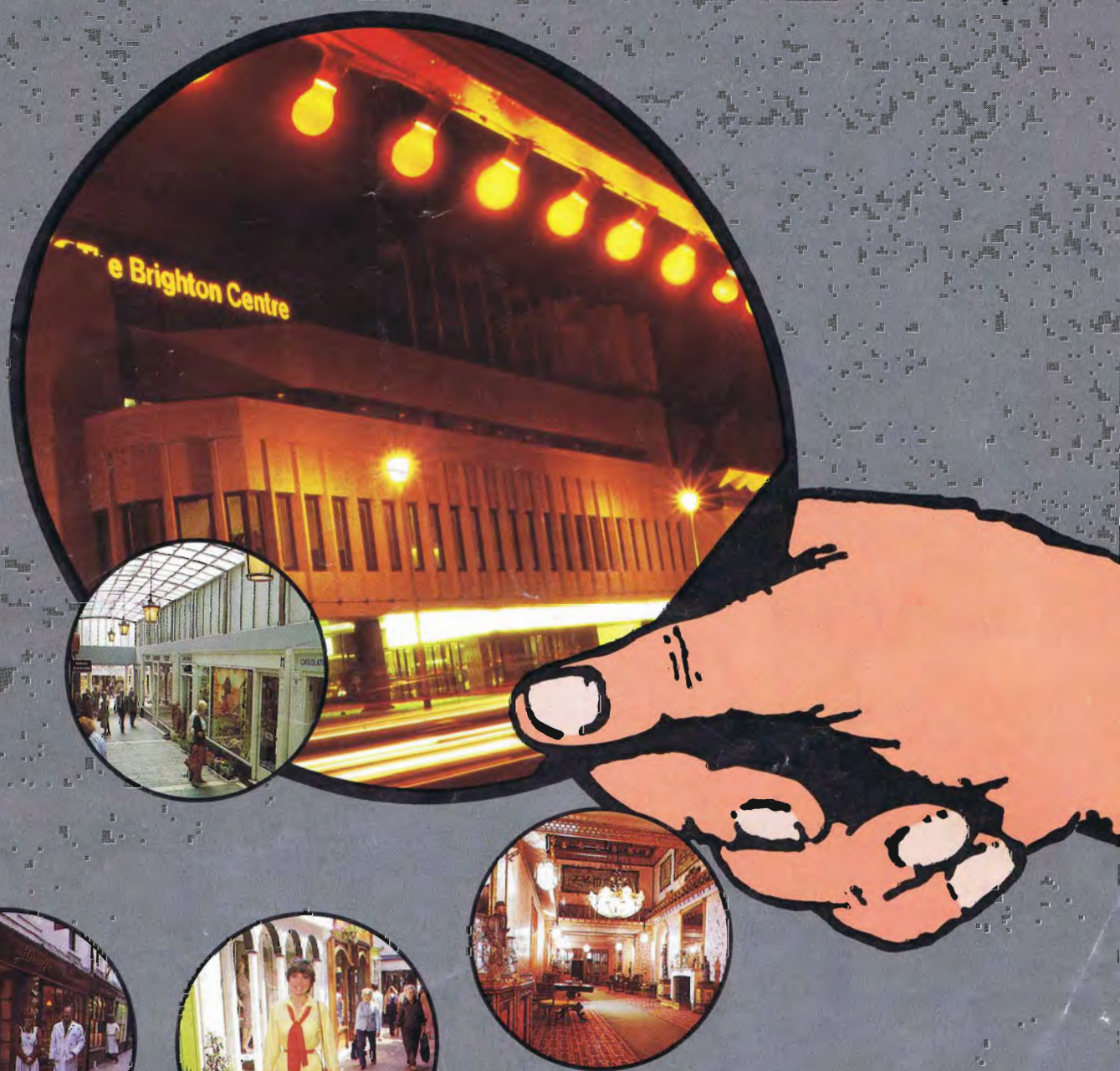




Table Tennis News

No. 154

DECEMBER 1985 80p



Brighton Knock
-be there! *special preview issue*



League and Championship
tables . . . from Jaques

**John
Jaques**

Facts of Life

Three types of sport will survive the 1980s. Those that people pay to play. Those that people pay to watch. And those where others are paid to play.

Table tennis has to decide its own vision of the future. At the moment it hovers imperfectly trying to be all three.

The fundamental category determined, the sports available strategies are relatively simple.

If of the first, we stimulate the desire to play and to meet that demand with facilities, coaching and a playing structure which nurtures continuing interest and commitment.

For the second, a programme of spectator events where the emphasis is on entertainment - appealing in its presentation and intrinsic nature.

The last often comes as a result of the second. Good action; crowd reaction . . . Good TV tension; sponsor attention. There are many sports, though, which do not translate well to the 24" screen.

Comparison with other sports in relation to the three types is interesting. Swimming for the first? Soccer, until recently, the second? And what about athletics or tennis (at least in this country) for the third?

Relative examination of these can lead to envy. It need not.

Tennis. Stacks of cash. Technically difficult (to begin). Poor night and club facilities (in general). Specialist areas needed.

Soccer. Pretty affluent. Easy to play. Playing areas plentiful but facilities not so good. A team game therefore extra organisation necessary. 50% of population not actively encouraged (in this country).

Swimming. Well-funded (due to awards scheme). Cold. Wet. The eyes sting. School-based - prompts desertion at 16. Technically simple. Limited specialist facilities.

In contrast, table tennis stands up rather well. "Beware though", says Northants Dennis Millman, "lest an apparent strength becomes so fragile that a crisis of major proportions arrives without warning".

And, obviously with some experience of British industry, he's right.

Innovation stifled by tradition. Policy determined by rote. Investment plagued by introspection. Yet, essentially, the advantages of the sport are the same as in Ivor Montagu's day.

Inexpensive. Technically easy (though difficult to perfect). Fast. Athletic (at times). International. Many non-specialist

facilities. An individuals sport - easily organised.

If there were any doubts about the description 'a sport for all', the pages of this issue should dispel them. Yet we inflict on it the tortures of self-analysis.

'Change the colours'. 'Change the laws'. But the problem, in a ping-pong ball, is poor marketing.

Many think of marketing at the way the sport sells itself; the projection of the right image. With recordbreakers Douglas and Cooke in mind, 'You might be able to fly a plane . . . but are you fast enough for table tennis?'

Hmmm . . . 'Table Tennis News - the fastest sports mag in the world' . . . (well I didn't say production!) . . . Rubberneck would approve.

But marketing is more than dealing with the present. It's the antenna with which an organisation anticipates shifts in people's desires and expectations. Those currently shivering in the church hall next to the new sports centre might like to reflect.

And to test the marketing is right, we need objective monitoring - the crux of the Sports Council's 'New Approach to Grant aid' strategy.

Facts. How many? How old? How often? Sex (if any)? Likes.

Dislikes. Income. If one day you receive something akin to a census form from the ETTA, you'll be playing a very important part.

But in such a voluntary organisation - as Johns McDonnell and Arnold mention on later pages - we need people and contacts working for the same targets.

Sponsors. Coaches. Secretaries. Drivers. Graphic Artists. Umpires. Journalists. Solicitors. Salesmen. Referees. Printers. Market Researchers. Photographers. Architects. Builders.

You. Pass the mag on won't you. Or, better, flog it and buy yourself a replacement. A merry Christmas (or New Year!) to all our readers and contributors.



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Rainbow Warriors

Fiona Brown reviews the multicoloured Milton Keynes Top 12

The inaugural National Top 12 at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, 25th-27th October 1985 certainly set tongues wagging both inside and outside table tennis.

Initial interest in the controversial colour changes, both to equipment and clothing, generated a dichotomy of reaction. Establishment figures expressed outrage at the thought of the sport changing beyond recognition. The players accepted the news with, in the main, enthusiasm - recognising the positive media value it contained. "If the changes will give table tennis a better future I'll go along with them", said England No 1 Desmond Douglas.

Elevated at short notice from a virtually 'behind closed doors' ranking trial to the status of a major event, the Milton Keynes National Top 12 evolved from an embryo formulated by ETTA coaching chairman Peter Charters with the support of the national selection committee. "We are not trying to turn the sport into a circus but we must move with the times", he claimed.

One player particularly responsive to the call for brighter clothing was Enfield's England No 12 Helen Williams. "I'm all for a bright look. Let's face it, the colours we wear at the moment are pretty boring", she told Colin Fuller of the *London Standard*.

In the run up to the Friday evening start the leading players gave three TV previews and many joined in with a special promotion in the plush Milton Keynes indoor shopping complex. Carl Preen delighted the crowd with the occasional trick service in between more serious moments; Alan Cooke 'who just happened to be passing' was finally coaxed into action; and Phil Bradbury joined Dave Wells and the Bellingier sisters to complete the star-studded line up.

Wellman - last minute replacement for Carl Preen



Add all of this to the national and local press previews, the standard poster bash and the support of the Milton Keynes league, one might reasonably have expected a substantial audience - alas it was not to be.

What then did the event lack? But for the unfortunate withdrawal of Carl Preen and the absence through exam commitments and illness of Sarah Sandley and Karen Smith respectively, England's best players were to do battle over two and a half days of what is possibly the most physically gruelling competition format employed by any sport.

No TV

It lacked TV certainly - in the first instance rejection by the major TV channels was blamed on scheduling difficulties; admittedly three months notice is hardly sufficient for those who plan literally years in advance. Although cable channel *Sreensport*, who now cover our home European league matches on a regular basis, were much more enthusiastic, other commitments affected their eleventh hour decision to bypass the event.

There was also the deep-rooted TV suspicion of competitions without a final.



All serves another winner

Different

The outrageous colour scheme of blue tables, red nets and yellow balls was certainly different. And with the exception of those players restricted by contract the spirit of experimentation in clothing was well applied.

Rumour has it Lisa Bellingier is still chasing Jill Harris for the return of her Sweet 'N Low T-shirt. And Jean Parker was able to make use of the pin-striped top loaned by sister-in-law Jill which caused a rumpus at the 1981 English Closed.

The tables, well they were blue...honestly! This was blatantly obvious in daylight but indoor artificial light did little to enhance their appearance. The playing surfaces, prepared in great haste by manufacturer GB Tables, were a little glossy and even untrained eyes could detect the tendency of neavy top spin shots to skid slightly more than normal.

Considering the importance of the event, the prestige and the healthy haul of Lentec computer points which success would carry, acceptance of these conditions by the players was exemplary.

Of the nets Colin Wilson said, "I liked the pretty lace curtains"...Well how many red nets have you seen in the shops?

In desperation to maintain authenticity the top cord was masked and we resorted to the trusty paint brush. Somehow the end-product lacked its usual flexibility.

Yellow balls

And so to the balls. Yellow we ordered. True to form a gross marked yellow duly arrived - we advertised them as yellow. Then we opened them... "They're orange!", said the players, "they're eggs", said a voice from the dark, "they're soft", said the losers.

Douglas Supreme

by Fiona Brown

The withdrawal of Carl Preen, the reigning European junior top 12 champion, left England No 1 Desmond Douglas as the only competitor with full experience of the demands of Top 12 competition. Played over two and a half days the tough round-robin format began to take its toll - particularly amongst the men who play the best of five sets.

Both physical, and perhaps of almost greater significance, mental resilience were put to the test over and over again. By the end of the eleventh match even the successful were hard-pressed to muster any great enthusiasm over their triumph.

The notable exception to this state of exhaustion was the ever-youthful Douglas, who demonstrated throughout exact-

Milton Keynes National Top 12



Karen Witt - sporting the gear of the future?

ly why he is England's undisputed No 1. Pacing himself with the ability born of skill and experience, Douglas was frequently to be found relaxing in the restaurant while his adversaries remained trapped at the table.

Bradbury

His only serious challenge, and one which reduced the arena to stunned silence, came from No 8 Phil Bradbury in the sixth round, on Saturday afternoon. Unlike his predecessors Bradbury rose to the challenge from the very first ball

Refusing to succumb to incredible pace and pinpoint positioning Bradbury met attack with attack to capture the first game. Douglas moved into top gear to secure the second and third but for once his opponent refused to retreat.

Back came Bradbury in the fourth with such obvious determination that the crowd began to believe they might be about to witness the first Douglas defeat by an Englishman for over eight years.

The fifth and deciding set went point for point, Douglas fighting to dominate at close range - exploiting his mastery of the acute angle block - Bradbury repeatedly forcing him back just far enough to lessen the effect. Yet with press and public poised in silent admiration of the Berkshire player's performance, the mood of the crowd quite suddenly and almost inexplicably began to change.

They had cheered and encouraged Bradbury to the edge of another great victory - a victory he would have added to a

previous win over the legendary Frenchman Jacques Secretin. But suddenly aware that their allegiance was needed by and ought to lie with the English champion, the applause and the verbal encouragement swung towards Douglas.

The final points were played with such panache and the handshake so calmly executed it was hard to believe the narrow margin by which Douglas had earned his victory.

Five matches later Douglas strolled up to accept the £500 first prize from Milton Keynes mayor, Cllr Luig Cowley, having conquered all-comers.

In the womens event Alison Gordon could not quite emulate this unbeaten performance, her run broken in the ninth round by Wolverhampton's Fiona Elliot. Nevertheless, Gordon headed the table from start to finish. Ironically, her final round victory against current womens No 1 Lisa Bellinger was worth £225!

Had the result been reversed, by the rules of the competition Lisa would have triumphed with ten wins and Fiona Elliot would have squeezed into second place. Weighing up the situation just before the final confrontation Alison could only muster a stunned, "You've got to be joking". Surely this emphasises the value of reading the small print!

Future

The National Top 12 is here to stay; there can be few who doubt the value of this intensive stule of competition as preparation for major international events. It's a superbly marketable commodity; let's hope the benefit for our sport can be maximised.

RESULTS

Men

1st Round John Souter b Colin Wilson - 10, 15, 10, 20; Graham Sandley b David Wells - 15, 19, 11, 8; Desmond Douglas b Steven Scowcroft 16, -16, 5, 13; Alan Cooke b Steve Mills 12, 12, 5; Skylet Andrew b Nicky Mason 14, -13, 17, 16; Philip Bradbury b Andy Wellman 16, 12, 7.

2nd Round Douglas b Souter 11, 6, 11; Wilson b Wellman 13, 10, -14, -19, 16; Cooke b Sandley 13, 19, -24, 15; Andrew b Wells 17, -17, 15, 18; Bradbury b Scowcroft -18, -17, 18, 15, 5; Mason b Mills 10, 16, 17.

3rd Round Cooke b Wilson 15, 9, 16; Sandley b Wellman 22, 18, 21; Andrew b Scowcroft 14, -18, 14, 14; Souter b Mason -10, 29, 26, -1, 18; Bradbury b Wells 11, 7, 15; Douglas b Mills 13, 16, 12.

4th Round Mills b Wellman 19, 18, 17; Mason b Wilson 26, 11, 18; Wells b Souter 19, 14, 17; Andrew b Bradbury 15, 20, 15; Douglas b Sandley 11, 14, 8; Scowcroft b Cooke -17, -20, 17, 17, 18.

5th Round Douglas b Wilson 22, 13, 16; Andrew b Souter -19, -14, 17, 17, 10; Mason b Cooke -15, 12, 21, -14, 13; Wells b Wellman 17, 15, -15, 11; Mills b Scowcroft -15, 10, 14, -20, 12; Bradbury b Sandley 15, 17, -15, 16.

6th Round Andrew b Mills 13, 20, 19; Scowcroft b Wellman 15, 14, 10; Douglas b Bradbury -19, 17, 12, -18, 18; Sandley b Wilson 17, 15, 12; Cooke b Souter 9, -16, 19, 12; Mason b Wells 15, -14, 15, 15.

Intermediate placings	W	F	A
1. Desmond Douglas	6	18	3
2. Skylet Andrew	6	18	5
3. Alan Cooke	4	16	8
4. Nicky Mason	4	15	9
5. Philip Bradbury	4	14	9
6. Graham Sandley	3	11	10
7. Steven Scowcroft	2	12	14
8. David Wells	2	9	13
9. John Souter	2	9	15
10. Steve Mills	2	6	14
11. Colin Wilson	1	4	17
12. Andrew Wellman	0	3	18

7th Round Andrew b Sandley 15, 19, 18; Douglas b Wells 12, 12, 13; Souter b Bradbury -17, 18, -11, 18, 16; Wilson b Mills 14, -15, 23, -19, 18; Mason b Scowcroft 11, 19, -10, 10; Cooke b Wellman 20, 13, 19.

8th Round Souter b Scowcroft 11, 10, 11; Sandley b Mills -4, 10, -21, 12, 10; Douglas b Wellman 7, 5, 14; Cooke b Andrew 16, 18, 16; Mason b Bradbury -12, -19, 21, 11, 15; Wells b Wilson -21, 10, -20, 17, 11.

9th Round Andrew b Wellman -19, 11, 15, 11; Wells b Cooke -14, 14, 15, 15; Douglas b Mason 19, 16, -21, 15; Bradbury b Wilson 16, 12, 15; Souter b Mills 11, 17, 10; Scowcroft b Sandley 13, 14, -14, 14.

10th Round Souter b Sandley 11, 16, 9; Wellman b Mason -18, 18, -8, 15, 17; Wells b Scowcroft 18, -13, -11, 12, 16; Douglas b Cooke 21, 5, 22; Bradbury b Mills 20, -19, 16, 21; Andrew b Wilson 16, 8, 12.

11th Round Scowcroft b Wilson 14, 19, -15, -21, 16; Souter b Wellman -17, 17, 17, 12; Mason b Sandley 13, 13, 14; Douglas b Andrew 15, 15, 15; Cooke b Bradbury 17, 7, 13; Wells b Mills 19, 17, -11, 17.

Final placings	W
1. Desmond Douglas	11
2. Skylet Andrew	9
3. Alan Cooke	7 (5-4)
4. Nicky Mason	7 (5-5)
5. John Souter	7 (4-5)
6. Philip Bradbury	6
7. David Wells	6
8. Steven Scowcroft	4
9. Graham Sandley	4
10. Colin Wilson	2
11. Steven Mills	2
12. Andrew Wellman	1

Helen Williams - bottom of the pile but top of the viewing figures

Photos by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea (07917 3867)

Womens

1st Round Jean Parker b Suzanne Airey 16, 15; Joy Grundy b Helen Williams 18, 12; Jackie Bellinger b Lisa Bellinger 7, 13; Alison Gordon b Karen Witt 19, 20; Fiona Elliot b Jill Harris 14, 14; Mandy Sainsbury b Joanne Shaw 7, 15.

2nd Round L. Bellinger b Elliot -14, 16, 16; Gordon b J. Bellinger 16, 20; Sainsbury b Witt 14, 18; Grundy b Harris -18, 10, 19; Parker b Williams 14, 14; Shaw b Airey -14, 13, 19.

3rd Round Witt b Williams 9, -17, 15; L. Bellinger b Harris 14, 14; Gordon b Sainsbury 12, 14; Grundy b Parker 7, 20; J. Bellinger b Airey 18, -19, 13; Elliot b Shaw 14, -14, 17.

4th Round L. Bellinger b Williams 11, 12; J. Bellinger b Shaw 20, -14, 14; Elliot b Grundy 19, 18; Sainsbury b Harris 15, 16; Witt b Parker 14, -19, 10; Gordon b Airey 11, 9.

5th Round Parker b Harris 17, 17; Elliot b Williams 8, 14; Witt b Airey 10, -17, 16; L. Bellinger b Sainsbury 18, 15; Gordon b Shaw 13, 19; Grundy b J. Bellinger 13, -19, 17.

6th Round Elliot b Airey 17, 12; Witt b Shaw -17, 9, 7; Grundy b Sainsbury 19, -18, 12; Williams b J. Bellinger -12, 22, 25; L. Bellinger b Parker 18, 13; Gordon b Harris 12, 15.

Intermediate placings	W	F	A
1. Alison Gordon	6	12	0
2. Fiona Elliot	5	11	3
3. Lisa Bellinger	5	10	3
4. Joy Grundy	5	10	5
5. Karen Witt	4	8	8
6. Jean Parker	3	7	6
7. Mandy Sainsbury	3	7	6
8. Jackie Bellinger	3	8	8
9. Joanne Shaw	1	5	11
10. Helen Williams	1	3	11
11. Suzanne Airey	0	3	12
12. Jill Harris	0	1	12

7th Round J. Bellinger b Harris 12, 12; Gordon b Parker 10, 14; Witt b Elliot -20, 16, 20; L. Bellinger b Airey 14, 10; Grundy b Shaw 15, -19, 22; Sainsbury b Williams -20, 12, 16.

8th Round Grundy b Airey 15, 12; Harris b Witt -16, 15, 15; Elliot b Parker 16, 16; Gordon b Williams -20, 13, 19; Sainsbury b J. Bellinger 15, 18; L. Bellinger b Shaw 8, 10.

9th Round Witt b J. Bellinger 14, -20, 14; Elliot b Gordon 18, -19, 17; Harris b Williams 13, 18; Shaw b Parker 17, -21, 20; L. Bellinger b Grundy 6, 19; Sainsbury b Airey 19, 16.

10th Round Airey b Williams w/o; J. Bellinger b Parker 16, 19; L. Bellinger b Witt -9, 17, 13; Gordon b Grundy -19, 18, 15; Elliot b Sainsbury 19, -15, 15; Harris b Shaw 19, 17.

11th Round Shaw b Williams w/o; Elliot b J. Bellinger 13, 18; Grundy b Witt 17, 13; Gordon b L. Bellinger 13, -18, 18; Sainsbury b Parker 17, 17; Harris b Airey 13, 17.

Final placings	W
1. Alison Gordon	10
2. Lisa Bellinger	9
3. Fiona Elliot	9
4. Joy Grundy	8
5. Mandy Sainsbury	7
6. Karen Witt	6
7. Jackie Bellinger	5
8. Jill Harris	4
9. Joanne Shaw	3
10. Jean Parker	3
11. Suzanne Airey	1
12. Helen Williams	1



Medals Galore in Liege

by George Yates

Undoubtedly the feat of the season so far was that of Carl Prean in winning the mens singles title of the 18th Belgian Open played at the Country Hall, Liege over the period November 1-3 1985 to collect a major gold medal.

Whatever misgivings were over Carl's non-participation in the Milton Keynes National Top 12 tournament, the Isle of Wight teenager certainly made up for it with his run of victories in Belgium where he disposed of Ron van Spanje of the Netherlands (12, 9, 8), Gideon Joe Ng of Canada (9, 12, 15), Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union (16, 11, 15), Patrick Birocheau of France (-14, 10, -9, 18, 21), Patrick Renverse, also of France, (18, 13, -7, 15) and, in the final Hideo Goto of Japan (17, 18, 19).

It was back in 1958 when an Englishman last won this particular title; Johnny Leach winning it for the third time after his previous victories in the inaugural championships of 1950 and again in 1957.

Prean, with Joy Grundy, also reached the final of the mixed doubles losing out to Andreas Podpinka of Hungary and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia. Grundy with Alison Gordon, took another silver in losing to Olga Nemes and Katja Nolten of the Federal German Republic in the final of the womens doubles.

