



# Table Tennis News

No. 167

MAY/JUNE 1987

80p

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RECREAT



*On the crest of a wave ...*

 **DUNLOP**

DUNLOP AND THE ENGLAND JUNIOR GIRLS  
together at the English International Junior  
Championships in Newcastle

## That WAS a crisis season!

I AM not a follower of the theory that because there is a considerable amount of controversy in table tennis at this time, sponsors will not look at us. One of the more pleasant aspects of journalism is that in general reporting, one is continually pitchforked into the inside of all sorts of organisations, inside and outside sport. In very many instances in my experience there is a "war" going out, so my view is that it could indicate a more healthy state with more people coming forward with differing viewpoints.

It, WAS, a crisis season in which as I see it, table tennis people have divided into three camps, just like politicians in Parliament. In camp 'A' we have the ardent followers of the chairman John Prean, who believe that a change was necessary or even essential and that they will continue to follow him, come what may. In camp 'B' we have those who have revolted or resigned from high posts and those who are adamantly voting against him especially at National Council. In camp 'C' there are those who for a variety of reasons will not commit themselves in either direction. I will admit to being in Camp 'C' because as a journalist I am committed to writing and publicising many points of view. I have written and will continue to report situations that look anti-Prean and others that will be pro-Prean.

We have voted in a controversial chairman, twice. At least to the end of next season he is in a seat that I believe is hotter than he imagined when he was sharpshooting from the rear trenches. Now he is leading the troops over the top himself and no-one envies him the task. Also leading the troops fighting for the ETTA will be the new Chief Executive Ted Wallbutton whose presence on board and on the bridge is more than welcome.

The chairman has succeeded in appointing four vice-chairmen. The contest for deputy chairman has brought forth a powerful candidate to fight Alan Ransome - Tony Chatwin from Derbyshire whose claim to fame is that he supports no person, just the ETTA, and another worker for table tennis is Brian Spicer. Ransome and Spicer both with marketing backgrounds, circulated election manifestos, the Ransome offering running to four pages, but Chatwin was left at the start believing he was only allowed 40 words.

I disagree with John Prean when he says that table tennis can become a front-rank major sport, but I do say that as in other countries (West Germany and France are two examples I have seen personally) it can be in the front-rank of the other sports - 3,000 fans at Wurzburg and all shouting and stamping for the home side proved that. So whilst Messrs Yates, Drapkin, Charters are on the sidelines - and they may return - let those of us who are left, work to produce a climax to next season - a promotion-clinching match at home to Holland with a 2,000 crowd.

OCTOBER 12 is the next publication date for this magazine. The editor will be unchanged, the aim is for another extra four pages, so order your subscription now!

**JOHN WOODFORD**

**FRONT COVER ... DUNDEE** photographer Brian Webster took the photograph of the England girls junior squad. Left to right, Andrea Holt, Debbie Toole, captain Jackie Bellinger, Claire Potts and Kerry Hall.

The official magazine of the English Table Tennis Association.



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# SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

## ON TOUR

BEING courtside for eight days and nights in a row is an unusual experience, certainly in England. Being at different venues daily is interesting and allows for many comparisons.

The Chinese tour, was a punishing and arduous affair devised that way to save money. However, there were a number of amusing incidents, the best of which happened at Castle Combe, a delightful 12th century village not far from Bath where Panoramic (Bath) had made arrangements for accommodation for the teams, officials and others.

At the Castle Combe Manor House Hotel, one of the most attractive ancient hotels I have ever seen, started off by offering me a room at £82 a night! That was subsequently reduced after some negotiations but it shows that the place was superb enough for people to pay that sort of money out in the wilds of Wiltshire or was it Avon?

That was not THE amusing incident, that came at 12.30 a.m. when Donald Parker and myself arrived back in reception at the Manor House to pick up our room keys.

### WRONG ROOM?

Don was given the key to room 2. As my room was No. 1 we walked upstairs together. Don rapidly returned to reception reporting that there was a young lady in bed in the room! You may well ask what in heavens name was the key to Room 2 doing down in its box in reception when the lady was in bed!

The answer was that her husband was out late so she left the key in reception when she retired! But the story does not end at that point, there is more ....

Parker must be one of the most common names after Smith, Brown and Jones. Incredibly, room 2 was booked by a Mr. and Mrs. Parker (no connection with Don and Jill), so the night porter in all innocence, looked up the names on the booking list, saw Parker and gave the England supremo the key. Don of course, ended up yet again sharing a room with another member of the England team.

### WRONG DOOR

Plain glass doors can be a menace. Who has not tried to walk through one at some time? Richard Eaton had a go at the plush Ladbrokes

Hotel near Leeds. We saw the mark again the next morning when we checked out, quite sober the previous night and the next morning.

### PREAN SPEECHES

Giving eight, or even seven thank-you speeches night after night is no joke so chairman John Prean had a few headaches during the tour, which incidentally totalled 2,000 miles according to mini-bus driver Mike Watts.

But the chairman made the people laugh. On one occasion in his dry humour, he told of his days when he was a footballer, a goalkeeper. "A number of my defenders resigned" he quipped, "like some of my officers and vice-chairman more recently!"

The second big laugh was at Bath Leisure Centre. The chairman said, "At one time we had ideas about coming to live in Bath, but now I expect many people are glad I stayed on the Isle of Wight!" Huge applause at that one; not sure whether they agreed with him or just thought it was an excuse for a laugh.

Accompanying the Chinese team were several members of the Man-

chester family associated with Chen Xinhua. The girl he is hoping to leave China for and then to marry was on the tour accompanied by her mother, possibly as a chaperone to Chen's lady love Sally, a very attractive young lady from Manchester. Also in tow was her 12-year-old brother Adam, whose knowledge of football was extensive, especially on Manchester United.

### SNIFFING

Also sniffing around on the tour was a party of West Germans who were seeking liaison with Chen Xinhua, no doubt interested in his plans to earn money, should his proposed exit visa from China to England be granted.

They dined and wined the Chinese star and there were a number of subsequent telephone calls from Germany, so the rich Germans are already preparing to outbid for Chen when the time comes. The couple, we were told are not planning to marry until next year. And that is all your journalists were able to find out, because, it is not that easy to get an exit permit from the People's Republic, especially if you are a table tennis hero.

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## ENTER THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TED WALLBUTTON joined the ETTA as their new Chief Executive on June 1st. For the past five years he has been marketing manager for the Squash Rackets Association and he has contributed significantly to the fine image that the sport has achieved through its tournament and sponsorship activity.

His previous experience was with Harvey's of Bristol, the well-known wine merchants and also as Marketing Controller of LRC Products, a major company in the London International Group.

At a starting salary of around £21,000, has moved from a sport that has made it, to one that is still making it and to say that he could be facing the biggest challenge of his professional career is no overstatement.

His comment is: "This new position is a real challenge and one which I accept with enthusiasm. I feel that table tennis has a great future and have been greatly encouraged by recent steps taken by the management to progress the sport."

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## A TALE OF WOE FROM WURZBURG

England crash to 3,000 crowd blitzkrieg! *by John Woodford*

IN FRONT of a partisan crowd of 3,000 shouting, chanting, stamping, patriotic West Germans, England had very little chance of winning this match from the word go. The 6-1 triumph to West Germany was well-deserved but had the match taken place in England, I believe, so does Donald Parker and the team, that England would now be in the Super Division instead of the Germans.

In thirty years courtside I know of two other experiences in similar vein. One was in Munich at the World Championships some 20 years ago when thousands of Germans shouted Eberhard Scholer through to the men's singles final, and when I was not present, at the more recent events in Seoul where crowd participation got out of hand.

Make no mistake, for the first time in over a decade the Germans are in the process of building themselves a strong team that could stay in the Super Division and give Sweden a run for their money in Paris next March.

Georg Bohm took three in Delhi against Sweden. This was a result that puzzled many people who were suspicious that the Swedes were not fit at the time. However, having watched the former Rumanian again, he has clearly moved ahead to a point where he could easily create shocks in a European Top-12 event, possibly as soon as Yugoslavia next February.

### Glory path

Jorg Roskopf is clearly a young man with a future. He just managed, and only just, to put the home side on the glory path stopping Alan Cooke - 20, 19, 19 in three pulse-quickening games that started the supporters towards their eruption of noise that at times continued even during rallies.

The worst effect was the well-known unison clapping that starts slowly and builds up speed into general applause just before a player is about to serve!

"I tried serving before the din subsided," said Alan Cooke later, "but the umpire stopped me."

Worse was to follow. Des Douglas was regarded as a banker by England and a banker for England by the Germans. They fully expected Des to land two or three wins during the evening. But like Cooke, he played as well as could be expected in the cauldron of noise and lost around five match points before Bohm got home 27-25 in the third game.

That of course set the match alight. The crowd moved into top gear as they sensed that England were rattled, although the visiting team did not show it and they continued to fight gamely right to the end.

Frankly, I was not confident that Lisa Bellinger could stop the 17-year-old Katja Nolten who landed her women's singles win 17, -19, 10. The question has to be asked again, "Are defensive players becoming obsolete?" I feel that players, male or female, with quality defences must now develop their attacking armoury - otherwise they stand a good chance of being heavily defeated if their stream of attacking opponents develop confidence.

That win by Nolten had the German "storm-troopers" in the crowd putting their champagne in the ice-box, not the freezer. At 3-0 ahead how could they lose? With three more appearances by Douglas, they knew they could lose 4-3, but the odds were swinging dramatically against England as the two doubles matches loomed.

### Right decision?

Did Don Parker make the right decision in choosing "Cookey" instead of "Preano" for the second singles spot? We shall never know the answer. My colleague in Wurzburg Richard Eaton and I took opposite sides on that difficult and thorny issue but we both agreed that Don was fortunate to have to choose between such fine players whilst the Germans debated whether or not to play Ralph Wozik, especially because he seems to be Prean's bogey player.

### Youth wins

The Germans have several smart players to bring forward in 1987. One is Stefan Fetzner from Dusseldorf. He partners Roskopf extremely well in men's doubles and it proved surprisingly, that on the night, they were too good for Prean and Douglas.

Again, in the mixed, it was a case of youth winning over experience as Fetzner and Nolten beat Douglas and Fiona Elliot to clinch promotion for West Germany to a division where they belong - so do England but it seems they have to wait until they have a final round home match when promotion is the reward.

The uproar that followed as Germany took a winning lead was incredible. The only relief was for the journalists who retired to the comparative peace of the press room to file their winning lead stores.

For the last two games of course,

the crowd were too hoarse to make much noise. Douglas just managed to squeeze home 21, 23 against Roskopf and then Bohm gave further proof of his strength to stop Alan Cooke 16, 18.

So, in two years England have been on the receiving end of a raw deal from an away crowd - in Holland in 1985 when they were demoted and again in Germany when they should have got back.

Our outspoken chairman John Prean has already said that in his view the Wurzburg result is the last product of the old coaching and selection set-up now disbanded. Replies to that statement could fill up the first Mailbox for next season!



*Desmond Douglas, the European Top 12 champion.*

### RESULTS

**West German 6, England 1:** J Roskopf b A Cooke - 20, 19, 19; G. Bohm b D Douglas - 15, 14, 25; K Nolten b L Bellinger 17, -19, 10; Roskopf/S Fetzner b Douglas/C Prean 15, 19; Fetzner/Nolten b Douglas/F Elliot 17, -17, 10; Roskopf Lt Douglas - 21, -23; Bohm b Cooke 16, 18.

