



# Table Tennis News

No. 162

DECEMBER 1986

80p



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## The Island Chairman ....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**JOHN WOODFORD**



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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS**



# SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by  
FIONA BROWN &  
JOHN WOODFORD

Compiled by Fiona Brown and John Woodford

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Allegiance

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

The appearance in Nice last month of Xie Saïke, one of China's best penholders over the last decade, one time ranked No 2 in the world, currently No 9 and a World Cup finalist is a case in point. Is it really right that a

player of this calibre should appear in a European Cup event? Clearly, it is inside the rules, but there could be a case to make a change.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## No promises

Some ten years have elapsed since table tennis appeared as a regular weekly column in the national press. Many readers will recall Chester Barnes's fun-filled material in the Daily Mirror. How we managed to get away with that

sort of column for so long was a mystery.

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

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

Sorry about Tuesday November 25 when the table tennis column was moved to the following day due to a 15-page British Gas advertisement. Sid also apologises!

## L'Affair Lomas

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Martin Mashed

Former Irish international Martin Kinsella, now an exhibition table tennis player for Colin Deaton's International World of Sport, was taken to the cleaners at the Isle of Wight motor show recently when a challenger from the audience beat him in convincing fashion to claim a £100 prize - no prizes for guessing the identity of the local hero!

## Police cop civil service

A REPRESENTATIVE match between the British Police and the Civil Service was staged at the Thorn EMI Ellenborough T.T.C. Two mens teams and one veterans team, each comprising three players, contested the best of nine sets.

Scotland's Keith Rodger led the Police A team with Pat McCabe (W Midlands) and Dave Birkett (Essex). The Civil Service A team was led by National Champion Richard Beckham (Kent) with Gordon Holmes (Surrey) and Nicky Standen (Sussex). A maximum from Keith Rodger together with two from Pat McCabe, who lost deuce in the third to Richard Beckham, secured a 5-4 win for the Police.

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

However the Police did not have it all their own way. Their veterans team of Bill Ingram (Lancashire), Dick Emmerson (Herts) and Mick Pratley (Essex)

went down heavily to Phil Newton (Surrey), John Jordan (Kent) and the Civil Service National Veterans Champion, Alan Jesson (Notts). Phil Newton and Alan Jesson each recorded a fine maximum while John Jordan won two, only losing to Dick Emmerson, to give the Civil Service an 8-1 win.

### Results:

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

N Sutton lt P Cawser -17, -18; b R Campbell 18, -19, 20; lt P Roberts -17, -18.  
W Ingram lt P Newton 18, -16, -9; lt J Jordan -13, -12; lt A Jesson -9, 19, -17.  
R Emmerson lt P Newton -16, 20, -16; b J Jordan 18, 10; lt A Jesson -19, 20, -10.  
M Pratley lt P Newton -16, -14; lt J Jordan -14, 13, -12; lt A Jesson -16, -17.

## Douglas Jackpot

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



## New PLAYBAK, League and



# BRIGHT REFLECTIONS

by Richard Eaton of *The Sunday Times*

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

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

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

No doubt some of the players are hoping it is the last. For them it was tough to adapt, especially in an event that counted for ranking points. But for the spectators the more frequent crises of the shortened scoring system made

for more thrills and several unpredictable matches.

The most unpredictable of the lot was that in which Desmond Douglas, after a nine-year run that will probably never be equalled, was finally beaten by another English player. Though this was inevitably a bit of a sad moment, it was a happy one as well.

## Sportsmanship

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

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

The breakthrough into world class may be imminent.

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

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

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

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



Richard Eaton

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

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

## A tournament for all standards

by Mike Hanley

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

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

from International to local league.

With the extension from the ever popular Mixed Class 2 events more players will be given the chance to enjoy competitive Table Tennis in the Mixed Class 3 event, open to all except the top 200 mens and 20 women and for the first time in an English tournament a Mixed Class 4 Event.

The Mixed Class 4 Event which forms a test case for future events will only be open to players who are not in the top 200 men and 20

women and who have not, during the past two seasons, been registered for any teams in either the County Championships (Senior Divisions) or Schildkrot British League.

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

## Atmosphere

Why not give Tournament competitions in a social atmosphere a try. If you would like any further information or an entry form, please ring Mike Hanley on 0757-702282 or write to him at 53, Green Lane, Selby YO8 9AN.

**KENT  
2-STAR AT  
GILLINGHAM  
CANCELLED**

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

# Championship tables





## It has all been worthwhile

### A message from the new chairman

Dear Table Tennis Friends,

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

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

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

It will remain the sport we enjoy so much.

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

We shall need new people, new ideas. I invite all members who want to contribute, to serve the sport at

national level to write to me. I want to see new talent coming forward in the service of the sport.

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

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

Thank you again for your confidence.

**John**



*JOHN PREAN, 62, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, father of Carl Prean the England No. 3, recorded a sweeping victory on November 22 when he became the new chairman of the ETTA with 260 votes against 113 for Aubrey Drapkin, the honorary treasurer of the Association. Mr Prean travelled the length and breadth of the country and recognition of his dedication came when the leagues and counties voted.*

## Woodfield One Star Junior and Senior Tournament

### Junior boys

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

### Junior girls

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

The top Warwickshire pair of Nicola Meddings and Alison Ledwitch comfortably won the doubles without dropping a game defeating Jane Winter and Alison Flaherty 12 and 13 in the final.

### Mens

With 5 of the mens seeds reaching the quarter final stage there were no major upsets except the defeat of the number 2 seed Steve Dunning in one

of the best matches of the day by Andy Hare who won — 22, 14, 22 only to be beaten in the next round. Adrian Thorp who the previous day won the junior boys title reached the final by beating the surprise semi-finalist Kevin Rogerson from Humberside in the semi final. Malcolm Framin the No 1 seed after having a close match with Eddie Wilkes who was the only player to take a game off him, comfortably won the final where his experience overcame the enthusiasm of the fast improving Adrian Thorp.

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

### Womens

The Scottish No 2 Janet Smith had a comfortable passage through to the final where she eventually beat Sandra Roden the Worcestershire number 2, 11 and 12. A good performance in both the womens singles and veterans singles by Janet Hunt from Worcester who defeated No 7 England Junior Helen Lower

and the experienced Mike Tew in the respective events. In the doubles Sandra Roden and Mandy Hylton had a tough time in reaching the final but they easily overcame Jane Winter and Alison Flaherty in the final 14 and 9 to inflict the second doubles final defeat over the two days for the Staffordshire youngster.

### Results

#### Junior boys - Semi finals

Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton) b Ian Hodgett (Tamworth) 14, 13; Robert Till (Walsall) b Ian Barsted (Stoke) 12, 17.

**Final:** Thorp b Till 19, 10.

#### Junior girls - Semi finals

Helen Lower (Wolverhampton) b Sally Hughes (Oxford) 16, 16; Jane Winter (Tamworth) b Louise Sherratt (Stafford) — 15, 18, 18.

**Final:** Lower b Winter 10, 16.

#### Junior boys doubles - Semi finals

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

**Final:** Hodgett/Stretton b Till/Thorpe 16, —13, 20.

#### Junior girls doubles - Semi finals

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

**Final:** Meddings/Ledwitch b Winter/Plaherty 12, 13.

#### Cadet boys - Semi finals

Matthew Parr (Stoke) b Neil Vernon (Wolverhampton) — 18, 18, 19; Lee Horton (Dudley) b Jason Thompson (Dudley) 15, 11.

**Final:** Parr b Horton 7, 13.

#### Cadet girls - Semi finals

Nicola Meddings (B'ham) b D Barnett (Oxford) 7, 16; Sally Hughes (Oxford) b Joanne Foxall (Stoke) 15, 19.

**Final:** Meddings b Hughes 13, 19.

#### Mens singles - Semi finals

Malcolm Francis (Brighton) b Eddie Wilkes (Stoke) 8, —19, 9; Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton) b Kevin Rogerson (Hull) 11, 18.

**Final:** Francis b Thorp 14, 17.

#### Womens singles - Semi finals

Janet Smith (Scotland) b Janet Dunning (Wolverhampton) 12, 14; Sandra Roden (Dudley) b Janet Hunt (Worcester) 12, 14.

**Final:** Smith b Roden 11, 12.

#### Mens doubles - Semi finals

Andy Hare/Mike Brown (B'ham) b Mike Tew (Macclesfield)/Eddie Griffiths (Macclesfield) 18, 13; John Hancock/Eddie Wilkes (Stoke) b Andy Frain/B Dunne (B'ham) 23, —17, 19.

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

#### Womens doubles - Semi finals

Sandra Roden (Dudley)/Mandy Hylton (B'ham) b Joanne Chubb/Janet Dunning (Wolverhampton) 15, —16, 11;

Jane Winter (Tamworth)/Alison Flaherty (Walsall) b Jenny Robinson/Dawn Bromley (B'ham) 22, 19.

**Final:** Roden/Hylton b Winter/Flaherty 14, 9.

#### Veteran singles - Final

Griffiths b Evans —18, 14, 15.



STIGA 3-STAR MIDLANDS COUNTIES OPEN AT WALSALL

## JAPANESE DOUBLE

by Jenny Heaton

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

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

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

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

The final disappointingly petered out in the second game after Skylet had been 20-17 up in the first, only to lose the initiative and the game 22-20. Takehiro Watanabe then took command and ran out the victor 21-13. The second game also led to a dispute over the legality of Skylet's service which needed the tournament referee, Geoff Taylor, to resolve in Skylet's favour.

With the title holder, Joy Grundy, absent through injury, the bottom half of the women's draw looked set for a semi-final clash between Alison Gordon (No 3 seed) and Jackie Bellinger. However, Sue Collier defeated Jackie Bellinger in the last 16 only to be overpowered herself by a much in form Alison in the semis (5, 12).

In the other half the early defeat of Fiona Elliot by Andrea Holt in straight games led to Jill

Harris reaching the semi-final with a fine 2 straight win over Andrea (18, 9). Lisa Bellinger, the other semi finalist in this half, proved too strong for Jill and so the final was a clash between England No 1, Lisa Bellinger, and England No 3, Alison Gordon. Alison was in a very determined mood and came out the victor in straight games.

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

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

### Results

#### Men's singles Semi-finals:

T. Watanabe (Jap) b J Souter (Mi) 18, 20.

S Andrew (E) b S Mills (Y) 11, 13.

**Final:** Watanabe b Andrew 20, 13.

#### Womens singles Semi-finals:

L Bellinger (Bd) b J Harris (St)

A Gordon (Bk) b S Collier (Bk) 5, 12.

**Final:** A Gordon b L Bellinger 16, 10.

#### Mens doubles Final:

Andrew/Watanabe b Crimmins/Baker 14, 10.

#### Womens doubles Final:

Harris/Elliott b Bellinger/Bellinger - 22, 19, 16.

#### Veteran singles Final:

R Gunnion (Wa) b M Sheader (Li) 12, 11.

#### Class 2 Mens singles Final:

M O'Driscoll (Y) b J Green (Mi) 22, - 20, 10.

#### Class 2 Womens singles Final:

K Hall (Dy) b C Buttery (Ha) 22, 14.

*Right: Takehiro Watanabe, winner of the mens singles. Below: Alison Gordon, a second Stiga title at Walsall.*

*Stephen Line (0273 453867)*



# Why buy foreign when



STIGA YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE 3★ OPEN *by Rea Balmford*

## DOUGLAS WINS BUT STOKES IS WAITING

A BASIS of shock results, a good helping of fighting spirit, and a spot of international flavour were the ingredients of the inaugural event of the Stiga Grand Prix series, the Yorkshire and Humberside 3★ at Halifax, which should produce a palatable diet through the 1986/7 season.

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

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

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

The interest level, which kept some 300 spectators at the Sunday finals, was built up with early wins by Glenn Baker over Phil Bradbury, Michael O'Driscoll (Kevin Satchell), David Dodd (Steve Scowcroft), Eddie Smith (Barry Johnson) before Nicky Mason dismissed seeded Irishman Colum Slevin and Paul Whiting shut the door on Canadian No. 2 Horatio Pintea.

Ranking with Stokes' wins over Ng and Cooke was the banish-

ment in the quarters of No 1 Lisa Bellinger by the unseeded Karen Smith, who had already accounted for the higher rated Juliet Houghton in Round 1. That, however, was the end of the road for the Leicester girl, for Mandy Sainsbury, victor over Marian Domonkos, jointly seeded at 3, saw her chance and grabbed the vacant final spot to face Alison Gordon.

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

### Results

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** Desmond Douglas (Birmingham) b John Souter (Middx) 14, -13, 17; Jimmy Stokes (Reading) b Alan Cooke (Chesterfield) 19, -12, 18. **Final:** Douglas b Stokes 7, 7.