And, adding bronze to the collection, Prean and Alan Cooke, representing England in the mens team event, reached the semi-final stage to be beaten by France 3-0. All in all a tremendous showing for England's quartet with Alison and Joy chalking up a not insignificant win over Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands and Hrachova in the womens doubles!

In the mens singles in Liege, Cooke lost to India's Kamlesh Mehta over five games whilst in the counterpart womens event Alison Gordon lost to the eventual winner, Nemes, and Joy to Katja Nolten.

Mens team

First Round

ENG - bye; SUI 3 IND 1; BUL 3 FRG 1; CAN 3 BEL 1; NOR 3 GRE 1.

Second Round

ENG 3 BEL II 0 (Carl Prean b D Christophe 8, 17; Alan Cooke b Didier Leroy 18, 19; Cooke/Prean b Christophe/Leroy 18, 19); SUI w/o POL; AUT w/o KOR; FRA 3 BUL 2; CAN 3 YUG 1; HUN 3 NOR 0; HOL 3 USR 1; JPN 3 LUX 0.

Quarter-finals

ENG 3 SUI 0 (Prean b Thomas Busin 7, 10; Cooke b Thierry Miller -16, 21, 17; Cooke/Prean b Miller/Martin Walker 21, 14); FRA 3 AUT 1; HUN 3 CAN 0; JPN 3 HOL 0.

Semi-finals

FRA 3 ENG 0 (Jacques Secretin b Prean 12, -15, 26; Patrick Birocheau b Cooke 16, 13; Birocheau/Secretin b Cooke/Prean 16, 13); HUN 3 JPN 0.

Final

FRA 3 HUN 2

Womens team

First Round

ENG - bye; BUL 3 LUX 0; IND 3 BEL I 0; CAN 3 GRE 0; NOR 3 BEL II 0.

Second Round

POL 3 ENG 2 (Stelmach 1st Joy Grundy -18, 12, -16; Calinska 1st Gordon -12, -13; Calinska/Stelmach b Gordon -17, 19, -18, 19; Stelmach b Gordon 14, 17; Calinska b Grundy 10, -20, 19); BUL w/o KOR; JPN 3 SUI 0; USR 3 IND 0; HUN 3 CAN 0; TCH 3 YUG 1; FRG 3 FRA 0; HOL 3 NOR 0;

Quarter-finals

BUL 3 POL 1; JPN 3 USR 1; TCH 3 HUN 0; FRG 3 HOL 1.

Semi-finals

JPN 3 BUL 2; FRG 3 TCH 2.

Final

JPN 3 FRG 2.

Mens team

First Round

POL II 3 ENG 2 (Z Mojski 1st Andrew Syed -15, -14; N Mnich b Matthew Syed -16, 17, 14; Stefan Dryszel/P Molenda 1st Nigel Eckersley/A Syed -12, -13; Mnich b A Syed 17, 14; Mojski b M Syed 18, -17, 18); HUN 3 GRE 0;

FRG 3 IND 1; FRA 3 TUN 0; TCH 3 ITA 1; DEN 3 GDR 0; BUL 3 CAN 1; BEL 3 CUB 0; ROM 3 NOR 0; USR 3 FIN 1.

Second Round

HUN 3 CHN 0; FRG 3 FRA 0; TCH 3 DEN 1; JPN 3 POL II 1; POL 3 BUL 1; BEL 3 YUG 2; ROM 3 SUI 0; SWE 3 USR 0.

Quarter-finals

HUN 3 FRG 1; TCH 3 JPN 2; POL 3 BEL 1; SWE 3 ROM 2.

Semi-finals

HUN 3 TCH 2; SWE 3 POL I 2.

Final

SWE 3 HUN 1.

Womens team

First Round

ENG - bye; BUL 3 CUB 0; FRG 3 GRE 0; POL I 3 IND 1; CAN 3 GDR 1; FIN 3 BEL 1; YUG 3 ROM 1; ITA 3 NOR 0; SWE 3 POL II 1.

Second Round

POL 3 ENG 0 (Stelmach b Claire Potts 17, 13; Calinska b Kerry Hall 15, 14; Ewa Brzezinska/Stelmach b Hall/Potts 21, 15); SWE w/o KOR; CHN 3 BUL 0; FRG 3 FRA 2; USR 3 CAN 0; HUN 3 FIN 1; YUG 3 JPN 2; TCH 3 ITA 0.

Quarter-finals

CHN 3 FRG 1; USR 3 POL 0; HUN 3 YUG 2; TCH 3 SWE 1.

Semi-finals

CHN 3 USR 1; HUN 3 TCH 2.

Final

HUN 3 CHN 0.

18th Belgium Open

Mens singles

Quarter-finals

Hideo Goto (JPN) b Mariano Loukov (BUL) 13, 12, 16; Secretin (FRA) b Zsolt Kriston (HUN) -16, 7, 12, 15; Prean (ENG) b Birocheau (FRA) -14, 10, -9, 18, 21; Patrick Renverse (FRA) b George Böhm (FRG) 21, 16, 18.

Semi-finals

Goto b Secretin -20, 15, 11, 20; Prean b Renverse 18, 13, -7, 15.

Final

Prean b Goto 17, 18, 19.

Womens singles

Quarter-finals

Daniella Guergueltcheva (BUL) b Anita Zacharian (URS) 17, 19, 17; Olga Nemes (FRG) b Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) -18, 19, 15, 19; G Fazekas (HUN) b I Bohning (FRG) 6, 14, 11; Marie Hrachova (TCH) b Csilla Batorfi (HUN) 16, 14, 14.

Semi-finals

Nemes b Guergueltcheva 16, 19, -10, 13; Hrachova b Fazekas 12, 19, 16.

Final

[f80]Nemes b Hrachova -15, 16, 9, 13.

Mens doubles

Final

Birocheau/Secretin (FRA) b Mikami/Watanabe (JPN) -23, 13, 9.

Womens doubles

Final

Nemes/Katarina Nolten (FRG) b Gordon/Grundy (ENG) 18, -17, 18.

Mixed doubles

Final

Andreas Podpinka/Hrachova (HUN/TCH) b Prean/Grundy (ENG) 14, 15.

Lambs to the Slaughter in Poland

George Yates

In Belgium, England captain Donald Parker had a great deal to celebrate — unlike Nigel Eckersley, his counterpart in Olsztyn, at the 21st Polish Open played over the period October 25-27.

Regrettably these star-studded championships clashed with the Milton Keynes affair so a youthful quartet comprising the Syed brothers, Andrew and Matthew, together with Claire Potts and Kerry Hall took part. And, in the individual events, Nigel himself.

No heroics to report here in a tournament dominated by the Swedes, much to the disappointment of the host nation whose Andrzej Grubba was taken out by Jan-Ove Waldner in the semi-final of the mens singles. He had the compensation of a victory in the mixed when partnered by Jolanta Szatko, with a final win over Zoran Kalinic and Branka Batinic of Yugoslavia.



Waldner

Twenty-seven associations were represented in Olsztyn with Waldner and Csilla Batorfi of Hungary taking the major titles. Nigel and Matthew failed to qualify in the mens singles whilst Andrew lost in the first round when beaten 20-22, 22-20, 21-18, 19-21, 10-21 by Vladimir Dvorak of the Soviet Union. Claire lost on her first excursion to the tables to Fliura Bulatova of the USSR and, likewise, Kerry was despatched by Poland's Ewa Brzezinska.

21st Polish Open

Mens singles

Quarter-finals

Andrzej Grubba (POL) b Ulf Carlsson (SWE) 18, 17, -19, 13; Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) b Jorgen Persson (SWE) -16, 10, -17, 17, 18; Erik Lindh (SWE) b Zoran Primorac (YUG) -10, 17, 19, 20; Mikael Appelgren (SWE) b Ma Wanga (CHN) -19, 12, 21.

Semi-finals

Waldner b Grubba 19, -16, 15, -13, 18; Lindh b Appelgren 13, 17, 18.

Final

Waldner b Lindh 19, 17, -15, -13, 14.

Womens singles

Quarter-finals

Csilla Batorfi (HUN) b Fliura Bulatova (URS) 18, 16, -12, -19, 19; Alice Safarova (TCH) b Wang Jing (CHN) 20, -15, 21, 13; Branka Batinic (YUG) b Ma Shuang Ying (CHN) -13, 15, 21, 13; Feng Jung (CHN) b Daniella Guergueltcheva (BUL) -18, 15, 10, 11.

Semi-finals

Batorfi b Safarova -8, 15, 18, 20; Feng b Batinic 12, 12, 12.

Final

[f80]Feng b Batorfi 7, -13, 15, 19.

Mens doubles

Final

Appelgren/Carlsson b Li Yi/Ma (CHN) -14, 20, 18.

Womens doubles

Final

Feng/Liu Jang (CHN) b Davidkova/Safarova (TCH) 16, -12, 17.

Mixed doubles

Final

Grubba/Jolanta Szatko (POL) b Zoran Kalinic/Batinic (YUG) -15, 17, 10.

Daniella Does It — England Doomed?

Two dazzling performances from 21 year old sports student Daniella Guerguelcheva swung the balance of power decisively in Bulgaria's favour in the vital European League match against England at Mansfield on 20th November.

Lying in equal first place with two wins apiece from their early season fixtures and tied on an identical sets average, both teams recognised this to be the match most likely to determine their first division fixtures.

As those who followed England's fortunes last season will recall, promotion and relegation issues are settled firstly on points and, should there be a tie, secondly on the result between the teams involved. Bulgaria's success in Mansfield has provided them with the necessary cushion and should ensure their promotion to the premier division when the season concludes in March 1986.

The opening sets went according to ranked form with Desmond Douglas despatching Stefan Stefanov and Bulgarian No 1 Mariano Loukov, a penholder, levelling the scoreline at one all with a win over Carl Prean. Prean, always the underdog, fought manfully to recover vital points but failed to capitalise when the opportunity presented itself.

As the woman came to the table the tension in both team camps was apparent. The contrasting styles of England's slim athletic defender Lisa Bellinger and the powerful attacking play of the small and stocky Daniella Guerguelcheva, providing the most

entertaining spectacle of the evening's competition.

Following her success in the Belgian Open where she had beaten European No 5 Zsuzsa Olah before losing narrowly to the eventual winner, Olga Nemes, Guerguelcheva demonstrated a strength and variety of shots which belied her lowly European ranking at No 18.

Lisa was rarely permitted to settle into her defensive rhythm; indeed it was the attacking sorties born of frustration which brought her back into contention midway through the second game. Unfortunately for England the challenge was met and matched with a fifth gear flurry giving Bulgaria the lead for the first time in the match.

With the score swiftly levelled by Douglas and Prean, despite moments of anguish during the mens doubles match, Guerguelcheva returned, partnered by Loukov, to inflict further damage. In the first game of the mixed doubles she faced the mighty Douglas attack, a task which many men would not envy, and to her partner's obvious amazement and delight, returned most shots with equal venom, forcing at best an error, or at worst a tame return from Alison Gordon.

If, in such a contest, one can ever identify the true moment of defeat, it must surely have been at the end of this game — Bulgaria having saved 6 game points to clinch a 27-25 result. In the second game the English pair were literally knocked off the table.



Prean — "fought manfully"

As has happened so many times before all eyes turned to Desmond Douglas as he entered the arena for the third successive time. His opponent was Mariano Loukov, the Bulgarian who as a 13 year old, and after 5 years of table tennis, had been so impressed by a visiting Japanese team that he had changed immediately to the penholder style of play.

Painful

Loukov, ranked only 26 in Europe, should in theory have provided few threats. The reality was painfully different. He charged ahead point after point, leaving the normally emotionless Douglas staring skyward as if in search of divine inspiration.

In the second game and with the scoreline proceeding in a far more balanced manner it appeared national trainer coach Donald Parker had mustered just the right advice to harness the Douglas attack.

But Loukov swiftly adapted to the changes. As the points slipped away England's hope of

success evaporated and Loukov jumped for joy as he gave Bulgaria an unbeatable 4-2 lead.

The crowd who, but for the odd notable exception had been funereal from the outset, saw fit to make an early exit — leaving those motivated by the desire to enjoy excellence irrespective of nationality to savour the grit and determination displayed by Carl Prean, as he smashed his way to an impressive win over Stefan Stefanov.

Although already assured of his team's victory, Stefanov fought for every point and full credit must be accorded to the young Englishman, who like his team mates, was suffering in the knowledge that this defeat had almost certainly destroyed the nation's hopes of a swift return to premier division play in 1986.

While Donald Parker must now tackle the unenviable task of motivating England's squad to give of their best in the season's remaining fixtures, he needs the help of spectators at Hertford on 21st January.

16th October

AUT 5 DEN 2 (Stanislaw Fraczyk 1st Jan Harkamp; Gottfried Bär b Claus Pedersen; Barbro Wiltche b Charlotte Polk; Bär/Fraczyk b Lars Hauth/Pedersen; Erik Amplatz/Krauskopf b Pedersen/Polk; Fraczyk 1st Pedersen; Bär b Harkamp.)

BEL 1 BUL 6 (Jean-Michel Saive 1st Stefan Stefanov; Thierry Cabrera 1st Mariano Loukov; Nathalie Higuet 1st Daniela Guerguelcheva; Cabrera/Saive 1st Loukov/Stefanov; Saive/Higuet 1st Loukov/Guerguelcheva; Saive 1st Loukov; Cabrera b Stefanov.)

NOR 0 ENG 7 (Tom Johansen 1st Desmond Douglas -14, -14; Gierr Gustavsen 1st Carl Prean -12, -13; Kristin Hagen 1st Lisa Bellinger -3, 18, -17; R Blikken/Johansen 1st Cooke/Prean -15, -13; Blikken/Hagen 1st Prean/Bellinger -12, -16; Johansen 1st Prean -18, -18; Gustavsen 1st Douglas -7, -9.)

20th November

ENG 3 BUL 4 (Douglas b Stefanov 13, 17; Prean 1st Loukov -20, -19; Lisa Bellinger 1st Guerguelcheva -21, -17; Douglas/Prean b Loukov/Stefanov 15, 20; Douglas/Alison Gordon 1st Loukov/Guerguelcheva -25, -17; Douglas 1st Loukov -11, -27; Prean b Stefanov -21, 15, 17.)

DEN 5 ITA 2 (Hauth b Massimo Constantini; Harkamp b Giovanni Bisi; Charlotte Polk 1st Alessandra Busnardo; Harkamp/Hauth b Bisi/Constantini; Hauth/Polk b Manneschi/Georgia Zampini; Hauth 1st Bisi; Harkamp b Constantini.)

AUT 3 FIN 4; NOR 5 BEL 2.

Sweden Pole-axed

Sweden, the European league champions, lost their grip on the title in November. Despite home advantage, Jan-Ove Waldner and Erik Lindh could not contain the mighty Polish attack of Leszek Kucharski and Andrzej Grubba.

First Waldner succumbed, 17-21, 22-20, 23-25 to Kucharski! Then Lindh, after a disastrous 13-21 start against Grubba, made it to 20-all in the second only to lose the next two points and give Poland victory.

Elsewhere, Andreas Podpinka played the first and last two sets against Holland in Hungary's 2-5 victory and decided not to return home. He was last reported to be staying in Belgium.

Results

Super Division

16th October

FRG 3 HOL 4 (Georg Böhm b Paul Haldan; Ralf Wosik 1st Henk Van Spanje; Anke Schreiber (nee Olschewski) 1st Mirjam Kloppenburg; Böhm/Jörg Roskopf 1st Van Spanje/Haldan; Wosik/Schreiber 1st Haldan/Kloppenburg; Böhm b Van Spanje; Wosik b Haldan.)

HUN 2 SWE 5 (Zsolt Kriston 1st Jan-Ove Waldner; Andreas Podpinka 1st Erik Lindh; Csilla Batorfi b Pia Eliasson; Zsolt Harczy/Podpinka 1st Lindh/Waldner; Kriston/Batorfi b Waldner/Eliasson; Kriston 1st Lindh; Podpinka 1st Walder.)

POL 4 FRA 3 (Leszek Kucharski 1st Patrick Renverse; Andrzej Grubba b Patrick Birocheau; Calinska 1st Brigitte Thiriet; Grubba/Kucharski 1st Birocheau/Bruno Parietti; Grubba/Jolanta Szatko b Parietti/Thiriet; Kucharski b Birocheau; Grubba b Renverse.)

YUG 1 TCH 6 (Zoran Kalinic b Vladimir Broda; Ilie Lupulesku 1st Jindrich Pansky; Branka Batinic 1st Marie Hrachova; Lupulesku/Zoran Primorac 1st Javurek/Pansky; Lupulesku/Gordana Perkucin 1st Pansky/Hrachova; Kalinic 1st Pansky; Lupulesku 1st Broda.)

20th November

SWE 3 POL 4 (Waldner 1st Grubba; Lindh b Kucharski; Wiktorsson b Stelmach; Lindh/Waldner 1st Grubba/Kucharski; Lindh/Marie Svenson b Grubba/Szatko; Walder 1st Kucharski; Lindh 1st Grubba.)

HOL 2 HUN 5 (Haldan 1st Podpinka; Van Spanje b Kriston; Bettine Vriesekoop b Edit Urban; Haldan/Van Spanje 1st Harczy/Kriston; Van Spanje/Vriesekoop 1st Kriston/Urban; Haldan 1st Kriston; Van Spanje 1st Podpinka.)

YUG 3 FRG 4; TCH 5 FRA 2.

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	16	5	3
England	3	2	1	15	6	2
Denmark	3	2	1	12	9	2
Austria	3	1	2	10	11	1
Finland	2	1	1	6	8	1
Italy	2	1	1	6	8	1
Norway	3	1	2	6	15	1
Belgium	3	0	3	6	15	0

League tables after November matches

Super division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	3	3	0	16	5	3
Poland	3	3	0	14	7	3
Sweden	3	2	1	15	6	2
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	10	11	1
Hungary	3	1	2	9	12	1
Federal Germany	3	1	2	8	13	1
Holland	3	0	3	5	16	0
France						



Bellinger puts away a rare stray ball from Guergueltcheva

Photos by Eileen Langsley, Baslow, Derbys (024-688 2376)

Contacts Needed

John McDonnell, the ETTA's new national negotiator for sponsorship and tv, has written to all of the association's 300 leagues urging their help in the search for sponsors. John, the former public relations manager for Norwich Union, is keen to put something back to the sport his company sponsored over a period of 12 years.

"Every club and league can pinpoint somebody prominent in business life who is a table tennis addict, publicly or privately", he says. "It is these people - now successful in business - to whom the ETTA could look for help in table tennis sponsorship on a national basis".

Just last month *Table Tennis News* reported on a great new sponsorship with Triumph Adler, initially for the 1986 English Open. It came about partly because of the table tennis experience and enthusiasm

of one of Triumph Adler's very senior executives - marketing manager Mike Borshell.

"I know many leagues get local sponsorship to whom we are all grateful", he says. "But what I need is firms who would benefit from national involvement. A 'big' person in trade, commerce, the professions or industry who can help. We ask only for a firm contact".



John McDonnell

Honour Thy Neighbour

Probably the most pleasant yet most responsible duties that I am called upon to perform on behalf of the ETTA are those in my capacity as chairman of the Honours Committee.

This committee, under an earlier title, has been in existence for over fifty years and was concerned initially with the nomination of members for the positions of president and vice-president.

In recent years, changes have been made and, I think, very much for the benefit of the members.

The position of Life Member was created in the 1950s and this

has become the highest and most coveted award available to the members. There is no limit on the number of life members at any one time.

A new individual position, Life Vice President, was created in 1970 and this position is limited to one person only at anytime and the holder must be a past president. This is indeed a very prestigious position.

In the past few years consideration has been given to wider ranges of honours for both players and officials. Two new categories were created a couple of years ago; one, the 'Player Achievement Award' and the other, the 'Merit Award'.

The player achievement award is given to players who have represented England in World or European Championships, or a specified number of occasions and is the only award that is not given as a result of various opinions. The merit award is essentially for the 'unknown warrior' of the leagues who has served with distinction in a local environment far from the limelight of national attention.

The appointment in each category, with one exception, carries with it the right to wear a

With 100,000 members, there must be some that can help. And national sponsorships are not just about tv coverage... six out of seven commercial sponsorships have no tv. With just 1500 companies presently active in this field there is plenty of scope.

"Table tennis is not unique in needing sponsorship to re-establish itself in the forefront of British sport", he says. "Ours is a truly classless, raceless, non-sectarian, active sport which must have a real and useful place in today's troubled society".

"Just a name, a title and a phone number", he asks. "You can contact me in the evenings on 07983 3214 or via Mike Watts at the ETTA office (0424 433121). We guarantee anonymity, if you put a cross in the small box declining publicity!

John McDonnell's address is Cranford, Sunset Lane, West Chiltington, PULBOROUGH RH20 2PB.

specially designed badge bearing the ETTA crest and the title of the position. These badges can be worn on any occasion and are usually very prominent at the receptions during the national championships.

The exception is the merit award which is recognised by a specially designed, signed certificate which is presented to the recipient. Nominations for the merit award are usually made by the leagues or counties and sometimes the certificate has been mounted by the sponsor of the award for presentation to the nominee on a suitable occasion, such as an AGM or Annual Dinner.

The merit award certificates are confirmed by the National Council and the certificates are despatched immediately. I have been very impressed by the many letters of appreciation which have been sent in by the recipients. It is satisfying to be able to reward the workers at the grass roots.

The Honours Committee also make annual awards for special services required by the terms of reference from the donors of the Leslie Forrest Award for county administration, the Victor Barna Award for players and the Ivor Montagu Award for national administration.

ENGLAND NEEDS YOU!



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Tel: 0273 202881

COME AND SEE
THE INTERNATIONALS
IN ACTION

Horses for courses

The English Table Tennis Association are again organising a flutter on the gee-gees. And it's a safe bet!

The lottery, based on the annual Lincoln Handicap, allows member organisations to raise funds without putting the cash up front for tickets and prizes.

Tickets, at just 5p each in books of five, are available from Roy Stevens at the ETTA office. Half the value of the ticket sales are then returned to you as a cash donation to fighting funds.

Tom Blunn
Chairman
English Table Tennis
Association.

Editors Note:

The ETTA has lost contact with two players who have earned the player achievement award - Ian Harrison and Peggy Franks. Any reader who knows their present whereabouts, please inform the ETTA office.

Brighton Knock - the best yet?

Rob Oldfield

Visit Brighton and somehow you are left with the impression of somewhere just a little special. It could be the Georgian architecture or the splendour of the Pavilion; all the same, it seems rather fortunate that this picturesque seaside town has become almost the traditional home of Europe's oldest table tennis tournament - the English Open.

The championships began in 1922 and, often in the dramatic setting of Brighton's Dome, table tennis history has been etched over sixty years. Bengtsson, Barna, Berczik, Farkhas, the Rowe twins, Alexandru.

Names which fantasize the mind and torture the tongue. Whoever lifts the titles in 1986 will be holding a trophy on which some of the greatest competitors in the sport have been indelibly recorded.

