

Pick up your trusty quill

With activity centering, of late, on the attraction of new *Table Tennis News* subscribers no-one has ventured to tackle the question of contributions. Perhaps we can't see the *wood* for the trees but this magazine — the tool of the membership — is currently held together through the regular contribution of county press officers and a few hardy annuals.

I believe we still have more subscribers than contributors, marginal though it may be, and consequently appeal for your support, or criticism whichever the case.

Where are all the players? Surely subjects as close to your hearts as kit advertising and computer points are worthy of comment so let's hear it. Perhaps we should give a prize to the youngest contributor, I think I would win hands down at the moment and I am no spring chicken!

Here is one idea to get you thinking, do you want an England supporters club. Is there enough interest among the ranks to warrant organised travel to international events at home and abroad. Remember — copy date 12th September!

And now for the good news. Four medals from the European Youth Championships must surely be regarded as a success. Congratulations to the players and coaches involved — after all did we really expect to strike gold while many were still mourning the loss of Carl Prean from the junior ranks?

Worthy of note is the fact that the majority of England's young squad live well north of Watford, pray tell me where are the shining Southern starlets? Did you happen to see the Commonwealth Games? Silly question I suppose for we were all bombarded with it at peak viewing hours night after night. Good, bad or indifferent almost every event was covered — if only table tennis could be amongst them. Is it really sensible to hold our very own Commonwealth Championships which place an unwelcome financial burden upon the host association and excite only a moderate degree of press coverage. Perhaps the time has come to seek entry to the Commonwealth fold, after all we all hope for great benefits from our newly acquired Olympic status.



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European Youth Championship

Tykes Strike Gold in Belgium

George R. Yates reports

Yorkshire's Michael O'Driscoll of Mirfield and Chris Oldfield of Sheffield carried England's colours to final success in the Centre Sportif du Blocry, Louvain-la-Neuve when, on July 23, 1986 they emulated the deeds of Carl Preat and Billy Gleave in Topolcany in 1981 by winning the cadet boys' team event with a final 3-1 win over the Soviet Union.

Prior to, in five first stage matches, they had seen off Poland, Scotland, Greece, Holland and the Federal Republic of Germany, all without the loss of a set, and repeated the dosage in the second stage encounters with 3-0 victories against Sweden, Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Could they do it a ninth time in the final? That was the question — the answer being not without a struggle as was evident in the very first set when the phlegmatic O'Driscoll was beaten, -13, 18, -18 by the Soviet's Sergei Tiapkin.

But Oldfield, that veritable pocket battleship, put the boat back on an even keel with a 2-straight win, 18 and 19, over Dimitrij Gusev thence to line up with his fellow Tyke for the doubles.

And what a set this was with the English pair losing the first game -18, winning the second at 15, and then establishing a 20-14 lead in the decider only to lose seven points on the trot to be 20-21 down! But, with true Yorkshire grit, they emerged the winners at 29-27 in what was quite a pulsating set to say the least.

Nor was there to be an easy ride for O'Driscoll in his second singles encounter against Gusev who, after losing the first game -13 came back to win the second at 11. But the Russian's resistance crumbled in the decider with the Mirfield boy not disposed for another marathon 21-15 being the game, set and match winning statistic.

Meantime in the girls' team event bronze medals were to be England's achievement with Andrea Holt, Juliet Houghton, Claire Potts and Debbie Soothill sharing the glory.

The early stages provided a wide contrast in standards with the girls, inspired by a series of solid all round performances from Andrea, see-sawing between comfortable victories over Finland, Luxembourg and Greece to the more demanding efforts required against the Soviet Union and Italy. Romania put paid to our hopes of a gold or silver medal although there was further personal success for Kent's Juliet



Houghton when she earned England's solitary success against Hungary with victory over Szilvia Kahn.

And so to the second stage with a hard fought 3-2 win over Italy, Andrea (2 singles), Claire (1) and the doubles lost by Claire and Debbie, Claire going down to Alessandra Bottiglieri, a Sicilian. But Andrea and Claire together with Andrea and Juliet in the doubles got a 3-0 win over Greece.

What then of England's boys spearheaded by Jimmy Stokes with Matthew Syed, Bradley Billington and Adrian Dixon as teammates?

Everything started well with consecutive wins over Luxembourg, Austria and Romania for the loss of a mere 4 sets. Alas, this trend was swiftly reversed by the strong Yugoslav side under the leadership of Zoran Primorac, already an experienced senior international. With the score at 4-4 Bradley Billington came to the table to oppose Darko Jamsek, the latter having already lost to Syed and Stokes.

Jamsek won the first game at 19 but, in the second Bradley held a 20-15 lead only to be caught and eventually beaten 23-21 and the jubilant Yugoslavs were home 5-4 after a 4-hour marathon.

Returning to the table in under an hour the strain of the previous match took its toll and one win each for Stokes, Syed and Billington was all that we achieved in a 5-3 defeat in which Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive ran rampant.

A further defeat, at the hands of the much improved Belgian team, was followed by a return to winning ways against Denmark in the ultimate fixture and an eleventh place finish.

In the cadet girls' team event our threesome of Debbie Toole, Julie Billington and Kerry Hall achieved seventh position.

Much was expected in the ensuing individual events more especially from our two boy cadets but although O'Driscoll reached the final of the singles he

Michael O'Driscoll (L) and Chris Oldfield (R) celebrate their triumph in the cadet boys' team event with captain Paul Day.

had to content himself with runner-up spot and a silver medal, the gold going to Calin Creanga of Romania.

In the doubles, it was again a silver as the English pair came second best to David Stepanek and Frantisek Kanta of Czechoslovakia. Still, two silver when added to one gold and one bronze can be considered to be a fair haul in such company.

In the boys singles Jimmy Stokes led the English challenge. He had wins over Manfred Gsodam of Austria, Jan Gurtner of Switzerland and, memorably, Johan Falby of Sweden before being blasted off by Milan Grman of Czechoslovakia.

Three of the top four seeds failed to reach the semi-final stage with Zoran Primorac (1) losing to Thomas von Scheele of Sweden, the eventual winner, Jean-Philippe Gatién (2) going out to Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium the silver medalist, and Grman to the younger Mazunov, Dmitrij of Russia, last year's cadet singles winner.

Only Romania's Calin Toma survived this onslaught of the heirarchy and he too failed in his semi-final bid against the host country's pride and joy Saive who, in the final, ran out of steam against Sweden's Thomas von Scheele.

Second seed in the girls' singles was Otilia Badescu but she was an absentee leaving the field open to Csilla Batorfi who, in the final accounted for Ilka Bohning of Federal Germany a creditable winner in the semi's over Elena Timina of Russia.

Miss Batorfi picked up a second gold medal for Hungary when, with her compatriot Krisztina Nagy, the doubles title was annexed but in the boys' doubles Jorg Rosekopf and Steffen Fetzner proved worthy winners over Grman and Josef Braun of

Czechoslovakia. The joyful expression of new coach Zlatko Cordas was a sight to behold!

England's girls made little impression in their singles engagements, Debbie Soothill losing to Patricia de Groot of the Netherlands in Round 1 whilst, in Round 2, Juliet Houghton fell to Hungary's Szilvia Kahn; Andrea Holt to Renata Kasalova, after winning the first game, and Claire Potts to the No. 2 seed Emelia Ciosu of Romania.

No joy either for the cadet girls with Debbie Toole falling at the first hurdle to Alessia Arisi of Italy in Round 1 whilst in the second round Julie Billington went out to Lydie Godiche of France. Kerry Hall had wins over Laura Negrisoni of Italy and Gayret Isseven of Turkey before losing over three games to Russia's Olga Laposhina.

Inept performances in the other doubles events was countered by Matthew Syed's win in the consolation boys' singles in which he beat Peter Andersson of Sweden in the semi's and Frank Boule of the Netherlands in the final.

Leading team placings (previous positions in brackets)

Boys

- 1 Sweden (1)
- 2 France (2)
- 3 Czechoslovakia (9)
- 4 Yugoslavia (3)
- 5 Soviet Union (4)
- 6 Federal Germany (6)
- 7 Belgium (13)
- 8 Romania (8)
- 9 Hungary (7)
- 10 Italy (10)
- 11 England (5)

Girls

- 1 Czechoslovakia (1)
- 2 Romania (4)
- 3 Hungary (6)
- 4 England (15)
- 5 Soviet Union (3)
- 6 Yugoslavia (7)
- 7 Sweden (2)
- 8 Italy (11)
- 9 Federal Germany (5)
- 10 Holland (8)

Cadet boys

- 1 England (2)
- 2 Soviet Union (1)
- 3 Romania (3)
- 4 Belgium (8)
- 5 Hungary (4)
- 6 Yugoslavia (5)
- 7 Holland (10)
- 8 Sweden (6)
- 9 Czechoslovakia (9)
- 10 Federal Germany (7)

Cadet girls

- 1 Hungary (5)
- 2 Czechoslovakia (4)
- 3 Romania (1)
- 4 Yugoslavia (2)
- 5 Soviet Union (3)
- 6 Federal Germany (6)
- 7 England (7)
- 8 Belgium (10)
- 9 France (13)
- 10 Sweden (15)

European Youth Championships

Individual records in team events

Boys	Stokes	Syed	Billington	Dixon	F	A
Opponents						
Luxembourg	2-0	2-0	—	1-1	5	1
Austria	2-0	1-0	2-0	—	5	0
Romania	2-1	2-1	1-1	—	5	3
Yugoslavia	1-2	2-1	1-2	—	4	5
Belgium	1-2	1-2	1-1	—	3	5
Hungary	—	2-1	1-2	0-2	3	5
Denmark	2-0	1-1	—	2-1	5	2
	10-5	11-6	6-6	3-4	30	21

Girls	Holt	Potts	Hough- ton	Soot- hill	Pott/ S'hill	Holt/ H'ton	F	A
Opponents								
Finland	0-1	2-0	—	—	1-0	—	3	1
USSR	—	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	—	0	3
Luxembourg	1-0	1-0	—	—	1-0	—	3	0
Italy	2-0	1-1	—	—	0-1	—	3	2
Greece	1-0	1-0	—	—	—	1-0	3	0
Romania	0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	—	0	3
Hungary	—	—	1-0	0-2	0-1	—	1	3
	4-2	5-3	1-1	0-2	2-4	1-0	13	12

Cadet boys	O'Driscoll	Oldfield	O'Driscoll/ Oldfield	F	A
Opponents					
Poland	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Scotland	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Greece	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Holland	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
FR Germany	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Sweden	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Belgium	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
Yugoslavia	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0
USSR	1-1	1-0	1-0	3	1
	9-1	9-0	9-0	27	1

Cadet girls	Toole	Billington	Hall	Billington/ Hall	F	A
Opponents						
Greece	1-0	1-0	—	1-0	3	0
Turkey	1-0	—	1-0	1-0	3	0
Holland	2-0	1-1	—	0-1	3	2
Yugoslavia	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	0	3
Romania	—	0-2	1-1	1-0	2	3
USSR	—	1-0	0-2	0-1	1	3
Czechoslovakia	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	0	3
Belgium	1-0	1-1	—	1-0	3	1
	5-1	4-6	2-4	4-4	15	15

English results in detail

Junior boys team First stage

ENG 5 LUX 1 (Adrian Dixon b Bimmerman -18, 8, 18; Matthew Syed b Tomaszewski 18, 15; Jimmy Stokes b Hansen 19, 11; Dixon lt Tomaszewski -15, 18, -9; Stokes b Bimmerman 10, 11; Syed b Hansen 7, 12).

ENG 5 AUS 0 (Bradley Billington b Gsodam 11, 16; Stokes b Schuh 7, 11; Syed b Karnovski 16, 12; Stokes b Gsodam 19, 13; Billington b Karnovski 14, 17).

ENG 5 ROM 3 (Syed lt Ignat 17, -12, -15; Billington lt Calfin Toma -16, -19; Stokes lt Hetmann 14, -15, -20; Syed b Toma 19, -16, 15; Stokes b Ignat -21, 19, 18; Billington b Hetmann -13, 14, 15; Stokes b Toma 11, 17; Syed b Hetmann 9, 12).

Second stage

YUG 5 ENG 4 (Darko Jamssek lt Syed -13, -15; Zoran Primorac b Billington -14, 8, 14; Jaksic b Stokes 11, -15, 16; Primorac b Syed 19, 11; Jamssek lt Stokes 19, -7, -9; Jaksic lt Billington -19, -16; Primorac b Stokes 15, 16; Jaksic lt Syed -17, -13; Jamssek b Billington 19, 21).

BEL 5 ENG 3 (Vroonen lt Stokes 13, 12; J-M Saive b Billington 19, 15; Christophe lt Syed -16, -12; Saive b Stokes 12, 17; Vroonen b Syed 19, 19; Christophe lt Billington -21, -17; Saive b Syed 12, 14; Christophe b Stokes 23, 15).

Final stage

HUN 5 ENG 3 (Pgniczki b Billington 20, 20; Vitsek b Dixon 26, 14; Nemeth b Syed -15, 19, 14; Vitsek lt Billington -25, 12, -23; Pgniczki lt Syed 19, -10, -11; Nemeth b Dixon 14, 15; Vitsek lt Syed 17, -12, -14; Nemeth b Billington 11, 19).

ENG 5 DEN 2 (Syed lt Bentsen 7, 17; Dixon lt Petersen 20, -18, -18; Stokes b Sunn 8, 18; Dixon b Bentsen 18, -18, 19; Syed b Sunn 10, 14; Stokes b Petersen 9, 9; Dixon b Sunn 10, 10).

Junior girls team First stage

ENG 3 FIN 1 (Andrea Holt lt Malmberg -14, -11; Claire Potts b Komulainen 9, 18; Debbie Soothill/Potts b Malmberg/Komulainen 14, 19; Potts b Malmberg 8, -11, 11).

URS 3 ENG 0 (Komrakova b Potts 16, -20, 9; Timina b Houghton 5, 16; Komrakova/Medvedeva b Soothill/Potts 10, -18, 9).

ENG 3 LUX 0 (Holt b Bassing 11, 6; Potts b Regenwetter 10, 22; Potts/Soothill b Regenwetter/Schroeder 18, 13).

Second stage

ENG 3 ITA 2 (Holt b Moretti 20, 19; Potts lt Bottigliere -8, 13, -14; Potts/Soothill lt Moretti/Bottigliere -18, -17; Potts b Moretti 6, -19, 14; Holt b Bottigliere 11, 17).

ENG 3 GRE 0 (Potts b Zerdina 16, 15; Holt b Vasilogambros 13, 18; Holt/Houghton b Kalogianni/Zerdina 11, 7).

Final stage

ROM 3 ENG 0 (Lohr b Potts 11, 12; Sheler b Holt 15, 19; Ciosa/Lohr b Potts/Soothill 17, 9).

HUN 3 ENG 1 (Kahn lt Houghton -17, -17; Karadi b Soothill 13, 18; Kahn/Karadi b Potts/Soothill 18, 11; Kahn b Soothill 15, 6).

Cadet boys team First stage

ENG 3 POL 0 (Christopher Oldfield b Skierski 17, 10; Michael O'Driscoll b Kaczmarek 12, 9; Oldfield/O'Driscoll b Skierski/Kaczmarek -20, 10, 9).

ENG 3 SCO 0 (Oldfield b Bruce 12, 7; O'Driscoll b Walker 8, 11; Oldfield/O'Driscoll b Bruce/Walker 6, 6).

ENG 3 GRE 0 (O'Driscoll b Vlotinos 19, 6; Oldfield b Hantzis 8, 16; O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Vlotinos/Avrantinis 13, 10).

ENG 3 NET 0 (O'Driscoll b Heister 13, 11; Oldfield b Keen 10, 18; O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Heister/Geeraedts 11, 9).

ENG 3 FRG 0 (O'Driscoll b Hong 16, 12; Oldfield b Kaiser 10, -12, 24; O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Wosik/Kaiser 20, 17).

Second stage
ENG 3 SWE 0 (Oldfield b Pettersson 10, 14; O'Driscoll b Ferm 18, 20; Oldfield/O'Driscoll b Pettersson/Buza 13, -11, 16).

ENG 3 BEL 0 (Oldfield b Saive 10, -13, 15; O'Driscoll b Sonnet 19, 18; Oldfield/O'Driscoll b Saive/Sonnet 15, 15).

ENG 3 YUG 0 (O'Driscoll b Krkacic 8, 7; Oldfield b Gruic 17, -16, 16; O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Krkacic/Gruic 14, -14, 10).

Final stage
ENG 3 URS 1 (O'Driscoll lt Tiapkin -13, 18, -18; Oldfield b Gusev 18, 19; O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Tiapkin/Gusev -18, 15, 27; O'Driscoll b Gusev 13, -11, 15).

Cadet girls team First stage

ENG 3 GRE 0 (Julie Billington b Dandoula 13, 19; Debbie Toole b Toursonidou 10, 18; Kerry Hall/Billington b Dandoula/Lazaridou 13, -19, 10).

ENG 3 TUR 0 (Hall b Isseven 14, 14; Toole b Sedef 11, 19; Billington/Hall b Isseva/Sedef 18, 18).

ENG 3 NET 2 (Billington b Hendrickx 12, 15; Toole b Louws 15, 18; Hall/Billington lt Louws/Muller -18, 19, -13; Billington lt Louws -18, 19, -20; Toole b Hendrickx 18, 19).

YUG 3 ENG 0 (Ignjatovic b Toole 10, 13; Harca b Billington 20, 18; Ignjatovic/Harca b Billington/Hall 27, -19, 15).

Second stage

ROM 3 ENG 2 (Riscanu b Billington 17, -19, 19; Nastase lt Hall -18, 20, -20; Riscanu/Nastase lt Billington/Hall -18, 17, -15; Riscanu b Hall 16, -22, 8; Nastase b Billington -19, 11, 16).

URS 3 ENG 1 (Laposhina b Hall 12, -13, 8; Oshurko lt Billington -19, 16, -19; Laposhina/Oshurko b Hall/Billington 20, 18; Oshurko b Hall -11, 14, 15).

TCH 3 ENG 0 (Rampova b Hall -17, 20, 19; Spova b Billington 17, 15; Rampova/Sopova b Billington/Hall 15, -13, 15).

Final stage

ENG 3 BEL 1 (Toole b Charlier 13, 9; Billington b Decloux 11, -18, 18; Hall/Billington lt Charlier/Decloux -13, -15; Billington b Charlier 12, 18).

Individual results

Junior boys singles First round
Adrian Dixon (ENG) b Harry (WAL) 10, 13; Jimmy Stokes (ENG) b Gsodam (AUS) -19, 13, 13; Matthew Syed (ENG) b Jaksic (YUG) 18, 9; Bradley Billington (ENG) lt Alke (FRG) 20, 15.

Second round

Dixon lt Krmaschek (TCH) -18, 17, -19; Stokes b Gurtner (SUI) 10, 5; Syed lt Van Haren (HOL) -13, 21, -16.

Third round

Stokes lt Grman (TCH) -11, -10.

Final

Thomas Von Scheele (SWE) b Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) 14, 14.

Junior girls singles Qualifying round

Debbie Soothill (ENG) b Celletti (ITA) -20, 10, 14.

First round

Soothill lt De Groot (HOL) 9, 14; Juliet Houghton (ENG) b Wright (WAL) 13, 19; Andrea Holt (ENG) b Cullen (IRL) 10, 10. Claire Potts b Leroux (FRA) 12, -21, 11.

Second round

Houghton lt Kahn (HUN) -14, -17; Holt lt Kasalova (TCH) 21, -12, -7. Potts lt Ciosa (ROM) -16, -11.

Final

Csilla Batorfi (HUN) b Ilke Bohning (FRG) 16, 14.

Junior boys doubles First round

Jimmy Stokes/Adrian Dixon (ENG) lt Gurman/Moszynski (POL) -23, 11, -17; Krmaschek/Matthew Syed (TCH/ENG) b Dzinbanski/Lewandowski (POL) 12, 12; Bradley Billington/Josiassen (ENG/DEN) lt Irgens/Hognestad (NOR) -25, -20.

Second round

Krmaschek/Syed b Irgens/Hognestad 17, 18.

Quarter-final

Krmaschek/Syed lt Primorac/Toma (YUG/POL) -22, -11.

Final

Roskopf/Fetzner (FRG) b Grman/Braun (TCH) 20, 9.

Junior girls doubles Qualifying round

Claire Potts/Debbie Soothill (ENG) b Konopa/Klodnickai (POL) -18, 11, 18.

First round

Potts/Soothill lt Poljak/Noor 22, -13, -16; Andrea Holt/Juliet Houghton (ENG) lt Regenwetter/Schroeder -13, 14, -19.

Final

Batorfi/Nagy (HUN) b Kasalova/Davidkova (TCH) -10, 23, 12.

Junior mixed doubles First round

Christopher Oldfield/Debbie Soothill (ENG) lt Gusev/Oshurko (URS) -14, 11, -12; Jimmy Stokes/Claire Potts (ENG) b Kanta/Sopova (TCH) -19, 17, 22; Adrian Dixon/Juliet Houghton (ENG) lt Benko/Frelin (YUG) -6, -15; Bradley Billington/Julie Billington lt Boute/Keen (HOL) -14, -19; Michael O'Driscoll/Debbie Toole (ENG) b Gsodam/Zillner (AUS) 15, 14.

Second round

Stokes/Potts b Moszesinski/Konopa (POL) 19, 10; O'Driscoll/Toole b Auwarter/Reznik (FRG) -15, 6, 12.

Third round

Stokes/Potts lt Brainin/Melnik (URS) 19, -12, -12; O'Driscoll/Toole lt Markin Kevitch/Komrakova (URS) -18, -17.

Final

Grman/Kasalova (TCH) b Primorac/Ciosu (YUG/ROM) 20, 21.

Cadet boys singles First round

Michael O'Driscoll (ENG) b Tran (FRA) -18, 17, 12; Christopher Oldfield (ENG) b Cano (ESP) 19, 8.

Second round

O'Driscoll b Pons (ESP) 10, 9; Oldfield b Hantzis (GRE) 13, 18.

Third round

O'Driscoll b Krkalic (YUG) 6, 10; Oldfield lt Grujic (YUG) 18, -17, -18.

Quarter-final

O'Driscoll b Heister (HOL) 17, -20, 19.

Semi-final

O'Driscoll b Tiapkin (URS) 12, 16.

Final

Creanga (ROM) b O'Driscoll 10, -17, 15.

Cadet girls singles First round

Kerry Hall (ENG) b Negrisoni (ITA) -19, 13, 9; Debbie Toole (ENG) lt Arisi (ITA) -17, -15; Julie Billington (ENG) b Praedel (FRG) 17, 20.

Second round

Hall b Isseven (TUR) 14, 11; Billington lt Godicche (FRA) -10, -14.

Third round

Hall lt Laposhina 17, -14, -13.

Final

Wirth (HUN) b Arisi (ITA) 20, 18.

Cadet boys doubles First round

Michael O'Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (ENG) b Bruce/Walker (SCO) 15, 13.

Second round

O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Hong/Wosik (FRG) 18, 16.

Quarter-final

O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Quaglia/Ricc (ITA) 8, 13.

Semi-final

O'Driscoll/Oldfield b Hollo/Batorfi (HUN) 16, 15.

Final

Stepanek/Kanta (TCH) b O'Driscoll/Oldfield 12, -14, 10.

Cadet girls doubles First round

Debbie Toole/Hendrickx (ENG/HOL) b Negrisoni/Mattivi (ITA) 19, 10; Kerry Hall/Julie Billington (ENG) b Oth/Schroeder (LUX) 17, 15.

Second round

Toole/Hendrickx lt Wirth/Marosi (HUN) -17, -18; Hall/Billington b Rompova/Sopova (TCH) -16, -19.

Final

Wirth/Marosi b Nastase/Roscanu (ROM) 21, 21.

Consolation boys singles Final

Matthew Syed (ENG) b Frank Boute (HOL) 15, 16.

On, off and under the table

Dave Fairholm in charge of the cadets.....

It is every coach's dream to captain his country, fly Concorde, stay in a 5 star hotel and enjoy the accompanying prestige. Well, if that is what you think you're highly mistaken. Take the Cadet 6 Nation tournament for instance.

It began with the obvious notification from the selection committee and relevant details of dates, venues, hotels etc. plus the players who had been selected. From then on, we were on our own, we being Jackie Bellinger and myself. To keep costs to a minimum Concorde was rejected in favour of a trusty 4 year old 12 seater Ford mini bus!

The journey began on Thursday 5th June from Thatcham, Newbury and via Dunstable, Billericay for a stop over in Margate. This enabled us to engender the vital team spirit, as we would be eating, travelling and living and playing together for the next five days.

Home away from home

In Margate we stayed with Roy and Margaret Pugh (Roy a 2 star diploma coach and Margaret an ex-table tennis widow) who from past experience would act as mother to us all.

The stopover provided the first real opportunity to brief the squad, firstly checking their medication requirements (hay fever, asthma, diabetes), secondly their fitness. Any new injuries perhaps? Thirdly we collected passports, fortunately on this occasion every one had remembered them! Everyone was reminded that they were representing their

country 24 hours a day, both on and off the table until the moment they disembarked from the mini bus at Euston.

The squad consisted of two teams, the girls Debbie Toole, **Kerry Hall** and **Julie Billington** and the boys, Chris Oldfield, Damian Holland and Leigh Jeffries. We informed the debutants of the formalities, the official opening ceremony, the exchanging of pin badges, shaking of hands both before and after the game and also after the match. A more important point of discussion would be the tournament itself, the format, how many games they would be expected to play in a day, who would start the doubles and where, when and at what time could the players warm up and practice.

After this short meeting Jackie and I took the teams to their final practice in the local league headquarters which Harry Porter had arranged for our visit.

The knock itself is not a strenuous affair after all, as they say in soccer "We don't want to leave it all on the training ground". Once again, it is another opportunity to check fitness, loosen up and harness team spirit.

It was early to bed (I think) and ready for the drive to Dover, the ferry crossing to Osend and the four hour drive to Essen, Germany so accurately gauged by ETTA Deputy General Secretary Mike Watts not only a veteran, but a veteran of trips to Germany it would seem.

Mutiny on a Bounty

Damian left his mark by vomiting on the ferry crossing closely followed by the rest of the squad apart from yours truly, who by now had found his sea legs.

Ostend (Belgium), Holland and Germany here we come. With Jackie as my trusty navigator, I couldn't go wrong as long as I remembered to drive on the wrong, or should I say right, side of the road and put the clock forward an hour.

These journeys are never easy, and this was to be no exception as we were confronted by pouring rain, and road numbers that did not tally with our map. We arrived in Essen at 8.00 p.m. and had a swift knock to acclimatise to the conditions. Whilst the players were knocking, the captains attended the usual pre-tournament jury meeting. This is a meeting of team captains and officials to discuss the draw, the format, the rules and any late team changes. From there to a late, but very nice supper of snitzel, chips and salad in a quaint country pub. The hotel was pleasant and there was only one snag, they had the captains down to share a room, I didn't mind, but Jackie did! The players shared, boys in one room, girls in another.

From a captains point of view, the location was poor, with the hotel situated 10 miles from the venue. This meant those vital rest periods between matches, where you can turn to the peace and serenity of your hotel room, were not available. The consequence, entrenchment in the sports hall for over 12 hours at a time.

Early to bed

We were in bed at 11.00 p.m. and up at 7.00 a.m. and ready for the team photograph in the sports hall at 8.15 a.m. Once again, one of the many formalities that go with an international event. This has its advantages as it helps us to remember the true meaning of sport and friendship through competition.

At 8.30 a.m. the team captains were requested to control for the first of five draws. In this particular event, it was hardly crucial as each match was played on two tables, the next match taking place as a table became vacant whenever there was a resting player available from either side. This was the last chance to exchange good wishes as both Jackie and I, with our respective teams would not be coming into contact for the next 12 hours, apart from the occasional glance.

Over the next 2 days, our young warriors were involved in a total of 105 matches - averaging 17 sets each over the 12 hour sessions - a true marathon.

Captains must be aware of the tensions, anxiety and nerves that go with playing for your country and in this, Jackie has the benefit of having been in that situation. We were both aware that this was Leigh's first involvement at this level, whilst other rookies, Debbie Toole and Damian Holland were also making their England debuts, but had had the valuable experience of playing in the English junior open with the 'Jill Parker Foundation'.

L to R Jackie Bellinger (NPC), Dave Fairholm (NPC), Debbie Toole, Julie Billington, Kerry Hall, Chris Oldfield, Damian Holland, Leigh Jeffries.



Cadet Six Nation

A veteran at 14!

On the other hand, **Kerry Hall** by now was almost a veteran making her third appearance at this very event. For Chris Oldfield and Julie Billington, this was their second cadet six nations! Just for the record, this was my fourth C6N, my first trip included Jackie's sister Lisa in the team.

It was nice to reflect over the years how the tournament had grown in status as had the development of the participating countries.

The Swedes were a blend of mini Jorgen Persson's and Stellan Bengtsson's. France with their powerfully built players attacked from both wings and looked very 'old' cadets. The Germans were strong and steady. The Dutch boys were much improved and the Danes had been transformed from a 10-0 push over to a professional fighting unit, running most teams close and pinching a draw from our boys.

By Sunday evening the boys, considering their inexperience, had finished a respectable 5th. Chris had proven he was one of the outstanding players competing, Damian notched up a number of creditable victories and Leigh will no doubt treasure and build upon the experience. Pride of place went to our very well balanced girls, who for the second successive year finished as winners with an excellent all round team effort. Credit to **Kerry, Julie, Debbie** and not forgetting Jackie, who's leadership was truly first class.

The singles were an anti-climax with only Chris and Debbie reaching the quarter-finals.

Back at the hotel it was time for the players to meet socially and the captains to replay every match, and in some instances, every point.

Gifts, telephone numbers and addresses were exchanged as each team packed their bags and headed for home. The English were to be the last away the following day, so we could say our good-byes to all.

Once again, off to bed at 11.00 p.m. and up at 7.00 a.m. for the long drive home. The journey was without incident as players chose to sleep rather than talk or observe the passing scenery. Even my navigator Jackie, fell asleep clinging to our map.

And now for the bad news

A short meeting was held on the ferry, whilst we de-briefed the players as to how we viewed the event and their individual performances. Recommendations for

closed season practice were made to each of the squad and at this stage, players were informed of their moral duty to pass on their experiences and information received from their captains to their parents, coaches and local officials who have all helped in various ways towards their overall development.

After seeing everyone off at Euston at 8.00 p.m. I travelled the last 60 miles to Thatcham alone, bringing the total mileage to 1,000. There I was met by my patient wife Cheryl and my 8 week old daughter Elisha. She had changed so much in those 5 days which would be lost forever, the price every one pays whose job takes them away from home.

A quick clean of the mini-bus and it was back to the comfort of my Orion. As the time slipped past midnight and into Tuesday I walked through the door to hear the phone ring. "Been away again?" the caller asked "Germany was it this time?" he enquired, "Cor, you've got an easy life! thought I'd ring around midnight, I normally catch you in then" he added.

Yes, I was well and truly back home.

Boys team

SWE 6 ENG 4 (Thomas Buza lt Damien Holland 10, -19, -18; Magnus Petersson b Leigh Jeffries 10, 14; Roger Andersson lt Chris Oldfield 11, -14, -12; Petersson b Holland 18, 15; Buza lt Oldfield -10, -18; Andersson b Jeffries 14, 12; Buza/Petersson b Holland/Oldfield 20, 15; Petersson b Oldfield 15, 11; Andersson lt Holland 14, -20, -12; Buza b Jeffries 6, 13).

ENG 5 FRA 5 (Holland lt Cyrille Laurent -16, -20; Oldfield b Nicolas Andre 14, 14; Jeffries lt Thien Tan Tran -15, -14; Oldfield b Laurent -17, 14, 10; Holland lt Tran 18, -18, -22; Jeffries lt Andre -19, -17; Holland/Oldfield lt Laurent/Michel Bratschi -16, -12; Oldfield b Tran -19, 18, 17; Jeffries b Laurent 10, 18; Holland b Andre -19, 16, 19).

FRG 8 ENG 2 (Jochen Kaiser lt Oldfield -19, -15; Joseph Hong b Jeffries 10, 11; Torben Wosik b Holland 15, 16; Hong b Oldfield 19, -16, 13; Kaiser b Holland 10, 9; Wosik b Jeffries 13, 12; Kaiser/Javoslav Kunz b Oldfield/Jeffries 14, 14; Hong b Holland 10, 16; Wosik lt Oldfield -15, -15; Kaiser b Jeffries 16, 15).

HOL 7 ENG 3 (Trinko Keen lt Oldfield 18, -16, -18; Bruijn lt Holland -19, -17; Danny Heister b Jeffries 19, 11; Keen b Holland 16, 12; Heister lt Oldfield -17, -17; Bruijn b Jeffries 13, 10; Heister/Jochen Geraerds b

Final table (boys)	P	W	D	L	F	A
Federal Germany (FRG)	5	4	1	0	35	15
Holland (HOL)	5	4	0	1	35	15
France (FRA)	5	2	1	2	21	29
Sweden (SWE)	5	2	1	2	27	23
England (ENG)	5	0	2	3	19	31
Denmark (DEN)	5	0	1	4	13	37

Final table (girls)	P	W	D	L	F	A
England (ENG)	5	4	0	1	35	15
France (FRA)	5	3	1	1	33	17
Federal Germany (FRG)	5	3	1	1	32	18
Sweden (SWE)	5	3	0	2	31	19
Holland (HOL)	5	1	0	4	16	34
Denmark (DEN)	5	0	0	5	3	47

Holland/Oldfield 14, 11; Heister b Holland 21, 18; Keen b Jeffries 6, 9; Bruijn b Oldfield 18, -18, 19).

ENG 5 DEN 5 (Oldfield b Jesper Bruun 18, 20; Jeffries lt Jesper Hestbaek -8, 18, -14; Holland b Kim Hoegsberg 12, 10; Oldfield b Hestbaek 15, 13; Holland b Bruun 19, 17; Jeffries lt Hoegsberg -15, -19; Holland/Jeffries lt Hoegsberg/Hestbaek -16, -19; Holland lt Hestbaek -15, -10; Oldfield b Hoegsberg 20, 20; Jeffries lt Bruun 20, -14, -16).

Girls team

ENG 10 DEN 0 (**Kerry Hall** b Trine Skov 9, 14; **Julie Billington** b Annette Sorensen 13, 17; Debbie Toole b Pernille Gran 11, 15; **Billington** b Skov 6, 13; **Hall** b Gran 12, 13; Toole b Sorensen 8, 16; **Hall/Billington** b Skov/Gran 17, 12; **Billington** b Gran 10, 11; Toole b Skov 20, 15; **Hall** b Sorensen 10, 13).

ENG 6 SWE 4 (**Billington** b Maria Holen 13, -16, 19; Toole b Helen Gustavsson 11, -19, 13; **Hall** lt Pernilla Petersson -13, -13; **Billington** lt Gustavsson -18, 10, -18; **Hall** b Holen 12, 10; Toole lt Petersson 16, -20, -13; **Hall/Billington** b Gustavsson/Petersson -19, 19, 16; **Hall** lt Gustavsson -17, -14; **Billington** b Petersson 11, 17; Toole b Holen 15, 14).

ENG 6 FRG 4 (**Hall** lt Christiane Praedel -6, 19, -9; **Billington** b Michaela Kommeter 12, 19; Toole b Birgit Schmude -21, 14, 18; **Billington** lt Praedel -11, -14; **Hall** b Schmude 19, 19; Toole b Kommeter 13, 6; **Hall/Billington** lt Schmude/Praedel -14, -18; **Billington** lt Schmude -18, -11; Toole b Praedel -11, 19, 18; **Hall** b Kommeter 15, 21. **FRA 6 ENG 4** Celine Rouviere lt **Hall** -17, -19; Marie-France Thill lt **Billington** -17, -15; Lydie Godiche b Toole -13, 19, 20; Rouviere b **Billington** 17, 24; Godiche b **Hall** 16, 16; Thill lt Toole -16, -17; Rouviere/Godiche b **Hall/Billington** -13, 12, 16; Godiche b **Billington** -20, 11, 19; Rouviere b Toole 14, 14; Thill lt **Hall** -17, -13).

ENG 9 HOL 1 (**Hall** b Renate Louws 15, -20, 13; **Billington** b G Hendriks -20, 16, 14; Toole b Melesa Muller 14, 7; **Billington** b Louws 16, 8; **Hall** b Muller 13, 14; Toole b Hendriks 8, 12; **Hall/Billington** b Hendriks/Muller -15, 13, 13; **Billington** b Muller 13, 10; Toole lt Louws 17, -18, -18; **Hall** b Hendriks 12, 12).

Individual events

Girls singles

Second round

Hall b Michaela Kommeter (FRG)

Billington b Ase Svensson (SWE)

Toole lt Christiane Praedel (FRG)

Third round

Hall lt Helen Gustavsson (SWE)

Billington lt Lydie Godiche (FRA)

Notes: Helen Gustavsson seeded No. 1

Lydie Godiche eventual winner

Boys singles

First round

Chris Oldfield bye

Damien Holland lt Jochen Geraerds (HOL)

Leigh Jeffries lt Cyrille Laurent (FRA)

Second round

Oldfield b Bruijn (HOL)

Third round

Oldfield lt Michel Bratschi (FRA)

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Albert Shipley in Port of Spain

No, it is not a printer's error but the seventh staging of the 555 World Cup which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from the 7th to 10th July, 1986 and was again sponsored by the British American Tobacco Company. My presence in Trinidad was for the purpose of giving a short course of instruction to the local umpires and to provide commentary for the final stages of the television recording.

For the four nights of the tournament, every seat, stairway, gangway and rafter of the stadium at the Jean Pierre complex was packed to capacity and a noisy and enthusiastic appreciation was shown throughout all four sessions of play.

The format of the event was once again sixteen players made up of six continental champions, nine top world ranked players plus the local champion, playing a first stage of four groups of four, the winners and runners-up in each group going forward to contest the top eight places.

There were very few surprises in the group play; the European players struggled to find their touch not having played competitively for nearly two months. Andrzej Grubba (POL), having beaten the European champion Jorgen Persson (SWE) in his group, was unlucky enough to be drawn against world champion Jiang Jialiang (CHN) in the quarter finals. Mikael Appelgren (SWE) lost to the world No. 2 Chen Longcan (CHN) at the same stage, thus ending European interest in the top four places.

The two Chinese players, coached by the 1973 world champion Hsi En-ting, duly reached the final but as so often happens when two players from the same country meet, the competitive edge was lost. The steady play of Chen overcame a very subdued Jiang and for the third consecutive year the World Cup trophy returned to China, this time accompanied by \$24,000 (U.S.) in prize money.

I shall remember Trinidad for the enthusiasm of its audience, the heat and humidity (it was the start of the rainy season), the comfort of the Hilton Hotel, the scenery and the American TV programmes which made our ITV look quite genteel.

Results: (early rounds best of 3 games quarter-finals, semi-finals and final best of 5 games)

Group A
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) b Tommy

Danielsson (AUS) 15, 18; b Eric Boggan (USA) 9, 14; b Kim Wan (KOR) - 16, 13, 15; Kim Wan b Boggan 18, 16; b Danielsson 20, -20, 12; Danielsson b Boggan -20, 12, 13.

Group B
Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN) b Andrzej Grubba (POL) 23, 18; b Jorgen Persson (SWE) 16, -14, 18; b Nigel Christopher (TRI) 12, 11; Grubba b Christopher 7, 21; b Persson 14, 15; Persson b Christopher 9, 10.

Group C
Lo Chuen Tsung (HKG) b Atanda Musa (NIG) 14, 11; b Dragutin Surbek (YUG) 13, -21, 21; b Mikael Appelgren (SWE) 11, 18; Appelgren b Surbek 11, 12; b Musa -18, 17, 16; Musa b Surbek -21, 9, 19.

Group D
Chen Longcan (CHN) b Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) 13, 15; b Claudio Kano (BRA) 18, 11; b Kim Ki Taek (KOR) -15, 17, 19; Saito b Kim Ki Taek 18, 12; b Kano -16, 15, 10; Kano b Kim Ki Taek -18, 17, 18.

For positions 13-16:
Kim Ki Taek b Surbek 16, 15
Boggan b Christopher 16, 11
Kim Ki Taek b Boggan -22, 23, 17
Surbek b Christopher 9, 17

For positions 9-12:
Persson b Danielsson 18, -15, 14
Kano b Musa 9, -21, 20
Persson b Kano 19, -12, 20
Danielsson b Musa 16, -18, 14

For positions 1-8:
Jiang Jialiang b Grubba 20, -15, 12, 20
Kim Wan b Miyazaki -24, 11, 14, 21
Lo Chuen Tsung b Saito 13, 20, 13
Chen Longcan b Appelgren 16, 19, 23
Grubba b Miyazaki 14, 17
Appelgren b Saito 24, 16
Saito b Miyazaki 13, -20, 20
Appelgren b Grubba 13, -18, 19

Semi-finals:
Jiang Jialiang b Kim Wan 6, 16, 18
Chen Longcan b Lo Chuen Tsung 10, 10, -17, 16

For positions 3-4:
Kim Wan b Lo Chuen Tsung 18, 16
Final:
Chen Longcan b Jiang Jialiang 18, -12, 18, 15

Final placings:
1 Chen Longcan (CHN); 2 Jiang Jialiang (CHN); 3 Kim Wan (KOR); 4 Lo Chuen Tsung (HKG); 5 Mikael Appelgren (SWE); 6 Andrzej Grubba (POL); 7 Kiyoshi Saito (JPN); 8 Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN); 9 Jorgen Persson (SWE); 10 Claudio Kano (BRA); 11 Tommy Danielsson (AUS); 12 Atanda Musa (NIG); 13 Kim Ki Taek (KOR); 14 Eric Boggan (USA); 15 Dragutin Surbek (YUG); 16 Nigel Christopher (TRI)

Olympic sport aid

The Sports Aid Foundation is to administer the allocation of training grants under the Minet Olympic awards scheme announced recently. Minet have provided £1½m towards the preparation of Britain's potential Olympic representatives for the 1988 games. Individual yearly awards range from up to £5,000 for those considered likely to win an Olympic medal and up to £2,500 for competitors expected to perform with distinction. For sportsmen who are expected to be selected for Britain's Olympic team, the yearly minimum of £400 is available.

STIGA

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Capital Bank US Open

The Championships, held in Miami, Florida, from 11th to 15th June, 1985 attracted over 500 participants writes *USTTA press officer, Malcolm Anderson*. Of these, nineteen held a current world ranking. Although thirty four nations were represented the Peoples Republic of China won 6 of the 7 major events, losing only the mens doubles.

Mens team final

CHN 3 JAP 0 (Chen Zhi Bin b Kiyoshi Saito 12, 19; Teng Yi b Juzo Nukazuka -17, 16, 18; Chen/Teng b Saito/Nukazuka 11, -17, 18).

Womens team final

CHN 3 KOR 0 (Geng Li Juan b Lee Kyung Ae 12, 16; Xu Yan Hua b Back Soon Ae 16, 19; Geng/Xu b Lee/Back 16, -24, 14).

Mens singles

Final: Teng b Kriston 17, -22, 15, 10.

Womens singles

Final: Xu b Baek -18, 22, 6, -19, 16.

Mens doubles

Final: Mukazuka/Saito b Klampar/Kriston 20, 18.

Womens doubles

Final: Geng/Xu b Hosokawa/Yamada 16, 16.

Mixed doubles

Final: Fan Xu b Chang/Lin 11, -16, 20.



Winner of the men's singles, China's Teng Yi. (Malcolm Anderson USTTA)



There were no English players in Miami but ETTA international umpires Jack Melnick (L) and Doreen Stannard (R) enjoyed a reunion with former colleague Ralph Spratt, now a US resident. (Malcolm Anderson USTTA)

Stiga stars

The top 10 male and female players who have earned their place in the 1986 Stiga National Top 12 were revealed in the latest Lentec computer ranking lists. The final four players, who will receive wild card entries, are yet to be nominated by the National Selection Committee.

The Stiga National Top 12, which takes place from Friday 10th October to Sunday 12th October 1986 at the Soham sports centre, Cambridgeshire, has already aroused media interest on two counts. Multi-coloured equipment is to replace the normal dark green and white colour schemes and, for the first time, a new scoring system has been adopted. All games will be up to 11 points instead of the traditional 21.

Defending their titles in Soham will be Desmond Douglas and Alison Gordon. In the 1985 event Douglas succeeded in winning all 11 of his matches in this round robin competition.

New sponsors Stiga, the Swedish based equipment manufacturers, have generously provided a £2,100 prize fund as part of their overall sponsorship of the event.

Tables for the Stiga National Top 12 are now being specially prepared by craftsmen in Sweden and will be delivered to the Soham Centre under the personal supervision of Simon Hobson, Sales Manager of Rodan UK, the distributors of Stiga equipment in this country.