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

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



*Alan Cooke*



*Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Simon Hobson (Stiga)*

**Ladies doubles - Semi-finals:** Marian Domonkos/Thanh Mach (Canada) b Fiona Elliott/Jill Harris (Staffs) 19, 25; Gordon/Sainsbury b Jean Parker (Preston)/Sally Weston (Sussex) -18, 18, 9. **Final:** Domonkos/Mach b Gordon/Sainsbury -18, 12, 16.

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

**Class 2 singles - Final:** Benny Robertson (Newcastle upon Tyne) b John Burtleton (Kent) -18, 13, 18.



*Jimmy Stokes*

# British is best?



# Schildkröt

## British Table Tennis League



Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

## Syed celebrates in style

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

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

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

### Bradford's investment

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

### Eastern interest

EAE Waveney head division two north having retained their undefeated record with a 5-3 win over bottom team Oldham. Waveney No 1 Philip Logsdon was in fine style against Howard Leigh and Mike Owen who both struggled to achieve double figures. Nevertheless it was a spirited performance by the luckless Oldham squad and victory was only clinched in the final set when Russell King despatched Norman Thewliss.

### Ashford take upper hand

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

### Leicester lead the way

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



Keith Samuels, Russel King, Phil Logsdon, Trevor Bunn, David Jeffries (Manager) and Neil Pickard.  
Peter Calvert 0502 63328

### Ramlosa rule?

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



Karen Smith is turning on the style for Leicester TTC this season.  
Steve Line 0273 453867



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



# Schildkrot British League



## Results

including matches played 2.11.86

### Premier

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

### First

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

### Second North

Steelstock Wolverhampton 6 Kingbro Insurance 2; Bradford Investments 5 March 3; Sincil Lincoln 7 Oldham 1; Kingbro Insurance 2 Ormesby 6; March 4 Steelstock Wolverhampton 4; Bradford Investments 5 Sincil Lincoln 3; EAE Waveney 5 Oldham 3.

### Second South

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

### Third North

Ormesby 2 Grove 6; Chan Con-

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

### Third South

Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 5 Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3; Rejects 4 Team Ramlosa Essex 4; Abeng Warriors 5 Deptford Rams 3; Ashford 6 Erreys Print 2; Team Ramlosa Essex 5 Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 3; Deptford Rams 0 Rejects 8; Abeng Warriors 6 Ashford 2; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 3 Erreys Print 5.

### Third East

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

### Third West

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

## SCHILDKROT FIXTURES

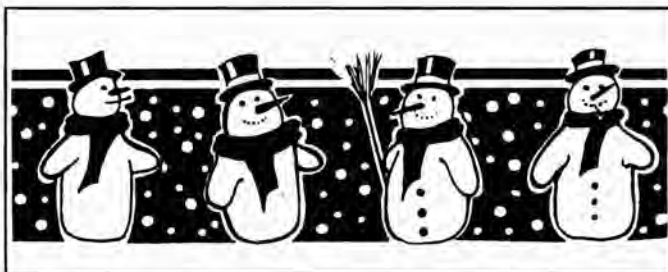
### December

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

### January

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

*Schildkrot British League handbook from the ETTA office*



## Schildkrot British League

(as at 3.11.86)

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Third North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panoramic Bath	4	3	0	1	22	10	6	Leicester	3	3	0	0	23	1	6
Steelstock Wolverhampton	3	2	1	0	20	4	5	Ormesby III	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
Grove Market Drayton	3	2	1	0	17	7	5	Grove Market Drayton	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
Rotherham	3	2	1	0	17	7	5	Chan Construction II	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Butterfly Cardiff	3	1	1	1	10	14	3	Crusaders Lincoln	4	2	0	2	13	19	4
Ormesby	2	1	0	1	7	9	2	City of Leeds	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Omega Reading	4	0	0	4	7	25	0	Byker Newcastle	4	0	0	4	6	26	0
MBS St Neots	4	0	0	4	4	28	0	Vickers Barrow	4	0	0	4	1	31	0
Postponed: Butterfly Cardiff v Steelstock Wolverhampton								<b>Third South</b>							
<b>First</b>								Rejects							
Express Torbay	4	4	0	0	24	8	8	Team Ramlosa Essex	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
Trebtor Dagenham FC	4	3	0	1	21	11	6	Countrymen T. Wells	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
Chan Construction	4	2	0	2	18	14	4	Abeng Warriors	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
TSP Larkhall	4	2	0	2	17	15	4	Ashford	4	2	0	2	16	16	4
Byker Newcastle	4	2	0	2	15	17	4	Erreys Print '84	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
TCB Dolphins	3	2	0	1	13	11	4	Thorn EMI Ellenborough	4	0	1	3	13	19	1
West Warwicks B'ham	3	0	0	3	6	18	0	Deptford Rams	4	0	0	4	8	24	0
Omega Claw	4	0	0	4	6	26	0	<b>Third East</b>							
<b>Second North</b>								Britannia Ipswich							
EAE Waveney	4	3	1	0	24	8	7	Well Connected W'bro	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
Steelstock Wolverhampton	4	2	2	0	22	10	6	Norwich Foxwood	4	3	0	1	20	12	6
Bradford Investments	4	3	0	1	17	15	6	Trebtor Dagenham FC	4	2	0	2	17	15	4
March	4	2	1	1	18	14	5	AHW Pioneers	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Ormesby II	2	2	0	0	12	4	4	MBS St Neots	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Sincil Lincoln	3	1	0	2	12	12	2	Witham Town FC	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Kingbro Insurance	5	0	0	5	9	31	0	Smiths Motors P'bro	4	0	0	4	3	29	0
Oldham	4	0	0	4	6	26	0	<b>Third West</b>							
<b>Second South</b>								Express Gwent							
Ashford	4	4	0	0	28	4	8	Jolliffe Poole	4	4	0	0	30	2	8
Global Sports Plymouth	4	3	0	1	20	12	6	KCD Stiga	3	1	2	0	14	10	4
Fellows Cranleigh	4	2	1	1	17	15	5	Express Torbay	4	2	0	2	13	19	4
C & L Nittaku	4	2	1	1	16	16	5	Opella Leominster	3	1	1	1	12	12	3
Gunnersbury Triangle	4	2	0	2	14	18	4	Duchy Launceston	4	1	1	2	12	20	3
Jaques Fareham	3	1	0	2	10	14	2	Omega Reading	4	0	1	3	7	25	1
TSP Larkhall	4	0	0	4	8	24	0	Panoramic Bath	4	0	0	4	7	25	0
Medway	3	0	0	3	7	17	0	Re-arranged: Leominster v KCD Stiga 30th November 1986							



## England on top

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

At the Angel Centre, Tonbridge, on Wednesday 26th November Desmond Douglas, Skylet Andrew, Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot swept to a 6-1 win over Italy. The only resistance came from Italy's Lorenzo Nannoni in the second game as he maintained consistent form to subdue Skylet Andrew and avoid the whitewash. Nannoni was Italy's best player on the night but even he could offer no answer when the English and Commonwealth champion, Desmond Douglas, moved into top gear, racing to a 10-0 lead in their deciding game.

Lisa Bellinger continued her domination of the women's set despite the Italians surprise tactic of playing Giorgia Zampini whilst their No. 1 Allesandro Busnardo looked on. Miss Bellinger, like Douglas, is beginning to look out of place in this division and must be eager to move back up into the premier league.

Considering that England were without their experienced European League players Carl Prean and Alison Gordon, this was indeed a handsome victory and provides positive evidence that we are

establishing the strength in depth which should ensure future international successes.

### Results

#### ENG 6, ITA 1

Desmond Douglas b Massimo Costantini 18, 11; Skylet Andrew lt Lorenzo Nannoni - 15, 16, - 19; Lisa Bellinger b Giorgia Zampini 16, 11; Douglas/Andrew b Costantini/Bisi 16, 19; Douglas/Fiona Elliot b Costantini/Zampini 17, - 19, 16; Douglas b Nannoni 18, - 16, 8; Andrew b Costantini 19, 19.

#### FRG 5, FIN 2

Stefan Fetzner b Mika Pyykko 16, 19; Jorg Roskopf b Jarmo Jokinen 16, 21; Olga Nemes b Sonja Grefberg - 19, 18, 18; Fetzner/Roskopf b Pyykko/Jokinen 16, 17; Roskopf/Nemes lt Jokinen/Grefberg - 17, 12, - 17; Fetzner lt Jokinen - 12, - 20; Roskopf b Pyykko 18, - 13, 13.

### Leading positions

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	19	2	3
Federal Germany	3	3	0	17	4	3
Finland	3	2	1	10	11	2
Italy	3	1	2	8	13	1

**Next round:** England v Finland, Austria v Turkey, Ital v Federal Germany, Norway v Denmark.

**England v Finland** Wednesday 14th January 1987, St Andrews Hall, Norwich. Further details from: Vic Bennett 0603 406300 (after 6.00 pm).

## Austria Shredded at Linz

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

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

### Struggle

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

Prean, now just as happy if not happier playing on the mainland of Europe rather than in these islands, crushed Bauer 7, 8. In the second half however, the Austrian

coach appeared to have found a Prean weak-spot as the Isle of Wight professional lost the first - 19, scraped through the second 19 before racing ahead to take the third 9.

### Champion?

Alan Cooke, looking more and more like an England champion of the future swept through his singles matches. In the mens doubles Prean and Cooke were slow to get under way and lost the first, but in the third game Eckel and Bauer were humiliated and only chalked up four points.

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

### Results:

A Cooke b G Bar 15, 14. C Prean b W Bauer 7, 8. F Elliott b B Wilsche 11, - 8, 19. Prean and Cooke b Eckel and Bauer - 15, 16, 4. Prean and Elliot b Eckel and Wilsche 12, 15. Prean b Bar - 19, 19, 9. Cooke b Bauer 13, 15.

## European League

### Super Division: Matches played October 15th

#### Bulgaria 2, Poland 5

Mariano Lukov lt Andrzej Grubba 18, - 14, - 13; Stephan Stefanov lt Leszek Kucharski - 15, 15, - 14; Daniela Gergeltcheva b Jolanta Szatko-Kowak 16, 8; M Lukov/S Stefanov lt A Grubba/L Kucharski 16, - 19, - 19; S Stefanov/D Gergeltcheva b A Grubba/J Szatko-Kowak - 19, 21, 11; Mariano Lukov lt Leszek Kucharski - 18, - 14; Stephan Stefanov lt Andrzej Grubba 16, - 14, - 14.

#### Hungary 2, Czechoslovakia 5

Tibor Klampar b Jindrich Pansky - 14, 18, 13; Zsolt Kriston lt Miroslav Cecava - 20, 20, - 17; Csilla Batorfi lt Marie Hrachova - 20, 12, - 15; Z Kriston/Z Harczy b J Pansky/M Grman 13, - 18, 23; Z Kriston/C Batorfi lt J Pansky/M Hrachova - 11, - 17; Tibor Klampar lt Miroslav Cecava - 13, 17, - 16; Zsolt Kriston lt Jindrich Pansky - 18, 15, - 21.

#### Sweden 6 France 1 at Nassjo

Mikael Appelgren b Didier Mommessin 19, 12; Ulf Carlsson b Patrick Enverse 16, 8; Barbro Wiktorsson lt Nadine Daviaud - 15, - 13; U Carlsson/M Appelgren b J-P Gatién/D Mommessin 16, 16; J Persson/M Svensson b J-P Gatién/N Daviaud 17, - 18, 18; Mikael Appelgren b Patrick Renverse 7, 18; Ulf Carlsson b Didier Mommessin 19, 17.

#### Yugoslavia 7, Netherlands 0 at Jesenice

Ilija Lupulescu b Henk van Spanje - 19, 19, 13; Zoran Kalinic b Paul Haldan 16, 15; Branka Kalinic b Gerdie Keen 21, 16; I Lupulescu/Z Kalinic b Hv Spange/P Haldan - 11, 15, 10; Z Kalinic/B Batinic b Hv Spanje/G Keen 20, 16; Ilija Lupulescu b Paul Haldan - 18, 10, 17; Zoran Kalinic b Henk van Spanje - 16, 10, 16.

### Division One

#### 18.10.86: Austria 0, England 7 at Linz

Gottfried Bar lt Alan Cooke - 15, - 14; Bauer lt Carl Prean - 7, - 8; Barbra Wilsche lt Fiona Elliot - 11, 8, - 19; P Eckl/Bauer lt C Prean/A Cooke 15, - 16, - 4; P Eckl/B Wilsche lt C Prean/F Elliot - 12, - 15;

Gottfried Bar lt Carl Prean 19, - 19, - 9; Bauer lt Alan Cooke - 13, - 15.

#### 18.10.86: Denmark 3, Finland 4 at Nyborg

Lars Hauth lt Jarmo Jokinen 19, - 18, - 9; Jan Harkamp b Mika Pyykko 20, 17; Charlotte Polk lt Sonja Grefberg 16, - 14, - 15; L Hauth/J Harkamp lt J Jokinen/M Pyykko - 16, - 10; J Harkamp/C Polk lt J Jokinen/S Grefberg 9, - 18, - 21; Lars Hauth b Mika Pyykko 18, 8; Jan Harkamp b Jarmo Jokinen - 9, 21, 16.