One fancies that Barna would find little difference in Brighton now as in 1938 when he last won the championships - his fifth in total. A cosmopolitan town it once brought the revelling Victorians to teeter across the pebbles to the waters of the English Channel.

In Barna's time, commuting had already begun - tempted by the breakfast on the Brighton Belle. He will certainly been able to taste the cockles and mussels of the town's famous piers.

to lick and Art shops to admire. Stitched together by the latest fashions in a multitude of clothes shops.

Terribly expensive but very classy.



"Whatever your inclination" - even in January

Now the commuters of bankers and stockbrokers have been joined by a transient population of students and nubile foreigners learning English. The unlikely mixture conjures a town of contrasts - of antiques and avant garde.

Antiques there are in plenty when the competition schedule permits a diversion from the Brighton Conference Centre to the nearby Lanes. Avant garde? Well it just depends on your point of view. But whatever your inclination Brighton has it.

Bookshops to browse in. Restaurants to gorge in. Stamps

Having lived and worked there for two years I already have difficulty in my own favourites. Zany goods at *Art-works*, *Billabong's* croissants, and *Crusts* for lagers. *Food for Friends* for some of the most imaginative vegetarian cooking in the country.

The *Window Gallery's* primary coloured posters, *Le Grandgousier* with francophile diners. *Names* and *Ballsports* for the leisure clothes touched by perfume not perspiration.



Can Des hang on?

Now 30, the Triumph Adler English Open could be the last for England's No 1 Desmond Douglas. Two years ago, trailing 0-2 against Vladislav Broda, it looked as if his hopes of a second victory in England's premier event were fast disappearing.

Then came that magnificent fightback - against all the odds of service and equipment. This year, without the regular foreign competition of the German national league, Des' game seems to have taken a nose-dive.

A big crowd, cheering him on, could again inspire one of the most consistent and successful players to ever wear an England shirt. Remember Duisberg in 1978? The Top 12 in 1979? Not even Andrzej Grubba or Jan-Ove Waldner can afford to take Douglas lightly at the top of his form.

Prean?

And the European youth champion Carl Prean might have his sights on the title this year.

Prean, now 18, shunned the championships two years ago because of the choice of the plastic ball. He has yet to emulate to an English audience the victories captured overseas. But already the Belgian Open champion he is making progress out of the public eye and could hit peak form in January.

Not forgetting, of course, the Bradbury v Secretin victory of 1984 and the magnificent achievement of Alan Cooke and Graham Sandley in reaching the final of the mens doubles.

You'll miss it on the telly. And the sea air.



One of Brighton's many restaurants



A gourmets paradise

In Brighton you are spoilt for choice and not just for shopping, window-gazing and evening entertainment. A place between sets and post-match analysis. But truthfully a gourmet's paradise.

Fish at *English's*, *Choys* chinese, and the Soviets will like *Blinis* for caviar and vodka. Then there's *Al Duomo's* who serve the best pizzas in town. Not good for the diet maybe but deliciously indulgent.

In a word, **luxury**. Do yourself a favour . . . the *Triumph Adler English Open*.

Triumph Adler English Open preview



The defending champion Desmond Douglas – his last Open?

This photo by Eileen Langsley, Baslow, Derbys (024-688 2376); all others courtesy of Brighton Borough Council

Getting there

Couldn't be easier!

Fast motorway links via the M23 and the London circular M25 mean that Brighton is now just three hours away from Birmingham by car. Steady motoring all the way . . . three and a half from Cardiff; less than four from Sheffield.

From the west it's simple too; the A27 joining up with the M27 Portsmouth/Southampton motorway. And it means Brighton is served by some excellent fast coach links - 'Speedlink' joining Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and a regular service by coach or train from Gatwick.

Rail services? Four rapid trains an hour during the day from London Victoria with trouble-free connections to main-line stations for the Midlands and North of England.



Hotels

Brighton is packed with hotels, from the modest comfortable guest house to the expensive luxury of 'The Old Ship Hotel' or the competitors' 'Metropole'.

A central computerised reservation service is provided in the foyer of Brighton station. Alternatively, the council's Tourist Information Service will be able to advise: Tourist Information Office, Old Steine BRIGHTON. Tel: 0273 23755.

The Draw

Top referee **John Wright**, in conjunction with assistant **Doug Young**, has already made the draw for this year's championships.

It was too late for this month's issue but the next *Table Tennis News* will have all the details so that subscribers at home can follow the fortunes of the event through the press and teletext service.

However, at the time of writing, an impressive entry looks guaranteed for the first championships under the Triumph Adler sponsorship.

Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Germany, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the Republic of (South) Korea have all expressed their intention of participating . . . along with the talented Swedes, Poland's Grubba, and the powerful Soviet women.

Trade show

A special at this year's Triumph Adler English Open is a trade fair side-show adjacent to the playing hall in the luxurious Brighton Centre.

Manufacturers, retailers and other companies are combining together to provide this extra facility for spectators.

Demonstrations of the latest equipment, the chance to pit your reactions against the table tennis robot in one of the two exhibition arenas, and a wider range of merchandise than you could ever hope to see at your local sports shop.

Clive Oakman, ETTA PR committee member and of *Table Tennis Services* has masterminded the show, with backing from all the major equipment suppliers including table manufacturers Jaques.

Tickets

Tickets are already on sale for the Brighton feast of table tennis and can be obtained from the ETTA office at 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: 0424 433121.

Alternatively, you can book your seats from the Brighton Centre booking office Tel: 0273 202881. Credit card reservations are accepted.

Play begins each day at 9.00 am, with team events on Thursday 23rd January and the individuals events on Friday and Saturday. All three days offer the chance to see some excellent table tennis - variety during the early rounds and the fierce competition of the staged finals.

Prices

Thursday
All day - £4; £2 (children & OAPs)
Evening team finals only - £2; £1

Friday
All day - £4; £2
Evening later rds only - £2; £1

Saturday
Morning - all £1
1.30 pm finals - £4, £3 and £2, dependent on seat

Substantial discounts are available on group bookings and coaches are being run from many areas. Full details on reduced rates can be obtained from the ETTA office.

TRIUMPH ADLER



Super support for Douglas debut

Fiona Brown

England No 1 Desmond Douglas, playing in the Halex National League for the first time this season, has helped to swell match attendances in the premier division. Over 200 spectators enjoyed his debut match for GKN Wolverhampton against South Yorkshire I in early September. Des maintained his outstanding record winning both sets despite a slightly nervous start in which he conceded the very first game to Kevin Beadsley.

Impressed

Although delighted with his own performance Des was most impressed by 15 year old Chris Oldfield the South Yorkshire No 4. "He has plenty of talent and played one hell of a game under pressure to bear Andy Bellingham."

A name to look out for in the future! – his victory on this occasion brought the match to a 4–4 conclusion.

Syed the scythe

Another youngster earning praise is Omega Reading's Matthew Syed, "He played brilliantly against us," said Ormesby Manager, Alan Ransome. "He did well to beat David McIlroy but the way he outclassed Nigel Eckersley was incredible. There aren't many Englishmen who can do that."

Double scotch on the rocks

Reading's Karen Witt added two wins to the Syed total with ice-cool performances against Scottish internationals David McIlroy and John Broe, a result which cost the former his first team place, "No disrespect to Karen but David was playing well below par today, I'll drop him until he proves he can do better," added Ransome.

True to his word out went McIlroy and in came former England No 1 Denis Neale. Recently returned from a coaching visit to Saudi Arabia it is rumoured that Denis, who turned 40 earlier this year, now has his sights set on the 1986 Veterans World Championships – what better way to prepare than in the top flight of Halex league competition!

Action replay

Spectators at the Grove v Ormesby match on 15th September could have been excused for believing they had fallen into a time warp as Neale faced Nicky Jarvis, another superstar of English table tennis in the 1970s. Having adapted his game to avoid excessive use of the loop, Jarvis demonstrated his superiority to win the set and secure a point for Grove.

Earlier in the match new Grove No 1 Steve Mills had, in the words of referee Gerald Green, "Demolished his opponents," not bad at all when one was none other than England's no 3 Alan Cooke.



Wilson – October Player of the Month

Ellenborough in Europe

Presently languishing in sixth position, Thorn-EMI Ellenborough have matches in hand and, amazingly, with almost one third of the season gone, they like the five teams above have a realistic chance of becoming Halex National League premier champions in 1986.

The fixture backlog in part is due to Ellenborough's European exploits, as they endeavour to become only the second English and third western club to win the European Club Cup of Champions.

Having despatched the Dutch champions, the squad of David Wells, Graham Sandley, New Zealand No 1 Malcolm Temperley and Mark Mitchell now face a home match against Budapest Spartacus of Hungary.

Team Manager Terry Wilson was astonished to hear that the fixture was going to cost over £1,000, "It's ridiculous, believe it or not it would be cheaper to play away! At least that way the players would get to enjoy the trip."

Under the rules of the competition the home team must pay 50% towards travel costs and offer full hospitality to their visitors, "Although Ellenborough is a decent club we don't have that kind of money. When I first found out I thought that we would have to withdraw, after all I'm not a magician."

Cash injection

Fortunately for Ellenborough a near disaster has been turned into a farytale with injections of cash from club sponsors Thorn-EMI and league sponsors Halex.

"We were delighted to be able to help," said Halex managing director Nigel Holmes, "Naturally we want to see our champion team do well in Europe."

"In return for our support the Ellenborough squad have agreed to evaluate the quality of the new ball which Halex has developed. I am sure they will be impressed and we hope to have the ball on the market by Christmas."

Players of the Months

The selections agreed by the National League committee are:

DAMIEN HOLLAND

Thirteen year old Damien Holland receives the September award for his successful debut performance playing at No 4 with the Dagenham FC second team in the third division east. Damien defeated AHW Pioneers players Robert Harman (Buckinghamshire No 1) and England ranked Les Wooding.

COLIN WILSON

Formerly with Thorn-EMI Ellenborough, Colin is now playing at No 1 for premier division team Bath Toyota. He earns the October award for his performance in beating former team mates David Wells and Graham Sandley, both ranked above him in the Lentec national list, and for the sporting encouragement given to his Bath team mates throughout the match.

Halex National League

Hundred per cent Hilton

Target Gold Salford who vaulted into the first division by virtue of an outstanding 1984/85 season are now reaping the benefits of former European champion John Hilton's presence at No 1. Salford manager Mike Owens says "We went after Douglas, it's no secret, but we failed and that was the end of it. In Salford we look forward, not back."

"As soon as we realised that John was available we jumped at the chance, after all there aren't too many European Champions around in England!"

Already Hilton has proved to be an asset in more ways than one, "The time he spends coaching the city's youngsters is just as important as his national league contribution." John himself is enjoying the Salford connection. "It's good to be back playing in England, the season is going quite well so I am happy."

Byker climb the wall

After a season spent with their backs to the wall Byker Newcastle I have come out fighting in 1985/86. Most surprising about their success is that it has been achieved in the absence of the north east's leading player/coach Peter McQueen, for years a stalwart of the east city side.

Neither have Byker trooped into the transfer market during the summer - the only addition to the squad being Ian 'Benny' Robinson a former Kent player but long time Newcastle resident.

"Confidence, cash and the community centre where we play are the three main reasons behind our early season successes," suggested club captain and No 1 Neil McMaster. "As individuals we all enjoyed moments of glory last season, when we succeeded in putting it all together in our first match, beating Unity Bradford 5-3 the confidence jigsaw began to take shape."

In previous seasons the Byker club have struggled for cash, "Nobody wants to sponsor a loser so we formed a fund raising committee and set about the problem from another angle. We organised a sponsored walk and a disco (not on the same day!) and now the North East Sports Council has stepped in with a substantial grant."

Playing at the Byker Community Centre has meant that the team are bringing top class sport to an area of the city which does not have the facilities to accommodate most other sports, a factor which may have tipped the Sports Council balance in Byker's favour.

Oldham can't "old-em"

Following two emphatic wins during the first weeks of the season Stuart Sneyd, assistant manager of league newcomers Oldham, was confidently declaring "We will win it, we can't fail with the side we have got."

Six weeks later the realisation has struck. "I still think we will do well but we've blown our chance of the championship."

Today seasoned campaigners Kingsbro Insurance Services lead the third division North. They have already conquered Oldham who lie second and third placed South Yorkshire.

Why then have the plans laid by Sneyd and in particular, manager Geoff Aspinall faltered? The first hiccup came when the team to face South Yorkshire was severely weakened by the absence of veteran tournament ace Derek Schofield.

Fortunately for Oldham, No 1 Phil Aspinall was able to play and win despite a debilitating stomach condition but the 4-4 result emphasised that Oldham do not yet have sufficient strength in depth to meet the demands of national league competition.

Against Kingsbro Insurance Services Schofield returned as Oldham No 4 - a position surprising some - and promptly claimed a further two victories both in straight games. When judged in their respective contexts he is having a more successful national league season than Desmond Douglas!

And yet, the team struggles. To Aspinall and Sneyd, both of whom devote long hours to table tennis at all levels in Oldham, there is only one answer - to work harder. Whether this season or the next they intend to lead a winning squad.

League Tables

Premier division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton I	5	2	3	0	23	17	7
Grove I	5	2	1	1	23	17	6
Ormesby I	4	1	3	0	19	13	5
Bath Toyota	4	1	3	0	17	15	5
Omega Reading I	2	1	0	1	10	6	2
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	2	0	2	0	8	8	2
Omega Reading II	5	0	2	3	12	28	2
South Yorkshire	3	0	1	2	8	16	1

First division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham FC	4	3	1	0	24	8	7
Butterfly Cardiff	4	3	1	0	21	11	7
Target Gold Salford	5	3	1	1	28	12	7
Airmaster St Neots I	5	2	1	2	18	22	5
West Warwick/Birmingham	4	2	0	2	15	17	4
TCB dolphins	4	0	2	2	12	20	2
TSP Larkhall I	5	0	2	3	15	25	2
Ormesby II	5	1	0	4	11	29	2

Second division north	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Byker Newcastle I	5	5	0	0	29	11	10
Chan Construction I	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Unity Bradford	5	3	1	1	22	18	7
GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Sincil Lincoln	5	1	2	2	18	22	4
March	5	1	0	4	17	23	2
Byron Roofing "Stute"	5	0	1	4	12	28	1
City of Leeds	5	0	1	4	9	31	1

Second division south	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EAE Waveney	6	4	1	1	29	19	9
Jaques Fareham	6	2	2	2	23	25	6
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Torbay I	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
Norwich Foxwood	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
TSP Larkhall II	5	1	2	2	20	20	4
Medway	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Gwent	4	1	0	3	14	18	2
Gunnersbury Triangle	5	1	0	4	14	26	2

Third division north	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingsbro Insurance	5	5	0	0	30	10	10
Oldham	5	3	1	1	28	12	7
South Yorkshire II	5	3	1	1	23	17	7
Crusaders Lincoln	5	2	1	2	19	21	5
Vickers Sports Barrow	5	1	2	2	19	21	4
Ormesby IV	5	2	0	3	19	21	4
Byker Newcastle II	5	1	1	3	19	21	3
Ormesby III	5	0	0	5	3	37	0

Third division south	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford	5	4	0	1	29	11	8
Rejects	5	4	0	1	29	11	8
Nittaku Ruislip	5	4	0	1	28	12	8
Deptford Rams	6	3	1	2	26	22	7
Abeng Warriors (Stiga)	5	2	1	2	20	20	5
Errey's Print '84	5	2	0	3	22	19	4
Omega Reading III	6	1	0	5	11	37	2
Spicer New Malden	5	0	0	5	4	36	0

Third division east	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AHW Pioneers	5	4	1	0	24	16	9
Fellows Cranleigh	5	3	1	1	24	16	7
Soham	5	3	1	1	22	18	7
Briannia Deepure	5	2	1	2	23	17	5
Witham Town FC	5	2	1	2	19	21	5
Airmaster St Neots IUI	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Playrite Northampton	5	1	1	3	16	24	3
Dagenham FC II	5	0	0	5	11	29	0

Third division west	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Global Sports Plymouth	6	5	1	0	36	12	11
Joliffe Poole	6	4	1	1	33	15	9
Leominster	5	4	0	1	29	11	8
Leicester	6	3	1	2	30	18	7
Grove II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Chan Construction II	5	1	0	4	9	31	2
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Torbay II	6	1	0	5	8	40	2
Duchy Windows (Banda) Launceston	4	0	0	4	8	24	0

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First place £600	First place £500
Second place £300	Second place £250

Help Needed for School Games

This autumn school term is a relative quiet period for the English Schools Table Tennis Association as the emphasis falls on their member county associations producing the qualifying school teams for the Dunlop National School Team Table Tennis Championships. ESTTA press and public relations officer David Lomas took the opportunity to talk to ESTTA Chairman John Arnold during the half-term break.

DAL: The ESTTA is now well-established, being in its 18th year of existence. Have the aims of the founder members been realised?

JA: Yes, and more so. This season sees our 20th Team championships and our 13th National Individual Championships and I look forward to the 12th International championships which we hope to stage next early July at a venue in the North of England.

DAL: How many players took part in last year's competitions?

JA: About 300 Teams took part in the area stages of the Dunlop National School Team Championships and almost 300 players were involved in the Dunlop ESTTA Individual Championships. Our international teams numbered 30 players.

DAL: Does this represent the total number of participants?

JA: No, not at all. When you bear in mind that the majority of the 50 member counties organise their own competitions to determine their representatives in the two major championships I would suggest that some 12,000 boys and girls played in the qualifying stages of the team and individual events.

DAL: In what age groups?

JA: There are separate competitions for boys and girls at under 11, 13, 16 and 19 levels.

DAL: Has this always been the case?

JA: No; there have been many changes over the year. The original team event categories were U15 and U17 only but as the system evolved these were altered and the latest addition was the inclusion of U11 boys and girls competitions. These U11 events are as keenly contested in both quality and quantity as the other more senior events.



ESTTA chairman John Arnold

DAL: There must be, however, many players at school who do not seem to take part in our competitions?

JA: Sadly, this is so. Even in our best organised, fully-constituted counties there are many schools who do not affiliate. We would hope that in such cases schools can be persuaded by parents and pupils to affiliate to the county schools association.

DAL: Are there some counties where a county schools association does not exist?

JA: Indeed, yes. In these counties we must all pull together to try to set up such a body. One must recognise that table tennis is only one of a vast variety of sports activities which can find its place in curricular and extra-curricular activities in schools. I hope that coaches and parents and interested officials from local ETTA leagues and county associations will do what they can to set up

associations in these "dead" counties, in conjunction with interested schoolteachers.

DAL: Which are the "dead" counties?

JA: East Sussex, Merseyside, Middlesex, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. As I said in my remarks in the ESTTA 1985/86 Handbook, one of the major difficulties facing most voluntary associations is the desperate shortage of people with time and energy prepared to come forward to serve on committees, be they local, county or national ones.

DAL: You challenge schoolteachers and others interested in the development of the sport to co-operate in the hope of rectifying the situation.

JA: Yes, and I issue the challenge again: the boys and girls in such areas can only gain and the winner at the end of the day will be table tennis.

Strike fears for ESTTA

By David Lomas

By the time these notes appear in print the entries from member county associations for the Dunlop National School Team Championships will have closed. It remains to be seen what effect the teachers industrial action in pursuit of their pay claim will have had on the number of entries for the area finals.

However, other more established school sports have already suffered badly because of the action and ESTTA officials fear a drop in the number of schools involved.

The area finals are due to take place on Saturday/Sunday 18/19th January. The winners go forward to one of the three

regional finals scheduled for Sunday, 16th February at Leeds, Stroud and Croydon. Then comes the national finals to be held at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, 15th March.

Just as the magazine was due to go to press, information received from ESTTA counties revealed the extent of the feared drop in participation due to the teachers' pay and conditions dispute.

Comparison with last year's figures for the Dunlop National School team championships indicates a 20% reduction in those intending to take part in the Area finals in January.

School Report/Classified ads

- DAL:** So you strongly believe that the development of table tennis in schools is critical to the future of the game?
- JA:** Yes. Naturally there is splendid work done by coaches in advanced training centres, sports centres and clubs throughout the country — and in youth clubs too. However, not everyone goes to a table tennis club or a youth club *but everyone goes to school!* This is the place where any sport still has its mass future potential. If table tennis took off in every junior school in the country then just imagine the boost for the game, and it sorely needs a boost.
- DAL:** How do you envisage this happening?
- JA:** Well every plan is not easy to implement but there must be thousands of junior schools throughout the country with small halls unsuitable for most other sports requiring a larger area where one or two tables could be used after school at say, 4pm, by the school for extra-curricular activities, from 5pm to 7pm for coaching, and from 7pm for league matches. A one-table centre could cater for 8 league teams playing home and way on 4 nights a week.
- DAL:** But where do we get the players from?
- JA:** Initially from interest at the school. Players would return to the centre on transfer to secondary school by joining the coaching class designed for different ages and levels, and then join the league.
- DAL:** An interesting idea — but where will the equipment come from?
- JA:** Surely it's not too difficult to persuade the local education authorities to provide the use of the premises if a local league purchase a table and, say, the Sports Council sponsor the lighting — or perhaps a local sponsor might help. But that's not the problem! It's the lack of coaches, teachers and interested people prepared to give fully of their time.
- DAL:** But many are prepared to help! . . .
- JA:** Indeed, in the ESTTA organisation many people with great dedication are striving to promote the sport we all love and enjoy. This is the same at local and county level — but we need more!
- DAL:** Many thanks for your time, John. Perhaps we can talk about other aspects of the ESTTA's activities and how they are trying to develop the game, sometime in the future.

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Northants Schools initiative

Glennis Hooper

The NSTTA began its full calendar of events this year with the formation of the new Crane's Premier Select (UI7) league at Kingsthorpe Upper School, Northampton.

For many years the schools' association have been concerned that the county's top juniors and cadets were not receiving the kind of competitive play to improve their talents and to improve the general standard of local table tennis.

It has always been their aim to create a junior and cadet league and after many months

of organisation and with financial backing from Crane Engineering Ltd of Northampton such a league was formed.

The league comprises of 12 teams which include the top 36 youngsters in the county; with many eager players acting as reserves when necessary. Each team is evenly balanced which means any one of the twelve could win the Crane Cup.

This being a first for Northamptonshire the league is an ideal opportunity for the lower-ranked players to pit their wits against the top players and for the top players to help those less able and receive regular match play. For county team selectors

it is an instant way of producing an accurate, up-to-date ranking list.

Nine of the thirty-six youngsters playing are girls and these are led by Caroline Perkins (W'boro Sparkes: county No 1) and Joanne Abbott (Rushden Rebels: county No 2).

As well as so many girls it has also been encouraging to see the faces of so many other players from all areas of the county and the support of the many parents present is very heartening.

The Centre at Kingsthorpe Upper School is ideal and boasts twelve tables. With six of these being used for the league the other six were occupied by a new

beginners group. And a squad of 24 was selected after trials to receive regular coaching. These youngsters will be aiming to pass grades 1, 2 and 3 of the Dunlop Skills Award scheme.

