire Terry Donlon and Ron Buckley were unbeaten in single events and Bob Forrest won the final singles to secure the win.

### Vets. 3B: Beds. 2 Bucks. 2; Herts. 4. 5; Warwick 9 Hereford 0.

- Herts/Bucks match - 8 of the events were won in straight games but final result was 5-4 for Berks. The decider was won by Peter Bradley (Bk) over Peter Stevens (He) 11 and 9.

### Vets. 3C: Oxon. 4 Essex 3. 5; Wiltshire 2 Herts. 2.

- The Oxon/Esssex match was very close with match score proceeding 2 all, 3 all and 4 all. In the final event J. Leith (E) made no mistake beating J. Paul 13 and 14.

### Vets. 3D: Surrey 2. 6 Dorset 2; Sussex 3. 7 Berks. 2.

- Mike Watts (Sx), VETTS. Assoc. Secretary, had a good day in the Sussex/Berks. match. He won his singles matches and the doubles in partnership with John Millward. Although a decisive 7-2 win for Sussex 7 events went to a decider and 3 ended at 19 in third game.
An appeal to county contributors

HAVING had the opportunity to become involved in the production of this magazine, I have now isolated reasons for late delivery in the past. Some are history and irrelevant, but one fact has emerged – more than a dozen portions of county notes arrive after the deadline.

We as editors, can if necessary change our plans if a story that we are expecting does not arrive – and it happens all the time - but there is no way the magazine can appear without these vital county contributions.

Our appeal therefore to county contributors, please do not wait until the last moment, please send in typewritten, double-spaced copy whenever possible and please, not later than the deadline.

The guidance on the amount of words is always approximate. The present limits - in the region of 450 to 400 is making life a little easier for the editors, so please do not send in 600 plus!

J.W.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

BERKSHIRE players achieved notable successes at the junior regional trials held at Southamptont, not only qualifying for the national trials but coming away winners in three out of the four sections. Keith Hodder and Robert Ertridge took first and second places in the junior boys, whilst Julie Norman and Mary Allan performing similarly in the junior girls. Martin Adams won all three of his matches, ably supported by Graham Kemp and Paul Savins who each won one of their two matches played. The club then followed this by a convincing win over Cobra of Braine L’Aleud, Belgium – a twice annual event designed to promote both table tennis and entente cordiale. Captain Shane Kirton in leading his team of 10 players to success in table tennis obtained just revenge for the narrow tournament defeat of the previous night in the ancient British pub game of skittles – still, they won in the sport that matters!

In the first round of the Carter Cup, Bracknell juniors Andrew North, Andrew MacDonald and Stuart Cockrell played well to pull off a victory over Waford, and now face local rivals Maidenhead in the second round.

DEVA

Dot White

IT'S all happening down in Devon. Devon players through to the last 16 in an international team competition. Express Sports One heading into the semi-finals and when they won 26, 24 in the third on a volleyed ball, Gary Lamberts proved very successful and they were losing untroubled winning 21-18 anything seemed possible but Peter Cogner, Austria's No 2. When they heard they were drawn against a team comprising of Austria's No 2. 6 and 25 they knew they were in for a very tough battle. Paul Whiting opened for the Pilgrims taking on Gunter Strauss, and he never looked troubled winning 21-15, 21-17. Paul Giles then played Roland Barn and gave Pilgrims another win and the win was in the, Gary Lambert went on to test the strength of Peter Cogner, Austria's No 2. When Gary took the first set 21-18 anything seemed possible but Peter soon put the record straight and dominated the rest of the game with his high toss serve, winning 21-15. Cogner showed his class and beat both Whiting and Giles two straight. With the scoreline at 4-3 to Pilgrims Gary Lambert took on Gunter Strauss. Gary looked very nervous and couldn't settle down, but he assures us that his loss, to bring the score to four games all, was done in the interest of making an exciting finish. No one could say it wasn't that, and when Paul Whiting beat Roland Barn on his third match the standing ovation his team received was well earned. Let's hope that international table tennis is here to stay at the Plymouth Headquarters.

The Kent Junior Two Star

It's always fun to be gunning at the Kent Junior Two Star when ever Clare Pengelly paired up with sister Sarah to get in an extra game in the cadet doubles, little did anyone imagine that they'd walk away with the trophy. Sarah and Clare played Goodall and Joanna Roberts in the semi-finals and when they won 26, 24 in the third on a volleyed ball, they knew that anything was possible. After a result like that they were walking on air in the finals and the trophy was theirs. Joanne Roberts wrought revenge on Sarah in the final of the cadet singles and didn't let Sarah settle down at all, it was a great day for the Pengelly sisters.

Devon's representatives at the junior national ranking trials will be: cadet boys, Gregory Bridgert (Plymouth); cadet girls, Helen Wright (Plymouth) and Sarah Pengelly (Torbay); junior boys, Richard Aitken (Newton Abbot); junior girls, Jane Wright (Plymouth).

Pilgrims progress in the Nancy Evans Cup

It was standing room only at Plymouth Headquarters when The Pilgrims took on Austria's USV Holz-Steiner Vockersdorf club in the second round of this international competition.

Pilgrims were thrilled to have won through the first round of this cup, but when they heard they were drawn against a team comprising of Austria's No 2, 6 and 25 they knew they were in for a very tough battle. Paul Whiting opened for the Pilgrims taking on Gunter Strauss, and he never looked troubled winning 21-15, 21-17. Paul Giles then played Roland Barn and gave Pilgrims another win and the win was in the, Gary Lambert went on to test the strength of Peter Cogner, Austria's No 2. When Gary took the first set 21-18 anything seemed possible but Peter soon put the record straight and dominated the rest of the game with his high toss serve, winning 21-15. Cogner showed his class and beat both Whiting and Giles two straight. With the scoreline at 4-3 to Pilgrims Gary Lambert took on Gunter Strauss. Gary looked very nervous and couldn't settle down, but he assures us that his loss, to bring the score to four games all, was done in the interest of making an exciting finish. No one could say it wasn't that, and when Paul Whiting beat Roland Barn on his third match the standing ovation his team received was well earned. Let's hope that international table tennis is here to stay at the Plymouth Headquarters.

Safery

The Pilgrims are now safely through to the last 16 of the Nancy Evans cup and are drawn to play in Sardinia against Cagliara G.S. Olistonica A. Mareozzi, on the 22nd November. Pilgrims are hoping to be sponsored jointly by the British Chiropractors A.S., and British Airways and would like to thank ex England player Betty Blackbourne and TSW for their help in finding them sponsorship.

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

In a season when we are trying to promote table tennis, Derbyshire have only three county championship matches to stage. This is the unfortunate position of two teams in the premier division.

Encouraging people to come along and support county matches within the county is difficult enough; but we are faced with the prospect of getting people to attend premier play-off venues or supporting the junior 2nd team.

Derbyshire opened their county table tennis championship fixtures on Saturday at Hill Street, Burton. The county Junior 2nd team fought hard for 2-1 against Sardinia against Cagliara G.S. 1st team led by Leigh Jeffries.

Derbyshire girls performed well with Julie Forster and Penny Corben winning their singles sets and voting to win the doubles.

Stephen Hanks made an impressive debut for Derbyshire by beating Darren Smith, and their continuing with William Hollingworth to win the doubles.


The Derby League has set up a membership committee with a view to promoting the sport in Derby and district, with a target of 30 extra teams by the start of 1988/89 season.

It is realised that recruitment must be an ongoing policy. The membership committee will work in conjunction with the league’s management committee yet leave the management committee free to concentrate upon the on-going running of the league’s activities.

The Start

November sees the start of a series of sessions at various schools when teachers, youngster, parents and friends are being invited to come along and experience the local league’s leading players; a coaching display; and discuss table tennis with officials from the league.

It is hoped that all the villages can be encouraged to start clubs in their local village halls, church halls and/or community centres. The possibilities or increasing membership is limitless if one has a positive approach.
DORSET
Martin Hughes

DORSET closed — a new approach

A new approach is to be tried this season for the staging of the Dorset closed. Instead of holding the competition on a Sunday, it will be held on the Wednesday evening of 28 January 1987 at Ferndown Community Centre. This new approach is due to the poor response in recent years and reflects the comments made that Sunday is a day to be spent with the family.

The events which will be held this time are men’s singles, women’s singles, men’s doubles, women’s doubles, veteran’s singles, junior boys’ and junior girls’ singles.

As an extra experiment, all singles events will be played on a group basis which will ensure that each competitor plays at least two matches per event. The group winner will progress into the knock-out stage.

Entry forms and further information can be obtained from Martin Hughes, 88 Dorset Avenue, West Parley. Telephone (0202) 875008.

Junior rankings

Boys
1 Christian Carman
2 Paul Bickell
3 Mark Butler
4 Kevin Smith
5 Mark West
6 Neil Chaffey
7 Tom Painter
8 Darren Fooks
9 Paul Lockey
10 David Miles

Girls
1 Deborah Applin
2 Tracey Scott-Pawson
3 Samantha Dench
4 Ayshea Butler
5 Donna Murray
6 Caroline Thomas
7 Wendy Smith

Dorset Super League

The Dorset Super League is well under way and only two players currently remain unbeaten. Hakari Sigrell leads the table after nine victories, and Tony Clayton, the defending champion, has five wins to his credit. John Robinson has been in good form but has lost to both the aforesaid players.