#### 18.10.86: Norway 1, Federal Germany 6 at Lilleborgen

Morten Gustavsen lt Jurgen Rebel - 11, 16, - 18; Roar Blikken lt Ralf Wosik - 18, - 12; Marianne Blikken lt Olga Nemes - 19, - 7; M Gustavsen/R Blikken lt J Rebel/R Wosik - 11, - 13; M Gustavsen/M Skarpenes lt J Rebel/O Nemes - 17, - 13; Morten Gustavsen b Ralf Wosik 23, 18; Roar Blikken b Jurgen Rebel - 12, - 16.

#### 18.10.86: Turkey 4, Italy 3 at Istanbul

Gurhan Yaldiz b Francesco Manneschi 18, 11; Oktay Cimen lt Massimo Costantini - 15, - 19; Selda Dogan b Alessandra Busnardo 17, 15; G Yaldiz/O Cimen b M Costantini/F Manneschi 14, - 15, 20; G Yaldiz/S Dogan lt M Costantini/G Zampini - 20, - 11; Gurhan Yaldiz lt M Costantini - 18, - 20; Oktay Cimen b Francesco Manneschi 13, - 12, 18.

### Division Two

#### 18.10.86: Switzerland 3, Wales 4 at Muttenz

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

#### 4.10.86: Luxembourg 2, Switzerland 5 at Strassen

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



## OFFICIAL NEWS

### TOM BLUNN FUND

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

### E.T.T.A. RULES

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

### ADDRESS LIST

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

### E.T.T.A. HANDBOOK

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

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

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

## Europe Top 12

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

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

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

### European Table Tennis Union Rankings issued December 1986

#### Men

1	Jorgen Persson (1)	SWE
2	Jan Ove Waldner (2)	SWE
3	Andrzej Grubba (3)	POL
4	Erik Lindh (4)	SWE
5	Leszek Kucharski (5)	POL
6	Michael Appelgren (7)	SWE
7	Desmond Douglas (6)	ENG
8	Andrei Mazunov (10)	URS
9	Tibor Klampar (9)	HUN
10	Ulf Carlsson (8)	SWE
11	Zoran Kalinic (11)	YUG
12	Carl Prean (13)	ENG
47	Skylet Andrew (—)	ENG

#### Women

1	Csilla Batorfi (1)	HUN
2	Fliura Bulatova (2)	URS
3	Olga Nemes (3)	FRG
4	Marie Hrachova (4)	TCH
5	Daniella Guergueltcheve (6)	BUL
6	Bettine Vriesekoop (5)	HOL
7	Otilia Badescu (8)	ROM
8	Edit Urban (11)	HUN
9	Zsuzsa Olah (7)	HUN
10	Lisa Bellinger (10)	ENG
11	Branka Batinic (9)	YUG
12	Elena Kovtun (12)	URS
23	Alison Gordon (21)	ENG
32	Joy Grundy (25)	ENG

# Eckersley wins in Portugal

by Albert Shipley

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

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

### Sunlight

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

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

### Slow

In the other half, Nigel Eckersley first disposed of a qualifier 9 and 12 but in round two met the former Portuguese No 1, José Alvoeiro from the famous Benfica Club, whose knowledge of the slow conditions paid off with an opening game win of 18. This sharpened Nigel's concentration to play the percentages and

avoid unforced errors, a tactic which paid off with two game wins of 10 and 13. His next opponent must have had an easy draw for his skill was minimal and we will only remember him as a Vincent Purkart lookalike! Next came the No 2 seed, José Portela from Lisbon in the quarter final and again the choice of end was vital in that Nigel won the first game 17 and was then made to fight all the way before taking the second 20. In the semi-final Nigel faced yet another José, Barrero this time, who had impressed us whilst practising and in the opening rallies he looked a class player but again an inability to deal with spin services was his weakness. Once again the "end" factor showed up in the score, Nigel advancing to the final 10, 21.

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

the edge and he ran out a worthy winner 17, 18.

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

### Abundance

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

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



## Crisis in Table Tennis

By Huang He

AT A SYMPOSIUM held in Beijing mid-April, some 20 experts from across the country expressed a deep concern about the rising crisis in China's table tennis. They recalled that our players had recently suffered a series of setbacks. Whereas China took six of the seven titles at both the 1983 and 1985 World Championships, the number dropped to one at the 1984 Asian Junior Championships, and to three at the 1986 edition without a single one for the boys' three events. The juniors presented a no better picture. At

the first Euro-Asia tournament early this year No. 1 player Jiang Jialiang had four losses and one win and No. 2 Chen Longcan five losses and one win.

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

### Head coach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Technical matters

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

## Connaught Open - Galway

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

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

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

### Mens singles - semi-finals

A Dennison b A Redmond 13, -14, 11.

H Menealey b S Spelman 18, 17.

**Final:** Menealey b Dennison - 12, 18, 9.

### Ladies singles - semi-finals

A Leonard b C Leonard 19, 13.

J. Reid b N McEvoy 16, 18.

**Final:** Leonard b Reid - 16, 14, 14.

### Ladies doubles final

A & C Leonard b N McEvoy/J Reid 19, 23.

### Mens doubles final

Menealey/J Dill b T Dolan/A Marshall 16, 17.

### Mixed doubles final

J Reid/T Dolan b A Leonard/A Walsh - 17, 17, 23.

### Boys U/17 final

S Spelman b L Pierce 10, 16.

### Girls U/17 final

K Stafford b K McMillan 11, 9.

## Irish Affairs

by Tony Morton

THE Irish tournament scene opened with the *Tara Aluminium South Co. Dublin Championships* held in Terenure, Dublin in October. Twenty-seven year old Kevin Keane, former International continued where he left off at the end of last season, when he won the Irish Championships, to take the first ranking tournament of the season.

Keane overcame a tenacious challenge from Galway youngster Sean Spellman 21/19, 20/22, 21/19 in the early round robin stages and then saw off Tommy Caffrey in the quarter-final, to meet top seed Mewyn Kelly in the semi-final. The 27 year old who is attached to Jim Langan's club this season was never headed and won 21/17, 21/19. He met Hilton Menealey in the final, although the Ulsterman was defiant in the first set, Keane got better as the match went on and won 21/19, 21/12.

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

### Mens singles

**Semi-finals:** K Keane b M Kelly 17, 19; H Menealey b J Robinson 15, 18. **Final:** K Keane b H Menealey 19, 12.

### Ladies singles

**Semi-finals:** A Leonard b L Cullen 15, 15; C Leonard b S Akal 14, 15. **Final:** A Leonard b C Leonard 14, 14.

### Ladies doubles

**Final:** A & G Leonard b L Cullen/C Anderson - 16, 12, 13.

### Mens doubles

**Final:** H Menealey/J Dell b D Pemberson/T Fitzgerald - 19, 14, 12.

### Mixed doubles

**Final:** A Leonard/A Walsh b C Leonard/M Kelly 14, 20.



# Tables that last buy Jaques



## Steelstock shunted Chinese-style in Nice

reports John Woodford

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

Trinite Sports (Nice) overcame Steelstock (Desmond Douglas, Phil Bradbury and Nicky Mason) 5-2. The French team Xie Saike, Birocheau and Martin is a side difficult to beat in Europe but in the same way that players cannot just change sides in the European League it hardly seems fair that a player of this calibre should be

eligible to play in a European cup event - he is studying in Nice.

However, perhaps the Chinese penholder is past his best. He trailed 15-19 in the third game against Douglas but somehow he found a touch of Oriental magic to win the last six points.

Such was the "weight" of the French side however, even if

Douglas had completed his maximum - he beat Martin and Birocheau - it is doubtful if Steelstock would have scraped through.

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

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

What they really need is the ability to call on one more top player of the Cooke or Preat standard and they would have the guns to go further.

The match in Nice was played before 900 people and according to reports "in a railway siding"! This must mean a disused railway shed!

**Scores:** Trinite Sports 5, Steelstock Wolverhampton 2  
Birocheau b Mason 22, 11; Martin lt to Douglas - 17, - 14; Xie Saike b Bradbury 5, 9; Birocheau lt to Douglas - 15, - 13; Xie Saike b Mason 9, 19; Martin b Bradbury 20, 23; Xie Saike b Douglas 16, - 14, 19.

### IRISH CORNER

## Galway success for Sean, 15

IRELAND'S No 1 Junior, 15 year old Sean Spelman from Galway's St. Dominic's T.T.C. made the headlines at the Connacht Open (Senior & Junior Ranking tournament) in Galway.

In the third round of the Mens singles, Spelman had an exciting win over No 3 seed and former Irish Senior No 1 Kevin Keane. (13-21, 21-14, 21-17). In the quarter final he defeated stylish left-hander and No 7 seed, Dave Pemberton (22-20, 14-21, 21-16). There was to be no fairytale ending however, as Spelman was defeated in the semi-final by eventual winner Hilton Meneally from Belfast (17-21, 18-21).

At the same tournament Spelman had a relatively easy win in the Junior Boys Singles, defeating Leonard Pearse in the final, 21-10, 21-11.

A point worth noting was that of the four semi-finalists, three were last seasons Irish Junior team which took part in the European Youth Championships. (Andrew Den-

nison, Anthony Redmond and Spelman). Final proof, if it were needed, that it is very worthwhile sending teams to European Youth Championships. The experience gained is invaluable.

#### Connacht Open Results:

**Mens singles:** H Meneally b A Denison 11, - 15, 9.

**Ladies singles:** A Leonard b J Redi - 16, 13, 14.

**Boys singles:** S Spelman b L Pearse 10, 11.

**Girls singles:** K. Stafford b C McMillan 11, 10.

**Veteran singles:** T Mahaffy b L Hunt 9, - 19, 19.

**Mens doubles:** H Meneally/J Dill b T. Dolan/A Marshall 14, 18.

**Ladies doubles:** A & G Leonard b J Reid/N McEvoy 14, 23.

**Mixed doubles:** T Dolan/J Reid b A Walsh/A Leonard 17, - 17, 22.

At the Irish Junior Ranking Tournament which took place at the I.W.A. Hall, Clontarf, Dublins, Sean Spelman again took the honours, finishing the day as Irish No 1 Junior (U-17) and also Irish No 1 Under-19.

In the Junior Boys final, Sean defeated Gary Nielson (Dublin) 18, 17 and in the Under-19 final he defeated Michael Cormican (Dublin) 15, 14.

## A bouquet for Caroline ....

### From our rival badminton

CAROLINE Searle, wife of Rob Oldfield the former vice-chairman ETTA public relations has received a written bouquet from a Danish journalist.

Miss Searle who graduated from table tennis involvement to Development Officer of the Badminton Association some two years ago or more was the Press Officer last March at the Yonex All England Badminton Association at the Empire Pool at Wembley.

An extract from a letter appearing in the current edition of International Sport, the official magazine of the A.I.P.S. (Association Internationale de le Presse Sportive) Hans Moller wrote "Within the limits of the 40-year-old arena, the

Press Officer Caroline Searle and her staff did a great job to support the media people. The minor thing I criticised was corrected within ten minutes" wrote the journalist.

Those who have experience as Press Officers at major racquet sports events and that includes the Editor and the Associate Editor of this magazine know how difficult and usually thankless the task can be.

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

### JUNIOR EVENT CANCELLED

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



Sean Spelman

..... that's good!!

**Jaques**



## Northumberland victory over Gloucestershire

by Doug Moss

**Senior 2A:** Cheshire 7 Warwicks 3; Worcs. 5 Yorks. 2. 5; N'berland 9 Glos. 1; Leics. 8 Cambs. 1.

The two promoted teams met with Northumberland having a resounding 9-1 win over Glos. Darren Griffin got the first event for Glos. with a win over Neil McMaster. Worcs. improved on last season with a draw against Yorks. 2. Murray Jukes won 2 singles for Worcs. and Mick Stead did the same for Yorks. A vital event at 4-4 was the win by Sandra Roden (W) over Cathryn Johnson (Y) 22, -19, 19. Leics., as predicted, got off to a fine start beating Cambs. 8-2. Andy Withers (Ca) did well to beat Phil Smith at deuce in 3rd and narrowly lost to Chris Rogers 18, -10, -19.

**Senior 3B:** Devon 9 Surrey 2. 1; Kent 4 Essex 6; Avon 6 Dorset 4; Wilts. 3 Middx. 2. 7.

Avon, on promotion, did well to beat Dorset with Andy Creed (A) continuing his unbeaten run of last season. Surrey 2, the other promotees, did not fare so well losing 1-9 to the strong Devon team. Kent, down from Premier Division, had a disappointing start losing to Essex 4-6. At 5-4 Steve Dorking (E) won the final match against John Burleton (K) 14, -19, 19 to secure the win.