When they have reached a certain standard they will be moved up to the intermediate and advanced squads and from there to the elite squad who meet at the Association's new centre at the old Westfield School in Wellingborough.

Levi-Strauss (UK) Ltd, the Association's sponsors, have again purchased the trophies for these tournaments and the elite squad proudly wear Levi shirts at the national tournaments.

Stiga County Championship round-up

Staffs and Yorkshire share lead

by Doug Moss

Pride of place goes to the junior premier weekend on 19/20th October at St Neots, where the event, as usual, was very well staged.

The teams were evenly contested, except perhaps the Sussex team, who struggled on promotion from division 2. Of the 16 matches played there were two draws and five 6-4 results. At the top of the league table just one game separates Staffordshire and Yorkshire!

The best boys singles records came from Adrian Dixon (Staffs No 1) and Matthew Connell (Yorks No 3) who were both unbeaten. Adrian had one 'close shave' against Chris Oldfield (Yorks no 2), which he won 24-22 in the decider. Matthew had three close finishes. His wins over Steve Slater (-12, 16, 19) and Kevin Lawrence (-14, 14, 18) were vital in the Yorks/Staffs drawn match.

The most successful girls were Jill Powis and Helen Lower, who made a great contribution for Staffs winning all their singles and doubles events. Andrea Holt (La) had a 'clean sheet' in singles and Nos 1 & 2 cadet girls, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington (Dy) were unbeaten in doubles.

The Yorks/Staffs match deserves special mention. The results of the first two events (24-22 in third for Staffs; 19 in third for Yorks) clearly indicated what a hard match this was to be. Credit is due to the Yorkshire fighting spirit for they won a further two sets at 19 and one at 18 in the third games to force the draw.

The second weekend should provide a good deal of excitement with Staffs or Yorks looking the likely champions at this stage, having already met in a drawn match their performances against other teams will decide

the issue. It seems to me that Yorkshire will probably have the toughest programme as they have to play both Kent and Derbyshire (3rd and 4th in league table) whereas Staffs have already met Kent.

Match Results

Kent 3 Staffs 7; Middx 1 Yorks 9; Derbys 4 Essex 6; Staffs 10 Sussex 0; Yorks 6 Lancs 4; Essex 4 Kent 6; Sussex 1 Middx 9; Lancs 4 Derbys 6; Staffs 9 Essex 1; Sussex 2 Derbys 8; Kent 7 Lancs 3; Yorks 5 Staffs 5; Derbys 5 Middx 5; Lancs 6 Essex 4; Yorks 10 Sussex 0; Middx 2 Kent 8.

League Table

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Staffs	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Kent	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Middlesex	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Lancashire	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Essex	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Sussex	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

Senior 3A

Northumberland 9 Clwyd 1; Cumbria 7 Northumberland II 3; Durham 2 Lincolnshire 8; Notts 4 Cheshire II 6. *Hunts have withdrawn.*

Cumbria had a good result against Northumberland II on their return to the County scene. The best set was the clash of the No 1s Tim Pachul (Cu) v Thomas Blackman (Nd) with Blackman winning -19, 11, 19 to bring the match score to 5-3 but Karen Griffiths and Andrew Pachul won their singles events to secure the 7-3 win.

Senior 3B

Glamorgan 4 Avon I 6; Avon II 1 Devon II 9; Herefordshire 6 IoW. 4; Cornwall 5 Somerset II 5.

With Herefordshire competing again, they started off with a win against the Isle of Wight. Mark Owen won both his singles events and partnered Jimmy Ahern to win the mens doubles. Sharon Powell did well to win her singles after losing the first game to Joy Batten at 11-21. Sharon and Sue Segust won the womens doubles 14, -20, 19!

Senior 3B

Oxfordshire 5 Worcs II 5; Bucks 2 Glos 8; Norfolk 8 Herts I 2.

Tim Holder and Mark Roden (Wo) stepped up from last season's junior team and acquitted themselves very well. They each won a singles and played well in doubles to beat Neil Harris and Neil Abbott -17, 22, 18. Helen Pogmore (Wo) easily won her singles and with Lynda Reid won the womens doubles after going down 21-7 in the first game!

Senior 3D

Essex II 8 Sussex II 2; Surrey II 8 Essex III 2; Suffolk II 5 Kent III 5; Suffolk I 4 Kent II 6; Suffolk I 8 Kent III 2; Suffolk II 0 Kent II 10; Cambs II 4 Berks II 6.

The Suffolk I and IIs and Kent II and IIIs had a busy day on 19th October playing four matches at Britannia Dome, Ipswich. The Suffolk II v Kent III was a draw but the Suffolk team lost two sets at deuce in the deciding games. The Suffolk I v Kent II match was very close with Suffolk losing 4-6. However, John Kitchener (Sk) lost to Andy Cunningham (K) -19, 16, -19 and Sue Butcher lost to Marilyn Dudgeon 20, -18, -18. Cunningham (K) won his two singles with four of his five games being won at 21-19.

Juniors

Juniors 2A

Northants 4 Cheshire 6; Yorkshire II 8 Suffolk 2; Staffs II 4 Notts 6.

Northants awarded two sets and Richard Elliott won a singles and partnered Andrew Trott to take the doubles at 21-18 in the third game.

Despite the 8-2 scoreline there were some close finishes in Yorks II v Suffolk match. Hazel Kavenagh won her singles at 18 in the third and Yorks got the girls doubles at 24-22 in the third. Allaric Bassano who had such a good record last season, beat Richard Hutchinson 22-20, 22-20 but lost to Paul Gooding at -19 in the third.

A hard fought match between Staffs II and Notts, with six sets going to a deciding game. John Holland took the final set to give Notts the win.

Warwickshire 8 Lincolnshire 2; Yorks II 9 Cheshire 1; Northants 3 Staffs 7; Warwickshire 5 Notts 5.

The Warwickshire v Lincolnshire match was much closer than the score suggests. Darren Smith (Wa) beat Martin Barwell 15, -18, 22, and the girls doubles was won by Tracey Green and Alison Ledwych at 23-21 in the third and then Alison won her singles against Helen Stephens 13, -18, 19! The next week Warwick had a tougher match against Notts. Six of the sets were decided in the third game and a draw seemed a fair result.

Juniors 2B

Surrey 8 Berkshire 2; Wiltshire 1 Herts 9; Cornwall 8 Middlesex II 2; Glamorgan 7 Devon 3.

Surrey v Berkshire was closer than the score suggests. Matthew Pernet beat Julian Jones at 19 in the third and Richard Jones lost first to Keith Hodder but took the set at 21-18 in the decider. Cheryl Bateman and Lisa Pritchett served Surrey well with three wins.

Round-up

by Doug Moss

The county championships programme started at end of September with junior team matches and all but one fixture was completed. The defaulter was the Hunts team due to visit Derbyshire II on 28th September.

Apparently, the junior regional trials affecting Hunts were arranged for Sunday 29th September and parents of players in the junior team did not wish them to play twice over the weekend.

The date provided in the calendar for regional junior ranking trials was October 27th (a weekend free of county championship matches). Regional trials on county championship weekend would almost certainly include most county team players. Whether in the circumstances it was unreasonable for Hunts to travel to Derby is a matter of opinion.

In division 2A Cheshire were a player short for their match at Northamptonshire. It is appreciated this can be a 'last minute' problem but it causes such disillusion. Especially as adequate reserves can be nominated.

A fine is a deterrent but does not remedy the situation. It was particularly disappointing for Northants because although awarded the unplayed sets they lost 4-6.

Other Match Results

Senior 2A

Worcs I 4 Derbys I 6; Lancs II 9 Bucks 1; Warwks 7 Cambs 3

Warwickshire were indebted to Barry Johnson who won his two singles events and combined with Phil Gunn to win the mens doubles against Cambridgeshire. Lester Bertie also chipped in with two singles wins.

Senior 2B

Devon 7 Essex 3; Sussex 6 Dorset 4; Somerset I 4 Wilts I 6; Hants 0 Middx II 10.

Devon had a hard fight against Essex. Although a 7-3 win Gary Wilson and Mike Short (Dv) won the mens doubles against Des Charley and Stuart Gibbs at 19 in the third game. In the last set of the match Short beat Charley at 18 in the third. Somerset v Wiltshire was another close contest. Somerset trailing 1-4 came back to 3-4. An important win for Claire Maisey (Wi) over Melonie Carey (So) -17, 17, 18, gave Wiltshire the win in the penultimate set.

Stiga County Championships round-up

Hertfordshire were well on top in their 9-1 defeat of Wiltshire. Ian Neate beat Michael Boardman 19, 21 to get the one event for Wilts.

Cornwall team in fine form against Middlesex II. However, Neil Bevan had two hard matches beating Tom Cutler 19 in the third. With Andy Hunt in doubles the scores against Cutler and Bitran were -18, 19, 19.

Match results so often show how just a few point effect the outcome. So it was in the Glamorgan v Devon match when Glamorgan got a 7-3 win. For Glamorgan Theresa Petty who was unbeaten last year, beat Rachael Pengelly 23-21 in the decider and Anthony Jones followed up in beating Richard Aitken -14, 16, 19. These two sets took Glamorgan's score from 4-2 to 6-2 and secured a win.

Surrey 3 Glamorgan 7; Middlesex II 6 Herts 4

The Surrey team lost six sets in the deciding game! Cheryl Bateman and Liza Pritchett won their three for the Surrey team and Anthony Jones, Richard Harry and Lee Jones won the seven for Glamorgan.

Juniors 3A

Leics 10 Clwyd 0; Derby II 10 Hunts 0; Cheshire v Cumbria (result unknown)

Clwyd perhaps deserved a better fate than a 10-0 whitewash. Three sets were decided by the narrowest of margins.

The Cheshire v Cumbria match is shown on the score sheet as 4-6. But the No 9 womens singles event shows Alison Jones (Ch) clearly beating Anna Holland 19, -20, 15 and the win credited to Cumbria!

Was the correct result a draw!? The score sheet has been signed by both captains and the referee. Administrator Les Smith will sort out the correct result.

Leics 8 Hunts 2; Clwyd 2 Cumbria 8; Cheshire II 6 Warwickshire II 4.

Andrew Wright made a good contribution to the Cheshire win. He won his two singles events and combined with Neil Schofield to narrowly beat Rayinder Singh and Harron Rashid in the boys doubles with scores of -18, 17, 23.

Juniors 3B

Bedford II 6 Bucks 4; Oxfordshire 0 Cambridgeshire 10.

The Bedfordfordshire boys (Peter Bowler, Nigel Ali, Marcus Wheldon) each won a singles each and the girls (Ruth Forrester and Louise Dean) were dominant in taking their three sets.

Cambs I recorded a whitewash over Oxfords but Di Paulo and O'Flynn narrowly lost the boys doubles and Di Paulo won the first game against Langhun 21-12 only to lose the next two at -19, -21.

Cambs II 2 Worcestershire 8; Cambs I 8 Worcestershire 2.

Worcestershire and Cambridgeshire played two matches at Wisbech to save expense. The results of the two matches evened out with Worcestershire getting 2 points with 10 sets for and 10 against.

Cambs 4 Bedfordshire 6; Bedfordshire II 4 Cambs II 6; Oxfordshire 8 Bucks 2.

The Cambs v Bedfordshire I team clash will probably have an influence on the championship of the division. Gavin Black (Bd) had a decisive effect on the result by winning his three events, including a very good -16, 10, 18 win over Nick Ashman.

Juniors 3C

Dorset I Gwent 9; Gloucestershire 7 Hampshire 3; Somerset 7 Cornwall II 3.

Gwent got off to a good start with dropping only one set but a remarkable seven sets went to three with four of them being exceptionally close finishes. Bad luck Dorset!

In the Gloucester v Hampshire match all sets were two straight. The No 1 Gloucestershire boy Craig Saunders was involved in two losses, a singles and the doubles. Paul Hudlass beat him to the tune of 7 and 17. Jenny Egan (Gs) lost to Lisa Rice rather easily but, with Jenny Ellery, remedied the situation with a 21-16, 21-7 win in the girls doubles.

Somerset were well in control against Cornwall II. Somerset No 3 boy Adam Gillham lost his two singles to Mark Bawden and Andy Bevan. The Somerset girls (Fiona Stuart and Tina Sadler) were much too strong for the very young Cornwall girls.

Gwent 8 Hants 2; Avon 3 Somerset 7; Gloucestershire 7 Cornwall II 3.

David Woodridge and Paul Smith won their five sets to put Somerset in a good position against Avon. Tina Sadler (So) beat Carey Webb and, with Kirsty Withyman, won a close doubles contest against Sarah Kettle and Carey Webb 20 and 20.

Juniors 3D

Norfolk II has withdrawn. Norfolk 5 Surrey II 5; Essex II 4 Kent II 6; Sussex II 3 Essex III 7.

Norfolk v Surrey II the only drawn match in first round of junior matches. Neil Pickard made a very good contribution for Norfolk winning his two singles and the boys doubles with Lee Diggins. The Surrey boys each won one singles and Tracy Pritchett did well to win her singles and combine with Catherine Banks to take the girls doubles at 24-22 in the third.

Greg Barden, following up on his 90% record last season, and Michael Harrison served the Kent team well, winning their singles and combining to take the boys doubles. Sarah George and Kelly Bennett fought well for the Essex side to contribute three wins - two of them being at 18 in the third and the other at 24-22 in the decider. For Essex III team

Martin Cole and Grant Solder won their four singles but were beaten surprisingly easily in the doubles. Joanne Cook and Kate Gower were much too strong for Sussex and their three sets made up the seven for Essex III.

Hertfordshire II 10 Sussex II 0; Kent II 7 Surrey II 3; Norfolk I 2 Essex III 8.

Not only did Herts win 10-0 over Sussex II but all the sets were won in straight games. Surrey II made a late start against Kent II. From 7-0 down they took the last three sets by virtue of wins by Tracey Pritchett, Graham Connelly and Peter Burgess-Allen.

Veterans

Veterans Premier

Essex I 3 Bucks I 6; Cheshire 8 Sussex I; Middlesex 4 Lincolnshire 5. Kent I 6 Notts 3;

Alf Saunders was responsible for the three won by Notts. In the clash of the No 1s Alf beat Henry Buist -10, 19, 20! Terry Farlie (K) was unbeaten. Les Wooding and Alec Watson were involved in the six wins for Bucks over Essex. Sylvia Coombes partnered Les in the mixed doubles and Frank Earis was Alec's partner in the mens doubles.

Ron Sharman

To the young players of today the name of Ron Sharman, who died of lung cancer in a Guildford hospital at the end of September, will mean little as he came to prominence as an English international immediately after the second World War.

This was the era of the pimpled rubber when defensive play was a requisite of the game. Ron was a specialist in defence with a biting chop from either wing and a stylish backhand which he used sparingly but with great effect. After winning several home tournaments and performing well in staged trials, he was awarded his first international badge against Wales in January 1947.

Ron did not reach his eminent position in the sport by fluke or chance. He was not blessed with the

Veterans 2A

Yorks 9 Oxfordshire 0; Essex II 6 Worcestershire 3; Herts 6 Cheshire II 3; Hunts 5 Leicestershire 4.

Brian Parrish and Fred Lockwood won their four singles in the Essex v Worcestershire clash. Janet Hunt (Wo), unbeaten last season, had a hard fight before beating Shirley Carroll 12, -22, 19. Hunts players lost their first round of singles matches against Leics. From 0-3 down they fought back to win 5-4. Winning the two doubles events put them back in contention and then Len Saywell and Alan Albon each had a singles win.

Veterans 2B

Hunts 6 Middlesex II 3; Berks I 5 Surrey I 4; Dorset I 1 Kent II 8; Sussex II 5 Avon 4.

The Kershaws contributed four wins for Hants against Middlesex II. Fred won his two singles, Ivy won hers and they combined to take the mixed doubles. R O Bennett and Ray Lush chipped in with a singles win apiece. Good to see Ray (ex-Worcs!) still going strong.

It was a tough match between Berks v Surrey. Berks won the two important doubles events, Bob Holiday won two singles and Pam Spooner beat Vera Beesley 17 and 11. Apparently Brian Halliday was involved in to expedite matches but lost both.

natural talent of some but he had remarkable dedication and the temperament of a thoroughbred. Constant practice and a determination to succeed were the main hallmarks of his success.

The highlight of his career came in the spring of 1948 when he was chosen for England's Swatthling Cup team when the world championships were held at Wembley.

Ron was a proud member of Surrey's first County team and later became the English Open veteran champion for three successive years 1958, 1959 and 1960. Our sympathies are extended to his charming wife Barbara and the family. He will be sorely missed.

RJC

Veterans 3A

Hunts 1 Yorkshire 8; Cheshire III 4 Herts II 5; Northumberland 5 Norfolk 4.

Two very close matches in the division. Herts fought back from 3-0 down to win 5-4.

Veterans 3B

Berks II 1 Essex III 8; Bucks II 7 Hunts III 2; Bedfordshire 7 Herefordshire II 2 (*this result is queried as it seems Beds may have played in wrong ranking order*)

Veterans 3C

Herts IV 0 Wilts I 9; Wilts II 4 Berks III 5; Sussex III 5 Hants II 4.

In the Wilts v Berks match Barry Piercey confidently won his two singles events for Berks. With the score 4-4 Peter Bradley secured the win for Berks III with a two straight win over Alan Duke. The score in the Sussex v Hants match also stood at 4-4. Don Sinden clinched the match with a -15, 9, 15 win over Maurice Shave (Ha).

Crystal Palace success

Sue Drummond

Crystal Palace national sports centre was a hive of activity on 22nd-24th November. It was the ETTA's last coaching course for 1985 and it proved to be an excellent weekend.

The course welcomed 25 keen and enthusiastic players who worked tirelessly to achieve one of the coaching awards. There were not only potential sports centre leaders and club coaches but also a group trying to reach the next step on the coaching ladder by mastering the dip-

loma syllabus.

The aspiring coaches put in a lot of hard work under the watchful eye of national coach David Fairholm, assisted by Roy Pugh, Gail McCulloch and Malcolm Cole. On this occasion they were also joined by senior national coach Peter Simpson who guided the diploma students through the finer points of coaching and technique.

One of the best aspects of these courses is their pleasant

atmosphere with lots of ideas being compared and exchanged. In 1986 courses planned are for anyone with a desire to improve their own playing standard, to take a first tentative step into coaching or, perhaps, to improve their level of qualification.

These coaching weekends are arranged for you. If you are interested in joining us and would like any more information, please contact me at the ETTA office.

'Table Tennis' is a hard-back book recently published by A & C Black. Written by Jill Hammersley-Parker and Richard Eaton, it is a book aimed at the beginner and retails at £4.50.

It offers a classical approach to the sport, starting with the game itself - how it is scored and the correct clothing and equipment - before working step-wise through each of the strokes. Photographs of Jill at various stages of stroke production illustrate the book throughout its 80 pages.

As part of the Black's Picture Sports series, the book will be found on many booksellers shelves.

REO



Group practice at the Crystal Palace course

Table Tennis Tactics

This compact and well-presented book is written by national coach David Fairholm and published in Bell and Hyman's 'Pocket Guides to Sport' series, £4.95.

The book is designed for players who already have a sound understanding of the sport and who wish to improve their performance through better match analysis, preparation and tactics. It allows the reader to delve into various aspects of the sport which they might not have fully explored before.

Generally, Fairholm encourages both player and coach to aim beyond the sound technical base of stroke play and develop a mental game or strategy. The chapter on 'Strategy and Tactics' - advocating season planning towards times of peak performance for the serious player is

enough to prompt even the laziest into a pre-season training schedule.

Later, in 'Tactics against all opponents', the book contains some useful set-piece practice routines and some excellent practical advice on the subtle change of angles and playing into the body. As a way of animating the subject, Fairholm has presented some interesting analyses of three major finals - developing the patterns of play and highlighting the aspects which might have given advantage to either of the players.

The 94-page book is well-balanced and offers valuable information which is both carefully and enthusiastically presented. It will give many players and coaches alike a new and challenging perspective to their game.
REO/SKD

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BEDFORDSHIRE GAMES

by Mary Williams

Teams from Luton, Mid-Beds and South Beds represented table tennis in the Bedfordshire Games at the Tiddenfoot leisure centre in Leighton Buzzard at the start of the season.

South Beds, consisting of Andy Conquest, Alan Chandler and Geoff Giles with Julie Dimmock, Dawn Campbell and Joanne Strode, won the table tennis section. But Luton were the overall winners and their team of Marc Lyons, Brian Bowron and Lyn Jones with Lisa Robins, Joyce Mitchell and Mary Jarrett will represent the town at the Townsend Thoresen Games at Ipswich next June.

The relatively new competition of the Beds & Herts Cup has attracted four extra teams from Bedfordshire this season. Representing the Bedford league are Bedford Modern, Goldington Electric, French Kier and Southill ttc while Luton & Dunstable have Lea Manor, Postels and Delco Products.

Ian Doughty has strengthened the Delco team of Lisa and Jackie Belling, Jim Wooliscroft and Brian Bowron but favourites for the competition must be either Motorola (Stotfold) or Phoenix (Barnet) - last years finalists. First round matches have to be played by 15th December.

The Bedfordshire closed tournament, held at Bedford Trucks, Dunstable on Sunday 10th November resulted in a win for Geoff Giles in the mens singles while Lisa Robins won one better than last year to secure the womens title.

Results:

MS: Giles b Doughty -13, 11, 15. WS: Robins b Campbell 12, 13, MD: Giles/Doughty b S Oliver/D Hyde 16, 11. WD: Joyce Mitchell/B Carton b A Robinson/Campbell -19, 24, 19. XD: Peter Edwards/Robins b Hyde/Robinson -11, 13, 20. JBS: Peter Bowler b Ian Alderson 17, 17. JGS: Robins b Mitchell 14, -12, 9. JBD: Mark Beaumont/Bowler b M Wilkin/Martin Sharpe 13, -17, 20. JGD: S Dawson/Strode b J Green/H Beaumont 13, 18. CBS: Bowler b Beaumont 20, 5. CGS: Dawson b Green. CBD: Beaumont/Bowler b J Chadwick/S Coe 18, 18.

Disappointing drop for Dunstable

The season started for the Dunstable league with a drop in membership. This has meant that the league has been reduced to just two divisions - the junior section and division three being omitted.

It was disappointing news for the league organisers who were finding the junior section a useful launching pad for young talent. But there are hopes that it may be revived if membership picks up in the near future.

The flag of the Luton league, however, continued to fly high with the form of Caroline Buckley in the U14 final of the Wiltshire junior open. She went down 21-10, 21-19 to Debbie Toole of Yorkshire.

And the mens senior side achieved an excellent result in the Wilmott Cup when, away from home, they defeated Banbury 3-6.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GAMES

Geoff Waters

The county juniors have made an excellent start to their county championships seasons, dropping just two sets in their opening two fixtures.

They won their first match 10-0 against Oxfordshire at Headington and followed this a week later with an 8-2 win over Worcestershire.

In the Oxfordshire match they were at full strength, the unbeaten team being Nick Ashman, Jonathon Collins, Matthew Laughlin, Ruth Hutchinson and Louise Ward. In the Worcestershire match at Wisbeach Jonathon was on tournament duty and Chris Dexter took his place.