Leading positions

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Poole League

Lytchett A are the leaders of the premier division with six wins out of six, and are again in title inscrutable. The nearest challengers are Broadstone Old Boys and Broadstone A, but already they are both five points adrift.

The first matches of the Durham Closed League have been played. Peterlee, last year’s senior division champions, opened their campaign with a 6-4 victory away to Darlington. Sunderland A were at home to Philadelphia B and won 9-1. Neil Lucas and the doubles were playing for the B side has been promoted to the A squad for his improved performances over the past season.
Joe Young gained Philadelphia B only set victory with a close three-end win over Herrington. Philadelphia A have set up their stall by gaining a 73-3 win over Sunderland B. Dave Robson was unbeaten for Sunderland inflicting defeats on both Keith Henry, Don Maciver and Dale Aitkenhead, George Gibbon and Tom Bainbridge making up the rest of the Sunderland team.

The junior division both Sunderland sides opened the season with maximum points. Sunderland A side of Paul Swift, Ian Telford and Graeme Sanderson defeated Philadelphia 8-2. Sunderland B beat Neil Lucas and the doubles were Philadelphia’s set victors. Sunderland B defeated Peterlee 10-0, Ian Collier, Dermot Ledwith and Alex Straughan all unbeaten.

Sunderland C won 9-1 when they travelled to play Peterlee in the newly formed veterans division, Alan Jenkins gaining Peterlee’s only set victory with a win over Bill Ellison. Doug Lawrence and Arthur Shingler scoring hat tricks for the visitors. In a very competitive match which lasted for over three and a half hours, Sunderland narrowly won 6-4 away to Darlington. A match which needed seven deciding games was played in a very friendly spirit. Norman Pescod scored a hat trick for Sunderland ably assisted by a brace from Alan Robson and one from George Watson, John Masson (2), Mike Brownbridge and the doubles accounted for Darlington’s set wins.


Veterans division: Darlington 4, Sunderland 6; Peterlee 1, Philadelphia 9.

The Durham County Closed will be held this season on Sunday 22nd February 1987 at Howells Road Sports Centre, Peterlee. Durham Juniors opened their county championships with a 7-3 victory away to Darlington.
At the regional junior ranking trials, Paul Swift qualified in third place in the junior event for the national junior ranking trials.

SISTERS Kate and Alison Gower won five titles between them at the Junior Closed Championships held at Colehester’s Highwoods Sport Centre.

The sisters, who represent Chelmsford in the Essex Inter-League competition, twice clashed directly each against. Kate came out on top each time. She took the junior girls title — 14, 19, 16 and reached up with Joanne Cole (Brentwood) to beat Alison and Tracey French (Chelmsford) 11, 18, 16 in the girls doubles.
Kate completed a treble when she partnered Ian Harris (West Essex) in the Forest to beat Brentwood’s Martin Cole and Joanne Cooke 12, 17, in the mixed final.

Alison Gower, along with Linda Radford (Romford), Grant Soder (Dagenham) and Jason Tendler, became a double champion. She beat Delia Holland (Brentwood) 15, 13 in the cadet girls and won the cadet boys doubles with Jason Tendler. They outmanoeuvred Delia Holland and Linda Radford and won 18, 17.

Delia was the champion runner-up when Linda Radford beat her 19, 17 in the girls final.

There was better fortune for Delia’s brother Damian. He beat Jason Tendler 14, 15 to retain his junior boys title. Victory tasted sweet for Damian who along with his partner Grant Soder had earlier lost 17, 18, 23 to Jason Tendler and Ian Harris (West Essex) in the championship’s best final, the junior boys doubles.

Barry Granger was much encouraged when he saw Essex I beat Kent I away in a Senior 2B encounter. “The Best County Match I have ever seen” he remarked after seeing Steve Dorking winning the sixth point after being 9-15 down in the junior boys doubles.

Alain Shepherd reflects on the Junior 3D match between Middlesex II and Essex III: This match saw the debuts of Alan and Linda, the children of one of Essex’s greatest players of the last 20 years, Lesley Radford. Both performed in typical fashion, Allan winning both his singles and Linda (only 11) giving a gritty display in her two events.

1987-88 Essex champions and runners-up

U12 girls: Linda Radford (Romford) and Bill Rand (Romford).
U12 boys: Paul Taylor (Colchester) and Trevor Blackhall (Dagenham) 6, 14.

U14 girls doubles: Alison Gower/Tracey French (Chelmsford) b Linda Radford/Delie Holland (Brentwood) 18, 17.
U14 boys doubles: Grant Soder/Gary Tendler (Dagenham/Waltham Forest) b Neil Butcher/Parl Clark (Chelmsford) 10, 12.

CUMBRIA
Colin Taylor

The Cumbria Junior side have started the season with a narrow 4-6 defeat by Lincolnshire. The team did very well however considering the top ranked boy and the top two girls were unavailable. Gordan Devine (W) was best, winning both his singles and Stephen Temple (C) and Stephen Watt (B) both impressed on their debuts and won a single each.

The eleven year old girls Caroline Watt (B) and Carrie Lowes (B) performed admirably against more experienced opposition and despite losing in straight games, both look to have a good future ahead of them.

News from the Carlisle and District Association is that newcomer Julie McLean, a former Yorkshire County player, has been creating a great deal of interest in the League and has beaten everyone before her with the exception of Roger Stewart, who is playing tremendously at the moment, and Bill Henderson, a hard batter. Other players to catch the eye in the first division reports are Stewart O’Neil, whose news team are leading the division and Cumbria is that

Key: B - Barrow
C - Carlisle
W - Westmorland

U12 girls: Alison Gower b Delia Holland 15, 13.
U14 boys: Grant Soder b Tao Fasnaya (Dagenham) 10, 8.
U17 girls restricted: Linda Radford b Delia Holland 19, 17.
U17 boys restricted: Neil Butcher (Chelmsford) b Tao Fasnaya 19, 12.
U17 girls doubles: Kate Gower/Joanne Cook (Chelmsford/Brentwood) b Alison Gower/Tracey French 11, 18, 15.
U17 boys doubles: Jason Tendler/Ian Harris (Waltham Forest/West Essex) b Damian Holland/Grant Soder (Dagenham) 17, 18, 23.
Mixed doubles: Jason Tendler/Kate Gower b Martin Cole/Joanne Cook (Brentwood) 12, 17.
U17 girls: Kate Gower b Alison Gower 14, 19, 16.
U17 boys: Damian Holland b Jason Tendler 14, 18.
THE great depression that has brought much of Cornwall's economy to a standstill in recent years has had no effect on the county's table tennis activity. In actual fact, as season 1986/87 gets under way, Cornish table tennis can claim to be enjoying a mini boom at present.

Cornish table tennis has come a long way in the last decade both administratively and on the playing front. Only three men have really survived that revolution around ten years ago — John Bassett, Roger Jacobs and Ian James are still among the best players in Cornwall but the rest have sadly fallen by the wayside. Bassett, 100 in November, Bassett played his 96th league game for Cornwall and all being well by the end of the season, he will have made his 100th appearance. Fittingly, Bassett's century should come against old rivals Devon II 20 years after his first appearance against Worcestershire in 1959.

'Table Tennis for All', a scheme introduced by the Public Bodies has been a godsend to being its purpose of attracting members of the public to play the game. There is now a centre in virtually all Cornwall's major towns where the public can come and play seriously or just for fun at a small charge. This has had a knock-on effect and league membership throughout the county seems to be increasing.

There is no doubt about the biggest talking point in Cornwall this season and that is the Lennie Cornish computer rankings which has attracted a lot of interest and is certainly 'spurting on' loads of players. Results from all of Cornwall's principal competitions will be fed into the national computer. The first week in November saw the Cornish Junior Cup being beaten by the home side 9-1, Darren Griffin being the sole singles winner, he beat Neil McMaster -16, 12, 13.

The Juniors in Division 3C however fairied a little better, playing Hampshire at Southampton they ran out 6-4 winners, Dale Saunders, Howard Williams & Wendy Nicholls were all unbeaten in singles, making his debut — Andrew Stratford who did so well in the recent junior trials at Cheltenham played exceptionally well but failed to produce a singles winner.

The Providence County Cup Premier League

Contrary to what I said (T.T.N. Nov's issue) regarding the above, I am informed that Cheltenham Saracens have now passed on to the format of play will revert to the remaining six teams playing each other twice, not as previously stated once.

This League's first round of matches will take place at Chosen Hill School at Cheshunt on 27th March and the English Open mens singles final at the Brighton Dome and the European championships earlier this year in Prague. Reg and his wife Janet, celebrated their golden wedding last year and to both Janet and daughter Angela, the County offer their most sincere condolences. One of the gentlemen of table tennis, Reg will be sadly missed by his many friends in the game.
AT the meeting of the Management Committee of the Leicestershire Table Tennis Association held on Thursday 30th October last, we were privileged by a visit of the genial Terry Godby of Burton on Trent. Terry has been appointed Chairman of the East Midlands Regional coordinating committee concentrating on coaching and development. At the moment, as I understand it, it is a committee of one person - Terry - which is why he is currently on a pilgrimage to all County Associations in his area in an effort to build up his committee by securing willing volunteers from each Association. Terry deserves to succeed in his venture, but only if he gets any help from the volunteers who, on work in Burton on Trent, but surely for his enthusiasm alone which has not diminished even after 40 years involved in table tennis. Good luck, Terry!