Players assured of their place in the *Stiga National Top 12*:

Men

Desmond Douglas (Birmingham)
Carl Preat (Ryde)
Alan Cooke (Chesterfield)
Skylet Andrew (London E15)
John Souter (Neasden)
Jimmy Stokes (Reading)
Nicky Mason (Bexhill)
Graham Sandley (Potters Bar)
David Wells (Milton Keynes)
Andrew Syed (Reading)

Women

Lisa Bellinger (Dunstable)
Joy Grundy (Preston)
Alison Gordon (Reading)
Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton)
Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury)
Jackie Bellinger (Dunstable)
Jill Harris (Walsall)
Jean Parker (Preston)
Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge)
Suzanne Airey (Grantham)

Eckersley overcomes Scottish challenge



The Cheshire 2-star, which is one of the main events of the Altrincham festival, once again proved to be a popular attraction on Sunday, 8th July, reports organiser Syd Fryer.

Nigel Eckersley, in retaining his title, required all his skill to overcome Scottish No. 1 David Hannah, the No. 1 seed, in the semi-final and to foil the bid of local star Tony Taylor in a repeat of last year's final.



Eckersley in action.
Steven Line 0273 738321

In the womens singles last year's losing finalist, Christine Peacock, went one better this year. The defending champion Doreen Schofield, the reigning national ladies veteran champion, bidding to take the title four years running, was on the day halted by the youthful skills of rising Cheshire star Lynn Harrison.

The Class 3 mixed singles proved to be a most popular event. Restricted to players not ranked in the top 200 in England, Tony Worthington, aiming to emulate his Timperley Civil Service team-mate Mike Owen, last year's winner, served and smashed his way through seven rounds, only to be pipped at the post by G. Bryan of Grantham 23-21 in the third game of the final.

Former world veteran doubles champions, Matt Shearer and Derek Schofield, who with other competitors had come direct from

the veterans world championships in Rimini, provided a fine exhibition in the final of the veterans singles that rekindled memories of the past, on this occasion Matt ran out the winner. Former singles title holder Phil Bowen and Tony Taylor deputising for the unfit former European Champion, John Hilton (who nevertheless played and practised with local youngsters), proved too strong for Andy Leigh and his substitute partner Nick Williams.

In the absence of holders Andrew Ball (Wakefield) and Debbie Toole (Normanton) on international duty, Cheshire "Player of the year" Jonathan Taylor took both junior and cadet titles to add to his semi-final placings in both the doubles and the mixed class 3 singles.

Results

Mens singles: Semi-finals - Nigel Eckersley (Ch) b Dave Hannah (SCO) - 15, 14, 14; Tony Taylor (La) b Eddy Smith (Nd) 11, 17. **Final** - Eckersley b Taylor 17, - 14,

18. Womens singles: Semi-finals - Christine Appelby (La) b Karen Burrows (Y) 11, 19; P. French (Ch) b J Hunt (Wo) 11, 11. **Final** - Appelby b French 8, 17. **Open doubles: Semi-finals** - Andy Leigh/N. Williams (La/WAL) b Terry Taylor/Jonathan Taylor (La) - 11, 16, 14; Tony Taylor/P. Bowen (La) b Eckersley/Matt Shearer (Ch/Li) 13, 11. **Final** - Taylor/Bowen b Leigh/Williams 14, 16. **Class 3 mixed singles: Semi-finals** - G. Bryan (Li) b J. Taylor 18, 10; T. Worthington (La) b A. Hare (Wa) 18, 19. **Final** - Bryan b Worthington 14, - 17, 21. **Veterans mixed singles: Semi-finals** - Derek Schofield (La) b Brian Allison (Li) 18, 19; Matt Shearer (Li) b K. Powell (Ch) 9, 9. **Final** - Shearer b Schofield - 23, 19, 17. **Junior mixed singles: Semi-finals** - J. Taylor b W. Renton (La) 20, 12; M. Harvey (St) b N. Carr (Y) 15, 13. **Final** - Taylor b Harvey 7, 10. **Cadet mixed singles: Semi-finals** - J. Taylor b Steven Grassick (Mi) 18, 17; P. Grance (Y) b Mark Stevenson (Y) - 15, 20, 18. **Final** - Taylor b France 18, 13.

Olympic Award

England number 2 Carl Preat received worthy recognition for his junior performances during 1985 when he was awarded with the British Olympic Association's 'Year of Youth' trophy at a recent luncheon. Carl won the BOA nomination, ahead of young stars from many established Olympic sports, as a result of his victories in the 1985 European Junior Top 12 and European Youth Championships. The award for the most promising performance by a young female athlete went to ice skater Joanne Conway.



Carl Preat and Joanne Conway pictured after receiving their awards from Charles Palmer, Chairman of the British Olympic Association.
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Alec Brook

Wins for Civil Servants

Competitors from as far afield as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland took part in the 55th national finals of the Civil Service Table Tennis Championships, sponsored by Grants of St James's, at Crystal Palace on Friday 18th April writes Mike Loveder.

However, of the six events contested, one was won by the North West region, one by the East Midlands region and, for the second year running, four events were won by the London region.

This year saw an unusually predictable mens singles event. Both Richard Beckham, the defending champion, and Nicky Standen, the No 2 seed from South East region, duly reached the final relatively untroubled. Standen's combination bat blocking game was unable to contain Beckham's power shots and the London region player recorded another two straight wins for his hat-trick of victories on the day.

It was the womens singles which turned out to be the most spectacular event, where "demolitions" needed to be seen to be believed.

No 2 seed, Sally Weston (South East), showed some of her potential when she destroyed Helen Shields (Yorks & Humbs) by the remarkable scores of 21-18, 21-10 at the semi-final stage. Weston probably recognised the need to play particularly well when she witnessed some of the results in the other half of the draw.

Here, Christine Appleby (nee Peacock, of the North West), currently ranked at England No 72, had caused a series of shock results and she must have wished it was a 3-Star tournament with all the computer points she could have earned!

In the early rounds she beat Pauline Long (Northern) 21-8, 21-6. Not satisfied with this she went on to beat the England No 53, Joanne Pettit (nee Palmer), of the Eastern region 21-9, 21-10.

But then followed her most astonishing result when she played Jane Barella (London) in the semi-final. Barella, who was fresh from having beaten the England No 3 Alison Gordon in the South of England 3-Star, was unable to read Appleby's combination bat defence.

When the game was slowed down Appleby attacked well too and she won 21-7, 21-7. Weston appeared to learn something from Barella's mistakes and put up a very determined fight in the final which was far less straight forward for Appleby.

Weston varied her game, showing as much patience as her



Civil service triple champion Richard Beckham.

opponent. However the defender's perseverance saw her through 21-23, 21-10, 22-20. It is encouraging to see that there are still young defenders coming through!

The veterans singles was reintroduced this year and it replaced the intermediate boys singles. There were four times as many veterans this year as there were under 21's last year.

In a couple of unexpected results Alan Timewell (North West) overcame the No 1 seed Maurice Cheek (Northern) in two straight games in the semi-final and the No 2 seed, Phil Newton (London), was very narrowly defeated in his semi-final against Alan Jesson (East Midlands) 21-16, 20-22, 19-21.

It was Jesson's combination of long and short pimples which seemed to unsettle the No 2 seed and in the final, he further illustrated his appetite for close games by beating Timewell 21-19, 22-20.

Steve Worsman and Helen Shields (Yorkshire & Humber-side), the holders and No 1 seeds of the mixed doubles, made an unexpected early exit in their semi-final against Andy Gray and Appleby of the North West region.

The No 2 seeds, Beckham and Barella (London), had a comfortable run in to the final. In the final it was largely Appleby's defence which caused her opponents some concern, but the London pair pulled through 21-16 in the third game.

The mens doubles saw Beckham, this time partnered by Peter Harry, cruising through to their final where they met Standen and Robin Williams (South East). The Beckham/Harry combination proved to be too fast and powerful and a two straight games victory was seen.

Another London region vic-

tory occurred in the womens doubles with Barella - this time partnered by Heather Payce-Drury - coasting to the final. They played with plenty of confidence as they had won the Surrey Closed womens doubles earlier this year.

But the event was not without one "upset" when Rita Bentley and Weston (South East), beat the No 2 seeds Shields and Jean Newton 19 in the third. The Surrey Champions were another fast and powerful pairing who could not be prevented from winning the final in two straight games.

Mens singles

Semi-finals

Nicky Standen b Dave Wright 15, 17; Richard Beckham b Graham Outrim 13, 19

Final

Beckham b Standen 13,17.

Womens singles

Semi-finals

Sally Weston b Helen Shields 8, 10; Christine Appleby b Jane Barella 7, 7.

Final

Appleby b Weston - 21, 10, 20.

Mens doubles

Final

Richard Beckham/Peter Harry b Nicky Standen/Robin Williams 16, 17.

Womens doubles

Final

Jane Barella/Heather Payce-Drury b Sally Weston/Rita Bentley 10, 17.

Mixed doubles

Final

Richard Beckham/Jane Barella b Andy Gray/Christine Appleby 15, - 18, 16.

Veterans singles

Final

Alan Jesson b Alan Timewell 19, 20.

Morris men — and women

The sixth under 12 and under 14 team events for the Shropshire Star shields were played at the Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on Saturday 7th June and Sunday 8th June reports John Morris. Once again a maximum entry was received for this unique event, with several unlucky entries having to be returned.

In preliminary group one of the under 12 event, holders Selby, posted notice of their strength, with comprehensive victories over Gloucester A, Milton Keynes and Launceston B, while group two saw St Ives edge out local team Pontesbury, with Stroud third and Butterfly fourth. A close affair between Dagenham and Grove, with the southerners 5-3 winners decided group three, while a powerful Launceston A inspired by England's leading Under 12 player, Neil Bevan, won group four ahead of Pontesbury B, Oldham and Gloucester B.

In the first semi-final Selby, led by Ellen Meddings, proved too strong for St Ives, winning by 7-1. In the second semi-final second seeds Launceston A narrowly lost

by 5-3 to the Dagenham team of J West, A Gower, L Radford and M Angus, with Angus taking the vital battle of the No. 4's deuce in the third. Selby powered their way into a 3-0 lead in the final before Radford and West took two for Dagenham, making the score 3-2. That however, was to be their last success, as Selby recovered to take the remaining games and complete a hat trick of wins in the event. The undoubted star of the Selby side was young Andrew Nicholls who, at only 10 years of age, has yet to be beaten in this competition.

A cracking entry in the cadet event saw a very powerful Pontefract, totally dominate group one from Butterfly, Milton Keynes and Oldham. Launceston did likewise in group two, while sets difference dictated that Wisbech were second, holders Sheffield third and Coventry fourth. Group three was a much closer affair, with Selby making the semi-final, after a titanic struggle against Grove. Newbury were third and the less experienced Hartlepool side fourth. In group four Thames Valley commenced with two comfortable 7-1 victories before having a real struggle to defeat Dagenham, inspired by Grant Solder, 5-3. St Ives were third and Stroud fourth.

The first semi-final illustrated Pontefract's strength in depth as they overwhelmed Launceston A, who were without Mark Bowden at No. 2. Neil Bevan's two wins were their sole victories in a 6-2 defeat. In the second semi-final Craig Smith recorded a thrilling victory over Graeme Connelly, but the young Selby squad were unable to maintain their challenge against four strapping lads from Thames Valley who triumphed 6-2.

The final provided a feast of good table tennis. Pontesbury's Nick Ryder, scored over Jeremy Krystyniak 1-0, Connelly out hit Graham Cook 1-1, Mark Stevenson outlasted Brian Gonsalves 2-1 while Alan Cole was just too strong for Joanne Roberts 2-2 at halfway. The crunch match came when Ryder edged out Connelly while Stevenson expertly took Krystyniak - 4-2 to the northerners. Cole snatched one back from Cook, but Joanne, the only girl in the trial, held her nerve in the last game to win the shield for Pontesbury at 14 in the third.

This tournament will be held again on Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th June 1987 and any association interested in participating is invited to contact the organiser John Morris, 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury. Tel: 0743 791340 (h) or 0743 790303 (b).

Strengthening foundations

Tom Blunn, ETTA Chairman

I would like to congratulate Fiona Brown and her team on the quality of the last issue of the magazine. I personally know of the amount of time that Fiona has put into the June/July issue both at the office and at home during the evening. It has made us all realise that being the editor is not a cushy job by any means — it requires dedication and time.

As regard content, I was very interested to note the early success of the eleven-up game. I am fully behind this experiment and hope the question of the sequence of service will soon be resolved. My own personal opinion favours either alternate or at the most a change after every two services.

The question of the dates of issue of the magazine has been dealt with now on several occasions and, as was anticipated, raised at the recent Annual General Meeting. Nobody is satisfied with the position and the matter was debated by the Management Committee and by the National Council. In spite of this obvious concern by the two most powerful committees, the dates of issue became worse rather than better. I do hope we can forget the matter of issue dates for this season and concentrate on fulfilling the obligations to subscribers next season by giving them the full eight issues on regular publication dates.

A letter from Brian Spicer was inserted with the last issue explaining that only seven issues were possible for 1985/86 and by use of a special subscription form, existing subscribers would be able to order the full eight issues of 1986/87 for only £7.

From a mercenary angle it will be seen that there were about three and a half pages of advertisements, which brought in £560. The cost of the issue, including editorial, distribution, postage and printing, will be about £3,650. Allowing one-eighth of total subscriptions, which comes to £1,650, it will be seen that the magazine is currently making a loss of about £1,400 per issue. I refer you to my article on this matter on page 11 of the last issue when I told you that negotiations for more advertising revenue had been completed but would not apply until the first issue of the new season, which would be October 1986. So, there is still

money to be spent to complete this last issue of the 1985/86 season.

Let us concentrate on sales as the next problem. If every county, on average, provided only ten more subscriptions per season it would bring in a further £3,000 per annum. The future of the magazine would be secure and there would be enough surplus to permit more pages and more reading material. It sounds so simple but it needs effort by every county. Why not try to help; it is easy to criticise but not as easy to be constructive.

Seminar south west

The third South West Development seminar took place at Torbay's Borough Council Hall Torquay on Sunday 22nd June reports regional co-ordinating committee chairman, Mike Lewis. Twelve leagues from six counties were represented and the ETTA development officer Fiona Brown was in attendance.

Sunday's programme included four major discussion topics: 'Establishing clubs in schools', presented by Mrs Brenda Russe; 'Table tennis for all', by Tom Honey; 'Communication, the problems' by Fiona Brown; and 'Raising finance for league development' from Peter Hancock.

The system of split discussion groups proved popular and enabled leaders to summarise many aspects of table tennis activities.

Fiona Brown's detail of the new Sports Council campaign 'What's your Sport' was well received and all agreed, a suitable vehicle for use in the promotion of greater communication in the South West.

One interesting decision agreed by the group led by Eric Wynn (Avon county chairman) was for a yearly meeting of league and county officials at a central venue to discuss mutual problems and pass on details of successful projects.

Altogether this was a worthy and successful day made so by the backing of those who attended, the ETTA for its support and financial aid, the South West Sports Council for its grant towards venue, administration and hospitality costs, and the speakers.



From L to R: ETTA Deputy Chairman George Yates, Alan Hydes from Dunlop Slazenger and Chris Jacques from John Jaques & Son Ltd.

Double dealing earns £160,000

Table tennis at all levels will benefit from the newly announced sponsorship in which Dunlop and John Jaques & Son will support the English Table Tennis Association to the value of £160,000 over the next eight years.

The two companies have jointly agreed to provide tables, nets, posts, surrounds, scoring machines and umpires' tables for the English open, the English closed and invitation or other televised events. The agreement will run from 1st September this year and will also cover the English junior closed and open tournaments. Dunlop and John Jaques are committed to the development of English table tennis from grass roots to championship levels.

Both companies now have the right to advertise themselves as official suppliers of equipment to the Association. Chairman Tom Blunn commented: "The ETTA are extremely pleased that two major forces in British sport have co-operated to provide a comprehensive package of sponsorship which will help to nurture the development of the game in this country".



Peter Hancock (centre) of the Launceston league leads a discussion group at Torquay.

Safety Service

The tragic accident in March when a 22-month old baby was crushed to death by a table tennis table in a toddlers' play centre prompted *Table Tennis News* to contact the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' new leisure safety service.

Table tennis tables are to be found in most schools, community halls, youth clubs and leisure centres throughout the country.

The sport is economic on space and has modest requirements of specialist equipment and clothing.

But the extensiveness and informality of participation can bring about a relaxed management approach to the game, a factor which may not be in the best interest of safety or the sport itself.

Table tennis does not immediately come to mind as being a potentially dangerous sport. However, injuries such as broken toes and sprained ankles are not uncommon and could be prevented by adopting some of the following safe practices:

Equipment

The use of any large item of equipment presents a problem of storage, handling and maintenance.

Ideally, storage space should be located adjacent to the hall in which the activity is to take place. The store room needs fire resistant doors, kept locked when the store room is not in use.

Table tennis tables should not be left blocking or impeding access routes, e.g. corridors, and under no circumstances in front of fire doors or entrances.

If equipment has to be left in areas open to members of the public then it is important that tables are properly secured so they cannot be knocked over.

Equipment should always be handled by members who are experienced and competent in its movement and assembly. The requirement for handling table tennis tables varies considerably with different makes of tables, however, the same rules apply:

i) Make sure there is a clear passage from the place of storage to the playing area. Check for any obstructions, spillages, closed doors, etc.

ii) Have sufficient pairs of hands available to manage the job....important in avoiding unnecessary strain when lifting.

iii) Plan a co-ordinated routine for assembly ensuring each person understands his own task and what other members of the group are doing.

Maintenance of equipment is an ongoing responsibility

necessary to avoid accidents and possible injury; it is not a matter of just doing repairs when something goes wrong! The equipment should be thoroughly checked on a regular basis paying particular attention to table tennis table legs and wheels. If equipment is found to be faulty don't be tempted to use it until repairs have been completed. Prop tables up and it could be your foot the table falls on!

Facilities

Table tennis should be played in a well lit and ventilated room. A sprung floor is ideal, but the game can be enjoyed on any flat surface that provides adequate grip.

It is important to keep the floor surface dust and moisture free to prevent slips. This can be achieved by regular cleaning and good ventilation.

If drinks get spilled during a game, stop play and mop up straight away.

There should always be sufficient clear space around the table to allow unhindered movement of players. Obstacles hidden "in the wings" of the room may not be obvious and can cause unexpected injuries.

The proximity of glass to the playing area is only acceptable if it is adequately protected by wall bars, for example or if the glass is specially toughened to withstand the impact of a falling person.

Clothing

While, in many non competitive situations, special clothing for playing table tennis is not essential, dress should always be comfortable and allow good mobility. It is important to wear flat shoes which give a good grip on the surface being used. Specialist table tennis shoes are ideal.

Supervision

Supervision of all sporting activities is recommended. This can be best achieved by an ETTA-qualified coach who can be instrumental in the acquisition of skill and adoption of safe practices. There should be a competent person available to deal with an emergency at all times.

Emergency Action

When preparing for emergencies anticipate the worst! It may be necessary to learn essential first aid to deal with an injury as quick remedial action can prevent long-term damage.

- i) Stop the activity immediately.
- ii) Protect and support the injured part.
- iii) Control bleeding. Cover the wound with dressing and apply pressure.
- iv) Control swelling. Bandage the injury, apply ice cold water and elevate the injured part.
- v) Treat the injured person for shock. Keep them warm and reassured.
- vi) Seek medical care and treatment.

Members should also be familiar with the emergency procedures of the premises they are occupying.

Safety plays an important role in the preparation for any physical activity. Table Tennis is no different to other sports, it presents its own hazards which need to be recognised and avoided.

Proper management of activities ensures the safety and enjoyment of those who participate.

This article was prepared by RoSPA's leisure safety department in conjunction with *Table Tennis News*. More about the departments' services and their subscription rates for membership can be obtained from RoSPA, Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS. Tel: 021-233 2461.

Members unfortunate enough to injure themselves playing table tennis might be interested in the book "Sports Injuries — a self-help guide" by Virgin Grisogono, published by John Murray, £7.95 - Ed.



What's your Sport?

'What's Your Sport?' is the next big campaign by the Sports Council to get the nation off its backside and into sport. The new campaign is to build upon previous Sports Council campaigns which, over the past decade, have been targeted at specific groups or themes such as, health, family sport, 50+, and disabled.

The current campaign, Ever Thought of Sport? continues until the end of 1986 aimed at Young People.

But in May 1987 the Sports Council will step up the Sport for All campaign and will direct its attention to all those not currently participating.

The theme 'What's Your Sport?' aims to fill an information gap that currently exists. A multitude of sporting opportunities are available but not all are widely known and there are many clubs who would welcome new members. Table tennis clubs with their traditionally low local profile are no exception and could benefit from the massive sport promotion.

The Sports Council intends to take its message into the living rooms by, for the first time, booking television time to publicise the values of sport, whether they be health and fitness, or are purely social values such as fun and friendship.

Part-funded by a £1.5m sponsorship from the Milk Marketing Board, 'What's your Sport?' will feature 4 week bursts of eye-catching TV advertising in May and September 1987 and May 1988.

Each 'ad' will carry a central telephone number for enquirers, accessed by a local call, and they will be sent a pack of information about the sport of their choice.

Time for every table tennis club to think what it offers to potential members to be ready for 1987!



The family who are bats about table tennis

By Tony Pritchett of *The Star*

To ask if the Billingtons play table tennis is a bit like wondering if the Cowdreys and the Bedsers played cricket or whether the Charlton family were any good at football.

The Billingtons of Chesterfield DO play table tennis. Dad Maurice was No. 1 England junior, and now both his children, Bradley aged 15 and 14-year-old Julie are making their mark. Mum is the "failure" of the family... she only got to No. 2 in the rankings, although she did eventually outrank her husband at senior level and won an English senior title.

The call up for the Billington kids to play for England in the European Youth Championships in Belgium was another remarkable family triumph. It is the second year running the brother and sister team has won nomination for this event.

Contrary to popular expectation, the famous kids of famous parents did not have table tennis bats thrust into their tiny fists at the moments of birth. Bradley, now one of the nation's outstanding prospects, didn't play until he was nine years old; Julie followed him after a promising career in gymnastics.

Success

"People say, when they hear about our success, that the kids



ought to be good. But what they have achieved is down to them; we can only advise and coach. If they didn't love the game they wouldn't be any good; if they didn't want to play at the highest

level, they would find something else to do," said Mr Billington.

"It's no use people saying 'they should be good, shouldn't they?' but they forget that they started with a bigger disadvantage than

most in that their expectations were higher."

"Far from being pushed, there have been times when they have pushed me into training. At the same time, there's nothing robotic about them, they have school exams and other interests just like other kids. The exams are important, whether the other pastimes get in the way as they grow up, we shan't know until it happens."

The family have cleaned up local and area championships and helped establish Chesterfield, the home of England's No. 2 Alan Cooke, as one of the national centres of table tennis in the country.

The maintenance of this civic pride will depend on the development of Bradley and Julie in the next ten years.

The Billingtons, Bradley, dad Maurice, mum Jackie and Julie.

Limelight

"To stay where they are, in the limelight, will be more difficult than getting there," said Mr Billington. "The pressure on No. 1 in any sport is continuous and it's immense. We practice a good deal but it's not an every day of the week demand."

"Jackie and I are qualified coaches but our main help to them is financial. It costs a lot of money to travel up and down the country competing in tournaments. A weekend's play can cost £150 and I am happy that we are able to do it."

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On the ball in Dubrovnik

Colin Clemett reports

In the second week of June I attended the 1986 ITTF Council meeting, which was held in the Yugoslav holiday resort of Dubrovnik. With temperatures in the 90's (or 30's for metric readers) it was hard for members to drag themselves away from the undoubted distractions of the beach, but duty triumphed over pleasure and the meeting settled down to a wide range of business.

The first major item was a progress report on the arrangements for the 1987 World Championships, to be held in New Delhi, by Mr Mattilal of the Indian TT Federation. We were pleased to learn that, although the full organising committee had not yet been set up, it was hoped that this would be done shortly and we

were reassured that Indians were renowned as successful last-minute organisers. Those who were concerned with the 1975 World Championships in Calcutta will recall that at the corresponding stage of preparations the stadium had not been built. The New Delhi stadium has already been in use, so clearly matters are well in hand this time.

The Council also exercised its right to make amendments to the regulations for international competitions, which are normally reflected in each Association's own playing regulations. There were two which represented significant changes of policy. The first was to make it legal for playing clothing to carry general advertising, instead of just the

maker's name or trademark. Two advertisements are now allowed on the front or side of a playing shirt and one on the back, and one may be carried anywhere on shorts or skirt. There is a specified maximum size for each of these advertisements and it is hoped that this restriction will make the idea acceptable to television.

The object of the change is to enable players to derive benefit from sponsorship and, initially at least, it will probably be of most interest to the top players. The second change is likely to have a more general effect. In an attempt to limit the extent of time-wasting and "tactical" delays, breaks for towelling are now permitted only at the change of service or, where service is alternating, after every five points. The feeling of the meeting was that the continual interruption of play for towelling was now so excessive that something had to be done, rather

in the way that action was taken a few years ago to discourage foot-stamping during service. That action virtually eliminated the problem and it will be interesting to see if the new measure is equally effective.

On the day following the series of meetings our hosts arranged a relaxing boat trip around some of the many islands just off the coast, each of which seemed to have its own naturist beach. In the spirit of international friendship we greeted the sun-worshippers as we sailed past, until we heard the warning voice of our President: "Don't wave at them, Nancy, you never know what they'll wave back!"

Full details of subsequent ETTA regulation changes are on page 27



Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League



Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

The Schildkröt story

Fiona Brown

The 'Best of British' is very much the theme behind the new Schildkröt British League. In the few short months since Schildkröt, the Munich based table tennis ball manufacturers, moved in with a £25,000 sponsorship deal to support the 1986/87 competition, there have been exciting developments.

Team promotion is the name of the game this season and each of the league's 64 teams has the opportunity to boost its following thanks to the promotional packs being provided by Schildkröt. Our new sponsor is completely confident that the Schildkröt league is going to be so popular that spectators will soon be queuing at every venue to see the stars in action.

Nicky Mason returns from Holland to support the GKN hope of a second title. Dave Wingar 0784 56006



Premier Division

1. Ormesby I
2. GKN Wolverhampton I
3. Omega Reading I
4. Butterfly Cardiff
5. Panoramic Bath
6. Grove I
7. MBS St Neots I
8. South Yorkshire

First Division

1. Dagenham FC I
2. TSP Larkhall I
3. TCB Dolphins
4. Byker Newcastle I
5. West Warwickshire/Birmingham I
6. Chan Construction I
7. Omega Reading II
8. Express Sports (Banda) Torbay

Second Division North

1. Ormesby II
2. GKN Wolverhampton II
3. Unity Bradford
4. March
5. Kingboro Insurance
6. EAE Waveney
7. Oldham
8. Sincil Lincoln

Second Division South

1. Medway
2. Gunnersbury Triangle
3. Nittaku Ruislip
4. Larkhall II
5. Fellows Cranleigh
6. Global Sports Plymouth
7. Jaques Fareham
8. Ashford

Third Division North

1. Ormesby III
2. Chan Construction II
3. Leicester
4. Crusaders Lincoln
5. Vickers Barrow
6. Grove II
7. Unity Leeds
8. Byker Newcastle II

Third Division South

1. Ashford II
2. Rejects
3. Abeng Warriors Stiga
4. Deptford Table Tennis Centre Rams
5. Team Ramlosa Essex
6. Thorn EMI Ellenborough
7. Errey's Print '84
8. Countryman Tunbridge Wells

Third Division East

1. Britannia Deepsure
2. MBS St Neots II
3. AHW Pioneers
4. Norwich Foxwood
5. Dagenham FC II
6. Witham Town FC
7. Smith Motors Peterborough
8. Well Connected Wellingborough

Third Division West

1. Leominster
2. Jolliffe Poole
3. Launceston
4. Express Sports (Banda) Torbay II
5. Panoramic Bath
6. KCD Stiga
7. Omega Reading III
8. Express Sports (Banda) Gwent

	1 v 8	2 v 7	3 v 6	4 v 5
14th September	1 v 8	2 v 7	3 v 6	4 v 5
28th September	7 v 1	6 v 2	5 v 3	8 v 4
19th October	1 v 6	2 v 5	3 v 4	8 v 7
2nd November	5 v 1	4 v 2	3 v 8	6 v 7
16th November	1 v 4	2 v 3	7 v 5	8 v 6
7th December	3 v 1	2 v 8	4 v 7	5 v 6
21st December	1 v 2	7 v 3	6 v 4	8 v 5
1987				
4th January	8 v 1	7 v 2	6 v 3	5 v 4
18th January	1 v 7	2 v 6	3 v 5	4 v 8
1st February	6 v 1	5 v 2	4 v 3	7 v 8
15th February	1 v 5	2 v 4	8 v 3	7 v 6
1st March	4 v 1	3 v 2	5 v 7	6 v 8
15th March	1 v 3	8 v 2	7 v 4	6 v 5
5th April	2 v 1	3 v 7	4 v 6	5 v 8

Player power

Reigning premier champions GKN Wolverhampton have retained the services of England No. 1 Desmond Douglas for a second year and team manager Paul Chester is naturally delighted, "We worked hard to get Des to join us 12 months ago and I think that it's an even greater coup that he has decided to stay with us." GKN have also been busy in the transfer market. England No. 7 Nicky Mason has returned from Holland to back Des at No. 2 whilst the unsettled Phil Bradbury has found his niche at No. 3. Des' practice partner, Carl Morgan, completes the GKN line up which Chester believes will retain the title. "I am happy with the side; it's strong and it's well balanced. We're looking forward to playing in Europe and the Schildkröt title is in our sights — from what I've heard so far there is nobody stronger."



Alan Cooke leaves Ormesby to play in Sweden.
Photo: Courtesy Butterfly U.K. Ltd.

Full details of fixtures and venues are to be found in the SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE handbook, available now from the ETTA office, price £1 including postage/packing.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly





John Souter has the chance to be a champion.
Photo: Courtesy Butterfly U.K. Ltd.

Marshall's men

Over in Market Drayton they may have a few other ideas. The slick Grove setup, headed by local table tennis legend Ian Marshall, has emerged as a serious contender for the premier title with five top class players in the new look squad. Neasden's John Souter, the England No. 5, is renowned for his superb fitness and fighting qualities — he should be an important asset at No. 1. Behind him Jimmy Stokes, Steve Mills, Steve Turner and Bradley Billington combine a mixture of youth and experience which could be destined to upset a few of the better known names this season. One thing is for sure, there will be fireworks on September 14th as GKN and Grove clash in their opening match.

Cooke on the move

In the north Ormesby have been devastated by the loss of England No. 3 Alan Cooke, who received an incredible offer from leading Swedish club, Falkenberg. Cooke replaces former world champion Stellan Bengtsson in the Falkenberg line up but back home Ormesby manager Alan Ransome has a big headache to overcome.

With the season looming ever closer, Ransome's chances of signing a replacement diminish. "Who is there? I don't know of anyone who's that good and still available," he says. So, what about Cooke's departure? "It was a bit of a shock, coming totally out of the blue, but I certainly don't blame him; Alan must put his career first and this chance to play and train with the top Swedes was too good to miss. We've parted friends." Does this mean that Ormesby are out of the



reckoning for Schildkrot honours? "Not at all. Nigel Eckersley is playing well and Keith Rodger at No. 2 is very experienced, not to mention Broe and McIlroy."

Crowd capers

Over in the west country we welcome a major team sponsor to the table tennis fold, Chippenham based computer manufacturers 'Panoramic'. Panoramic Bath, masterminded by the tireless Paul Hewitt, must surely be one of the league's most presentation conscious teams. Whilst their spectators, of whom there are many, are not quite placed on a pedestal, they do have the advantage of watching each home match from the comfort of tiered seating at the luxurious Bath sports centre. During the season ahead they can look forward to the thrills and spills provided by new signing Matthew Syed. At 15 Matthew is already one of the country's top defenders, a natural showman and above all a winner!

Whatever happens in the transfer market, one thing is certain — the Schildkrot British League is already creating a buzz and it is going to get louder as the season goes on.

Next month: Who's playing where — the complete list — plus an analysis of title chances in the lower divisions.

A tragedy of good intentions — on the magazine in 1985/86

John Preen

At risk of offending reader Sweeting and other fans, I feel we owe our readers rather more by way of explanation than we have given so far. If we don't, they just won't buy the magazine again. Some, I fear, will do just that. The rest, rebel though I am, I beg to give the old warrior another chance, because without it what sport will it be? In the meantime

Sackcloth and ashes should be the order of the day. We have let our readers down. I say 'we' because I am part of the ETTA and none of us are blameless. We could all have fought a little harder against what we saw coming. One is reminded of a tale marketing men relate to each other on rainy days.

The best hamburger in town

The hero of the story is the one who made this excellent product. His overheads were low because he operated from a stall, his product the best because he used the most and the best meat. Life can be very simple. He did so well that he could afford to send his son to college where he studied ECONOMICS. What he learned convinced him that the world was heading for a slump and he naturally told his father about it and advised him to take precautions, like cutting costs to be leaner and more efficient than the competition. The father responded by cutting costs in the only possible way - by reducing the meat content of the hamburger. In time he lost customers, because the product was no longer as good. His takings dropped and further action became necessary. It was swiftly and bravely taken by further cutting the meat content. As you will have guessed, fewer people bought the product and after repeating the process a few more times, the father went bankrupt surveying his stock of meatless uneaten hamburgers, whilst singing the praises of his economist son who had foreseen it all. "I sure made a wise decision when I sent my son to college" he cried.

Lower costs, less profit

I wonder whether the son joined the ETTA, because his theories certainly gained acceptance here. The old magazine in its last year under George Yates is said to have lost £6,000, but it was a very tasty hamburger with 57 pages and a devoted readership; the 50 pages

plus were cut to 30 plus and the price went up by a third. Was it not predictable what would happen? Our taste for suffering went further. We added unpunctuality and late often outdated issues to our other sins. To charge more for less was not the answer.

Advertising

It was obvious that the Magazine carried fewer pages of advertising. Why was no-one selling space at the start of the season? We have, after all, a number of full-time employees. The badminton people's magazine is free and they get lots of advertising. So they manage to sell space. Much as I admire our chairman's efforts to sell space, should not someone have got on to this a little sooner? Was it not clear that, if the first issue was two months late, all the others would be too? Is it not wrong in every way to let down your readers, who have paid £8 at the start of the season to get eight copies? So when our big-hearted ETTA tells us that there will be no increase next season, I put a counter question: Will there be any readers!

A Service or a Profit Centre?

The membership pays quite a lot of money to the ETTA - one can debate whether it is enough. Many see nothing in return. Should they not see a free monthly magazine which is what the badminton members see? Once that principle is established, one can talk about how to do it. It can be done. There is no question about that. Without a magazine the ETTA might as well shut up shop. The answer certainly is not to serve up to our members an increasingly less meaty, but more expensive hamburger. A loss of £6,000 sounds very grave and few of us would care to lose that sort of money, but it has to be seen in context. The ETTA spends more than £300,000 in one year, so that £6,000 on the essential task of communicating with members, telling them what is going on, is

not so much. We have recently added a new post to the staff, costing £14,900. We have sent a team to a foreign open whose success we knew beforehand we would measure in terms of reaching the second round, which cost over £1,000. We shall soon, with Sports Council help, appoint a Chief Executive with assistant, costing at least £30,000. Grant aid complicates and lessens such sums, but they are substantial. None of these innovations require of the chosen ones that they make immediate profits or reach break-even point, but that is required of the magazine and, in my view, it can't be done and it should not be done. It is a service to members. It is a service to the public, to the trade, to the media. It may create wider interest in the sport. It is sales literature. It is a marketing aid. It is not a profit earner and, if it ever was, we are very lucky and we paid for it by having few people read it, when it should have been read by many. It should be a free newspaper for the members, there is no other way and, if it cannot be financed out of new resources, it has to be financed out of old. We owe this to our members. If we don't communicate with them, we shall lose more every year. 30% have gone since 1980.

The Future

Things don't happen just because we want to see them and everything that is worth doing is difficult. I urge readers to continue to support the magazine and I have renewed my subscription and despite the apparent indignity of censorship earlier have buried the hatchet and will contribute to the magazine as often as I can. I have had much encouragement, gained many new friends and have learned to live with the insults that occasionally came. Bela Simon, one of the game's great men, recently urged the German magazine to be less bland, more controversial. "It will win new readers," he said and our own magazine under George Yates was much admired overseas, precisely because of its liberal attitude to criticism and critics who seemed to be given equal space with more orthodox views of establishment figures. The magazine is our window on the world. If we discuss our problems openly that is far better than to pretend that we have none, which would convey to our fellowmen that we are phonies. Let it be a FREE Magazine not only in price, but in thought!

But till it is, order your copy, because it remains essential in your appreciation of the game and because for all its faults it is good value and deserves your support. Let bygones be bygones.

The history of spin

ATTP Coordinator Derek Baddeley reviews the development of spin

Spin, for both attacking and defensive play has of course always been an integral part of the game, primarily as a means of controlling both depth and trajectory of the ball, but also to some degree as a counter-offensive measure - ie. backspin by defenders to limit attacker's opportunities, topspin by attackers to overcome this limitation and put some pressure on defenders whilst reducing the risk involved in attacking.

Even vicious spin services are nothing new - I have been told that in the twenties and thirties fingerspin and then knucklespin serves developed by some of the world's top players became so unreturnable that at times matches were virtually reduced to alternate sets of five services, with the winner being the player who managed to return at least one, and then win the subsequent rally.

Open hand

This of course led to the adoption of the "open-hand" rule, and eventually the much stricter rules in force today were formulated to stop other forms of services which appeared at various times, notably the "back to the table" services! I can assure readers that without these service rules you would be facing deliveries today which would be completely unplayable, and would make the present range of service actions appear tame!

During the sixties I took part in an international tour of the USA and there was much comment in the American press about my own services and the effect they were having on my opponents. Some members of the US association decided to try to "turn the tables" (an apt metaphor!) and staged an apparently innocent "curtain-raiser" to one of the matches when we were asked to play some "short" games to 11 points against local city and State champions.

This continued without problems until a player by the name of "Sol Schiff" was announced to the large crowd and I was surprised to see a rather elderly gentleman with a crew-cut amble out to the table. He proceeded to make me look a complete novice as I failed to return a single one of a series of about a dozen

knucklespin services which made the ball seem "alive" as it jumped around the table in the most amazing fashion, much to the amusement of all concerned!

Of course I did not know it at the time, but Sol Schiff had been world famous thirty or forty years previously for his services. But these fiendish deliveries were made *without* the aid of the tremendously grippy rubbers available today - can you imagine the effect if they *were* used with it as well?

Ban

The advent of thick sponge in the late fifties, and its ban being quickly followed by the development of "sandwich" sponge/rubber, is undoubtedly when the game started to radically change, and to impose upon players a completely new approach and attitude as they began to appreciate the increased spin possibilities.

Before that, disregarding the Japanese, who had just taken the World by surprise with their thick-sponge attacking play, defensive players had largely dominated for some years in this country, Europe and the USA. Attack, when used, tended to be a very carefully controlled affair but often resulted in the classic lengthy and sometimes spectacular attack v defence rallies so much appreciated and missed by our older players.

The problem was that this type of rally had become more and more unusual as the balance swung to predominantly "stonewall" defensive tactics and the natural "flow" of the game was lost. It was to try to break this defensive dominance that Stan Jacobson and then myself devised the slow, heavy topsin loop in the early sixties.

The technique was not intended to win points outright (although to begin with it often did) but was aimed primarily at forcing a highish return fairly quickly, giving the opportunity of a hard hit or kill. Today's generation of fast-looping, fast moving players can have very little conception of how difficult it was before the loop to break down the numerous almost impenetrable low-chop backspin defences which faced the minority of committed attackers like myself.

Dour defence

Tournament after tournament after tournament would see most of the later stages of both mens and womens singles reduced to dour "pushing" trials of endurance between defensive players who were either incapable or frightened of hitting, or more often than not resolutely refusing to do so! This eventually resulted in the "time-limit" rule being imposed, and when this proved to be not effective enough, the "expedite" rule which survives today, although rarely required!

The loop of course changed all this, and I make no apology for it! Surely no-one wants to see a return to the interminable "chiselling" matches of long ago? I would remind my contemporaries and elders how that kind of play really killed the game for years as a spectator sport - T.V. refused even to *consider* filming the major events for a very long time: and I have seen crowds of spectators walking out en-masse in disgust from tournament finals between top-ranking players where the score had reached two, points each after half an hour's play!

There was naturally a terrific uproar throughout the country from the majority of officials and older defensive players as Stan and I swept most of them aside in double-quick time; cries of "It's not table tennis" and "Ban the shot" were heard everywhere, but a number of prominent people acknowledged that *something* had been needed to open up the game again. Anyway, how could you ban what was effectively a slow topspin drive!

Indeed, my coach and mentor, the late Adrian Haydon commented when he saw me developing the shot, that it was only an extension of his own heavy topspin drive, and he bemoaned the fact that without the benefit of our modern sandwich rubber he had been unable to produce the same amount of spin in the heyday of his battles against the defence of the famous Victor Barna, or he felt that the course of the game's history might have been somewhat changed!

Adrian, who was World No 4 at his best, was of course the father of my team-mate Ann, who became the World No 2 woman, but gave up the game largely because, after she adopted a "sponge" bat, the ETTA banned its use in this country while the rest of the world carried on allowing it for some considerable time.

Feature

Our loss became Lawn tennis's gain, as we all know she went on to become one of the best half-dozen players in the world, and eventually won Wimbledon under her married name of Ann Jones.

However, this is history of another kind, and to revert back to the loop-drive, the main point to bear in mind is that at that time it was used as a *means to an end*, and not as an *end in itself*, as it has tended to become in recent years.

As was to be expected, defensive play began to lose its appeal as very few of the top defenders were able to cope with the rapid increase in the number of loopers who began to appear throughout Europe. However, some did manage to adapt by dint of much practice, one notable example being England's No 1 Ian Harrison, who learned how to chop the slow loop very well indeed and keep his returns low.

Others followed his lead and to counter this the fast, over the table loop was developed. One of the first exponents in this country was my practice partner and county team mate Ralph Gunnion now the national veterans champion.

But the best and most effective answer to a looper at that time was to block it over the table, immediately after the bounce. Or, better still, to hit or loop first, thus denying your opponent the "pushed" ball which was essential for him to be able to loop. At that time, the rubbers available did not enable one to loop properly against hitters, or to counter-loop.



Chester Barnes became English champion at the age of 16.

So this became the era of the fast, close to the table, counter-hitters and blockers, Chester Barnes being our own best exponent, staying England No 1 for several years from the age of 16, and rarely being beaten by an English player until eventually challenged by an equally quick-

reflexed counter hitter in Denis Neale. Neale took over the mantle of top-man as Chester moved to professional coaching and exhibitions.

The big problem for all the top European hitters was now how to beat the pen-holder Japanese and Chinese, who at that time were very "flat" hitters. Although we had men who were just as quick as the top Asians, they found themselves unable to rally consistently with them.

Firstly, due to being used to countering topspin hitting so that they constantly hit into the net by allowing for a "kick" that was not there and secondly, as anyone who has opposed a flat penhold hitter will know, it was extremely difficult to anticipate where the ball was being directed, particularly from their forehand side. The swing barely altered, only the blade angle was changed to send the ball down either wing. Obviously the closer you moved to the table, the less time there was to react!

The answer was eventually found by the Swedes, whose national coach at that time, coincidentally, was the Japanese penholder and former world champion Ichiro Ogimura. A faster, more resilient rubber, giving a much improved coefficient of friction (grip!) was developed by manufacturers, Stiga, in partnership with a Japanese company.

This, allied to the greater fitness, mobility, and speed of footwork around the table which Ogimura instilled into the Swedish players gave rise to the two-wing fast-looping style which took Stellan Bengtsson to the world singles title. Following his lead and using the new rubber, European loopers found that by virtue of their constant "lifting" actions, they could rally with the Asian penholders, and begin to exploit their weakness on the backhand side.

The style was refined still further by players such as Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek and Hungary's Tibar Klampar and Istvan Jonyer, who developed the straight-armed "power" loop from well back off the table. This allowed more time to assess the direction of the penhold attack or block, as well as the time to actually *execute* such a long arm swing, whilst imparting very heavy topspin, the "dipping" trajectory of the loop combined with its speed making it even more difficult to block.

To digress for a moment, it should be remembered that a major spin-off from this technique

was its adaptation to the game of tennis, by one Bjorn Borg, himself the son of a good table tennis player who much admired national hero Stellan Bengtsson.

Loop-driving has now become as much a part of modern tennis as in our game, particularly among European players, who are now beginning to dominate the world scene.

The "dipping" trajectory of topspin returns of serve, as originally perfected by Borg, is now a common weapon against serve/volleyers on fast surfaces, whilst the acceleration and kick in the bounce of looped baseline driving has revolutionised slow-court play in recent years.

Back to our game now, and with blockers world-wide beginning to find it difficult to contain loopers, (with the notable exception of our own Desmond Douglas, whose phenomenal reflexes and control have enabled him to stay in contention with the best), the pendulum began to swing back to defence, either in the conventional backspin style, or by off-table counter-looping and high top-spin returns.

As an ever-increasing variety of



Famous Europeans Dragutin Surbek (above) and Istvan Jonyer (below)



England's Desmond Douglas is renowned worldwide for his amazing blocking abilities.

Photo: Eileen Langsley 0246 882376

rubbers became available, it was inevitable that someone, somewhere would conclude that the answer to all this spin and speed was to *absorb* it, and in Europe, this manifested itself in the appearance of the "Anti"-loop rubber dead-bat defensive style, also very effectively adopted by the top-ranking Japanese defender Takashima.

The ever-inventive Chinese meanwhile took a similar but subtly different course, and engineered astonishing changes in their nationally known style, putting into effect their policy of "Allowing many flowers to bloom" in an all-out effort to regain their World supremacy, which had been snatched from them by the victorious Hungarians, winners of the mens team Swaythling Cup.

Adoption of the shake-hands western grip was encouraged,

enabling more active use of the backhand as an attacking weapon, but more importantly allowing development of European style chop defence.

The Chinese knew that this by itself would not be enough, and experimented with different rubbers and techniques aimed at confusing attacking loopers, eventually emerging with the long-pimpled combination bat style which we have come to know so well, bewildering the top European players with their mixture of spin and non-spin coupled with quick two-wing hits at every opportunity.

Although this helped them to regain the Swaythling Cup at the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham, the Chinese had become very sensitive to world opinion, which was accusing them of using a form of deception and cheating; and they quite obviously instructed their leading exponent, Liang Geliang to lose in the individual event to Mitsuru Kono, whom he had beaten with very little effort in the team semi-final in Japan.



Liang Geliang one of China's first exponents of the combination bat. Photo: Brian Ashton.

From there on, the Chinese appear to have discouraged further use of combination bat technique, but it had caught the imagination of a number of players, particularly of course John Hilton, who went on to win the European singles title, and in the process spawned a whole new generation of combination bat players, bringing us to the present day situation.

It has become noticeable now that under the influence of team manager Li-Fu-Yung, 3 times world singles runner-up to Chuang-Tse-Tung (I insist on referring to these two marvellous Chinese hitters with the name spelling by which I once knew them), the Chinese have decided to nullify the spin of the European loopers by attacking first with fast, over the table angled drives, rather than waiting for the

westerners to swing first and then blocking, as for instance Guo Hua used to do on the backhand, and always looked vulnerable.

This constant battle for supremacy between attackers and defenders, blockers v loopers, penhold v shake-hands, East v West is what has pushed our ingenuity to develop new styles, methods, materials or whatever, as of course happens naturally in all spheres of human activity and endeavour.

Sound win for Bristol

Mike Lewis

The South West region's newly formed cadet league reached its conclusion for 1985/86 at Plymouth's league headquarters after an exciting and extremely tight competition. Bristol 'A' worthy winners of the South West Shield were just five points ahead of Plymouth (BR) with Launceston 'A' a close third.

The success of this first years competition has led to requests for expansion of the cadet division and the formation of a junior section. Hopefully all matches in 1986/87 will be at a central venue and if a sponsor can be found the same high standards will apply.

Final Table

	F	A
Bristol 'A'	74	7
Plymouth BR	69	12
Launceston 'A'	55	26
Wiltshire	51	30
West Cornwall	48	33
Bristol 'B'	37	44
Plymouth	24	57
Stroud	24	57
Launceston 'B'	14	67
Gloucester	9	72



Bristol captain Vernon Bettison (L) receives the South West cadet league trophy from regional co-ordinating committee chairman Mike Lewis.

Larkhall conquer London

writes Mike Loveder

London's first division of the Central league was again keenly contested during the 1985/86 season. However towards the end Club 25 Larkhall looked virtually assured of the title, having no less than five Surrey and England ranked players in the averages including Mike Hammond who maintained a 100% record.

The Department of the Environment 'A' snatched the runners-up spot at the last minute from Exiles 'A'. In DOE's last match of the season they met Exiles and both sides were below maximum strength. Richard Beckham took a well-earned maximum in this match and Gordon Holmes recorded a 2-straight victory over Jon Green. Mike Loveder stood in for Mike O'Leary and found himself facing Gordon Holmes at 4-4. Mike's victory, 25-23 in the third, put DOE 'A' among the medalists. It was to their credit that DOE were the only team to play and beat Club 25 Larkhall, although Exiles too gave them a fright.

Alan Lindsay's Fulham were not quite able to keep up with Exiles despite having a very respectable team. Fulham dropped valuable points late in the season to slide into fourth place.

It was Dave Solman and Phil Cawser who played consistently to help earn the Exiles second team fifth place, ahead of Bethnal Green Institute. Bethnal Green, the "talent team", comprising mainly Stevie White, Pete Hunt and Ian Kenyon, could have finished higher in the division had they turned out at full strength more frequently.

Tony Miller's St. Brides did very well to maintain a mid-table position. Tony was one of a few players to take a maximum from the league leaders including the scalp of Dave Harding.

Exiles III started the season as relegation favourites but soon

proved their worth, led by veterans Phil Newton and Dave Moss. Gainsford I's strength varied from week to week. Early in the season they beat DOE 'A', largely thanks to an inspired performance by David Svenson, but they were also seen to lose to weaker opposition.

London University 'A', last year's champions, began to struggle from the outset without the services of Mark Oakley who is away in Germany. Ian Fullerton kept the side alive and they have him to thank for another season in division 1.

Young Chris Herbert started the season well for Stepney Green, but they were unable to continue the good results of last year and must therefore face relegation. Gainsford 'B' are no doubt looking forward to a season in division 2 as they only managed to clinch five points.

Promoted to the first division next season are the Metropolitan Police and the Department of the Environment 'B'.

Averages

	%
Ian Kenyon (B Green)	90.0
Richard Beckham (Exiles I)	89.1
Dave Harding (Club 25)	85.7
Ian Fullerton (London Uni)	85.3
Mike O'Leary (DOE)	83.3
Alan Lindsay (Fulham)	83.3
Peter Harry (DOE)	82.1
Alun Garroway (Club 25)	79.4
Peter Hunt (B Green)	78.9
Brian Garroway (Club 25)	75.9
Percy Collino (Fulham)	71.4
David Svenson (Gainsford I)	70.4
Rupert Bole (Club 25)	69.2
Babs Adedayo (Fulham)	69.0
Dave Solman (Exiles II)	67.3
Brian Mitchell (Gainsford I)	66.7
Phil Cawser (Exiles II)	66.0
Gordon Holmes (Exiles I)	63.3

In the final of the men's team knock-out competition, Bethnal Green (Ian Kenyon, Pete Hunt and Stevie White) lost 4-5 to Exiles I (Don McGilvray, Richard Beckham and Gordon Holmes).

Final table

	P	W	L 4-5	L	F	A	Pts
Club 25, Larkhall	22	20	1	1	138	51	61
Dept. of Env. 'A'	22	17	3	2	132	60	54
Exiles I	22	16	3	3	124	67	51
Fulham	22	15	1	6	121	73	46
Exiles II	22	12	5	5	112	82	41
Bethnal Green Inst.	22	10	6	6	95	94	36
St. Brides	22	11	2	9	94	104	35
Exiles III	22	10	2	10	81	111	32
Gainsford I	22	8	3	11	91	104	27
London University I	22	6	4	12	71	117	22
Stepney Green I	22	6	2	14	55	137	20
Gainsford II	22	1	3	18	42	156	6

Stiga County Championships

Extra interest

Doug Moss

The last round-up of the 1985/86 season produces the players' leading averages for all divisions.

Looking ahead to next season — it was reported to the annual conference that 167 teams have entered. This is six more teams than were in the Championships at the end of the season. To cater for this number two sections of a fourth division have been introduced in the senior section and in the veterans' category there is now a section 3D. In Division 3 of the senior section last season there were three sections of ten and one of nine teams. Views of counties represented at the conference were sought which showed an overwhelming preference for the introduction of a fourth division and Divisions 3 and 4 being of six/seven teams.

Final leading averages 1985/86

(Qualification — 4 matches and at least 70% wins)

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

	W	L	Av%
David Wells (Mi)	13	1	93
Nicky Mason (Sy)	7	1	88
Mark Mitchell (Mi)	7	1	88
John Souter (Mi)	7	1	88
Nigel Eckersley (La)	11	3	79
Steven Scowcroft (La)	11	3	79
David Dodd (K)	6	2	75
Stephen Turner (La)	10	4	71

SENIOR 2A

Philip Vickers (Dy)	9	1	90
Bradley Billington (Dy)	8	2	80
Murray Jukes (Wo)	9	3	75
Keith Richardson (Ca)	9	3	75
Brian Johns (Ch)	6	2	75
Karen Burrows (Y)	6	0	100
Melonie Seaton (Y)	5	0	100
Julie Billington (Dy)	3	1	75
Amanda Goodwin (La)	5	2	71
Diane St. Ledger (Wa)	5	2	71

SENIOR 2B

Kevin Satchell (Mi)	13	1	93
Des Charlery (E)	8	2	80
Adrian Moore (Sx)	8	2	80
Paul Whiting (Dv)	11	3	79
Angela Mitchell (Mi)	7	0	100
Carol Butler (Dv)	6	0	100

SENIOR 3A

Ian Robertson (Nd)	13	1	93
Neil McMaster (Nd)	12	2	86
Peter McQueen (Nd)	10	2	83
John Ellis (Cw)	11	3	79
Trevor Kerry (Ng)	9	3	75
Tim Malkin (Ch)	10	4	71
Lyn Bainbridge (Du)	5	0	100
Sue Airey (Li)	7	1	88
Jane Strawson (Li)	4	1	80
Ann Williamson (Ch)	6	2	75
S. Culbertson (Wa)	5	2	71
Caron Guthrie (Nd)	5	2	71
Lyn Yarnell (Du)	5	2	71

SENIOR 3B

Andy Creed (Av)	14	0	100
Tony Sweet (Dv)	17	1	94
Gary Lambert (Dv)	11	1	92
Andrew Jones (Gn)	9	1	90
Paul Giles (Dv)	13	3	81
Ian James (Co)	13	5	72
Paul Lewis (Av)	10	4	71
W. Armstrong (Gn)	7	3	70

Susan Butler (Dv)	9	0	100
Helen Perrott (Av)	7	0	100
Theresa Butler (Dv)	7	2	78
Michelle Cohen (Av)	7	2	78
Esme Stevenson (Co)	7	2	78
Mary Heffernan (Av 2)	6	2	75
Chantal Nicholls (Gn)	6	2	75

SENIOR 3C

Darren Griffin (Gs)	14	0	100
Stephen Howlett (Nk)	10	0	100
Steve Moreman (Gs)	12	2	86
Graham Slack (Gs)	12	2	86
John Taylor (He)	15	3	83
Ian Doughty (Bd)	12	4	75

Margaret Maltby (Np)	7	0	100
Mary Jarrett (Bd)	7	1	88
Mandy Brown (Np)	4	1	80
Dawn Campbell (Bd)	6	2	75
Helen Pogmore (Wo)	5	2	71

SENIOR 3D

Stuart Palmer (Sk)	17	0	100
Andy Cunningham (K)	7	1	88
Mike Hammond (Sy)	7	1	88
Paul Sayer (E)	14	3	82
David Harding (Sy)	12	4	75
Steve Dorking (E)	9	3	75
Richie Venner (Sx)	6	2	75
John Kitchener (Sk)	11	4	73
Sue Collier (Bk)	7	0	100
Jane Cohen (Bk)	4	1	80
Kim Hayden (E)	6	2	75

JUNIOR PREMIER

Bradley Billington (Dy)	13	1	93
Matthew Connell (Y)	13	1	93
Adrian Dixon (St)	13	1	93
Michael O'Driscoll (Y)	12	2	86
Chris Oldfield (Y)	11	2	85
Greg Barden (K)	9	2	82
Paul Amos (K)	10	4	71
Stephen Slater (St)	10	4	71
Andrea Holt (La)	7	0	100
Helen Lower (St)	7	0	100
Julie Billington (Dy)	3	1	75
Lisa Hayden (E)	5	2	71
Jill Powis (St)	5	2	71

JUNIOR 2A

John Bolt (Y)	11	1	92
Andrew Ball (Y)	11	1	92
John Holland (Ng)	12	2	86
Lee Jefferies (Wk)	6	1	86
Adrian Thorp (St)	10	2	83
Tim Sheppard (Ng)	9	3	75
Helen Kavanagh (Y)	7	0	100
Kim Mayall (Ng)	6	0	100
Helen Broomhead	5	1	83

JUNIOR 2B

Anthony Jones (Gn)	14	0	100
Peter Harris (He)	11	1	92
Richard Aitken (Dv)	12	2	86
Lisa Pritchett (Sy)	5	0	100
So Ching Man (Mi)	4	0	100
Theresa Petty (Gn)	4	1	80
Cheryl Bateman (Sy)	3	1	75
Helen Smee (Mi)	3	1	75

JUNIOR 3A

Nick Rayner (Le)	8	0	100
Karl Albon (Hu)	9	1	90
John Backhouse (Cu)	7	1	88
Andrew Wright (Ch)	7	1	88
Andrew Hillyard (Hu)	6	1	86
Ian Brown (Le)	9	2	82
W. Hollingsworth (De)	6	2	75
Julie Forster (De)	4	0	100
Tracy Clark (Le)	5	1	83
Jill Baldwin (Hu)	4	1	80
Julie Heslop (Hu)	4	1	80

JUNIOR 3B

Stuart Champion (Bk2)	8	0	100
Jon Collins (Cad)	11	1	92
Gavin Black (Bd 1)	12	2	86
Peter Bowler (Bd 1)	6	2	80
Damian O'Flynn (Ox)	11	3	79
Nick Ashman (Ca 1)	10	4	71
Nick Apps (Bd 1)	7	3	70
Paul Knight (Ox)	7	3	70
Ruth Forrester (Bd 1)	5	0	100
Sue Burgess (Wo)	4	0	100
Joyce Mitchell (Bd 1)	3	1	75
Doreen Spindlow (Bk 2)	5	2	71

JUNIOR 3C

Paul Jones (Gw)	11	1	92
Paul Smith (So)	11	1	92
Jason Hegarty (Do)	7	3	70
Lisa Rice (Ha)	5	0	100
Sian Evans (Gw)	5	1	83
Kirsty Withyman (So)	4	1	80
Jenny Ellery (Gs)	3	1	70

JUNIOR 3D

Grant Solder (E3)	9	1	90
Martin Cole (E3)	7	3	70
Kate Gower (E3)	5	0	100
Joanne Cook (E3)	4	0	100
Sarah George (E2)	4	0	100

VETERANS PREMIER

Babs Adedayo (Mi)	11	3	79
Matt Shearer (Li)	11	3	79
Alec Watson (Bu)	11	3	79
Alan Rowden (Sx)	9	3	75
Henry Buist (K)	10	4	71
Constance Moran (Li)	6	1	86
Doreen Schofield (Ch)	6	1	86
Mary Dignum (K)	3	1	83

VETERANS 2A

David Seaholme (He)	13	1	93
Ian Walksley (Y)	7	1	88
Jeff Brook (Y)	10	4	71
Fred Lockwood (E)	10	4	71
Graham Hughes (Le)	7	3	70
Janet Hunt (Wo)	6	1	86
Myra Lypnyckyj (Ch)	4	1	80
Margaret Harris (He)	5	2	71

VETERANS 2B

Fred Kershaw (Ha)	13	1	93
Norman Slifkin (Mi)	12	2	86
Bob Pittard (Sx)	7	3	70
Joyce Coop (Do)	6	1	86
Pam Butcher (K)	5	1	83

VETERANS 3A

Vic Smith (Y)	11	1	92
Keith Jones (Np)	10	2	83
Fred Short (Nd)	8	2	80
Stewart Milnes (Y)	6	2	75
Maurice Cheek (Nd)	8	3	73
Pat Brooks (Ch)	4	1	80
Carol Judson (Y)	3	1	75

VETERANS 3B

John Tendler (E)	7	1	88
Jim Woolliscroft (Bd)	7	1	88
Brian Savage (Bu)	9	2	82
Len Pratt (Bu)	8	2	80
John Morris (Bk)	6	2	75
M. Newcombe (Hr)	5	1	83
Sylvia Bruton (Bk)	3	1	75

VETERANS 3C

Norman Stagg (Ha)	8	0	100
Brian Powell (Wi)	11	1	92
John Harvey (Ha)	9	1	90
David Sinden (Sx)	7	1	88
Mike Harris (Bk)	6	2	75
Dave Wise (Bk)	6	2	75
Barry Piercy (Bk)	7	3	70
Pam Spooner (Bk)	5	0	100
Ann Abraham (Ha)	4	1	80

NEW BLOOD, OLD PROBLEMS

Bob Adams

Astute observers of these pages will have observed that it is a full season since former scribe Brian Halliday decided to use his right hand to hold just a bat rather than a pen as well, but presumably they will have realised that TT is still played in Berkshire, not least because of the publication of the 'Jimmy Stokes Benefit' edition of TT News in July. Many thanks for your contributions in the past Brian, and I'm sure I believe you when you say there is nothing to this press officer's job!

At this stage of the pre-season run up, of the four Berks leagues (Bracknell, Maidenhead, Newbury and Reading) only Bracknell have decided upon the make up of their league. Largely due to the withdrawal of the five teams of Birch Hill following the loss of their venue (the Girl Guides wanted it back), their players have distributed themselves around the league. With minor losses here and there, secretary Alan Gess had regretfully to announce a reduction from 6 to 5 divisions. In the coming season the 3 largest clubs - Wokingham (8 teams), Met. Office (who specialise in indoor sports so their matches can't be rained off) (7 teams), Bracknell (5 teams) with teams well distributed throughout the divisions will be trying, along with the other premier division clubs, to knock fourth largest Woodley (4 teams in Bracknell) off their top spot of last season.



Karen Witt, the reigning Commonwealth champion and former English No 1, who retired from our sport at the end of the 1985/86 season. Karen is now training to be a nurse at Westminster Hospital.

County Notes

DORSET

Martin Hughes

County championships

The new season is quickly upon us and our county teams will be hoping for better times this season. None of our teams last season managed to finish above mid-table, although the senior seconds finished a creditable fifth on the same number of points as the two teams above them.

A problem we have in Dorset is not enough junior and lady players. No new talent has emerged for a few seasons and we must hope for better in the future.

Tees Sport super league

The Tees Sport super league proved a great success last season and will be held again during 1986/87. Champion Tony Clayton is likely to be the player to beat in the coming season.

Schildkrot British league

Jolliffe Poole will be competing in the third division west of the new Schildkrot British league and have secured two major new signings. County No. 1 Tony Clayton comes from Panoramic Bath, and Hakan Sigrell a Swedish student, will be the new number two. The remainder of the squad remains unchanged with John Robinson, Jason Creasey, Martin Hughes, Terry Glennon and Rodney Thomas providing the back-up.

CUMBRIA

Colin Taylor

In their two final matches the Cumbria senior side lost 2-8 against Nottingham and 1-9 away to Durham. Against Notts the winners were predictably our top ranked players Tim Pachul and Karen Backhouse (both Barrow). Tim came from behind once again to win - 14, 16, 22 and Karen did likewise but finished comfortably, winning - 24, 11, 14. The only other set to go to three games was the ladies doubles where Miss Backhouse and Elaine Bell (Barrow) did well to extend their opponents before losing 18, - 5, - 9.

In the Durham match it was Tim Pachul and John Backhouse who registered the win in the mens doubles with a - 17, 17, 15 scoreline. One more set went the full distance and that was the womens doubles. Karen Backhouse and Margo Lewis (Barrow) just failed to hold onto their early advantage losing 18, - 22, - 6.

Looking back over the season's results it is obvious that the seniors have been struggling but the future looks healthy enough with juniors making an impact already in senior events. The juniors themselves have managed to hold their own and can look forward to better results in the seasons to come.

DURHAM

Harry Black

Down but not out

An end of season mix-up denied Durham the swansong to their season which a penultimate 9-1 championship win over Cumbria had suggested may have been on the cards. Travel difficulties emerged in the week prior to the final match, and we had no option but to concede to Warwickshire seconds and content ourselves with a seventh place finish in the senior division 3A.

Around the Leagues

In Sunderland, Northumbria Centre A retained their first division title ahead of Echo A. St Luke's clinched the second division with Belford House A runners-up. In the third division which was the closest of all the division's Boldon CA B won the title and Coles Cranes A gained second spot after a play off with Emplex A. Emplex C won division four with Roker Methodists in second place.

Roker Methodists added the team handicap cup to their trophy haul when they defeated Emplex B in the final, thus giving two Emplex teams trophies this season — quite an achievement — and we are not finished yet. David Pringle of the C team won the individual handicap cup when he defeated team-mate Nicky Hall in the final of the division four singles at the Sunderland closed championships.

ESSEX BOUNCE BACK

Lawrie Darnell

What a relief! Only two official positions remain to be filled after the AGM. The posts of tournament secretary and Essex schools representative remain vacant. Clive Oakman and Barry Granger have agreed to respectively organize the Essex senior open and the Essex junior open, a job shared is a job halved.

Colin Trundle (Chelmsford) and Alan Shepherd (Walthamstow) were nominated to become National Councillor. Peter Roden was proposed but refused to stand. Colin Trundle was duly elected to serve. Alan Shepherd came up trumps when he agreed to take over from Ray George as junior match secretary.

Barry Granger is the new senior match secretary. Roy Franklin takes over competitions. Phil Gower became the coaching officer whilst Sue Gower has taken over the reigns as umpires secretary.

Since the AGM and the demise of the executive committee it is now the responsibility of every league to send a representative to all management committee meetings. The Merry-meade Conference Centre, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood has been booked for all meetings this season.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

Our county seniors virtually ran away with division 3C, our strength unquestionably lay in our men Darren Griffin finished the season with a 100% singles record, Graham Slack and Steve Moreman both lost only two and David Smith managed a 33.3% singles average. Our lady players were the weak link in the team and indeed could well have problems in division 2 next season.

The juniors in division 3C, finished in 3rd place, and will remain in that division for next season but they will be minus Craig Saunders and Lawrence Symonds who will be over age. Again as with the seniors this junior team lacked junior girl potential.

Providence capital county premier league

Another highly successful season for this league now in its 3rd successive year. The overall winners were Rudford by a clear 28 points over nearest rivals, Cheltenham. Congratulations to the winning team of: Steve Moreman, Darren Griffin, Martyn Lane and Richard Pepperd, also thanks to John Boyd the league's chairman for all his organisational work.

Final table	P	W	L	Pts
Rudford	10	10	0	80
Cheltenham	10	6	4	52
C.E.G.B.	10	6	4	47
Cheltenham				
Saracens	10	4	6	35
Cinderford	10	3	7	33
Stroud	10	1	9	23

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood and
Harry Stevens

In their final match of the season Herts seniors triumphed 6-4 at home to Bucks with two wins each from John Taylor and John Lennon who then combined to win the men's doubles game. Peter Harris picked up the other win. It was an unhappy outing for Sally Bax who fought gamely in the singles before going down - 18, 17, - 17 and then lost out at 17 in the third playing doubles with Karen Morton.

Highlight of the summer in Hertfordshire was a 'Ping-Pong-A-Thon' table tennis marathon, in aid of the 'Hertfordshire junior's mini-bus appeal fund', which was held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre from Friday 25 July to Sunday 10 August.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for the purchase of a mini-bus to convey junior players from the county of Hertfordshire to national tournaments, exhibitions and county matches.

LANCASHIRE

George Yates

In addition to two senior and one junior team, as entered last season in the county championships, Lancashire will, next season, have further representation with a second junior and, for the first time, a veterans team.

The decision, taken on 20th May at the AGM put Mark Horsfall of Burnley in charge of the junior seconds and Bob Johnson of Oldham looking after the veterans' interests.

Winners in the various divisions making up the Lancashire and Cheshire league were:-

Men

- 1 Bolton
- 2 N Sale
- 2 S Fleetwood
- 3 N Blackpool
- 3 S Stockport A
- 4 N Liverpool Business House
- 4 S Mid-Lancashire
- 5 Bury A

Women

- 1 Warrington
- 2 Macclesfield

Juniors

- 1 Preston
- 2A Oldham
- 2B Stockport

Jack Livingstone memorial trophy: Barrow 5, Stockport 4.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Brown

Success at the Leicester Closed

A record breaking 367 entries were received for this season's Leicester and district closed championships. Nottinghamshire's 16-year-old John Holland, who currently plays for Thorn EMI in division one of the Leicester league, landed a double, including the blue ribbon mens singles title and the boys singles title. John however had to settle for second best in the intermediate singles final to Simon Griew. Knighton Park's Liz Bryant also had two victories capturing the cadets and under 100 graded singles titles. Chris Kinsey, Graham Hughes, Tim Odams and Maurice Newman all won one final and lost one, as did sisters Jane and Joanne Heath, who faced each other in two finals.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

We have a full committee, money in the bank and all sorts of ideas to make this coming season something to remember. On a sad note rumour has it that Fakenham are joining Cromer in dis-affiliating and if this is so we will have to re think our attitudes to the players who are connected with those leagues. The general opinion is that they can't have it both ways.

County Notes

The County have entered the usual number of teams 1 senior, 1 vets and gone back to 2 junior sides. This is mainly due to my daughter Wendy Hogg (or Durrant) depending on when this is distributed - and Paul Durrant who have taken upon themselves to coach the junior girls during the off season and the response is such that we should have no problem in that area.

County colours were awarded to Trevor Bunn, Richard and Martin Stevenson, Terry Darby, Andrew Rice, Trevor Cockburn and Louise Winter all of whom were present at a very pleasant 'do' in June. Stephen Howlett and Linda Kowalski were away on holiday and will be presented at a future date. Also presented were some of the back room boys and girls like Dennis and Margaret Calver, Les Rayment and myself - none of whom in spite of being on the committee had any idea that they were included.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

Graeme McKim maintained his dominance of the Northampton table tennis scene when he comfortably retained his open singles title in the Northampton annual tournament. He was threatened on just one occasion, when his team-mate Andy Edmonds took the opening game before McKim fought back to gain a well-deserved semi-final win. In the final of an event which saw all the seeds take their allotted places in the later stages, McKim went on to take the title with a surprisingly easy win of Keith Nicoll 14, 14.

McKim and Edmonds had earlier joined forces in the mens doubles final meeting last year's champions Keith Jones and Brian D'Hooghe, who they beat comfortably 18, 13.

Margaret Maltby was again in scintillating form beating Marie Percival 15, 18 in the singles, combining with Keith Jones to account for Andy Edmonds and Clem Little in the mixed and teaming up with Linda Freeman to gain the narrowest win of - 18, 21, 17 over Percival and Wendy Steer. Finally she added the division one and two restricted singles beating Trevor Foster 13, - 19, 18.

Keith captures two

Keith Jones was also among the honours adding both the veterans and the hard bat titles to his mixed doubles success, while Richard Elliott justified his top seeding by taking the boys singles and the doubles in tandem with John Tebbutt, his beaten singles opponent.

Sarah Young proved herself by taking the girls singles but just failed to add the division five title when losing to Percy Williams.

In the remaining events Graeme McKim's younger brother Scott edged out Nick Kelly in the under 14 event while the division three and four singles went to Dave Ewen.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2 star open at Concoria leisure centre, Cramlington on 3rd May was once again a huge success. Alan Cooke retained his mens singles title and with it the prize money of £320, defeating Nicky Mason in the final. An exceptional run from unseeded Neil McMaster, who beat the England-ranked Steve Dorking in the quarter finals before falling to Mason in the semis, proved to be the outstanding local performance of the day. Not far behind was Peter McQueen, who reached the final of the Class 2 mixed singles before losing to John Dennison of Essex.

The women's singles title went to Jill Harris of Staffordshire, but Caron Guthrie deserves a special mention for putting out the seeded Doreen Schofield in the quarters and just losing to the beaten finalist Lesley Popkiewicz 19 in the third in her semi-final. Clare Mouzon also reached the semi-final, and together with Pauline Long, the semi-final of the womens doubles, where they took Harris and Popkiewicz to three games before losing.

The Tyneside summer league season is now in full swing, with 63 teams contesting 8 divisions, and 44 teams contesting the handicap knockout cup. One point per set applies in this league, which ensures that no team can relax even if they have a so called winning margin.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

Notts juniors remained on course for promotion to the premier division with their fine 7-3 away win over Cheshire. Cheshire, having gained a 6-4 win over Warwickshire in the previous fixture, were in confident mood with the knowledge that Notts only managed to draw with Warwickshire.

However the Notts players responded well to the challenge of the match and notable wins for Tim Sheppard over Simon Jones as well as defeating Andrew Taylor gave Notts a fine start.

John Holland - perhaps the most improved player in the Notts squad - continued his progress following successive wins over Simon Jones and Johnathan Taylor whilst the girls Kay Mayall and Claire Oldman remained undefeated in their matches with Julie Hope and Belinda Hall respectively.

A special mention must be given to Adrian Bolton who despite his two singles defeats played much better than in recent county matches and has approached the form of last season which made him such a dangerous opponent to face.

OXFORDSHIRE ALL SET

Matthew O'Flynn

Team hopes

Karl Bushell has plans to improve on the performance of the senior team who finished a disappointing seventh in division 3C. He hopes to build on the commitment and enthusiasm of players which Brian Hamilton generated. David Hawkins will be hoping that the junior team will continue in the same form as last season, when they finished third in division 3B and were the only team to defeat Bedfordshire 1st. Unfortunately, the team will be without the number one player of the past few seasons, Dominic O'Flynn, who led the way in 1985/86 with 11 wins from 14 games. Sergio di Paola, Roger Perry and Paul Knight are also out of the junior category so some rebuilding of the team will be necessary. The Banbury girls, Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett should show more improvement now they are well settled in the team. A ranking trial will be arranged for early September to select the top boys for the team.

School of sport

Most of the top junior players in the County will be taking part in the Oxfordshire School of Sport at Radley College. Taking command of the coaching during the week will be Nicky Jarvis for what will be his first official duty in the area following his recent appointment. Seven of the 14 places have been taken by players from the Banbury league where the dedicated coaching of Dave Joyner is producing obvious success.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

This season's programme of events ended with a repeat of last year's innovation - a 'hard bat' inter-town tournament, which again proved popular with both players and spectators, and which will no doubt become an established feature in future seasons.

Feature

A feature of the event was the experiment to try out a new scoring system. Instead of playing the best of three games up to 21 points, all matches were played the best of seven games up to 11 points.

The experiment proved to be an interesting alternative, popular with both players and spectators, and provided many more exciting highlights during the games.

It is certainly an idea worthy of further investigation on a wider scale.

Turner trophy: **Semi-finals:-** M. Evans (Pott) b S. Hodgetts (W'ton) 5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-4, 11-8. A. Moore (Pott) b M. Hingley (W.B.) 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 10-12, 11-5, 11-8. **Final:-** Evans b Moore 11-8, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9.

SURREY

Frank Hams

Way back in March the 2nd team with Steve Davis (1) Melville Taylor and Lisa Pritchett making their debuts lost to Sussex 3-7. They won their next game against Berkshire 9-1. A feature of both these games was Tracy's play with Michele Hams in the ladies doubles in which they won both games. Tracy shared responsibility evenly with her partner and Michele thinks she has a great future.

The veterans lost to Dorset 3-7 and realised that they had to beat Sussex at Brighton in their next game to avoid any possibility of relegation. Frank Hams (2) Brian Simmonds (2) Mick Person (1) and Vera Beesley saw us home 6-3.

Now that we know that Ashford is in Surrey 1 can congratulate them for winning Division 3 South in the National League. The match which decided the title was against Nittaku Ruislip which they won. Both teams in an effort to gain promotion had made "big name" signings. It is alleged that the signing on fee for the Ashford player would have made some soccer players envious.

Conie Warren won the veterans tournament at Macclesfield. He's also reached the final in other tournaments. This has enabled him to rise rapidly on the veterans ranking list to (at the time of writing) No 13 but he will go much higher with his latest results. Jennie Vass has confirmed what a good player she is by coming straight into the ladies veterans list at No 11. She is capable of a higher place.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

After 13 years waiting Sussex have returned to the premier division of the county championships principally on the strengths of the Moore family, Stephen, Adrian and Teresa but also some outstanding results from Phil Smith (Crawley) and the Horsham star Sally Weston.

Sussex juniors have not had a season to remember vividly, but the new young champion is Scott Greenbrook in the boys ranks whilst Bexhill's Julie Lawrence has startled a few of her well-known opponents.

After ten years service Colin Hyland is retiring as organiser of the Sussex Open championships. The very popular Hastings event may never return to the White Rock pavilion and seems set to remain at Hastings sports centre. The new organiser will be the president of the Hastings association, Ron Spencer.

David Wilson, a Hastings player with three young daughters in the junior ranks is masterminding a revival of the Sussex Junior Open, last held some 20 years ago at Worthing and originally created by ETTA vice-president Bill Goldfinch.

The tournament with a 2-star rating will re-appear at the Thomas Peacock School at Rye on November 29th and 30th.

County Notes

WARWICKSHIRE

Mary Rose

The Warwickshire junior coaching rallies are proving very successful giving 50 of the county's youngsters a great chance of intensive coaching. Both coaches and players seem very enthusiastic after the first two rallies which bodes very well for the county's future at representative level.

Rajinder Singh (Birmingham) earned congratulations and the £100 Bursary Tarmac award after the Tarmac coaching session held over the Easter holiday. Leigh Jeffries was selected for a team to visit Luxembourg in the summer, under the auspices of the Jill Hammersley/Parker foundation.

Leamington news

No league could have more support from a newspaper reporting on table tennis than Leamington. The Leamington Spa Courier gives detailed coverage each week, which includes photographs, league reports, tournament news and write-ups. It would be nice to hear that other areas had half as much interest shown to our sport.

WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

A stamp of class enveloped the men's event at the Wiltshire senior closed table tennis championships in Swindon.

It was delivered by the sackfull by Kevin Satchell, the county champion who gave up his job in a dole office to become a full-time player.

The question was not whether he was going to win the men's singles crown for the seventh time but if anybody was going to reach double figures in a game.

Swindon champion Ray Hughes tried in the quarter finals and was brushed aside -5, -8. Satchell's doubles partner John Chandler was dismissed for the total loss of 12 points in the semi-final and former champion Terry Bruce mustered a measly half-a-dozen points in each game in the final.

It came as no surprise when Satchell and Chandler retained their men's doubles title by defeating Bill Moulding and Terry Bruce in the final.

It was left to the women to serve up the shocks. And Swindon's Jenny Neale, last year's junior champion, came tops in that department.

She had the distinction of playing one of the longest ever matches in the championships before disposing of Swindon champion and top seed Claire Hunter in a marathon semi-final.

But she made shorter work of the final by beating Helen Wilson of Swindon in straight games. Helen,

who is "resting" from the game this season, put out the number two seed Brenda Lee in the semi-final.

Claire Hunter and Helen Wilson had the consolation of retaining their women's doubles title in a repeat of last season's all-Swindon final against Brenda Lee and Jenny Neale.

It was third time lucky for Brenda Lee in the mixed doubles in which she partnered Bill Moulding to victory in the final against Trevor Lloyd (West Wilts) and Julie Mills (Calne).

Lloyd and Miss Mills caused an upset in the semi-finals when they ousted the holders, Satchell and Karen Richards (Deveizes).

A new veterans' supremacy emerged in Brian Powell. He beat Ernie Howell in straight games in an action replay of the Swindon championships.

There were three cheers for Lorraine Cox of Swindon who conquered a hat-trick of titles in the junior championships.

Cheer number one came in the under 17 singles final when she defeated Tina Mills to take the title.

Cheer number two celebrated Lorraine's win with Melissa Potter against the Calne pairing of Tina Mills and Debbie Harmer in the girls doubles.

Cheer number three greeted her win in the mixed doubles when she teamed with Raymond Powell to defeat Paul Tuck and Tina Mills in the final.

It was a good day for Swindon players with Ray Powell putting himself back on top of the county junior hierarchy by winning the under 17 singles.

Seeded three, he disposed of number one Michael Auchterlonie (Salisbury) in the semi-final and then his attacking play ripped apart the defence of Ian Neate in an all-Swindon final.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug Moss

The Worcestershire closed championships were played for the first time in the Dudley area and were well staged at the Thorns Community College. Louise Davis (Kidderminster) was again the star of the championships.

At age 16 Louise won the women's singles title for the fourth consecutive year. She became a triple champion taking the women's doubles in partnership with Sandra Roden and the mixed doubles with 17 year old Tim Holder.

Simon Claxton (Worcester) reclaimed the mens singles title which he last won in 1984. Murray Jukes, the reigning champion, did not compete, being engrossed in "A" level studies.

The mens singles event saw 17 year old Mark Roden (Dudley) in fine form. Roden played for the

county junior team last season and this year has progressed to feature regularly in the county senior II team.

The end of the season brought a competition, organised by John Barber, between league and schools junior and cadet teams throughout the county. There was a very worthwhile entry and at the end of the day Dudley league won the junior competition beating Worcester league in the final. Richard Pratley played very well for Worcester beating both Paul Smith and Peter Canavan, the current county junior team Nos 1 and 2. Franche School, Kidderminster did well to beat Evesham league in the cadets final.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

Honour for Debbie

Young international Debbie Toole stepped forward at Yorkshire's annual dinner to receive the J.D. Cram award for the 'Most Improved Young Player' from ETTA Deputy Chairman George Yates.

Now elevated to No. 1 in the Lentec cadet ranking list and also holding top place in Yorkshire's powerful seven strong junior squad, Debbie, who plays for the Pontefract coaching club in division 1 of the Castleford/Pontefract league, as well as in the nearby Wakefield league, enjoyed a successful trip to West Germany.

There she was under the watchful eye of England international Jackie Bellinger, and this could have been an important factor in the excellent form which brought her selection for the 1986 European Youth Championships.

Incidentally how good to see Jackie, not too long out of the junior ranks herself, given the responsibility of leading a tour of this type — there will be a rapport with the youngsters, who will obviously benefit from contact with a top player whose memory of her own days when she was near the foot of the ladder and trying to climb must still be fresh.

Another respected figure with a

slightly longer association to the game, Bevan Walker, was also honoured at the annual dinner. Bevan received the L.E. Forrester memorial trophy, his third major award in as many months. Over the years Bevan has given invaluable service to the Dewsbury league and the Yorkshire committee. Long may his enthusiasm for our game remain.

North Yorkshire closed

Nationally ranked Tony Sanderson (York) took the mens singles title for the sixth time in nine years at the North Yorkshire closed championships at Selby when he scored a comfortable victory over Northallerton's Stephen Cooper in the final.

There was, however, some consolation for Cooper when he teamed up with Northallerton colleague Peter Sermon to take the mens doubles with a straight sets win over Barry Pearson (Northallerton) and Mike Wilcockson (Selby).

Dominating the ladies events was Harrogate's 12-year-old Ellen Meddings, who claimed an unprecedented four titles, and took the ladies singles crown for the first time with a three set win over York's former county player Jeanette Jackson.

Other results

XD: Nigel Pennock (Harrogate)/Meddings; **JBS:** Craig Smith (Selby); **JGS:** Meddings b Sharon Phillipson; **Cadet S:** Smith; **VS:** Pearson; **Over 50 S:** Len Browning (Harrogate); **H'cap S:** Andrew Whiteley (Harrogate); **Lower Division S:** Meddings.

Northallerton Closed

MS: Ian Plummer b David Blake; **MD:** Stephen Cooper/Richard Scruton b Plummer/Nick Hatch; **VS:** Richard Daniel b Barry Pearson.

Mixed doubles at Leeds

News of wedding bells in Leeds where British and Yorkshire league player Paul Sanderson, former city junior champion and Leeds league player for some 10-12 years, teamed up for life with Linda Hannah, who also plays in the Leeds league.



Yorkshire's triple award winner Bevan Walker.

Photo courtesy of the Dewsbury Reporter

LEAMINGTON TRIUMPH

Brian Aston

Leamington 'A' are the new champions of the Heart of England cadet league sponsored by the Cirencester Benefit Society. In the final session of matches at Leamington on Feb 8th they defeated Banbury 7-3 after a very close match, and then crushed their own 'B' team 9-1.

Kate Ryan, Clare Woodward and Mark Jackson all won twice against Banbury, and Clare and Mark added the doubles. Clare stood down against the 'B' team for Ewan Huc to deputise - and lose the only game to Andrew Jackson for whom it was a very good win (Victoria Clarke was the 5th member of the 'A' squad playing in previous sessions). Spa's 'B' team went on to force a creditable draw with Walsall, a result which helped them to a respectable mid-table position.

Worcester finished runners-up and produced the averages winner

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington 'A'	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Worcester	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Banbury	7	5	0	2	47	23	10
Coventry	7	3	2	2	41	29	8
Leamington 'B'	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Walsall	7	1	2	4	21	49	4
Evesham	7	0	3	4	25	45	3
Bromsgrove	7	0	2	5	17	53	2

NORTH WALES

C.T. Bayliss

At the end of yet another season the Wrexham division one winners are Caergwrle Boys Brigade first team and McAlpine Quarries snatched the runners-up position from Malpas.

In division two Llay Royal British Legion B were champions with Telecoms C second. Third place went to the McAlpine Quarries B team.

Division three title winners were the youngsters from Telecoms. The juniors had led this division almost from the start of the season and held off the challenge of Wrexham Old Boys C with Caergwrle BB C in third place.

In the league cup competition Caergwrle Boys Brigade completed their double adding the division one title to the Godfrey Party cup by beating Malpas in the final.

In the P.W. Hale handicap shield competition Caergwrle Boys Brigade C defeated Telecoms juniors. The OBA consolation shield competition was won by Llay RBL B.

The T.P. Gabriel merit award trophy has been awarded to Gary Price the popular match/secretary who plays for Llay RBL.

East Flintshire league

The Caergwrle BB with 173 points are champions of the East Flintshire league just one point ahead of BSC

in Nicola Jones who enjoyed a 95% success rate. Scott Piper, Walsall, was second with 91% and Leamington's Mark Jackson third on 90%.

The league singles knockout was won by Mark Jackson who beat clubmate Clare Woodward 21-8 in the 3rd. Jackson won the 1st 25-23 and Woodward the 2nd 21-18.

Banbury's first season in the league proved fruitful and were the best turned out side thanks to their sponsors.

Any teams interested in the league should contact Brian Aston on Leamington Spa 29398.

Results — final session

Bromsgrove 3 Coventry 7; Bromsgrove 5 Evesham 5; Worcester 5 Evesham 5; Coventry 5 Evesham 5; Walsall 5 Leam 'B' 5; Leam 'A' 7 Banbury 3; Leam 'A' 9 Leam 'B' 1

MIDLAND LEAGUE

John Barber

Mens division 1

Notts A finished with a fine 8-2 win over Wolves A to secure second place.

Veterans division 1

Leamington and Notts B were engaged in a well contested match with 6 sets going to the third, but the visitors slipped to defeat - and relegation. Stratford A are also relegated, losing all 10 to Oxford.

Veterans division 2

Kidderminster won well at West Bromwich to clinch promotion, having also defeated Walsall who were in contention with them. Lowly Coventry B played well to hold Kidderminster after being 2-5 down.

Women's section

Derby and Wolves A played for the title, the latter winning well at 8-2.

Intermediates

From 4-4, Bromsgrove won the last two sets to complete the double over Worcester.

Junior division 3

Bromsgrove just edged home against Coventry C for their only win of the season.

CLWYD

Charles Bayliss

In a match which had started promisingly Clwyd slipped in the second half to find Lincolnshire taking the final 5 sets and the match 7-3 for Clwyd Paul Griffiths and John Ellis won one singles and Trevor Manning and Ellis took the mens doubles.

Against Cheshire 2nds the team were much improved although a late surge by the visitors resulted in a close 6-4 scoreline. For Clwyd John Ellis was outstanding winning his two singles and partnered with Trevor Manning the doubles.

Chris Watkins won one ladies singles and with Marie Turner the doubles.

Rhyl Table Tennis League

Closed Championships 1985/86

MS Meirion Williams b Pat DeSouza. WS Barbara Williams b Pru Oakes. JS Perry Lee b Blythe Roberts. MD Malcolm Hook/Williams b Chris Wells/DeSouza. WD Oakes/Ann Young b Williams/Katie Gizzie. XD DeSouza/Williams b Williams/Carol Parry. VS Williams b Les Edwards. JD Lee/Gizzie b Spencer Reddaway/Stephen Parry.

Division two singles Chris Pryce b Wells.

What a dope

Those of you concerned over the potential problem of drugs in sport will be relieved to know that a special general meeting of the ETTA has voted to adopt a stern drugs testing procedure based on samples of blood or urine provided by selected competitors at forthcoming events. Full details will soon be available from the Hastings office; enquirers should request 'Appendix P'!



Will Rubberneck bounce back?

Now entering his second year Rubberneck has mellowed, becoming a little less cynical and a lot more humorous! He desperately needs to know about the really funny things which affect we 'pongists' so don't delay, drop him a line today marked 'for his eyes only' care of ETTA HQ.

The great escape

Has anyone seen a £2,000 cheque blowing in the wind recently? If so then National League champions GKN Wolverhampton would like to hear from you. Unlucky manager Paul Chester lost two cheques in one day - one later reappeared but the 'law of sod' dictated that it should be for £1.82!

Home and away

International teams travelling to major events during the coming season may need to invest in larger kit bags following the ITTF's new recommendation on team kit. To avoid confusion by viewers of televised events, teams will be asked to have two different coloured kits at the ready. It is good news for the spectator but it may have given one or two equipment sponsors a sharp stab in the wallet!

Selection matters

by Peter Charters (Chairman National Selection Committee)

It has become necessary to enlarge on the annual statement made in *Table Tennis News* regarding the concepts of selection and ranking. Each year it is stated that ranking does not mean selection; the computer ranking is compiled from factual results whilst the fundamental principle of selection is that it is based on the opinion of selectors. The task of the selector is to use personal judgement to assess a player's ability to win for England in the present and/or in the future. You cannot quantify a selection based on this task. This judgement is arrived at by taking into consideration numerous factors; the number and description of these factors and even the weighting of each factor is a matter of individual opinion by each member of the selection committee. This would still apply in the case of one man/woman selection.

The Selection Committee for the 1986/87 season is as follows:

- Peter Charters (Vice-Chairman, selection and coaching)*
- Donald Parker (trainer and men's captain)
- Nicky Jarvis (women's captain)
- Paul Day (junior captain)
- David Fairholm (coaching liaison)
- Mike Kercher (trials)
- Mike Watts (secretary)*
- * Non-voting

Whilst selection remains a matter of opinion, the Lentec ETTA ranking scheme is, wherever possible, based on results. The only opinion used, once the formula has been set up, relates to the position of foreign 'dummies'. The opinion of Donald Parker in conjunction with the match captain (if different) decides what dummy place or equivalent position on the English list the foreign player should be given.

The Lentec ETTA scheme enters its sixth season and Lentecs have provided new facilities to increase efficiency in the production of the lists. To keep the task of collating, coding and inputting to a reasonable and manageable level the computer places in the senior men for the start of the 1986/87 season have been cut to just over 400 whilst the women's and veterans lists have been cut by approximately the same proportion. Players removed from a computer place will have to win

their way back with a victory in one of the nominated events over a player holding a computer spot. The problem does not arise with juniors and cadets as at the end of each season a number of players move out of the age category. All points carried forward from the end of the 1985/86 season will be divided by two for the start of the 1986/87 season. This will apply to all categories. Half points will be rounded up to the next whole number. The base of the team events used will be as last season - the bottom divisions of the county championships and British League. The tournament base will be 2 star events. The number of players on the published ranking lists will vary. 200 men will need to be published for use by organisers of Class II and Class III events. The length of the women's, juniors, cadets and veterans lists will depend on the number of points gained by the players destined to be among the lowest places on the published ranking list. It is the policy to wait until a player has had a number of point gaining victories before he is placed on the published ranking list.

For the benefit and information of players, coaches, parents etc, the system for the 1986/87 season will be as follows:-

The system will continue to be on a wins only basis.

For the calculation of points the following formula will be used:-

Expected win (when a higher placed player beats a lower one) **Table**

Points difference	Points gain	
1 to 10	8	
11 to 30	7	
31 to 60	6	X
61 to 100	5	The
101 to 150	4	Weighting
151 to 210	3	Factor
211 to 280	2	
281 and over	1	

Unexpected win (when a lower placed player beats a higher one) **Table**

Points difference	Points gain	
1 to 10	9	
11 to 30	10	
31 to 60	11	X
61 to 100	12	The
101 to 150	13	Weighting
151 to 210	14	Factor
211 to 280	15	
281 and over		

When players are level on points at the time of playing a match, one point would be awarded to the winner to make it an expected win for the purpose of calculation.

Weighting

Results in different events will continue to be of differing value. Points gained will be multiplied by the weighting for the particular event in which the result occurred. Weighting factors are as follows:-

Senior

All County Championship matches.

All British League matches other than first and premier division.
2 Star open tournaments X1

British League - First and premier divisions.

European Club Cup.

International events - class III X2

3 star tournaments

International events - class II X3

Stiga Grand Prix finals

English Closed

European League

International events - class I

European Top 12 X4

World championships X5

Note: The qualifying rounds of the Welsh Open will be X3 whilst the main event will be X4. Any team 'plate' event will be X3.

Juniors and cadets

All county matches

2 star tournaments X1

International events - class III X2

Select open tournaments

Ranking tournament - knock out stage

International events - class II X3

English Closed

International events - class I X4

European youth championships X5

Note: The qualifying rounds in the English junior open will be X3 whilst the main event will be X4. Any team 'plate' event will be X3.

Veterans

All county matches

2 star open tournaments X1

Regional open tournaments X2

3 star tournaments

National 'age group' championships X3

English closed

championships X4

Groups events

Results in large group play amongst English players do not compute well to the system. Therefore, the following points only will be awarded for finishing positions.

English Top 12's

1st - 300 pts; 2nd - 250 pts; 3rd - 200pts; 4th - 150 pts; 5th - 125 pts; 6th - 100 pts; 7th - 75 pts; 8th - 50 pts; 9th - 40 pts; 10th - 30 pt; 11th - 20 pts; 12th - 10 pts.

English junior ranking trials Groups

Junior boys		Junior girls	
Pos.	Pts.	Pos.	Pts.
1	- 80	1	- 70
2	- 70	2	- 60
3	- 60	3	- 50
4	- 40	4	- 40
5	- 40	5	- 30
6	- 30	6	- 20
7	- 20	7	- 10
8	- 10		

Cadet boys

Cadet boys		Cadet girls	
Pos.	Pts.	Pos.	Pts.
1	- 70	1	- 90
2	- 60	2	- 80
3	- 50	3	- 70
4	- 40	4	- 60
5	- 30	5	- 50
6	- 20	6	- 40
7	- 10	7	- 30
		8	- 20
		9	- 10

Regional trials for juniors and cadets - Top 10

Pos.	Pts.
1	- 16
2	- 12
3	- 10
4	- 8
5	- 6
6	- 5
7	- 4
8	- 3
9	- 2
10	- 1

Note: Groups of four or less will be computed in the standard way.

Bonus

World championships

Winner - 1000 pts, runner-up - 700 pts, losing semi-finalist - 350 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 250 pts, last 16 - 125 pts, last 32 - 50 pts.

European Top 12's

1st - 400 pts, 2nd - 300 pts, 3rd - 250 pts, 4th - 200 pts, 5th - 160 pts, 6th - 140 pts, 7th - 120 pts, 8th - 100 pts, 9th - 80 pts, 10th - 60 pts, 11th - 40 pts, 12th - 20 pts.

International events class I

Winner - 300 pts, runner-up - 150 pts, losing semi-finalist - 100 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 50 pts, last 16 - 25 pts.

English closed

Winner - 200 pts, runner-up - 100 pts, losing semi-finalist - 50 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 25 pts.

Selection and Ranking

3 star tournaments, national ranking trials, (k.o. stages), Stiga grand prix final, international events class II, veterans at 3 stars
Winner - 80 pts, runner-up - 40 pts, losing semi-finalist - 20 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 10 pts.

International events class III, veterans regional opens select tournaments
Winner - 50 pts, runner-up - 30 pts, losing semi-finalist - 15 pts.

2 star tournaments, veterans at 2 stars
Winner - 10 pts.

Categories

Results will be included only in the category under which the event is played, e.g., a junior player's senior event wins over other junior players will not count towards his/her junior ranking, only a senior ranking.

Starting factor

Players final 1985/86 points have been divided by two for the start of the 1986/87 season.

Equality

Where two or more players are level on points, the player who has previously held the highest ranking will remain in that position.

Foreign players

Foreign players will be allocated dummy positions on the computer list. Each position on the ranking list will have a 'shadow' or dummy place with five dummy positions above the No. 1 ranked English player. The first eight dummies will be:-

A - 281 pts ahead of the English No. 1, B - 151 pts, C - 31 pts, D - 1 pt ahead. Dummy E will be halfway between the No. 1 and No. 2 ranked players in England, F halfway between 2 and 3, G between 3 and 4 and H between 4 and 5.

Responsibility

The National selection committee will retain responsibility for all lists issued. Players may be withdrawn from (or in some cases added to) the lists at the committee's discretion. The class grading for each international event will be decided in advance by the selection committee.

Issue of ranking lists

Ranking lists will be issued as follows:-

Seniors

As soon as possible after the:-
1. 1st August 1986; 2. 27th October 1986; 3. 15th December 1986; 4. 26th January 1987; 5. 13th April 1987; 6. 18th May 1987.

Juniors and cadets

As soon as possible after the:-
1. 1st August 1986; 2. 5th January 1987; 3. 16th February 1987; 4. 13th April 1987; 5. 2nd June 1987.

Veterans

As soon as possible after the:-
1. 1st August 1986; 2. 15th December 1986; 3. 1st March 1987; 4. 1st April 1987; 5. 1st May 1987.

Any queries concerning the scheme should be directed to: Bryan Merrett, 26 Saffire Close, Tuffley, Gloucester (Tel: 0452 27549).

Change in the wind

During the past two years, attempts have been made to secure a sponsorship agreement for the English Closed writes Mike Watts but on viewing the event interested parties have declared the Championships to be unattractive. Apart from the prestige, the event is no different to any other 3 star tournament and whilst it stays in a sports hall with the usual ten or twelve court setting it will remain so.

Therefore, a number of changes are being made in an attempt to improve the image and thereby increase the chances of obtaining sponsorship and, hopefully, television.

For the 1986/87 season, only the top 64 men and 32 women on the ranking list at a given date will be eligible to enter; from 1987/88 onwards it is planned to hold nine regional qualifying tournaments with only a small number of players given automatic entry.

Only the standard five individual events will be held on eight tables with tiered seating on four sides of the hall in an attempt to provide "atmosphere".

The smaller entry will give the opportunity to prepare a balanced schedule geared to the interests of the media, the spectators and the players.

No practice will be allowed on vacant tables within the arena; practice facilities will be provided in an adjacent area.

Based on these new ideas, discussions are already taking place with a prospective sponsor and it is hoped that players will accept the changes in the long term interests of themselves and our national championships.

English Table Tennis Association Laws/Regulations 1986/87

1 Rackets

1.1 As from 1st July 1986, the ITTF regulation on racket coverings was amended to read: "the surface of one side of the racket shall be bright red and the surface of the other side shall be black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball."

This regulation is compulsory for world, continental and open international championships but the ETTA will apply it to all events which qualify for the computer ranking scheme, e.g. Open tournaments, County Championships, Schildkrot British League, National Team Knock-out competitions, etc.

By resolution of the ETTA AGM, any county association or local league may adopt this regulation for its own competitions if they so wish but no county association may direct a local league to adopt it for that league's domestic competitions.

1.2 The laws of table tennis require a side of the blade of a racket used for striking the ball to be covered but the ETTA AGM agreed that any local league which wishes to do so may allow the use of uncovered rackets in its domestic competitions.

2 Competitions

The ETTA National Council have ruled that "any affiliated county association, local league or club, may, without special permission, organise and conduct an additional competition or competitions solely among its own members and players on a knock-out basis, wherein the normal provisions of the approved Laws are varied in one or more of the following ways:

- 1 By reducing or increasing the number of points required to win a game, either for all players or differentially under a system of handicaps.
- 2 By restricting the type of racket or racket cover or by otherwise diverging from the normal requirements as to equipment."

This is a waiver of ETTA Rule 41.2 which requires all competitive play to be under the laws of table tennis and allows the staging of handicap competitions and hard bat events.

3 Clothing

The ITTF have changed the regulations on clothing in order to allow garments to carry advertising in addition to the makers normal trademark, symbol or name.

On the front or side of a playing shirt there can be up to two separate advertisements each contained within an area of 40 sq. cm. (e.g. 2.5" x 2.5"). Similarly, one such advertisement can be on the playing shorts or skirt.

The back of a playing shirt may carry one advertisement contained in a total area of 200 sq. cm. (e.g. 5.5" x 5.5" or 8" x 4").

This will allow those players who are fortunate enough to have a personal sponsor to give some recognition to that sponsor which hitherto has only been possible on a tracksuit.

A copy of the full wording of the clothing regulations can be obtained from the ETTA office who will also be pleased to answer any other queries on laws and regulations.

4 Continuous play

In an attempt to restrict time-wasting, international regulations have been amended so that breaks for towelling will be allowed only at the change of service or, where service is alternating, at intervals of five points.

Taking stock

By Tony Russe

With a new season almost upon us, coaches should be taking stock, of themselves and their players. What are their aims for the coming season, are they reasonably achievable, how are they to be achieved? This little piece of self-analysis should be done by all coaches, whether their responsibilities are at national or at club level. We all tend to think of the national scene and forget the importance of Joe Bloggs running his one night a week session in the backwaters. But Joe's contribution is at least equal to that of his seniors and could be argued to be greater. So please, Joe, stop and think about what you hope to achieve this season.

What is the most important ingredient? I overheard an altercation at a coaching session during the summer when a league official was expounding the absolute essential of the presence of an umpire. Without an umpire the game could not go on. What rot! The whole set up of the ETTA organisation is one of bricks, one placed on the other to make the whole structure. Sometimes it gets a bit wobbly but it hasn't fallen down yet. But stop and think why we have this structure. It is not so people can sit on committees and have titles, it is not to have umpires or coaches each believing that they are more important than

the other. It is there to ensure that players can play. The players are the most important thing in the whole set-up. Without the players there is no need for coaches, umpires, administrators or whatever.

So Joe look at your players and plan how you can best serve them. Remember, in the final judgement it is players who make coaches' reputations. But there are players, good players and excellent players. Don't discard one for the other. They are all important to the game as a whole. In racing parlance, among the betting fraternity some horses get referred to as 'dogs'. They are not dogs, they are racehorses. All athletes of various standards. Some are asked too big a question, but if they are not tested how can we know their full potential? So it is with our players. How often have you heard a player described as being of 'no use' or some equally derogatory phrase? No use for what? If the player is outclassed he should be advised to drop his sights. Marvellous things can be done by 'blood and guts' but you cannot put in what God left out. I believe that we must all strive to use to the full the gifts that become ours in the hour of birth, but because a player was not given as much natural talent as the next does not mean he is a 'dog'.

Jarvis in action

Newly-appointed ETTA Southern region national coach, Nicky Jarvis, made an early start to his new profession when he visited Newbury in early July. Nicky, a former England No 1 and current captain of the English women's team, takes over from Dave Fairholm who has moved up to tackle the role of ETTA Director of Coaching.

You can contact Nicky at:

1 Howard Ridge, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey. Tel: 0483 506963



Nicky Jarvis (centre) with leading junior and cadet players at Newbury. L to r back: Darren Jones, Julie Norman, Julian Jones, Robert Ethridge, Waseem Anees. Front: Stephen Dibley, Khan Quach, Antony Baker, Edward Leach, Keith Langley. Peter Bloodworth 0635 46591

Go to any tournament and just look around you. All the players there are striving for recognition. They have all worked hard for the day and all but a few must fall by the wayside as the tournament progresses. If their practice hours were added up it would make a mind blowing grand total. So Joe, a few practical hints for the new season.

- 1 Assess your players as honestly as possible, set them **achievable targets**, review their results and reset the targets up or down as the season progresses.
- 2 Be flexible yourself, Joe. None of us ever stops **learning**.
- 3 In your coaching teach **quality** of stroke and **positiveness** of mind. They are equally important and a true champion player must have both elements.
- 4 A good coach must be a good teacher. A good teacher must know his subject. So Joe, **keep yourself up to date**. Attend some courses yourself. Coaches must bounce ideas off each other.
- 5 **Enjoy your players**. Enjoy their successes and share their disappointments, but always remember that they are the important ones.

Good luck, Joe, keep on trying. The coaching system cannot survive without you.

Top dogs

A course for senior coaches is to be held at Crystal Palace over the weekend of the 19th to 21st September 1986. Entitled "In search of excellence" it will provide an opportunity for selection and coaching to come together to reconsider our present methods and plan for the future, in search of a winning national team and potential champions. Attendance will be by invitation.

Invite to the palace

Other dates at Crystal Palace are a personal performance course on 12th/14th September and a coaches advancement course on 21st/23rd November next. These courses are designed for ETTA members to improve themselves as players, or coaches, or both. The courses priced at £32.00 non-residential and £46.00 residential, are well subsidised and offer great value. Contact the office at Hastings (0424 - 433121) or David Fairholm (0735 - 292990).

Team effort

David Fairholm is now the ETTA Director of Coaching. This may or may not be news to you. However, it is a new post and a very arduous one. David puts everything of himself into his coaching and I am sure that he will grow with the job and be successful. However, feedback is important. David's advice is available to coaches of all levels. If you need help in any way, write to him at Hastings. Don't harbour grievances, tell David and he will do all he can to help. There are exciting times ahead and let us give him all the support and understanding that he needs to bring greater success to the ETTA coaching scheme.

Lilleshall for all

Players from the West Midlands should note two important dates in their diary. Courses will operate at Lilleshall on September 26th - 28th for student and club coaches and November 22nd - 23rd for junior and cadet players. Details are available from regional co-ordinating committee chairman Jim Hayward on 0902 751427.

The West Midlands region is to enjoy its own club league during 1986/87 with teams contesting matches on Schildkrot British League dates, again Jim Hayward is the man with the details.

Ever thought
of
coaching?

SEPTEMBER
12th-14th
Personal Performance
Coaching Course
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CRYSTAL PALACE N.S.C.
with
DAVID FAIRHOLM
ETTA Coaching Director
Begins **FRIDAY 7.30pm**
Concludes
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£46 FULL BOARD

0424 433121

All in the best possible taste

Student coach Steven Sonsino reports

There were many sore limbs and aching backs, but no one was killed outright at the ETTA's 1986 holiday coaching course or Summer School at the National Sports Centre in Crystal Palace in July. The gruelling week-long course did not, either, result in any of the fee-paying Davids toppling any of the country's Goliath-like international stars.

Besides a gaggle of national and senior ETTA coaches, including Gail McCulloch and Javed Ameri, several excellence squad players were around throughout the week. Helping to improve our games were the diminutive grinner, Jimmy Stokes, England junior number one, he of the nigh-impossible-to-serve; and the quiet but sneaky Juliet Houghton, England junior number four, senior number nine. They were having a last minute, three-day-long knock up before the European Youth Championships in Belgium.

In addition, the crew was aided and abetted by Welsh international Nigel Tyler, who was practising to be a coach on the Crystal Palace guinea pigs.

Most of the seventeen guinea pigs arrived at the Crystal Palace hostel on the Sunday evening before the physical torture began, and the course was officially opened at 8.30pm by David Fairholm, director of coaching. Before settling down to watch three table tennis video films he invited everyone to tuck in to a selection of European cheeses. Besides being very impressed with the selection of cheeses, national coach Nicky Jarvis pointed out that: "The wines were good, too." Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that two bottles somehow remained unopened and - mysteriously - vanished before the end of the evening! In all fairness I must confess that one bottle did turn up, on the last day, and was awarded to Tony Wheeler, who won the usual last-day tournament, or at least came second to Nigel Tyler, which is good enough for me.

The three videos shown on the first evening included a new 15-20 minute film produced by the Swedish table tennis federation about how a young player might make it to the top of the table tennis tree. As if this wasn't enough to wet the appetite of the course

members, the second video showed two players that had reached the top. It was the semi-final of the 1985 Charles Church Championship, with Poland's Andrzej Grubba playing Frenchman Jacques Secretin.

After the opening game of the match, course leader David Fairholm split the company into two groups - one behind Grubba, one behind Secretin - to analyse the tactics of each player. This ploy gave us an insight to top class tactical play whilst helping everyone to acquaint themselves with their fellow students.

The third video, a Japanese film on individual techniques, rounded off the evening at midnight.

The following morning's activity started early for some - jogging round the perimeter of the camp before breakfast. This went on every morning for the residents, but only half of them made it each morning. Bacon and eggs never looked so appealing as they did on those mornings. What is it they say about the condemned and a hearty breakfast?

The non-residents arrived each day at 9.30am and soon - in the first of two daily warm ups - everyone was running round the hall, puffing and panting like the Reverend W Audry's steam trains going uphill. (Eat your heart out Thomas the Tank Engine). The fact that the temperature was in the high eighties on most days, and that the windows were often closed, and that workmen were pneumatically pounding the concrete outside, did nothing to temper the perspiration of the panting group. The cold drink vending machine outside the table tennis hall must have made

millions by the end of the week.

After the first twenty-minute "warm up", David Fairholm warned the tired troupe that the week was very long. "Don't burn yourselves out," he said. Some of us were well burned out by this time, but politely kept quiet. He went on: "Wednesday's the worst day." On this occasion he was wrong: by general consensus Tuesday was the worst. One player said that on Tuesday it seemed as if someone had lowered the floor.

David also reminded us that we could use any of the Crystal Palace facilities - track, pools, squash, badminton - if we'd just let him know. No one was really sure where he expected the energy for more torture to come from. Perhaps it was just for the coaches' benefit, although on Tuesday Nigel Tyler skived out of a squash match with England number 14 and former junior number one Colin Wilson. Colin helped give us a demonstration match along with Jimmy, Juliet and Nigel.

Our actual table tennis practices started off with those basic building blocks of table tennis - yes, backhand push and forehand drive. Nicky Jarvis, resplendent in new trainers, shorts and shirt, told the group to think of technique in all the shots. "Always get back to the recovery position, and always use your spare arm as a balance and as a guide; track the ball with it."

So with the emphasis firmly on technique we moved quickly on to aggressive pushing: pushing to a variety of positions, pushing to anywhere in the backhand court and anticipating the opponents next shot.

For the drive, again Nicky exhorted us to think of recovery as an integral part of the shot. He also pointed out the importance of legs and waist in giving power

to the shots, particularly when moving from place to place. The mornings were generally rounded off with a little matchplay.

After such hard work, lunch was a many splendoured thing, to paraphrase the old song.

Throughout the week, the sports centre's video camera was in use, recording our faults for all to see. It was quite a useful tool, we agreed, highlighting both problems and advantages very quickly, even with just a few minutes on film.

A robot was also on hand to spew balls at you if you really wanted to suffer. I shall never forgive Mr Fairholm for making the machine spray chopped balls at me and then raising the net to an illegal eighteen inches or so, saying: "Your loop should clear that easily." However, I did get some satisfaction when Nigel Tyler came over to demonstrate and promptly put about ten balls into the net before he started clearing it "easily".

Perhaps I should have taken the advice of course colleague, Nicholas Willy, who said that Nicky Jarvis's advice on looping reminded him of an advertisement for toothpaste: "Don't rush - brush."

After a couple of so-called fun games, where the losers were forced to do sit-ups and other dreadful things, the last hour or so of each day was devoted to individual tuition on a variety of topics. Then the days were adjourned and after dinner the norm was a quick drink in the stadium bar. Sleep came early most nights, except when there were parties going on in the room above. Was it the Australian high divers? Or the yoga and aerobics class? Who knows? Maybe we'll find out next year.



Table tennis news gets the thumbs up from coaches and students at Crystal Palace.

'Mr Table Tennis' retires

Joe Veselsky, Ireland's "Mr Table Tennis" has retired from his position as president of the Irish Table Tennis Association.

Joe has been the dominant personality in the game at administrative level since his arrival in Ireland as a refugee from Czechoslovakia in the early 1950s.

Fluent in many languages, Joe represented Ireland as non-playing captain at European and World Championships during the 1960s.

A former Leinster and Irish selector, Joe has filled every role possible as an official of the ITTA.



Pat O'Brien, npc of the Irish Association, presents a gift to Josef Veselsky to mark his retirement as President.

Stamford stalwart

There was a special tribute to Stamford and Rutland League stalwart, Brendan Alston, on the annual presentation night at Barnack Cricket Club.

Brendan received an ETTA Merit Award in recognition for his services to table tennis during his years of office with the league. Special guest at the awards evening was Mr. Ken Marchant, chairman of the ETTA's East Midlands regional co-ordinating committee.



League chairman Rob Elliot (left) presents the special award to Brendan Alston. Stamford Photographic services (0780) 62225.



Prize winners at the Stamford and Rutland presentation night. In the centre is Mr Ken Marchant.

Package deal for youth clubs

AG International Leisure Equipment have linked with the National Association of Youth Clubs in a promotion which could result in many clubs nationwide obtaining much-needed new tables.

Two models from the Kettler (GB) table tennis range will be made available to clubs together with a sponsorship pack which tells them how to organise successful table tennis events to pay for the table — and raise finance for club funds. The two models are the Oslo, a free-standing unit on trestle legs, and the folding Nordkap.

The package, telling clubs how to raise funds, has been put together by the National Association of Youth Clubs whose sports and recreation officer, John Bateman, said: "We have already circulated over 6,000 clubs in the country and the response has been very good. Many youth clubs operate on a shoe-string, and while most of them have access to a table tennis table it may not be of very good quality. This link will give them a good table paid for by their own initiative."

Interested? then contact AG International Leisure Equipment, New Road, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7LY.

Fit, fast and over 40?

VETT's secretary Mike Watts with the latest news

In the words of the famous Johnny Walker scotch whisky advert "Born 15th January 1984 and still going strong." Not so many years ago players dreaded the thought of reaching the ripe old age of 40. You were finished — nothing to look forward to and nowhere to go. But suddenly all that has changed. The cry now is for more competition; more recognition and more interest not only at national level but now at world level.

To date three World Veteran championships have been held. The first in Gothenburg, Sweden attracted 450 players and England won 2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals. In 1984 the second took place in Helsinki, Finland and this time England won 2 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze from an increased entry.

This year, 1986, over 1100 players journeyed to Rimini, Italy including 84 from England. Standards have definitely improved and England's haul was 3 silver and 2 bronze. The 1988 championships have been allocated to Yugoslavia and hopefully the 1990 will be in England.



At national level, membership of the society has steadily increased from an initial 30 members to almost 300.

The society has run four national tournaments in the past and this coming season are pleased to report an increase to five. These are as follows:

VETTS Eastern Masters (Grimsby) 20/21 September 1986. Organiser: Mrs Sue Allison, 27 St. Mary's Park, Louth, Lincs. Telephone 0507 605605.

VETTS Midland Masters (Covenry) 29/30 November 1986. Organiser: Mike Watts, 53 Solway, Hailsham, East Sussex. Telephone 0323 845583.

VETTS Southern Masters (Brighton) 28 February/1 March 1987. Organiser: Mike Watts (address as above).

VETTS Northern Masters (Macclesfield) 18/19 April 1987. Organiser: Roger Moss, 396 Buxton Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire. Telephone 0625 21188.

VETTS National Age Group championships (Bracknell) 23/24 May 1987. Organiser: Mike Watts (address as above).

Each of these championships have events open to age categories over 40, over 50, over 60 and over 70 singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Restricted singles for men and women are also held and entry is not restricted to society members but open to all. It is also hoped to organise the first international open for veterans during June 1987.

Membership of the society is available to any affiliated player over the age of 40 at the 1st July in any one year and costs £10 per annum (£5 for OAP's). The society publishes a newsletter six times a year, arranges social functions at each of the championships listed and issues its own rankings, courtesy of the Lentec computer scheme using the same system as the ETTA. Further details from the Membership Secretary, Mrs Hilda Watts, 53 Solway, Hailsham, East Sussex.

Harold still sparks — at 80!

Penn 80-year old Harold Rhodes, still a registered player with Wolverhampton Electricity club, could well claim to have the longest competitive record in table tennis in the country — or even the world! Manchester-born Harold began playing at the age of 14 and his first league outings were in Norwich in 1929 — and he has been playing ever since. He represented Wolverhampton before the war and afterwards collected a string of veterans singles titles. He stubbornly persists with the old pen-holder grip — which is quite understandable when you consider it has served him well for the past 66 years.

School Report

Golden moments in Salford

David Lomas

Although England teams and players once again dominated the Dunlop Schools International Championships - which were held at Broughton Recreation Centre, Salford on July 5th and 6th - Scotland provided their first individual champion in the shape of Sarah Hurry who won the cadet girls event.



Scotland's first-ever winner, Sarah Hurry, receives congratulations on her cadet girls success from the Mayor of Salford, Councillor Hobbs.

Ireland also had two runners-up; Grainne Redmond (cadet girls) and Andrew Dennison (senior boys).

England won the team trophy for the twelfth consecutive time since the championships began in 1975. Ireland were second and Scotland third.



Mark Randle (England) receives the International Team Trophy (on behalf of the England team) from the mayor of Salford, Councillor Hobbs.

England's hope of retaining the overall team title was never in doubt but their senior boys team suffered some anxious moments before they eventually won their event and joined the other five England teams who enjoyed similar successes. The seniors came from 4-3 down against Scotland to win 6-4. Scotland's Gordon Waddell (No. 1) scored wins over England's Jon Bult and Andrew Ball. England appeared to be in even deeper trouble against Ireland, trailing 4-2 with Ireland's Andrew Dennison and Anthony Redmond unbeaten, but recovered to win 6-4.

The championships involved 96 players and players from 21 coun-

ties comprised the England teams. The absence of several key England players was noticeable but the competition for honours was consequently keener than usual.

The Irish teams involved players from north and south of the border. For sisters Ann and Catherine Symons their selection for the Scottish team meant an 8 a.m. start on Thursday morning from their home in Finstown, Orkney and a 530 mile train journey from Thurso to Manchester. No doubt they were delighted to discover that all the Scottish party's rail travel was sponsored by ScotRail!

It was the first occasion that the championships were staged in the North West. Many thanks are due to Salford City Council's Recreation Services Department who provided substantial help to make the event possible and to Dunlop Slazenger International who provided equipment and other help.



Lancashire TTA Chairman and National Councillor, Arthur Upton, presents the senior girls trophy to Debbie Soothill (Lancs/England).



Helen Lower (England), Intermediate Girls event winner, with Alan Hydes of Dunlop Slazenger International.



England's senior girls team, who defeated Ireland and Scotland by maximum 10-0 wins, with NPC Dennis Worrell (Li). L to r: Helen Perrott, Susan Butler, Louise Davis, Sarah Hammond and Debbie Soothill.

RESULTS

Team events

Overall team trophy: 1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland

Senior boys

1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland
ENG 6 SCO4; SCO 5 IRE 5; IRE 4 ENG 6.

England: Andrew Ball (W. Yorks), Jon Bult (Hu), Peter Harris (Bu), Mark Randle (Wa), Martin Stanley (Co). NPC: Phil Burwell (W.M.)

Senior girls

1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland
SCO 0 IRE 10; IRE 0 ENG 10; ENG 10 SCO 0.

England: Susan Butler (Dv), Louise Davis (Sp), Sarah Hammond (Ha), Helen Perrott (Av), Debbie Soothill (La). NPC: Dennis Worrell (Li).

Intermediate Boys

1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland
IRE 2 ENG 8; ENG 10 SCO 0; SCO 3 IRE 7.

England: Gavin Black (Bd), John Holland (No), David Morris (Sp), Matthew Pernet (Sy), Adrian Thorp (WM). NPC: Paul Birch (Bd)

Intermediate girls

1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland
SCO 0 ENG 10; IRE 6 SCO 4; ENG 10 IRE 0.

England: Melonie Carey (So), Kristina Cox (Me), Tanya Holland (Ex), Helen Lower (WM), Nicola McGrath (La). NPC: Gail McCulloch (Sy).

Cadet boys

1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland
ENG 8 IRE 2; SCO 1 ENG 9; IRE 7 SCO 3.

England: Michael Auchterlonie (Wi), Neil Bevan (Co), Andrew Eden (La), Leigh Jeffries (WM), Gary Knights (St). NPC: Geoff Gardiner (La).

Cadet girls

1 England; 2 Scotland; 3 Ireland
IRE 4 SCO 6; ENG 8 IRE 2; SCO 3 ENG 7.

England: Caroline Buckley (Bd), Nicola Jones (H & W), Samantha Marling (Hu), Sarah Pengelly (Dv), Joanna Roberts (W.Yks). NPC: Grete Willacy (WM).



Cadet boys winner, Neil Bevan (England) with the mayoress of Salford, Mrs. Hobbs.



England's intermediate girls team, with NPC Gail McCulloch (Sy). L to r: Nicola McGrath, Helen Lower, Kristina Cox, Tanya Holland and Melonie Carey. All photos: Ian Lunn 061 790 3457

Super league solution

In *Table-Tennis News* (March/April), comment was made by David Cosway, Hampshire county press officer, about the Tees Sport super league in Bournemouth, and how it has become a substitute for the local league. As one of the founders of the former I offer the following comments.

The Bournemouth league still affiliates to Hampshire despite Bournemouth being part of Dorset since 1974. Certain members of the committee vow this will never change and therefore the players in the super league, who all represent Dorset in the county championships, retain their allegiance to the Poole league which affiliates to Dorset.

The Bournemouth league were informed as long ago as season 1979/80 that changes to the structure of the premier division were necessary if the top local players were to continue playing.

Suggestions were made by the players for changes such as (a) reduce the number of teams in the division, (b) play the first half of the season with twelve teams and then split the top six and bottom six for the second half.

A questionnaire was circulated by the committee proposing these options to all premier division players. No official result was ever announced, but we were told there was a poor response to returning the form, and therefore this indicated that change was not wanted by the majority. No changes were made.

The top players continued to play in the Bournemouth league for another five seasons hoping for improvements, but the situation deteriorated. Some teams would turn up with only one or two players against the top teams instead of three, and fines of 20p were hardly a deterrent. Those who did turn up were already resigned to defeat and played accordingly, and these were often the same people who were against a change in the system.

Criticisms were made that the top players should not play in the same team, but surely sport does not segregate friends?

The super league was finally seen as the best option, and regrettably the local league may have suffered. Alternatively, some argue that the local league has benefited as matches are now more even.

It should also be noted that the Poole league, which affiliates to

Dorset, was willing to make changes last year, and all the top players still play in this league as well as three of them serving on the Dorset T.T.A. committee.

Top players can only play in a certain number of matches, and many local players who only play one league match each week fail to realise how much time is spent playing county matches, British league matches, tournaments, inter-league and local league matches.

In all these competitions we pay our own expenses, and why should we therefore pay to play against opponents in the local league who do not even bother to make the effort to turn up with a complete team?

The super league will be held again this season because it is played in superior playing conditions and continues to fulfil the needs of those who compete in it.

Yours faithfully,
Martin Hughes
Secretary — Tees Sport
Super League
88 Dorset Avenue,
West Parley,
Wimborne,
Dorset BH22 8HP

Supremo support

With regard to the article 'Forward to the 20th Century' by John Prean in the June/July issue, it is obvious from the column I had already submitted to the *News of the World* for publication on 27 July that I am wholly in agreement with John's views.

The following is the original text.

English Table Tennis needs a supremo - a sole selector and manager with powers and responsibilities similar to those invested in soccer's Bobby Robson.

Such an appointment wouldn't be entirely new - I was given the job on similar terms back in the 1960's and found it workable. I've also reason to believe it was successful. Now insistent voices are starting to press for a revival of the supremo system which was abandoned after my retirement.

Discontent with the work of the present selection committee was expressed from the floor of last week's AGM. I don't go along with that. Peter Charters and his co-selectors are experienced, dedicated officers doing their best. No selectors can expect to please everyone all of the time. Equally it's unfair to expect trainer Donald Parker to carry the

can for the results of teams selected for him.

If a supremo were to be appointed, Peter Charter's selection committee would still have an important advisory role to play. But the final choice of team should be made by one man with a close, up-to-date knowledge of all the leading players. And he would stand or fall according to the performance of his teams over a reasonable period.

I have no doubt who the supremo should be. Donald Parker, the current England trainer is respected by all his colleagues as a player, captain and coach and he is already doing 90 per cent of the job well under reasonable conditions. As an extra string to his bow he has available the help of his wife Jill, England's outstanding woman player of the last decade.

I say: give Don the last word in selection and let results determine the value of this proposed change of policy.

When I put my proposal to Tom Blunn, the chairman of the ETTA confirmed that it was bound to be discussed at top level in the next few weeks. "It will depend on a majority decision" he said "My own mind is open, though I must say the supremo idea worked well when you did the job".

Desmond Douglas, England's leading player said: "It's up to the council, of course, but if they have the courage to appoint a supremo I'd regard that as a forward step".

Johnny Leach MBE
15 Manor Links
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire CM23 5RA

Invisible man

In reply to John Prean's letter in the last issue of *Table Tennis News*, I will gladly answer the points raised by Rubberneck if someone would kindly translate them for me.

Rubberneck him/herself has admitted that he/she/it isn't about truth, accuracy, etc. and in any case much of it was far too deep for me to understand. If John would care to put into print what exactly Rubberneck was driving at, I will do my best to answer.

Peter Charters
Vice Chairman, Selection/
Coaching
57 Burghfield Road
Reading, Berks.

£60,000 silver lining

The old adage 'every cloud has a silver lining' has certainly proved to be true in the north of England. Following the abolition of metropolitan councils in Tyne and Wear and Manchester table tennis has received great benefits. Substantial funds, administered by the regional sports councils have been allocated to the employment of full-time table tennis motivators in both population centres. These posts will be administered by the Northern and North West regional co-ordinating committees respectively.

South east successes

A widely distributed regional brochure, sponsorship from TSB, fourteen ranking tournaments in London in 1987 supported by the Sports Council and two MSC schemes operating in Sussex are the proud boast of the London and South East regional co-ordinating committee.

Over 4,000 regional information brochures have been circulated, courtesy of the Sports Council, to local authorities, sports centres, youth clubs and other important target groups. Playrite Sports were the main sponsor.

TSB are among the sponsors who have supported two senior and one junior tournament, the regional junior trials and the regional brochure.

Specialist attention from Michael Close, the new chairman of the RCC, has resulted in substantial Sports Council grant aid for fourteen ranking tournaments in London which will be united by a ranking list.

Activity in the region is designed to generate new affiliations by introducing newcomers to the competitive opportunities of our sport.

Building blocks

If you want to build your own table tennis facilities and you live in the South West region then ETTA regional co-ordinating committee chairman Mike Lewis is waiting to hear from you. Only two schemes have been recommended for Sports Council capital grant aid and there is scope for others to be considered on the basis of a 50% contribution. You can contact Mike on 0272 730788.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

ITTF BOOKS. *Official Handbook* (constitution, laws in full and international regulations) - £3.00; *Handbook for Match Officials* - 65p; *Rules Booklet* (laws and international regulations) - 50p. Prices (c.w.o) include p&p from: **ETTA, 21 Claremont, Hastings TN34 1HF.**

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Last issue

I have just received issue No. 158 of *Table Tennis News*

Well done!

Robert Oldfield
193 Cuckfield Road
Hurstpierpoint
Hassocks BN6 9RT

Calling all collectors

As far as I know I am the owner of the largest collection of table tennis balls in the world. I have collected more than 750 balls - with the cooperation of many fellow-collectors and the full support of manufacturers in the field of table tennis - over many years.

I am constantly attempting to increase my collection and would welcome a letter from anyone in England who shares my interest. I produce a catalogue to illustrate each ball and would be pleased to consider exchanges.

Andrei van Drielen
Thomas a Kempisstraat 5
8021 BG Zwolle, Nederland
Tel: 038-537600

Free speech

According to Mr. Sweeting in *Table Tennis News* (June/July) "Mr. John Preat, yet again, felt the need to write a destructive article" and it "saddens" him "to read the number of articles that continually appear in this magazine which do nothing less but criticize the state of the game."

I respect his view that all is well, but have noted that since 1980 we have lost close to 30% of our members, including some who were very young and very good. I hardly ever see the sport on T.V. which, rightly or wrongly, is important and I seldom read about it in the newspapers. It appears to interest few of our fellow men. All this makes my life as a local official very difficult, because our members, old as well as potential, are taking up other sports which appear to be more respected and glamorous.

What does Mr. Sweeting think we should do? Join the ever swelling ranks who have left the sport? Pretend that all is well when it is not? Or stay and create some sense of awareness of what is wrong, so that reforms follow?

I have a very big stake in table tennis and a commitment to it, not least because my whole family has put much into the sport. I desire little more passionately than to see this great sport where it belongs - right at the top.

If I thought that to become an ostrich would serve the sport, I, too, would bury my head in the sand and pretend that the world I could not see was wonderful. If things are wrong - and the signs are there - then surely it is a member's right and duty to speak up and, if people do, they deserve our gratitude. The sport would be much worse without them. It is the ostriches and the ones who try to suppress free speech who should search their souls.

It has been said that the test of a nation's or organisation's civilisation is its treatment of minorities. I'll drink to that ... except that I don't regard myself in a minority any more, because most people who think and worry about the sport now want to see changes.

These will never come if we pretend that all is well. It is now a question of survival. The membership losses tell the story and time is no longer on our side.

John Preat
12 Marlborough Road, Ryde,
Isle of Wight PO33 1AA

OBITUARIES

H 'Bert' Dainty

It was with sorrow that Doncaster and Yorkshire table tennis enthusiasts learned of the death of Doncaster league president Bert Dainty on April 14th.

Mr Dainty, a native of Wigan, moved to Doncaster as a 20-year-old and quickly made his mark on the local sporting scene, as a rugby player, scoring a try in every match during his first season with Doncaster Rugby Union Club.

He also partnered Mary Pinder, who later became his wife, to three Doncaster badminton mixed doubles titles before the outbreak of the Second World War.

In the late forties Bert was asked if he would start a table tennis section in a local club to keep kids off the streets - and so began his long and passionate association with the game.

As the standard of Doncaster table tennis soared through Bert's encouragement in arranging tournament practice, his genial personality was a boost to the losers as well as the winners.

Since those early days he has served on the Doncaster committee and later served as Doncaster's representative on the Yorkshire committee, receiving a Special Badge Award in 1965/66 and the L E Forrest Memorial Award the following year. Mr Dainty was also made an honorary life member of the YTTA.

Last December, he received the English Table Association Merit Award for his devoted service to the game.

Tony Leverton

Tony Leverton - for two decades the corner-stone of Wanstead & Woodford TTC - died on Tuesday 11th March, age 47. He will be deeply mourned by Pam his wife and family and also by his many friends within and outside our sport.

Table tennis will be the poorer at his loss to the game. Tony pioneered Wanstead & Woodford TTC from modest beginnings of division 8 of the Ilford League to the lofty heights of division 1.

He won many club titles and league championships and represented Ilford and Tower-Hamlets as a player, serving on the Ilford League committee as auditor and many other posts for many years. He was also a prominent member of the East-London League as a player and committee member.

For Wanstead & Woodford he was our Hon Treasurer, Hon Vice President and Selection Committee chairman.

Tony had a unique style of play that could only come from one mould as many opponents could verify. Always the perfectionist in his game be it attack or defence. When it came to sportsmanship he was second to none.

Vic Elston.

WJ (Bill) Rogerson

In February last Bill Rogerson died peacefully in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge at the age of 81 years. His wife Chrissie had died two years previously and had left a great gap in Bill's life which could never be filled.

At the height of his powers Bill was a most energetic and devoted member of the Cambs. Association and his activities included being a player of some repute, administrator, seller of the ETTA magazines for which Cambridgeshire headed the "league table" at that time and then becoming President for a period of years. One cannot dwell too much on his eagerness to see that Cambs. became a force in the table tennis world and many are the miles he has cycled to sell the magazines year after year - a unique achievement!

I had known Bill for forty years and he was a wonderful friend and adviser and nothing was ever too much trouble. In my times of adversity he was a great comfort and I shall always remember him especially for this.

Our present generation of players and administrators should be thankful for Bill's past "performances" which have set the stage for years to come.

Leslie Constable.

Percy Lawes

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Percy Lawes, who died at the age of 81 at Warminster, Wiltshire, on Sunday, 11th May. Percy was one from that generation whose love of the game led him into administration and he applied himself most conscientiously without any thought of personal gain or reward.

Unselfishly, he gave a large part of his life to promoting the game for the benefit of others, particularly the young. His roots in table tennis went back to the classical era of pimped rubber bats and numbered among his friends were such past masters as Victor Barna, Alec Brook and Jack Carrington.

In more recent years the apple of his eye were those popular Guildford sisters, Linda and Susan Howard.

Percy was essentially a Guildford man and he held most of the important offices over the years from secretary to president. It could be said it was his enthusiasm and vision that has made Guildford such a thriving table tennis centre today.

For 16 long years he was the general secretary (1938-1953) and for 14 years he was also treasurer, and then for good measure he served for seven years as Guildford's respected chairman.

As if this were not enough he also found time to be the chairman of the Surrey County TT Association in the sixties and early part of the seventies, till he retired to Warminster.

His many friends will mourn his passing and special sympathies go out to his widow to sustain her in such great loss. Ron Crayden.