Nick, Matthew and Ruth again came through unbeaten while Louise and Chris both lost singles by the narrowest of margins. Louise lost to Sue Burgess 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, while Chris went down 22-24, 21-23 to David Rogers.

Such a splendid start has led to talk of promotion, especially with a 'banker' win against the Cambs second team to come. But the unavailability of Nick Ashman for

some matches may pose problems. The county's chief rivals in the division could well be Bedfordshire, who they will have met by the time these notes are read.

Julian Wheel, representing the Ely league, has won the Constable Cup for the first time by beating U21 players from the other Cambridgeshire leagues at Haverhill Meat Products.

Julian won all his four sets while holder Peter Holliday (March), Kevin Gray (Cambridge and England cadet No 11 Jonathon Collins (Wisbeach) each won two.

Results:

Wheel b Gray 18, 18; b Collins 11, 11; b Holliday 12, -10, 12; b R Cushen (Haverhill) 12, 8. Gray b Cushen 16, 6; b Holliday 18, -23, 19. Holliday b Collins 11, 7; b Cushen 12, 12. Collins b Cushen 26, 16; b Gray 16, -19, 20.

CORNISH CAUGHT COLD

by Jeremy Williams

It appears that the county trials caught many players cold whilst others cashed in on the opportunity to climb up the rankings. Notable absentees were Mark James, Ian James, Barry Cornelius, Gary Marquard, Nigel Cock, Ritchie Bartlett, Alison Clemens, Shirley Collins, Sheila Rapsey and Sharon James although some of these have been slotted into the lists which are as follows:

Men

- 1 J Bassett (SI)
- 2 J Williams (F)
- 3 I James (F)
- 4 R Jacobs (T)
- 5 A Hunt (L)

Women

- 1 E Stevenson (B)
- 2 G Davey (T)
- 3 A Clemens (C)
- 4 B Rapsey (T)
- 5 S Rapsey (T)

With the progression of last season's leading juniors into the senior ranks, the Cornwall junior rankings show many changes from last season:

Boys

- 1 A Hunt (L)
- 2 N Bevan (B)
- 3 M Stanley (B)
- 4 K Stevenson (B)
- 5 M Bawden (L)

Girls

- 1 T Logg (L)
- 2 R Plummer (SI)
- 3 L Clarke (F)
- 4 A Rushton (C)
- 5 T Rowe (C)

B - Bude; C - Camborne; F - Falmouth; L - Launceston; R - Redruth; SI - St Ives; T - Truro



Cornwall's John Bassett receiving his award from St Ives mayor Cllr Michael Peters

Photo by S Bennetts (0736 795571)

There must be many table tennis players up and down the country who shudder at the sight of John Edgar Bassett. He is 45 years old and ranked No 1 in Cornwall. In 1959 he was also ranked No 1.

Twenty seven years on, his home town of St Ives recently decided to honour his services to club, town and county. The mayor, Mr Michael Peters, presented John with a plaque at a civic reception in the St Ives Guildhall on 30th October to commemorate his astonishing feats over the last 30 years.

John Bassett has played 90 times for Cornwall and been 12 times county champion. He first joined the St Ives club in 1956 at the age of 15, and first played for Cornwall

in March 1959, winning his first singles title the following year.

He won it three times in a row. In 1965-66 Cornwall won division two West and in that season, Bassett did not lose to anyone, anywhere. After a break when he was married, Bassett returned to win the county singles title five times in a row but astonishingly missed several years then on religious grounds.

In 1976, Cornwall played England in a friendly to commemorate the county associations' twenty-fifth anniversary. Cornwall lost 1-8 but Bassett won one. Now, in 1985 there may be a few grey hairs on the distinguished old head of John Bassett but Cornwall's godfather is as sharp as ever and still chalking up wins for his county.

PLYMOUTH CENTRE OPENS

Devon's Dorothy White reports

It was great news for the Plymouth league on 31st October when Tony Parrish, chairman of the Plymouth City leisure services committee, opened their new table tennis headquarters.

Converted from a disused laundry, phase I of the long-term project is now complete. It provides playing facilities for three match and six practice tables on the upper floor and, on the lower floor, two match and four practice tables along with showers and toilets.

That in itself is impressive but Plymouth are already working on phase II to give them a reception area, refreshment facilities, committee room and a lounge, together with a pool table, television etc.

The headquarters are a just reward for Plymouth's vision and the way they have tackled the long-term challenge.

Wilson on top

While most of Devon's top players are already back on the road, a ranking tournament held in September brought some surprises.

Gary Wilson, the county champion, re-emphasised his hold on the title by finishing top of the table, beating the former No 1 Paul Whiting in a tremendously close and exciting match.

Mike Short was also in fine form and moved up the table from fifth to third. With players of the calibre of Paul Giles, Gary Lambert and Tony Sweet standing at fourth, fifth and sixth, the county has much to be proud of.

Richard Aitken kept his hold on the junior boys No 1 spot, with 13 year old Chris White moving up to No 2. Third is Exeter's junior cham-

pion Graham Yardley; fourth Kevin Rowe from North Devon; and fifth Plymouth's left-hander Shaun Gaylard.

The womens list remains unaltered: 1 Carol Butler, 2 Elaine Short, 3 Sue Butler. But there were surprises galore in the junior girls when young Helen Wright from Plymouth moved up to the No 2 spot behind her sister Jane. Joanne Loosemore, Sarah Pengelly and Helen Burch, all from Torbay, followed in ranked order.

Spirits are currently high in the county's national league teams. For Pengeley Sports Banda Torbay in the second division south Paul Whiting and Paul Giles are playing exceptionally well.

The two put their success down to plenty of practice, which is just what Gary Lambert is missing now that his partner Mark Ellett has quit the sport.

Gary Wilson, however, for Global Sports Plymouth, has made a great start to the season - twice being nominated 'man of the match' in their fixtures. A lot of the credit for Global's improved form must go to Stuart Richards; playing No 2, he gives the side the depth it previously lacked.

Devon players have also been well represented in the early season tournaments. Helen Wright won the U12 at the Wiltshire junior open and lost narrowly to Claire Potts in the quarter-finals of The Grove open.

Sister Jane, in her first junior season, lost in the quarters to Helen Lower at the Wiltshire and another Plymouth player, Carol Butler, has reached the quarters of her first three tournaments including good wins against Jill Harris of Staffordshire and Berkshire's Susan Collier.

CLAYTON LEADS DORSET SUPER LEAGUE

Martin Hughes reports

The local super league is now well under way and as expected Tony Clayton is leading the field with an unbeaten record.

The best set of the first round-robin stage was between Tony and Rodney Thomas which Tony won by a score of 14-21, 24-22, 21-11. Rodney used his service and strong attacking strokes to keep Tony on the defensive for the first two games, but Tony managed to weather the storm and run out a winner in the decider.

Current standings (Played/won): Tony Clayton 10/10; Rodney Thomas 10/8; Mark Werner 8/6; Jason Creasey 9/6; Martin Hughes 9/6; Martin Abbott 9/5; John Robinson 10/4; Graham Toole 10/4; Terry Glennon 10/2; Mike Hughes 10/1; Steve Davies 9/0.

Poole league

Due to loss of teams the league is being run this season on the following lines: Premier division - 5 teams; First division - 10 teams; Second division - 10 teams.

The premier division is very competitive with four of the five teams composed of county-ranked players.

Last season's champions Lytchett A gained a good win over rivals Broadstone Old Boys 7-3 with John Robinson and Tony Clayton each gaining maximums.

Nice to see Lagland Boys Club having another go in the second division of the league as they battled well last season without reward. If any person, but particularly young players, wishes to take part in any of the local leagues they can contact me on 0202 875008.

WORK AND FLU HIT DURHAM

by Harry Black

Work commitments forced county No 1 Stephen George out of the team that went down 8-2 against Lincolnshire in division 3A and then 'flu struck to produce two more changes. Down and out went David Godbold and Lynsie Bainbridge and in came Chris Blake and Linda Spensley.

Then it was on, in the next match, to face Cheshire at Hyde. A second but, perhaps, more unfortunate defeat, 6-4, was in store. From 3-3 a succession of wins by Cheshire II gave them a winning lead at 6-3 but that did nothing to deter the dead rubber from becoming one of the best matches of the day. In the clash between Wayne Percival and David Godbold, Percival easily won the first set 21-19 but then with great determination Godbold destroyed Percival to win the next two ends to make the scoreline more respectable.

Six Durham Juniors will go forward to the national junior trials which will be held on 4/5th January following the Northern region trials at Thornaby.

Ian Collier, Steven Riggins and Dermot Ledwith came second, third and fourth respectively in the cadet boys event. Graeme Sanderson was sixth.

Mickey Chang and Michael Roughley finished second and fourth in the junior boys event, Paul Swift was ninth. Durham's final

qualifier was Jeanette Roberts who finished fourth in the cadet/junior girls.

Maureen Kerry Memorial

Darren McVitie, after a season not playing competitive table tennis was the winner of the Maureen Kerry memorial tournament when he beat Northumberland's Peter Whiteman.

MS: D McVitie b P Whiteman (Nd) 17, 15. WS: L Yarnell (Du) b L Spensley (Du) 12, 13. JS: P Swift b (Du) b S Penman (Nd) 10, 8. VS: P Smith (Du) b A Warents (Nd) 18, 15. MD: G Bissett/L Cartwell (Du/Nd) b N Herrington/C Blake (Du) 18, 14. WD: Yarnell/K Wilkinson (Nd) b S Gelder/Spensley (Du) 18, 14. XD: Herrington/Yarnell b D MacIver/Spensley.

Trophies were presented by former Durham County administrator, John Kerry together with Gordon Cotton of Swan Chemicals of Kendal, the sponsors.

Durham County league

Peterlee and Philadelphia A both recorded whitewash 10-0 victories in the league recently. The top Philadelphia team have benefited from the withdrawal of Durham from the league to pick up two top players but they still went on later to drop a point to their own second team in the league when they narrowly scraped a 6-4 win.

ST IVES CADET TOURNAMENT

David Deller

A new venture by the St Ives table tennis club in Cambridgeshire brought together 24 club teams from 8 counties in the Eastern region when nearly 100 youngsters contested cadet and U12 team events at St Ives Recreation Centre on 22nd September.

Clubs from Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Herts, Hunts, Norfolk, Northants and Suffolk were in contention for the two titles. In two very exciting finals Barnet Centre (He) defeated Dunstable (Bd) 2-1 for the cadet championship whilst home club St Ives beat Bedford Modern School by the same margin to lift the U12 trophy.

Final placings

Cadets (top 10 from 16)

- 1 Barnet
- 2 Dunstable
- 3 Lowestoft
- 4 Bedwell
- 5 Norwich
- 6 St Ives
- 7 March
- 8 Bedford
- 9 St Neots
- 10 Norman Centre (Norwich)

U12s (top 6 from 8)

- 1 St Ives
- 2 Bedford Modern
- 3 Kettering
- 4 Peterborough
- 5 St Neots
- 6 Bletchley

Cadet players awards

James Patterson (Bedwell); Mark Wilson (Norwich); Tracey Slater (St Neots); Alex Diamond (Woburn Sands).

Cadet Player of the tournament

Ian Black (Barnet)

U12s player awards

M Sydenham (Bedford); M Holton (Peterborough)

U12s Player of the tournament

Giles Betts (St Ives)

Sponsored by: Specialised Mouldings (cadets); ARC (Under 12s); APC and Rowells (players awards); Tudor Health and Lenos fashion shop (finals) and Tees Sport (equipment), it is hoped to stage the tournament at the same time next season with double the number of teams - U12s on the Saturday and cadets on the Sunday.

THE FUTURE IN ESSEX

Laurie Darnell reports

The working party of Clive Oakman (county development officer), Margaret Darnell (Brentwood league), Roy Franklin (Braintree league) and Colin Trundle (Chelmsford league), which compiled "The Future of Table Tennis in Essex" report said they had been most encouraged by the positive responses they had received.

The report, presented in October, was based on three questionnaires that had been devised for: a. all club players; b. Management Committee members over the past five years; and, c. current league officers.

Two avenues became apparent in the 31-page report: the short-term

options containing thought-provoking ideas and statements - some of which have already led to wider discussion and action; and the longer term which involve deeper thought, planning, rule changes, etc.

The working party comment . . . 'we have no magic wand' . . . 'we do not have one solution' . . . 'we are at present restricting the opportunity for people to play' . . . 'we need more table time and more improved venues' . . . 'the decline in numbers playing our sport is slowing down' . . . 'we are confident that this report will help provide a platform to turn the corner and attract more interest'.

Because of the absence of senior trials the county have decided to follow the ETTA/Lentec computer ranking system for the top men and women:

Men

- 1 Skylet Andrew
- 2 Dave Newman
- 3 Tony Penny
- 4 John Dennison
- 5 Jeff Drew

Women

- 1 Lisa Hayden
- 2 Elaine Sayer
- 3 Kim Mudge
- 4 Sandra Alborough
- 5 Tanya Holland

But after junior, cadet and veteran trials the following ranking lists were released:

Junior boys

- 1 James Griffiths
- 2 Damian Holland
- 3 Tony West
- 4 Jason Clark
- 5 Jason Tendler

Junior girls

- 1 Lisa Hayden
- 2 Tanya Holland
- 3 Gill Patten
- 4 Sarah George
- 5 Joanne Cooke

Women

- 1 Nina Tsakarisianos (G)
- 2 Cathy Robb (C)
- 3 Jenny Ellery (G)
- 4 Heather Colwill (G)
- 5 June Hall (C)

Junior boys

- 1 Craig Saunders (G)
- 2 Dale Saunders (G)
- 3 Lawrence Symonds (G)
- 4 Howard Williams (S)
- 5 Neil Gingell (S)

Junior Girls

- 1 Jenny Ellery (G)
- 2 Jenny Egan (C)
- 3 Cheryl Fannin (G)
- 4 Wendy Nicholls (S)
- 5 Caroline Steiner (S)

S - Stroud; G - Gloucester; C - Cirencester.

Coaching has resumed at the Stroud leisure centre with Trevor Golding and Ray Westbury in the driving seat. Trevor has also assumed the role of junior team manager to release Alan Lardner to act as match secretary and publicity officer.

Paddy Jackson has resigned as county coach but shows faithful allegiance to coaching in Gloucester, greatly assisted by George Novoth at regular sessions at S.M. Oxstalls School and Elmbridge.



Skylet Andrew signs for Stiga, joining Lisa and Jackie Bellinger in a clothing deal with the Swedish table tennis company. Seen here with (seated) Tomas Berner vice-president of Stiga AB and Simon Hobson of Rodan Sports - UK distributors of the Stiga equipment

Cadet boys

- 1 Damian Holland
- 2 Grant Solder
- 3 Alan Radford
- 4 Steve Rand
- 5 Paul Donagan

Cadet girls

- 1 Kelly Bennett
- 2 Alison Gower
- 3 Delia Holland
- 4 Michelle Dowsett
- 5 Linda Radford

Veteran men

- 1 Peter Radford
- 2 John Holland
- 3 Ray Murray
- 4 Alan Stallard
- 5 Stan Battrick

Veteran women

- 1 Shelagh Hession
- 2 Maureen Pembleton
- 3 Shirley Carroll
- 4 Anne Gilliam
- 5 Paula Rogers

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLUB ON THE UP

by Alf Pepperd

This season, the Rudford and Highleadon club under the guidance of chairman Max Hathaway and hard-working general secretary Steneth Salisbury are going from strength to strength. They have entered eleven teams in the city league with a sprinkling of young players joining their more established counterparts in the lower divisions to provide for the game's future. No other Gloucestershire clubs with that number of teams playing regular league table tennis spring to mind.

Meanwhile, the most exciting news to surface recently came from a meeting held in October to discuss the possible reformation of the Cirencester league. The County Premier league was played there recently in an effort to attract attention to the sport and now it looks as if there could be some positive result.

First county rankings of the season:

Men

- 1 Darren Griffin (G)
- 2 Graham Slack (C)
- 3 Steve Moreman (G)
- 4 Andrew Golding (S)
- 5 William Dawe (G)

FACILITIES FOUND

by David Deller

In such a small county as Huntingdonshire with only three member leagues, the association is particularly proud of the facilities we are able to offer.

The Peterborough and District association have achieved an ambition - one they have had for many years - in which they have obtained a five table venue, exclusively for table tennis.

The centre when they were given the 'keys' was a very basic building. The facilities for playing were non-existent, no table, no water, no gas, no toilets, etc. You name it - it was not there.

Now they have all the facilities required for playing County standard matches and, shortly, when new lighting is installed, the Centre will be up to the standard for playing national matches.

All this has only been achieved with very hard work. The hard work, as usual, of the very few. Everybody who is involved in table tennis, whether organising or playing, in the district of Peterborough and the surrounding counties acknowledge a debt to those few for providing a first-class venue for the furtherance of table tennis.

In the table tennis section at the Cambridgeshire games held at St Ives Recreation Centre recently Huntingdonshire represented by Keith Willett, Philip Cole, Keith Lakin, Sarah Bignell and Doreen Wakefield won the section by four points from East Cambs with Fenland 3rd. In all five districts of Cambs were represented. Hunts went on to win the overall competition.

On the tournament front 11 year old Andrew Hover reached the semi-final of the Wiltshire Junior open in the U12 singles and followed this by reaching the last eight of the Grove in October.

Local youngsters Jill Baldwin, Tracey Slater and Simon Pryke all qualified for the national trials from the Eastern regional U17 ranking tournament at Barnet recently. In the corresponding cadet tournament Tracey Slater, Julie Haslop and Jonathon Wiltsher also qualified.

Hunts Central juniors travelled to Norwich for their Carter Cup encounter represented by Simon Pryke, Matthew Poole and Ian Windle. The hosts won a good match 5-2 with Simon and Ian taking one a piece; two other games were lost narrowly in the third. Neil Pickard the host's very talented youngster was outstanding.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

The season started for Hampshire with a new captain for the senior first team. 35 year old Chris Shetler is an excellent choice for this job - he must command the respect of his team having been county champion twice himself.

It is good to see someone these days who has reached the top and therefore taken a great deal from the game, now being prepared to put something back in. His knowledge of table tennis and the advice he can pass on to his team members will be invaluable. I hope his inspiration will help get the county out of its present low ebb.

Having said that, I am sure none of the Hampshire committee, after appointing Chris to the position, expected him to beat everyone at the pre-season trial and finish No 1 on the day. Marvellous to see, but hardly a good reflection on the up and coming players for someone of Chris' age to sweep the field.

Unfortunately the current county champion Clive Young could not make the trials. On the female side Jill Green won all her matches in the trials and returns to the No 1 spot. She is followed by Sarah Hammond, currently England No 17 junior, who is therefore in the senior team on merit.

Sarah will probably be given the chance of improving herself at senior level rather than wasting her time playing in the third division for the juniors. But she is hard pushed in the rankings with England senior No 38 Cheryl Buttery and the England No 45 and county champion Kathy Ridgard breathing down her neck.

Men

- 1 *Graham Toole (G&F)*
- 2 *Rhamish Bhalla (Al)*
- 3 *Chris Shetler (S)*
- 4 *Clive Young (B)*
- 5 *Micky Sinnanan (P)*

Women

- 1 *Jill Green (Al)*
- 2 *Sarah Hammond (S)*
- 3 *Cheryl Buttery (S)*
- 4 *Kathy Ridgard (Wil)*
- 5 *Barbara Clarke (Al)*

Junior Boys

- 1 *Paul Hudless (Al)*
- 2 *Richard Mandair (S)*
- 3 *Phil Watson (G&F)*
- 4 *Martin Johnstone (S)*
- 5 *Jason Hicks (B)*

Junior Girls

- 1 *Sarah Hammond (S)*
- 2 *Rachel Cheffey (S)*
- 3 *Lisa Rice (P)*
- 4 *G Melham (B)*
- 5 *D Taylor (B)*

Cadet Boys

- 1 *Mark Thorne (S)*
- 2 *E Connell (Al)*
- 3 *M Smith (Al)*
- 4 *P Tyler (Al)*
- 5 *C Melikan (P)*

Cadet Girls

- 1 *Elizabeth Shubrook (Al)*

Veteran Men

- 1 *Fred Kershaw (S)*
- 2 *Ray Lush (P)*
- 3 *Rowe Bennett (S)*
- 4 *Ged Holley (P)*
- 5 *John Harvey (Al)*

Veteran Women

- 1 *Ivy Kershaw (S)*
- 2 *Ann Abraham (G&F)*
- 3 *Mary Clegg (Al)*
- 4 *Kate Lyne (P)*
- 5 *Di Winmill (G&F)*

Al - Aldershot; An - Andover; B - Basingstoke; G&F - Gosport & Fareham; P - Portsmouth; S - Southampton; W - Winchester.

Last year, I mildly criticised Chris predecessor Keir Donaldson so I would like to make just a few comments.

First, administration in table tennis at this level is voluntary, unpaid and devoid of perks! It is easy to criticise but for those who complain, ask yourself one question - "Would

you do the job?". The dedicated few in table tennis are always the backbone of the sport; the county's thanks go to Keir for all the time and effort he has put into the game and for his work on the county's behalf.

The first batch of junior inter-town block matches gave the following results:

Division 1: Aldershot 6 Southampton A 4; Portsmouth 1 Bournemouth A 9; Aldershot 5 Bournemouth A 5; Southampton B 6 Portsmouth 4.

Division 2: Gosport/Fareham 10 Alton 0; Basingstoke 6 Bournemouth B 4; Gosport/Fareham 9 Bournemouth B 1; Basingstoke 7 Winchester 3.

In the first division, favourites Bournemouth were held to a draw by Aldershot with Paul Hudless losing to Jason Hegarty in the vital singles, deuce in the third. However, in Aldershot's 6-4 win over Southampton A, he gained a deuce in the third win over Martin Johnson to ensure his teams victory. The second batch of block matches are scheduled for Sunday 23rd February 1986.

Another date for the diary is the Hampshire junior closed on Sunday 12th January at the Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton.

NEW SHIRT FOR NIGEL *by George Yates*

Donning a Lancashire shirt for the first time, former Cheshire player, Nigel Eckersley, joined Stephen Scowcroft, John Hilton and Steve Turner for the first premier division weekend. Joy Grundy and Jean Parker were set to complete the squad at Tolworth.