At the same meeting, John Prean got the Leicestershire vote for the vacant E.T.T.A.'s Chairman position by 6 to 4. A surprise!!! Coaching Secretary, Steve Adams voiced concern at only receiving 5 applications, all from Hinckley, for his club coaching scheme. There were none from either Leicester or Loughborough. Tut, tut!! Mike Holt, the Chairman of the Association, has secured a second sponsor for the Leicestershire Closed Championships in the shape of the South East England Table Tennis Equipment who will take care of the lighting provided they are allowed a sales stand at the venue. Well done Mike, at this rate we'll be making a profit!! Thon EMI's Mike James is going to take care of the Inter Towns Junior event whilst the Phil Reid Memorial Trophy is yet to get off the ground.

Leicestershire County Rankings

Mens:
1. Chris Rogers; 2. Dave Gannon; 3. Mark Illingworth; 4. Phil Smith; 5. Graham Hall; 6. Martin Pickles; 7. Keith Fellows; 8. Tony Kinsey; 9. Maurice Newman; 10. Simon Grewe; 11. Steve Day; 12. Graham Cartmell as the only fully fit member of the team expected to find life hard in the higher division, but could have done without some of the difficulties under which they were labouring. Maurice Czech and Pauline Long both had heavy colds, while Fred Short had only recently recovered from an injured shoulder sustained while playing rugby - leaving Larry Cartmell as the only fully fit member of the team. Nevertheless, that Cheshire were well worth their 9-1 win — Short beating Alan Timewell on expedite to take the onus off a day when the sun shone and by the time this report appears the weekends would have been earmarked for the Junior Open. Even with our band of new and experienced players apart from the leading teams there was no way we could run two events in the same weekend and it was decided that we would concentrate on the Greater London event this year and think again about a Junior Open when we found an alternative venue. But the Greater London event would appear to be a continuing one — the Westminster Council seem anxious to make it so anyway. Finally I would like to send congratulations to Colin Mavor for his receipt of the ETFA Merit Award. Colin, who was connected with the London Civil Service League and the Civil Service Table Tennis Association for many years, is an old friend of mine (for more years than I like to remember) so I know how well deserved the award is. The last time I heard of him, he was still playing a little table tennis but had also taken to snooker as a more sedentary sport! Well done, Colin.

Middlesex Iris Moss

I'm sorry that I did not have a report in the November issue, but both the senior and junior events at Aylesbury School (by courtesy of the Stiga Middlesex Club and the London Borough of Brent) the senior event will take place on Sunday 1st February and will spread to Saturday 3rd January if we have an even number in the country; the junior event will be on 21st and 22nd March with cadets on the Saturday and juniors on the Sunday. So please Middlesex players pass the word around and let us have a decent entry for a decent change. With the number of players we have in Middlesex we should be able to run Closed Championships that are worthwhile and which really show our strength and breadth of our County.

As you will know from the ETTA calendar, we were hoping to run a Middlesex Junior Open. We had an offer of a very reasonably priced venue from the London Borough of Haringey (with Malcolm Springthorpe influencing them in our favour) but the maximum number of tables we could get in was 8 and our sub-committee did not feel that this was sufficient for a Junior Open. We have always prided ourselves on the quality of any Open tournament we run and rather than run a second class event, we have decided to opt out until we find a more suitable venue. A further problem is that we have been asked to organise the Greater London Closed Championships which are being sponsored by Westminster City Council who have taken over this particular event from the now defunct Greater London Council. The only venue which showed any interest in staging the event was the Avon Valley Sports Club, but only dates they could offer were 23rd and 24th May 1987 — the weekend we had earmarked for the Junior Open. Even with our band of new and experienced players, there was no way we could run two events in the same weekend and it was decided that we would concentrate on the Greater London event this year and think again about a Junior Open when we found an alternative venue. But the Greater London event would appear to be a continuing one — the Westminster Council seem anxious to make it so anyway. Finally I would like to send congratulations to Colin Mavor for his receipt of the ETFA Merit Award. Colin, who was connected with the London Civil Service League and the Civil Service Table Tennis Association for many years, is an old friend of mine (for more years than I like to remember) so I know how well deserved the award is. The last time I heard of him, he was still playing a little table tennis but had also taken to snooker as a more sedentary sport! Well done, Colin.

Northumberland Pauline Long

THERE were mixed fortunes for the three county teams in their opening matches of the season on October 18. The newly-promoted senior team from the Glovers, have been introduced to the Byker Community Centre and got off to a great start with a 9-1 victory. Neil McMaster lost the opening set to Darren Griffin, but Peter McQueen, Eddie Smith, Clare Mouzon and Caron Guthrie all gained maximums for the home side.

The juniors and veterans sides both travelled to Hyde to play Cheshire II. The juniors, back in the championship after a season's absence, also started well with a 7-3 win, with Michael Curry, Stephen Coverdale and Stephen Pennall all remaining undefeated. The two girls, Tracey McMaster and Lisa Redhead, were a little out of their depth at this level, but will improve with experience.

The newly-promoted junior team will find life hard in the higher division, but could have done without some of the difficulties under which they were labouring. Maurice Czech and Pauline Long both had heavy colds, while Fred Short had only recently recovered from an injured shoulder sustained while playing rugby — leaving Larry Cartmell as the only fully fit member of the team. Nevertheless, that Cheshire were well worth their 9-1 win — Short beating Alan Timewell on expedite to take the onus off a day when the sun shone and by the time this report appears the weekends would have been earmarked for the Junior Open. Even with our band of new and experienced players apart from the leading teams there was no way we could run two events in the same weekend and it was decided that we would concentrate on the Greater

Norfolk Ray Hogg

BIG John Prean came, delivered his party political broadcast, and went. He got the County & Norwich votes at least. Only on condition he delivered the team as otherwise we kick him out next time.

It is a pleasure to hear that a local league Wymondham - pronounced Windham - has an increase in teams over last season and has high hopes of even more next season. This is a truly rural league where the problem is not getting to a venue on time - but finding the venue. Led by Dennis Whitlam, Ken Darkens and others they have obtained a valuable sponsorship from Sinclair Hoteliers which will help in their coaching of juniors and general expenses. Most players apart from the leading teams in Division 1 are local 'unknowns' except to each other who do not travel to Norwich to compete. These are the 'grass roots' type of players who J.P. was talking about.

I was able to watch the Norfolk 1st Junior team as there was no veterans match that day and was pleasantly surprised that we have some talent coming through in the shape of Jonathan Cockburn, Alison Taylor and Rachel Hodson all of who have some years of Junior play left in them. A report from the Junior 2nd team match shows some temperament appearing - this will be taken into account when selecting I hope. Louise Winter from Diss although slightly handicapped is a very useful player who has been picked to represent Britain in the next disabled Olympics in Korea. The local paper calls her a 'Ping Pong Wizard' - a typical journalist who doesn't know the difference from T.T. as we know it. Norwich Forewood British table tennis team is at last playing as a team with a blend of youth and experience under the guidance of Mick Broughton. What we need now is the return of those spectators that gave up last season because of what they saw and heard from the players.
OXFORDSHIRE
Matthew O'Flynn

NORTHANTS
Dennis Millman

SHROPSHIRE
John Morris

SUSSEX
Paul Elphick

UNFORTUNATELY, as with many other counties, Oxfordshire has seen a reduction in the number of affiliated teams for this season. However, over the past few seasons the Banbury and District Association has maintained its number of league teams. The Banbury committee, particularly the new chairperson Robin Aston, have worked hard during the close and early season to develop and expand what is offered to the membership. One of the major successes was a sponsorship deal with local firm BHP Engineering of £750 for the league competition. This has resulted in a league newsletter being produced for the first time and being sent free to every member. The first of four editions is presently on the press.

The BHP League looks as though it will present a very competitive season. Although previous seasons one team has won all its matches and neither are there any teams who have lost all their matches. Bodicote A have the lead in division one, although Astraus A, reigning champions, and Brackley A are close behind and are both unbeaten. Bloxham B head division two; Bodicote C have the advantage in division three; Bloxham F are the leaders in division four and Banbury School are the division five pace setters.

Banbury have three teams in the Midland League. The men's A team have started strongly in division four with 9-1 wins against both Coventry B and Stroud. Goodwines and Joy Allen have both won 5 from 6. Rafe Miller and Steve Joyner have won 3 from 6. The men's B team in the same division have crept away against Leamington C. The new junior team had a disappointing start when they journeyed to Birmingham to play. The Banbury team lost 4-6 with all the Banbury team losing their games. It is pleasing to note that the age of chivalry is not quite dead. In a recent Kettering League match I was the eventual beneficiary, when Thrapston's Gerald Finney, suitably embarrassed by a succession of nets and edges, declined to return service at match point in the second game, and ultimately paid the penalty for his sportsmanship as the game slipped away from his grasp.