**Senior 3A:** Warwicks 2. 6 Lincs. 4; Notts. 7 Clwyd 3.

Warwicks 2 enhanced their prospects with a 6-4 win over Lincs. It was a closely fought match with 7 events going to a decider. Mark Randle and Ian Gunn (Wa) each won their singles events. Notts. man - Trevor Kerry, John Holland and Tim Sheppard - won all their singles matches against Clwyd.

**Senior 3B:** Somerset 7 Devon 2. 3; Cornwall 8 Worcs. 2. 2.

Devon 2, the unbeaten champions of this section last season, met Somerset 1, on demotion, and suffered a 3-7 defeat. Somerset stalwart Brian Reeves won both his singles events and combined with Lee Sadler to take the mens doubles. Melonie Carey and Rebecca Russe (So) won their singles matches easily but just as easily lost the doubles - 14, -11, to Theresa Butler and P. Perry! After the long journey to Launceston Worcs. 2 took the first event with Lewis Siket doing well to beat John Bassett (Co) at 25-23 in 3rd. But their only other win was Helen Pogmore's 6, 15 win over Rachel Plummer.

**Senior 3C:** Cambs. 2. 6 Beds. 4; Norfolk 6 Essex 2. 4.

I predicted even competition in this Section and the first 2 matches had 6-4 results. The Cambs.2/Beds. match was a real thriller with Cambs. losing an early advantage by losing both doubles. With the score at 4-4 Yvette Hooks (Ca) played well to beat Julie Dimmock 19, 19, and then in final set Trevor Smith (Ca) pulled back from 10-15 in third to beat Peter Edwards 23-21! Steven Howlett (Nk), unbeaten last season, lost his first event to Stuart Gibbs (E), who also went on to beat Richard Stevenson. However Norfolk went on to win 6-4 with Wendy Durrant (Nk) winning her singles and combining with Maureen Wilson to win the ladies doubles.

**Senior 3D:** Herts. 2 Sussex 2. 8; Berks. 2. 6 Hants. 4; Bucks. 7 Oxon. 3.

I predicted Herts. as strong contenders in this section but Sussex 2 obviously have other ideas, weighing in with an 8-2 defeat of Herts. in their first match. Andy Walker (Sx) won both his singles events and partnered Richie Venner to take the mens doubles. Sally Weston and Sheila King (Sx) won all their matches. Sue Collier (Bk) is obviously a very strong player in this Division. She continued her unbeaten run from last season winning her singles and the doubles with Jane Cohen, against Hants. The young Bucks. team made a good start with a 7-3 win over Oxon. Philip Aspinall and Colin Luscombe won their 4 singles events and Julie Richards and Dawn Robbins were unbeaten.

**Senior 4A:** Beds. 2. 2 Leics. 2. 8; Essex 3. 4 Kent 2. 6; Suffolk 2. 7 Northants 2. 3.

Leics. 2 and Suffolk 2, the new teams to the Championships, both started with wins. Charles Fulcher, Karen Perkins and Rosemary Bullock won their singles events for Suffolk. Leics. men - M Pickles, K Fellows and M Newman won 7 events against Beds.

**Senior 4B:** IOW 5 Cornwall 2. 5; Hants. 2. 5 Somerset 2. 5; Hants. 2. 9 Cornwall 2. 1; IOW. 2 Hants 2. 8.

A busy weekend in this Section with Hants. 2 playing 3 matches and IOW and Cornwall 2 playing 2 each. Cornwall 2 made a weekend trip to IOW and Hants. They gained a point against IOW but the new Hants. 2 team won 9-1. Hants. had 2 matches on the Saturday, fielding 2 teams. Only A Ely played in both matches and although he won 2

singles against Somerset 2 the team made a draw.

**Junior 2A:** Derby 2. 5 Warwicks 5; Yorks. 2. 8 Gwent 2; Suffolk 6 Cheshire 4; Beds. 7 Staffs. 2. 3.

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

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

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

**Junior 3A:** Cheshire 2. 4 N'berland 6; Clwyd 3 Durham 7; Cumbria 4 Lincs. 6.

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

**Junior 3B:** The new Hants. 2 team forfeited 2 events for an absent player but still got a win with C Hawkins and J Wilsher winning all their matches. The Cambs. 1 team, which so narrowly failed to win the championship last season, had a good 7-3 win over Norfolk 2. Ruth Hutchinson and Louise Ward had some comfortable wins.

**Junior 3C:** Hants. 4 Glos. 6; Cornwall 2. 4 Worcs. 6; Avon 8 Dorset 2; Warwicks. 2. 2 Somerset 8.

Dale Saunders and Howard Williams won the 4 singles events for Glos., and narrowly took the doubles against Gregory Moore and Jason Hicke (Ha) at deuce in the third game.

**Junior 3D:** Berks. 2. 5 Herts. 2. 5; Kent 2. 10 Bucks. 0; Middx. 2. 3 Essex 3. 7; Surrey 2. 7 Sussex 2. 3.

Middlesex 2, on relegation found it tough against Essex 3, who got a good win. Grant Solder (E) won his 2 singles and partnered his brother to take the doubles. There was one exceptionally long game with Rachel Fisher (Mx) beating Lesley Radford at 34-32 in the first game. Will there be a longer game in the Championships this season?

**Vets. Premier:** Essex 9 Hants. 0; Middx. 8 Worcs. 1.

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

**Vets. 2A:** Northants 1 Yorks 8; Essex 2. 8 Leics. 1; Herts. 7 Notts. 2; Cheshire 2. 8 N'berland 1.

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

**Vets. 2B:** Berks. 5 Wilts. 4; Dorset 5 Surrey 4; Hants. 2. 0 Kent 2. 9; Bucks. 6 Middx. 2. 3.

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

**Vets. 3A:** Lincs. 2. 4 Cheshire 3. 5; Hunts. 6 Lancs. 3.

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

**Vets. 3B:** Beds. 2 Bucks. 2. 7; Herts. 3. 4 Berks. 4. 5; Warwicks 9 Hereford 0.

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

**Vets. 3C:** Oxon. 4 Essex 3. 5; Wilts. 2. 3 Herts. 2. 6.

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

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

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



## An appeal to county contributors ★

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

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

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

The guidance on the amount of words is always approximate. The present limits - in the region of 350 to 400 is making life a little easier for the editors, so please do not send in 600 plus!

J. W.

## BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

BERKSHIRE players achieved notable successes at the junior regional trials held at Southampton, not only qualifying for the national trials but coming away winners in three out of the four sections. Keith Hodder and Robert Etridge took first and second places in the junior boys, with Julie Norman and Mary Allan performing similarly in the junior girls. Martin Adams won the cadet boys without conceding a game, whilst Lisa Crick and Nicola Cracknell were second and third in the cadet girls thereby qualifying for the national trial. Most unfortunate were Nicky Bradfield and Mark Priddle both of whom fell victims to the dreaded count-back.

Leading club Woodley, of Reading, Bracknell and Maidenhead Leagues had an eventful and successful month. As Bracknell League champions they travelled to Bournemouth to play Broadstone in the first round of the national club championships and came home 5-2 victors after Keith Hodder had won all three of his matches, ably supported by Graham Kemp and Paul Savins who each won one of their two matches played. The club then

followed this by a convincing win over Cobra of Braine L'Aleud, Belgium - a twice annual event designed to promote both table tennis and entente cordiale. Captain Shane Kirton in leading his team of 10 players to success in table tennis obtained just revenge for the somewhat humiliating defeat of the previous night in the ancient British pub game of skittles - still, they won in the sport that matters!

In the first round of the Carter Cup, Bracknell juniors Andrew Horth, Andrew Macdonald and Stuart Cockerill played well to pull off a victory over Watford, and now face local rivals Maidenhead in the second round.

## DEVON

Dot White

IT'S all happening down in Devon. Devon players through to the last 16 in an international team competition. Express Sports One heading the British League division one and fighting for promotion, not to mention Carol Butler and Paul Whiting at number nine and 17 respectively on the new Lentec ranking list.

### Elaine's ladies bring the trophy home

It was success at their first attempt for the Devon team competing in the Kingswood Ladies Tournament at Bristol. Captained by Elaine Short the other team members were, Sue and Teresa Butler and Dana Kratochvila. At the end of the day the Devon team had collected 36 points to claim victory over their rivals Sussex by four points. In the individual event Elaine and Teresa found themselves in the same half of the draw and met in the semi-finals, Elaine won but met Helen Perett in the final, who made sure that all the honours didn't go Devon's way.

### The Grove Junior Tournament

Devon were well represented at The Grove, but star of the tournament had to be young Alex Perry from Exeter, who, playing in only his second major tournament, won the under twelves boys event. The new doubles partnership of Helen Wright and Sarah Pengelly proved very successful and they were losing finalists in the cadet girls doubles.

### The Kent Junior Two Star

It's always fun to be gunning at the giants, but when eleven-year-old Clare Pengelly paired up with sister Sarah to get in an extra game in the cadet doubles, little did anyone imagine that they'd walk away with the trophy. Sarah and Clare played Goodall and Joanne Roberts in the semi-finals and when they won 26, 24 in the third on a volleyed ball, they knew that anything was possi-

ble. After a result like that they were walking on air in the finals and the trophy was theirs. Joanne Roberts wrought revenge on Sarah in the finals of the cadet singles and didn't let Sarah settle down at all, but it was a great day for the Pengelly sisters.

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

### Pilgrims progress in the Nancy Evans Cup

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

Pilgrims were thrilled to have won through the first round of this cup, but when they heard they were drawn against a team comprising of Austria's No 2, 6 and 25 they knew they were in for a very tough battle. Paul Whiting opened for the Pilgrims taking on Gunter Strauss, and he never looked troubled winning 21-15, 21-17. Paul Giles then played Roland Burn and gave Pilgrims another win and the room was buzzing. Gary Lambert went on to test the strength of Peter Cogner, Austria's No 2. When Gary took the first set 21-18 anything seemed possible but Peter soon put the record straight and dominated the rest of the game with his high toss serves, winning 21-15, 21-16. Cogner showed his class and beat both Whiting and Giles two straight. With the scoreline at 4-3 to Pilgrims Gary Lambert took on Gunter Strauss. Gary looked very nervous and couldn't settle down, but he assures us that his loss, to bring the score to four games all, was done in the interest of making an exciting finish. No one could say it wasn't that, and when Paul Whiting beat Roland Burn on his third match point the standing ovation his team received was well earned. Let's hope that international table tennis is here to stay at the Plymouth Headquarters.

### Safety

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

## DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

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

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

Derbyshire opened their county table tennis championship fixtures on Saturday at Hill Street, Burton. The county junior 2nd team fought hard for a well-deserved 5-5 draw against a strong Warwickshire 1st team led by Leigh Jeffries.

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

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

Scores (Derbyshire names first): William Hollingworth lt Leigh Jeffries - 9, -14; lt Rajinder Singh - 16, -19. Paul Knowles lt Singh - 11, -16; lt Darren Smith - 13, -13. Stephen Hanks b Smith - 19, 17; lt Jeffries - 15, -13. Penny Corden b Lisa Spilbury 16, 13. Julie Forster b Alison Ledwitch 12, 17. Hanks/Hollingworth b Jeffries/Smith 21, -13, 9. Forster/Corden b Ledwitch/Spilbury - 18, 19, 17.

The Derby League has set up a membership committee with a view to promoting the sport in Derby and district, with a target of 50 extra teams by the start of 1988/89 season.

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

### The Start

November sees the start of a series of sessions at various schools when teachers, youngsters, parents and friends are being invited to come along and see an exhibition by the league's leading players; a coaching display; and discuss table tennis with officials from the league.

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



## DORSET

Martin Hughes

### Dorset closed — a new approach

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

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

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

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

### Junior rankings

#### Boys

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

#### Girls

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

### Dorset Super League

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

### Leading positions

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hakan Sigrell	9	9	0	18	1	9
John Robinson	10	7	3	15	9	7
Tony Clayton	5	5	0	10	1	5
Mark Wilding	9	5	4	12	10	5
Jason Creasey	12	5	7	12	16	5

### Poole League

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

## DURHAM

Harry Black

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

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

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

**Senior division:** Darlington 4, Peterlee 6; Sunderland 9, Philadelphia B 1; Philadelphia A 7, Sunderland B 3. **Junior division:** Peterlee 0, Sunderland B 10; Sunderland A 8, Philadelphia 2. **Veterans division:** Darlington 4, Sunderland 6; Peterlee 1, Philadelphia 9.

The Durham County Closed will be held this season on Sunday 22nd February 1987 at Lowhills Road Sports Centre, Peterlee. Durham Juniors opened their county championship season with a 7-3 victory away to Clwyd.

At the regional junior ranking trials, Paul Swift qualified in third place in the junior event for the national junior ranking trials.

## ESSEX

Laurie Darnell

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

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

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

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

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

Barry Granger was much encouraged when he saw Essex I beat Kent I away in a Senior 2B encounter. "The best County match I have ever seen" he remarked after seeing Steve Dorking winning the sixth point after being 9-15 down in the third!