Initial ranking lists compiled by the Red Rose selectors read:

Men

- 1 *Stephen Scowcroft*
- 2 *Nigel Eckersley*
- 3 *John Hilton*
- 4 *Steven Turner*
- 5 *Paul Hutchings*

Women

- 1 *Joy Grundy*
- 2 *Jean Parker*
- 3 *Amanda Goodwin*
- 4 *Paula French*
- 5 *Kristina Cox*

Boys

- 1 *Sean Gibson*
- 2 *David Carse*
- 3 *Andrew Eden*
- 4 *Paul Ward*
- 5 *Colin Rourke*

Girls

- 1 *Andrea Holt*
- 2 *Nicola McGrath*
- 3 *Kristina Cox*
- 4 *Barbara Smallwood*
- 5 *Rachel Greenwood*

Cadet Boys

- 1 *Andrew Eden*
- 2 *Darryl Sneyd*

- 3 *Matthew Ward*
- 4 *Tony Leary*
- 5 *Howard Whewell*

Cadet Girls

- 1 *Barbara Smallwood*
- 2 *Karen Richardson*
- 3 *Rebecca Greenwood*
- 4 *Victoria Fletcher*
- 5 *Jenny Draper*

In Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League both last season's champions, Oldham, and runners-up, Bolton, met with initial defeats Oldham being beaten by Manchester (6-4) and Bolton going down 6-4 to Liverpool.

Tony Taylor was a treble winner for the Mancunians with Tony Boasman contributing two and the doubles when the two Tonys combined. Two wins each for Keith Williams and Kenwright, plus a solo from Hutchings and the doubles, earned the Liverpoolians success despite a treble from Scowcroft to which David Carse added one at the expense of Hutchings.

Results

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

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LINCOLNSHIRE CRUSADERS

Lincoln Crusaders have got off to a good start in division three north of the Halex National League winning two of their first three matches.

The first provided a jolt when Oldham, a late replacement for South Yorkshire III arrived at Lincoln with the perennial Derek Schofield to play at No3.

He proceeded to give a delightful exhibition before an appreciative crowd. Winning both his games, the one against No 2 Brian Hill was excellent, this sort of play could help to increase attendances, though this one was very well supported.

Matt Shearer Crusaders No.1 was not at his best and it was left to Hill and Brian Allison to take the two rubbers in a 6-2 defeat.

Current county rankings

Men

- 1 D Skerratt (Sc)
- 2 M Shearer (Gy)
- 3 S Worrell (Li)
- 4 B Hill (Bo)

Women

- 1 S Hunt (Gr)
- 2 S Radley (Li)
- 3 J Wingard (Gr)
- 4 C Moran (Gy)

Boys

- 1 W Noon (Gy)
- 2 M Murvell (Li)
- 3 D Allinson (Lo)
- 4 M Ryan (Bo)

Girls

- 1 J Mole (Gy)
- 2 R Bemrose (Gy)
- 3 H Stephens (Gr)
- 4 J Duggan (Gy)

Veteran men

- 1 M Shearer (Gy)
- 2 B Allinson (Lo)
- 3 B Edlington (Ga)
- 4 W Moran (Gy)

Veteran women

- 1 C Moran (Gy)
- 2 K Fisher (Gy)
- 3 J White (Sp)
- 4 P Hale (Gy)

Bo - Boston; Ga - Gainsborough; Gr - Grantham; Gy - Grimsby; Li - Lincoln; Lo - Louth; Sc - Scunthorpe; Sp - Spalding

LEICESTER JOIN LEAGUE

Terry Brown

For the first time in its history Leicester have entered a team in the Halex National League. Phil Smith was forced to withdraw from the team that beat Launceston 6-2 due to an old back injury which he dare not risk aggravating and his place was taken by Karen Smith - on debut in the league. Jeremy Williams won both for Launceston but 12 year old Andrew Hunt impressed the good number of spectators with some fine shots.

The juniors, who were relegated after losing all of their division 2A fixtures last season, got off to a flying start in division 3A with a 10-0 demolition job at home to Clwyd. Richard Grimley, Mark Laywood, Ian Brown and Tracey Clark must have been pleased with Liz Bryant who was making her county debut in this match. The first of many appearances, we trust!

Maximums from Laywood, Brown, Bryant and Clark later helped the juniors to continue on their merry way with an 8-2 defeat of Huntingdonshire. Is it too early to talk of promotion out of division 3A?

Due to retirements, apathy, unwillingness to play etc. the veterans team are having a great deal of difficulty filling in the women's spot in

their team. To her credit Pat Picles, who has all of two years table tennis experience to call on, has gamely volunteered to fill in the spot knowing that her chances of success are as remote as Leicester City FC winning the League Championship. But her courage has ensured that the veterans are a going concern after all!

Indeed, despite their problems, the veterans only just missed out 4-5 to Huntingdonshire in division 2A. A brace from John Iliffe and one each from Geoff Aldwinckle and Colin Truman ensure an exciting match.

With the premier weekend on the horizon (played by now), it was nice to note the senior squad being sponsored by that local stalwart Alan Crowson to the tune of £100 which will go a long way in purchasing new track-suits.

The aftermath of the ETTA table tennis coaching fiasco at the Granby Halls was that the first two weeks were not well attended. But things are looking up. Coach Graham Hughes has reported that numbers are increasing weekly. Whilst the Association deplored the way in which these coaching sessions were set up the results have been, nevertheless, welcomed.

Reg Billson

Reg Billson, secretary/treasurer of the Loughborough league for 20 years, died on 16th October.

His hard work in Leicestershire table tennis and his organisation of the English junior closed championships over several years was recognised by the ETTA by his position as a Vice-president.

Reg's involvement with table tennis started at Garendon School when his two children took up the sport. He soon became active in the administration of the local league.

During the last few years, Reg's health had gradually deteriorated but he bravely carried on his league duties and published the Loughborough league magazine 'Behind the Serve'.

Although he did not play himself he was very keen on encouraging youngsters to play the sport. He organised Sunday morning coaching sessions and started the Loughborough Itc to give them the chance of playing in the local league. Reg will be remembered by all his friends in table tennis as a truly likeable man who gave every effort to further the game at local and national level.

His death will leave a tremendous gap in the local league. We send our condolences to his wife Irene who shared Reg's support for table tennis, and to his children Janet and Ivor.

Ron Forster, Loughborough & District table tennis league.

Veteran Men

- 1 M Adedayo (C)
- 2 A Lindsay (C)
- 3 T Campbell (NMx)
- 4 A Taylor (W&H)
- 5 W Brookman (SWMx)

Veteran Women

- 1 K Nunn (SWMx)
- 2 M Symes (W&H)
- 3 E Britton (Ux)
- 4 M Prown (Wil)
- 5 B Blanch (Ac)

Ac - Acton; C - Central; LCS - London Civil Service; NAc - North Acton; NMx - North Middlesex; SWMx - South West Middlesex;

CAUGHT BUT NOTTS BOWLED

Successfully promoted to division 2A last season Nottinghamshire juniors were out for success at Staffordshire in their first fixture of the new season.

Fielding Tim Sheppard, Robert Fearn, John Holland, Calire Oldman and Michelle Tomlinson, they took early leads at 3-0 and 4-2 only to see them evaporate at 4-4. That left Claire Oldman, a late substitute for Notts No 1 Kay Mayall, to clinch her singles and set John Holland up to take the last set of the afternoon to secure victory at 6-4.

Fine win in Australia

Many county players will remember Pauline Simpson who recently emigrated to Australia after a number of years table tennis in Nottinghamshire. She has soon gained recognition down under following her brilliant victory in the West of Australia championships. Pauline now goes forward to take part in the national finals.

MIDDLESEX

Steven Rose

Following the junior and cadet trials, Middlesex recently issued the following county rankings:

Men

- 1 David Wells (NMx)
- 2 Graham Sandley (NMx)
- 3 John Souter (NAC)
- 4 Colin Wilson (NMx)
- 5 Nigel Tyler (NMx)

Women

- 1 Sarah Sandley (NMx)
- 2 Angela Mitchell (NMx)
- 3 Mandy Reeves (NMx)
- 4 Gillian Sharp (NMx)
- 5 Lesley Tyler (NMx)

Junior Boys

- 1 Jonathon Goode (W&H)
- 2 P Szekeres (NMx)
- 3 M Jarvis (NMx)
- 4 T Cutler (Wil)
- 5 J Bitran (Wil)

Junior Girls

- 1 Rachel Knight (W&H)
- 2 Lesley Souter (NAC)
- 3 K Baker (Ac)
- 4 H Smeed (W&H)
- 5 S Man (Wil)

Cadet Boys

- 1 J Roodyn (Wil)
- 2 Stephen Rockall (NMx)
- 3 D Baker (Ac)
- 4 P Matthews (Ac)
- 5 N Hodges (Wil)

Cadet Girls

- 1 Rachel Skinner (NMx)
- 2 R Fisher (NMx)
- 3 S Williams (Wil)
- 4 G Matthews (Ac)
- 5 E Blanch (Ac)

St - Staines; Ux - Uxbridge; W&H - Wembley & Harrow; Wil - Willesden.

CADET LEAGUE

Brian Aston

Nine teams began the new Heart of England cadet league, sponsored by The Cirencester Benefit Society, in September. Worcester, returning to the league after two years absence head the table from Coventry and Leamington A.

The key to Worcester's success was the form of Sarah Stone and Nicola Jones in their three victories over Walsall, Leamington B and

newcomers Banbury. Mark Jackson of Leamington A had a good day - winning all his nine singles matches.

The bottom clubs Rugby, Leamington B, Walsall and Bromsgrove all fielded new players this time out; they can only improve with age and more experience at the second session, held again at the Automotive Products canteen on 7th December.

OXFORDSHIRE

by Brian Hamilton

Oxford have had a dreadful start to the county championships. The senior team drew at home to Worcestershire II and were then beaten by Northants. And the veterans were crushed on their visit to Yorkshire.

The only sparkle of light came from the juniors when they won their first county match for at least two years, beating the Bucks team 8-2.

Some excuse can be given to the seniors after the Northants defeat as they only just managed to scrape up a team, with so many players unavailable for the match, due to working commitments.

Cathy Singleton came into the side with only a few hours notice and did extremely well to win her set. She should establish a regular place in the side once she is able to get good quality practice.

On a brighter note, Neil Abbott has now been persuaded to play for the county again.

The Oxford city side progressed into the next stage of the Willmott Cup competition when they hammered Maidenhead 5-0 but Neil Harris, Arthur Chilvers and Norman Swift could find opposition just a little tougher when they travel to play North Middlesex in the next stage!

The Didcot league had a terrible setback when their extremely popular secretary, Paul Aitchison, was killed in a car crash outside the Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell when on his way to play a league match there. Paul was such an enthusiastic member of the league and was one of the main reasons why Didcot are rapidly emerging as a contender to Oxford as the premier league in the county. He will be sadly missed.

The two regular adversaries continue to fight out the Didcot first division with Didcons and British Rail A heading the table, but still to meet in this half. Didcons have recruited county player Clive Morris this season and the Railwaymen have encouraged Harris to travel from Oxford to increase their strength. It will be interesting to see the results of their tussles this year.

The Oxford League has seen a change at the top of the first division, with Kidlington Forum presently at the top and difficult to catch. Under the point per set situation, they have already built up an enormous lead and one which reigning champions Hadenham might find too much, even though they beat Kidlington 7-3 recently.

Unfortunately, this is one of the problems of the point per set system, it can kill off competition rather early in the season. Kidlington's rise to fame this year is, without doubt, due to the addition of Peter Jones to the already strong pair of Abbott and Morris.

The Oxford league has had one or two additional teams this year from the Swindon and Banbury areas and these are sure to increase the depth of strength in the league. One of the Swindon players is young Jenny Neale, who looks a very promising player and will, no doubt, benefit from playing in Oxford's first division.

Current county rankings:

Men

- 1 Arthur Chilvers
- 2 Neil Harris
- 3 Clive Morris
- 4 Norman Swift
- 5 Neil Abbott
- 6 Nat Richardson
- 7 Peter Jones

Women

- 1 Amanda Shufflebotham
- 2 Julie Woodward
- 3 Eleanor Harrison
- 4 Cathy Singleton
- 5 Joan Cove
- 6 Jackie Windle
- 7 Mary Thompson

NISSAN STYLE IN NORTHUMBERLAND

by Pauline Long

Japanese staff at the Nissan car plant in Washington took up the challenge recently to show their skills at table tennis. They agreed to play a friendly match against a North-East team during a major exhibition of table tennis in Washington in November. The event also included an exhibition tournament between top Northumberland and Durham players.

Peter McQueen, Neil McMaster and Ian Robertson (Northumberland), together with Cliff Olsson, Dave Godbold and Tom Robson (Durham) agreed to take part. The event was sponsored by Bradleys of Washington, and Sunderland Football Club who own the Centre, provided it free of charge.

The Northumberland League season commenced in September and it looks as though the main challengers to premier division title-holders Byker CC 'A' will again be Tyne Dock YC and North Shields YMCA 'A'. There are three new teams in the premier division this season, Wansbeck and Electrics 'B', who finished as division I winners and runners-up respectively; and third placed Lemington CC have taken the place of the now disbanded Procter and Gamble Raiders team.

Newcastle YMCA have lost their premises and now play at Norland Road, while Gladston Terrace are playing at Gateshead Leisure Centre. This seems to be a sign of the times, as apart from the usual drop in the number of competing teams, other clubs in the lower divisions are also having to share venues.

NORTHANTS

by Dennis Millman

Former Kettering stalwart John Russell had the changing face of table tennis vividly brought home to him when he casually picked up the trusty blade of Graham Ball recently. Using it to give his wife a playful pat he saw it shatter on impact, only to discover that the tenner he instantly offered as compensation barely paid for a season's supply of bicycle glue.

This sad saga not only heralded the appearance of John's son into the league ranks but served also to indicate that the apparent strengths of table tennis can become so fragile that crises of major proportions arrive without warning.

At county level the season has opened slowly, with three early championship fixtures postponed, and the junior encounter with Cheshire narrowly lost, despite a sound performance from Richard Willott.

On the league scene sponsorship is the order of the day but sponsors need success and only the top teams provide this in regular measure.

Chris Handshaw, Graeme McKim and Andy Edmonds, three players who have completed a winning treble in the Northampton, Well-ingham and Kettering premier divisions, certainly have all the credentials.

Supplemented by Keith Nicoll, and playing as Online Communications, they already lead in Northampton, while with Andy Trott replacing Nicoll and their former 'Kettering Town A' title changed to 'Well Connected Menswear', they have made an impeccable start in Kettering.

John Greenwood has taken over as county match secretary from Jimmy Scope, while Steve Wilson is the new treasurer.

County trials were held on what surely must have been one of the hottest days of the year in September at the old Gibson Street Baths in Newcastle. Most of the top men and veterans attended - with Peter McQueen emerging as the eventual winner - but only four women - Christine Burke (winner), Caron Buglass, Joan Leslie and Pauline Long - managed to put in an appearance . . . a disgraceful state of affairs when to run two senior teams and a veterans team, a minimum of five women is required.

Unfortunately, the county is desperately short of qualified umpires. ETTA treasurer and a qualified international umpire Aubrey Drapkin (49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE26 1DZ. Tel: (091-251 4983) is to organise a short course to train some new recruits if there is sufficient interest.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANGST

Ian Bullock of Suffolk

The retirement of Edna and Dennis Barrett has brought about administrative changes with Joyce Love taking over as county chairman and myself as match secretary. We seem to be having more than our fair share of niggling problems with players moaning about match levies, others chasing computer points at tournaments rather than representing their county, players failing to reply to match invitations, transport difficulties and fixture clashes. Is this what administration is all about!

Lack of co-operation leads to frustration and with the season in its infancy I have heard of two seemingly tireless administrators who may decide to call time if things don't improve.

Schools

It is to be hoped that the teachers' pay dispute will be settled quickly as the forthcoming Dunlop Team Championships are bound to be affected by it. At the time of writing, Jack Perkins, who for many years has given his time freely, coaching youngsters at a local Ipswich school, is on the verge of losing his premises as his sessions do not have a strong enough link with education to war-

rant free use of the facilities. Not surprisingly no teacher can be found to support him during the dispute.

The county selection committee has released the following ranking lists (operative from 1st November):

Men

- 1 Stuart Palmer
- 2 John Kitchener
- 3 Russell King
- 4 Mick Palmer
- 5 David Henderson

Women

- 1 Julie Vansertina
- 2 Sue Butcher
- 3 Sylvia Kenyon
- 4 Dawn Harvey
- 5 Andrea Ambrose

Junior boys

- 1 Paul Gooding
- 2 Wayne Shaw
- 3 Richard Hutchinson
- 4 Chris Nicholls
- 5 Darren Earrey

Junior girls

- 1 Sylvia Kenyon
- 2 Andrea Ambrose
- 3 Karen Perkins
- 4 Rosemary Bullock
- 5 Carol Leech

CHERYL AND RICHARD SET TO DOMINATE

by Frank Hams from Surrey

Cheryl Bateman and Richard Jones both remained unbeaten in the girls and boys Surrey junior ranking tournament. Both appear as if they could dominate Surrey's junior table tennis for the next year or so.

Matthew Pernet, Simon Philips, Stephen Defries and Grahame Connelly (still a cadet) with Lisa Pritchett, Catherine Binks, and Tracy Pritchett ranked behind the top two in that order, will attempt to stop this domination.

The cadets with their eyes set to the future are Amanda Dewsbury, Karen Ashley, Elizabeth Cocks and Miranda Markham for the girls; and for the boys Paul Carter, Jason Blake and Alexander Hole.

All the junior and cadets named were to represent Surrey at the London and SE region junior and cadet ranking trials at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge, Kent. By the time you read these notes, however, they will have taken place. The other counties in this region are Sussex, Kent and Middlesex.

Rue Bole nudged the Surrey selectors in the Hastings 2-Star tournament by reaching the mens singles quarter-finals before losing to Des Charley (Ex) after beating Charles, Andrew Dodd and John Green impressively. The two Steves - Davis and Holloway won their groups and were due to play each other but Davis scratched because of a cold. Holloway then went on to beat Ritchie Venner (Sx) before losing to John Souter (Mx) in the third.

Jane Barella had an excitingly impressive win against Helen Williams and gained maximum ranking points. After the game Jane's smile was justifiably as wide as Hastings pier.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

With only three teams in the Stiga county championships and two of them in premier divisions, only the junior second team was involved in the first round of matches this season. This team will again be fighting hard to retain their place in division 2A against strong opposition.

They opened their programme with a home match against newly promoted Nottingham who were unbeaten in last season's division 3A. With Matthew Harvey unavailable due to studies and Angela Sanders seemingly unwilling to play for the second team, the depleted Staffs side did well to run the visitors close, finishing with a 6-4 scoreline which could so easily have been reversed.

The fiftieth anniversary of this tournament was held at the Hastings Sauna Bowl, euphemistically called the 'Hastings Sports Centre'. The temperature and humidity in the hall were high and the thriving plants on display were on loan from the Tropical House at Kew Gardens!

An excellent programme was produced despite 'Bill & Benn' - a spoof article. I wish they - being so close to HQ - had advocated the complete banning of bicycle glue. That, I could have taken seriously; and just think, no need for a sniffometer!

Dave Harding, following his excellent win against David Dodd in the Lewisham 2-Star, did the best of the Surrey contingent in the Wiltshire 2-Star by reaching the third round but then lost to Adrian Moore(Sx). Gordon Chapman lost in the second round but Mike Hammond, Jerome Jonah, Bole and Davis - who had beaten Keith Horton and Paul Lewis to qualify - all failed in the first round.

Nicky Mason recorded his first tournament win of the season at Brixton by beating Kevin Satchell of Wiltshire in the final of the Lambeth 2-Star.

All the players mentioned in the Hastings tournament took part but, apart from Mason, Harding lasted the longest losing eventually in the fourth round.

Barella won her group but lost to Teresa Moore in the second round. Popkiewitz, Deborah Simmonds and Cheryl Bateman all lost in their groups.

A feature of Larkhall's second team in the Halex National League is Steve Davis' excellent start to the season. Steve, one of three Surrey players in the team is replying to his critics by being more consistent. At present he is playing like his namesake might if he played on a snooker table with the cushions converted to pockets - with confidence.

cadet boys list will be made in due course.

Junior boys

- 1 Adrian Dixon
- 2 Kevin Lawrence
- 3 Stephen Slater
- 4 Matthew Harvey
- 5 Adrian Thorp

Junior Girls

- 1 Jill Powis
- 2 Helen Lower
- 3 Angela Sanders
- 4 Louise Sherratt
- 5 Jane Winter

Cadet Boys

- 1 G Knights

Cadet Girls

- 1 Siobhan Hawkes
- 2 Rachel Bird
- 3 Joanne Foxall
- 4 Tracey Nicklin
- 5 Emma Carlton

ADVANCE WARNING UNHEEDED

Doug Moss reports from Worcestershire

Murray Jukes might have been the predictable winner at the county senior trials in Worcester but a mite more difficult to foresee was the absence of Simon Claxton, Steve Dunning and Trevor Washington - despite considerable advance notice of the dates. With tough matches looming in division 2 the County can do with all the help it can get.

Meanwhile, behind Murray who did not drop a game came Ken Walton. And two of last year's juniors, Mark Roden and Tim Holden, proved they are making the transition to the senior game in style.

In the womens trial there was surprise in store as Louise Davis, the top contender for a place in the first team, was beaten by her main rival

Sandra Roden. Both duly won places in the side but it would need a long and accurate memory to fathom when Louise was last beaten in the county.

The selection of the two senior teams was as follows: First team (Jukes, Claxton, Walton, Louise Davis, Sandra Roden) and second team (Roden, Holden, Willie Ahern, Lynda Reid, Helen Pogmore).

Three Worcester girls are roughing up the boys in the Midlands cadet league - in company with the only boy on their side, Stephen Oliver. Playing normally against all-male opposition they have remained undefeated as a team in their first three encounters.



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WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Mary Rose

The county trials for women, juniors and cadets proved to be more satisfactory than in previous years with an attendance of about 80% of players invited.

The junior boys event was won by R Singh (Birmingham) and the girls by C Woodward (Leamington). The womens trial was won by Lynn Sibley (Leamington).

West Warwickshire tournament

The West Warwickshire tournament was run again, despite the late withdrawal of sponsorship, to avoid disappointing many players who look forward to this annual event.

There was a scare or two in store for some of the higher ranked players from the county's juniors but Carl Morgan and Sandra Peakman retained their titles. Carl defeated Philip Gunn and Sandra Di St Ledger in a repeat of last year's final.

The doubles event went to John Chandler and Pete Machin against

Mick Browne and Geoff Hall.

Midlands Telecom

The Midlands area of the British Telecom championships was won by Richard Tanner and Mary Rose both of Birmingham. The two players will now go on to represent the Midlands Area at the British Telecom national championships in Bath.

National League

The Olton and West Warwickshire club have joined the country's elite in the Halex National League.

Invited to join division one following the withdrawal of another side, the team includes Barry Johnson, ranked 39 in the country and Keith Rodger a Solihull policeman and Scottish No 2. National junior No 4 Adrian Dixon is also on the books as is Andrew Rich the Staffordshire No 2 together with national veterans champion Ralph Gunnion.

BRYAN MERITS WILTSHIRE WIN

by Laurie Selby

Former English champion Bryan Merrett won the Wiltshire veterans ranking tournament. National coach Merrett met former Swindon champion Ernie Howell in the semi-finals where Merrett won a marathon first game 24-22 after it had gone to expedite at 17-15. He then went on to march into the final by winning the second game 21-15.