However I must confess that no such ethical thoughts crossed my mind, when two unreturnable nets gave me a match point against Derek Schofield during last season's National 'Vets' championships. Similar ethical thoughts clouded his vision as he promptly hit three clean winners to ensure that justice was done, and that is natural tolerance, and abundant talent were finally rewarded.

I am sure that such spontaneous actions will still be remembered long after the clinical, and occasionally cynical match winning finishes of the present era are forgotten.

Whether the aforementioned has any effect on tournament entries is debatable, but it is certainly a fact that the number of entrants in the county closed tournament continues to decline, despite the sponsorship by 'Fast Fast' Packaging of Northampton, and the introduction of several new events. Fortunately the situation at junior level is more encouraging, but will their enthusiasm be maintained?

Grapevine

If no news is good news, all should be well within the county boundaries, for table tennis news is yet again as scarce as hard bats at a junior tournament. However through the grapevine one hears that West Connect are carrying all before them at Northampton and Wellingborough, and seem likely to make up enough ground in Kettering to complete yet another hat-trick.

In county championship fixtures, the seconds well served by Rafe Miller and Richard Elliott, lost narrowly at Ipswich, the veterans, despite an outstanding display from Keith Jones, were outplayed by a strong Yorkshire outfit, while the juniors with Ian Bird and Richard Ambrose in top form, and Caroline Perkins gaining her first singles win at county level, made a most encouraging start to this season's campaign.

WITH the current season now well underway, a run round the winter league is quite a study of the premier division titles, at both Shrewsbury and Telford. Shrewsbury, who have probably the most competitive league in the county in recent years, see Shrewsbury Cricket Club B unbeaten to date at the top. Their team of wily combination bat players Bob Wilson, Barry Taylor and John Morris are a formidable handful, but whether they can withstand the challenge of their A team of Mike Beaune, Dean Pountney and the newly married Red France, remains to be seen.

At Telford TDCA lead the table by one point from Post Tee A, led by top local veteran John Holding with strong Shifnal A in third place. At Pontesbury, the TSB sponsored pairs league is marking its climax in the first of three series of matches to complete this month, with the November 21st. Bakehouse Boys, Darrell Corfield and Stephen Morris would appear to have sewn up the single crown, with NBV Ian Baker and Pete Hyde, and Salopian Sports Dean Pountney and Chris Thompson top contenders for the runners-up spot. The individual title looks like being between the league's only two unbeaten players, Baker and England ranked junior David Morris.

Meanwhile at Grove, the county 2-a-side league is headed by the locals top team of Keith Sillitoe and Anthony Harrison, who look a safe bet to take the first division title. The ever popular Grove grades singles event, which has been stretched by the ever enterprising Ian Marshall to six grades, in an attempt to accommodate an ever increasing entry, has been dominated to date by the talented David Williams. David has yet to lose a match though Pontesbury's Darrell Corfield has pushed him 19 in the third on two occasions.

Good to see Shropshire TT A chairman Telford's Trevor Felton organising another course for budding coaches in the Telford area. It would be nice to see any qualifier encouraging their charges to participate in any events organised around the county.

Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, and Grove School, Market Drayton, begin their defences of their national titles this month. There should be a staged of the county schools team event on November 22nd. The teachers' industrial action has I am afraid not helped in the entry of teams from other schools around the county.

Pontesbury staged the second series of matches in their West Midlands League and a very hotly contested class match between the village team of Richard Brown, Alistair Corfield and Matthew Alexander, and Wrexham's Spencer Harris and the Jones boys Garry and Andrew, resulted in a 5-3 draw, leaving the teams locked together at the top of the table.

WEST Sussex v West Sussex. A fixture that has never materialised but is often argued about the outcome. Does East boasts the Moore family but who have West got?

Spearheading the attack for TCB Dolphins is Phil Smith, who last season reached No 24 on the England list last season.

Crawley's Ritchie Venner is probably the most improved player in the county and was ranked number 81 in England last term before slipping down to 50.

Andy Walker from Worthing has had a fine start to the new season for the Sussex II team, beating John Taylor, 81 in England. Often under-rated Walker has given many of the top Sussex ranked players problems with his controlled game. With results like his first for Sussex this season Walker could still be a force in the county.

With the veterans becoming more established in England, West Sussex can certainly boast three of the best in the county and maybe in the country.

Lancings' Robin Stace is fast becoming one of the most feared veterans in England. Already a big winner this season at the North of England tournament, Stace with his modern attacking game, will I predict be England's No 1 veteran by the end of the season.

Keith Horton, although not yet producing his best form in the Venus tournaments, will also be a force to be reckoned with on the circuit. He has twice beaten current No 1 Ralph Gunston in big tournaments.

Christine Wicks younger sister of Carole Hewitt is still a potent force in Sussex matches.

Crawley schoolteacher Andy Meadows is the latest veteran to challenge for honours. After beating Stace at the Sussex Open, Meadows attacked at his highest ever but seen to get a high England ranking. It seems he is doing very well the way he is.

I think that West Sussex would be able to hold their own against East and maybe do better than most would expect.
SURREY
Frank Hams

TWO awards for outstanding service in the table tennis administration field have recently been given to John Somerville, former chairman of the Croydon table tennis league. At the league’s annual general meeting last week John stepped down as general secretary after nine years in the post, presented with the Charles A. Bourne memorial award. This followed receipt of a similarly named award at the Surrey TTA AGM. The awards are in memory of a former president of both Croydon and Surrey Associations.

John has worked tirelessly for both organisations and latterly he has undertaken the arduous task as organiser of the South of England senior 3-star and junior 2-star open tournaments, as well as the Surrey closed tournaments.

In the county championship matches held in October we had mixed fortunes. The junior team was the first team in the first match since promotion lost to Devon 9-1. Dave Harding (1), Mike Hammond, Rue Bole, Linda Clement and Debbie Simmons were the players who travelled to Plymouth. The vts I played at Bournmouth and were beaten by Dave Harding (1), Brian Simmonds (1), Ron Wilde and Jenny Vass were the later travellers after an evening match. The vts II — Mike Pearson, Ron Langhein (I), Dave Crowley (2) and Doris Penny (1) — all except Mike making their debuts, beat Dorset 6-3.

The junior II team, Jeremy Krayzul (2), Peter Burgess-Alien (2), David Carter (1), Hannah Webster and Elizabeth Cocks (1) beat Sussex II 11-7.

WARWICKSHIRE
Jenny Heaton

THE opening county matches resulted in mixed fortunes with the junior A team losing to the best bowling in Hereford 9-0. The senior B team defeated Lines 6-4, the junior A team drew with Darbyshire, the senior A team lost 7-3 to Cheshire and the junior B side lost 8-2 to Somerset.

The selection policy for the junior B team of only playing U15’s in the team is a good one but with three of the five players in the A team also U15 it may need to be a bit more flexible to allow some of the older players to gain County experience on merit.

Birmingham boys had a good win over Wolverhampton in the first round 6-3. Leigh Jeffries won his three including a fine win over Adrian Thorp (ranked 11 in U17). Darren Smith won two and Rajinder Singh one. This win now brings about an inter county clash in round 2 between Birmingham and Coventry.

Coaching Rallies
The success of the rallies held last season has led to another two being staged, the first at North Solihull Sports Centre on October 2nd and the second on November 23rd in Nuneaton.

Regional ranking trials
Warwickshire players fared well in these with Alison Ledwych (Birmingham) and Leigh Jeffries (Birmingham) coming on top in the U17 trials and Rajinder Singh second in U17 boys.

Nicola Meldings (Birmingham) and Clarke (Coventry) came second in their respective cadet trials. These players will not go forward to the National ranking trials to be held at Lilleshalh on January 3rd and 4th.

Unfortunately Darren Smith, who was beaten in the No 2 had a disappointing trial and surprisingly failed to qualify.

The Dudley League was disappointed at the National Council refusal of their application to apply a rule that in local league matches the bar rubbers, if of different material (which it must be admitted can be difficult to decide) should be of different colour. The league considered it had at least gone a very good way towards adopting the ITTF provisions for bar rubbers to be red and black, and had also adopted the proper course in applying for National Council approval. The league had in mind that many players would already have bats with different colour rubbers and they did not want to impose expense on players to necessarily have red/black rubbers.

WARWICKSHIRE
Doug Moss

WARWICKSHIRE players had some successes at the Woodfield (Worcs veteran) 1 Star championships. Sandra Roden and Mandy Myton, the present county 1st team pairing, played very well to win the ladies doubles event. Sandra added to her success by reaching the final of the ladies singles championship. In the semi-final she met Janet Hunt (Worcs veteran), who had beaten top junior Helen Lower on her recent return from pupil exchange in Aylesbury. Janet Hunt also won the semi-final of the veterans singles, a very good performance considering it was a mixed event. Ray Dixon, also of the county veterans team, reached the other semi-final, losing to Eddie Griffin, the ultimate winner of the championship. In the cadet boys championship Lee Horton, in his first tournament outside the county, excelled to reach the final.

The county had nine players taking part in the regional trials at Market Drayton. The best performances came from Lee Horton and Nicola Jones. Lee showed real talent in taking the cadet boys No 1 spot and he has another two seasons at this level! Nicola was ranked No 44 on the national computer rankings. His good performances currently have earned him a place alongside Adrian Thorp and Gary Knights in our team for the first premier weekend. Mark Stretton also had a good win against Black, but against a strong all-round Bedfordshire side, Ian Hodgnet, Jane Winter and Natalie Riley were unable to produce a win.

Louise Sherratt’s form has slipped a little recently due to pressures of work, so Jane Winter has been chosen to join the A team with Helen Lower.

November junior and cadet rankings are as follows:


Cadet boys 1 G. Knights 2 A. Toft 3 B. Chell 4 M. Parr 5 C. White 6 R. Barnes 7 C. Pottle 8 L. Stevenson 9 L. Moreton 10 R. Potle 11 R. Evason 12 D. Hassall

Cadet girls 1 J. Bickerton 2 J. Foxall 3 L. Sharrett 4 A. Flaherty 5 K. Benton 6 E. Shaplan

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YORKSHIRE
Rea Balmford

YORKSHIRE are taking their responsibilities in the current election of a new chairman of the ETFA very seriously and we are glad to welcome both Aubrey Drapkin and John Prean, who put their policies before a special meeting of the County Management Committee early in November.

John, who, in the few weeks previous has held a meeting in Sheffield at which several members of the MC were present, willingly made the long journey from the south once again, while Aubrey, setting off from the North East after a week-end in Manchester, arrived with motorway closures and traffic jams.

Yorkshire thank both for making the visit and assure them that whoever is eventually elected will get the full support of England’s largest county in their bid to take our sport forward into the 1990s.

The county town of York will by now have staged their first county match for 17 years with the visit of Norfolk to the Railway Institute to meet Yorkshire II in Veteran division 3A.

Doug Bartle, making his debut for the county, became the city’s first ever veteran to play at this level, and he was welcomed in the side by another North Yorkshire man in Barry Pearson from Northallerton.

Good to see the league from the market town far away from the centres of activity in the West Riding and South Yorkshire supplying a player to the representative team.

News of former Yorkshire committee man and national umpire Ron Richardson also comes from his home city. Ron has moved away to Whitley where he is running a successful business but, with Whitley not affiliated, is no longer in table tennis.

Daughter Jeannette, however, a former county player at both senior and junior level, has returned to the sport in her married name of Jackson and is playing in York’s Yorkshire League side.

Successful
After the successful Stiga Yorkshire and Humberside 3 Star Open at Halifax, a busy tournament sub-committee are looking past the junior cadet closed (in March) and senior closed (December) to the forthcoming Yorkshire Open at Huddersfield Sports Centre on January 31st.

Ideas have been crystallized and preparations are well in hand for a completely new format, based on a series of ‘graded’ events and aimed at the enthusiastic local league players.
A TV play for parents of future stars?
by John Woodford

THERE must have been thousands of table tennis enthusiasts, followers, fans and cynics who watched the recent BBC television Sunday Premiere last month called, "Good as Gold".

How familiar we were, as indeed must have been many other sports fans with the problems and the tensions involved in the emergence of youngsters who have the potential to win gold medals.

The subject was swimming - some would argue a major sport - but the problems that were examined skilfully could have applied to most sports.

Judged by Herbert Kretzmer in the Daily Mail as "one of the most appealing plays of the year" it certainly kept me away from the change-channel button.

We saw the inspiration of the girl's coach played by David Calder who as an ex-swimmer who didn't make the grade, saw a chance to share some of the reflected glory of creating a star of the young England squad.

The play touched admirably in the relationship between the coach and the mother and father. Dad was all in favour of dropping everything to get her into the England team whilst Mum was totally frightened by the whole thing and would not watch her daughter swimming and the emotion of events was such that the marriage itself was on the rocks.

I wonder how many marriages of table tennis folk have been similarly affected!

Under fire

And of course most importantly the effect of the battle on the girl herself. Under fire from her coach, totally out of touch with her pitiful mother the young star came close to quitting but finally came second in a big final and that for her and her supporters was a triumph. The play was a lesson for all parents, and coaches with their children on the England junior ranking lists.

Midland League
from John Barber

THE popular Midland League has got off to a good start. One comment repeatedly occurs in the Report of Play part of the Result Sheet - "A very sporting and enjoyable match played with excellent spirit." This has always been the essence of the Midland League and doubtless always will be.

Men's section

Division 1 Glos. 5 Birmingham A 5, Coventry A 7 Bham A 3, Glos 3 Derby 7, Chesterfield 4 Wolves 6.

Champions Gloucester are finding the competition tough with one point from two matches. Mark Owen put in a superb performance against Birmingham who were four times behind but held on to force a draw in the final set. Glos. lacked confidence against Derby, worthy winners, with Phil Vickers and Stephen Yallop each winning all three. A fine start for the promoted team.

Coventry also put in a good show, against Birmingham, who were also promoted.

WURZBURG here we come!

THE ETTA are promoting a 3-day, 2-night excursion in April to watch England and West Germany clash in what should be the showdown, promotion or bust match in the European League. Including a Cologne tour and Rhine Valley drive and a match ticket, the cost is only £119.

... See the advertisement on page 24

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Gold medal potential?

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PERFORMANCE

By Tony Russe

THE responsibilities open to a coach are manifold. They include instructor, trainer, mentor, administrator, chauffeur and many others. The coach himself or herself may for varying reasons limit personal horizons and keep to a limited path. That in no way diminishes the coach's value to the E.T.T.A. I have said often, and repeat again, that the coach who week in and week out puts in his time to instruct players, young and not so young, is doing a great service not only to the ETTA but to the community at large.

Often such coaches feel left out when the praises are passed around. May I for one say "thank you" for what you do and long may you continue doing it.

No matter at whatever level you coach, however, one thing is common to us all and that is a deep interest in the playing performance of our charges. It is a side of coaching that fascinates me and I hope all coaches. To be able to help your players perform at optimum level and maintain a high level of performance should be every coach's desire. Consequently I hope to draw on my experience and pass to you some thoughts that are relative to this subject. Let me say at the outset that I am unable to provide concrete answers, rule of thumb techniques that solve everybody's problems. What I can do is to give you a case of an England player whose experience of variation of performance level over a few days was so acute as to leave both the player and myself more than a little mystified as well as disappointed. Although this case is one of an England player, you will I am sure recognise little Johnny and Jenny at their town, county, regional trial or whatever. Wherever in fact we come face to face with the stress situation.

Fitness?

Now let us first say that the player concerned is an extremely well motivated, well practised and to all accepted standards a very fit young person. The question of fitness is in fact open to interpretation. Fit for what? In fact I remember a learned physician, himself "fit", telling how he once swum against a friend at his wish as part of their friendly rivalry in a race. It was personal to them but in earnest. The friend won, but within two weeks he was dead of cancer. To all intents and purposes, certainly by the standards we tend to accept, that man was fit. So one must always keep an open mind on fitness.

Anyway as far as we knew my player was ready for an important event, to the player a very important event. Therefore the stress factor must play a part. The event was played over three days but he and others competing were well aware in advance of the requirements and had trained accordingly. On day 1 my player performed miraculously. The play was so sharp, thought processes so good, athleticism unbounded that both the player and I thought that anything was possible. The prize was there for the taking.

Magic

On day 2 the magic of the previous day was not there, but my player nevertheless played extremely well doing good "business" as I like to call it. However, late in the day two games were lost, not unexpected losses, but nevertheless it was now unlikely that an overall win could be expected.

On day 3 my player was just a shadow of the true self. The legs were gone, the thought processes dulled and consequently timing destroyed. The motivation was still there but anger was gradually turned in against oneself instead of against the ball, the opponent or on whatever a player uses to vent his or her spleen to maximise performance. Consequently, unexpected losses occurred and the player felt dispirited, certainly unable to understand what had happened. Do you recognise little Johnny or Jenny? I am sure you do.

So what did happen? Was it the result of mental stress over a prolonged period or was it physical? Obviously all players have their "cracking point". One of the jobs of the trainer/coach is to help the player to distance that point, certainly to see out the game no matter what happened. I try to remind all my players that there is no situation that cannot be redeemed. I had the privilege of being alongside the table when Jonyer came back from the "dead", 8-20 I believe in the second having lost the first, against
Stellwag at the Welsh Open a few years ago. Jonyer won decisively in the third. There is no situation which cannot be redeemed.

So I do not believe that my player’s fallibility after apparent invincibility was caused by mental stress. I do believe that mental stress, or rather distress, played a part on the third day but it was not the cause but rather the effect. So the key must lie in the physical condition of the player, and here I think that I may have found the answer. I am no doctor but would dearly love to have had records of my players physical condition on each of those days for comparison. I would be prepared to bet heavily that the level of blood, sugar and mineral salts in the players body were sadly depleted by day three with the consequent brain starvation that occurs. In fact the player later confirmed my belief by complaining about “not feeling quite right” for some three weeks after the event. That is a very long recovery time for a young person and is cause for concern to me as a coach. The player is a very heavy sweeter and trains extremely hard, consequently depleting an already depleted store of body fluids and glycerol level. The player is now on a daily intake of vitamins plus iron and has been advised to take in a mineral salts drink during play intervals plus a replenishment supplement after play. This should rapidly restore the player’s usual vitality and ensure a return to the devastating form that the player is capable of producing.

