Will Skylet Andrew’s next trick be to win the Nationals?

— ON JAQUES TABLES OF COURSE!
Stop the foul serving ...

LEGAL serving is becoming rare. Like many others over the past couple of years I have watched table tennis at all levels - inter-continental, continental, county, inter-town and local leagues. In the quest to outspeed the opponent, all sorts of foul services are being allowed by umpires and umpires of all classes. And it is getting worse all the time.

I would like to see a bumper number of letters on the subject over the next couple of months. We would like to hear from the players who think they serve fairly and their opponents who do not and from the umpires who we assume, would wish to defend themselves in some way.

The main argument, or one of them is sure to be “don’t blame the players because it is up to the umpires to call a halt when serving gets out of hand”. So what are the umpires up to? British umpires are as fair as any I have seen abroad and are stricter than most. Most foreign umpires, especially those operating in their own countries, just sit there. The only time they seem to impose discipline is when a player is being coached over the time-limit between games.

One reason in my view for the silent umpires is that no one wants tension, upsets or the stress that can result from a confrontation. But, surely something has to be done and soon. I recently watched a local event but county-wide where the winner appeared to throw-up and strike the ball all in one movement, instead of two as I understand the rules.

This is what I once called a “youth-club service” with no disrespect to such clubs but they are places where no one worries how the ball is put into play. I look with suspicion at all “ace” services and it is high time that the umpires everywhere did the same. At least in Britain we could lead the way and not say as I have heard at least twice “umpires abroad never bother to stop bad serving”.

There are hopeful but positive signs that after the election battle dust has blown away, most members of the management committee of the ETTA will work together under their new chairman so that the upheaval forecast will subside and progress will be made. Hopes are lighter now that Keith Ponting has withdrawn his threat to resign.

The last thing that the sport can afford is any further expressions of intent to resign and the inevitable bad publicity that would happen. It is human nature that there will be disagreements and that mistakes will be made by all including the new chairman so let us all try and pull together for the future of the sport in this country.

JOHN WOODFORD

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Explanation: December cover: Laurie Neville of Essex was pictured receiving his Dunlop Masters award from ETTA Director of Coaching, David Fairholm
STEELSTOCK, Wolverhampton, champions of the Schildkrot British League and current leaders this campaign, pose for the camera following their return from Nice in the European Cup. Left to right: Nicky Mason, Carl Morgan, Philip Bradbury and Desmond Douglas.

England squad — relaxation time after the Yugoslav Open in Novi Sad, left to right: Carl Prean, Don Parker, Fiona Elliot, Lisa Bellinger and Alan Cooke.

Photograph: Denis George

National junior singles champions Matthew Syed and Kerry Hall are congratulated by the Mayor of Macclesfield.

Smiths Motors managing director Harry Haines and joint chief executive George Wisniewski line up with the Smiths Motors Peterborough squad (l to r) Julian Tee, Paul Spittlehouse, Phil Helmshaw, Martin Gladders, Dave Needham and Kevin Gladders.
Western Comment

ALF PEPPARD our Gloucestershire correspondent sent in enough material this month to fill half a page. In the cutting process we managed to extract further comment on the change of leadership:

"John Prean has by now every right to feel ecstatic, more so especially since his 69% triumph over Aubrey Drapkin in their fight to establish leadership of the ETTA bore him the fruits of victory.

Many TT people up and down the country will most likely view this election as nothing more than speculative window dressing, but every organisation requires a strong leader, and now that John has got the job he should have every opportunity to put into positive action that of which in the past he has only been able to advocate, but in so doing he will have to convince others that perhaps they should think like he does, and more so - "perhaps act his way as well".

£364,000 coming

We wonder how many people spotted in The Daily Telegraph on December 16, just above our weekly table tennis story, another piece of news from the Sports Council?

The main story concerned an application from the Council to the Government for a further £4m for the 1978-88 period. All this concerns table tennis as we are very dependent indeed on the slice of the cake we receive from the Council.

In the final paragraph it announced that the ETTA are to receive £364,000 over the next two years "to increase participation and develop coaching."

This may sound like unexpected "pennies from heaven" but it is not the case. The sum involved is a bit above previous figures but it might include the salary for a new appointed chief executive for the ETTA.

This is an appointment that was agreed in principle sometime ago but it does fall into line with agreed strategy of making the ETTA more of a business - one of the planks of the successful election campaign run by the new chairman John Prean.

Our rivals sports have chief executives, but the snags of employing someone with no table tennis background are obvious, unless there is a person now within the sport, an "insider", who could fill the post with distinction.

Webster move

That intrepid courtside photographer Brian Webster is on the move again. This time he is bound for Basle in Switzerland and will of course be back again by the time this issue of the magazine is published.

Aubrey has been telephoning and writing to many people in the last six months in an effort to get accreditation as a press photographer and we believe he succeeded just before Christmas, as the constant phone calls ceased abruptly, but we are still hoping that he will be bringing back some good photographs of our top trio, Douglas, Prean and Bellinger.

My Scottish correspondents tell us however, there is no chance that Brian will be gracing the press centre at the Indira Ghandi Stadium, New Delhi for the world championships.

Dash for cover

There is a call for stronger brasstraps amongst lady players in Kent following a recent incident in a J.M. Rose Bowl match at Plumstead when the Woolwich No 1 Karen May, a most attractive young lady and a former Kent No 1 had to leave the table in between games and retire to the ladies powder room!

Happily she returned before the umpire got excited about the time lapse. The Woolwich team won the match against a certain south coast team and now will receive a zone-final visit from more coasters - Hastings, who just might have the England No 19 Teresa Moore in the side.

Leagues' power for top jobs

by John Woodford

THIS SEASON will be recorded as one of the most unusual in the history of the English Table Tennis Association not only because of John Prean stepping up to take the chair with a solid mandate but because it highlighted once again the unusual situation where a different body of people - the leagues and counties - hold the voting powers for the top posts, with the National Council having very little to do with appointing the three leading officers, chairman, deputy chairman and treasurer.

The top men do of course, have to justify the policies of the management committee to the National Council. But the councillors know that it is no good bypassing management policies left, right and centre as the only result of that would be chaos.

But surely, councillors must feel that they should have some sort of power in choosing leaders? It would be interesting to see how many national councillors had much to do with the way the leagues voted in the recent election. Not many, is the probable answer.

Is anyone prepared to stand against John Prean when the voting procedures start all over again in February? It seems unlikely in view of the Prean majority and the fact that he will have had so little time to implement his policies during the opening months of 1987.

The bigger problem could be will Aubrey Drapkin remain to serve as treasurer? He is an excellent man in that post and if he drops out the Association are going to be extremely hard-pressed to find another man of that calibre.

Aubrey for India

One man who is going to India for the big event is Aubrey Drapkin, the ETTA honorary treasurer, so this column is reliably informed.

So far, Aubrey has had few trips abroad to the big events. We are told that any trip to India is an eye-opener, the only snag before you go is those wretched inoculations!

Expansion for "Table Tennis News"

- The magazine working party have announced that for the rest of the season a free copy of the magazine will be despatched to all English leagues.

- From the February issue the size of "Table Tennis News" will be increased by four pages. All non-subscribers who pinch a look at other people's copies are urged to support the sport by buying it each month. That is the only way we shall get the first-class magazine we are now going for.

Deep Waters

A report from Terry Gadsby

FOLLOWING a meeting at Holmepierpoint (the National Water Sports Centre) the East Midlands Regional Coordinating Committee is concentrating efforts on researching levels of demand prior to establishing targets which will be in line with the National Development Plan.

On the publicity front efforts are being made to identify every newspaper with a circulation covering the table tennis hotspots - hopefully they will already be publicising table tennis!

A particular drive to increase table tennis in Chesterfield, Derby and Buxton schools is now underway.
The Chairman reports ...

The first days....

WHEN copy had to be submitted, I had only been in office for a few days. Next time I shall be able to submit a much fuller report. What have I done in this short time?

I received over a hundred letters, congratulations, messages of support, offers of help and for the first time in my life I fell behind in my correspondence, though Erica and I often typed till deep into the night. If I missed out somewhere, let me know.

I have had a good look at the Office. My friend and Chairman of Buckinghamshire Les Wooding has looked at the computer. In time I shall get to know the staff much better. I am very unhappy that the headquarters of our great sport should be in such an awful building. Yes, we pay a cheap rent or so it seemed until we got the estimates for the building work that has to be done at the end of the lease - a little matter of £15,000 and there is dry rot as well. As I walked up those stairs, I felt ashamed. The building is a squalid slum. How could this have been allowed? Inside our staff had done their best and things looked better. I hope we shall soon be out of this place and look back on it as a symbol of a past we have left behind. Where we shall move has yet to be debated. Rents in Hastings are high. If we move away, some of our valued staff, whose roots are in the town, will not come with us. The decision will have to be made soon.

Reforms required

Numerous rumours swept the country during the election campaign. One was that I would cut the Coaching Budget in half. It lost me a few votes and is totally untrue. It is, in fact, an area I regard as of great importance. I am a qualified coach, perhaps the first ETFA Chairman who is. I AM unhappy about the coaching scene and some of the things I have learned since being elected have horrified me. I put it as strongly as that. Urgent reforms are required. Action will be taken.

You will have read the headlines “Prean sacks Selection Committee” and of Peter Charters’ resignation which I have accepted, thanking him for his past efforts. His successor and I share the view, as does former World Champion Johnny Leach, that Don Parker should be given full powers. We have confidence in him. It follows that a selection committee will not then be required. The interpretation of sackings is not mine.

All members of the selection committee have valuable parts to play in the future. The practice of a 7 man committee doing a job that one could do and do better cannot continue. Rankings, Juniors are separate issues. We hope to announce a better, more cohesive approach soon.

Sponsorship contacts

I made contact with two possible sources of sponsorship. The TV picture has hit rock-bottom. Last season we had the Triumph Adler ‘English Open’ which gave us a feature of some length. This season we shall have the Triumph Adler ‘National’ (‘English Closed’), but rather less time on the screens. Next season cannot be much worse. We hope it will be very much better.

It is vital that we stage more events which TV will take and such initiatives are vital. More of this later.

Action on the following fronts will be recommended to our Management Committee: Women, Membership Crisis, Graduated Tournaments, Special Events (Week-Day Evenings), Coaching Revival. I hope we shall soon have more impressive answers to the old members’ question: “What do we get for our money?”.

Door is open

There will be a change in style. I shall make mistakes and, if I do, I shall admit them. If one tries 10 new things and 7 or 8 go well, you need not be ashamed of the 2 or 3 that did not hit the big time. I stand for sound finance, greater member involvement and public accountability. When I was a professional manager in the manufacturing field, I never had a strike and my door was always open. Everybody could talk to me. That will remain my policy. I regard the members as my friends and when this is no longer so, I shall go. A gap has opened up between the members and the leadership over the years. This must be closed. We are all in this together, whether we play once a week or work for the sport seven days each week. A better sport will add meaning to all our efforts and to see something grow and flower is one of life’s great pleasures.

JOHN

Lowestoft Juniors dominate Suffolk event

Lowestoft Juniors dominate Suffolk event

PLAYERS from the fishing port of Lowestoft weathered the storms to reach six finals out of nine at the Suffolk Junior Table Tennis Championships at Stowupland.

Star of the tournament was 12-year-old Mark Dawson who lifted three titles. There were 100 competitors, an excellent turnout for one of the smaller counties.

In the boys under-13 final he beat clubmate Adam Cole 24-22, 21-12.

In the boys under-15 final Adam Cole was again the victim (21-15, 19-21, 21-18).

In the under-15 boys doubles Mark and Adam joined forces to beat Richard Cole and Darren Mayall, also of Lowestoft 22-24, 21-16, 21-9.

In the boys under-17 final Richard Cole beat Darren Mayall 21-13, 21-18.

In the girls under-17 final Joanne Corbett beat Clare Middleditch 21-11, 21-9.

In the mixed doubles final Adam Cole and Emma Corbett lost to J. Scoulding and R. Ingle, of Bury St. Edmunds, 13-21, 21-15, 21-18.

Match of the Day was the boys under-15 semi-final between two Lowestoft boys Mark Dawson and Richard Cole. Mark won 21-19, 18-21, 28-26.

Four other Lowestoft players reached the semi-finals, Martin Pook, Matthew Barnard, Richard Sheene and Stephen Howard.

Huge entry for Midlands Vets

by Mike Watts

THE popularity of veterans table tennis was very much in evidence at Coventry recently when the VETTS staged their Midland Masters at the West Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled over the weekend of the 29th/30th November.

This was the 3rd Midland Open and the past two events have attracted around 90 entries. However on this occasion referee Geoff Taylor almost had to close the entry having received 134 forms by the closing date. Suffice to say all were accepted and despite some late finals on the Sunday over 700 matches were completed to the satisfaction of everyone present. To be fair to the referee it was not the scheduling that held everyone up but the form particularly of Connie Moran from Grimsby in Lincolnshire who had the time of her life as she raced to four finals and the past two events have attracted nearly three hundred entries. So it was particularly pleasing to see that held everyone up but the audience didn't help.

In the women’s singles the No 1 seeds Sheila King, No. 1 seed, beaten by Jane Cohen.

Unseeded John Thorpe wins

by John Coleman

ONCE again the Tiger’s Table Tennis Tournament, now in it’s 29th year, attracted it’s usual high standard of entry, climaxing in 2 excellent semi-final games; in the men’s final between John Thorpe (Brighton) v. Paul Cox (Dagenham) and Martin Lowe (Croydon) v. Ray Tilling (Bromley), with John Thorpe the unseeded player winning over Martin Lowe in the final.

In the men’s singles the unseeded Jane Cohen (Reading), who beat the No 1 seed Sheila King in the semi final, and Mrs Pauline Steel (Brighton) in the finals.

In the mens doubles the No 2 seeds Ray Tilling/Lees Nicholls (Bromley) beat the No 1 seeds Martin Bullock/Andy Cunningham (Bromley).

The women’s doubles proved to be a local final with Mrs Helen Mawby/Stephanie Haddrell (Eastbourne) triumphing over Mrs Sue Hayes/Ruth Hyland (Hastings).

MS: J Thorpe (Brighton) b M Lowe (Croydon) 25, 17.
WS: J Cohen b P Lowe 17, 13.
MD: R Tilling/L Nicholls b M Bullock/A Cunningham 21, 13.
WD: S Hadrell/M Mawby b S Hayes/R Hyland 17, 15.

Hastings Tigers One Star Open

with opponent Peter Bowler (Bd) produced some memorable rallies. Yorkshire’s Joanna Roberts was a little too good for Alison Gower (E) in the Girls’.

There was only one minor problem over the weekend. The lights in the main hall went out on the Sunday and the Centre Staff then discovered they had run out of fuse wire. Terry ‘Nigel Mansell’ Carpenter then did a round trip of ten miles in three minutes to collect some from home and save the day. Bravo...

FINALS:

Under 14 Boys’ Singles: Michael Auchterlonie b Peter Bowler, 17, 19.
Under 14 Girls’ Singles: Joanna Roberts b Alison Gower, 19, 15.
Under 14 Boys’ Doubles: Alan Cole/Paul Carter b Andrew Eden/Brian Milham, 15, 19.
Under 14 Girls’ Doubles: Sarah Pengelly/Helen Wright b Joanna Roberts/Katharine Goodall, 17, 18.
Under 12 Girls’ Singles: Nicola Maddings b Katherine Goodall, 20, 14.
Under 17 Boys’ Singles: Damian Holland b Adrian Thorp, 19.

by Michael Green

THE South of England 2 Star Junior Open, sponsored by Lambeth Building Society and F. Lankford the Builders, was held at Monks Hill Sports Centre in South Croydon over the weekend of 15th/16th November and attracted nearly three hundred young competitors.

This was the third time that the organisations have used Monks Hill. The Centre is just right for a Junior 2 Star and with the energy and enthusiasm of the Organising Committee and of the Centre Staff together with the excellent catering from (Bu) laid on, the tournament must be regarded as amongst the very best on the circuit.

Having said this, it is therefore a pity that the very top juniors are unable to attend.

Interestingly though, the winner of the U17 Boys’ Singles hadn’t actually entered the tournament at the start of the day.

Damiun Holland owed a deal of thanks to the top seed, Andrew Ball, for not turning up. Damian took over the number one seed position and, in his usual manner with clenched fist and plenty of shouting, took the title.

Fought hard

Tom Cutler pushed Holland in the Q/F. Surrey’s Matthew Pernet fought hard in the semi and should have taken Damian to a deciding game.

Damian’s opponent in the final was the number two seeded Adrian Thorp (St) who just made it through his semi-final against third seed John Holland (Ng) 24-22 in the third game.

The final itself was not a classic with unforced errors galore. Thorp will no doubt be disappointed he didn’t take the match to a deciding game when he considers the two set points he threw away in the second.

The U17 Girls’ title went to the top seed and defending champion Melonie Carey from Somerset. She had little trouble reaching the final, although Suffolk’s Andrea Ambrose tried hard in her Semi-final clash with Melonie. Andrea, from Ipswich, is quite tiny and still with several years left as a junior. She has a flowing attacking game both forehand and backhand and, because she is so small, is always running about the court at speed retrieving apparent lost shots. She really is a name to watch.

Lisa Roberts (Bd) seeded at four came through the other half making the most of the non-appearance of second seed Helen Lowe (St). Neither Lisa or Melonie could be faulted for effort but, despite the narrowness of Melonie’s win, the final seemed to be lacking something. The absence of a reasonable finals audience didn’t help.

The Cadet Finals on the Saturday certainly had more zip and vitality. The Boys’ was won by Michael Auchterlonie (Wi) who...
**Tournament Scene**

**Stiga Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships**

**Full house at Picketts Lock**

*Iris Moss reports*

THE Stiga Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships which took place at Picketts Lock Centre on 13th and 14th December, must be judged the most successful Middlesex Open from both the quantity and quality of entries. Having accepted 320 entries (our absolute maximum) 2 days before the closing date, we had to refuse a further 74 entries and still had people coming along in the hope of replacing players who had to scratch. On quality we had 24 of the 25 top-ranked England men players (the only missing one was Andrew Syed because of injury) and the top 15 women players, although unfortunately Lisa Bellinger had to withdraw at the last moment as she was in Japan. In addition we had the Canadian No 2 and 3 men and the top 3 women, and Scotland’s No 1 man. So it is not surprising that many of the matches played were of the highest standard of table tennis in the country.

With 67 groups of 4 and the qualifying Men’s Doubles to be played, the Saturday schedule “slipped” slightly at times, but with hard work from the umpires and the co-operation of the players, we caught up and finished in the respectable time of 9.15 p.m.

On Sunday the excitement built up quite early. In the Men’s Doubles the Canadian players went out in the second round to John Burleton and David Dodd (Kent) and in an exciting “local Derby” Nigel Tyler and David Wells overcame John Souter and Colin Wilson in the quarter-final. But the top 2 seeded pairs succeeded in the end, and the final between Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason against Philip Bradbury and Desmond Douglas resulted in a 2-straight win for the Essex and Surrey pairing. In the Women’s Doubles, the depth of understanding between Fiona Elliott and Jill Harris overcame what might be judged on paper to be the stronger pairing of Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury and they retained the title for the third year running by beating the Canadians, Mariann Domonkos and Gloria Hsu, in the final.

With the absence of Lisa Bellinger, it was not surprising that Joy Grundy’s progression to the final of the Women’s Singles was comparatively easy although she did have a little trouble with Mandy Sainsbury before beating her in the quarter-final. In the other half Jill Harris managed to beat Alison Gordon in the quarter-final but then lost to Mariann Domonkos who had also eliminated her partner, Fiona Elliott. But Joy managed to despatch Mariann fairly easily in the final, so once again we have a new name on our role of honour.

In the Men’s Singles there were a few surprises with 3 out of the 16 seeded players going out in the first round to lesser-ranked players but the excitement really built up with the quarter-finals. Desmond Douglas (accompanied by his fan-club) and Skylet Andrew appeared to have little trouble in their progression to the semi-final, but Alan Cooke had to fight back after losing the first game to Stephen Scoocroft. Undoubtedly the most exciting match was between Carl Pran and John Souter. John fought with tigerish intensity but despite being only five points down towards the end of the third game, Carl did not give in easily and John had to use every tactic he knew to take the game at 19. John could not summon quite the same determination in the semi-final and Alan Cooke won 2-straight. In the other semi-final Skylet Andrew made Desmond Douglas fight for every point but finally had to submit to Desmond’s counter-hitting. In my experience the final is often an anti-climax, but it was not the case this year. Alan’s solid hard-hitting and placing against Desmond’s almost like speed around the court and counter-hitting, made the match into an exhibition of fine table tennis. It was a shame there had to be a loser but it ended with Desmond’s name going back on the trophy.

**Results**

**Mens singles - Semi-final: Desmond Douglas (Wa) b Skylet Andrew (E) 17, 19; Alan Cooke (Dy) b John Souter (M) 10, 17. Final: Douglas b Cooke 24, 19.**

**Womens singles - Semi-final: Joy Grundy (La) b Tian Miah (Canada) 14, 14; Mariann Domonkos (Canada) b Jill Harris (St) - 14, 16. Final: Grundy b Domonkos 14, 10.**

**Mens doubles - Final: Andrew/Nicky Mason (E/Sy) b Philip Bradbury/Douglas (Bu/Wa) 15, 14.**

**Womens doubles - Final: Fiona Elliott/Jill Harris (St/S) b Mariann Domonkos/Gloria Hsu (Canada) - 16, 16, 14.**

**Veterans singles - Final: Henry Buist (K) b Babu Adelayo (Mi) 11, 12.**

**Desmond Douglas, extended by Alan Cooke, 5th champion at Middlesex again.**

Photos: Mike Loverer.

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**Cleveland Junior Open Table Tennis Championships**

**Syed dominating at Cleveland**

ENGLAND Junior No 1 Matthew Syed of Berkshire dominated the boys event at Eston Leisure Centre retaining the singles in the Cleveland junior open championships and playing a leading role in England’s victory in the Ladbroke Dragonara international team event.

To retain the boys singles title in the six nation Cleveland County Council supported event, Syed beat both the top Dutch boys, Danny Heister in the semi-final and Trinoko Keen to take the title. Syed seemed to improve his play as the weekend progressed an allaying Keen in the final by the convincing scoreline of 12, 10, after coming close to defeat by Keen in the junior international two days earlier.

Syed also excelled for England in the Ladbroke team event, winning both his singles in the 3-1 final win against the Netherlands and combining with Chris Oldfield to win the all important doubles.

A dominant in the girls events was the Dutch No 1 Patricia De Groot. Patricia won the singles without dropping a single set including victories over Debbie Toole of England and Lizzie Halt of Lincolnshire in the final. However, Miss De Groot’s domination did not quite match that of Syed. Although the Dutch girl won both of her singles in the Ladbroke team final the vital doubles eluded her as Miss Toole and Miss Halt built up a good lead for her and the title stayed with England, 3-2.

Joanne Roberts combined with Kay Goodall as, representing Pontefract, they won the Ladbroke Dragonara team event, beating both the English and Dutch national teams en route to the title.

The championships sponsored by Cleveland Leisure Services was enhanced by entries from national teams from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man, in addition to England and Holland.

**Junior boys singles - Semi-finals: M Syed (England) b T Keen (Yorkshire) 12, 11, 10; T Keen (Netherlands) b C Oldfield (England) 15, 18. Final: M Syed b T Keen 14, 16, 11.**


**Junior boys doubles - T Keen/D Heister b A Ball/B Carse (Yorkshire) 19, 13.**

**Junior girls doubles - A Holt/D Toole b P De Groot/E Schers (Netherlands) 15, 17.**

**Cadet boys singles: N Bevan (England) b M Heeren (Netherlands) 12, 14. Cadet girls singles: J Roberts (Pontefract) b S Mahling (Hull) 20, 17.**

**Boys doubles: N Bevan/G Knights (England) b M Harland/G Cobes (Netherlands) 10, 18. Girls doubles: J Roberts/K Goodall (Pontefract) b E Meddings/C Buckley (England) 18, 19.**

**Under 11 boys singles: A Nicols (Yorkshire) b A Perry (Devon) 13, 13. Under 11 girls singles: S Mahling (Hull) b N Deacon (Derby) 10, 21.**

Douglas calls the tune

Fiona Brown reports

STEELSTOCK Wolverhampton are marching relentlessly to their second Premier division title in two years. Des Douglas and his team, who regularly play before a capacity crowd at their Moreton Centre venue, have inflicted two more 8-0 thrashings to leave Omega Reading and MBS St Neots foundering at the bottom of the table.

If, as Steelstock's press officer Vernon Dodd suggested last month, the league is to be decided on sets average then the champions have little to fear, having dropped only 4 sets in their first six fixtures.

Sweet success

In the first division Trebor Dagenham FC have gained ground on leaders Express Sports Torbay who conceded their first point of the season at home to Birmingham team Chan Construction. Meanwhile the Trebor team are full of confidence having tuck another two wins under their belt with No 4 John Green enjoying a far more successful season in division one than he did with Erreys Print in the third division south!

Help line

Martin Kinsella, the former Irish international and now a Chesterfield based social worker, has been recruited by Bradford Investments to strengthen their second division north squad. Kinsella came straight into the fray on 7th December, covering for Michael O'Driscoll - who was in Macclesfield to contest the National Junior Championships - and helped Bradford to a vital 6-2 win over Ormesby.

At the opposite end of the table Oldham finally broke their duck sharing the points with fellow strugglers Kingbro Insurance.

Grove in the groove

Grove continue to dominate the third division north, having effec-

venue. Team manager Ken Marchant says “We have found the ideal venue for both players and spectators. The initial agreement is for our five remaining home matches of the season.” In return the Well Connected squad, the third division East’s only unbeaten outfit (no pun intended!), are to conduct exhibition matches for the Wellingborough Council and help with the coaching of players selected to represent Wellingborough in events against their twin town, Niort of France. “It is a real boost for the club and we are now very excited about the prospects for next season” says Mr Marchant. “This sort of connection can only help to popularise the Schildkrot British League.”

Despite hard times, the Oldham side remain cheerful. l to r: Mike Owen, Tim Hatton, Amanda Goodwin, Howard Leigh, Nick Mooney and Peter Aspin (Manager).

Oldham Evening Chronicle 061 633 2121

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SCHILDKROT PLAYER OF THE MONTH
OCTOBER
TREVOR CAMPBELL
(Rejects)

For two fine wins against Richard Darnell and Alex Abbott of Team Ramlosa Essex firstly to level the match score at 2-2 and then to rescue a point at 4-4 and keep his team at the top of the league.

Trevor is pictured receiving his award from Mr Alan Ransome, Managing Director of Teesport, the UK distributor of Schildkrot products.

SCHILDKROT FIXTURES

January
18 P Ormesby v MBS St Neots
P Steelstock Wolverhampton v Grove
P Omega Reading v Panoram Bath
P Butterfly Cardiff v Rotherham
1 Trebor Dagenham FC v Omega Claw
1 TSP Larkhall v Chan Construction
1 TCB Dolphins v West Works/Birmingham
1 Byker Newcastle v Express Torbay

February
1 P Grove v Ormesby
P Panoram Bath v Steelstock Wolverhampton
P Butterfly Cardiff v Omega Reading
P MBS St Neots v Rotherham
1 Chan Construction v Trebor Dagenham FC
1 West Works/Birmingham v TSP Larkhall
1 Byker Newcastle v TCB Dolphins
1 Omega Claw v Express Torbay
15 P Ormesby v Panoram Bath
P Rotherham v Omega Reading
P MBS St Neots v Grove
1 Trebor Dagenham FC v West Works/Birmingham
1 TSP Larkhall v Byker Newcastle
1 Express Torbay v TCB Dolphins
1 Omega Claw v Chan Construction

Schildkrot British League Handbook £1.00 from the ETFA office

Results
Including matches played 14.12.86

Premier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
<th>W</th>
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Schildkrot British League
(as at 8.12.86)

Premier division

- MBS St Neots 0, Steelstock Wolverhampton 8; Ormesby 5, Butterfly Cardiff 3
- Steelstock Wolverhampton 8, Omega Reading 0; MBS St Neots 6, Panoram Bath 8; Butterfly Cardiff 8, MBS St Neots 0
- Omega Reading v Ormesby
- Steelstock Wolverhampton v Rotherham, Grove v Panoram Bath

First

- Trebor Dagenham FC 5, Byker Newcastle 3, TSP Larkhall 5, TCB Dolphins 3, Omega Claw 2, West Works/Birmingham 6, Express Torbay 4, Chan Construction 4, TCB Dolphins 1, Trebor Dagenham FC 7, TSP Larkhall 3, Express Torbay 5, West Works/Birmingham 1
- Chan Construction 7, Postponed: Byker Newcastle v Omega Claw

Second North

- Ormesby 6, March 2; Steelstock Wolverhampton 2, Bradford Investments 6; Oldham 4, Kingborne Insurance 4; Sicil Lincon 1, EAE Waveney 7; Bradford Investments 6, Ormesby 2; Steelstock Wolverhampton 1, Sicil Lincon 7; March 8, Oldham 2; Oldham 2, Bradford Investments 6

Second South

- Jaques Fareham 2, Medway 6, Medway 7, TSP Larkhall 1; Gunnserbury Triangle 2, C & L Nittaku 6, Jaques Fareham 5, Fellows Cranleigh 3; Ashford 7, Global Plymouth 1, Medway 4, Gunnersbury Triangle 4; C & L Nittaku 4, Medway 4, Gunnersbury Triangle 2, Ashford 6, TSP Larkhall 5, Jaques Fareham 3; Fellows Cranleigh 6, Global Plymouth 2

Third North

- Ormesby 5, Crusaders Lincoln 3, Chan Construction 5, Leicester 3; Unity Leeds 7, Vickers Barrow 1; Byker Newcastle 2, Grove 6; Leicester 2, Ormesby 3, Chan Construction 7, Byker Newcastle 1; Crusaders Lincoln 0, Unity Leeds 8; Vickers Barrow 1, Grove 7; Leicester 3, Grove 5

Third South

- Countraman Tunbridge Wells 2, Deptford Rams 6; Rejects 7, Abing Warriors 1; Ashford 6, Thorn EMI Ellenborough 2; Abing Warriors 7, Countraman Tunbridge Wells 1; Rejects 5, Ashford 3; Deptford Rams 6, Ernes Print 2; Team Ramlosa Essex 7, Thorn EMI Ellenborough 1

Third East

- Britannia Ipswich 2, Norwich Foxwood 6; Smith Motors Peterborough 2, AHW Pioneers 6; MBS St Neots 3, Trebor Dagenham FC 5; Well Connected Wellingborough 4, Witham Town FC 4; AHW Pioneers 3, Britannia Ipswich 5; Smiths Motors Peterborough 6; Well Connected Wellingborough 8; Norwich Foxwood 6, MBS St Neots 2; Trebor Dagenham FC 6, Witham Town FC 2

Third West

- Opella Leominster 5, Express Torbay 3; Jolliffe Poole 6, Duchy Launceston 2; Omega Reading 4, Panoram Bath 4; Express Gwent 5, KCD Stiga 3; Duchy Launceston 2, Opella Leominster 6; Jolliffe Poole 4, Express Gwent 4; Express Torbay 7, Omega Reading 1; KCD Stiga 4, Panoram Bath 4; Opella Leominster 5, KCD Stiga 3

Schildkrot British League

As of 8.12.86
European Euphoria

1987 European Top 12 Champion
Desmond Douglas

A full report of this event will feature in our February issue

European table tennis rankings
DECEMBER 1986 (previous positions in brackets)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Jorgen Persson (1) SWE</td>
<td>1. Csilla Batorfi (1) HUN</td>
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<td>2. Jan Ove Waldner (2) SWE</td>
<td>2. Flura Bulatova (2) URS</td>
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<td>3. Andrzej Grubba (3) POL</td>
<td>3. Olga Nemes (3) FRG</td>
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<td>4. Erik Lindh (4) SWE</td>
<td>4. Marie Hrachova (4) TCH</td>
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<td>5. Leszek Kucharski (5) POL</td>
<td>5. Dana Guerguelcheva (6) BUL</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. DESMOND DOUGLAS (6) ENG</td>
<td>7. Otilia Badescu (8) ROM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Andrei Mazunov (10) URS</td>
<td>8. Edit Urban (11) HUN</td>
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<td>9. Tibor Klampar (9) HUN</td>
<td>9. Zsuzsa Olah (7) HUN</td>
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<td>10. Ulf Carlsson (8) SWE</td>
<td>10. LISA BELLINGER (10) ENG</td>
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<td>12. CARL PREAN (13) ENG</td>
<td>12. Elena Kovtun (12) URS</td>
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<td>47. SKYLET ANDREW (—) ENG</td>
<td>23. ALISON GORDON (21) ENG</td>
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<td>32. JOY GRUNDY (25) ENG</td>
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*ONE of the surprises in the new ranks is that even in the lower regions of the women's list there is no place so far for England's Fiona Elliot. The Wolverhampton girl has had a number of wins both in foreign Opens and in the European League that should it is felt, have at least got her into the list.*
Prean marches on

CARL PREAN making his first appearance in a foreign open this season grabbed the limelight with a superb run to the last 16 in the mens singles, losing over five stunning games to the Chinese champion Ma Weng. Earlier Prean's victims included Poland's Dryszel.

Prean, now settled happily in Bad Hamm, seems to be looking more like a top world-class player every week and the chances of him becoming a future European champion seem to be increasing. Carl was only defeated 21-17 in the fifth game by Ma Weng. The other eye-brow-raiser was the 3-0 defeat for China in the mens team event by Sweden.

Here is an interesting comment from Don Parker, the England captain, on the happenings in Novi Sad. Said Parker: "It was interesting to see the Yugoslavian team selected two squads and on seeing the team draw chose 'horses for courses'. This is something we were not allowed to do at the English Open which I hope will be rectified by 1988. I am not looking for an unfair advantage but just to compete over the two years on the same basis."

Reports in the Daily Telegraph that there was a crowd of 7,000 in Novia Sad were correct, but a lot of them were connected to watching a gymnastic event in the same stadium, running either fore or aft of the table tennis.

Results
Mens Team
ENG 3 URS 1
Alan Cooke b Mazunov 18, -- 20; Carl Prean b Podosnov 16, 16; Prean/Cooke b Podosnov/Mazunov -- 23, 18, 21; Prean b Mazunov 19, 17.

ENG 3 JAP 1
Cooke b Watanabe 22, 12, 18; Prean b Iwaski 19, 16; Prean/Cooke b Watanabe/Iwaski 18, 22; Prean b

Women's Team
ENG 3 YUG 0
Fiona Elliot b Perkucin 15, -- 13; Lisa Billington b Ojstersek -- 16, 23; Elliot b Billington/Perkucin -- 16, 13, 16.

ENG 0 HOL 3
Billington v Trinekoop 19, -- 11; Elliot b Kloppenburg 19, -- 14, 15; Elliot/ Billington v Trinekoop/Kloppenburg 19, -- 18, 19.

Final: CHN 3 URS 0; TCH 3 HOL 1; Final: CHINA 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0.


Syed on Macclesfield

Albert Shipley reports

IN the excellent facilities of Macclesfield Leisure Centre on the weekend of December 6th/7th, the junior championships took place under their new name of English National Junior Championships. Referee Doug Young ensured that all matches were played at their scheduled times and organiser Roger Moss ensured that every facility was available to players and officials alike.

On the Saturday, the cadet singles and junior doubles were played and it was interesting to see who would come through in the cadets after the elevation to the junior ranks of Bradley Billington and Michael O'Driscoll. I particularly liked the fighting spirit shown by Neil Bevan of Cornwall, who had a tremendous quarter-final struggle against Michael AucHister of Wiltshire to the final with a win over Mark Stephenson of Yorkshire in which the second game ended at 24-22.

In the other half Leigh Jeffries of Warwickshire was steadily advancing to the final with a series of two straight wins and the final encounter with Bevan produced a very entertaining open game. Bevan won the first, lost a useful lead in the second and finally ran out of steam to the new cadet champion, Leigh Jeffries.

In the cadet girls, Helen Potts (Cheshire), the younger sister of Claire, reached the final without too much difficulty where she met the deceptive skills of Yorkshire's Joanna Roberts. Helen took the first game at 17 but thereafter Joanna employed her strong point of using her opponent's speed to block and counter-hit her way to victory.

The boys singles on Sunday contained few surprises with all four of the top seeds reaching their appointed places. The semifinals were staged in the finals session and provided some good entertainment for our visitors, the mayor and chief executive of Macclesfield Borough Council.

Matthew Syed (Berkshire) broke the hearts of all his opponents with impressive retrieving, beating Michael O'Driscoll in the semi-final. The other semi-final saw a series of hard-hitting exchanges between Bradley Billington (Derby) and Sean Gibson (Lancs) with the tall figure of Billington emerging the winner. For me, the main feature of the final was the way in which Syed broke down the attack of Billington, coming from behind in both games to emerge as champion thereby following in the footsteps of his elder brother, Andrew, who was the junior boys champion in 1983.

Andrea Holt (Lancs) was firm favourite for the girls singles title but her impression was that she not on top form as she struggled to beat Helen Lower (Staffs) in the quarter-final and Julie Norman (Bucks) in the semi-final. Andrea clearly approached the final with confidence and took full advantage of the inconsistency of Julie Norman by becoming the champion, at the tender age of 14, in two straight games and denying the holder the chance of another title.

Because of the impending junior ranking trials there was a full complement of selection committee members in attendance looking for likely candidates to fill a few vacancies, so even some of the losers might have earned a reward for their participation.

Results
Junior boys singles -- Quarter-finals: Matthew Syed (Bk) b Chris Oldfield (Y) 17, 8; Michael O'Driscoll (Y) b Neil Pickard (Nk) 11, 17, Sean Gibson (La) b John Holland (Nj) -- 12, 7, Bradley Billington (Dy) b David Carse (La) 15, 22. Semi-finals: Syed b O'Driscoll 16, 17; Billington b Gibson 14, 17, 16. Final: Syed b Billington 14, 17.

Junior girls singles -- Quarter-finals: Andrea Holt (La) b Helen Lower (St) -- 15, 11, 5, Julie Norman (Bk) b Kristina Cox (Bd) 13, 15; Kerry Hall (Dy) b Debbie Toole (Y) -- 11, 13, Claire Potts (Ch) b Melanie Carey (Sr) 12, 16; Andrea Holt b Norman 9, -- 17, 16; Hall b Potts 13, 15. Final: Hall b Holt 11, 17.

Junior boys doubles -- Semi-finals: Mike/Eden b Bevan/S雞or (Co/Y) -- 23, 11, 19; Billington/Gibson (Dy/La) b Carse/Ball (La/Y) 14, 13. Final: Billington/Gibson b Mike/Eden 14, 11.

Junior girls doubles -- Semi-finals: D/Toole b E/Meddings (Y/Y) b K/Cox/J Norman (Bd/Bk) 12, 16; A Holt/M Carey (La/S) b C Potts/H Potts (Ch/Ch) 9, 12. Final: Holt/Carey b Toole/Meddings 7, -- 13, 14.

Junior mixed doubles -- Semi-finals: M O'Driscoll/K Hall (Y/Dy) b M Syed/A Holt (Bk/La) 20, 16; B Billington/C Potts (Dy/Ch) b K Gowre/E/Toole 14, 14. Final: O'Driscoll/Hall b Billington/Potts 17, 19.

Cadet boys singles -- Quarter-finals: Leigh Jeffries (W) b Grant Soldier (Er) 19, 19; Andrew MacKinley (Michael) 16, 14; Mark Stephenson (Y) b Peter Bowler (Bd) 15, 13; Neil Bevan (Co) b Michael AucHister (W) 21, -- 17, 23. Semi-finals: Jeffries b Eden 15, 13; Bevan b Stephenson 13, 22. Final: Jeffries b Bevan -- 16, 19, 19.

Cadet girls singles -- Semi-finals: Helen Potts (Ch) b Ellen Meddings (Y) 19, 10; Joanna Roberts (Y) b Katherine Goodall (Y) 23, 18. Final: Roberts b Potts 17, 17, 19.
A young man with a will to win ....

John Woodford talks to Nicky Mason

NICKY MASON, 21, born in Wimbledon and living in Bexhill is a full-time professional. A young man who is determined to get to the very top branches of the English table tennis tree. There are only two men he has not beaten - Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean.

All the others have felt the weight of his speedy counter-hitting, especially the ultra-ambitious Alan Coote, But with Adrian Thorp he lost for the second time to Mason at the county championships week-end on November 30.

The reason he has continued to play for Surrey although he has lived in Bexhill for the last three years is a simple one. "I was born in Surrey" he told me. Living in one country and not playing for it is not unusual these days, especially amongst the leading players on the England ratings.

In consequence, Mason the current England No 7 has not received the weight of publicity in Sussex that he would have had if he played for his county of residence. But he has the advantage of regular practice with the Moore family of Bexhill, although more recently with Adrian and Teresa Moore away studying only Stephen Moore has been a regular practice partner.

But another strong player Steve Mills with the unorthodox style, has recently moved to Ashford, Kent, so the Bexhill-based men do not have to travel too much when they fancy a local knocking session.

However, no-one reaches the top end of the England rankings without regular first class practice, virtually day in and day out. Three days a week, Mason is in London, sometimes at the Ashford (Mid­dsex) TTC or St Brides TTC where his practice opponents are usually the Scottish ace David Hannah, Skylet Andrew and Steve Dorking.

Practice sessions last from three to five hours daily. Mason played for a year in Holland and later this season may return there for a session of Dutch National League matches playing for Skylet's club Tempe.

Nicky Mason was once a wicket-keeper. "One day I was keeping behind a chap with one arm in a sling and batting with one hand" he said. "He hooked a short leg and lost his hold on the ball which hit me in the eye, a painful experience" he said.

Operation

Another painful experience last season was Mason's operation. But that was soon mended and no longer a problem. But Mason has now retired from both cricket and football, preferring the more gentle arts of table tennis, lawn tennis and snooker!

I asked about the opposite sex. "Don't want to get involved" he said as though he has seen what romance can do to a professional sporting career.

His ambition was to get into the England team for the world championships in New Delhi. "I have not been playing well enough this season" he said, "The Top-12 at Solihull was an example." But the example of up-ending popular "Conkey" is an example of what Mason can do.

Player Profile

John Woodford talks to Nicky Mason

FROM JOHN BARBER

Men's section

In Division 1 of the men's section, Coventry gained their second win, this time against Chesterfield, whilst the A teams of Wolves and Notts were engaged in a closely fought draw. In Division 2 Dudley struck back from 1-3 down to Bath, to win 6-4. Lincoln won well against Leicester in Division 3, both being promoted teams. The set played between Steve Brophy and G. Hibbard also counted for the 1985/6 Individual Singles runners-up and it was won by Steve Brophy of Lincoln.

Results

Division 1 Coventry A 7 Chesterfield A 3; Wolves A 5 Notts A 5; Division 2 Dudley 6 Bath 4; Division 3 Lincoln 7 Leicester 3; Leicester 3 Glos. B 7 Division 4 Stroud 1 Barnbury 9.

Junior section

In Division 1 Wolves continue their winning way with an 8-2 victory at Notts B, leaving unbeaten. Notts A and Coventry A also notched up good wins. In Division 2 Alan Weightmans three wins helped Eastwood to a good 7-3 success at Dudley. Walsall went 3 up against Wolves B and only two of their opponents make one only manage one more. In Division 3 Leicester gave nothing away against Dudley, nor Leamington at Rugby. Worcester also got a maximum from Pontesbury.
JOHN SOUTER chose his home ground, the Stiga Middlesex Open at Picketts Lock to make a successful eleventh hour bid to win a place in the eight-strong England squad for the 39th World Championships in New Delhi from February 19th to March 1st.

Last season the Neasden professional did the same thing when he defeated another close rival Skylet Andrew to win a place in the European championships team for Prague last April. This time, it was rather a bigger catch, the scalp of the high-flying Carl Prean in the quarter-finals late in the third game.

Prean's loss was the third he had suffered in recent weeks. He became a victim of Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky and Ralph Wosik of Federal Germany at the French Open. The defeat by Souter cost him nothing of course, as his place in the team for India was assured.

Disappointed

Jimmy Stokes (Reading) and Blackpool's Joy Grundy were the two players who had some high hopes of making Delhi. Both were disappointed. Stokes has not had a brilliant season, just a handful of good wins but he has so much time on his side. Joy Grundy does not have so much time and she does have a long-standing back problem which really cost her the India trip, as she was absent from a number of events and finished fourth in the Top-12 at Soham.

Chance

The selectors, under chairman Paul Day, decided not to send four women players to Delhi, only three, so that meant that Miss Grundy was out, as with her England title, she would it seems have been certain to get fourth place had it been available.

After the selections had been announced Paul Day said: "This is the strongest mens team we have sent to a World or European championships for five years. We believe there is an outside chance of medals."

"The womens team is in a rebuilding situation. We are pleased Alison Gordon is showing increased commitment. New Delhi is a different venue. We do not regard it as the right environment for young and improving players like Jimmy Stokes," he said.

Day added: "John Souter has beaten Carl Prean in the past, so the result was not entirely surprising. Souter is a superbly fit young man and we expect him to play an important role in the squad."

Hot Sooty

Souter, known in the England squad as "Sooty", said: "I felt my place depended on the match with Carl Prean. I have beaten him on three previous occasions but also lost twice more recently. It will be nice to play somewhere hot for a change."

As the ETTA are saving money by only sending eight players to India, it is now expected that a young squad will be sent to the Czechoslovakian open in March. The inclusion of Fiona Elliot is another feather in the young player's cap. "She is an improving player" said the selectors chairman, "and has already had some impressive results against foreign players when playing abroad."

Footnote

Amongst those planning to accompany the England team to India are three team captains, honorary treasurer of the ETTA Aubrey Drapkin, Richard Eaton (Sunday Times) and John Woodford (The Daily Telegraph).

Cool temperatures are promised in Delhi

WILL it be delightful, delectable and delicious food in New Delhi? We are assured by the organisers that the temperature will be in the "cool 70's", the sun will be shining and that February and early March are the best times of the year in that part of the sub-continent.

If you were sitting as I was in the next seat in a Boeing 747 returning from behind the Iron Curtain next to Desmond Douglas you would have heard possibly a more realistic view of world championships table tennis in India. Desmond is as sharp a cynic as most journalists when it comes to evaluating conditions, living, eating and playing all round the globe.

Food is of course, one of the major problems in India. Tales have been told of England teams in the past living on chicken-burgers and coke in India, rather than chance the other fare on offer. Tales have also been told of players having long-standing stomach problems long after their return.

However, to return to the information we have on the plus side. The stadium to be used is the Indira Gandhi Stadium - it is the third largest indoor stadium in the world, the first of its kind in Asia and Europe. Its design is unique and has won the admiration of the world for its architectural ingenuity.

The defending MS champion in Delhi will be Jiang Jialiang. The women's champion is Cao Yanhua. China won both the Swaythling and Corbillon cups and the five usual events, mens and womens singles, mens and womens doubles and almost unusually, mixed doubles.

The holders

A reminder of the balance of power. At Gothenburg in April 1985, China took six of the seven titles at the 38th World Championships.

The defending MS champion in Delhi will be Jiang Jialiang. The women's champion is Cao Yanhua. China won both the Swaythling and Corbillon cups with Sweden losing 5-0 and the women from Korea losing 3-0.
WITH the season approaching the half way point press send. Tim Chafield and Ian Langley of Bracknell and Newton leagues respectively report keen rivalry in all their divisions with very few runaways leading. This is particularly true in Newbury with their ‘2 for a win’ system where Wootton Hill in division 1 and John O’Guint in division 4 are the only teams to have recorded more than 60 points. Paul Smith b Steve Betts, 18, -15; UI3 Doubles: Steve Betts/Neil Finlayson b Dave Hadley/Steve Betts 19, 19; Vets Singles: Ray Sewell b Tony Brown 14, 18; Vets Doubles: Ray Sewell/Mike Kimber b Len Upward/Richard Bellamy 11, 11; Divisional Handicap Singles: Steve Vossey b John Rutherford 18, 21, 16; Divisional Handicap Doubles: Steve Betts/Neil Finlayson b David Bush/Guy Portlock 14, 20; Womens Divisional Doubles: Mary Thomas/Debbie Gardner 14, 11; Mens Doubles: Lee Salder/Rob Hooper/Neil Finlayson b Dave Hadley/Melanie Carey 15, 20; Mixed Doubles: Dina Sandford/Rob Hooper b Melanie Carey/Guy Portlock 4, 10; Veterans Doubles: Melanie Carey b Dina Sandford 12, 5; Mens Singles: Rob Hooper b Paul Lewis 16, 4

AVON CLOSED
U13 Girls: Emma Stapleford b Tracey McCourt 15, 19; U12 Boys: Ewan Finlayson b Michael Jackson 15, 15; U12 Girls: Katie Matthews b Michelle Brinkfield 8, 5; U12 Boys: David Hadley b Steve Betts 15, 15; Junior Girls: Melonie Carey b Kate Matthews 19, 16; Junior Boys: Paul Smith b Steve Betts 18, -15; UI3 Doubles: Steve Betts/Neil Finlayson b Dave Hadley/Steve Betts 19, 19; Junior Doubles: David Hadley/Steve Betts b Grant Whitaker/Melonie Carey 16, 14; Senior Doubles: David Hadley/Melanie Carey/Grant Whitaker 3-1; Vets Singles: Ray Sewell b Tony Brown 14, 18; Vets Doubles: Ray Sewell/Mike Kimber b Len Upward/Richard Bellamy 11, 11; Divisional Handicap Singles: Steve Vossey b John Rutherford 18, 21, 16; Divisional Handicap Doubles: Steve Betts/Neil Finlayson b David Bush/Guy Portlock 14, 20; Womens Divisional Doubles: Mary Thomas/Debbie Gardner 14, 11; Mens Doubles: Lee Salder/Rob Hooper/Neil Finlayson b Dave Hadley/Melanie Carey 15, 20; Mixed Doubles: Dina Sandford/Rob Hooper b Melanie Carey/Guy Portlock 4, 10; Veterans Doubles: Melanie Carey b Dina Sandford 12, 5; Mens Singles: Rob Hooper b Paul Lewis 16, 4

BERKSHIRE
Bob Adams

Durbunsable teams riding high...
A TEAM of juniors representing Newbury are playing in the County Neots Winter League. The Durbunsable team led by England ranked Peter Bowler have recorded five consecutive victories against former Henley, Hungerford, Darmalev, Bedford and St Neots. This has brought them to second place in the league and only one place behind the leaders. Peter Bowler who is unbeaten so far this season is being well supported by his team mates, Mark Willan and Mark Merla, who are both turning in solid performances, winning two out of three sets in every match. The team has strength in depth thanks to Colin Bowler and Kieran Mitchell. Both players have won 50% of their games — well done lads!

On the ladies side Dunstable were drawn at home in the second round of the Rose Bowl. Although being let down at the last minute with the third player dropping out, the team of Julie Dimmock and myself managed to win the match 6-3, and now go on to play North Herts.

The senior county tournament was held on 30th November, and what a disappointment it was — a total of 40 entries, with only four ladies and eight of the top 20 men. I find it very hard to understand why a local league (which I had the pleasure of taking part in) could have nearly 150 entries and the county as a whole a mere 40!


Sunderland league
THREE clubs are in the hunt for the first division title with Echo A, St Gabriels A and North Centre A only separated by one point. Burton Park A with Silksworth B on a point in the second division. In division three Ryhope Road B are well ahead of Emplesc A and B teams but Ecchiwulth A and B teams have been strengthened by the addition of Mick Fisher to their veteran squad. County chairman, Ernie Lough, made the senior debut for Derby and his three victories enabled them to gain a 5-5 draw with Eastwood. In the junior division the experience of Derby saw them win the 10-0 victory over Chesterfield. David Stanforth won a maximum for Burton in a 6-4 victory.
DORSET

Martin Hughes

Sichlktrot British League

JOLLIFE Poole played a thrilling Sichlktrot British League match on 7 December at home to Express Sports Gwn, and in a region not renowned for spectators attending matches, Jollife Poole persuaded almost 50 people to come and watch this top of the table clash.

Both teams were unbeaten coming into the match and each team had one player boasting a 100% record. The final result, a 4-4 draw, ensured that both teams remained undefeated, but one player lost his 100% average.

In the last game of the match, with the score at 4-3 to Jollife Poole, the two undefeated players met to do battle and it was Jason Creasey of Jollife Poole who lost out as he went down - 17, - 12 to the greater consistency of Warwick Armstrong.

County championships

Dorset seniors are struggling in their efforts to find a team capable of sustaining a challenge in division 2B and were therefore jubilant following the 6-4 home victory over Wiltshire.

John Robinson, promoted to the first team in place of the out of form Martin Abbott, clinched the victory for Dorset in a memorable final game against Kevin Edwards. With excellent attacking table tennis Robinson thoroughly demolished Edwards 10, 12 to prove himself worthy of his place in the team.

The score could have been 7-3 if Tony Clayton, the Dorset number one, had snatched a victory over England No 11 Kevin Satchell. Clayton won the first set before the third set later to a late fight back, although Satchell appeared to be in control throughout the majority of the match.

Dorset super league

The Dorset super league is played as two separate competitions during the season, one in each half, and the first is nearly complete at the time of writing. Tony Clayton is leading the rest of this I devote entirely to

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell

Sigrell won the first end convincing at 12 in the decider.

Ly and was 20-18 ahead in the second of writing. Tony Clayton is leading the rest of this I devote entirely to

Wiltshire.

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LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

CONGRATULATIONS to Connie Morar on winning four events in the Midland Masters VETS tournament held at Coventry. With some excellent play she won the ‘over 60’s singles/doubles, the ‘over 50’s singles/doubles, and also reached the semi-finals of the mixed.

Two of our members, Eric Jacklin and Albert Hackford from Grimshy, recently received ETTA merit awards for their services to the sport. Both have worked very hard for a number of years and thoroughly deserve this honour.

In the inter-town competition Boston look in a commanding position in the Buttercup, winning their first four matches.

The Grimshy Cup the battle looks to be between Grantham and Boston.

The Butter Cup for ladies is a close contest with Grimshy only one point clear of Grantham I and Louth.

Boston are also well in contention for the VETTS competition together with the ‘holders’ Lincoln, and Grimshy too.

Grimshy have started a league, on Sunday evenings, for juniors only, and this is very well attended by both girls and boys. Mrs Chapman, the organiser, is very pleased with the results and will continue again after Christmas.

Hylands School, Hylands Avenue, Hornchurch is open to everyone.

Get in touch with coaching officer Phil Gower and register your interest.

The semi-finals of the mixed.

So, just where do we begin? I think perhaps with the County Closed Championships at Cheltenham admirably run by Mr Peter Cruwys as Hon: Referee, and well aided by Nigel Smith, Peter Collins and John Cooper the latter of whom once again came out of retirement, the rest of this I devote entirely to the efforts of the players.

The highlight of this event was the Mens Singles, out of 38 entries ran true to seeding with the Country Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4, respectively fighting it out for honours in the semi-finals, in which Darren Griffin beat Steve Moreman - 22, 22, 18, while Will Dawe took Graham Slack - 16, 15, 15, thus Griffin the defending champion and County No 1 opposed Dawe in the final, Griffin won 18 in the first and 24-22 in the 2nd after being 20-14 up and allowing Dawe to gain another eight points, afterwards in a Radio inter-

view with the Champion, Griffin told me that William Dawe is still a very hard player to beat.

Making a welcome return to competition T.T. Nina Tsakarisianos won the women’s singles by beating Heather Colwill of Newent 10, 17, this was Nina’s first appearance for at least a couple of years, and may I say it was nice to see her back again.

The current holder of the Veterans Singles for many years Peter Wood (C.E.G.B) was comfortably between straight sets by Cheltenhams Optimists wily old stage - Roy Fowler, the latter’s been out of the game for some time, his long lay-off seems to have paid dividends.

Lawrence Symonds and Dave Smith (C.E.G.B) surprisingly beat Darren Griffin and Frank Jones the holders of the Open Doubles, 9, 17, but fell ultimately to the greater experience of south west hard player to beat.

The Juniors in Division 3C held Somerset to an honourable draw, thanks for this result should go to the Boys in the team - Dale Saunders was undefeated, Howard Williams and Andrew Stratford won one singles each.

The Senators in Division 2A were humbled by Leicestershire’s massive show of power T.T. and we fell ultimately to actually win it by beating Andy Terry a second division player, 19, -11, 18 in the final.

COUNTIES 2
HAMPSHIRE

David Casway

Main event of the month was the Counties Championship, a good competition was generated by the disappearance of top players with the ranking lists. Unfortunately the players involved were proved right. Surely the place to produce their best was on the table, as they have now done, rather than by criticism of the selectors and "Strikes".

In the mens singles, champion for the seventh successive year, was John V. Young, who did not enter. Number 1 seed, Terry Haley went out in the quarters to Mark Wilding, seeded number 7. The other top 3 seeds reached the semis. Number 2 Graham Toole, beat Pete Woodacre, number 3 Tony Duffield has a close set against Chris Slater before winning in the third, while the number 4 seed, Ramish Bhalla narrowly beat Miki Sinanan. At the semi final stage, Graham beat Tony - 15, 12, 13, while Mark beat Ramish - 17, 18, 15. The final was a good see-saw encounter with Mark winning the first faster than the 21-19 score line suggests but Graham fighting back to take the second at 14, 15, 20-16 up in the decider, Mark looked all the way a winner. The point that followed kept Graham in the game with a return that hit the net and just crept over. This really was the crunch point and Mark folded to give Graham his third title at 23-21 and deny Mark his first Championship.

The women singles had fewer upsets and the top four seeds came through their groups to enter the semi finals. At that stage however, number 1 seed, Tammie was out to Cheryl Buttery (number 3) - 19, 19, 13. Jill Green (number 2), although not fully recovered from her recent injury disposed of Kathy Riddard (number 4) in the other semi, 15, 16. The final saw Cheryl retain her title in two close games 21, 18.

Mens doubles: Terry Duffield/Tony Palaczyk b Tony Haley/Miki Sinanan 17, 19.

Womens doubles: Cheryl Buttery/Sarah Hammond b Barbara Clarke/Jill Green - 16, 11, 11.

Mixed doubles: Graham Toole/Sarah Hammond b Terry Haley/Cheryl Buttery 20 - 12, 16.

Intermediate singles (Under 23): Graham Toole b Mark Wilding 14, 16.


Veterans Singles (women): Di Wimmbill b Barbara Duffield 15, 17.

Hampshire seniors beat Bucks III 6-4 and Cornwall III by 11 7-3. The boys won all the sets against Dorset with Greg Moore (2), Jason Hicks (2) and Bryan Gonsalves (1) and Gary and Jason winning the doubles. Against Cornwall the girls came into their own with Rachel Cheffey and Lisa Rice winning the singles and combining for the doubles.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

THE Leicestershires Inter Towns competition took place on the 23rd and 24th of April, with two sections with Mike James taking care of the Senior section and Harry Ward the Junior.

Mike reports that the Senior event was held at the Humberside Junior School, Barrow-on-Soar. The hosts were Loughborough who entered two teams as did Hinckley and Leicester. The six teams were split into two divisions, the top teams of each division playing in the final. After the draw there was consternation in the Leicester camp as they had been drawn in the same division and were to play each other in the final. The first team, consisting of Steve Day, Mike James and Graham Hibberd with Alan Mould, Marcus Bollot and Steve Zanker making up the second, Leicester 1 proved to be second best both Steve and Marcus coming through, Mike James losing in the third to Marcus Bollot and Alan Mould respectively. Leicester 2 then went on to play Loughborough who included Neil Russell, Alan Watson and Dave Roche in their team. An exciting match ended at 3-3 with all three Leicester 2 players winning and losing one. The match was decided on the doubles with the Loughborough pair of Watson and Russell proving too strong for Mould and Zanker. It was then Leicester 1's turn to play Loughborough 2 to try and go one better than their second team but promptly found themselves 3-1 down. They showed their character by pulling back to 3-3 with the doubles again being the decider. In the end it proved an easy affair for Leicester 1 with Day and Hibberd proving too strong for Russell and Watson. With Leicester 1 in the final, who will they meet? Loughborough 1 is the answer whose team of Mike Meredith, Roger Bailey, Paul Bumpus and Dave Sills overcame Hinckley 2 and 1 for whom John Iliffe and David Grundy performed admirably. Leicester 2 played out for 5th & 6th place against Hinckley 2 with the former winning 4-2. The final is to be arranged as soon as possible as time was too short to complete this on the day.

The Junior event was staged at Knightrid Park TTC and saw Hinckley 1 take on Loughborough in the first match winning comfortably 12-6. Not to be outdone Leicester 2 beat Hinckley 2 and won by the same margin with Jayne Free and Keton Soni claiming maximums. Leicester 1 accounted for their second string 10-4 with Paul Jahnson and John Gerges making most of the damage. Loughborough 1, starting from their earlier defeat, made Hinckley 2 pay for it with an 11-7 defeat.

NOFRK

Ray Hogg

OUR domestic championships started with the referee consulting the latest edition of the British Table Tennis Handbook regarding the colour of clothing as he — being rather old and traditional — thought there were only dark colours. Having been convinced that Alan Pickard was selling these pastel colours for things at the venue and they were legal tender now he put on his dark glasses and entered the arena. On the Saturday 80 juniors kept us busy with their nine events — Neil Pickard as expected winning the singles, B/D and X/D with little trouble, but the champion collector on the day was Alison Taylor who won or had a share in two girls singles, G/D and X/D, at the other end of the scale we had 10-year-old Helen Woods in her first season of learning to play getting beaten game 3 and 1. Next season that will be 13 and I1 and I am sure if she keeps up with the coaching.

It was very pleasant to see for the first time names like Gary Block and Theresa Hewitt among the medal places, these being two of the many Kings Lynn names now appearing. Also the Watts brothers from Diss made an impact as people were asking who are those two? Wymondham league had no less than 13 juniors present. Only Yarmouth were missing and that, I am sure, was not their fault.

Many more pastel colours were evident on the Sunday for the seniors and again young Neil Pickard won the singles and the M/D but not the X/D which went to the partnership of Mick Broughton/Ruth Hogg over Wendy Durrant/Andrew Parker, a true experience v youth encounter in which the winners were over twice as old as the losers.

Wendy Durrant won the L/S for the 10th time in a row but for the first time as a Durrant. Still some way to go to beat Betty Cressels record of 15 times.

I must put on record the support from Taverham Nursery Centre for the juniors and the Crown Restaurant, Horford, for the seniors, without which there would be no championships. In general a most enjoyable time with new entries from Kings Lynn and the Diss leagues like the Cummins and the Wests who we will welcome next year.

Marion Harrison, a champion from the past, had a go after many years back stage and was impressed with the new breed of player. I would have liked to have seen Neil Pickard again but missed. The Herts and Beds Stevenson twins in the semi-finals, they would have needed too had Phillip not been at Nottingham and the twins disinterested.

19
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Juniors made their debut in the premier league following last season's promotion year and despite picking up only one point over the weekend there were some outstanding performances from our team members. Notts opened the season against a strong Derbyshire team who included Bradley Billington in their squad. Derbyshire won the match by an 8-2 score which was followed by a thrilling match against John Holland who defeated Chris Glosop in straight sets, and Robert Fearn who gained a similar straight sets victory over Stephen Fearn. The fixture against Staffordshire brought Notts their first point of the weekend when they drew 5-5. John Holland had a great day and won both his singles matches against Gary Knights and Adrian Throp, while debut boy Adrian Elson will be well satisfied with his win over Robert Tull.

Claire Oldman gave Notts their fourth success in the match when she overcame Jane Winter 15, 19, 18, 15. With Staffordshire leading 3-4 it was left to Adrian Bolton to defeat Robert Tull in the final match in order to earn Notts a well deserved draw. In a thrilling finish Bolton finally clinched his third match against 16, 15, 19, 19 to give Notts some satisfaction from the weekends fixtures. Another notable effort came from Kay Mayall and Claire Oldman in the doubles when they just lost 19, 15, 21, 19, 17 to Billington in the third deciding set. Victory in this match would have given Notts the pleasure of their very first win in the premier league. However Notts will eagerly look forward to the second weekend when their matches will include Kent, Glamorgan, Essex and Lancashire.

Many congratulations must go to Workop's Paul Davison on his appearance in the East Midlands regional ranking trials which he secured at the Ashtead CC Centre recently. Twelve-year-old Paul realised his high hopes by winning the cadet section after only experiencing one defeat in nine matches. His remarkable progress gives rise to high optimism for his future within our sport and we look forward with interest to him gaining representative honours in future years.

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Table tennis enthusiasts within the county, having followed the election for Mr Blum's successor as English Table Tennis Association chairman, now look forward expectantly to Mr Preen's term of office. Shropshire appears to be divided with two of its four leagues in Grove and Pontesbury, very much in favour of immediate change, and indeed already offering their members alternative ways of presenting table tennis, while Shrewsbury and Telford however seem at present to continue with the more traditional presentation of the game. It is my intention before my next notes to contact their chairmen of all the leagues and ask them for their personal views on what they would like to see happen.

**Standards sinking**

Grove TTC continue to dominate most of their matches in both the premier and third division north of the Schildkrot British League. While all their home matches are presented to play in an affiliated league if at the same time playing in a maverick one. With Oswestry League, acting outside the national body, any players playing there, from Grove, Shrewsbury, Telford and Pontesbury had better beware!

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

Doug Moss

THE county junior championships have been played in Worcester with players from every part of the country. The most successful were the two top ranked players — Richard Pratley (Worcester) and Jane McLean (Evesham) winning their respective singles and doubles titles.

Richard Pratley won the boys singles title without dropping a single game. He defeated Andrew Hartland (Dudley) 15, 5, in the semi-final and Neil Betteridge (Evesham) 15, 14 in the final. Betteridge had played very well to beat both David Pendry (Worcester) and Marcus Bolton (Evesham), the No’s 2 and 3 rankings. Pratley won the doubles championship in partnership with David Pendry (Worcester). In the final they beat the scratch pairing of Kevin Sefton (Evesham) and Andrew Hartland (Dudley) 13, 18.

**JUST JANE**

Jane McLean (Evesham) won the girls singles championship after a final contest between two players including Nicola Jones and Sarah Stone, both of Worcester. Jane and Nicola both beat Sarah leaving them to settle the issue in a final set. It was a hard fought match with Jane taking the first game 17 and Nicola retaliating with a 16 win. In the final game Jane led 9-3, Nicola came back to 13 all but Jane forged ahead to win 16. Jane and Nicola then teamed up to take the girls doubles title with a 14-, 14-14 win over Sarah Stone and Michelle McDornell.

The cadets (under 14) events first brought together Paula Hughes (Worcester) and Catherine Drage (Kidderminster). Paula played well, and kept the title in Worcester with a 12, 17 win.

The cadet boys final provided some of the most exciting play of the programme. It was contested by two Dudley boys — Jason Thompson (the holder) and Lee Horton. Lee took the first game 19 but Jason scraped home 23-21 in the second. It was hard fought and anyone’s match at all in the third game. A lucky point for Jason at this stage turned the game and he went on to deservedly retain the title with a 21-11 win.

The trophies were presented by Mr Ian Crickmer, the county association president. Two new trophies are donated by this year’s county junior championship. The trophies are to be donated to special accolages, Molly Hughes (Worcester) and Brett Davis (Kidderminster) who both did so much for young players. Both passed away in 1986.

**ANDY WALKER, 21, is the new West Sussex mens Champion. The Lancining left-hander defeated Crawley’s Robin Williams 21-19, 21-10 in the final.**

In a tournament lilted with shocks Walker’s controlled game was too much for the Crawley blocker and the result was never in doubt even after the Lancining player had taken a big lead in the final game. He regained his composure in the 2nd and took the title with comfort.

In the semi-final Walker defeated the top seed from Haywards Heath, Paul Elpich in a thrilling three setter, 21-19, 16-21, 25-23. Williams had accounted for the Horsham looper Tony Murrell, 21-19, 21-14 in the other semi. It was the bottom half of the draw that provided all the shocks the biggest being the demise of number 2 seed Phil Richardson at the hands of top Sussex Junior, Scott Greenbrook, in his group. Murrell had upset County Champion Andy Meads in his quarter and then went on to defeat the fourth seeded Peter Barratt in the quarter-final, before falling to Williams in the semi-final.

**THE LADIES SINGLES WAS AN all Worthing affair with unseeded Karen Peters upsetting the top seed Barbara Bayford, 21-12, 21-16 in the final. Miss Pars had also upset the number 2 seed in her group, Pat Wales from South West Sussex.**

**NEW FORMAT**

**GRANT TAYLOR, almost a name with the format. The king and queen of Wiltshire table tennis continue their long reign as Kevin Battle and Claire Maisey again top the county rankings. Kevin, now a full time player, leads the men’s list by no fewer than 176 points. Michael Auchterlonie who has been having some fine tournament results leads the junior rankings ahead of Jayshinder Singh. Michael makes it in a doubles event which is of interest where he is way ahead of the field.**

**WILTS**

**Laurie Selby**

**THE king and queen of Wiltshire table tennis continue their long reign as Kevin Battle and Claire Maisey again top the county rankings. Kevin, now a full time player, leads the men’s list by no fewer than 176 points. Michael Auchterlonie who has been having some fine tournament results leads the junior rankings ahead of Jayshinder Singh. Michael makes it in a doubles event which is of interest where he is way ahead of the field.**

**VETERANS — Men: 1 B Powell, 2 B Thompson, 3 E Howell, 4 M Oxley, 5 J Bright, 6 A Duke, 7 B Freeman, 8 M D.(Worcester) 9 J Singh, 10 A Mills. Women: 1 S Morse, 2 G Hazell, 3 S Bruton, 4 S Hembury.**

**JUNIORS — Boys: 1 M Auchterlonie, 2 J Singh, 3 M Edwards, 4 C Simms, 5 M Powell, 6 N Everden, 7 S Ely, 8 C Worgan, 9 R Penny, 10 M Nelson. Girls: 1 L Cox, 2 T Watkins, 3 M Morse, 4 D Aldridge, 5 J Mills, 6 T Edwards, 7 S Devine, 8 N Everden, 9 E Young, 10 A Mills.**

**COUNTIES 5**

**SHROPSHIRE**

**John Morris**

**Table tennis enthusiasts within the county, having followed the election for Mr Blum’s successor as English Table Tennis Association chairman, now look forward expectantly to Mr Preen’s term of office. Shropshire appears to be divided with two of its four leagues in Grove and Pontesbury, very much in favour of immediate change, and indeed already offering their members alternative ways of presenting table tennis, while Shrewsbury and Telford however seem at present to continue with the more traditional presentation of the game. It is my intention before my next notes to contact their chairmen of all the leagues and ask them for their personal views on what they would like to see happen.**

**Protect yourself**

The Shropshire TTA now has a full compliment of representatives of the county’s affiliated bodies. At the last meeting held on 8th December, and organised by Roy Williams at the Telford Raquet Centre, the question of affiliation was discussed and while non-affiliated leagues can operate outside the auspices of the national body, the point was made that any affiliated players cannot under any circumstances, continue to play in an affiliated league if at the same time playing in a maverick one. With Oswestry League, acting outside the national body, any players playing there, from Grove, Shrewsbury, Telford and Pontesbury had better beware!
CONGRATULATIONS to Leigh Jeffries who won the national cadet singles title at the English national junior championships in November. Leigh is the first Warwickshire name to go on the trophy. It was a close final against Neil Bevan from Cornwall but at 10-10 in the final game Leigh seemed to step up a gear and won 21-16.

It was a first for Nicola Meddows too when she won the U12 title at the South of England 2 star, defeating K. Goodhall in the final. Nicola also reached the last eight in the cadets at the English national junior event, this time losing to K. Goodhall (Yorks).

Yorkshire

WITH the Stiga Yorkshire and Humberseed 3 Star setting the ball rolling in the final week of October, as reported in the last issue of the News, the past six weeks has been a hectic period for Yorkshire's tournament officials.

The county's senior and junior closed championships, each in a completely new format, have been played with the one day senior event staged on 15 tables at the Huddersfield Sports Centre including, for the first time, a 2-a-side team event, and the junior championships combining with the former cadet closed in a two-day tournament at Selby High School.

The team event proved popular, with 27 mens teams going into the draw, but it played havoc with the schedule and a finish just 19 minutes late at the end of the day speaks volumes for the ingenuity and management ability of referee Ben Walter.

Lucas (York Road). The competition is run on a sealed handicap basis — the matches are played without the handicap being known. This adds to the fun (at least some players think so!) and makes every point count!

The Warwickshire closed will be held on the 11th February at the centre for the disabled in Coventry.

Olympic Games

SEPTEMBER 1988, Korea, may seem a distant memory but with an event of this importance arrangements have to be made long in advance.

The British Olympic Association has appointed Sportsworld Travel, 320 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 to be the official ticket and tour operator for the 1988 Summer Olympics based in Seoul and the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta.

Table tennis, being part of the Olympics for the first time, will be part of the packages being offered but it could be that fans will also want to see the other Olympic sports as well as table tennis.

Announcing the appointment, the secretary of the BOA, Dick Palmer, said: "The BOA made its choice yesterday after careful scrutiny of a number of travel firms who had submitted applications for the appointment. Sportsworld Travel's experience in this field made them the perfect choice to be given the responsibility for getting the British public to Seoul and Calgary to support our teams. I'm confident they're going to do a good job.'"

Michell, chairman, and marketing director of Sportsworld Travel Company, said: "We're delighted with the news. It's a great vote of confidence in us. Major international sporting events present a very different crop of opportunities to today's intending visitors compared to even eight years ago. The Los Angeles Olympics proved that even with the mind-blowing logistics of organising such an event, a commercial profit can be made and much more emphasis has been placed on spectator enjoyment. 'Korea has many intrinsic attractions little-known to the European traveller, couple these with the magic of sport and the Olympics themselves together with the chance to visit Japan, China, Hong Kong and Thailand, making a complete Far East adventure, and you've got a highly marketable programme."

Sportsworld Travel will offer a wide range of Olympic and Far East holidays, which will be on sale through the Travel Trade. Following an extended inspection trip to the area, the company will launch its programme early in 1987."

"As with all major tournaments, tickets for certain events will be keenly competed for. Sportsworld Travel has opened a priority registration list for all interested in visiting Korea or Canada who wish to receive details as soon as they are published. All enquiries, whether individual, corporate, incentive or association will be welcomed on a 'first come, first served' basis and registration of interest should be made direct to: Olympics Department, Sportsworld Travel, 120 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JH. Telephone 01-370-4515.

Counties 6/Olympic travel
English Junior Open and Bundesliga

English junior open goes to Newcastle
by Mike Watts

WITH the demise of the Junior Grand Prix sponsorship the future of the English Junior International Championships scheduled for May 1987 was in serious doubt.

However, thanks to help provided by the Newcastle upon Tyne City Council and sponsorship negotiated with the Newcastle Evening Chronicle, the championships will take place over the weekend of the 30th/31st May 1987 at the Eldon Square Recreation Centre.

Aubrey Drapkin, the association's treasurer, was the person responsible for the negotiations. Firstly the Northern Sports Council were persuaded to provide a grant from the Tyne and Wear Abolition funds towards the administration of the event. Then Derek Thompson, promotions manager of the Evening Chronicle, agreed to act as sponsors offering to provide printing costs, the finals night buffet and transport costs. The Newcastle Moat House Hotel also offered an extremely generous end. But all this needs sponsors.

The English Junior Open has for the past few years been 'resident' at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth, one of the finest leisure centres in the south where the playing conditions were just about perfect.

It's France and not Sweden ...
EUROPEAN Championships 1990: Finland have given up their option to stage the championships in 1990 and it was therefore awarded to Sweden, previously holders of the option for 1992.

The 1990 event will be in Paris.

Sponsor for 1988
EUROPE v. Asia will be held in Europe in 1988. The format for this intercontinental battle will see teams playing in different cities and then coming together at the end. But all this needs sponsors.

So the hunt by the ETU is on and it will need to be a fairly big name.

DESPITE the 'one foreigner per team' rule, the German Bundesliga continues to thrive. The Germans also complain about lack of TV coverage, but one look at the Bundesliga Men's results will show the quality of the players. The big match, recently, between Borussia Düsseldorf and TCC Graz was watched by over 1,000 spectators. Although Grubba beat both Persson and Wosik, Düsseldorf won 9-6 and went through to the semi-final. Carl Prean won 2 for Bad Hamm, in the other semi-final, but his team was beaten 5-2 by Bayreuth.

Going down
Hertha Berlin and Steinhausen are likely to be relegated. One team likely to take their place is St Mulheim, who are unbeaten in Bundesliga 2 West. In a top of the table clash they beat my club, Tus Paderborn, 9-4. Your truly won one (and lost one) singles. Chan Kwong Wah, a member of the Hong Kong national team, is unbeaten for Mülheim.

The German Bundesliga Still thriving
by Alan Fletcher former England international player

Germany hopes that it will have 3 top European players in the near future. Apparently, Jörg Rösskopf won last weekend's Bundesliga Ranking tournament in Kassel. Jürgen Rebel is also playing well (and beat the German No 1, Georg Böhm 3-1 in the same tournament) and Steffan Fetzner continues to improve.

They are all ranked in the Top 10 in Germany. The importance placed on the future of German table-tennis is exemplified by the recent decision to send six top juniors for several weeks' intensive training in China.

Zetland Place, Middlesbrough
Cleveland TS1 1HJ
Tel: (0642) 217 844/5 & 249 0000
(24hr. Answering Service)
The Welsh News
from H. Roy Evans

The European League Division 2

A GREAT 4/3 win over Scotland saw Wales head the European Group Division Two matches in Guernsey over the weekend. With comfortable 7/0 victories over Greece and Guernsey, Wales now lies second in the Division, with success against Switzerland but defeat by Belgium earlier on in the season. Outstanding matches are against Luxembourg at Hawthorn in January, and away against Spain in April. Scotland also accounted for Guernsey and Greece defeat by Belgium earlier on in the season. Outstanding matches are counted for Guernsey and Greece.

Wales v Guernsey

Tyler b Hannah, -19, 15, 19; b Broe -18, 11, 19.
Thomas It to Broe -22, 18, 18; b Hannah 15, -19, -15.
Thomas It to Dalrymple -15, -13.
Tyler/Tom b Hannah/Broe 19, 15.
Tyler/Tyler b Hannah/Dalrymple -20, 18, 17.

Wales v Greece

Tyler b Pipet 16, 12; b Rihoy 15, 7.
Thomas b Rihoy 8, 18; b Pipet 18, 15.
Tyler b Harquin 15, -13, 15.
Tyler/Tom b Pipet/Balley 12, 15.
Tyler/Tyler b Pipet/Pipet 20, -13, 17.

North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association

by Charles Bayliss

Clywd 4 Lancashire 2nds 6

Trevor Manning b Andrew Leigh 18, 11; Paul Griffiths b Phillip Blake 18, 13; John Ellis b Brian Carney 17, 15; Emily Wright/Justine Thomas b Amanda Goodwin/Mabel Neary -11, 11, 15; John Ellis/Trevor Manning b Brian Carney/Philip Blake 18, 16; Trevor Manning b Phillip Blake 19, -16, 18; Justine Thomas b Mabel Neary 15, 13; John Ellis b Andrew Leigh 16, -18; Emily Wright b Amanda Goodwin 15, 14; Paul Griffiths b Brian Carney 18, 16.

Heart of England Cadet TT League

The second session of the league took place at Leamington, December 6th, at Automotive Products Ltd. Banbury A still retain the leadership over Leamington A by two points with three victories over Coventry, Rugby and Bromsgrove. The trio of Sally Hughes, Michael Rose and Dawn Barnett dropping only two games between them. Sally and Michael losing their 100% averages against Coventry's Matthew Jordan.

Leamington A hang onto second place with a one game margin over Kidderminster whom they defeated 7-3. Robert Hartshorn and Ewan Huc gaining maximums for Leamington. Coventry gained ground in the league with two wins over Evesham and Walsall and losing 8-2 to Banbury A.

Good day

Matthew Jordan had a good day winning eight out of nine singles. Leamington B gained their first win in the league over Evesham winning 6-4. Chris Haynes 2, Adrian Smith 2 and Scott Taylor 1. Jason Bolton won 2 for Evesham with Neil Green and Ian Stowe 1 each. A close doubles 22 and 17 was won by Chris and Adrian over Jason and Neil. Credit to brothers David and Andrew Hassall from Walsall who were a player short but gamely fought all day.

The next session is on Saturday, February 7th at 9.30 am at the same venue.

League table

Banbury A 6 0 0 0 57 3 12
Leamington A 5 5 0 1 39 21 10
Kidderminster 6 0 1 1 38 22 10
Coventry 6 4 0 2 41 19 8
Banbury B 6 3 0 3 32 15 6
Walsall 6 2 1 3 30 5
Bromsgrove 6 2 1 3 23 5
Leamington B 6 1 1 4 16 4
Evesham 6 0 1 5 20 4
Rugby 6 0 0 6 7 5

Results

Banbury A 8, Coventry 2; Banbury A 10, Rugby 0; Banbury A 10, Bromsgrove 0; Leamington A 6, Bromsgrove 4; Leamington A 9, Rugby 1; Banbury A 7, Kidderminster 3; Coventry 7, Evesham 3; Banbury B 6, Evesham 4; Banbury B 8, Rugby 2; Banbury B 3, Kidderminster 7; Leamington B 6, Evesham 4; Banbury B 5, Walsall 5; Leamington B 3, Kidderminster 7; Bromsgrove 6, Walsall 4.

Top averages: Sally Hughes, Michael Rose, Dawn Barnett, 94% (Banbury A); Matthew Jordan 88% (Coventry).

1986/87 Universities Athletic Union Championships

This season’s tournament took place at Swansea University’s Sports Centre over the weekend 29/30 November and attracted 192 entries for the 5 events, an increase of 7 on last year. Despite several of the seeded players not arriving, the best were there to contest the men’s singles in which No 1 seed Phil Logsdon of Nottingham went one better than last year, ending a comfortable run to the final by beating 2nd seeded Bath freshmurray Jukes.

Gabi bounces back

Five years ago Gabi Munzor came runner-up as a Southamp­ton student. This year the Munich-born blocker, taking a PGCE at Exeter, upset the seedings as Mrs Gabi Winter, to win the women’s singles, beating Michelle Hans at Sheffield in a very entertaining final, emerging the best of a 30-strong entry.

Results:

Mens singles: Quarter-final: P. Leggat (Nottingham) b K. Schumann (Cardiff) 6, 7, 8, 17; R. Koon Wong (UMIST) b S. Richards (Exeter) 15, 19, 15; M. Jukes (Bath) b M. Levene (Manchester) 15, 9, 15.
Semi-final: Logsdon b Koon Wong 13, 15; Jukes b M. Levene 15, 9, 15.
Final: Logsdon b Jukes 9, 15.

Womens singles: Semi-finals: M. Hans (Sheffield) b S. Brame (Warwick) 18, 7, 17; G. Winter (Exeter) b L. Stanbridge (Bath) 13, 10.
Final: G. Winter b M. Hans 19, 12, 13.

Final: Holland/Wiegand b Jukes/Gascoigne 17, 9, 17.

Final: Hans/McEwen b Thompson/Chamberlain 11, 16.

Final: Logsdon/Thompson b Murdoch/Bannet 14, 17.
County Championships

MIDDLESEX SET FOR SIXTH CROWN

by Doug Moss

IN THE Senior Premier Division the first matches, played at Birming ham Athletic Institute, again confirmed the superiority of Middlesex. They have won the championship for the past five seasons and this time won their three matches dropping only three games!

Derbyshire, making a debut in the premier ranks, was very well pleased to have the services of Alan Cooke (England No 2), who paid his own fare from Sweden to represent his county. Derbyshire's first match was against Surrey in the first event Alan found Nicky Mason in fine form. After a hard fight Nicky had a superb 23 - 19, 16 win. However, Alan Cooke won the remainder of his singles matches, without dropping a game, and with good support from Martin Kinsella and juniors Kenny Hall and Bradley Billington, Derby won two of their three matches. It was a very good start as promoted teams have so often found themselves on the way down at the end of the season.

The Premier weekend was quite a British event. David Hannah (Scottish No 1) who plays as a professional in France, represented Surrey. He had started with that county as a junior in the county championships. He was in good form, winning five of his six singles events, losing only to Alan Cooke. And Lesley and Nigel Tyler, the respective Welsh No 1’s, represented Derbyshire. The Tyler’s won their mixed doubles matches convincingly in straight games and lost only one singles event apiece.

In one of the first matches Sussex met Middlesex which proved to be somewhat of a families affair, with Middlesex having the Tyers and SussexAlex, having Teresa, Adrian and Stephen Cooke. And Lesley and Nigel Tyler’s won their mixed doubles events. Jean Parker (La) was the best of the ladies, winning all her singles matches and combining with John Hilton to be unbeaten in mixed doubles events. It was good to see John Hilton playing again in the county championships.

Results

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<tr>
<th>Middlesex</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
<th>Derbyshire</th>
<th>Surrey</th>
<th>Berkshire</th>
<th>Lancashire</th>
<th>Staffs</th>
<th>Surrey II</th>
<th>Middlesex II</th>
<th>Staffs</th>
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League Table

| Middlesex | 5 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 9 |
| Sussex    | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 9 |

Junior premier division

St Neots TTC again provided the good facilities for the junior premier matches.

Yorkshire, the current champions, having the services of European "Gold" winners, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield, completely dominated the weekend. Yorkshire won their three matches dropping only one event! The Staffs team put up the best fight with Adrian Thorpe losing to O'Driscoll - 20, - 20, and also had a deuce game with Oldfield, the scores being - 11, - 20. It was Gary Knights who took the one event beating Andrew Ball 12, - 11, 13. It highlights the strength of the Yorkshire players that being taken to deuce is a matter for comment!

Lancashire also come away with a clean sheet. They had a good 6-4 win over Derbyshire. A vital factor in this win was taking the two doubles events. Sean Gibson/David Carse beat Bradley Billington/Chris Glossopt at 19 in the third game and Nicola McGrath/Julie Clegg beat Kerry Hall/Juli Forster at 17 in the deciding game. Sean Gibson also won a singles at 17 in the third but lost 18 and 18 to Bradley Billington.

Notts, one of the promoted teams, were involved in two interesting matches. The only drawn match was their clash with Staffs. John Holland (Ng No 1) had two good wins including the defeat of Adrian Thorp 12 and 17. Staffs were leading 5-4 but that was the sum total in the final event Adrian Bolton (Ng) beat Robert Till - 16, 19 and 19 to gain a point for Notts! In their match with neighbours Derbyshire the Notts team actually led 2-0 but that was the sum total of their success. John Holland played well to take Bradley Billington to 15 in the third game.

Glamorgan found it tough at premier division level. Richard Harry and Chris Kelly got a singles win apiece - both achieved by a narrow margin. Denise Elward won her singles against Kent in which five events went to a deciding game.

Results

| Derbyshire | 9 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 9 |

Results

| Derbyshire | 9 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 9 |

League Table

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Match results - 22 November

Senior - 2A: Warwicks 4, Wores 0; Yorks II 3, Kent 7. 3A: Clwyd 4, Lanes 0; Wors 5, Northants 2. 3B: Staffs 5, Notts 0; Oxon 6, Herefs 0. 4A: Leics II 6, Essex III 4; Kent II 2, Herts 4. 4B: Cornwall II 11, Hereford 7; Somerset II 3, Glamorgan 7.

Junior - 2A: Yorks II 11, Warwicks 6; Gwent II 6, Suffolk 4; Staffs II 8, Derby II 2; Chesh II 8, Beds 6. 2B: Devon 9, Sussex 1; Middlesex 7, Essex II 3; Berks 4, Herts 6; Essex II 6, Surrey 4. 3A: Leics 2, Lanes II 8; Northland 2, Leics 4; Lanes 8, Cleyd 2; Durham 2, Cumbpr 2; Lincs 7, Chesh II 3. 3B: Hunts 8, Oxford 2; N’tmans 5, Cambs 5; Cambs II 2, Norfolk 8; Norfolk II 0, Hunt II 10. 3C: Warwicks II 3, Avon 7; Dorset 5, Cornwall II 5; Dorset 4, Hants 6; Hants 7, Cornwall II 3; Somerset II 5, Glos 5; Wilts 5, Dorset 3; Kent II 2; Essex II 5, Surrey II 5; Bucks 2, Middlesex 1;

Veterans - Premier: Warwicks 2, Leics 1; Chesh 3, Essex 0; Hants 3, Middlesex 6; Sussex 5, Kent 4. 2A: Notts 2, Chesh II 7; Yorks 4, Essex II 5; Northland 2, N’tmans 4; Northants 2, Northants 2; Wilts 6, Dorset 3; Kent III 8, Bucks 2; Middlesex II 5, Berks 4; Surrey 9, Hants II 0. 3A: Chesh II 3, Wilts 4; Dutch 2, Wilts 2; N’ts 5, Stafford 5; N’ts 5, Staffs 5; Glos 5, N’ts 5; Staffs 5; Gloucestershire 6; Evesham Athletic Institute, again confirmed the superiority of Middlesex. They have won the championship for the past five seasons and this time won their three matches dropping only three games!...
Coaching 1

Eastern region moves up

Ken Marchant explains

THE Eastern Coaching Region held their first Junior Training Camp of the 1986/87 season on the week-end of 7/9th November in what can only be termed, real up market style.

Having finalised arrangements for this first Training Camp to take place at the Eurosport Village in Shotley, Ipswich, an unexpected setback occurred two weeks later when they were informed that the venue was being closed down.

Fortunately the Eastern Sports Council's Regional Officer Mike Grafton came to their aid when he was able to give a personal contact to seek help.

From small acorns ...

From that point on everything flowed and they were put in touch with the Wyboston Lakes Motel at Eaton Socon just off the A1.

Regional Coaching Chairman Ken Marchant and National Coach Nicky Jarvis visited the Motel to discuss a deal which was finally confirmed the next day.

The second part of the back up to this deal was completed when they were able to have the use of the best table tennis centre in the country, just ten minutes journey from the Motel, namely St. Neots Centre with the use of nine tables.

The scene was set for what was a fantastic Training Camp week-end under the guidance of Nicky Jarvis, Les Rayment and Ken Marchant with help in transporting by St. Neots Club Committee Members. The residential accommodation at the Motel was as follows:

Three members per room with colour T.V., coffee/tea making facilities, bath and shower. Breakfast with personal waiter service.

Evening Meal was at the Lakeside Restaurant approximately two hundred yards down the drive where the conservatory part which overlooks the lake was allocated for our use, and again with personal waiter service.

Lunch was at the table tennis centre and provided by the St. Neots Ladies Committee who also did the morning/afternoon breaks.

The co-operation and excellent service provided at the Motel by Chris Conlan the Manageress (pictured with the group) was very much appreciated as was the service given by the St. Neots Club Members. Everyone voted it the best Training Camp they had ever been on and we are all looking forward to the next one in April next year.

INTERNATIONAL COURSE COMING IN LONDONDERRY

AN International Coaches Course will be held at the University of Ulster at Coleraine, County Londonderry, N. Ireland, 11-13 April, 1987.

The course is sponsored by the Irish TTA (Ulster Branch) in conjunction with the Sports Council for Northern Ireland and a commercial sponsor.

Zolton Berczik

The coaches will be Zolton Berczik (Hungary), Donald Parker & Jill Hammersley-Parker (England) and possibly Anders Thunstrom (Sweden).

The cost is expected to be no more than £50 sterling per delegate and this will include full accommodation, hospitality and an official reception.

Full details can be obtained from Mrs P. Todd c/o The Sports Council for N. Ireland, House of Sports, Upper Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

Merrett Swan Song

by David Holland

BRIAN MERRETT visited Waveney Sports Centre on 14th, 15th, 16th of November. A mixture of different levels of player were eagerly awaiting this highly respected national coach. The weekend course was tailor made for beginners on the Saturday and advanced players on the Friday evening and Sunday. Brian's step by step programme of ball control and match situations showed vast improvements to everyone who came on the course. And at the end of the day when tiring limbs were taking people home to a well earned rest, I was being asked, 'when will there be another course of this type at the centre'.

After the response of this coaching weekend, I would say to anyone who is thinking about getting a course of this kind underway, go ahead and do it. Because with the wealth of experience that is amongst our national coaches, it can only benefit those people who they visit.

Table Tennis at Hayes ....

THERE is news of more table tennis facilities at the Judge Heath Sports Centre, Judge Heath Lane, Hayes, Middlesex. Table Tennis day is Mondays, 5-8 p.m., mainly to 15-year-olds but older people welcome. Costs are £3 per term and 50p a night.

There are other sporting activities going on through the week. The table tennis coach is Roger Nicholls. The centre is also available for weekend bookings for tournaments and some sectional time is available during the week at "very cheap rates". Further information telephone 01-573-3431.
Coaching 2 and Junior International

Let’s twist again
by Tony Russe

A COACH sees many faults in players’ techniques, some which can be rectified and some which can not. Much depends on how the player has developed and how open to change he or she is. But the most common fault that I see is what I call ‘the one-armed bandit’. Many players use only their playing arm and shoulder with the resultant loss of body flow and power.

Now every student coach will tell you about the use of the free arm — balance, tracking and rotation. But what does it really mean? Yes, the free arm is used in balance but each player has an individual centre of gravity, so the positioning of the free arm will vary. And yes, the free arm can be used to orientate with the ball and the direction of play, but again each individual will have his or her own in-built mechanism for spotting a ball and despachting it again. Yes, the free arm’s use in balance and tracking is very useful, but in rotation it is all important.

If a player is to maximise on power then rotation at the waist is essential. The free arm assists this rotation and what is more it brings the free shoulder into play. It is the use of both shoulders in the forehand attack that assists in the maximum of power. Similarly if the player is looking for power from the backhand, and many players seem to settle for only speed and spin from wrist action, the free shoulder can follow through with the shoulder of the bat arm to provide the punch necessary to produce a winning ball. Rotation is vital.

We tend in this country to teach the finer points of technique, which is a good thing, but I sometimes feel that the object of the end result is missed. We tend to think of teaching a player to win by good techniques and are disappointed when they do not. We must also teach them to fire for effect. Once the basics are taught, the introduction of power into a player’s thinking and game is essential, and it starts and finishes with rotation and all that goes with it. So brothers and sisters, let’s twist again!

DUTCH VICTORY

DESPITE an impressive display by England No 1 Matthew Syed, the Netherlands Juniors beat England overall by two matches to one with one match drawn at Gateshead on November 28th.

The Junior International, sponsored by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and Signal Toothpaste, was played on a new format of four separate matches; junior boys, junior girls, cadet boys and cadet girls, so giving experience to ten new youngsters and new caps to Ellen Meddings, Caroline Buckley, Neil Bevan and Gary Knights.

The star of the evening was Matthew Syed who won both of his singles. Syed opened the match by beating Trinko Keen at 19 in the third and put England 3-1 ahead with a straight games victory over Danny Heister.

England’s two defeats came in the Cadet International where the girls were beaten 3-2 after recovering from a 3-0 deficit. The boys lost 5-1 with only Lee Jeffries beating Marlo Heerson.

SCORES FORMAT

VALUABLE time could be saved if all correspondents could submit scores according to how they appear in this magazine. Otherwise the re-writing of the figures can easily lead to errors.

The format is:
A Smith b B Brown 17, 15, 19.

Most tournament press officers already use this style but it is the rest that can help lighten one of the laborious tasks and save some midnight oil.

FLUID MOVEMENT

Alan Cooke
Winner of the Stiga Top 12 – 1986
and
Automatic Valve Systems
Suppliers of valves and pneumatic control equipment to industry

Alan Cooke is sponsored by Automatic Valve Systems Ltd
Station Road Industrial Estate, Market Bosworth Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV13 0PE
Tel: Market Bosworth (0455) 290516
Telex: 34352 (AUS G)
Crossword

1st Prize — STIGA Blade (of your choice)
Supplied by DSR Leisure, distributor of the complete Stiga range of table tennis equipment

ACROSS
1. & 27 (down). Female defender Darth alone upset in deepest Lancashire! (6,4)
4. Chairman of Selectors' method of doing things, and how he reacts to drink? (5,3)
9. American changeover with power over steer? (6)
10. Angle Pam revised in preparing for her match (4,4)
12. Girl who comes from the valley (4)
13. In which one has tearing hurry (5)
14. TT twin featured in narrow escape (4)
17. Who gets the best from odd Karl Prean (6,6)
20. Surrey Vet was once a winner with first-rate organisation (6,6)
23. Kind of rope found in the British Empire (4)
24. Points us and her in the right direction (5)
25. Target of Olympians, or the French say ... (4)
26. Yours truly in this puzzler 2 (4)
27. See 1 across.

DOWN
1. Great honour for account company gets over broken deal (8)
2. Out waddling along rather slowly (8)
3. A rose by any other name — in Piccadilly Circus! (4)
5. Kind of Reactor with short period of gestation! (1,4,7)
6. Dishonest golfer tells them about how his ball was sitting (4)
7. One’s father be on the carpet? (6)
8. Way down in New Orleans? (6)
9. Spots for those under canvas, and what is spotted there? (7,5)
10. Can be taken by Flo, or anyone else for dancing (5)
11. Nell turns up to tournaments in the Tribe van! (5)
12. Characteristic of hens, and beaten semi-finalists? (8)
13. Unexpurgated result of Woodford getting involved with Robson & Co. (6)
14. TT twin featured in narrow escape (4)
15. He who gets the best from odd Karl Prean (6,6)
16. Unfriendly responses to a dispute? (6)
17. Kind of rope found in the British Empire (4)
18. Characteristic of hens, and beaten semi-finalists? (8)
19. Unexpurgated result of Woodford getting involved with Robson & Co. (6)
20. Surrey Vet was once a winner with first-rate organisation (6,6)
21. Fellow the Spanish follow to Church? (6)
22. Have harmful effect on odd number? (6)
23. Kind of rope found in the British Empire (4)
24. Points us and her in the right direction (5)
25. Target of Olympians, or the French say ... (4)
26. Yours truly in this puzzler 2 (4)
27. See 1 across.

For the answers and the winners of the November Crossword No. 1 see page 22.

Clues

Kent players in Ruhr

FRANKFURT Station, 6.18 a.m.

One slight hitch, Juliet was not due to leave them, along with Heinz, Hans, Karl, Rudi and the rest back twelve kilometres away in the small town of Heusenstamm.

Two months earlier a girl in Tonbridge called Hanni had told us "it will be a carnival weekend with table tennis and other sports included".

We all liked the "carnival" bit, what we hadn’t then realised was that the table tennis would be against professional players from the German Bundesliga. Still, "I'll go anyway" Andrew had said, and we did! One slight hitch, Juliet was not due at Gatwick until 4.06 p.m. on the day we were departing, on route back from a fortnight’s training session in Hungary. Father Ted took his four wheels to the airport, Juliet was whisked home and was on time with the rest of us for the 9.13 p.m. train out of Tonbridge for Dover Marine.

Our hosts provided us throughout with superb hospitality, staying at their homes and visiting around for large slices of apple and fruit strudel cakes. Shopping in Frankfurt, walking through the woods to watch Eintracht Frankfurt draw 2-2 with visiting Kaiserslauter, a Grand Ball, a disco at a nightclub with three floors, and Sunday morning jazz in the large courtyard of a nearby hotel. Seeing our Rugby footballers triumph, albeit with torn ligaments, and finally a magnificent display of indoor sport, dancing and gymnastics at the Sportscentrum "Grand Sportshow", highlighted with a spectacular "Chinese" style display of table tennis by Juliet and Mark. Then supper with our hosts, a little more trombone, speeches, and a lively "singalong" to end our last night.

And what of the matches, which took place in a large school sports hall the evening after we arrived? We divided into two teams, our "A" team against Heusenstamm's Bundesliga Division 2 side and our "B" team against their Division 4 side. The first team game was most exciting, mark in superb form winning all four singles, and Andrew and Juliet winning two each including wins against their number two. Greg fought hard, but victory eluded him, as it did Michael, Ted, and the two Johns throughout the "B" team match, although all games were (I assure you) closely contested. Our appointed manager, Cyril, watched closely, perhaps he was just too lenient on the older members of our team.

Our happy expedition was part of the Tonbridge/Heusenstamm twin town celebrations to mark the German town’s 775th anniversary. Now we hope to entertain both junior and senior parties from Heusenstamm next year and to return there in 1988.

Scores — Heusenstamm "A" 8, Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells "A" 8. (Mark Romano 4, Juliet Houghton 2, Andrew Houghton 2, Greg Barden 0)
Heusenstamm "B" 16, Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells "B" 0. (Michael Roberts, John Neal, Ted Houghton, John Knoke)
Ed: Don't tie the ladies to the kitchen sink Jimmy, they have much to offer your overall plan.

International and now marketing progress being made. Repeated on a national basis and run on business lines.

Survival kit

MUCH as I applaud Johnny Leach's enthusiasm with his article "How can we win back the crowds?" his proposal must be regarded with some scepticism over costing, and as a possible one-off proposition.

Johnny himself remembers the days when our sport sparked great interest from the leagues to the international and open championships, to national and world championships. These links have been badly frayd, or in some cases completely broken. Club secretaries are despondent and dejected, seeing no bright end to the tunnel. County associations readily accept only a handful of spectators will watch their county matches, and they may have trouble putting a team together.

Many pundits blame the equipment we use, the speed we play at, the popularity of darts and snooker, the lack of TV coverage, but we have to accept these factors are here to stay and should not provide excuses for poor results.

As season by season our situation deteriorates, I'm convinced there are motivations among us, players and officials, who, given a lead, are quite prepared to motivate, manipulate, cajole, and stimulate our league's activities and all concerned into concerted action. There has been some debate about an international team supreme, but first and foremost we need a national team supreme, or a body of people, prepared to be totally involved with our leagues, counties and all levels of table tennis.

"Easier said than done," you may say, but we're already doing it at Panoramic Bath, and may I say rather successfully.

Since meeting Panoramic's Dave Warren a few months ago, we now have two British League teams, six of our players ranked in the top 40, one of the best supported teams in the British League Premier Division, a club sporting 10 tables, coaching for young and old, including video recordings for viewing on club and match days, and successful buffet disco social evenings. Of course, we're blessed with our own supreme - a committee of 21 dedicated players and administrators, which includes five ladies (hence our after match refreshments are second to none).

Panoramic Bath are very proud of their achievements, and the progress being made. Repeated on a national basis as regards business lines, the results could well have the turnstiles clicking again, sooner than we think.

JIMMY LOWE

Editor's note: All ideas are welcome. This one is worth an examination. Like everything else it comes down to cost. A professional video of the quality necessary to sell to major or even local TV networks would cost money, but it is possible that a sponsor could be found.

I am in total agreement with Mr Knight when he suggests that personalities like Eric Bristow, Alex Higgins and David Bryant have done wonders for their respective sports. But who is the emerging table tennis personality - would it be Skylet Andrew?

National Rankings

MAY I first congratulate John Prean on his successful bid for the chairmanship of the ETTA. I hope he manages to bring some much needed interest back into the game. The second and main point I would like to make is in support of Ron Etheridge's (TTN November) proposal that we start a national ranking system similar to the ones used in North America. I played for 3 years in Canada, which has a ratings system similar to the one in the States and it was very successful. The system was computerized and all leagues and tournaments were included in the data for updating the system. Having worked on the Alberta ratings system it could take some time if results were not communicated promptly so the system could be updated regularly but done on a regular basis it was useful in tournament seeding and promoting interest in the game. I can see that in this country where there are vastly more players the problems would be larger in getting the system off the ground in the first place, but is that not a case for getting it started sooner rather than later.

The ratings events in tournaments were also extremely popular particularly the lower rated events as it got players who would normally play in a tournament interested because they had a chance of winning something. Since it is, in general, the grass roots players that we are losing perhaps something of this kind could start to bring them back.

OWEN BRAZELL
25, Sandford Road,
Bromley, Kent BR2 9LW

Sorry, says Bradley

I WAS sorry to read Carl Prean's reply to my letter in October's issue. I can only think that Carl saw something that was not there. It was never my intention to put down younger players who I have great admiration for any sportsman/woman who has reached high levels in their sport. But I was merely trying to introduce younger players to a sport in the media. I speculate only benefit table tennis, for as you are aware, there are so many sports each competing for attention of the young.

Are we only to be seen and not heard?

BRADLEY CLUTTON
Age 15.
On the ball
with Neil T. Houghton,
ATTP Press and Public Relations Officer

THIS first column puts the ball in play! The ATTP is the players' professional body, the ear and the voice of English table tennis players. Your voice and a strengthening voice in table tennis.

If you haven't joined us yet, keep reading this column and then join. To the many people who are already with us, men and women, league players, county players and England players — good luck for the rest of the season and stay ON THE BALL!

Derek Baddeley, Colin Wilson and Barry Johnson hope you will join them and stay on the ball with the ATTP.

Entry Error

Derby Junior Select 1987

Please note that the organiser is Mike Payne 534 Duffield Road Allestree Derby

and not as printed on the entry form.

Success Story

If you have any interesting stories of success within your team, club, league or county, then we want to hear from you.

Write to the Editor Table Tennis News 21 Claremont Hastings East Sussex TN34 1HF.

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ISLE OF MAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

EASTER FESTIVAL 18th, 19th APRIL 1987.

TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND AT ANY TIME IS EASY BY SEA OR AIR, AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EVENTS AT EASTER ALL ENQUIRIES FOR TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AGENTS:

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### FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

**January**
- 14: EUROPEAN LEAGUE: England v Finland (Norwich)
- 17: County Championships (4)
- 17/18: ESTTA Team Area Finals
- 18: SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (9)
- 24: Pontefract 1 Star (Pontefract)
- 24/25: TRIUMPH ADLER ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Crawley)
- 31: Yorkshire 2 Star (Leeds)
  - Cotswold Junior Select (Gloucester)

**February**
- 1: SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (10)
  - North Bournemouth 1 Star (Bournemouth)
  - Cotswold Junior Select
- 7: EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Denmark v England
- 7/8: Junior Premier Weekend (St Neots)
- 8: Exeter Junior 1 Star (Exeter)
- 14/15: Essex Junior Select (Harlow)
- 15: SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (11)

The full season’s fixtures are available in the ETTA diary which is priced at £2.50.

### OBITUARY — ALEC BROOK

A SWAYTHLING CUP player for England in 1933, Alec Brook of Purley represented England at the World Championships that year in Baden, Austria. In the 1940’s he made a big contribution to the promotion of table tennis on a worldwide stage tour with Richard Bergmann and Victor Barna.

He was an active person of 75 up to the time of his death on November 6th. He had his roots in the classical era of pimpled rubber bats. At a regular practice session just before his death he noticed first the signs of an impending heart attack.

But his business dealings were his life. He was the chairman of a very successful sports company and had worldwide business connections.

He recently took over as the Chairman of the Croydon Area of the Institute of Directors, at an age when most people had retired a decade earlier.

According to a report in a Surrey newspaper he appeared some 500 times at the London Palladium with Victor Barna. He was chairman of Motif tie manufacturers (ADB London Ltd.) and established the company in 1946. They specialised in the manufacture of company and club inscribed ties, trophies and other promotional schemes. One of his customers was Mrs Margaret Thatcher the Prime Minister.

He leaves a widow Christel and two daughters. The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium.

### NEXT ISSUE:

- **EUROPEAN TOP 12**
  - John Woodford reporting from Basle.

- **RICHARD EATON’S SECOND ARTICLE**

- **ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
  - Fiona Brown and John Woodford at Crawley.

- **STIGA SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3 STAR**
  - A Grand Prix update after Crawley.

- **THE WAY BACK**
  - Workshop Chairman Norman Davison with a success story from the East Midlands.

### Butterfly to sponsor Welsh Open

**Butterfly**, the world’s leading supplier of table tennis equipment, is to sponsor the United Kingdom’s top table tennis championship in 1987 the Butterfly Welsh Open, which is to be played at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff from the 1st-4th April.

The sponsorship valued at $30,000 (U.S.) enables the Welsh Association to invite all the world’s top national teams to participate. Already confirmed are Poland, whose team will include the holder of the men’s singles title — Andrzej Grubba, France with the very experienced champion Jacques Secretin, and England whose squad is likely to include both Desmond Douglas and Carl Preen.

Other de finites are European champions Sweden, and the former world champions Hungary, plus West Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Scotland, Ireland and of course the home country Wales.

Also likely to play are some of the major Asian countries. The Welsh and ITTF president H. Roy Evans, OBE, says: “I have been in the Far East recently and my discussions have led me to believe that entries from China and Japan will be forthcoming and I expect final confirmation of this at the world championships in New Delhi in February.”

**High point**

Butterfly see their sponsorship of the Welsh Open as being the high point of a complete support package for table tennis in the United Kingdom which includes a number of key player endorsements including Desmond Douglas, the clothing adoption by the national teams of Wales, England and Scotland, linkage with several leading club sides including the Schildkrot British League champions Steelstock Wolverhampton, the equipment support for over 100 domestic tournaments and sponsorship of several of this country’s leading youngsters.