Brian Powell beat Basil Thompson 21-16, 21-11 in the other all-Swindon semi-final. Merrett had little trouble in the final beating Powell 21-12, 21-11. The womens final was won by Sylvia Morse who beat Gwen Hazell 21-12, 21-12.

Wiltshire's senior table tennis team got away to a flying start in the county championships with a 6-4 victory over Somerset at Yeovil. It was the first time in three years that Wiltshire, with two players on debut due to the absence of some of the higher ranked players, had won their opening match of the championships.

Wiltshire champion Kevin Satchell gave his team a super start when he blasted his way to a 21-14, 21-10 win over David Lee. But then Paul Tuck, in his first senior match tried hard but found the pace too hot as he lost 14-21, 7-21 to Brian Reeves. Kevin Edwards restored Wiltshire's lead with his 21-7, 20-22, 21-17 victory over Lee Sadler.

And with the vital womens doubles rubber from Claire Maisey and Melinda Carey under their belt followed by a win in the mens

doubles from Satchell and Edwards Wiltshire seemed on the path to victory. Two singles defeats, though, put the match back in to the balance before Satchell and Maisey put the result for Wiltshire beyond attack. Somerset's only consolation came with a final victory from Reeves in the dead rubber.

Meanwhile, Wiltshire's No 1 veterans team also made a tremendous start to their campaign when they walloped Hertfordshire 9-0. Wins in the opening singles, the mens and mixed doubles put them on the right road and they never looked back.

And in the Thatcham invitation team tournament Swindon's under-17 side won their section. The side, of Steve Ely, Lee Goldbold, Jasvinder Singh and Neil Everden, beat Aldershot 6-0, Newbury 5-1, Milton Keynes 4-2 and Reading 4-2 with a 3-3 draw against Maidenhead. The U15 team of Colin Morgan, Paul Timmis, Mark Nelson and Nathan Pickett were runners up in their section.

And Swindon featured once more when Raymond Powell came top of the table at the Wiltshire ranking tournaments recently - not once but twice. The first in the junior event was predictable, the second, in the senior event, a major upset.

In the junior final Powell beat Paul Tuck 21-12, 21-17 whilst in the senior event he overcame Steve Davies 22-20, 21-15.

WEST YORKSHIRE CLOSED

White Rose notes from Rea Balmford

The West Yorkshire closed was held at Bradford's Parkside sports centre under the capable supervision of national councillor Eric Hill. It was two locally-based players who lined up for the final with Mick Stead getting the better of David Indricks.

Bradford did not fare so well in the womens event, however, with second seed and jointly top-ranked Helen Shield losing out in the semis to Cathy Johnson (nee Haworth) from Leeds. Cathy then went under in the final to holder and top seed Karen Burrows of Castleford.

Four juniors, including three from the Wakefield junior club, contested the mens doubles final, in which Mark Land and Alaric Bassano were winners over Richard Pike and Nicky Carr - the latter the odd man out from Doncaster.

Other results

WD: Shields/Sylvia Broadbent (Bradford) b Caroline Dada/Caron Raynor (Bradford). XD: Bassano/Burrows b Richard Priestly (Bradford)/Shields. JBS: Land b Pike. JGS: Debbie Toole (Normanton) b Dada. VXS: Ken Burgess (Huddersfield) b Tony Lupton (Bradford).

Colin - coach and marathon man

The county has always tried to support the Sports Aid Foundation in Leeds, and many local enthusiasts remember last season's table tennis marathon which featured the Sports Council's Cyril Villiers and my predecessor in this column, Les D'Arcy.

A useful sum of money was raised and playing in this year's fundraising event will be Colin Morath - a well-known figure in coaching circles in the county who has done much to help up-and-coming players, particularly in the Leeds/Bradford area.

Colin and his wife Hetta will be helping to strengthen the county's link with the SAF by competing in the Leeds marathon. By the time these notes appear, they will no doubt be busily collecting sponsor money from leagues, club and individuals across Yorkshire.

3-Star hopes up

Apologies are due to all those players who were disappointed by the cancellation of the proposed Yorkshire and Humberside 3-Star which, it was hoped, would have taken over from the slot occupied by the former Humberside 3-Star with no break in continuity.

However, good news of the month is that confirmation has been received from the ETTA that next year's championships will go ahead, most probably on the traditional October date with the venue, of course, Halifax.

County championships

The junior second team who beat Suffolk 8-2 at Bradford called on players from only two leagues - the Hull-Wakefield axis! Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) and Andy Ball (Wakefield) made their debut for the Tykes; John Bult, Alaric Bassano and Kathryn Bray completed the quintet.

The Yorkshire association wish to pay tribute to Hold-Rain Windows, the main sponsors of the England v Austria European league match at Halifax; to Swan National car hire who provided transport for the teams; and to the leisure services department of Calderdale metropolitan borough council which dealt with all the arrangements for the match.

CLWYD

Charles Bayliss

Clwyd found Northumberland on top form although they started with a win by John Ellis who beat Neil McMaster 21-17, 21-18 this was to be their only score of the match as they lost 9-1.

Both Terry Turner and Paul Griffiths took Ian Robertson to a third game in their sets only to fail in the third game.

However, with the return of Trevor Manning to the county team against Nottingham Clwyd were much improved and ran out 9-1 winners. Both Manning and Turner won two sets each, Manning and Griffiths win the mens doubles and Heidi Cotter and Sue Roberts took the womens doubles. The two women also won their singles to round off a very good performance by the home side.

Current rankings

Men

- 1 Mark Thomas
- 2 Trevor Manning
- 3 John Ellis
- 4 Paul Griffiths
- 5 John Hook

Women

- 1 Heidi Cotter
- 2 Evelyn Wright
- 3 Justine Thomas
- 4 Sue Roberts
- 5 Karen Buckle

Clwyd juniors in their opening match of the season had very little joy in their 10-0 away defeat to Leicestershire.

They lost once more at home against Cumbria. This time 2-8 and for Clwyd their two wins came from James Tapp who beat Gordon Dwane 21-13, 21-10; the other win was by Lee Thacker who beat Martin Lewis 21-13, 21-11.

Tyler wins as Thomas and Jeanes hit by illness

by H Roy Evans

The first Welsh Assessment Tournament, held at Cardiff on 5th/6th October was significant for the absence of Mark Thomas and Brian Jeanes, both victims of health problems. Nevertheless there was some first class table tennis, and a re-affirmation of Nigel Tyler's No 1 position after the National Coach Alan Griffiths who did not play.

Evelyn Wright also confirmed her position at No 1 following her Swansea Open win, with a demonstration of tighter defence and greater willingness to hit. But former No 1 Lesley Tyler, although beating Evelyn, fell to Heidi

Cotter and dropped to third place.

Much improved

Anthony Jones, with John Ellis absent, earned his position as No 2 but was given a good run by the much-improved Paul Jones of Newport.

There was some encouraging play amongst the lower-ranked junior girls, although Evelyn Wright is head and shoulders above them at present. Cadet Justine Thomas, also from North Wales, indicated her continued improvement by coming next to Evelyn, Joanne Lee, the Swansea junior was next, with Theresa Petty following.

Swansea sweat row puts Smith in a spin

Welsh No 1 Evelyn Wright demonstrated a much tighter defence and a greater willingness to attack when she beat England ranked junior Claire Potts in both the junior singles and in the semi-final of the womens event at the Swansea Open on 28th September.

Janet Smith, Scotland's entry had played well to reach the final, including a pull-up from being well down in the third to Lesley Tyler.

The Final, however, although promising a return of the match between the two in the Quadrangular International when Janet won at 20-all in the third, turned out to be an unfortunate episode.

Fighting back to reach 20-all in the first, Evelyn won 24-22, using a short chop service to good effect. On coming off the table Janet, swayed by advice from a friend, conceded the match claiming that Evelyn's service was executed with sweat on her bat!

It is certainly not part of Evelyn's make-up to win by doubtful methods, and the complaint and its extraordinary result were in no way justified, reports Roy Evans.

Alan sharp

Welsh National Coach Alan Griffiths showed that his full-time duties have not blunted his own playing ability when he took the mens title, with a fine final win over Nigel Tyler. Nigel had survived two 20-all games against Avon's Andy Creed in the semi-final, whilst Alan had been given a good run by No 1 Welsh Junior John Ellis in his semi.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Semi-Finals
Griffiths b Ellis 20, 13; Tyler b Creed 20, 20.

Final
Griffiths b Tyler 19, - 19, 14.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-Finals
Wright b Potts - 14, 18, 18; Smith b Tyler - 14, 12, 22.

Final
Wright b Smith 22, *conceded*

MENS DOUBLES

Final
Griffiths/Tyler b Evans/B. Tyler 12, 15.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final
Wright/Cotter b Tyler/Potts 13, 18.

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Final
Ellis b Chauhan 13, 17.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Wright b Potts 13, 19.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Final
Ward b Harris 14, 19.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Thomas b Evans 16, 13.

New Welsh Rankings

The Welsh Association has issued the following rankings based on participation in the Assessment event:

Men

No.	
1	Alan Griffiths
2	Nigel Tyler
3	Nigel Thomas
4	Gary Wilkins
5	John Ellis
6	Warwick Armstrong
7	David Kzefnick
8	Terry Turner
9	Andrew Evans
10	Paul Williamson
11	Bryn Tyler
12	Tony Healan
13	Jeremy Hobbs
14	Mark Simon
15	Jeff Rigby
16	Nick Williams
17	David Chan
18	Paul Lewis
19	Mark Jenkins
20	Jeff Turner

Women

1	Evelyn Wright
2	Heidi Cotter
3	Lesley Tyler
4	Cathryn Jones
5	Jayne Sully
6	Justine Thomas
7	Chantal Nicholls
8	Theresa Petty
9	Joanne Lee
10	Debbie Symons

Junior Boys

1	John Ellis
2	Anthony Jones
3	Paul Jones
4	Richard Harry
5	K Ivin Roberts
6	Stephen Buck
7	Stephen Ward
8	Lee Jones
9	Anthony Baker
10	James Tapp
11	Mark Russ
12	Paul Kelly
13	David Buck
14	Chris Kelly
15	Andrew Kinsey
16	Gary Evans
17	Stephen Mitchell
18	Chris Mouldsdale
19	Martin Prior
20	Spencer Harris

Junior Girls

1	Evelyn Wright
2	Justine Thomas
3	Joanne Lee
4	Theresa Petty
5	Lynne Bowen
6	Sian Evans
7	Cheryl Jones
8	Llinos Poole
9	Denise Elward
10	Lisa Mogford

Cardiff flutter in National League

Butterfly Cardiff, following up a first match defeat of St Neots, beat Larkhall 5-3 in London. The match was not the clear cut win hoped for and started badly for Butterfly when Nigel Tyler lost 21-23 to Joe Kennedy. Alan Griffiths soon pulled that defeat back when he beat Hammond. Alan went on to beat Kennedy and Nigel regained his composure in beating Collino. It was as well that Nigel Thomas, on his return to the side, beat both Spencer and Hammon, because Brian Jeanes lost both sets.

In their first home match, Butterfly beat Ormesby 11 6-2. When Alan Griffiths beat Mark Simon, Nigel Tyler accounted for Lindsay Tayler, and Nigel Thomas beat Watson, all comfortably, it seemed that a whitewash was on the cards. But Gary Wilkins, making his debut, lost to Jevon Chan, the Chinese boy's flat hitting not being to Gary's liking.

Alan Griffiths then beat Taylor but never seemed to get

his game going against an opponent who often gives him trouble by keeping the game short. Nigel Thomas, after an initial easy game against Mark Simon, lost concentration completely, and dropping into his passive game, lost quite unnecessarily to the Welsh "Exile" Simon.

Nigel Tyler showed how top spin can upset the flat hitting Chan, whom he literally crushed, and Gary Wilkins, settling down to some better play, beat Watson in the last set.

Pengelly Sports, suffering the indignity of a car breakdown and a consequent late arrival, never recovered their composure, and lost 1-7 to Larkhall. After Warwick Armstrong had lost 22-20 in the third game of an expedite tussle against Gordon Chapman, Pengelly never recovered.

Although Warwick subsequently beat Holman, Nick Williams, Andrew Evans and Jeremy Hobbs all lost in poor form.

National Girobank continue sponsorship

Once again National Girobank are sponsoring the two junior/cadet assessment tournaments this season; the first at Meadowbank on 22nd September.

Top cadets Sarah Hurry and Christopher Woess opted to play in the junior events and won through to the top positions. Sarah won all her matches whilst Christopher lost only to Neil Cameron (Stirlingshire), defeating David Low 19-21, 22-21, 21-12.

In the cadet boys Euan Walker (West of Scotland) headed the table with West Dunbarton's Andrew Bruce and the McKellar brothers taking the next three places. Claire Hood (Edinburgh) won the cadet girls event with Catherine Symons (Orkney) in second place.

Top Placings

Junior Boys	Junior Girls	Cadet Boys	Cadet Girls
1. C. Woess	1. S. Hurry	1. E. Walker	1. C. Hood
2. D. Low	2. L. Hood	2. A. Bruce	2. C. Symons
3. Jon Wilson	3. L. Anderson	3. K. McKellar	3. H. Lothian
4. G. Innes	4. A. Symons	4. C. McKellar	4. L. Weatherston
5. M. Shields	5. L. Reid	5. D. Sword	5. L. Chuchla



Richard Yule - a new appointment

Richard Yule announced his retirement from international play at the end of August thus ending an international career stretching back to 1968 during which he had represented Scotland with distinction well over 200 times.

He played in six Worlds (70 wins/46 losses), seven Europeans (77/47) and six Commonwealths (40/39). His best achievements were reaching the mens singles semi-finals in the 1973 Cardiff Commonwealths, winning the 1974 Spanish Open mens singles and his 21 wins out of 23 in the 1978 Duisburg Europeans.

As from 3rd January 1986 Richard will be taking up the post of STTA Director of Coaching and Development after two years as a development officer with the Scottish Sports Council. This new post replaces the position of national coach vacated by Graham Davis last May.

Patsun sponsor Scottish computer ranking lists

Scotrail National League

This season the Scottish National League, which has received generous sponsorship from Scotrail, got under way on 28th September with 23 teams in three divisions.

Greaves Sport (Central YMCA) of Glasgow, top team of the past two seasons, with several of the leading Scottish players in their squad, would appear to have few challengers to prevent them winning division 1 once again.

Marathon Girl

Carole Dalrymple took part in the recent *Glasgow Marathon*, braving the wind and rain, to complete the course in around 4 hours and raising over £250 for her club - Falkirk TTC.

This season the Scottish TTA is introducing computer ranking lists with the assistance of the Manchester firm Patsun Services. The finishing positions in the two early season assessment tournaments were used as the basis for calculating the initial 'starting points' in the six categories.

McIlroy wins assessment tournament

With David Hannah in Germany and Richard Yule now retired from serious play it was David McIlroy who headed the table at the end of the day after defeating John Broe 21-16, 16-21, 24-22 in the last match at Meadowbank.

In the womens event Carole Dalrymple finished undefeated but she had a close call against Janet Smith who won the first game 21-19 and led 19-16 in the second before losing 21-23 and 11-21 in the third.

Cadets Sarah Hurry and Jennifer Hook did well to finish in 3rd and 9th positions.

Top Places

- Men**
1. David McIlroy
 2. John Broe
 3. Ian McLean
 4. Graeme Docherty
 5. Brian Wright

- Women**
1. Carole Dalrymple
 2. Janet Smith
 3. Sarah Hurry
 4. Valerie Thomson
 5. Eleanor McIlroy

The Scottish team advertising the best way to get around Scotland - Scotrail. Left to right: Janet Smith, Carole Dalrymple, David Hannah, David McIlroy and John Broe
Photo by Denis George



Gold for Britain in disabled championships

Doug Nicholls in Delden, Holland

Two hundred and twelve players representing 19 countries enjoyed the hospitality and efficient organisation of the Dutch people at this year's European Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled in Delden. The championships were opened by Princess Margriet of Holland and attracted considerable media coverage in Europe.

The championships brought together some of the world's finest disabled players in fierce, but extremely friendly competition. Table tennis for the disabled is broken down into classifications for individual and team events according to the nature of different disabilities. Broadly speaking these classifications are based around wheelchair, amputee, cerebral palsy and other disability players. An open tournament is also played as well as, for the first time this year, a mixed team event.

This was my first international event playing for Great Britain. I had polio in one leg and took up table tennis sixteen years ago as a thirteen year-old impressed by Chester Barnes. I have since played in the standard local leagues and knew nothing of the British disabled table tennis scene.

Bronze medallist John Welsh with Anne and their Dutch hostess Marion Heijloo

Photos by Tony Telf



Moreover, I never considered myself disabled and I was pleased to realise at the championships that players with disabilities were united not because of their handicaps but because of their commitment to table tennis.

The overall standards were incredible. The competition highly professional with international umpires, superb playing conditions and busy team coaches and managers.

With two new coaches and several new players, it was very much a first outing after a year of regular training for the British squad. Nevertheless, commitment was high and results were good.

In the womens Class 1B wheelchair event Jon Blackburn and Zia Neil crushed Switzerland 3-0 to take the gold. In the mens Class John Welsh played consistently to take the bronze behind two powerful Swedish players.

In the womens wheelchair Class 2 Ann Peskey and Val Beck took a very well deserved silver having beaten the strong Danish and Hungarian teams but losing finally to the Austrians. Ann Smith, Britain's No 1 woman player, gained a silver in Class 5 going down to one of Belgium's unexpectedly bril-



Multi-medallist Anne Smith receiving advice from British Amputees Sports Association coach Bob Aldridge

liant players, Ingrid Borre.

Ann also did well to take the bronze in the open event and there were plenty of near misses. This was particularly true in the mens Class 5 team event in which, despite having beaten the very useful Swedish and Belgian teams in the group Pete Gabriel and Doug Nicholls were denied a bronze on points.

Taking the 32 main competitions both team and individual and giving three points for gold, two for silver and one for bronze, the final league table of results was as follows:

Team	Pts
1 West Germany	58
2 France	24
3 Sweden	20
4 Austria	15
5 Belgium	13
6 Hungary	12
7 Great Britain	11
8 Denmark	8
9 Czechoslovakia	6
10 Yugoslavia	5
11 Holland	5
12 Switzerland	5
13 Norway	2
14 Spain	2

Significantly Great Britain was poorly represented in what may be considered the least disabled classes. This probably reveals a lack of awareness of disabled table tennis rather than a lack of good players around the country with relatively

minor impairments.

The West Germans were clearly the strongest nation, with brilliant players in most sections, a well-organised team and a methodical approach to competition. An example of their strength in depth is Kreidel, their best wheelchair player.

An ex-junior international before an accident, Kreidel would easily be a leading division 1 player in Britain and would probably push into some able-bodied county teams. Similarly the Frenchman Penaud, who won the mens class 5. Penaud is much sought after as a professional coach and player on the continent.

It was from my first, and hopefully not last, entry into international table tennis that the British team has tremendous potential and that there must be hundreds of players between Lands End and John O'Groats who could join the squad.

It was also clear from Delden that table tennis for the disabled is a vital and highly skillful part of the sport of table tennis which deserves to be taken much more seriously by every players.

I hope that local clubs and the ETTA will begin to take note of Britain's disabled players.

For the Record

Down in Bournemouth for the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) Conference, Rubberneck was interested to read local press reports of a "Superleague" in the Dorset area.

Wanting, naturally, to ensure that each of the participants were able to enjoy the full benefits of ETTA membership. Rubberneck scoured the affiliation records for this previously unknown competition.

Alas in vain. Whether the Rule book covers 'teams' of one has yet to be tested.

Howling Support

Whilst at the two-day conference for governing bodies — considered so vital by at least one major sport that it declined to attend — Rubberneck bumped into ex-Sports Minister, Denis Howell.

Howell's speech promoting Birmingham's case for the 1992 Olympic Games was generally acknowledged as the highpoint of the sports administrators shindig. With table tennis a full Olympic sport in '92 readers will be pleased to know that our two representatives enthusiastically supported the proposals — to be centred around the National Exhibition Centre.

Naughty but Nice

Dot White, Devon's Table Tennis News Correspondent, has written to Rubberneck with some very untoward promotional suggestions.

"Why don't the ETTA produce a car-sticker for table tennis players . . . one that remains decent (difficult part) but amusing", she asks.

"Eg. Synchro swimmers do it under water and to music. Welders do it in all positions etc.", she quotes.

Suggestions on a postcard please: A free subscription to the best-received not using the words, 'approved rubbers'.

And a Merry Christmas to my reader

Stranger to truth

Just occasionally Rubberneck might resort to the truth, otherwise readers can be assured that the tradition of this new feature will be based upon rumour, innuendo and scandal.

In the words of the well-known table tennis journalist, 'facts are not my strong point'. Any 'facts' for Rubberneck's attention can be communicated via the Editor who may feel inclined to pass them on.

The Year-Late Book

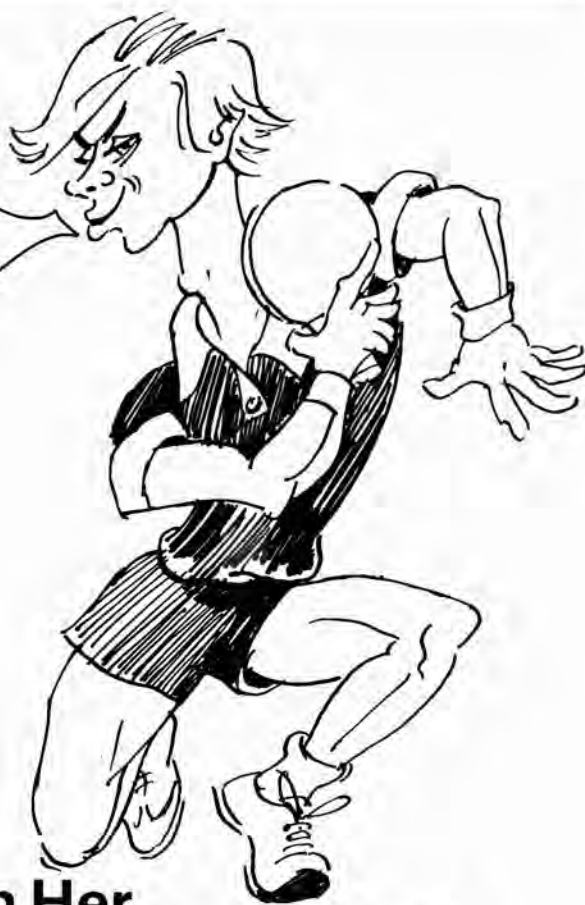
In the Christmas tradition of "things come to those who wait", Rubberneck searched the shops for "Table Tennis 1985" — the ETTA Yearbook commissioned from the mysterious Cremos Publishing.

It appears being chained to the computer keyboard in Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, failed to compete with a high-tec flat and job in Milton Keynes for one half of the Robert Oldfield and Caroline Searle partnership.

Ex PR Committee member Searle departed to the offices of badminton's governing body and has not seen the computer screen since.

"Table Tennis 1986" is rumoured to be near completion.

This column is now discontinued . . . Ed.