So coach when Johnny or Jenny underperforms don’t just dismiss it as one of those things or give him or her an earbashing. Think it out. Especially with those little’s with their unfilled frames. We are what we eat and drink and much can be done in this area to aid performance.

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**PERFORMANCE**

(cont. from page 24)
**SCOTTISH NEWS**

by Denis George

**THE TOURNAMENT SCENE**

The three open tournaments held to date have produced three different winners in the Men's Singles. Anwar Majid, now living back in Edinburgh, won the Meadowbank Open on 12th October. However in the East of Scotland on 26th October. In the semi-finals this time, then lost to an inspired Ian Stokes (Glasgow) in the final.

The tournament scene has been in good form all season to win two open titles, to add to her win in the September Assessment event.

 Revelation of the season has been the form of Glasgow's Euan Walker, in his first season as a junior, who has won all four junior boys events this season, and it is interesting to note that the day before Ian Stokes won the Men's Singles in the East of Scotland Open Carole beat him 12/10 in the 3rd of their National League match!

**EUROPEAN LEAGUE - Division 2**

Guernsey v Greece v Scotland v Wales at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, Guernsey, 7/8 November

In order to economise on travel costs the four 'poorer' countries of Division 2 agreed in Prague to play their matches with each other at a centralised venue over one weekend. To this end Guernsey kindly agreed to host the mini-group at Beau Sejour - the venue for the 1977 Commonwealth Championships. The Guernsey TTA Chairman - Horace Mallett - and his band of enthusiastic helpers are to be congratulated on making it a very enjoyable - if all too short - weekend.

On the Friday evening Scotland played Wales and Guernsey played Greece. In the former match Wales took the lead when Nigel Tyler recovered from 15/19 down in the 3rd end to beat David Hannah. The Welsh also won both doubles after John Broe and Carole Dalrymple had won their singles 2/0. Dave Hannah then beat Nigel Thomas over three to equalise the scoreline and the stage was set for a tense and thrilling final tie between John Broe and Nigel Tyler. John started off like a house on fire to take the first end 21/18, but Nigel put his game together to win the second at 11. There were many long topspin rallies which the local audience greatly appreciated. John got on top again in the third end and led throughout to 19/17 but then Nigel came from behind once again to win 21/19 and clinch the match for Wales.

Guernsey 1, Greece 0; Scotland 7, Wales 0; Wales 7, Guernsey 0; Scotland 7, Wales 0; Guernsey 0, Scotland 7.

**ARRANGEMENTS are well in hand for the Dunlop National School Team Championships.**

Member County Schools' Associations were due to send in entries for the eight events - ranging from Under-11 to Under-19 by December 10th. The winners go forward to one of twelve Area Finals to be staged on Sat/Sun January 17th/18th, 1987. From there the winners proceed to Regional Finals on Sunday, February 22nd and then to the 21st National Finals on Saturday, March 21st at Lea Green, Matlock.

May I take this opportunity of wishing readers of this column the compliments of the season.

**SCOTRAIL NATIONAL LEAGUE**

With only two matches played division 1 is already polarising once again with the 4 strong teams heading the table and it will not be until later in the season when they meet each other that their true positions will be established.

Holders - Greaves Sport (Central YM, Glasgow) have John Broe and David McLlroy in their squad but commitments for Ormsby will limit their appearance in the Scottish League.

However with players of the calibre of Ian McLean, Gordon Clancy, David Thomas and Euan Walker they lead with 18 points from 20, followed by Edinburgh's Murrayfield with 16 points. Falkirk TCC - now playing under a new sponsor, the Swedish firm Korrugal, have Carole Dalrymple in their pack and it is interesting to note that the day before Ian Stokes won the Men's Singles in the East of Scotland Open Carole beat him 12/10 in the 3rd of their National League match!

**continued from previous column**

English schools Table Tennis Association

by David Lomas

**North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association**

Clwyd Counties matches round up.

English Counties Championship, Senior Division 3A.

Nottinghamshire v. Clwyd at Scunthorpe Centre, Nottingham.

Clwyd in their first fixture of the season went down to a strong Notts side by 7 sets to 3 sets. Clwyd without a number of their regular first choice players found their hosts on form, for Notts their three men, John Holland, Tim Sheppard and Trevor Kerry all won their singles, Clwyd's men Terry Turner and Justin Evans however did win the mens doubles.

Clwyd's ladies did however do much better and Evelyn Wright beat Kay Myall in her singles and partnered with Chris Watkins also took the ladies doubles beating Angela Brettell and Kay Myall.

Clwyd team was: Terry Turner, Justin Evans and Neil James and their ladies Evelyn Wright and Christine Watkins.

Nottingham: Trevor Kerry, John Holland and Tim Sheppard, and ladies Kay Myall and Angela Brettell.

Re-building

Clwyd Junior Counties team in their opening match of the season entertained at Castell Alun Sports Centre, Hope near Wrexham.

Durham and against a very experienced side were down by 7 sets to 3 sets. Clwyd who are now rebuilding their Junior squad found themselves up against a very good Durham team, for Clwyd Tracy Sambrook and Natasha Williams both won one singles each and teamed together to take their doubles.

All three Boys, Kristian Moulds, Gary Jones and Nigel Roberts all tried very hard without any success.

Clwyd's side with just two previous representative appearances were never overawed against their visitors and should improve when they have more experience.

Heidi Cotter The North Wales International from Mynydd Isa, is now a student at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff.
NATIONAL TEAM EVENT TAKES OFF

by Mike Watts

THE National Team Competition proposed by the Society is off the ground and we are delighted that 81 Leagues have entered teams. A number of queries have been received asking what constitutes a team and the answer to this is three players who can be three men, or three women or a mixture. If the response is good we may start a Womens competition next season but more of that later.

The draw took place on Monday 9th November 1986 and was made by the Referee appointed by V.E.T.T.S. to control the competition - Tony Chatwin. There are eight zones and Round 1 should be completed by the 31st December 1986 and Round 2 by the 31st January 1987.

The Midlands "Masters" is the next Society tournament to take place at the West Midlands Sports Centre, Tile Hill, Coventry over the weekend of the 29th/30th November 1986. Referee Geoff Taylor reports a mammoth entry of 132 which is 25% up on last season and supports the theory that Veterans table tennis is on the up and up.

All the top ranked players have entered and local player Ralph Gunnion (Warwickshire) will be keen to win the Over 40 Mens Singles enabling him to climb back over Derek Schofield (Cheshire) who has taken the opportunity to enter all the major tournaments this season and is now back at No 1. To complete the family picture wife Doreen Schofield remains at No 1 in the Veteran Women's list.

A recent meeting with Ladbrokes Hotels has confirmed that the company are to extend their involvement with Veterans Table Tennis not only with the National Age Group Championships in May 1987 but with the Midland, Southern and Northern "Masters" tournaments in season 1987/88. Full details of the package has still to be finalised but will be a substantial sponsorship.

STOP PRESS:

UNLUCKY SEVEN!

AFTER six weekly table tennis stories in a row on Tuesdays in The Daily Telegraph, the seventh story that should have appeared on Tuesday November 25 was delayed until the following day. The reason was the Telegraph carried a 15-page advertisement from British Gas which meant losing a huge chunk of sports space. The ETTA switchboard was flooded with readers who had paid their 25p in vain. Sorry for the inconvenience. We hope it will not happen again but that sort of happening is familiar to all those engaged in media. The normal cost of buying 15 pages in the Telegraph is in excess of £300,000.

NORTH WALES NEWS

Wrexham & District Table Tennis League:

In the Wrexham League the premier Cup competition the Godfrey Parry Cup round two matches found one or two surprises with Gresford "A" beating Wrexham-Victoria Youth "A" by 6-3. Geoff Jones, Graham Jones and Mike Hughes saw Gresford through against a two man Youth side with Jim Bishop unbeaten for the Youth Centre.

Caergwrle BB "A" progressed into round 3 with a 9-0 victory over Llay RBL "B" the Brigade side of Justine Thomas and father and son Alan and Spencer Harris winning all their games.

The top match of the round was the battle between Caergwrle BB and Malpas played at Malpas with the visitors winning in just 6 sets, 5-1.

Telecoms "A" were hosts to Llay RBL "A" and were made to fight hard for a 5-4 win. For Telecoms Hadyn Young won his three games.

JILL's survey at Soham

JILL PARKER completed some sterling work at the Stiga Top-12 in Soham when she interviewed no less than 118 people on the success or failure of the 11-point scoring format.

Those interviewed were mainly players.

Jill commented in her report "The survey had to take place over the week-end in order to get sufficient opinions. Several people questioned on Saturday approached me towards the end of the tournament to inform me that their opinions had changed more favourably to the 11-up system, including the ETTA treasurer Aubrey Drapkin whose view was that it grows on you."

Evidence

Jill summarised, "In my view there is sufficient evidence for the experimentation of the 11-point system to continue."

The findings were 82 people (69.5%) in favour of 11-up; 21 people (18%) for 21-up and 18 who said they found no difference or didn't express an opinion.

WESST MIDLAND CADET LEAGUE

Organiser: John Morris, 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury.

Results from Saturday Sept. 13th.

Grove I Pontesbury A 9; Pontesbury B 0 Gloucester A 10; Gloucester A 10 Gloucester B 0; Stroud 2 Grove 8; Gloucester A 6 Grove 4; Pontesbury A 10 Hereford 0; Gloucester B 1 Wrexham 9; Hereford 1 Stroud 9; Wrexham 10 Hereford 0; Gloucester B 10 Pontesbury B 0; Stroud 3 Wrexham 7; Pontesbury A 10 Pontesbury B 0.

League table to Date:

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<td>Hereford</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontesbury B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the first session of three, the contenders for the league title currently held by Stroud, are home side Pontesbury A, Richard Brown and Mathew Alexander unbeaten while Wrexham, without star player, Welsh No 1 cadet Spencer Harris, looked very impressive.

Results from Saturday Sept. 13th.


BSC Shotton "B" team v. Caergwrle Boys Brigade "C" team.

Caergwrle Boys Brigade "A" team v. Castell Alun.


Hawarden "C" team v. Sealand Youth Club "A" team.

Caergwrle Boys Brigade "B" team v. BSC Shotton.

North West District "C" team v. Tunwell Cement.

Sealand Youth Club v. Hawarden.

East Flintshire League:

Both Divisions in the East Flintshire League have new leaders with B.S.C. Shotton seniors and West District "C" team from the top spot and in Division 2 Tunnel Cement have taken over from Hawarden, the Steelmen hot favourites to win the first division followed up a good win against Caergwrle Boys Brigade third team which they whitewashed 10-nil and then beat Brigades "A" team 7-3. The draw for the D.R. Ledgard Challenge Cup sees the following ties.

Round two to be played week commencing November 3rd.


BSC Shotton "B" team v. Caergwrle Boys Brigade "C" team.

Caergwrle Boys Brigade "A" team v. Castell Alun.


Hawarden "C" team v. Sealand Youth Club "A" team.

Caergwrle Boys Brigade "B" team v. BSC Shotton.

North West District "C" team v. Tunwell Cement.

Sealand Youth Club v. Hawarden.
The British effect

THE amount of interest generated over the last few months for Lensun and Lentec products has been very encouraging, but in an attempt to predict future questions, especially after the launch of the most extensive ever British range of table tennis equipment, below is a preview of the Lentec Table Tennis manual, which will tell you most of what you need to know about the bright future now available for every player of every standard in this country. The manual itself is a reflection of the research that has gone into producing the 21 up range of equipment, and also the result of a conscious effort to fully inform the player and coach about the effects of the equipment in a detailed way, something that has been sadly lacking in the past, usually because information gets lost in translation. It gets lost in translation because, and this is an important fact, we are second priority when it comes to attention and care. (Lentec and Lensun will ensure that it is the British table tennis player and coach who will get top priority help and advice about equipment, and this will tip the scales in our favour for a change. To see how Lentec has started already, see next months article).

Back to this article and the manual. Many people perhaps at this moment are worrying about the launch of yet more equipment to add to the maze that currently exists. Perhaps also, they are wondering what is so different about British equipment. I would ask them to persevere and read on.

The Lentec table tennis manual contains, as does the packaging for all the equipment, comprehensive information about the rubbers, sponges and blades that make up the 21 up range. The coach and player are therefore left in no doubt as to what effects the player's final combination has. The manual recommends which combinations are of advantage for a particular style of play, and even more importantly, for a particular skill level. These skill levels have been carefully defined by coaches and players and this adds an extra dimension, making the correct choice of playing combination easier.

Section four gives the facts on bat blades, and provides advice on the choice of blade, its sweetspot, balance and control over vibration, blade wood types are discussed, and fibre reinforcements also covered. (The Lensun range of blades includes carbon and glass fibre reinforced blades, which are better in terms of control than previous types, but to find out why you will have to read the manual, or the packaging!)

Perhaps out of all the manual's contents, section five is the real backbone. It contains the individual results sheets for all rubbers and sponges independently tested and yes, the Lentec range is there too. (By the way, the tests are traceable to international standards of measurement. In case of any of you table tennis players out there know about these things, being part time calibration or instrumentation engineers!)

Section six covers specialist equipment, long pimpled rubbers, anti-spin types, fibre reinforced blades, are all extensively detailed. No more hertesay. Just the facts. Now the coach can recommend one of these without fear. Why? See the footnote below.

Section seven is the science lesson (put at the end so that if you are not interested in how a combination works, you can get on with using the manual to develop how well you use it). Again this section reinforces the statements made throughout the manual and shows how the facts were obtained.

Now as a final note, how is all this going to be of benefit? Firstly, for those who would like to standardise on one rubber, Lentec have done that. Lentec grip is altered very slightly in speed properties before it becomes Lentec attack. The unique sponge backing does the rest.

With Lentec grip you can play a defensive or allround game. With Lentec attack, you can play the most modern attacking techniques. Both these rubbers, provide excellent control, which brings us to the people who want to see longer rallies, with the control of the Lensun blades to aid the control of the Lentec rubbers and sponges. No one can say it is the equipment that is killing our game.

With about Lentec swing, counter, killspin, and the different types of blade in the Lensun range then?

Equipment

These too, provide superb control, but different playing characteristics, which provide the extra scope necessary to allow future development for a player. The important thing to remember though, for those against this type of thing, is that the effects of each type of long pimpled, short pimples out, anti-loop rubber and blade, are detailed in the manual. If you want to know how to beat them read the manual!

But this doesn't mean that those who do like the variation a diverse range of equipment offers, are going to have trouble. Even with the two colour rule, these rubbers when used skillfully, are effective. Ask Carl Prean, Lisa Bellinger etc., and ask Leigh Jeffries what he thinks of the blade he uses.

Remember that the two colour rule has done the skillful combination bat player a favour, if he or she wins now, he or she no longer have to hold their head down in shame.

Also, as a final point, who is to say what is to be the standard. Lentec and Lensun believe that the future will now see better standards! Thanks to the British effect! Still unsure? Questions unanswered?

Write to:
MALCOLM BROWN
c/o Lentec
138 Foleshill Road
Coventry CV1 4JJ

Situations Vacant
SECRETARY to the Director of Coaching

THE Association have a vacancy for the above position which concerns all aspects of the administration of the National Coaching Scheme, i.e., registration of student coaches, issue of awards and badges, general correspondence. A mini-computer used for word processing and maintaining the Coaches Register is a knowledge in this aspect would be an advantage.

Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, in the E.T.T.A. office at Hastings.
Salary circa. £5,000 p.a.
Apply in writing to:
Director of Coaching,
English Table Tennis Association
21 Claremont
Hastings TN34 1HF
1st Prize — **STIGA** Tracksuit

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**Christmas Crossword**

*A seasonal puzzle - by Eric Hall*

**ACROSS**

1. German version of a famous birth-place (6)
5. & 12. Down. A dating by proxy could be arranged for this festive event (6,3,5)
8. Heather following Ms Butler singing at Christmas (9)
9. Falls now and then, softly! (4)
10. & 11. Alun cast as a benign old gent! (5,5)
14. Vehicle five hundred sent with love (4)
15. For the love of .... a dame? Not me! (3)
16. Rings doctor about how one feels (4)
18. Spins around New Year sales, in search of cut-price bargains? (5)
19. Quiet remark to a team (5)
20. One might after mixing gins~ (4)
22. It's a rich trait perhaps to be suffering from rheumatism (9)
23. Country bird which never gets very old (6)
24. Canadian leader with the French decoration? (6)

**DOWN**

2. Might be taken from work after 5 & 12 (1,3,4)
3. Singular item of joyous news at Christmas? (4,6)
4. Steady topspin linked with Swiss (4)
5. Financial aid parents might need just now (4,4)
6. Ron is on course to use them (5)
7. Looks adult, just right in evening dress (5)
9. Naval operation resulting in surrender? (10)
12. See 5 Across
13. I'll woo Head of BBC to exchange seasonal feelings of bonhomie (8)
17. Yule in Berkshire? (5)
18. Rene's pulling a face (5)
21. Stylish young bird loses its tail (4)

---

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

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Salary £5,901 plus expenses.

Closing date for applications Monday 26th January 1987.

Applications to:

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Department of Recreation (Ref: 287)
Auchinleck House
Five Ways
Birmingham B15 1DS

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This project is jointly financed by CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, WALSALL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, WEST MIDLANDS SPORTS COUNCIL, ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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**Successes at Sedgehill**

DESPITE earlier fears, the Regional Trials for the Greater London and South East region took place smoothly at the Sedgehill School, Catford, South East London on 25th October 1986 writes Mike Close. This was due mainly to the work of Alan Shepherd, the Referee and his band of willing workers, not forgetting the 'host' Alan Fisher. I was pleased to see all four counties involved: Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex having at least two of their players qualifying for the National Trials.

The undefeated winners of the Top Ten Round Robin groups were:

**Junior Boys:**
- Philip Szekeres (Middlesex)

**Junior Girls:**
- Rosemary Rainton (Sussex)

**Cadet Boys:**
- Paul Carter (Surrey)

**Cadet Girls:**
- Sarah Williams (Middlesex)

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 12th.


---

Clive Oakman Table Tennis

plus three consolation prizes of professional mini bats supplied by

**CLIVE OAKMAN Table Tennis**

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 12th.

A players game

AS a regular reader of Table Tennis News over the last three years I have read about the never-ending arguments and ideas about the state of the game. All writers came and went, but the ceaseless tirade of John Prean continues. Sometimes it is difficult to understand what he actually wants. Is he trying to drive away so his son becomes the best player in England, Europe, the world, or become himself the man with all the answers?

It is time we all accepted that gone are the days when several thousand came to see big games (I'm told by my elders). They will never return. One reason is because the public now has other things to do in leisure time. The other reason is because the game has become boring to watch. The only way to watch the game is to see points scored and points won. The players themselves cannot watch the game. There is no excitement in watching the game. The only excitement is in watching the players. The players themselves cannot see the ball. It is all left to the camera man. Sometimes it is difficult to present the game correctly, and not clutch straws. (1) Ineptly named, this tournament is, in fact, "The Top 10 plus any Two Others". I've nothing against the any two others, but saddened for, say, the 11th to 14th ranked players, who laboured and sweated through last season to reach these positions. "Top 12" is "Top 12" in my book.

(2) The "Top 12" or "Top 10 plus any Two Others" is a closed competition, and awarding points for placings should be abolished. Steve Cram wouldn't expect a lap start over other runners in a 1500 metres race. The fortunate invitees should be quite content with the money and the prestige. Nevertheless, any shot in the arm for our game is welcome, but it must be the right arm. So let's put this competition on the straight and narrow 21 up, a correct title, and no bonuses for established players.

JIMMY LOWE
(Forming English International & now Marketing Manager - Panoramic Bath T.T.C.)
74, Barn Glebe
trowbridge, Wills BA14 71Z

ELECTION PROBLEMS

TOM BLUNN'S death after many years' dedicated service to our sport has resulted in a situation that, in some ways, highlights a problem we should all face and consider most carefully.

We cannot fail to have noticed the unpleasant style of electioneering that has been taken place for the post of chairman of the ETTA. It is, to my mind, unnecessary and demeaning to all those who indulge. The post in question is, after all, chairmanship of a sporting association. Obvious personality clashes are unfortunate but probably unavoidable given recent history and events.

Although officers of the ETFA are elected annually, they are common for incumbents to be re-elected if willing to stand. Experience leads me to believe that holders of high, influential, office should be in position only as long as their enthusiasm, creative thinking, and motivation are maintained. This peak is unlikely to be sustained for more than five years.

To ensure continual creative evolution of our Association and avoid what may prove to be successive re-elections of merely an adequate administration we should consider limiting the tenure of high office, to say four years, but maintain annual elections. This period of tenure should allow ample time for development of ideas and policies but be short enough to maintain originality and zest for the post.

I hope the new chairman, when elected, will stimulate discussion on this subject so that advantage may be taken of the current, unique, situation to re-assess an important aspect of ETFA management.

JACK DAWSON
The Grange
Old Woking
Surrey

NO GIMMICKS, PLEASE!

I HAVE been interested in some of the recent correspondence in the magazine, and as a long-standing subscriber I felt I should put pen to paper. I first obtained the official ETTA magazine in the late 1930s, and still retain some copies. I can say I have had a life time in Table Tennis playing in the Civil Service League as long ago as 1937/38 season, and the Northumberland League continuously from 1946 to 1984.

Some may refer to me as a "fuddy-duddy", but this I deny. I am not against innovations in the game, and do not advocate a reversion to the old pimpled rubber bat. However, I feel that the game should not be spoiled by unnecessary gimmicky such as multicoloured tables and nets. I am all for smart colourful outfits of good design with open attractive play both attacking and defensive to encourage spectator and TV coverage. Most readers will have enjoyed bowls and snooker on TV and yet they retain their traditional image. Table tennis has a long tradition and is as good a game now as ever. Let us attempt to ensure the games popularity without resorting to gimmickry. The game is to be enjoyed at all levels and this must be encouraged by Coaches, Players and Administrators. It should be played hard but fairly within the laws of illegal services should not be encouraged. In recent years there has been some lowering of standards of behaviour and discipline, which does not encourage parents to allow their children to take up the game. Let us uplift the game, give it a better image whether at local league level or at international standard. Let us enjoy our game played in a keen, sporting atmosphere to the best of our ability.

May I wish our magazine renewed success and increased circulation under its new editorship.

ALAN MORPETH
National Councillor
59 Preston Avenue
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE30 2BN
ESSEX AGM

THE leading item of the Essex County Notes in the October issue were so drastically cut that the two paragraphs remaining must make most readers wonder why they were ever written.

I had submitted this particular piece for the previous edition. As it was written at the end of that article I assumed that it had been completely left out because a report of the County Championships AGM was appearing elsewhere. This was not so and I therefore made it the leading Essex Note for October, thus making it the leading piece for the previous edition. As a result of this I have received many complaints by letter and that the rule regarding venue notification would be enforced. Many thanks to County representatives who supported the proposition which highlighted the lack of 1st class postage being used and an encroachment into essential team gathering time.

LAURIE DARNELL
103 Queenswood Avenue,
Hutton, Brentwood.

THE NEW
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JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER,
35, HAWKHURST AVENUE,
FULWOOD, PRESTON, LANCs.

AN APPRECIATION FROM BRUSSES

TO MARK the sad passing of Tom Blunn I would like to recall my earliest memories of his keen appreciation of the financial and accounting requirements of our National Association.

In the early 1950's, when I was in office as the Hon. General Secretary of the Hastings and District Association, I frequently attended the Annual General Meeting of the E.T.T.A., many times in the company of Keith Watts. These were the days when Bill Vint was Hon. Treasurer, and few people had occasion to query or question the accounts that he presented. However, there was one tall fellow in the body of the hall who did just this, and his contribution was always pertinent and constructive. This was certainly the case when the E.T.T.A. were considering the possibility of adopting Limited Company status, and forming a Holding Company to promote this end.

When Bill Vint's long period as Hon. Treasurer came to an end, there was some speculation as to who would be a suitable successor. I recall voicing the opinion that the fellow who made intelligent comments on the accounts at the A.G.M. should surely be a candidate. At that time I was unaware of his name, but I was happy that he was proposed and elected. Ever since, during my period of influence with the Hastings & District Association, Tom Blunn received that Association's support.

This was surely a classic example of bringing an intelligent critic into the administration with great success. True one can recall other examples of this which just did not have a comparable result.

Tom seemed to be full of vigour when I last saw him - in April in Prague at the European Championships, and one hopes that his fellow administrators will now find the strength to keep our game in the right direction to continue the efforts of Tom and others of the years past.

DEREK N. TYLER
Vice-President E.T.T.A.
Brussels
FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

DECEMBER
13/14 Stiga Middlesex 3 Star (Picketts Lock), Halton Junior 2 Star (Runcorn)
20 County Championships (3)
21 Schildkrot British League (7)

JANUARY
2/4 European Top 12 (Basle, Switzerland)
3/4 National Junior Ranking Trials (Lilleshall)
10/11 Stiga South of England 3 Star (Woking)
11 Tameside Junior 1 Star (Copley)
14 European League: England v Finland (Norwich)
17 County Championships (4)
17/18 ESTTA Team Area Finals
18 Schildkrot British League (9)
24/25 Triumph Adler English National Championships (Crawley)
25 Pontefract 1 Star

The full season’s fixtures are available in the ET TA diary, available now, priced £2.50

MAILBOX (continued from page 32)

WHY NOT?

I FIND TTN a very well presented and detailed magazine with a wealth of information on the national scene. But what about the International picture? I would like to see and hear more news of the world’s leading players wherever they are from.

Why not publish regular European and world ranking lists alongside the National ones? Look at and discuss the different playing styles, strengths and weaknesses of the leading table-tennis countries. For instance why has Sweden become such a leading force in table-tennis (and tennis for that matter) in recent years?

I feel that this would only serve to stimulate greater interest in table-tennis and to increase our learning about the game.

Best wishes, and keep up the good work.

MARK H. YOUNG
Ellcote
High Ellington
Masham, Ripon
N. Yorks HG4 4PR

Editor’s Note: There are many reasons why certain subjects are not covered in depth in this magazine. We do publish European and World rankings on a regular basis. Being a national (British) publication it is logical to concentrate on English or British reports. Trying to get experts to write acceptable copy for nothing is extremely difficult. The suggestion on Sweden’s success is sound. It would need a professional Swedish journalist to write it and he would expect to be paid. There is no fund available at this time, but it is the way forward.

WELSH OBITUARIES

We record with sadness the death of two of North Wales keener workers with the death recently of both Leslie Jones of Colwyn Bay who was a well known International Umpire and also more recently the death of John Malcolm Hook from Rhyl, Malcolm who was a most loyal worker for the county Association died suddenly, he was the Inter/League Secretary for the Counties Inter/League Competition and had been a most keen and very willing worker on behalf of Table Tennis in North Wales.

Both will be sadly missed by their fellow workers.

WANTED

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Sitco R11-S or similar, in good condition.

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EUROPE v ASIA
A report from Japan.

STIGA MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN
Full report.

CLEVELAND JUNIOR 2-STAR
A full coverage of this Ladbroke Dragonara event.

ENGLISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONS
Mike Watts reports from Macclesfield.

KENT PLAYERS in the Ruhr

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