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

### 1986-87 Essex champions and runners-up

**U12 girls:** Linda Radford (Romford) b Julie Rand (Romford).

**U12 boys:** Paul Taylor (Colchester) b Trevor Blackhall (Dagenham) 6, 14.

**U14 girls doubles:** Alison Gower/Tracey French (Chelmsford) b Linda Radford/Delia Holland (Romford/Brentwood) 18, 17.

**U14 boys doubles:** Grant Solder/Gary Tendler (Dagenham/Waltham Forest) b Neil Butcher/Paul Clark (Chelmsford) 10, 12.

**U14 girls:** Alison Gower b Delia Holland 15, 13.

**U14 boys:** Grant Solder b Tao Fasanya (Dagenham) 10, 8.

**U17 girls restricted:** Linda Radford b Delia Holland 19, 17.

**U17 boys restricted:** Neil Butcher (Chelmsford) b Tao Fasanya 19, 12.

**U17 girls doubles:** Kate Gower/Joanne Cook (Chelmsford/Brentwood) b Alison Gower/Tracey French 11, - 18, 16.

**U17 boys doubles:** Jason Tendler/Ian Harris (Waltham Forest/West Essex) b Damian Holland/Grant Solder (Dagenham) 17, - 18, 23.

**Mixed doubles:** Jason Tendler/Kate Gower b Martin Cole/Joanne Cook (Brentwood) 12, 17.

**U17 girls:** Kate Gower b Alison Gower - 14, 19, 16.

**U17 boys:** Damian Holland b Jason Tendler 14, 18.

## CUMBRIA

Colin Taylor

THE Cumbria Junior side have started the season with a narrow 4-6 defeat by Lincolnshire. The team did very well however considering the top ranked boy and the top two girls were unavailable. Gordan Dwane (W) was best, winning both his singles and Stephen Temple (C) and Stephen Watt (B) both impressed on their debuts and won a single each. The eleven year old girls Caroline Watt (B) and Carrie Lowes (B) performed admirably against more experienced opposition and despite losing in straight games, both look to have a good future ahead of them.

News from the Carlisle and District Association is that newcomer Julie McLean, a former Yorkshire County player, has been creating a great deal of interest in the League and has beaten everyone before her with the exception of Roger Stewart, who is playing tremendously at the moment, and Bill Henderson, a hard batter. Other players to catch the eye in the first division reports are Stewart O'Neil, whose news team are leading the division ahead of Royal Oak, Geoff Birch and Matthew Wallace. In division two the two young Sports Centre teams have surprised everybody by jumping straight to the top of the division. Stephen Temple is leading by example and is unbeaten so far. In division three Infirmary B lead the way in what could be a very close affair at the end of the season.

In the Wilmott Cup Carlisle narrowly lost 3-5 to Blackpool. Roger Stewart was best for Carlisle beating the oppositions 1 and 2. Colin Powell won the other set. Geoff Birch unluckily failed to add to the score.

Key: B - Barrow  
C - Carlisle  
W - Westmorland



## CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

THE great depression that has brought much of Cornwall's economy to a standstill in recent years has had no effect on the county's table tennis activity. In actual fact, as season 1986/87 gets under way, Cornish table tennis can claim to be enjoying a mini boom at present.

Cornish table tennis has come a long way in the last decade both administratively and on the playing front. Only three men have really survived that revolution around ten years ago — John Bassett, Roger Jacobs and Ian James are still among the best players in Cornwall but the rest have sadly fallen by the wayside. On October 18th, Bassett played his 96th league game for Cornwall and all being well by the end of the season, he will have made his 100th appearance. Fittingly, Bassett's century should come against old rivals Devon II 20 years after his first appearance against Worcestershire in 1959.

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

There is no doubt about the biggest talking point in Cornwall this season and that is the Lentec Cornish computer rankings which has already created a great amount of interest and is certainly 'spurring on' loads of players. Results from all of Cornwall's principal competitions will be fed into the national computer and the first list is due out around the end of November.

On the playing side Cornwall can again look forward to the coming season with a great degree of optimism particularly at junior level. Most of our leading juniors are still cadets and with a quick glance at the England rankings four lads feature in the top 25 cadets. Neil Bevan (Bude) is at 2, Mark Bawden (Launceston) at 6, Johnny Menzel (Camborne) at 18 and Neil Martin flying the flag for St. Austell at 21.

### Cornish Inter-Town League

One of the more encouraging aspects of Cornish table tennis this season has been the resurrection of the Inter-Town League which has at last got back to eight teams. Almost all of Cornwall's top players will be in action with the notable exception of the St. Austell team who have still not managed to raise a squad of players.

Nearly 100 players have now been registered which is very encouraging.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

GETTING my teeth well into a very sticky jam doughnut in a very fashionable Gloucester eating place recently I was a little surprised but nevertheless delighted when an old T.T. former colleague planted himself down in front of me.

The old Timer (who gave up active play some 20 years ago) was seemingly full of praise, I ears you on the local Radio most weeks he mused, and now yum the County team Secretary he added, I nodded my head in agreement, truthfully I was more interested by now in the end remnants of my sticky doughnut, the old chap meanwhile was getting ready to depart, his parting words were, "Nice to see yur", and tell me do you get much stick from the players of today, cos in my day criticism came a lot on chaps like you dabbling in publicity and team selection, momentarily I was lost for words. Have any other Press Officers or Team Secretaries ever encountered this kind of conversation over a cup of coffee and a sticky jam doughnut?

Two County matches have passed, The Seniors travelled up to Newcastle Upon Tyne to play Northumberland in Division 2A and were beaten by the home side 9-1, Darren Griffin being the sole singles winner, he beat Neil McMaster - 16, 12, 13.

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

### The Providence Capitol County Premier League

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

This League's first round of matches will take place at Chosen Hill School at Churchdown on November 14th, the final round of play should be played on March 27th next year.

Newent are entering a team for the first time and I understand included in that team will be Miss Heather Colwill the current County Lady No 1. Heather makes local T.T. history, we've never had a Lady Player in the C.P.L. before.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD have jumped on top of Division 1 of the Hertfordshire Inter-League table tennis tournament table, following their two 6-1 victories over Watford II and Barnets, held on 19th October at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre. Flying the flag for Hemel Hempstead were Rob Liqueorish, Glen Wilkes and Emma Hurling.

Watford's and Watford II's opponents North Herts, the favourites for the competition, unfortunately did not turn up for their matches, due to the fact that they didn't receive their letter of match confirmation.

Both Watford teams have, however, sportingly agreed to rearrange their games with North Herts.

The Division 2 title looks like being a two horse race between Cheshunt and Welwyn and Hatfield, who both won their matches at Barnet.

Cheshunt won in cavalier style, beating Hertford 7-0 and Hemel Hempstead II 5-2.

Whilst Welwyn and Hatfield had a fine 7-0 win over Hertford, but they came up against tougher opposition when they met Hemel Hempstead II, winning 4-3 due to their greater mixed doubles strength.

The first week in November saw the Alpha sponsored Herts and Beds League Cup get underway with a big win for last year's consolation plate winners Leggarts, from Watford.

Leggarts' impressive 6-1 victory was due to the combined talents of Paul Bishop and Chris Ogle, who on the night were too strong for Le Roi of Stevenage.

Last year's winners Motorola from St. Neots are once again favourites to win, with their usual strong line-up of captain Mick Harper, Keith Samuels the Hertfordshire No 1, Peter Taylor and Keith Willett.

Pheonix of Barnet, last year's losing finalists, are this year's No 2 seeds, fielding once again the combined talents of Nigel and Leslie Tyler, John Lennon and Tony Stark.



Rob Liqueorish

## HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

THE county teams started their season with mixed fortunes. The first team anxious to regain their lost division two status commenced with the worst possible result, a 4-6 reversal against the Berkshire second team. The evergreen Rhamish Bhalla, only in the team because of the one man strike by former number one Graham Toole, won both his singles while Tony Duffield won a singles and combined with Micki Sinanan to win the mens doubles. The women, Sarah Hammond and Cheryl Buttery disappointingly lost their three sets.

The second team with three matches over two days came out of the weekend unbeaten. They started with a draw against Somerset II with Andy Ely winning two singles, Mark Wilding and Mark Warmesley and Kathy Ridgard all chipping in with a singles win each. On the Sunday there were wins by 9-1 against Cornwall II and by 8-2 against the old enemy the Isle Of Wight — supported by a certain Mr Preat. In the Cornwall match Micki Sinanan, Andy Exly, Cheryl Buttery and Kathy Ridgard were all unbeaten with captain, Tony Catt, losing the only set. Against the Isle Of Wight, Micki Sinanan, Cheryl Buttery and Barbara Clark were unbeaten, Mark Warmesley and Dave Burnham each won one of their two singles.

The County Juniors opened their season with a 4-6 defeat to Gloucester. Greg Moore the new county number one lost both his sets but Jason Hicks and Bryant Gonsalves won a singles apiece. Rachel Cheffey also won a singles and combined with Elizabeth Shobbrook to win the girls doubles.

The veteran team were introduced to the premier division realities with a white wash defeat to Essex. The only item of note was the veteran county debut of Christine Davies. The only person I can recall who has played for the county at junior, senior and veteran levels. Is her next target the veteran county closed to add to her junior and womens singles titles in the past?

Shock news this month was the sudden death of Reg Glover while playing for his club, Wyeth in the Portsmouth League. Reg, who was 58, also played in the South East Hants League who he represented both as a player and official. Perhaps best known as an international umpire, Reg was a past Hampshire umpires secretary. His umpiring highlights included the English Open mens singles final at the Brighton Dome and the European championships earlier this year in Prague. Reg and his wife Janet, celebrated their silver wedding last year and to both Janet and daughter Angela, the County offer their most sincere condolences. One of the gentlemen of table tennis, Reg will be sadly missed by his many friends in the game.



## LEICESTER

Terry Bown

AT the meeting of the Management Committee of the Leicestershire Table Tennis Association held on Thursday 30th October last, we were privileged by a visit of the genial Terry Gadsby of Burton on Trent. Terry has been appointed Chairman of the East Midlands Regional co-ordinating committee concentrating on coaching and development. At the moment, as I understand it, it is a committee of one person - Terry - which is why he is currently on a pilgrimage to all County Associations in his area in an effort to build up his committee by securing willing volunteers from each Association. Terry deserves to succeed in his venture, if not only for his sterling work in Burton on Trent, but surely for his enthusiasm alone which has not diminished even after 40 years involved in table tennis. Good luck Sir.

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

### Leicestershire County Rankings

#### Mens:

1. Chris Rogers; 2. Dave Gannon; 3. Mark Illingworth. 4. Phil Smith; 5. Graham Hall; 6. Martin Pickles; 7. Keith Fellows; 8. Tony Kinsey; 9. Maurice Newman; 10. Simon Griew; 11. Steve Day; 12. Graham Hibberd; 13. Alan Philpott; 14. Mike James; 15. Paul Bumpus; 16. Ian Brown; 17. Nicky Rayner.

#### Womens:

1. Mrs Karen Smith; 2. Miss Julie Revill; 3. Miss Yvonne Hall; 4. Miss Jane Hath; 5. Mrs Joanne Pickles; 6. Mrs Eileen Shaler; 7. Mrs Janet Panter; 8. Miss Tracey Clark; 9. Miss Joanne Murray; 10. Miss Liz Bryant; 11. Miss Jane Freer; 12. Mrs Chris Dawson; 13. Miss Barbara Holt.

#### Veteran Mens:

1. Graham Hughes; 2. Steve White; 3. John Iliffe; 4. Geoff Aldwinckle; 5. Bob Craven-Griffiths; 6. Brian Kimble; 7. John Davies; 8. Terry Yeomanson; 9. John Ball.

## MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

I'M sorry that I did not have a report in the November issue, but family troubles intervened and table tennis had to take a back seat. Entries for the STIGA Middlesex 3-Star Open are coming in very well and by the time this report appears the championships will be imminent. As the only Stiga Grand Prix event which runs groups of 4 and no Class 2 event, we would be interested to know players' reactions. When we asked players a few years ago, the general consensus was that they preferred our format, but the Class 2 events were very new then and we would be interested to know current opinion. So come on, players, give us your views!

We think we have finalised our arrangements for our Closed Championships. We have decided to hold both the senior and junior events at Aylestone School (by courtesy of Brent Table Tennis Club and the London Borough of Brent). The senior event will take place on Sunday 1st February and will spread to Saturday 31st January if we have an enormous entry; the junior event will be on 21st and 22nd March with cadets on the Saturday and juniors on the Sunday. So please Middlesex players pass the word around and let us have a decent entry for a change. With the number of players we have in Middlesex we should be able to run Closed Championships that are worthwhile and which really show the strength and breadth of our County.