On Her Majesty's Secret Service

Missing the small print in the morning's national newspapers, leading provincial journalist Rubberneck rang the ETTA office to learn the margin of England's European League victory against Bulgaria.

So depressed was morale however, after the lack-lustre 4-3 defeat, that the spirit of the Falklands War had been employed to relay the score to the world twelve hours after the match ended. Is no news, good news?

Falcon Crest

Officials and competitors at the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed booked in at Coventry's inner-city Crest can be reassured that no nearer hotel was available when the booking was made for the Hinckley tournament.

A "mere fifteen miles away", Rubberneck was pleased so many took advantage of the hotel's facilities. As compensation, guests are invited to enquire about the Crest 'incentive scheme' which provides a stamp for each night stayed. Twenty stamps on a card qualify for a "Free Weekend" at selected hotels.

This Sporting Life

Flicking through the TV channels over the Milton Keynes Top 12 weekend Rubberneck, as a discerning viewer, was surprised to see BBC's "Terry and June", indulging in the noble art over the green table.

Not to be outdone by David Constance of "Breakfast Time", fame, David Taber of Cornilleau had delivered a large box onto the BBC studio set which the two TV stars proceeded to unpack and break the golden rule of "never play against the spouse".

Cooke climbs into contention

Chesterfield's Alan Cooke has climbed into second place in the ETTA's November ranking list, displacing European junior champion Carl Preat. Cooke's position reflects his Australian successes when with Skylet Andrew he travelled to play in the Victoria Cup.

His rise may be short-lived as the cut off date for results, 27th

October, means the points accumulated by Preat in winning the Belgian Open on 2nd November have yet to be added to his total.

Desmond Douglas remains at No 1 but his failure to capitalise on European League opportunities could jeopardise this position when the next list appears on Tuesday 10th December.

On the junior front 15 year Matthew Syed breaks into the top 20 for the first time following a string of notable Halex National League victories including a win over No 14 Nigel Eckersley.

Former women's No 1 Alison Gordon, winner of the Milton Keynes National Top 12, rises to within 15 points of Lisa Bellinger.



Men			Women				
1	Desmond Douglas	(Birmingham)	1603	1	Lisa Bellinger	(Dunstable)	1006
2	Alan Cooke	(Chesterfield)	1079	2	Alison Gordon	(Reading)	991
3	Carl Preat	(Ryde)	970	3	Karen Witt	(Reading)	635
4	Skylet Andrew	(London E15)	742	4	Joy Grundy	(Preston)	604
5	John Souter	(Neasden)	647	5	Fiona Elliot	(Wolverhampton)	550
6	David Wells	(Milton Keynes)	571	6	Mandy Sainsbury	(Newbury)	422
7	Nicky Mason	(Bexhill)	528	7	Jackie Bellinger	(Dunstable)	391
8	Graham Sandley	(Potters Bar)	521	8	Jean Parker	(Preston)	236
9	Philip Bradbury	(Aylesbury)	510	9	Jill Harris	(Walsall)	200
10	Steve Mills	(Sheffield)	439	10	Karen Smith	(Leicester)	168
11	Colin Wilson	(Cuffley)	430	11	Joanne Shaw	(Normanton)	165
12	Steven Scowcroft	(Bolton)	380	12	Sarah Sandley	(Potters Bar)	164
13	Andrew Syed	(Reading)	378	13	Suzanne Airey	(Grantham)	138
14	Nigel Eckersley	(Warrington)	350	14	Carol Butler	(Plymouth)	138
15	Kevin Satchell	(Frome)	335	15	Helen Williams	(Enfield)	134
16	Chris Rogers	(Leicester)	316	16	Susan Collier	(Maidenhead)	134
17	Carl Morgan	(Birmingham)	310	17	Teresa Moore	(Bexhill)	107
18	David Dodd	(London SE7)	308	18	Claire Maisiey	(Swindon)	107
19	Matthew Syed	(Reading)	292	19	Jane Barella	(Surbiton)	97
20	John Hilton	(Flixton)	283	20	Michelle Hams	(Morden)	95
21	Andrew Wellman	(Reading)	282	21	Elaine Short	(Plymouth)	94
22	Adrian Moore	(Bexhill)	279	22	Helen Bardwell	(Ware)	92
23	Kevin Beadsley	(Bradford)	274	23	Angela Mitchell	(Edmonton)	90
24	Keith Richardson	(Soham)	257	24	Lisa Haydon	(Hutton)	86
25	Stephen Turner	(Preston)	255	25	Melody Hill	(Bradford)	85
26	Max Crimmins	(Wimbledon)	255	26	Elaine Sayer	(London E12)	84
27	Andy Creed	(Bristol)	241	27	Mandy Reeves	(Slough)	76
28	Andrew Bellingham	(Wolverhampton)	232	28	Debbie Soothill	(Carnforth)	76
29	Joe Kennedy	(London SE15)	228	29	Julie Revill	(Oadby)	75
30	David Gannon	(Leicester)	227	30	Jill Powis	(Wolverhampton)	71
31	Jimmy Stockes	(Reading)	225	31	Jenny Collins	(Reading)	69
32	Stuart Palmer	(Ladkenheath)	225	32	Kim Mudge	(London E13)	67
33	Brian Johns	(Northwich)	223	33	Sally Weston	(Horsham)	65
34	David Barr	(Newbury)	222	34	Diane St Ledger	(Birmingham)	64
35	Adrian Dixon	(Moxley)	222	35	Rebecca Russe	(Weston-super-Mare)	62
36	Stephen Moore	(Bexhill)	221	36	Sandra Peakman	(Birmingham)	59
37	David Tan	(London N4)	218	37	Helen Shields	(Bradford)	58
38	Mark Oakley	(Camberley)	214	38	Karen Burrows	(Castleford)	58
39	Barry Johnson	(Birmingham)	214	39	Joanne Pettitt	(Newmarket)	57
40	Philip Gunn	(Birmingham)	213	40	Doreen Schofield	(Stockport)	55
41	Phil Smith	(Horley)	209	41	Cheryl Buttery	(Lincoln)	53
42	Michael Hammond	(Surbiton)	208	42	Julie Dimmock	(Dunstable)	53
43	Mark Mitchell	(London N9)	205	43	Susan Butler	(Plymouth)	52
44	John Burleton	(London SE15)	202	44	Karen Groves	(Birmingham)	50
45	Glen Baker	(Guildford)	200	45	Lesley Broomhead	(Sheffield)	49
46	Tony Taylor	(Manchester)	200	46	Cathy Ridgard (nee Conlon)	(Winchester)	45
47	Chris Bartram	(London SE6)	198	47	Julie McLean	(Hull)	44
48	Alan Fletcher	(Sutton Coldfield)	197	48	Julie Speight	(Pontefract)	43
49	David Newman	(Maldon)	196	49	Susan Radley	(Lincoln)	42
50	Richard Venner	(Crawley)	195	50	Gillian Sharpe	(Lincoln)	41

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Crooked

With reference to 'While Shepherd Watched . . . Laurie Darnell reports from Essex' in the November issue of *Table Tennis News*, I was dismayed to find that my lead item about the change of chairmanship had been completely rewritten and was unrecognizable from the report which I submitted.

My original copy said: *'Essex starts the new season under the chairmanship of Peter Roden. Peter will combine his new post with that of national councillor. The ex-chairman has not been lost to the Essex table tennis scene. Alan Shepherd has been re-elected to the Junior Affairs and Tournament sub-committee and has become the Waltham Forest representative on the Management committee. As well as being vice-chairman of the North Middlesex league, Alan says that he will referee an umpire whenever he is asked and that he has adopted a 'have stop-watch...will travel' policy.*

Whilst I realize that copy may be cut according to the space available, I, together with the Essex Executive Committee, will not tolerate you as Editor creating your own story under my name. I request that any comments or quotes that you solicit and wish to publish become a separate item under your own byeline.

L F Darnell
103 Queenswood Avenue
Hutton
Brentwood
Essex

All contributions are appreciated, Laurie so I prefer to leave byelines in. However, in view of your comments, I wonder whether you have had sight of my circular to contributors sent last July? - Ed.

Magazine

Regular subscribers may wish to have confirmation that issue No 153 (November) of *Table Tennis News* was the first of the new season; it not being found possible to issue an October issue.

However, subscribers will not lose out on the eight editions due under their subscription as an August edition is to be introduced in 1986. This issue will round-up the late-season tournament and championship results - including the European

Not everyone liked the first issue of this season's magazine! Colin Clemett says 'get your facts right' and Essex's Laurie Darnell claims misrepresentation.

Contributions to Mailbox may be sent direct to the editor or via the ETTA office. The chances of inclusion are inversely proportional to length so please keep letters short - it's the one page the editor leaves well alone but they still have to be typed!

Rubber Ruler

It is unfortunate that you appear to have closed the discussion about the legality of unmarked racket rubbers with 'facts' that are incorrect.

Under ITTF regulations, the requirement for the covering material to bear the ITTF logo applies **only** to World, Continental and Open International Championships which in this country means the English Open. If the rule were adopted for other open tournaments the organisers would be obliged to note the fact on the entry form as an exception to the normal regulations; in other words, they would have to opt in rather than opt out.

In England, open tournaments are run in accordance with ETTA tournament regula-

tions and it would require a decision by the National Council to make such a rule applicable. However, all this is irrelevant to the English Closed, which is not subject to international regulations but is wholly under the control of the ETTA.

I am surprised, therefore, that anyone should have thought that there was any question of ITTF-authorized covering material being required at the English Closed, a purely domestic competition.

Colin Clemett
ETTA Vice Chairman Competitions
7 Brookmead Way
HAVANT
PO9 1RT

Publicity Problem

I was sad to see this season the demise of the top team from Jacques Generation of Fareham although they are still running their local team and retain their Jacques sponsorship. I had many pleasant afternoons watching the club's efforts to bring top table tennis to this area.

Unfortunately, I was very much in the minority supporting the team and felt that the efforts of the club were not given the support they deserved. After all, they have had two of the top

three in England in their ranks but drew disappointing crowds with most of the time players and officials outnumbering spectators.

Publicity, however, is not the strong suit in table tennis's hands at the moment. A report in the local Southampton paper recently is a typical example. The report, on a Ringwood tournament, rightly headlined junior Michael Aucterlonie for winning the mens singles.

He was stated to have beaten three County players in the process. He may have beaten ranked players but no-one who has played for Hampshire entered. Similarly, while many would like to see Sarah Hammond, England No 4, I still feel she has a little way to go to reach this exalted level. Laura Savaka stated to be Hampshire No 2 was, in fact last year's No 2 junior and is now a senior at No 8.

Youth Championships, and will provide a preview of activities in preparation for the forthcoming season.

For reasons of economy typesetting errors may occur in print from time to time - it being expensive to rectify mistakes. The Editor hopes that practice will make perfect and, in the meantime, will endeavour to limit such occasions to as few as possible.

Players invited

Through the columns of your magazine I wonder if I might call all players who have some kind of physical disability.

We would be pleased to hear from any players who would be interested in qualifying for the Great Britain squad which would compete in next year's World championship, the 1987 European championships in Sweden and the Olympic Games in South Korea.

We have recently returned from Holland where the 1985 European championships were held. The team selected had, in our opinion, a very good tournament and we came home with several medals. However, we were all quite amazed with the standard of play and there is no doubt in our minds that the Great Britain team has much work to do in order to compete for the gold medals especially in the open events.

Many of the opposing players, the Germans, French, Swedish and Hungarians in particular would quite easily hold their own in our county and lower national league events. However, we are seeking players, not necessarily of this standard, but who are willing to put in some effort.

You do not necessarily have to be a registered disabled person to qualify, any permanent injury or disability to an arm or leg may be enough.

If you feel you may qualify please contact: *Bob Churchill* of BLASA 01-301 0595; *Tony Teff* of BLASA 0279 38775; *Bob Aldrich* of BASA 0378 74115 (h) or 01-980 4400 (b) or [81Mark Mitchell of BPSS 01-435 3105.

Bob Churchill
5 Marne Avenue,
WELLING DA16 2EZ

These misleading and erroneous reports hardly help the sport. I know the theory that any publicity is good publicity but surely if a report is published it should at least be correct on facts.

Dave Cosway
54 Channels Farm Road
Swaythling
SOUTHAMPTON

Tournament Circuit

Three for Ali

The 50th Sussex Open tournament was held at the Sports Centre, Hastings on 5/6th October 1985 reports Ron Kemp. Although the entry was mysteriously far lower than of previous years, the high standard of the matches seen more than compensated.

The main sponsors were again Stamco. The occasion of the 50th tournament was marked by a limited edition of 50 medals presented at a Sunday afternoon reception of sponsors, mayor and officials past and present.

Twice winner of the mens singles Graham Sandley was seeded to win the event, and he duly progressed to the final. Second seed John Souter also reached the final having just managed to pip 5th equal seed Adrian Moore in his quarter-final 16, -17, 18.

The final was totally dominated by Souter's crisp attack, and he quickly raced through the first 21-8 with Sandley clearly perplexed. The second was close until 9-9 then Souter raced away again taking the game 21-15 and the championship along with the Dobell Cup and the £190 winner cheque.

The only unfortunate point of the mens singles tournament was the non-appearance of a number of high-ranking England players including four

of the eight seeds. Bad luck for Nicky Mason who could not get back from Amsterdam in time - he would have been a real threat, having beaten Souter and Sandley recently.

Womens singles holder and top seed Alison Gordon was not extended in reaching the final - and met the challenge from second seed and county teammate Karen Witt, who also cruised to the final. The final, though, was a very tense, nerve-racking affair, with both girls trying to dominate. At game-all and Karen 17-14 up she looked home for her fifth title.

But there was no let up as Alison caught up and led 18-17. Level again at 19-19; the last two points were snatched gratefully by Alison for the title and Parsons Cup with the £100 cheque.

Neither doubles titles were defended. The Moore brothers hit by Adrian at a national league match and the Bellinger sisters absent. The mens doubles saw Souter and Glenn Baker take the first 21-15 but then second seeds Sandley and Malcolm Temperley took control 21-9, 21-15 to take the championship.

In the corresponding womens event top seeds Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury regained the title they won in 1983 with a win in three games over Sue Collier and Karen Witt, the No 2 seeds.

Alison then took her third title by winning the mixed

doubles with Sandley against the unseeded Mason and Sainsbury. The hat-trick was last achieved five years ago by Paul Day.

That a tournament runs so smoothly and is liked by all players and officials is a fair indication of Colin Hyland's efforts over the past ten years. This being his last year as organiser, it's going to be a difficult act to follow.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Sandley b Wilson 13, 16; Souter b Charley 12, 18

Final

Souter b Sandley 8, 15

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Gordon b Sainsbury 14, 12; Witt b J Bellinger 10, 11

Final

Gordon b Witt 12, -12, 19

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Sandley/Temperley b Souter/Baker -16, 9, 15

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Gordon/Sainsbury b Collier/Witt 12, -19, 12

MIXED DOUBLES

Final

Sandley/Gordon b Mason/Sainsbury -11, 21, 18

VETERANS SINGLES

Final

Buist b Schofield 17, 11

Woodfield Junior 1-Star 2nd November 1985

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Adrian Thorpe b M Kowalenski - 12, 14, 14; A Ball b Leigh Jeffries (Wa) 14, 20.

Final

Ball b Thorpe 12, - 16, 12.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Melanie Carey (So) b Louise Sherratt (St) 10, 10; Lower b Christian Cox (La) 18, 14.

Final

Carey b Lower 18, - 14, 11.

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Thorpe/Ball b C Jones/M Stretton 14, 15.

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Carey/C Perkins b Cox/Lower - 20, 18, 17.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Final

Jeffries b Jonathon Taylor 18, 14.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Final

Rachel Skinner (Mx) b S Pengeley 18, 12.

Woodfield 1-Star 3rd November 1985

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Andy Bellingham b Tony Isaac (Wa) 18, 11; Phil Gunn (Wa) b Malcolm Francis (Sx) 6, - 17, 16.

Final

Bellingham b Gunn 18, 14.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Fiona Elliott (St) b Michele Cohen 7, 13; Janet Smith b Helen Lower (Wa) 20, - 15, 20.

Final

Elliott b Smith 20, - 15, 20.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

T Malkin/R Vose b Matt Shearer/Derek Schofield (Li/Ch) 11, - 18, 14.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Elliott/Cohen b Lower/Roden 17, 14.

VETERANS MIXED SINGLES

Final

Schofield b Ray Dixon 15, 9.

Hastings Tigers 10th November 1985

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Paul Amos (K) b Neil Harris 15, 4; Dipak Topiwala b Graham Gillett (Sx) 20, 17.

Final

Amos b Topiwala 18, - 17, 21.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

S Haffenden b H Lowe 13, 17; Sheila King (Sx) b S Head - 16, 10, 12.

Final

King b Haffenden 20, 18.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Paul Elphick (Sx)/Topiwala b Harris/D Pilcher 17, - 19, 16.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Haffenden/King b M Dignum/Pat Wales (Sx) 14, 15.



Wiltshire winner Alan Cooke receives the mens singles trophy from Thamedown deputy mayor Cllr Harry Garrett; pictured here with runner-up John Souter

Photos by Laurie Selby



A Backhanders from Lisa Bellinger who won the Wiltshire womens singles and £100

December

14
BENEFICIAL TRUST
ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED
to 15th.
Venue: Hinckley Leisure Centre. Tel: (0455) 610011. *Information:* ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 433121. *Events (Sat):* SBS, CGS, JBD, JGD, JXD. Finals, 7.30 pm. *Events (Sun):* JBS, JGS. Semis and finals, 5.00 pm. *Equipment:* Dunlop tables and celluloid balls. *Closing date:* 14th November 1985. *Prize Fund:* £390. *Lentec rating:* ×4.

Stiga County Championships
(Seniors and Veterans)
Lentec rating: Veterans Premier division, ×2; Other divisions, ×1.

22
Halex National League (6)
Lentec rating: Premier division, ×2; Other divisions, ×1.

29
Halex National League (7)
Lentec rating: Premier division, ×2; Other divisions, ×1.

11
Stiga County Championships (4)
Lentec rating: x1.

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION WEEKEND
to 12th. *Venue:* Oldham Leisure Centre. Tel: 061-678 4090. *Organiser:* S Parr, 7 Ennerdale Crescent, NUNEATON CV11 6HY. Tel: (0203) 385580. *Equipment:* Stiga tables, Nittaku balls. *Lentec rating:* x2.

ETTA National Council
London.

ESTTA Area finals (Area 1)
Information: Mrs V Nicholson, 38 Brisbane Grove, STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS18 5BW. Tel: (0642) 580290.

12
TAMESIDE JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN
Venue: Copley Leisure Centre, Stalybridge, Manchester. Tel: 061-303 8118. *Organiser:* C Hope, Recreation Dept, Tameside MBC, Wellington Road, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE OL6 6DL. Tel: 061-330 8355. *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS. *Equipment:* Jaques tables. *Closing date:* 1st December 1985.

18
CLEVELAND 3-STAR OPEN
(Cleveland County Council) to 19th.
Venue: Thornaby Pavilion. Tel: (0642) 760971. *Entries secretary:* D Hutchinson, 7 Skripka Drive, BILLINGHAM TS22 5EZ. Tel: (0642) 534738. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, Class 2 XS, MTeam, WTeam. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 16th December 1985. *Lentec rating:* x3.

ESTTA Area finals
to 19th.
Information: G R Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, CHORLEY PR6 0AN. Tel: (02572) 62732.

19
INTERNATIONAL CLUB HARD BAT
Venue: Barnet table tennis centre. Tel: 01-449 7845. *Organiser:* L F Landry, 3 Osney Way, Chalk, GRAVESEND DA12 2NB. Tel: (0474) 534908. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, Consolation M&WS. *Equipment:* Dunlop tables and celluloid balls. *Closing date:* 8th January 1986.

21
EUROPEAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1
England v Denmark
Venue: Castle Hall, Hertford. Tel: (0992) 59024. *Tickets:* £4.00 & £3.50. *From:* K Grethe, 13 Edmunds Road, HERTFORD SG14 2EY. Tel: (0992) 51802. *Lentec rating:* x4.

23
TRIUMPH ADLER ENGLISH OPEN
to 25th.
Venue: The Brighton Centre, Kings Road BRIGHTON. Tel: (0273) 202881. *Organiser:* ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 433121. *Events (Thurs):* MTeam, WTeam. Evening finals. *Events (Fri & Sat):* MS, WS, MD, WD, XD. *From 9.00 am, staged final rounds 7.15 pm Friday, 9.00 am Saturday, and 1.30 pm Saturday.* *Equipment:* Jaques tables, Nittaku balls. *Closing date:* 2nd December 1985. *Lentec rating:* x4.

25
PONTEFRAC 1-STAR OPEN
(Dunlop)
Venue: Featherstone Sports Centre, nr Pontefract. Tel: (0977) 795934. *Organiser:* R B Govan - enquire change of address via ETTA office. Tel: (0424) 433121. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, VXS, Class 2 XS. *Equipment:* Dunlop tables and celluloid balls. *Closing date:* late December.

26
Halex National League (9)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.

31
EUROPE TOP 12
to 2nd February. In Sodertalje, Sweden.
Lentec rating: Bonus points 20-400.

February

1
BENEFICIAL COTSWOLD JUNIOR SELECT
to 2nd.
Venue: Gloucester Sports Centre. Tel: . *Organiser:* L J Smith, Endfield, Cowle Road, STROUD GL5 2JR. Tel: (0453) 63217. *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, JXD, CBS, CGS, CBD, CGD, U12BS, U12GS. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 31st December 1985. *Lentec rating:* x3.

2
NORTH BOURNEMOUTH 1-STAR OPEN
Venue: Winton YMCA, Jameson Road, Bournemouth. *Organiser:* C B Cashell, 16 Victoria Avenue, Winton, BOURNEMOUTH BH9 2RN. Tel: (0202) 529910. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, JXS. *Equipment:* Jaques tables, TSP balls. *Closing date:* 18th January 1986.

8
ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN
to 9th.
Venue: Harlow Sports Centre. Tel: (0279) 21792. *Organiser:* C R Oakman, 27 Darnet Road, Tollesbury MALDON CM9 8XG. Tel: (0621) 869761. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, VXS, Class 2 XS. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 11th January 1986. *Prize fund:* £920. *Lentec rating:* x3.

EXETER JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN
Venue: St Thomas High School, Exeter. *Organiser:* K Ponting, 21 Southport Avenue EXETER EX4 1RA. Tel: (0392) 78642. *Entries secretary:* Mrs V Addicott, 7 Exwick Road, Exeter. *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS, U11BS, U11GS. *Equipment:* Jaques tables, TSP balls. *Closing date:* 25th January 1986.

13
FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN
to 15th. In Karlsruhe.
Lentec rating: x4.

14
ETTA Coaching course
to 16th. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.
Information: Coaching Administrator, ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 433121.

15
Stiga County Championships (5)
Lentec rating: x1.

16
Halex National League (10)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.

ESTTA Regional team finals
In Leeds, Stroud and Croydon
Information: G R Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, CHORLEY PR6 0AN. Tel: (02572) 64873.



Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix