

# 热烈欢迎 中国乒坛的朋友

North of  
England  
Select

v

Peoples  
Republic  
of China

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# **WELCOME . . . from the St. Helens & District Table Tennis League**

This is the first time that we on Merseyside have had the opportunity and privilege of being entertained, on our own doorstep, by the table tennis ambassadors of the People's Republic of China.

On behalf of the St. Helens & District Table Tennis League, and our distinguished guests, may I offer the Chinese players and officials a warm and sincere welcome.

As you are no doubt aware, Table Tennis is the No. 1 sport in the Republic of China with an almost unbelievable following and the players you will see tonight have reached the top echelon of a nationally organized system of selection, coaching, training and competition without parallel in the Western World.

We want tonight to be a happy and carefree occasion. The pressures and struggles of the World Championships are over and we are looking forward to seeing both the Chinese and British players at their uninhibited best. They are here to enjoy themselves and, I am sure, entertain us with spectacular and imaginative table tennis and I hope that you, the audience, will respond accordingly.

This is, for us, a memorable occasion. We hope also that our Chinese friends will take home with them fond and happy memories of their visit to Merseyside.

Alan R. Mercer, Organizing Secretary



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The St. Helens & District Table Tennis League gratefully acknowledge the support given in various ways by the following Companies and other bodies:

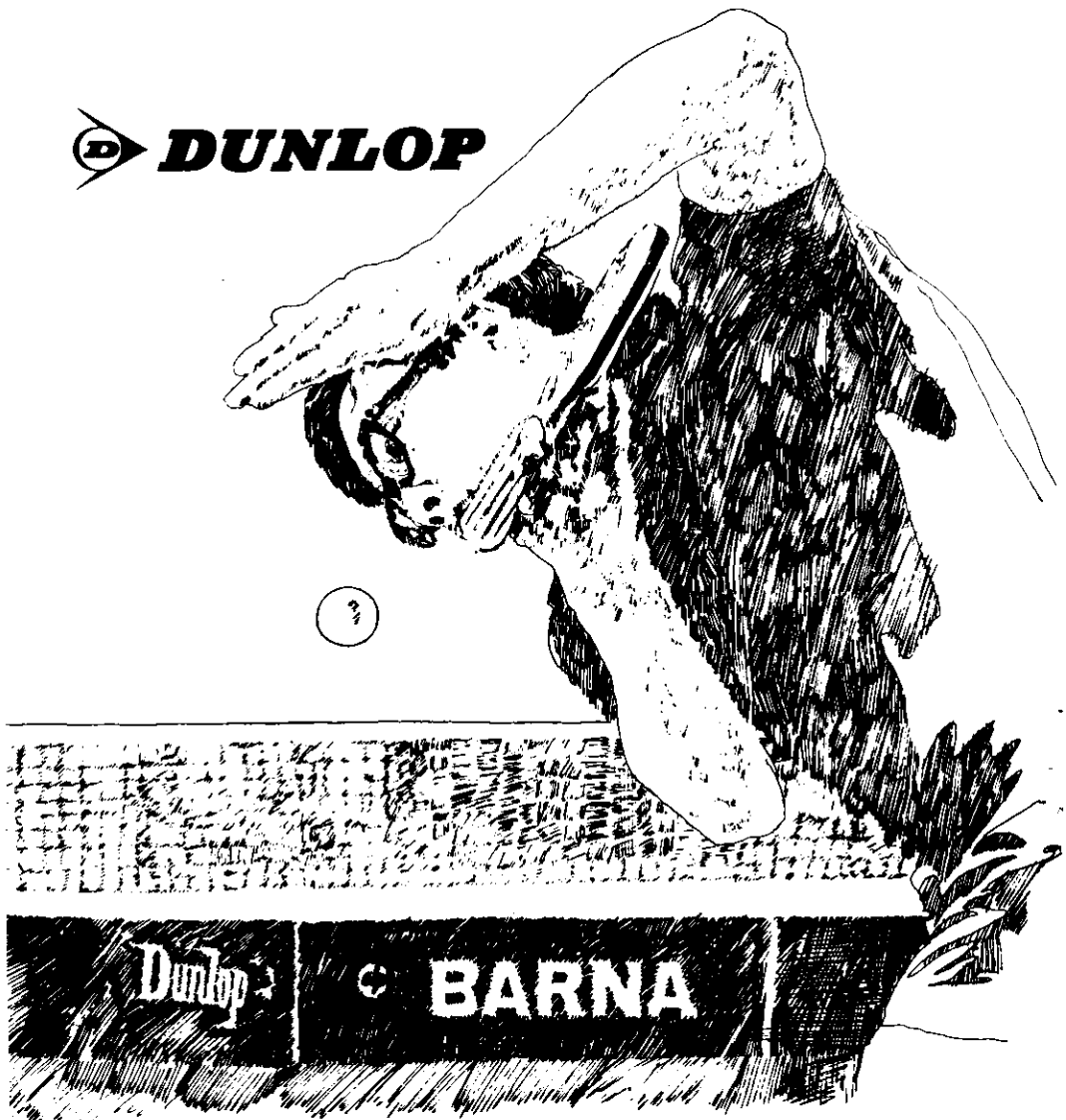
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Ocean Transport & Trading Limited welcomes our Chinese friends and congratulates them on their table tennis achievements.