As you will know from the ETTA calendar, we were hoping to run a Middlesex Junior Open. We had an offer of a very reasonably priced venue from the London Borough of Haringey (with Malcolm Springthorpe influencing them in our favour) but the maximum number of tables we could get in was 8 and our sub-committee did not feel that this was sufficient for a Junior Open. We have always prided ourselves on the quality of any Open tournament we run and rather than run a second class event, we have decided to opt out until we find a more suitable venue. A further problem is that we have been asked to organise the Greater London Closed Championships which are being sponsored by Westminster City Council who have taken over this particular event from the now defunct Greater London Council. The only venue which showed any interest was Picketts Lock and the only dates they could offer were 23rd and 24th May 1987 - the weekend we had earmarked for the Junior Open. Even with our band of willing and over-worked organisers, there was no way we could run two events in the same weekend and it was decided that we would concentrate on the Greater

London event this year and think again about a Junior Open when we found another venue. The Greater London event would appear to be a continuing one - the Westminster Council seem anxious to make it so anyway. Finally I would like to send congratulations to Colin Naylor for his receipt of the ETTA Merit Award. Colin, who was connected with the London Civil Service League and the Civil Service Table Tennis Association for many years, is an old friend of mine (for more years than I like to remember!) so I know how well deserved the award is. The last time I heard of him, he was still playing a little table tennis but had also taken to snooker as a more sedentary sport! Well done, Colin.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

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

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

The newly-promoted veterans team expected to find life hard in the higher division, but could have done without some of the difficulties under which they were labouring. Maurice Cheek and Pauline Long both had heavy colds, while Fred Short had only recently recovered from an injured shoulder sustained while playing rugby - leaving Larry Cartmell as the only fully fit member of the team. Nevertheless, that Cheshire were well worth their 9-1 win - Short beating Alan Timewell on expedite to take the only set at 19 in the third - and from all accounts it appears that the veterans will have a long hard road to travel during the season.

The latest county rankings show very little change, the only newcomers being in the men's list. Jeremy Musselwhite, the former Avon county player now studying in Newcastle, and Mark Christie have entered the list at Nos 7 and 8 respectively. Regrettably, Darren Shaw has decided that he no longer wishes to be ranked in the junior boys' list, thereby moving everyone below him up one place.

County No 4 Ian Robertson is to be congratulated on his tremendous victory at the Yorkshire and Humber 3-Star open when he captured the Class 2 singles title by beating John Burleton (Kent) in the final.

The Byker Newcastle first team won their latest British Schildkrot League match 6-2 at home to Larkhall, but this was much closer than the score would suggest. McQueen and Robertson were undefeated, but had to fight back from losing positions, while Smith and Thomas Blackman each won one set. Byker Newcastle II were well beaten by Leeds, with only Bob Dodds managing to win a set in a 1-7 defeat.

## NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

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

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

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



## OXFORDSHIRE

Matthew O'Flynn

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

The BHP League looks as though it will present a very competitive season. After five weeks no division one team has won all its matches and neither are there any teams who have lost all their matches. Bodicote A have the lead in division one, although Astrals A, reigning champions, and Brackley A are close behind and are both unbeaten. Bloxham B head division two; Bodicote C have the advantage in division three; Bloxham F are the leaders in division four and Banbury School are the division five pace setters.

Banbury have three teams in the Midland League. The men's A team have started strongly in division four with 9-1 wins against both Coventry B and Stroud. Colin Lynes and Joy Allen have both won 5 from 6. Rafe Miller and Steve Joyner have won 3 from 3. The men's B team in the same section have drawn away against Leamington C. The new junior team had a disappointing start when they journeyed to Birmingham to play the city's C team. The Banbury team lost 4-6 with all three players, Richard Giblin, David Rose and Jason Tustain, losing to Amanda Ledwith; her performance making the difference.

Junior boys ranking trial: The junior ranking trial was held at Kidlington Forum and produced a morning of exciting and competitive table tennis. Unfortunately, due to holidays and illness some players who were expected to challenge the favourites were missing. The only player with previous county experience, Paul Poulter, finished the strenuous three group system unbeaten. Two Banbury players also finished in the top group, Richard Giblin finishing second and David Rose third. Didcot's top junior was fourth. The other places were: 1. Packford 5, J. Smith 6, M. Goodall 7, A. Hunter 8, P. Haycock 9, C. Perry 10, S. Burns 11, A. Baverstock 12. The girls ranking list was compiled as follows: 1 Sally Hughes, 2 Dawn Barnett, 3 Emma Smith, 4 Maruxa Rutherford, 5 Laura Rutherford.

## NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

IN these days of gamesmanship, and of winning at all costs, it is pleasing to note that the age of chivalry is not quite dead. In a recent Kettering League match I was the eventual beneficiary, when Thrapston's Gerald Finney, suitably embarrassed by a succession of nets and edges, declined to return service at match point in the second game, and ultimately paid the penalty for his sportsmanship as the game slipped away from his grasp.

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

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

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

### Grapevine

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

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

## SHROPSHIRE

John Morris

WITH the current season now well underway, a run round the winter leagues sees quite a tussle for the premier division titles, at both Shrewsbury and Telford. Shrewsbury, who have probably their most competitive line-up for some years, see Shrewsbury Cricket Club B unbeaten to date at the top. Their team of wily combination bat players Bob Wilson, Barry Taylor and Roger Morris are proving quite a handful, but whether they can withstand the challenge of their A team of Mike Beamen, Dean Pountney and the newly married Rod France, remains to be seen.

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

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

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

Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, and Grove School, Market Drayton, begin their defences of their national schools crowns this month, with the staging of the county schools team event on November 22nd. The teachers' industrial action has I am afraid not helped in the entries in other schools around the county.

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

## SUSSEX

Paul Elphick

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

Spearheading the attack for TCB Dolphins is Phil Smith, who last season reached as high as 24 on the England list last season.

Crawley's Ritchie Venner is probably the most improved player in Sussex and he reached number 32 in England last term before slipping down to 50.

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

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

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

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



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

Crawley schoolteacher Andy Meads is the latest veteran to challenge for honours. After beating Stace at the Sussex Open, Meads announced he was well overweight but keen to get a high England ranking. It seems he is doing very well the way he is.

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



## SURREY

Frank Hams

TWO awards for outstanding service in the table tennis administration field have recently been given to John Somerville, former secretary of the Croydon table tennis league.

At the league's annual general meeting last week John stepped down as general secretary after nine years in the post and was presented with the Charles A. Bourne memorial award. This followed receipt of a similarly named award at the Surrey TTA AGM. The awards are in memory of a former president of both Croydon and Surrey Associations.

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

In the county championship matches held in October we had mixed fortunes. The senior II team in the first match since promotion lost to Devon 9-1. Dave Harding (1), Mike Hammond, Rue Bole, Linda Clement and Deborah Simmonds were the players who travelled to Plymouth. The vets I played at Bournemouth and were beaten by Dorset 5-4. Frank Hams (1), Brian Simmonds (1), Ron Wilde and Jenny Vass were the late travellers after an evening match. The vets II — Mike Pearson, Ron Langheim (1), Dave Crowley (2) and Doris Penny (1) — all except Mike making their debuts, beat Dorset II 6-3.

The junior II team, Jeremy Krzysztyniac (2), Peter Burgess-Allen (2), David Carter (1), Hannah Webster and Elizabeth Cocks (1) beat Sussex II 7-3.

## WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

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

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

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

## Coaching Rallies

The success of the rallies held last season has led to another two being staged, the first at North Solihull Sports Centre on October 5th and the second on November 23rd in Nuneaton.

## Regional ranking trials

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

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

Unfortunately Darren Smith, Warwicks No 2 had a disappointing trial and surprisingly failed to qualify.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug Moss

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

The county had nine players taking part in the regional trials at Market Drayton. The best performances came from Lee Horton and Nicola Jones. Lee showed real talent in taking the cadet boys No 1 spot — and he has another two seasons at this level! Nicola was ranked No 4 junior girl in her first year in this class. Amongst her matches was a two straight win over Alison Ledwith (Warwicks), who finished as No 1.

The Association has been negotiating sponsorship and has benefitted this season from Portman Building Society supplying track suits for the junior team. Worcester Engineering Co has also provided £100 towards the expenses of the junior team in the county championships.

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

## STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

WITH both our top senior and junior teams involved in premier division weekends later in the season, only the junior B side has started its programme so far — with an away defeat by Bedfordshire 3-7. Robert Till, playing No 2, did well to win both his singles, particularly that against Gavin Black, ranked No 44 on the national computer rankings. His good performances currently have earned him a place alongside Adrian Thorp and Gary Knights in our team for the first premier weekend. Mark Stretton also had a good win against Black, but against a strong all-round Bedfordshire side, Ian Hodgetts, Jane Winter and Natalie Riley were unable to record a win.

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

November junior and cadet rankings are as follows:

Junior boys	Junior girls
1 A Thorp	H. Lowther
2 G. Knights	J. Winter
3 R. Till	L. Sherratt
4 M. Stretton	N. Riley
5 K. Roberts	T. Nigh
6 I. Hodgetts	C. Simms
7 M. Brissett	L. Rowley
8 D. Gamble	A. Flaherty
9 C. Wilson	K. Benton
10 D. Savage	J. Bickerton
11 I. Barsted	J. Foxall
12 A. Dilger	

Cadet boys	Cadet girls
1 G. Knights	J. Bickerton
2 A. Toft	J. Foxall
3 B. Chell	L. Flaherty
4 M. Parr	L. Stevenson
5 C. White	A. Taylor
6 R. Barnes	R. Jones
7 C. Pottle	T. Gay
8 R. Wilson	T. West
9 L. Moreton	C. Parker
10 R. Pottle	E. Shaplan
11 R. Evans	
12 D. Hassall	

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

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

John, who several weeks previously had held a meeting in Sheffield at which several members of the MC were present, willingly made the long journey from the south once again, while Aubrey, setting off from the North East after a working day, had a tiring problem with motorway closures and traffic jams.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Successful

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

Ideas have been crystallized and preparations are well in hand for a completely new format, based on a series of 'graded' events and aimed at the enthusiastic local league players.



## A TV play for parents of future stars?

by John Woodford

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

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

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

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

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

The play touched admirably in the relationship between the coach

and the mother and father. Dad was all in favour of dropping everything to get her into the England team whilst Mum was totally frightened by the whole thing and would not watch her daughter swimming and the emotion of events was such that the marriage itself was on the rocks. I wonder how many marriages of table tennis folk have been similarly affected!

### Under fire

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

## Midland League

from John Barber

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

### Men's section

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

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

Division 2 Nuneaton 8 Stafford 2, Notts B 8 Loughboro 2, Loughboro 4 Nuneaton 6. Fine starts for Nuneaton and Notts B, probably the strongest teams in this division.

Division 3 Glos. B 10 Cheltenham 0. Visitors well beaten on their debut.

Division 4 Leamington C 5 Banbury B 5, Pontesbury 9 Stroud 1, Banbury A 8 Coventry B 2.

Leamington C and Banbury B fought an honourable draw, neither having a lead of more than one during the match. Both were making their first appearance as was Pontesbury who surprised relegated Stroud.

## WURZBURG

here we come!

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

.... See the advertisement on page 24



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ALISON GORDON

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## PERFORMANCE - by Tony Russe

THE responsibilities open to a coach are manifold. They include instructor, trainer, mentor, administrator, chauffeur and many others. The coach himself or herself may for varying reasons limit personal horizons and keep to a limited path. That in no way diminishes the coach's value to the E.T.T.A. I have said often,

and repeat again, that the coach who week in and week out puts in his time to instruct players, young and not so young, is doing a great service not only to the ETTA but to the community at large.

Often such coaches feel left out when the praises are passed around. May I for one say "thank

you" for what you do and long may you continue doing it.

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

### Fitness?

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

Anyway as far as we knew my

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

### Magic

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

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

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



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## PERFORMANCE

(cont. from page 24)

Stellwag at the Welsh Open a few years ago. Jonyer won decisively in the third. There is no situation which cannot be redeemed.

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

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

## TREATMENT OF INJURIES

by Tony Russe

FROM time to time all coaches come up against the player who has suffered injury whether minor or more serious and it may help you to know a little more about the more aggravating and persistent injuries that can beset a player. I do not intend to deal with minor cuts and abrasions which beset most players, that is a matter of simple first aid and a 'carry on' attitude. Rather I feel that I should deal with the more serious injuries whether they be 'sudden' or, for want of a better word, 'creepers'. One thing is certain about an injured player and that is, whatever their standard, invariably he or she will want to be back in action again as soon as possible. In the search for success the player cannot be relied upon to listen to his body and will return to play too soon and possibly aggravate a partially mended injury with the danger of delayed recovery and worst of all long term effects. A coach should always be alert to possible injury situations and certainly monitor the recovery of any player in his charge who has sustained injury.