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海陸上的中国同業们致候

# Meet the Chinese Team

(World Rankings at January 1977 shown in brackets)



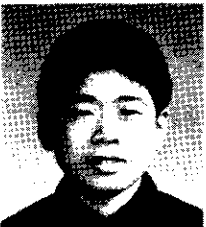
**Kuo Yueh-Hua (2)** Born 4/2/56 at Fukien and a student at Fukien Physical Culture Institute. Attacking pen-grip player and winner of 3rd Asian-African-Latin American Tournament and runner-up in Chinese National Championship.



**Liang Ke-Liang (3)** Born 5/5/50 at Kwangai, and a staff member of Physical Culture Dept of Peking Technical Training College. All-round orthodox player and principal member of Chinese winning team in 31st and 33rd Swaythling Cup World Team Event. Winner of Mixed Doubles title in 32nd World Championships.



**Li Cheng-Shih (6)** Born 29/10/49 at Liaoning. Staff Officer in Air Force. Attacking pen-grip player and principal member of Chinese winning team in 33rd Swaythling Cup. Winner of men's Singles in Welsh Open 1976.



**Huang Liang (12)** Born 20/3/54 at Honan. Teacher of Physical Culture in Loyang No. 1 Middle School. All-round orthodox player and principal member of men's winning team in 1975 Scandinavian Open.

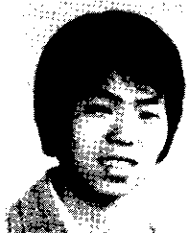




**Wang Hui-Yuan** Born 11/10/60 at Liaoning. Student at Shenyang No. 1 Middle School. Attacking orthodox player and winner of Chinese National Junior Championships 1975.



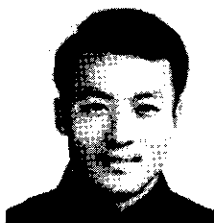
**Chang Li (2)** Born 3/5/51 at Shantung. Staff member of Chengchow Teachers Training College. Attacking grip player and winner of Ladies Singles in 3rd Asian-African-Latin American Tournament. Runner-up in Ladies Singles 33rd World Championships and member of Ladies Corbillon Cup-winning team. Winner of Ladies Singles in 1976 Asian Championships.



**Chang Te-Ying (4)** Born 1/7/53 at Shanghai. Graduate of Heiking Kiang University and a teacher. Attacking pen-grip player, runner-up in Ladies Singles in 1976 Asian Championships and 3rd in Chinese National Championships.



Left **Li Fu-Jung**  
(Team leader & Coach)



Far Left **Chuang Chia-Fu** (Coach)

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# MATCH PRO

The order of play will be decided by  
the names of the players will be

	Event	Umpire	North of England
<b>1</b>			
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			
<b>4</b>			
<b>5</b>			
<b>6</b>			
<b>7</b>			
<b>8</b>			



# Meet the North of England Team

## John Hilton

John is 29, a bachelor, and lives at Flixton, Manchester. He is currently ranked No. 4 in England and a member of the England World Championship Squad. He was the England No. 1 in the recent Commonwealth Championships in Guernsey where he reached the singles semi-final. In 1972 he represented Australia against the Chinese team touring Australia and his most recent tournament victories have included the Lancashire Open, the South Yorkshire Open and the Irish Open Championships.

## Susan Lisle

Susan is 23, has an Honours Degree in Education and teaches at the Selwyn Jones High School. She lives at Culcheth, Warrington and is currently ranked No. 8 in England and No. 1 in Cheshire. She has represented England many times at Junior and Senior level and has won over 20 Open Tournaments including two Senior titles whilst still a Junior. Susan is very much a modern player with an aggressive attacking game capable of demolishing most male egos.

## Wayne Percival

Wayne is 22, married and works as a Progress Chaser for B.I.C.C. Ltd. He lives in Frodsham, Cheshire and plays regularly in the St. Helens, Liverpool, Widnes and Warrington Leagues. He gained his place in tonight's event by taking the St. Helens League title to add to his victories in the Warrington and Widnes Championships and has this season achieved County honours with Cheshire. Wayne's star is very much in the ascendancy but he could never have dreamed when he took up the game five years ago, that he would ever meet the opposition he will face tonight.

## Donald Parker

Donald is a 20 year old bachelor, currently taking a degree in Physical Education at Loughborough College. He lives in Preston and is ranked No. 8 in England with over 20 international appearances, first appearing at Senior level against Hungary at the age of 16 and he was a member of the England team that toured China in 1974. He has won many Junior and Senior Tournaments and for the last three years has consistently featured in the top ten of the England Ranking List.

## John McNee

John is 21, unmarried and although now living in New Ferry, Wirral, is a Glaswegian by birth. He is currently ranked No. 2 in Scotland and has represented his country on many occasions including the recent World Championships. He won the Edinburgh and Glasgow Open Tournaments this season and in 1976 won the singles title in the Spanish Open. John displays an all-out attacking style with the occasional shot that is just not "out of the book".

## Denis Neale

Denis has featured so many times in the International Table Tennis scene that a full list of his successes and appearances would occupy this page and more. Suffice to say that at the age of 32, and with 16 years of international competition behind him, his reflexes are as sharp as ever, as he so well demonstrated recently against Desmond Douglas in taking the English Closed Championship for a record sixth time. Denis is a tremendous competitor with an explosive counter-hit on both wings and a surprisingly competent chop defence (for use in emergencies only).

# Table Tennis in China

(For this article we are indebted to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China).

Great changes have taken place since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the semi-feudal semi-colonial country has been transformed into a polarised country with initial prosperity.

Under the attention and care of Chairman Mao the great leader of the Chinese people, sports have also developed. They are no longer the amusement for a limited number of people, but have become the important means to the building-up of the people's health and an important component in helping the youth develop morally, intellectually and physically. The development of table tennis is a case in point.

The existence of table tennis in China dates back to the beginning of the century when some people began playing in Shanghai and other big cities. Since the founding of New China it has become one of the most popular sports, especially among the young. There are not only a great number of enthusiasts in factories, state enterprises, institutions and schools, but the game has also a great following in the vast countryside. In the Shanghai city-wide tournament in 1970 there were more than 600,000 participants. Of the 2,000 workers in a Peking chemical factory, 600 regularly play the sport. In a primary school in Chiangmen 90% of the pupils are table tennis players and the game has now become popular in Tibet. Each year the best players from all the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions send their best players to the National Championships and of the tens of millions who play the sport in China, many highly competent players emerge.

Coaching and development of players starts at primary school and many spare-time sports' schools have been set up throughout the country to provide comprehensive and systematic training. In 1953 when for the first time China

entered the world championships they came fourth in their groups in the mens and ladies teams championships and non survived the fourth round of the individual events. However, between 1959 and 1975 Chinese players took part in seven world championships and took 21 titles from seven events and 16 runners-ups from six events.

In international matches Chinese sportsmen firmly implement Chairman Mao's principal of "friendship first, competition second." They consider victory and defeat as temporary, whereas friendship is everlasting. Through contests with players from the 5 continents, the Chinese table tennis players have increased their mutual understanding, friendship and unity, exchanged skills and made many friends.

The table tennis delegation of China has visited Japan (for the 31st world championships), Canada and the USA, Peru and Mexico, India (for the 33rd World Championships), many other African, Latin American, European and Asian countries and in so doing has not only furthered the growth of table tennis but also enhanced the unity and friendship among the people and players of the world.

At the 34th world championships in Birmingham, the Chinese players will display good sportsmanship, play to the best of their ability and strive for good results to win honour for the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua and for the great socialist motherland and will always remember the great leader and teacher Chairman Mao's instruction: "Be modest and prudent, not conceited or rash, adhere to the principle of friendship first, competition second," and continue to do their best to promote the friendship between the people and players of the countries of the world.

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# Where do we go from here . . . ?

by John O'Sullivan,  
Member of the  
National Coaching  
Committee and  
Lancashire County  
Coach.

It is not often that we on Merseyside are privileged to see table tennis of such a high calibre as will be displayed tonight by the Chinese and North of England teams.

Spectators to whom this match will be an introduction to the sport may wonder how players can reach this standard, and if it is possible for their children to attain a similar level.

Whilst it is true to say that Champions, by their very title, are in the minority, Juniors who show a talent for the sport and have the right kind of guidance from a good coach, can all reach a very high standard of ability.

One or two could even become Champions . . . . .

The problem is to provide enough good quality coaches to cater for the needs of an area the size of Lancashire and Cheshire.

There are coaching sessions held regularly in small pockets around the counties, but with the number of potential junior table tennis players running into a figure around 600,000 and the very few trained coaches available, the size of the problem is enormous.

Unfortunately, finding the coaches is more difficult than finding the players. It requires a person willing to spend many hours per week over a period of years to mould an eager beginner into a mature player and, eventually, a champion.

Nevertheless, there are always those who would like to become coaches, but with the shortage of training courses available for the student coach, especially in an area suitable for them to attend, and the occasional loss of coaches who do qualify, the difficulty remains.

Although the problems are many, they are not insuperable and for Juniors who are keen enough and willing to help themselves to some degree, coaching is available.

However, the appearance of players such as the Chinese team not only stimulates interest amongst the players, but can also produce a few more interested student coaches, which would then strengthen our position to ask for more training courses for coaches to be held in this area.

The strength of our junior players is becoming greater over a wider spectrum each year as shown in recent junior trials for county selection, which now involve play over an entire day, whereas only a short time ago the matter could be resolved in a couple of hours.

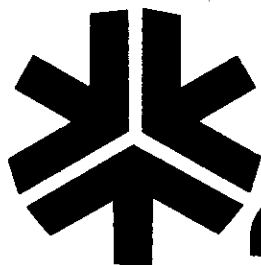
With this sort of improvement at junior level, we must be on the right path to higher and higher standards at senior level.

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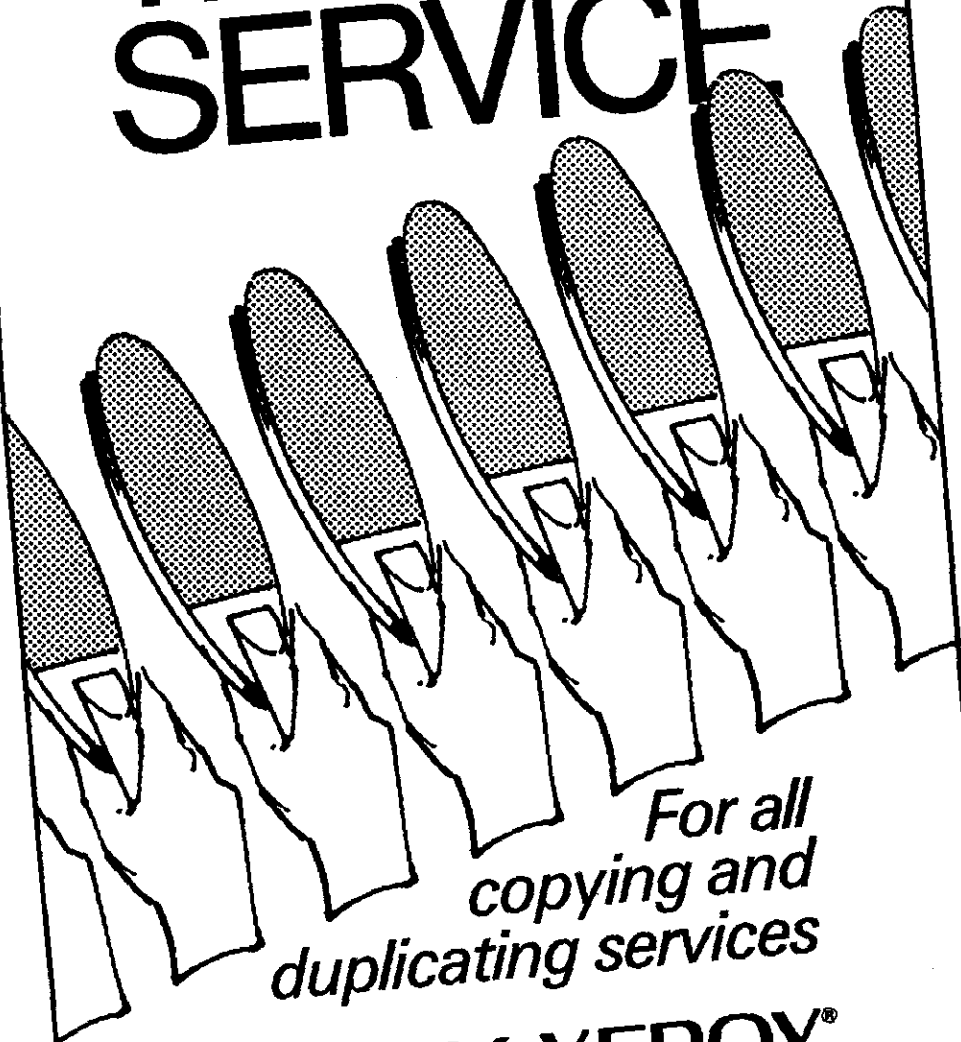
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