I would suggest for instance that the coach analyses carefully the production of the 'loop' stroke by any player. So many players striving for excessive spin put tremendous pressure on their back muscles unnecessarily. I know of one young player who, if he continues to play, will have serious back problems by the time he is 35-40. His arm action is wrong and he has adapted by using his back muscles in an incorrect manner. I have explained to him the flow deficiencies in his play and the dangers ahead. But who worries about 40 when you're only 17? Especially when your 'loop' spin is very heavy and effective. One can only point the way and hope that you are wrong, that this one may get away with it.

So I will deal with what I consider to be the more common injuries suffered by table tennis players and their treatment. The player must of necessity be responsible for much of the recovery process and it is essential that clear instruction be given to him on home treatment and the importance stressed of adhering to a given schedule.

**Blisters.** Every player suffers from this minor but aggravating injury. Prevention is the best course and the player should be advised on good clean socks and well fitting shoes. Where a small blister occurs simply treat with an antiseptic cream and an Elastoplast covering. After four or five days the blister should disappear and play may be maintained throughout the period. The skin of the blistered area can be later hardened with Friar's Balsam. Cricketers have used it for years on their spinning fingers.

Where a large, painful blister has developed it should be punctured with a sterilised needle and the fluid squeezed out. It can then be treated with antiseptic cream or methylated spirits or iodine and covered with a plaster. The player can usually carry on playing while nature takes its course. Should an infection occur the player should obviously consult a doctor.

**Bone bruises (Calcaneal Periostitis).** This is merely inflammation of the heel caused by repeated pounding during training and play. Simple heel pads can be purchased from the chemist and inserted into the shoes. They will alleviate the pain while the healing process continues. Continued play should be possible but if the pain is really acute a few days rest should be enough. The player must decide.

**Muscle Soreness.** Every player from time to time experiences this condition as increased training and play necessarily overworks the muscles. Simply, sore muscles are a result of metabolic waste that is cast off during exercise combined with infinitesimal tears and an increase in fluid that causes stiffness. After a training or playing session a 'warm down' of mild exercise for a few minutes will help to flush the waste products from the muscles and consequently lessen soreness. A gradual increase in intensity of training also helps. Once the muscles are sore there is little to be done except maybe a sauna, a warm salts bath or radiant heat and wait for the pain to go away.

**Calf muscle tears and strains.** These are usually caused by excessive stretching or twisting. The muscle may be only partially and mildly torn and strapping may allow the player to

continue. The first sign that a player feels is that he may believe he has received a sharp blow on the back of the upper calf muscles. Careful examination of the calf muscle with fingers will reveal the exact point of pain which in turn indicates which muscle is involved and the point of tear. If the pain is anything more than mild the player should stop playing to avoid further tears of even rupture. Ice packs will help to relieve pain and the leg should be bandaged and elevated. Rest is all important until the pain has receded. The amount of time this takes depends on the individual and how much rest he is prepared to take. The player is able to help himself at home by performing the following exercise - without shoes, heels flat, knees straight, stand about a foot or so from a wall, hands supporting the body at shoulder height. Lean forward, feeling the stretch of the muscles up the back of the calves and thighs. Hold briefly and push upright again. Repeat several times. Knees must be straight.

**Stress fractures.** These occur in the legs most often in the metatarsals (the longest foot bones) and the tibia and fibula (the two bones of the lower leg). The cause put simply is a minor change in a bone's structure caused by straining or jolting. Diagnosis is not easy and should be left to a doctor. His job is complicated by the fact that these fractures do not always show up on X-ray. Stress fractures do not normally require a cast or taping and rest is the usual cure. A doctor should advise on the recovery period and the amount of training to be done while full recovery is taking place.

**Runner's knee (Chondromalacia Patellae).** This injury, if acute, I have found from bitter experience is very painful and tends to make one believe that there is more wrong than is in fact the case. The main symptoms are that pain is felt after exercise or while sitting for a long time with the knee bent. Occasionally pain is also felt while going up or down stairs. The cause can be either by injury, twisting can do it, or by a mechanical fault such as knock-knee. Most doctors will prescribe rest which a player will find irksome. I would certainly suggest a few days rest and perhaps initially the application of ice to help reduce inflammation and elevation.

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## SCOTTISH NEWS

by Denis George

### THE TOURNAMENT SCENE

THE three open tournaments held to date have produced three different winners in the Mens Singles. Anwar Majid, now living back in Edinburgh, won the Meadowbank Open on 12 October from David McIlroy, but David reversed the final scoreline in the Midlands Open in Dundee on 26 October. However in the East of Scotland in Edinburgh on 2 November David beat Anwar again, in the semi-finals this time, but then lost to an inspired Ian Stokes (Glasgow) in the final.

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

Revelation of the season has been the form of Glasgow's Euan Walker, in his first season as a junior, who has won all four junior boys events this season, beating not only Martin Shields and Paul Clark, who represented Scotland at junior level in Louvain-la-Neuve, but also the English boys up from the North-East.

Sarah Hurry (Stirling) continues to reign supreme in the junior girls events - she is now out of the cadet category - and like Euan, she has repulsed the challenge from N.E. England. Additionally, Sarah also won the Midlands Open Womens Singles from L Davies (Kidderminster) when Carole Dalrymple was unable to get time off work.

Only in the Cadet events have the northern English achieved any success with I Collier (Tyne & Wear) winning the East of Scotland Cadet Boys from Andrew Bruce, and Cleveland's S Lawton the girls event in the same tournament. The other two Cadet Boys titles were shared by Andrew Bruce and Kevin McKellar who both come from one of our smaller leagues - West Dunbartonshire.

Anglo-Scots from Sunderland and Durham who have featured in Scottish tournaments this season are Darren McVittie and the McIver brothers Donald and Campbell. Darren has won the Class 2 Singles in both Edinburgh tournaments, beating Donald in the final of the East of Scotland event.

### SCOTRAIL NATIONAL LEAGUE

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

Holders - Greaves Sports (Central YM, Glasgow) have John Broe and David McIlroy in their squad but commitments for Ormesby will limit their appearance in the Scottish League. However with players of the calibre of Ian McLean, Gordon Clancey, David Thomas and Euan Walker they lead with 18 points from 20, followed by Edinburgh's Murrayfield with 16 points. Falkirk TTC - now playing under a new sponsor, the Swedish firm Korrugal, have Carole Dalrymple in their pack and it is interesting to note that the day before Ian Stokes won the Mens Singles in the East of Scotland Open Carole beat him 12/10 in the 3rd. in their National League match!

### EUROPEAN LEAGUE - Division 2

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

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

On the Friday evening Scotland played Wales and Guernsey played Greece. In the former match Wales took the lead when Nigel Tyler recovered from 15/19 down in the 3rd end to beat David Hannah. The Welsh also won both doubles after John Broe and Carole Dalrymple had won their singles 2/0. Dave Hannah then beat Nigel Thomas over three to equalise the scoreline and the stage was set for a tense and thrilling final tie between John Broe and Nigel Tyler. John started off

## English schools Table Tennis Association

by David Lomas



David Lomas

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

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

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

### continued from previous column

like a house on fire to take the first end 21/18, but Nigel put his game together to win the second at 11. There were many long topspin rallies which the local audience greatly appreciated. John got on top again in the third end and led throughout to 19/17 but then Nigel came from behind once again to win 21/19 and clinch the match for Wales.

Guernsey 1, Greece 6; Scotland 3, Wales 4; Scotland 7, Greece 0; Wales 7, Guernsey 0; Greece 0, Wales 7; Guernsey 0, Scotland 7.

## Welsh Corner

### North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association

Clwyd Counties matches round/up.

English Counties Championship. Senior Division 3A.

Nottinghamshire v. Clwyd at Sycamore Centre, Nottingham. Clwyd in their first fixture of the season went down to a strong Notts side by 7 sets to 3 sets. Clwyd without a number of their regular first choice players found their hosts on form, for Notts their three men, John Holland, Tim Sheppard and Trevor Kerry all won their singles, Clwyd's men Terry Turner and Justin Evans however did win the mens doubles. Clwyd's ladies did however do much better and Evelyn Wright beat Kay Mayall in her singles and partnered with Chris Watkins also took the ladies doubles beating Angela Brettell and Kay Mayall.

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

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

### Re-building

Clwyd Junior Counties team in their opening match of the season entertained at Castell Alun Sports Centre. Hope near Wrexham Durham and against a very experienced side went down by 7 sets to 3 sets. Clwyd who are now rebuilding their junior squad found themselves up against a very good Durham team, for Clwyd Tracy Sambrook and Natasha Williams both won one singles each and teamed together to take their doubles.

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

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

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



## NATIONAL TEAM EVENT TAKES OFF

by Mike Watts

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

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

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

All the top ranked players have entered and local player Ralph Gunnion (Warwickshire) will be

keen to win the Over 40 Mens Singles enabling him to climb back over Derek Schofield (Cheshire) who has taken the opportunity to entering all the major tournaments this season and is now back at No 1. To complete the family picture wife Doreen Schofield remains at No 1 in the Veteran Womens list.

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



Mike Watts

Plans for the first ever English Open "Masters" have materialised and the tournament will take place from the 12th/14th June 1987 at the Worthing Sports Centre. Invitations have been sent to: Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden and Wales.

With support from the Worthing Borough Council, the tournament promises to be a major coup for the Society as it prepares for another attempt at bringing the World's to London in 1990.

## WEST MIDLAND CADET LEAGUE

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

**Results from Saturday Sept. 13th.**  
Grove 1 Pontesbury A 9;  
Pontesbury B 0 Gloucester A 10;  
Gloucester A 10 Gloucester B 0;  
Stroud 2 Grove 8; Gloucester A 6  
Grove 4; Pontesbury A 10  
Hereford 0; Gloucester B 1 Wrexham 9;  
Hereford 1 Stroud 9;  
Wrexham 10 Hereford 0;  
Gloucester B 10 Pontesbury B 0;  
Stroud 3 Wrexham 7; Pontesbury A 10  
Pontesbury B 0.

### League table to Date:

	Pld	W	L	D	Pts
Pontesbury A	3	3	0	0	6
Wrexham	3	3	0	0	6
Gloucester A	3	3	0	0	6
Stroud	3	1	2	0	2
Grove	3	1	2	0	2
Gloucester B	3	1	2	0	2
Hereford	3	0	3	0	0
Pontesbury B	3	0	3	0	0

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

## Jill's survey at Soham

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

Those interviewed were mainly players.

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

### Evidence

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

The findings were 82 people (69.5%) in favour of 11-up; 18 people (15.25%) for 21-up and 18 who said they found no difference or didn't express an opinion.

### STOP PRESS:

### UNLUCKY SEVEN!

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

## NORTH WALES NEWS

### Wrexham & District Table Tennis League:

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

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

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

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

### East Flintshire League:

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

Round two to be played week commencing November 3rd.  
BSC Shotton "A" team v. North West District "A" team.  
BSC Shotton "B" team v. Caergwre Boys Brigade "C" team.  
Caergwre Boys Brigade "A" team v. Castell Alun.  
Hawarden "A" team v. Castell Alun "A" team.  
Hawarden "C" team v. Sealand Youth Club "A" team.  
Caergwre Boys Brigade "B" team v. BSC Shotton.  
North West District "C" team v. Tunnel Cement.  
Sealand Youth Club v. Hawarden.



## The British effect

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

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

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

The manual is meant to be not only an aid to the selection of Lentec and Lensun equipment, but also lists scientific results conducted at an independent international research laboratory for a wide range of rubbers and sponges available from other manufacturers. Lentec are not afraid of the competition. Just before the first section of the manual, is a comprehensive glossary, a translation of scientific and table tennis terms used.

**Coaching aid**

The first section of the manual proper, shows how it can best be used as a coaching aid, the endorsement by the E.T.T.A. proves that the manual is not just a commercial gimmick, the coach will now have facts at hand about equipment, which previously were not available. Section one also dispels technically incorrect theories which have been circulating for far too long, slowing our progress and causing concern among even the most loyal supporter of the game.

Section two is the most comprehensive guide to the selection of rubbers, sponges and blades ever produced, and each style has a summary table of the properties to look for when choosing your playing combination. The section has something else which no other publication has provided up to this time; it describes in technical detail, just how each combination behaves in play. What is more it caters for individual skill levels, and by that we mean every player is covered, from the beginner to the veteran.

The next section (three), is the one mentioned earlier that describes the 21 up range in full, together with recommendations about which combination is best suited to any particular style and skill level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also, as a final point, who is to say what is to be the standard. Lentec and Lensun believe that the future will now see better standards!

Thanks to the British effect! Still unsure? Questions unanswered?

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

### Situations Vacant

#### SECRETARY to the Director of Coaching

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

Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, in the E.T.A. office at Hastings.

Salary circa. £5,000 p.a.  
Apply in writing to:  
Director of Coaching,  
English Table Tennis  
Association  
21 Claremont  
Hastings TN34 1HF



## ★ 1st Prize — **STIGA** Tracksuit ★

Supplied by Rodan the UK distributor of the complete Stiga range of table tennis equipment

### Christmas Crossword

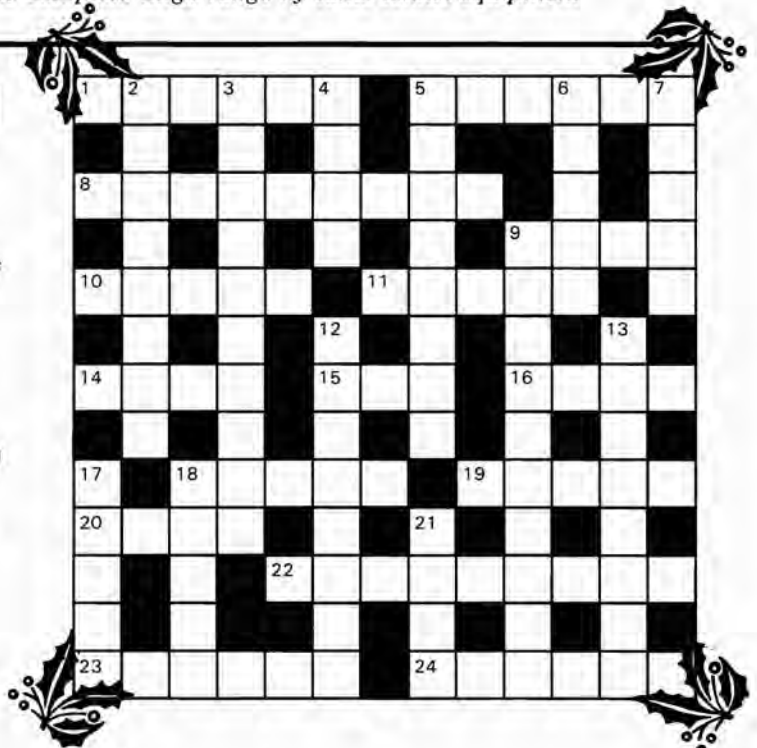
A seasonal puzzle - by Eric Hall

#### ACROSS

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

#### DOWN

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



Name .....

Address .....



plus three consolation prizes of professional mini bats supplied by **CLIVE OAKMAN Table Tennis**

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.  
 CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 12th.  
 ANSWERS PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 1987.

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To work in Walsall and Birmingham on a fixed period contract expiring 31.3.89

Salary £5,901 plus expenses.

Closing date for applications Monday 26th January 1987.

Applications to:

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

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

### Successes at Sedgehill

DESPITE earlier fears, the Regional Trials for the Greater London and South East region took place smoothly at the Sedgehill School, Catford, South East London on 25th October 1986 writes Mike Close. This was due mainly to the work of Alan Shepherd, the Referee and his band of willing workers, not forgetting the 'host' Alan Fisher. I was pleased to see all four coun-

ties involved: Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex having at least two of their players qualifying for the National Trials.

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

- Junior Boys:**  
Philip Szekeres (Middlesex)
- Junior Girls:**  
Rosemary Rainton (Sussex)
- Cadet Boys:**  
Paul Carter (Surrey)
- Cadet Girls:**  
Sarah Williams (Middlesex)



## A players game

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

It is time we all accepted that gone are the days when several thousand came to see big games (I'm told by my elders). They will never return. One reason is because the public now has other things to do in leisure time. The other reason is because the game has become very boring to watch with speed, spin and three stroke rallies and can be just as boring with 50 stroke rallies. It is a players and not a spectators sport, even though more skill is required than in tennis. To have any success it must be presented on television whence it will attract sponsorship and advertising money. However, I do not think there is any way that it can be shown on television in such a way that the viewer will be able to appreciate the strokes, the spin and the ball trajectories. Without appreciation we do not have an audience.

This is solely because the ball travels too fast over too short a distance and the camera cannot be positioned anywhere so the viewer can see what is happening. One blink and you have missed it. The fault is in the nature of the game itself. He who cannot see the ball clipping the net or the edge or why it failed to clear the net. Would one not say television is detrimental? The only table tennis that came over quite well on television was that clowning exhibition game between Jacques Secretin and Vince Purkhart. Here we could see the strokes and the flight of the ball, but that's only because they weren't playing for real.

So no matter what anyone does this sport will never be anywhere near the top as it is only watchable for the dedicated.

E. LUCAS  
New House  
53 Back Road  
Writtle, Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 3PD

## Golden Quill

### SLIPPERY SLOPE

THE "Stiga Top 12" is over. The players have gone home, cash in their pockets, and points under their belts. Everybody's happy; but I'm not and here's why.

(1) Playing 11 up in a rainbow-  
ed environment is encumbering,  
futile and absurd, and surely an  
ill fated attempt at sensa-  
tionalism. Let's publicise the  
game correctly, and not clutch  
at straws.

(2) Ineptly named, this tourna-  
ment is, in fact, "The Top 10  
plus any Two Others". I've  
nothing against the any two  
others, but saddened for, say  
the 11th to 14th ranked players,  
who laboured and sweated  
through last season to reach

these positions. "Top 12" is  
"Top 12" in my book.

(3) The "Top 12" or "Top 10  
plus any Two Others" is a closed  
competition, and awarding  
points for placings should be  
abolished. Steve Cram wouldn't  
expect a lap start over other run-  
ners in a 1500 metres race. The  
fortunate invitees should be  
quite content with the money  
and the prestige.

Nevertheless, any shot in the  
arm for our game is welcome,  
but it must be the right arm. So  
let's put this competition on the  
straight and narrow 21 up, a  
correct title, and no bonuses for  
established players.

JIMMY LOWE  
(Former English International &  
now Marketing Manager -  
Panoramic Bath T.T.C.)  
74, Barn Glebe  
Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 7JZ

Winner of a £5 TEES SPORT voucher

### ELECTION PROBLEMS

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

We cannot fail to have notic-  
ed the unpleasant style of elec-  
tioning that has been taking  
place for the post of chairman  
of the ETTA. It is, to my mind,  
unnecessary and demeaning to  
all those who indulge. The post  
in question is, after all, chair-  
manship of a sporting associa-  
tion. Obvious personality  
clashes are unfortunate but prob-  
ably unavoidable given recent  
history and events.

Although officers of the ET-  
TA are elected annually, it is  
common for incumbents to be  
re-elected if willing to stand. Ex-  
perience leads me to believe  
that holders of high, influential,  
office should be in position  
only as long as their

enthusiasm, creative thinking  
and motivation are maintained  
and this peak is unlikely to be  
sustained for more than five  
years.

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

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

JACK DAWSON  
The Grange  
Old Woking  
Surrey

## NO GIMMICKS, PLEASE!

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

Some may refer to me as a  
"fuddy-duddy", but this I deny.  
I am not against innovations in  
the game, and do not advocate a  
reversion to the old pimpled rub-  
ber bat. However, I feel that the  
game should not be spoiled by un-  
necessary gimmickry such as multi-  
coloured tables and nets. I am all  
for smart colourful outfits of  
good design with open attractive  
play both attacking and defensive  
to encourage spectator and TV  
coverage. Most readers will have  
enjoyed bowls and snooker on TV  
and yet they retain their tradi-  
tional image. Table tennis has a  
long tradition and is as good a  
game now as ever. Let us attempt  
to ensure the games popularity  
without resorting to gimmickry.

The game is to be enjoyed at all  
levels and this must be encourag-  
ed by Coaches, Players and Ad-  
ministrators. It should be played  
hard but fairly within the laws eg.  
illegal services should not be en-  
couraged. In recent years there  
has been some lowering of stan-  
dards of behaviour and discipline,  
which does not encourage parents  
to allow their children to take up  
the game. Let us uplift the game,  
give it a better image whether at  
local league level or at interna-  
tional standard. Let us enjoy our  
game played in a keen, sporting  
atmosphere to the best of our  
ability.

May I wish our magazine  
renewed success and increased cir-  
culation under its new editorship.

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



## ESSEX AGM

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

I had submitted this particular piece for the previous edition. As it was written at the end of that article I assumed that it had been completely left out because a report of the County Championships AGM was appearing elsewhere. This was not so and I therefore made it the leading Essex Note for October, thus -

At the County Championships AGM Essex put forward two propositions, both failed. *One of them gained a majority of the delegates votes.* During the discussion, Les Smith said that it is essential that he receives any complaints by letter *and that the rule regarding venue notification would be enforced.* Many thanks to County representatives who supported the proposition which highlighted the lack of 1st class postage being used and an encroachment into essential team gathering time.

In my opinion my copy correctly summed up the points that were made during the debate. It is important for match secretaries to know that they have support in exacting the full measure of the County Championship Rules. It was only the stricture of having to gain a *two-thirds* majority that a more binding Rule 22.1 was not passed!

Laurie Darnell  
103 Queenswood Avenue,  
Hutton, Brentwood.

## Tournament Tears

PEOPLE frequently seem to be asking these days why table tennis and its tournaments seem to be losing popularity. Some think it is due to combination bats, others think it is due to the introduction of 'bike' glue. Perhaps my experience of 25 October could be a valid reason which I have not yet seen expressed.

Group 13 (unlucky for some?) contained three players who had

all travelled up to Halifax from the London area at a combined travelling cost in the region of £75.00 and the combined distance travelled to and from Halifax being in the region of 1,250 miles. This same group of three players could have played each other somewhere in London at a travelling cost of about £10 and travelling a combined total of perhaps 30 miles. (I live in Wimbledon, Jerome Jonah lives in Wandsworth: SW19 & SW18 respectively.)

Is it therefore no wonder that many of today's players are reluctant to enter major table tennis tournaments? I for one will not be in a hurry to travel all the way to Halifax again - at least not to play 2 London area players at a personal travelling cost of about £33.00 for the 'privilege'.

I left the Leisure Centre at about 6.30 p.m. on Saturday and caught the last train out of Halifax at 6.48 p.m., expecting to arrive home by train at about 11.45 p.m. Although it is obviously no fault of the tournament that I arrived home after 2.00 a.m. on Sunday morning by taxi - thanks to British Rail's chaos - transport problems are another aspect which has to be taken into consideration. Not surprisingly I have written to British Rail but if I receive any reply it is not likely to help people's attitudes to entering major tournaments.

As for the Midlands 3★, I was not sent an entry form (although I've already received forms for the Middlesex and the South of England 3★ tournaments). The telephone number shown in the ETTA's diary for the Midland 3★ gave no reply despite a number of attempts. So I for one am not surprised that tournaments are losing entries. I, like a number of others, will probably stick to playing in local tournaments in future.

MIKE LOVEDER  
Rejects,  
Schildkrot British League

*Editor's Note: Tournament draws should never be tampered with. There are many instances of club-mates clashing many miles from home. Travel delays are common. So Mike Loveder did not get an entry form from the Midlands Open and no reply to telephone calls - those are the two complaints that might stand up to examination in Maurice Goldstein's lounge.*

## AN APPRECIATION FROM BRUSSELS

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THE NEW JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS SUMMER SCHOOL

### Coaches:

JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER (European Champion)  
DESMOND DOUGLAS (England's greatest ever player)  
DON PARKER (England Senior Team Coach)  
PAUL DAY (England Junior Team Coach)

**Venue:** SOHAM, Cambs.

**Dates:** August 3rd - 8th, 1987

**Cost:** £180

For more details or to reserve a place please send deposit of £30 (cheque payable to 'Jill Hammersley Table Tennis Services') to:

**JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER,  
35, HAWKHURST AVENUE,  
FULWOOD, PRESTON, LANCS.**



## FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

### DECEMBER

13/14 Stiga Middlesex 3 Star (Picketts Lock).

Halton Junior 2 Star (Runcorn)

20 County Championships (3)

21 SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (7)

### JANUARY

2/4 European Top 12 (Basle, Switzerland)

3/4 National Junior Ranking Trials (Lilleshall)

10/11 Stiga South of England 3 Star (Woking)

11 Tameside Junior 1 Star (Copley)

14 EUROPEAN LEAGUE: England v Finland (Norwich)

17 County Championships (4)

17/18 ESTTA Team Area Finals

18 SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (9)

24/25 TRIUMPH ADLER ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Crawley)

25 Pontefract 1 Star

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

## COMING NEXT ISSUE:

### ★ EUROPE v ASIA -

A report from Japan.

### ★ STIGA MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN -

Full report.

### ★ CLEVELAND JUNIOR 2-STAR -

A full coverage of this Ladbroke Dragonara event.

### ★ ENGLISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONS -

Mike Watts reports from Macclesfield.

### ★ KENT PLAYERS in the Ruhr

## MAILBOX (continued from page 32)

### WHY NOT?

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

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

I feel that this would only serve to stimulate greater in-

terest in table-tennis and to increase our learning about the game.

Best wishes, and keep up the good work.

MARK H. YOUNG

Ellcote

High Ellington

Masham, Ripon

N. Yorks HG4 4PR

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

### WELSH OBITUARIES

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

Both will be sadly missed by their fellow workers.

### ALEC BROOK

An obituary report on the former England international will appear in the January edition of Table Tennis News.

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