## ANGLO-CHINESE LATE NIGHT SNOOKER ...



*David Warren, managing director of Panoramic, Bath, photographed with World No. 4 Chen Xinhua at Castle Combe, near Bath. These two played snooker until the small hours after the table tennis match.*

## BILLINGTON SHOWS THE WAY

BRADLEY BILLINGTON, 17 in August, from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the same town as Alan Cooke, has in my view every chance of joining Cooke in the senior England squad sooner rather than later.

Billington took England boys to the final of the team event and came near to reaching the semi-finals of the boys singles at the Korean-dominated English Junior International Championships at Eldon Square Recreation Centre, Newcastle on May 30 and 31.

With China backing out, it was perhaps over-optimistic to include them in the draw, the annual event was down to ten nations, but the conditions for the players were excellent, the Newcastle Moat House provided excellent hospitality and the local officials and helpers and those officials and umpires who travelled from afar worked hard and efficiently to make the tournament a success.

### A triple

There was a triple sponsorship — the City of Newcastle, the Northern Region Sports Council and the Newcastle Evening Chronicle. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle deserved a special medal — he gallantly sat right through the most boring finals session I have witnessed (occasionally from behind the stands out of sight of the table!), only because all the players were from South Korea. But, having said that, the Asians played some spectacular, aggressive table tennis, but at the end of two days play, watching Asians play each other in what should

be a great climax to the tournament, was in reality an anti-climax and of course embarrassing for the VIPs who turn up expecting huge crowds and lots of excitement.

Even table tennis fanatics who usually help to make up the crowds at tournaments silently slid away into the Northumberland evening sunlight when they saw that there was nothing to cheer about at a finals session that did not include a single name other than from Korea.

Despite the fact that powerful table tennis nations like Sweden, France and West Germany were present, none of the Europeans were able to make much of an impression on the Koreans.

### All eyes

The climax came in mid-afternoon in the boys singles quarter-finals, when in an almost tournament-stopping cliff-hanger, all eyes were on Bradley Billington as he took the first game 21-19 against the Korean top seed and eventual winner Taek Soo Kim.

The Derbyshire teenager continued to take the initiative with some brilliant counter-hitting in the second game. As the score moved to 15-10 in favour of the young Englishman, the tension rose dramatically.

But slowly, the Korean boy work-

ed on his battle plan — continuing a policy of accurate hitting — and slowly the mistakes were squeezed out of Billington who was finally beaten 17, 19, a truly brave effort that was the high-point and most memorable happening during the two days play.

England had two other bright spots — two quarter-finalists in the girls singles, Andrea Holt and Kerry Hall. Andrea, from Lancashire, reached the quarters with a scorching 7, 8 crushing of Marie-France Thill (France) and Kerry Hall scalped her round 3 opponent Agnes Lelannic (France) 10, 2. After that Holt went under 19, 12 to Yoo Hye Jung and Hall lost 19, -19, 10 to Lee Jung Im, but at least England had three quarter-finalists.

Other European quarter-finalists were Emily Noor (Holland), Patricia De Groot (Holland) who was the holder, and in the boys singles Cyrille Laurent (France) and Bart Van Haren from Holland. That means there were nine Koreans of a total of 16 quarter-finalists, that was the measure of the Asian power game at Newcastle!

England's solitary set of medals (silver) came when the boys team of Matthew Syed, Bradley Billington and Sean Gibson finished as losing finalists to Korea, following wins over Israel and Korea. Some consolation came when in the boys' plate (consolation) final England II (Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield) beat Israel and England II girls beat France 3-0.

### Bravery

In response to countless appeals from the media to advance the singles matches towards the front or middle of the finals session this was done and one result was that for the first time ever this tournament was reported in the following day's Daily Telegraph. As it happened, the finals were all-Korean so the order became not quite so important and the main story was Bradley Billington's bravery and skill in the quarter-finals.

The only puzzling thought I had at Newcastle was how the general public were expected to find the hall on the Sunday. Knowing the hall from the previous day, it took me 25 minutes and questions to four passers-by to find the way into the recreation centre that was hidden inside a huge shopping complex. A man in the underground car park told me that several people had given up trying to get in!

**BS - Quarter-finals:** T Kim (Korea) b B Billington (England) - 19, 17, 19; C Lee (Korea) b C Laurant (France) 10, 12; S Kim (Korea) b Y Jung (Korea) 13, 7; H Kang (Korea) b V Haren (Holland) - 15, 19, 12. **Semi-finals:** T Kim b Lee 16, -10, 8; Kang b S Kim 14, 15. **Final:** Kim b Kang - 15, 16, 16. **GS - Quarter-finals:** C Hong (Korea) b E Noor (Holland) 16, 12; H Yoo (Korea) b A Holt (England) 19, 12; J Lee (Korea) b K Hall (England) 19, -19, 10; M Kwon (Korea) b P De Groot (Holland) 20, 16. **Semi-finals:** Hong b Koo 13, 14; Lee b Kwon 17, 13. **Final:** Hong b Lee - 11, 12, 16. **GD - Hong/Kwon b Yook/Lee 12, 14. BD - S Kim/Lee b T Kim/Kang - 16, 19, 20. XD - H Kang/J Lee b T Kim/C Hong - 17, 12, 12. Team - Boys:** Korea 1 b Eng 3-0. **Girls:** Korea 1 b Korea II 3-1.

## Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships

by DAVID LOMAS

THERE were quite a few surprises when the 14th Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships took place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday May 2. None of the eight titles were successfully defended, only three of the No. 1 seeds emerged as winners, and seven new names were amongst the winners.

But readers should not jump to the conclusion that organiser Paul Birch had got his seedings all wrong. Most of the seeded players won through to the semi-finals. Matthew Pernet (Surrey County) however went out in the second round of the boys' U16 event to Dale Saunders (Gloucestershire) who then lost to Andrew Houghton (Kent County) in his next match.

It was a particularly good day for players from the West Country and from Lancashire. Thirteen-year-old Neil Bevan — competing in the boys' U19 event — ousted holder and No. 1 seed John Bult (Humburside) in the final to become the youngest winner of the senior event and four players from Devon made it to the semi-finals. They were the Wright sisters, Helen (girls U13) and Jane (girls U16), Clare Pengelly (girls U11) and David Heath (boys U11).

Maria Thornley from Chorley, Lancs, was a surprise winner in the girls' U13 event, beating No. 2 seed Nicola Meddings (West Midlands) in the final. Nicola McGrath from Preston caused an upset by beating the favourite, Andrea Holt, in the

girls' U16 event whilst another Lancs player, Andrew Eden, was second in the boys' U16 where South Yorkshire's Mark Ward gained his first English Schools title.

Croydon's Blake brothers, Jason and Darren, were thwarted in their efforts to add to their two titles. Darren lost to North Yorkshire's first-ever winner, Andrew Nicholls, and so surrendered his boys' U11 title, whilst brother Jason was beaten comfortably by Brian Mileham (Kent County) in the boys

U13 semi-final. Mileham went on to win the event.

But the most entertaining final of the day came in the girls' U11 event where Sally Marling (Humburside) and Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) battled away in a titanic struggle. Sally edged home but Nicola must surely have booked a No. 1 seeding in the same event for next year.

Players involved at Mansfield were playing not only for the prestige of winning a national schools' title but also a possible place in the 30-strong English Schools squad to take part in the annual schools international championships, due to take place at Largs, Scotland on June 19-21.



Referee Tony Chatwin congratulates Nicola McGrath on her girls under-16 success at Mansfield.

### THE MAIN RESULTS....

**Boys U19 - Semi-finals:** John Bult (Humburside) b Veerendra Chauhan (W Midlands) 14, 9; Neil Bevan (Cornwall) b Andrew Ball (W Yorkshire) 14, -13, 14. **Final:** Bevan b Bult 15, -12, 17. **Girls U19 - Semi-finals:** Helen Lower (W Midlands) b Helen Perrott (Avon) 12, 14; Melonie Carey (Somerset) b Alison Evans (Humburside) 12, 9. **Final:** Lower b Carey - 17, 16, 16. **Boys U16 - Semi-final:** Andrew Eden (Lancs) b Andrew Houghton (Kent Co) 17, 11; Mark Ward (S Yorkshire) b Adrian Thorp (W Midlands) 14, -17, 8. **Final:** Ward b Eden 19, -9, 16. **Girls U16 - Semi-finals:** Andrea Holt (Gt Manchester) b Alison Ledwith (W Midlands) 10, 8; Nicola McGrath (Lancs) b Jane Wright (Devon) 14, 9. **Final:** McGrath b Holt 19, 19. **Boys U13 - Semi-finals:** Brian Mileham (Kent Co) b Jason Blake (Surrey Met) 16, 8; Gavin Yates (Oxfordshire) b Paul Davison (Notts) - 19, 17, 20. **Final:** Mileham b Yates 15, 14. **Girls U13 - Semi-finals:** Maria Thornley (Lancs) b Helen Wright (Devon) 16, 11; Nicola Meddings (W Midlands) b Tracy Cole (W Sussex) 18, 18. **Final:** Thornley b Meddings 15, 19. **Boys U11 - Semi-final:** Darren Blake (Surrey Met) b David Heath (Devon) 16, 17; Andrew Nicholls (N Yorkshire) b Steven Meddings (W Midlands) 7, 9. **Final:** Nicholls b Blake 21, 9. **Girls U11 - Semi-finals:** Sally Marling (Humburside) b Shelley Ruocco (Essex Met) 7, 4; Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) b Clare Pengelly (Devon) 14, 15. **Final:** Marling b Deaton - 18, 12, 14.

## DUTCH ARE THE NEW TARGET

by George Yates

FRANCE, who throughout the season appeared firm favourites to be demoted from the Super Division of the European League, must have been as surprised as anyone when, firstly, they overcame a 3-0 deficit to beat the Netherlands 4-3 in Dordrecht on April 15 and then received the news that, on the same night in Sofia, Bulgaria had beaten Sweden 7-0!

This latter result consigned the Netherlands to Division 1, for had Sweden won in Sofia, it would have been France facing up to the guillotine for the results between the three countries with one point each would have read:-

|             | Hol | Bul | Fra | W | L   | Sets |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|------|
| Netherlands | 6-1 | 3-4 | 1   | 1 | 9-5 |      |
| Bulgaria    | 1-6 |     | 6-1 | 1 | 1   | 7-7  |
| France      | 4-3 | 1-6 |     | 1 | 1   | 5-9  |

So, how come Sweden to be beaten? Well it was far from a top Swedish team that undertook the journey comprising as it did Johan Fallby, Thomas Von Scheele and Barbro Wiktorsson scores.

*Editor's note: It has been said that Sweden are totally disenchanting with the European League, hence the nose-thumbing gesture of sending a weak team to Bulgaria. The effect is that England should play Holland next March in England in another crucial "summit" encounter to regain their place in the Super Division.*

### Scores:

S Stefanov b T von Scheele - 19, 20, 17; M Lukov b Fallby 13, -19, 18; D Guergueltcheva b B Wiktorsson - 18, 17, 18; Stefanov/Lukov b Fallby/von Scheele 18, 13; Stefanov/Guergueltcheva b von Scheele/Wiktorsson 13, -9, 18; Stefanov b Fallby - 10, 14, 12; Lukov b von Scheele 18, -27, 18.

And the scores in Dordrecht were:

P Haldan b J-P Gatien - 14, 16, 19; H van Spanje b P Birocheau - 15, 22, 14; B Vriesekoop b Wang Xiao Ming 12, -09, 13; Haldan/van Spanje lt Birocheau/Gatien - 19, -9; Haldan/Vriesekoop lt Gatien/Wang - 12, 15, -16; Haldan lt Birocheau - 16, -19; van Spanje lt Gatien - 14, -8.

Final placings:-

| Super Division | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| <b>POLAND</b>  | 7 | 6 | 1 | 32 | 17 | 6   |
| Czechoslovakia | 7 | 5 | 2 | 30 | 19 | 5   |
| Sweden         | 7 | 4 | 3 | 27 | 22 | 4   |
| Hungary        | 7 | 3 | 4 | 23 | 26 | 3   |
| Bulgaria       | 7 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 26 | 2   |
| France         | 7 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 33 | 1   |
| Netherlands    | 7 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 34 | 1   |

Belgium, the outright winners of Division 2 will take the place of Norway in Division 1 next season with Portugal, the Division 3 winners, replacing Guernsey in Division 2.

| Division 1          | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| <b>F.R. GERMANY</b> | 7 | 7 | 0 | 42 | 7  | 7   |
| England             | 7 | 6 | 1 | 36 | 13 | 6   |
| Finland             | 7 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 28 | 4   |
| Austria             | 7 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 30 | 3   |
| Turkey              | 7 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 28 | 3   |
| Italy               | 7 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 27 | 3   |
| Denmark             | 7 | 1 | 6 | 17 | 32 | 1   |
| Norway              | 7 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 31 | 1   |

## A table tennis first — top chop at the WI

by STEPHANIE ROSS

OVER 500 WI members were battling it out at table tennis tables around the country through the autumn and winter months. They were eagerly competing in the regional heats for the very first National Federation of Women's Institutes/Milk Marketing Board Table Tennis Championships.

By the spring, eight couples had fought their way through to the grand final, which took place at the Queen Mother Sports Centre in London on May 6.

The action started in the morning, with two groups of four players slicing and chopping through their three matches, until four winners emerged.

The Dyfed-Ceredigion, Nottinghamshire, Tyneside and Wiltshire Federation teams were the casualties of the morning, leaving Gwynedd-Meirionydd, Kent-West Kent, Northamptonshire and Suffolk East to carry through to the semi-finals.

The afternoon session began with a dazzling display of expert table tennis given by the top ranking professionals, Lisa and Jackie Bellinger. These two outstanding sportswomen made every swift move seem simple; a feat which inspired the remaining semi-finalists and encouraged Kent-West Kent and Northamptonshire to slam their opponents and emerge as clear finalists — each beating the opposition 3-0. Up to this point, neither team had lost a set, and the final looked as if it might be close, but Northamptonshire never really got into their stride and Kent-West Kent beat their opponents by three clear games.

Winners, Brenda Aherne and Pam Butcher of Meopham, were presented with the trophy, and were then each given a beautiful porcelain strawberry basket by Nigel White, the Divisional Director of Development and Planning of the Milk Marketing Board.

## Stokes stops Moore

by George Yates

IT was disappointing that three seeds, John Souter, Nigel Tyler and Steve Dorking, failed to honour their entries in the Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open in whose absence Adrian Moore and Nigel Eckersley were the chief beneficiaries at Lostock, Bolton on April 25.

So too was Jimmy Stokes, the No. 2 seed, who avenged his last season's final loss to Alan Cooke by winning the men's singles event and the £150 that went with it but only after Moore had fought every inch of the way in a gripping final encounter.

Joy Grundy retained her women's singles title with a final win over the local heroine Andrea Holt, the Bolton League girl having, in partnership with Joanne Shaw, beaten Miss Grundy and Jean Parker in the final of the women's doubles, and seen off Jill Harris in the singles.

### Results:

**Men's Singles:** Quarter-finals: A Moore (Sx) b S Scowcroft (La) 15, 19; N Eckersley (La) b C Oldfield (Y) 4, 17; K

Satchell (Wi) b A Dennison (Ire) 16, 14; J Stokes (Bk) b S Gibson (La) 17, 18. **Semi-finals:** Moore b Eckersley - 17, 19, 16; Stokes b Satchell 17, 18. **Final:** Stokes b Moore 19, 19.

**Women's Singles:** Quarter-finals: J Grundy (La) b P French (La) 6, 8; J Parker (La) b N McEvoy (Ire) 13, 15; A Holt (La) b J Shaw (Y) 14, 15; J Harris (St) b S Roden (Sy) 17, -18, 4. **Semi-finals:** Grundy b Parker 13, 17; Holt b Harris 7, 14. **Final:** Grundy b Holt 19, 13.

**Men's Doubles:** Semi-finals: Gibson/T Taylor (Ch) b G Rushton (La)/Stokes 14, 15; Moore/Satchell b Eckersley/Scowcroft 11, -19, 9. **Final:** Moore/Satchell b Gibson/Taylor 13, 15, 14.

**Women's Doubles:** Semi-finals: Grundy/Parker b Harris/Roden 16, 15; Holt/Shaw b McEvoy/M McMullen (Ire) 12, 14. **Final:** Holt/Shaw b Grundy/Parker 14, 14.

**Class 2 Mixed Singles:** Quarter-finals: Oldfield b G Deakin (La) 10, 10; M Browne (Wa) b G Clarke (La) 12, -19, 13; A Hare (Wa) b A Frain (Wa) 16, 17; M Ireland (La) b R Dixon (St) 19, -14, 14. **Semi-finals:** Browne b Oldfield - 15, 18, 10; Ireland b Hare 12, 21. **Final:** Browne b Ireland - 18, 8, 17.

**Veteran Singles:** Semi-finals: R Brown (Wa) b R Frankland (La) 17, 13; R Norton (St) b Dixon 15, 19. **Final:** Norton b Brown - 8, 10, 20.

## LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

## BOLTON HOLD ON

by George Yates

DESPITE being beaten 7-3 by Stockport in their final match, Bolton retained their first division championship title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League finishing just one point ahead of their Cheshire rivals.

Stockport's celebrated veteran, Derek Schofield, announced his retirement from inter-league play after this match and after he had beaten David Carse, Nigel Hallows and Clive Heap, only young Carse taking the master to a third game decider.

Tragedy for Manchester who finished bottom and relegation - a sad state of affairs for a league whose past deeds read like battle honours of some famous regiment. Liverpool too just did marginally better but a stay of execution may prevail following the mid-season withdrawal of Fleetwood.

Blackburn and Macclesfield occupy the promotion places in the two second divisions whilst Liverpool, unlike their men, have championed the women's first division in succession to Warrington. Well done Paula French, Barbara Kirkman and Brenda Buoe (nee Williams). Preston were the winners of the women's second division.

Top of the shop in Junior Division 1 are Oldham who finished level on points with Stockport but with a superior sets record 46-14 to 43-17. Divisional winners and runners-up were:-

| Men            | Winners               | Runners-up                |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Div. 1         | Bolton                | Stockport                 |
| Div. 2 (North) | Blackburn             | Wirral                    |
| Div. 2 (South) | Macclesfield          | Bury                      |
| Div. 3 (North) | Liverpool Bus. Houses | Trafford 'A'              |
| Div. 3 (South) | Burnley 'A'           | Ellesmere Port 'A'        |
| Div. 4 (North) | Barrow                | Lytham                    |
| Div. 4 (South) | Glossop               | Liverpool Bus. Houses 'A' |
| Women          |                       |                           |
| Div. 1         | Liverpool             | Oldham                    |
| Div. 2         | Preston               | Wirral                    |
| Juniors        |                       |                           |
| Div. 1         | Oldham                | Stockport                 |
| Div. 2A        | Barrow                | Preston 'A'               |
| Div. 2B        | Macclesfield          | Blackpool                 |
| Div. 3         | Burnley               | Hyde                      |

Bolton, who last won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy back in season 1967/68, got themselves back in the records by defeating Trafford (formerly Sale) 5-1 in this year's final played at Openshaw Lads' Club, Manchester on April 22. Singles successes by Stephen Scowcroft, Nigel Hallows and Andrea Holt, together with two doubles wins for Scowcroft/Hallows and Clive Heap/Miss Holt did the trick after Ron Vose had won the opening set for Trafford against Heap. The League's sympathies go to Mrs. Casofsky on the loss of her husband, Benny, who died on April 15 aged 67. Benny, who was the President of the Manchester and District League, also left two sons.

# LAST LOOK AT THE INDIAN TAKE-AWAY

by Richard Eaton of *The Sunday Times*

I ENJOYED my visit to that marvel in marble, the Taj Mahal, even though it required nine hours of travelling on roads choked with bikes, buses, bodies, animals and motorised rickshaws.

I enjoyed too seeing signs of economic progress in New Delhi, not the least of which were the many magnificent hotels available to visitors to the world championships. And I very much enjoyed meeting Indian people, even though much of the time I could only croak communications through muscous-filled vocal chords and had to hope that the incipient rebellion in the bottom of my stomach did not choose a public moment to declare war.

I was one of the lucky ones. Despite the worst organised press room I have ever seen at a major event I was able to do my job, come home reasonably well, and to profit from it all. Of how many players could that be said?

The Swedes, for instance, in a great effort to try to wrest away the

world title from the Chinese, spent a small fortune in bringing their own food, enough water for all of them for a fortnight, and their own doctor and physio. They were all sick, every single one of them. They never got near a world title.

### Gallant Des

Every member of the English squad was sick too. Despite a gallant set of performances from Desmond Douglas, who won ten out of twelve in the team event and played brilliantly whilst unfit against Jan-Ove Waldner in the last 16 of the men's singles, I suspect only Alan Cooke emerged with a sense of gain. And it took him nearly a month to get fully fit again after he had got home.

Others suffered more. Mikael Ap-

pelgren, Sweden's former European champion was so ill that he could not walk and had to be flown home early. Amongst the other victims were, reportedly, cases of dysentery, malaria and polio. Sadly — because any reasonable person wants to see progress in developing countries — one has to question whether the world championships were worth the effort for many front rank competitors. That means there must be a far more critical look in future at the criteria for giving events to Third World countries.

### Two bids

Upon what was the decision to give India the World Championships based this time? Apparently two countries bid, South Korea and India. South Korea was the venue for the Asian Games just a few months before, and Seoul is the venue for the Olympics next year. It hardly seems appropriate therefore that



Richard Eaton

more table tennis should go to the same place. The Koreans eventually withdrew their bid.

So it seems there was little choice. I doubt that the cause of table tennis was much furthered by its premier event this time and we must hope for better things in Dortmund in 1989. We need them to be. It's time the game turned a corner.

## CREST HOTELS SUPPORT GIRLS

### Jackie is manager and coach

CREST Hotels have agreed a superb deal to support junior girls table tennis, at national squad level. The support was negotiated by English junior girls' manager and coach, Jackie Bellinger. The deal is estimated to be worth in excess of £2,000 and will run for a year.

The two present squads (under 14 and under 17) will benefit, along with a new squad, the under 12s. The under twelves will be selected after a national competition to be played in July, at Blechley Sports Centre, Milton Keynes. Crest Hotels will supply bed and breakfast for a total of 22 weekends at their Luton Hotel. This lays beside the M1 motorway, junction 11. Parents and coaches are to be encouraged to travel with the players, and here Crest Hotels are being helpful as well. They will make special discounts available to those who travel with the youngsters.

Jackie Bellinger said: "I feel the young players will be helped so much by their parents and coaches knowing what we are setting out to get the players to achieve. In between the squad get together they can all work to perfect the training on power and techniques that I will teach them."

Each player will have 90 hours a year at Luton, with further individual sessions at smaller invitation only get together at Jackie's home. The purpose then will be to iron out any stubborn inbred faults.

The Luton Regional Sports Centre has a canteen, and full changing

facilities, and the use of six tables for the exclusive use of the squads. This was also organised by Jackie, who is just getting the programme she has devised under way. Beside extending the number of age groups, Jackie wants to catch them earlier,



Jackie Bellinger

she has other plans up her sleeve. These include the top players outside her national squad meeting the best in the country on a regular basis in a further bid to bring them into the reckoning for honours. To reach her goal of the girls winning junior and senior European championships.

## Exiles champions!

IN London the Thames Insurance Central League has now been completed. The Exiles first team of Richard Beckham, Peter Norcott, Dave Solman and Gordon Holmes have won the top division some five points clear of Club 25 Larkhall. Department of the Environment (DOE) 'A' were a further point behind in third place.

Larkhall's progress was severely dented when Mike Hammond, Percy Collino and Dave Harding were beaten 6-3 by the DOE A team comprising Mike O'Leary, Peter Harry and Gary Spencer. However the Exiles team managed to beat both these sides 5-4 to put themselves well on course for the League Championship. During the second half of the season Exiles again recorded victory over DOE A and their 3-6 loss to Club 25 Larkhall came too late to have a significant impact on Exiles' title hopes. Gainsford's Joey Kennedy and Richard Jermyn could have had quite an influence on the outcome, but they finished in 4th place as they could not find the form required to beat the top sides and they somehow lost twice to Mike Loverd's DOE B team.

The final positions and averages were:

| Thames Insurance Central League Division 1 | P  | W  | 4-5 | L  | Pts |
|--|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Exiles A                                   | 18 | 17 | 0   | 1  | 51  |
| Club 25 Larkhall                           | 18 | 15 | 1   | 2  | 46  |
| DOE A                                      | 18 | 14 | 3   | 1  | 45  |
| Gainsford A                                | 18 | 9  | 5   | 4  | 32  |
| Exiles B                                   | 18 | 8  | 1   | 9  | 25  |
| St Bride's A                               | 18 | 6  | 5   | 7  | 23  |
| Beth Grn Inst. A                           | 18 | 7  | 2   | 9  | 23  |
| DOE B                                      | 18 | 7  | 2   | 9  | 23  |
| Exiles C                                   | 18 | 5  | 0   | 13 | 15  |
| Met Police A                               | 18 | 2  | 3   | 13 | 9   |

## The Daily Telegraph

This newspaper, circulation near 1.5 million daily has continued to give outstanding support to table tennis. Even at the end of the season table tennis gained space on six consecutive days - May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

## South-East Regional News

LONDON and South East England Regional Co-ordinating Committee is one of the most active of the nine. This was their programme of events for the closing weeks of the season:

17th May: Umpires Seminar at the Edison Centre, Edison Road, London N8.

19th May: Committee meeting at Crystal Palace, National Sports Centre.

23rd and 24th May: London Closed Championships at Picketts Lock Centre, N9.

7th June: Participation in the Capital Venture Day, Battersea Park, SW8/11.

7th June: Finals of the London Youth Scheme Tournament.

Chairman of the region is Michael Close.

## COUNCIL GRANT AID EXPLAINED

by *Albert Shipley and John Prean*

FOR many years the Sports Council provided financial grant aid to the ETTA under four main headings: Administration, Coaching, International and Training, with each section receiving a percentage of the total costs claimed.

Now there is a new approach to such funding in that governing bodies had to produce a costed three to five year plan showing the objectives and how they were to be achieved. Most of the plans could only be partially funded from our own resources and it is the deficits that Sports Council are now funding but only in certain specified areas. 1987/88 will be the first year of this new approach.

### Development

The majority of the grant of £182,500 is allocated to coaching of coaches and players with training and international participation receiving similar amounts to previous years. Development is also funded but administration

SUPPORTED BY



costs are no longer funded directly — we have to apportion these costs over all the various activities.

Increased participation in sport and the pursuit of excellence are the two main themes of the Sports Council's new approach to grant aid and their input makes them the largest single supporter of table tennis. We are most grateful for this support and every opportunity must be taken to indicate this by use of the logo with this article.

... and from John Prean

I too, am immensely grateful to the Sports Council for their support of our sport. It is a record sum, but it is given on condition that progress is made towards meeting agreed objectives. To do this the sport has to become more efficient, more business-like. Sports Council grants are not free gifts. We, too, have to find large sums, more than in the past. I cannot stress too much our own responsibilities in these matters. It is a tremendous act of faith by the Sports Council, who see a great future for table tennis in the 1990s. We must not let them down. We must not let ourselves down.

So once again our warmest thanks to the Sports Council and their liaison officer David Carpenter for his guidance and help for seeing at times our problems even earlier than we did.

## Mason, Andrew win the Wilmott Cup at Mansfield

NICKY Mason and Skylet Andrew, a duo far too strong for all contenders were unbeaten as Willesden triumphed 5-1 in the final of the Wilmott Cup at Mansfield. Gary Spencer lost to Chris Rogers as Leicester were beaten 5-1.

Fiona Elliot took her expected maximum and Jill Harris won her two as Wolverhampton snatched the J.M. Rose Bowl final round 5-2 against Plymouth.

Chris Oldfield won his three for Sheffield as The Blades won the Carter Cup, 5-2 against Launceston, whilst in the Bromfield trophy, Plymouth came through 5-4 in a superb battle against Preston. At 4-4, Sarah Pengelly won a great duel to beat Marie Thornley to give the West Country team a well-deserved victory.

**Finals:** Wilmott Cup: Willesden 5, Leicester 1; J.M. Rose Bowl: Wolverhampton 5, Plymouth 2; Carter Cup: Sheffield 5, Launceston 2; Bromfield Trophy: Plymouth 5, Preston 4.

# TENACITY

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# The Minister and the Chairman

## GOVERNMENT SPORTS MINISTER

meets table tennis representatives John Prean and Bernard Rowley



Table Tennis meets the Minister of Sport. From left to right: Father Bernard Rowley, the Minister of Sport Richard Tracey, chairman of the ETTA John Prean and Michael Grylls, MP.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

John Prean Esq  
Chairman  
English Table Tennis Association  
21 Claremont  
Hastings  
East Sussex

I was pleased to have had the opportunity recently to meet the ETTA's new Chairman John Prean and its Regional Coaching Chairman Father Bernard Rowley, to hear about the important changes taking place in the table tennis world. It was encouraging to learn of their plans to increase the number of coaches, to involve them in schools and, generally, to improve the quality of coaching.

The provision of much needed facilities is vitally important for the future of the game. I am especially keen, therefore, to see sports centres being fully used and school facilities being made widely available for community use outside of school hours. If we can make real progress in this area, it can only be good news for table tennis.

I wish the ETTA every success for the future and, on the international scene, I am looking forward to a victory in the European division one promotion decider against West Germany at Wurzburg on April 19.

RICHARD TRACEY  
MINISTER FOR SPORT

## POLITICS

THE less said about the historic meeting of the National Council Meeting in London on April 11 the better for the sport.

The Chairman maintains that time spent on the appointments of vice-chairmen severely cut into discussions on the serious financial situation.

However, four new vice-chairman were elected - Alan Ransome (marketing), Jim Beckley (public relations), Chris Wright (competitions) and Stuart Sneyd (coaching). Father Bernard Rowley was not approved for development.

As most people know by now, deputy chairman George Yates and treasurer Aubrey Drapkin walked out of the meeting at lunch-time in protest at the results of the voting and new elections were set in motion for their replacement.

## YATES TO PREAN

GEORGE YATES wrote to John Prean following the National Council meeting on April 11: "In conformity with my announcement at Saturday's meeting of the National Council, I herewith, formally and in writing tender my resignation as Deputy Chairman of the ETTA.

It is with the utmost regret that I do so for I feel it is an extremely sad way in which to sever my long standing connections with the national association after serving as Deputy Chairman for the past 17 years and prior to that as national councillor for Cumbria and a period also involving 19 years as editor of the national magazine.

Your lack of consultation with me following your appointment as chairman would indicate an underlying motive to see me gone and this together with your changes in vice-chairmen has so unmotivated me that with the best will in the world I can no longer give my time and energies to the furtherance of the ETTA. I reiterate it is a sad day for me.

I trust however that under your chairmanship and with your new-found colleagues in management the sport will achieve the recognition it deserves in this country and despite my own sadness, I wish you success in the future, albeit without me."

## PACKED OUT ...

THIS final issue of the magazine needed another six pages to print all the material that has been sent in. In order to maximise the content, a dozen pictures have been left out, also several readers letters and a number of stories. I hope that not too many readers will be disappointed.

J.W.



# Schildkröt

## British Table Tennis League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

### Results: 14 March - 20 April 1987

**Premier:** Ormesby 6 Omega Reading 2, Rotherham 2 GKNSW 6, MBS St Neots 1 Butterfly Cardiff 7, Panoramic Bath 1 Grove 7, Panoramic Bath 8 MBS St Neots 0, Butterfly Cardiff 6 Rotherham 2, GKNSW 7 Ormesby 1, Omega Reading 5 MBS St Neots 3, Butterfly Cardiff 2 Grove 6, Panoramic Bath 5 Rotherham 3, Grove 6 Rotherham 2, Omega Reading 3 Ormesby 5, Butterfly Cardiff 7 Ormesby 1, Ormesby 6 Panoramic Bath 2.

**Division 1:** Dagenham 2 TCB Dolphins 6, Express Torbay 5, TSP Larkhall 3, Omega Claw 1 Byker Newcastle 7, Chan Construction 7 WW/Birmingham 1, Byker Newcastle 3 Express Torbay 5, TSP Larkhall 2 Dagenham 6, TCB Dolphins 8 Omega Claw 0, Byker Newcastle 4 Chan Construction 4, WW/Birmingham 0 Express Torbay 8, TCB Dolphins 6 WW/Birmingham 2.

**Division 2 North:** Ormesby 4 Bradford Investments 4, Lincoln 5 GKNSW 3, Oldham 2 March 6, EAE Waveney 5 Kingsborough Ins 3, Ormesby 8 Oldham 0, GKNSW 4 Ormesby 4, Bradford Investments 6 Oldham 2, March 7 EAE Waveney 1, Kingsborough Insurance 3 Lincoln 5, GKNSW 7 EAE Waveney 1.

**Division 2 South:** Medway 1 C&L Nittaku 7, Ashford 8 Triangle 0, Jaques Fareham 4 TSP Larkhall 4, Global Plymouth 5 Fellows Cranleigh 3, Triangle 5 Medway 3, C&L Nittaku 6 Jaques Fareham 2, TSP Larkhall 3 Global Plymouth 5.

**Division 3 North:** Ormesby 1 Leicester 7, Byker Newcastle 4 Chan Construction 4, Leeds 7 Lincoln 1, Grove 8 Vickers Barrow 0, Chan Construction 7 Ormesby 1, Leicester 2 Leeds 6, Lincoln 1 Grove 7, Vickers Barrow 4 Byker Newcastle 4, Ormesby 1 Leeds 7.

**Division 3 South:** Ellenborough 1 Ashford 7, Countryman Tun' Wells 6 Abeng Warriors 2, Ashford 4 Rejects 4, Errey's Print 4 Deptford Rams 4, Ellenborough 5 Team Ramlosa Essex 3, Errey's Print 5 Ellenborough 5, Rejects 6 Countryman T Wells 2, Abeng Warriors 3 Errey's Print 5, Deptford Rams 2 Ellenborough 6, Team Ramlosa Essex 6 Ashford 2.

**Division 3 East:** WC Wellingborough 8 SM Peterborough 0, MBS St Neots 1 Norwich Foxwood 7, Witham Town 3 Dagenham 5, Norwich Foxwood 3 WC Wellingborough 5, SM Peterborough 0 Britannia Ipswich 8, AHW Pioneers 2 MBS St Neots 6, Norwich Foxwood 7 Witham Town 1, Dagenham 4 WC Wellingborough 4, Britannia Ipswich 5 MBS St Neots 3.

**Division 3 West:** Opella Leominster 6, Duchy Launceston 2, Doleq Carpets 5 Jolliffe Poole 3, Omega Reading 2 Express Torbay 6, Panoramic Bath 6 Omega Reading 2, Jolliffe Poole 6, Opella Leominster 2, Duchy Launceston 3 Omega Reading 5, Panoramic Bath 1 Doleq Carpets 7.

### Final League Tables (21.4.87)

| Premier Division     | P  | W  | D | L  | F   | A  | P  |
|----------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| GKN Steelstock Wolv  | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0  | 100 | 12 | 26 |
| Grove Market Drayton | 14 | 11 | 3 | 0  | 87  | 25 | 25 |
| Panoramic Bath       | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6  | 61  | 51 | 15 |
| Butterfly Cardiff    | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6  | 54  | 58 | 15 |
| Ormesby              | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6  | 50  | 62 | 15 |
| Rotherham            | 14 | 4  | 2 | 8  | 49  | 63 | 10 |
| Omega Reading        | 14 | 2  | 1 | 11 | 33  | 79 | 5  |
| MBS St Neots         | 14 | 0  | 1 | 13 | 14  | 98 | 1  |

### Division 1

|                       |    |    |   |    |    |     |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|----|
| Express Sports Torbay | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0  | 80 | 32  | 26 |
| Chan Construction     | 14 | 9  | 2 | 3  | 76 | 36  | 20 |
| Trebtor Dagenham      | 14 | 8  | 2 | 4  | 68 | 44  | 18 |
| TCB Dolphins          | 14 | 7  | 2 | 5  | 62 | 50  | 16 |
| TSP Larkhall          | 14 | 7  | 0 | 7  | 58 | 54  | 14 |
| Byker Newcastle       | 14 | 5  | 3 | 6  | 56 | 56  | 13 |
| West W/Birmingham     | 14 | 2  | 1 | 11 | 37 | 75  | 5  |
| Omega Claw            | 14 | 0  | 0 | 14 | 11 | 101 | 0  |

### Division 2 North

|                        |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Bradford Investments   | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2  | 74 | 38 | 23 |
| Ormesby                | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 74 | 38 | 22 |
| EAE Waveney            | 14 | 8  | 2 | 4  | 66 | 46 | 18 |
| GKN Steelstock Wolv    | 14 | 5  | 4 | 5  | 60 | 52 | 14 |
| Sincil Lincoln         | 14 | 6  | 2 | 6  | 55 | 57 | 14 |
| March                  | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 49 | 63 | 11 |
| Kingsborough Insurance | 14 | 1  | 4 | 9  | 40 | 72 | 6  |
| Oldham                 | 14 | 1  | 2 | 11 | 30 | 82 | 4  |

### Division 2 South

|                        |    |    |   |    |     |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Ashford                | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0  | 103 | 9  | 28 |
| C&L Nittaku            | 14 | 8  | 3 | 3  | 67  | 45 | 19 |
| Global Sports Plymouth | 14 | 9  | 1 | 4  | 62  | 50 | 19 |
| Fellows Cranleigh      | 14 | 6  | 1 | 7  | 53  | 59 | 13 |
| Medway                 | 14 | 4  | 2 | 8  | 48  | 54 | 10 |
| Gunnersbury Triangle   | 14 | 3  | 2 | 9  | 39  | 73 | 8  |
| TSP Larkhall           | 14 | 3  | 2 | 9  | 37  | 75 | 8  |
| Jaques Fareham         | 14 | 3  | 1 | 10 | 39  | 73 | 7  |

### Division 3 North

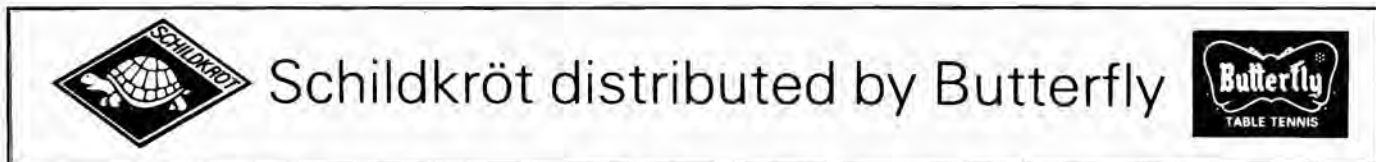
|                       |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Grove Market Drayton  | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2  | 84 | 28 | 24 |
| City of Leeds (Univ)  | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2  | 83 | 29 | 23 |
| Leicester             | 14 | 9  | 0 | 5  | 71 | 41 | 18 |
| Chan Construction     | 14 | 8  | 2 | 4  | 67 | 45 | 18 |
| Ormesby               | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6  | 62 | 50 | 15 |
| Byker Newcastle       | 14 | 1  | 3 | 10 | 34 | 78 | 5  |
| Vickers Sports Barrow | 14 | 2  | 1 | 11 | 21 | 91 | 5  |
| Crusaders Lincoln     | 14 | 2  | 0 | 12 | 26 | 86 | 4  |

### Division 3 South

|                        |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Rejects                | 14 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 78 | 34 | 24 |
| Team Ramlosa Essex     | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 76 | 36 | 23 |
| Countryman Tun' Wells  | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6 | 57 | 55 | 15 |
| Ashford                | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8 | 54 | 58 | 11 |
| Abeng Warriors         | 14 | 4  | 3 | 7 | 50 | 62 | 11 |
| Thorn EMI Ellenborough | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8 | 49 | 63 | 11 |
| Errey's Print '84      | 14 | 4  | 1 | 9 | 42 | 70 | 9  |
| Deptford TTC Rams      | 14 | 3  | 2 | 9 | 42 | 70 | 8  |

### Division 3 East

|                            |    |    |   |    |    |     |    |
|----------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|-----|----|
| Well C. Wellingborough     | 14 | 10 | 4 | 0  | 78 | 34  | 24 |
| Norwich Foxwood            | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 76 | 36  | 22 |
| Britannia Ipswich          | 14 | 9  | 2 | 3  | 71 | 41  | 20 |
| AHW Pioneers               | 14 | 5  | 4 | 5  | 60 | 52  | 14 |
| Trebtor Dagenham           | 14 | 6  | 2 | 6  | 58 | 54  | 14 |
| MBS St Neots               | 14 | 4  | 3 | 7  | 53 | 59  | 11 |
| Witham Town                | 14 | 2  | 3 | 9  | 45 | 67  | 7  |
| Smiths Motors Peterborough | 14 | 0  | 0 | 14 | 7  | 105 | 0  |



# Schildkrot British League 2

## Division 3 West

|                       |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Doleq Carpets         | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0  | 91 | 21 | 27 |
| Opella Leominster     | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3  | 71 | 41 | 21 |
| Jolliffe Poole        | 13 | 9  | 2 | 2  | 72 | 32 | 20 |
| Express Sports Torbay | 13 | 5  | 0 | 8  | 40 | 64 | 10 |
| KCD Stiga             | 11 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 40 | 48 | 9  |
| Panoramic Bath        | 13 | 2  | 3 | 8  | 37 | 67 | 7  |
| Duchy Windows Laun'n  | 14 | 2  | 2 | 10 | 38 | 74 | 6  |
| Omega Reading II      | 14 | 2  | 2 | 10 | 35 | 77 | 6  |

## DD works wonders

The August/September issue of TT News reported that the theme behind this league is very much the 'Best of British'. Desmond Douglas has thus far proved that he is indeed still the best. Steelstock's last two fixtures have appeared to be almost embarrassing for Des who has conceded an average of only 9 points per game. What about Messrs Cooke and Preat playing in Sweden and Germany respectively — will they become the best of British in the league? Last season Nicky Mason returned from Holland, so let's hope that these two may return too. Despite the absence of these two fine players, Steelstock's success has been very much a team effort. Obviously you cannot win league points with two sets alone. This period Des has been ably supported by Nicky Mason, Phil Bradbury and Carl Morgan who have only lost one set each.

Alan Cooke's departure from Ormesby seems to have caused the Middlesbrough team some difficulty, but they survived the season with 13 points to their credit from 13 matches. Nigel Eckersley has chalked up some good wins for Ormesby including a 21-17 in the third game victory over Nicky Mason this period. Grove's strength in depth could not quite topple the leaders but they were the only undefeated runners-up in the league. Grove recorded convincing wins this period beating Panoramic Bath 7-1 when Colin Wilson beat Graham Sandley to prevent a whitewash. Bradley Billington looked good for Grove in this match. When Grove met Butterfly Cardiff the Welshmen suffered a 2-6 defeat although the match was closer than the score suggests. Nigel Tyler had an excellent win over John Souter but he was beaten 21-18 in the third game by young Jimmy Stokes. John Souter's deuce in the third struggle over Alan Griffiths helped to keep his team on course. Butterfly subsequently regained lost ground by beating Ormesby 7-1.

## Avon calling

Panoramic Bath did well to finish in third place and this was helped this period by their whitewash of MBS St Neots. Seven sets were won two-straight as only Stuart Palmer could pinch an end from Kevin Satchell. However Ormesby beat Bath 6-2 on April 20 with Denis Neale showing he should not be playing in Division 2 North by beating Steve Dorking and Adrian Moore. Bath really had nothing much to get steamed up about being 10 points behind Grove. St Neots other match was played at home to Butterfly Cardiff in which Keith Richardson only conceded 22 points to Mark Thomas. Three other sets went to a deciding end but, as is the trend when you're propping up a division, they were lost by the home side. The most startling of these three sets was perhaps Keith Richardson's loss to Nigel Thomas 6-21 in the third game having won the first game 21-12. Rotherham's Chris Oldfield seems to be benefiting from Premier experience having taken a game from both of his Steelstock opponents this period. Rotherham have a respectable team but it appears they need to strengthen their side to make a significant impact on this division. Rotherham lost 2-6 to Grove, the two being a surprising duck bagged by Steve Mills.

## Captain Barr's Eye

Omega Reading recorded their first win of the season playing their final fixture against MBS St Neots. Team captain Dave Barr hacked his way to two useful victories and Adrian Dixon demonstrated why he is still the No. 1 of the team with his two fine wins. A further win from Andy Wellman made the score 5 for Reading for the first time this year. Lisa Bellinger appeared to be perhaps a little unlucky as she lost 18 and 17 in the third to Mick Harper and Keith Richardson respectively.

## Torbay or not Torbay ...

There was little question Division 1 was won comfortably by Express Sports Torbay who finished 6 points clear of their closest rivals Chan Construction. Though undefeated Torbay had their frights during their two 5-3 wins recently. Torbay were just leading 3-2 against Byker Newcastle and won both of their next two sets with deuce games. TSP Larkhall stored into a 3-0 lead before seeing the points drift away. Following Torbay's recovery to 4-3 it was Gary Lambert who recorded an astonishing demolition of Percy Collino who had earlier beaten Paul Giles in straight games. Dagenham's recent mixed fortunes saw them into third place while TCB Dolphins collected 20/24 sets to finish 4th, winning all their last three matches. Dolphins beat WW/Birmingham 6-2 on 19 April with Ritchie Venner getting the better of Barry Johnson in three games.

## Out Gunned?

West Warwicks/Birmingham lost 1-7 to Chan Construction in a match containing some tense moments. Phil Gunn recorded two comfortable victories contesting 128 points. Brian Johnson beat his opponents, but took his time about it, contesting 244 points in his two sets! His 25-23 in the third game win over Andy Rich gave his team the start they wanted — eventually! — as did his 21-19 in the third game win over Barry Johnson. Chan travelled to Newcastle to record their second draw of the season. In this match the home side lost the first and the last set 17-21 in the third, all other sets being two-straight. Omega Claw were whitewashed twice but the result between Paul Elphick and Keith Hodder stands out a little, —20, 20, 20.

## Denis the Menace

In Division 2 North the Ormesby veteran Denis Neale has looked menacing. He has won 6 of his games under 10 this period including a 21-9 in the third victory over Steve Turner. Ormesby drew with Bradford Investments in their penultimate match thus making for a particularly close finish. Had Ormesby gained just one more set they could have won the title. EAE Waveney were not far behind but they crashed 1-7 to March, the one set being a 21-15 in the third game win for Neil Pickard over Gary Jordan. A 3-man EAE Waveney team crashed 1-7 playing away to Steelstock on 19 April. Neil Pickard picked up the one set here with his win over Trevor Washington. Sincil Lincoln chalked up two wins to maintain a respectable position. Steelstock registered a surprise draw with Ormesby with Tony Isaacs performing well though he must have been a little disappointed when he played against Sincil Lincoln and lost his two sets there.

## KIS of death

Kingsborough Insurance Services lost their last two matches 3-5. Against EAE Waveney five deuce games were contested. It was Lincoln's Derek Munt who inflicted most of the damage in winning his two, including a win over Kingsborough's Steve Brunskill 21-7 in the third game. Oldham could only gain two sets from Mike Owen when they met March which, when coupled with their whitewash by Ormesby, saw Oldham anchored to the table bottom.

## Booking the Cookes?

Ashford have been breaking records in Division 2 South having only conceded nine sets all season. They are the only team to have won every match this season and they have beaten ALL of their opponents by the score of 8-0 at least once. This period there were only two fairly close sets — Kenny Jackson's 21-18 in the third game victory over Gunnersbury Triangle's Jonathan Proffitt; and Glen Baker's 21-19, 21-18 win over the Fellows Cranleigh No. 2 Peter Norcott. Last season Ashford recruited both Kenny Jackson and Glen Baker to help win Division 3 South. This season they have added the talents of Max Crimmins. Next season? — Rumour has it they're recruiting Scotland's Dave Hannah. Maybe 1988/89 will see them bring back Alan Cooke to the British League.

## Gordon's tonic

For this season the title race was over long ago. However the battle for runners-up was close with Global Sports Plymouth being beaten on sets difference by C&L Nittaku who also came up from Division 3 South this season. TSP Larkhall gave Plymouth a scare with Gordon Chapman winning his two and his fellow veteran Connie Warren losing his two very narrowly. Tony Sweet won his sets, one of which was a 21-19, 21-19 win over Connie Warren. TSP Larkhall also recorded a draw with Jaques Fareham. Larkhall's result had the effect of firmly placing Jaques Fareham at the foot of the division. More impressive was Gunnersbury Triangle's escape from relegation. Their win over Medway saw them safe and it was perhaps surprising to see Tony Spain bag a duck in Acton!

## Doleq 'Flying' Carpets

Division 3 West was won very comfortably by the Welsh team Doleq Carpets who flew through the Division collecting 27 points with their last two victims being Panoramic Bath 7-1 and Jolliffe Poole 5-3. For the Poole side Tony Clayton scored two good wins against Doleq including the scalp of Brian Jeanes. For Bath Lee Neil's first set win over Doleq's Nick Williams was their last. Jolliffe Poole managed a brilliant 6-2 win over Opella Leominster and in fact led 6-0 at one stage, but they still finished a point behind Opella in third place. Following this two-horse race for the runners-up spot the next five places seemed to be somewhat closely contested. In their final match Omega Reading chalked up their second win of the season beating Duchy Windows Launceston 5-3 with Wally Allanson looking effective with his two wins. Sadly for Duchy Windows Jeremy Williams' two sets were not enough but they did clear the bottom of the division by three sets. Express Torbay beat Omega Reading 6-2 to finish mid-table with a notable performance by Steve Black. KCD Stiga seemed to grind to a halt after only 11 matches but they finished mid-table too. KCD's Micki Sinanan

# British League 3 and North Wales

must have been disappointed as he had been driving from Portsmouth to London to compete in the Thames Insurance Central League for some tougher match practice this season.

## Lost Crusade

Two 7-1 defeats left Crusaders Lincoln in 8th place in Division 3 North. Mike Thornley prevented the whitewash in both matches while contesting the final set against City of Leeds and Grove Market Drayton. The winners, Grove MD, had to play the bottom two teams to complete the season and collected 15/16 sets with particularly inspired performances from Malcolm Green and David Morris. Vickers Sports Barrow received the whitewash treatment but stayed one point from the bottom despite having won only 21 sets all season. In contrast the team actually on the bottom of Division 3 South has 42 sets. Byker Newcastle drew both of their last two matches to steer clear of the bottom. Byker's Mike Thomas held off Chan Construction's challengers. A weaker Byker team played against Vickers Sports Barrow. Barrow's Alan Fay won all of his sets with three games won at the score of 23-21.

Chan Construction's other match this period was against Ormesby who they beat 7-1 to finish fourth, just three sets behind Leicester. Steve Bertie was reported to be in fine fettle for Chan while it was John Healey who prevented the whitewash for Ormesby when playing against Pete Machin. He also managed to beat Martin Pickles when Ormesby were beaten by the same score playing at home to Leicester. But Leicester crashed 2-6 to the City of Leeds team which thoroughly erased their chances of finishing the season in second place. Richard Whitley fought gallantly for Leeds in this match. Leeds beat Ormesby 7-1 on 20 April to finish just behind the leaders.

## Engine trouble?

Wellingborough were indeed Well Connected to win Division 3 East when winning their last two matches. They beat the runners-up Norwich Foxwood 5-3 with Keith Fellowes winning in straight games. An efficient looking 8-0 blow was dealt by Wellingborough to Smiths Motors Peterborough who never seem to have got their wheels in motion. 'SMP' maths will reveal a 'pointless' season for the Peterborough side who were rather out of their depth. Britannia Ipswich beat SMP 8-0 too but Julian Wheel came rather close to losing his two. Norwich Foxwood's Richard Stevenson helped his side to a 7-1 win over MBS St Neots. AHW Pioneers suffered a surprising 2-6 defeat to MBS St Neots. Pioneers' Colin Luscombe played well in winning his two. Witham Town, in 7th place, were soundly beaten by Norwich Foxwood but lost only 3-5 to Trebor Dagenham. For Dagenham Kent veteran Henry Buist won his two including a 21-19 in the third game win over David Cole. For Witham Town Don McGilvray beat Phil Cox in straight games but this was not enough to share the points. Trebor Dagenham did share the points with the Divisional winners. Phil Cox won his two two-straight with three deuce games. Young Richard Jones snatched a league point in the final set by beating Alan Hawes. Witham Town won only two matches all season, both of these being against Smith Motors Peterborough who averaged only half a set per match. Witham Town's Richard Jones was nominated as the 'Player of the Match' after their 8-0 victory.

## Star(k) struck

Arguably the strongest of the four third divisions is Division 3 South which contains 18 men from the England rankings between February's Nos. 33 and 200, as well as three women from the top ten in the country.

Over 100 spectators helped to carry the Rejects team to a 6-2 home win over Countryman Tunbridge Wells who finished a highly creditable third in this their first season. In this, Rejects second season, Mike O'Leary, their No. 1, excelled after a lean period. For Countryman it was Juliet Houghton who put up the most resistance in beating Peter Harry and taking the veteran Trevor Campbell pretty close. Any win for Rejects in this their final fixture was enough to secure the much sought after league title which could so easily have been won by the divisional favourites Team Ramlosa Essex had they not crashed 3-5 to Thorn EMI Ellenborough during March. Thorn led 5-1 at one stage with Tony Stark leading the side and he achieved an excellent win over the very experienced Des Charlery. Ramlosa finished the season with a 6-2 win over Ashford when Alison Gordon beat Stuart Gibbs 26-24 in the third game and Mandy Sainsbury beat Richard Darnell. Ramlosa never quite recovered from their 1-7 loss to Rejects when Gary Spencer took Peter Harry's place when he had pneumonia. Ashford beat Thorn EMI Ellenborough 7-1 this period, but to steer away from the bottom of the table Ellenborough beat Deptford TTC Rams 6-2 with Tony Start again starring to beat Junior Facey and the unpredictable Chris Beckley. Errey's Print could only salvage a draw against the Rams with Nicky Standen taking his two. Paul Barry just lost the final set deuce in the third against Clive Carthy for the points to be shared. Quite impressive was

Jerome Jonah's 21-19, 22-20 win over Paul Rowden. Things looked decidedly gloomy for Errey's Print until they somehow won their last two matches 5-3. Firstly they beat a Starkless Ellenborough side followed by a win over Abeng Warriors where veteran Roger Chandler beat the increasingly formidable Joseph Quansah. Abeng Warriors seemed to lose their fighting spirit as the end of the season approached as they also went under 6-2 to Countryman Tunbridge Wells who they had beaten earlier in the season. Countryman could be expected to do well next season but rumour has it that Juliet Houghton could be moving to join the girls in the Ashford side. Deptford TTC Rams were the only team in the league to gain eight league points and yet finish bottom of the table.

Following the recent resignation of the league administrator Keith Ponting, I wonder if due consideration has been given to the idea of clubs contributing to some form of recognition of Keith's hard slog over the years. Surely his effort should somehow be rewarded — such hard-working people should not be ignored even if resigning.

MIKE LOVEDER

## North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association

by C.T. BAYLIS

ENGLISH Table Tennis Association County Championships. Senior Div. 3A, played at Castell Alun Sports Centre, Hope, near Wrexham on Saturday 14th April 1987 — Clwyd 4, Lincolnshire 6: Trevor Manning b David Skerratt 14, -12, 15; Paul Griffiths lt Jim Brewster -19, 18, -12; John Ellis lt Paul Moore -18, -20; Evelyn Wright/Justine Thomas b Linda Thompson/Sue Radley 21, 16; Ellis/Manning lt Skerratt/Brewster 10, -14, -18; Manning b Brewster 18, 15; Thomas b Thomas 18, 15; Ellis lt Skerratt -14, 22, -21; Wright lt Radley -18, 11, -20; Griffiths lt Moore -19, 11, -18.

With two singles wins from Trevor Manning and one singles from Justine Thomas and the Clwyd ladies pair Evelyn Wright and Justine Thomas also taking the ladies doubles the Clwyd team could not overcome their visitors with Lincolnshire taking the six other games. Paul Moore with two singles and Dave Skerratt and Jim Brewster one each and Sue Radley won their other singles.

County Championships, Junior Div 3A. Played at Kendal, Saturday 14th April, 1987 — Cumbria 6, Clwyd 4: Stephen Temble b Kristian Mouldsdale 11, 7; Nicholas Thompson b Nigel Roberts 18, 15; Gordon Dwane lt Spencer Harris -14, -19; Margo Lewis/Paula Eddy lt Tracy Sambrook/Natasha Williams 17, -22, -16; Temple/Dwane b Mouldsdale/Harris 5, 12; Temple b Roberts 3, 8; Eddy lt Williams -13, -17; Dwane b Mouldsdale 15, 18; Lewis b Sambrook 8, 20; Thompson lt Harris -19, 19, -14.

Two singles wins for Welsh cadet title holder Spencer Harris and also a singles win for Natasha Williams, cadet girls Welsh holder. Natasha also won the doubles partnered with Tracy Sambrook. For Cumbria Stephen Temple with two wins and Gordon Dwane and also Nicholas Thompson one each and Margo Lewis one singles were just too good for the Welsh side.

Wrexham & District TT League. With the league season now coming to its close we are now reaching the finals of the various team knock-out competitions which will be played during April and May. **Wrexham Old Members & Friends Consolation Shield - Final:** Wrexham Old Boys A versus Telecom D. **PW Hale Handicap Shield - Semi-finals:** Caergwrle BB B (scr) versus Wrexham Social Club for the Disabled (20); Telecom A (scr) versus Wrexham Old Boys C (290). Played over two legs.

Division 3 Knock-out - Semi-finals: Llangollen Youth Club (15) versus Wrexham Social Club for the Disabled (scr); Caergwrle BB B (scr) versus Wrexham Lager Social Club (10).

Wrexham local player Peter Gabriel has won the British Les Autres table tennis championships for the second successive year. Peter, the undefeated Disabled Welsh Champion for the past 13 years continued his winning form to maintain his impressive ranking. The 38-year-old supervisor from the Queensway Sports Complex in Wrexham plays for the local disabled tennis team who compete in the Wrexham League and is ranked number eight in the world.

## East Shropshire Table Tennis League

BSC Flinton are on course to pick up four trophies with their senior side already having won the Division 1 title and are still in the Ray Baker Memorial Trophy. Meanwhile the A team has won the DR Ledgard Challenge Cup and the B team are through to the semi-finals of the DR Ledgard Handicap Cup. The seconds currently lying fourth in Division 1 proved far too strong for their B squad in the final of the DR Ledgard Challenge Cup losing only one of the ten matches. Alan Jones, Martin White and Lou Lockett won all their singles but Jones and Lockett went down to Jeff Jones and Lee Thacker in the doubles.

## Oswestry League Tournament

Wrexham based players did well to reach the finals. Anne Walker lost against Cheryl Jones in the final of the ladies singles -19, 11, -13. Anne however did win the handicap singles beating DIL Jones 42-30 in the final. Malcolm Buckle reached the final of the veteran singles losing against Jim Bishton 42-34. Other local players to reach a final were Ken Thompson and Malcolm Owens who lost in the doubles final to Jim Bishton and Alan Roberts -12, -15. The final of the mens singles saw Alan Roberts win against Jim Bishton after he had lost the first game -10, however he came back to win the second by 4 and third 17. The JC Roberts team event winners were J Bishton and C Jones who beat Brian Bevan and David Powell in the final by two games to nil. Junior events: Under 16 singles: Jason Hughes beat R Edwards and in the under 18 section David Powell beat Jason Hughes 18 and 15. Junior handicap singles: Cheryl Jones beat David Powell 42-38.

# Shocks at Stantonbury

STIGA GRAND PRIX FINALS, STANTONBURY, MILTON KEYNES

## Hannah and Joy Grundy strike it rich

by John Woodford

FEW expected the pride of Scotland David Hannah to win the Stiga Grand Finals and take £500 of the £2,100 prize money. Quite a few expected Joy Grundy to take her rivals apart and try to establish herself once again, certainly on current form, as the true England No. 1.

Not many who know Desmond Douglas thought he would appear in the event just after earning a lot of money playing eight days in succession on the Chinese tour of England. The loss of Skylet Andrew to his Dutch contract was always on the cards and it was predictable that Carl Prean would not let the dust of the Chinese tour settle before high-tailing back to Germany from where he obtains most of his annual income in the same way as Des Douglas some years back.

This left Alan Cooke as the hot favourite. Those of us who have seen him produce magic around the world this season knew he could do it, but even popular "Cookey" is human. After his defeat in the final he told me "Hannah played well and deserved to win. I was in two minds whether to play in this event, but with the others backing out, I felt I had to. I feel sure I can beat him when I can raise my game to world championships play, this was not that sort of occasion."

Also totally predictable was the small crowd. A glorious summer's day in May, even the locals were hardly likely to turn up in force even if the top men had been there.

### Lucky survival

Hannah was lucky to survive several match points against Nicky Mason in the groups. That had the Surrey and Scotland man smashing the ball back to his opponent in between points, but later in the final he calmly and methodically drove Cooke back to the boards and the Derbyshire man was without adequate reply.

Fiona Elliot strangely, did not qualify for the event, so that brought Mandy Sainsbury in as a semi-finalist. The final rounds of the women's event went as expected with Lisa Bellinger losing once again to Alison Gordon and Alison losing once more in the final to Joy Grundy, who really won the tournament without being extended or really raising a sweat, confirming what

England captain and supremo Don Parker has always thought that Joy at the end of this long campaign is the best girl of the bunch on the table.

**Women (group 1):** Bellinger b Holt 13, 13; Sainsbury b Shaw 8, 20; Holt lt Sainsbury -19, -13; Shaw lt Bellinger -16, -11; Holt lt Shaw -15, 12, -22; Bell b Sainsbury 14, 20.

**Men (group 1):** Cooke b Rogers 5, 13; Souter b Mills 16, 17; Rogers b Souter -20, 12; Mills lt Cooke -10, -9; Rogers b Mills 19, 19; Cooker b Souter 17, 11.

**Women (group 2):** Grundy b Collier 18,

16; Gordon b Harris 14, 16; Collier lt Gordon -10, -9; Harris lt Grundy -15, -14; Collier lt Harris -17, 13, -12; Grundy b Gordon -19, 14, 15. **Men (group 2):** Mason b Eckersley 12, 21; Hannah b Stokes 13, 19; Eckersley lt Hannah 14, -13, -12; Stokes lt Mason -15, -5; Eckersley lt Stokes -19, -17; Mason lt Hannah 14, -19, -23.

**Semi-finals - Women:** Grundy b Sainsbury 15, 14; Bellinger lt Gordon -18, -16.

**Final:** Grundy b Gordon 14, 15. **Semi-finals - Men:** Hannah b Souter -14, 17, 10; Cooke b Mason 18, -14, 10.

**Final:** Hannah b Cooke 19, 14.



Left to right: Johan Laring, export sales manager Stiga AB, winner David Hannah (Scotland), winner Joy Grundy (England), ETTA chairman John Prean and financial director Mark Roberts.

## PREAN WINS ESSEX OPEN AT LUTON!

by LAURIE DARNELL

THE STIGA/Essex Open was held in Luton, Bedfordshire! Behind that bald statement lies a test of organising ability, the cooperation and goodwill of many people plus a lot of hard work to recover from a major set-back. Carl Prean and Joy Grundy proved some points by winning the singles events.

Six weeks earlier the tournament committee were stunned to hear that the Havering Borough Council had banned the public from using its partially completed sports complex at Harrow Lodge, Hornchurch. After many delays, the building contractor had decided to go into liquidation. The sports hall had been due to open last September, now the completion date was announced as June 1987.

Clive Oakman, tournament organiser, approached over 30 venues before Bob Whan of the Luton Regional Sports Centre offered to make some adjustments to his existing bookings for 11th/12th April.

To reach the semi-finals: No. 1 Carl Prean (IofW) beat Mills 18, 11; Stokes defeated Broe 18, 15; No. 7 Nicky Mason (Sy) denied the No. 4 John Souter (Mi) by 14, 15 and No.

5 David Hannah (Scot) beat No. 16 Nigel Eckersley (La) 4, 16.

The semi-finals of the men's singles were exciting. Prean outplayed Stokes in the first game. Prean's power play was punctuated by clever use of the chopped block which forced Stokes to make punishable returns. Not more than two points separated them throughout the second game which Stokes won after allowing Prean to save a game point and force duce.

In the last game Stokes strived to recover after losing six of the first eight points. He chipped away at the lead built up by Prean and gradually reduced the deficit to one point. At 19-18 down and serving he found Prean still mentally strong enough to make imaginative returns and gain the two points he needed for the set.

The third game of the Mason v Hannah encounter was dramatic! In winning the fifth point to lead 4-1 Mason wrong-footed Hannah who cried out in pain and fell. It was thought that the Scot had pulled a muscle but it must have been a cry of desperation or frustration. He recovered his composure and fought back gamely. After changing ends

at 10-5 down he served himself onto level terms.

Mason retaliated in an inspired fashion. Counter hitting unbelievable winners off shots that the 1984 champion thought were his. Five consecutive points gave Mason another testing lead. Hannah responded by winning three points whilst serving. With the scoreline at 15-13 Mason accelerated with yet another five point burst. He could now afford to cede two match points before winning a place in the final.

The final was disappointing. Prean outclassed a subdued Mason in the first game. Halfway through the second game Mason staged another string of successive points to become just one point behind at 11-10. It was a valiant effort which Prean swept aside.

In the semi-finals Gordon faced Bellinger, the defending champion, and eventually won comfortably -13, 8, 9. Grundy survived losing the first game against Elliot. She came back strongly to avenge her defeat in the Cleveland Open by -11, 14, 15.

The final was tactically absorbing. The lightning quick strokes of the left-handed Grundy exploding

from either wing against the consistent placements interspersed with the all-out attack shown by Gordon. Grundy spent the majority of the match trying to recapture the form she showed in the first game. At the change-over Grundy stood 9-11 down. With a shake of the head she ignored Gordon's return of service ability and recovered her touch. The score moved from 13-12 to 16-14 and it was the Blackpool 22-year-old to serve again. Confidence showed in her demeanour as Grundy seized the initiative to win her first Essex Open championship.

### Results

**Class II mixed singles:** Michael Harper (Ca) b Martin Kensella (Dy) 14, 17. **Veteran singles:** Ralph Gunnion (Wa) b David Seaholme (He) 12, -21, 9.

**Womens doubles:** Lisa Bellinger/Joy Grundy (Bd/La) b Jill Harris/Fiona Elliot (St) 17, 21. **Mens doubles:** Joe Kennedy/Nicky Mason (K/Sy) b Alan Cooke/Steve Dorking (Dy/E) 21, 15.

**Womens singles - Semi-finals:** Grundy b Elliot -11, 14, 15; Gordon b Bellinger -13, 8, 9. **Final:** Grundy b Gordon 12, -18, 16. **Mens singles - Semi-finals:** Prean b Stokes 9, -20, 18; Mason b Hannah -15, 16, 15. **Final:** Prean b Mason 5, 12.

## The youth squad training centre for Milton

ON May 17th, 1986, the first session took place of a new Bucks youth squad advanced training centre. Every Saturday afternoon from 2-5 pm some 14 to 20 of the most promising young players from Milton Keynes and all over Bucks now meet at the Gym, Woughton Campus Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, for training under the guidance of coaches Ken Muhr and Steve Bigrave.

The long term aim of instigator Ken Muhr is to see Buckinghamshire as one of the strongest counties regionally and nationally, though he recognises that this will take several years. Already, however, the standards, commitment and attitude of those attending has improved greatly.

### Guest stars

This progress has been assisted by several visits by guest 'stars'. National coaches Dave Fairholm and Nicky Jarvis, top players John Souter, Colin Wilson and Neil Taylor, and county coaching officers Mike Prior (Bucks) and Dave Marsh (Northants) have all come to run successful sessions, bringing new ideas and approaches with them.

The centre could not have been set up without a great deal of support. Chief benefactor was the Southern Region Sports Council who contributed towards the purchase of new tables. Other

generous contributions came from the Milton Keynes Sports Council, Milton Keynes Development Corporation, Milton Keynes Borough, Bucks County TT Association and the Milton Keynes TT League.

### Donic tables

Jarvis Sports supplied three top quality Donic tables and nets at trade price, Simon Hobson of Rodan Sports supplied an excellent Stiga Expert table and net on the same terms, and a similar deal was made with Dunlops for the top Championship table and net.

### No cost

Woughton Centre have let us have the use of the gym and two Jaques Autofold tables for no cost. Finally the service of local coaches and helpers has been freely given. The writer's sincere thanks are gratefully extended to all these people.



John Souter the England No. 6 from Neasden demonstrates a high-toss serve.

### FIRST UNDER-11 TOURNAMENT ...

THE first ever Under-11 tournament will be held on Saturday and Sunday July 4th and 5th at the Bletchley Leisure Centre. The latest date for entries was June 8th. The organiser for the ETTA is Mike Watts and the referee will be John Jermyn.

### MARATHON MAN

BRIAN Spicer, candidate for the Deputy Chairmanship of the ETTA completed his 20th full marathon - the London - on May 10th in a personal best time of 2hrs. 53 minutes.

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# The Chinese Tour of England

## 1,000 FANS CHEERED NIGHTLY

*A successful marathon with JOHN WOODFORD on the China tour of England*

AFTER seeing over 7,000 fans of the sport at eight venues in eight days there is no doubt whatever that the tour was a success. The spectators really enjoyed what they saw — a talented England team trying to get to grips with a Chinese national team containing the World No. 4 Chen Xinhua, the World No. 16 Fan Changmao and the 1985 US Open Champion Chen Yinghua.

ON TOUR  
PICTURES BY  
NEIL HOUGHTON

For the record books China scored four wins, England one and three matches were drawn. There was not a lot to choose between the players, especially when England were fielding Desmond Douglas, Carl Prean and Alan Cooke who was the England star of the tour with seven victories.

### Large crowds

What I enjoyed most was the warm applause and cheering from the large crowds — except Sunderland where the mid-day time of the match dictated by television halved the crowd — especially of course, when England were winning and especially when Alan Cooke showed us what a star he is going to be.

Carl Prean strengthened the England team when he played at Bath, Bletchley, Norwich and Gillingham. His astonishing 11, 12 win over world No. 4 Chen Xinhua was on paper the best of his career, although Xinhua had to be coaxed to play at all. He played one game in Sunderland for the sake of television and played himself only once again at Bletchley, the night before England lost the series at Norwich when China scorched home 5-1, the only match on the tour when the result was not in doubt up to the last point of the night.

### Merciful

Most of the matches took three hours for the six singles. Mercifully, the idea of having a deciding doubles was dropped. Bouquets to the cities and towns who arranged early starts, brickbats to others. The Guardian cancelled an order for a story on one occasion when told of a 7.30 pm start, a number of other papers ignored the results when they came late.

There is no problem when a match is under way at 7 pm or even 7.15 pm if some of the matches are finished two-straight. So, some towns have commuters getting in late — we have to balance that against millions of newspaper readers not getting any results in their morning papers.

Back to the arenas. All the local organisers did great jobs. There were one or two slight problems mainly when it was not understood that hospitality for the teams was for 24 hours at each place, that included two main meals and a breakfast.

Only those on the whole tour were able to evaluate each venue. In

terms of crowd response Bath and Gillingham came out tops, but in Kent we had the luxury of an England victory and that brought back memories of how the Germans won the match in Wurzburg for Germany in April.

If those at Gillingham, 1,000 strong could imagine three times the amount of cheering from the 3,000 Germans in Wurzburg, that was how it was!

Alan Cooke will of course, never forget his match at Gillingham. As England looked to be heading towards another draw, the man from Chesterfield clawed his way back from 4-14 and 12-18 in the third to win 22-20 against Chen Yinghua to give England victory and the biggest reception of noise I have ever heard anywhere in Britain at a table tennis match.

### Fireworks

Desmond Douglas was of course the star to whom people were looking for fireworks. During the eight long, long days Des played some tremendous games but playing in every match was a lot to ask even at the contract price. Skylet Andrew, Nicky Mason and John Souter all played supporting roles with professional aplomb and not many wins, but the entertainment value was there.

Talking of entertainment, the nightly exhibitions after the match enthralled the crowds and earned standing ovations. They were given by Chen Xinhua and Yang Guangdi who we are told, is China's top exhibition player.

The tour was arranged on eight consecutive days to save money on the deal arranged with the Lensun-Patsun organisation and the ETTA. Having done it, if the tour is repeated, there should always be a rest day or two. Several local sponsors hoping to take the players to various places found them resting in the afternoons after the four-hour morning drives. The distance driven was 2,000 miles and the man who deserves a medal is Mike Watts who drove the Chinese team all the way, was MC at seven matches and generally sorted out the problems.

Chairman John Prean was at all the matches except Plymouth and made more friends on the long journey. In seven after-match speeches his dry sense of humour blossomed.



*Alan Cooke of Chesterfield, Derbyshire was the star of the Chinese tour with seven wins and the sensational fight back at Gillingham that gave England victory.*



*After each match Chen Xinhua and Yang Guangdi gave exhibition matches that included sitting on the table. That proved to be sparkling entertainment that brought standing ovations.*

### RESULTS FROM THE EIGHT MATCHES

**Sunderland - England 2, China 4:** S Andrew lt Fan Changmao -20, 18, -11; D Douglas lt Chen Xinhua -11, -14; A Cooke b Yong Guangdi 21, -19, 11; Andrew lt Chen Yinghua -19, 19, -16; Douglas b Changmao -16, 19, 11; Cooke lt Yinghua -17, 17, -22.

**Oldham - England 2, China 4:** N Mason lt Yinghua -13, -6; Cooke lt Changmao -17, -12; Douglas b Guangdi 9, 16; Cooke b Yinghua 18, 15; Mason lt Guangdi 19, -15, 15; Douglas lt Changmao 12, -10, -19.

**Halifax - England 3, China 3:** Cooke b Changmao 11, 17; Andrew lt Guangdi 19, -21, -17; Douglas b Yinghua 20, 18; Cooke b Guangdi 16, 19; Andrew lt Yinghua -11, -6; Douglas lt Changmao 16, -14, -17.

**Bath - England 2, China 4:** Douglas b Yinghua -20, 18, 12; C Prean b Guangdi 16, 14; Andrew lt Changmao -20, 17, -18; Douglas lt Changmao -19, 14, -15; Andrew lt Guangdi 19, -16, -19.

**Bletchley - England 3, China 3:** Douglas lt Changmao -19, 12, -19; Prean lt Yinghua 22, -15, -11; Andrew b Guangdi 19, 18; Prean b Chen Xinhua 11, 12; Andrew lt Changmao 16, -10, -18; Douglas b Yinghua -16, 12, 15.

**Norwich - England 1, China 5:** Douglas lt Changmao -21, -11; Prean lt Guangdi -15, -15; Cooke b Yinghua 18, 19; Douglas lt Guangdi 16, -18, -20; Prean lt Yinghua -18, 13, -13; Cooke lt Changmao -29, 19, -18.

**Gillingham - England 4, China 2:** Douglas b Yinghua 13, -18, 8; Prean b Guangdi 16, 18; Cooke lt Changmao -10, -19; Douglas b Guangdi 22, 11; Prean lt Changmao -15, -21; Cooke b Yinghua -11, 11, 20.

**Plymouth - England 3, China 3:** Cooke b Guangdi 15, 17; J Souter lt Yinghua -13, -15; Douglas lt Changmao -19, -14; Souter b Guangdi 12, 13; Cooke lt Changmao -16, -15; Douglas b Yinghua 9, 9.

## A PERIOD OF ACHIEVEMENT — but not without hassle

IT has been, to put it mildly, an eventful month. I hope for a quieter period between now and when these notes reach your home.

### Painful defeat

Our team departed for Germany with high hopes of promotion to the European Super League after six successive wins in the lower division only to return thoroughly beaten by no less than 6-1. I was not there, but the message was painful enough. It followed disappointments in the World Championships. The lesson is clear enough. What was done in the past has not worked. Let that be the epitaph on this unhappy period. Next season will begin with Donald Parker in full charge. I wish we had done it sooner. What made us think that we could compete in the 20th century with Victorian methods?

### Resignations

You will have read about the resignations of George Yates and Aubrey Drapkin. You probably know that each year the chairman nominates the various departmental heads (vice-chairmen) which then have to be approved by the National Council. On the eve of the meeting George and Aubrey told me that certain nominations were not acceptable to them. No reasons were given. If Council approved of these, they would resign. Not a shred of evidence was offered why these men were unsuitable, none had done anything wrong, all had excellent records in table tennis or real life.

### Pointless

I was certainly not prepared to ditch them and, after Council had approved four of my five nominations, George and Aubrey resigned. I accepted their resignations with regret. I regarded this as a pointless gesture, particularly so soon after they had been re-elected unopposed and after all my hard work to maintain unity between the new and the old. Some sections of the press reported the resignations. As usual, the hundreds of workers all over the country, both national and local, were forgotten. They were carrying on in the service of the sport, but that was not newsworthy enough.

### Coaching

The long overdue re-organisation of the coaching scheme also brought me much personal abuse, mainly because the new duties allocated to Dave Fairholm were interpreted as a "dismissal", whilst in reality he remained on our staff at the same salary. We put Don Parker in overall charge, assisted by his wife



*John Prean, ETTA Chairman ends the season with a summary of events and a smile.*

Jill Hammersley-Parker. Don fills the role Bobby Robson fills in football.

I received a far bigger mailbag FOR the re-organisation THAN AGAINST it. We had achieved a far better scheme at lower cost and that is good management. I was disappointed that some should jump to wrong conclusions without talking to me first. The same people accused me of lack of consultation. In fact, the same procedures were followed as in the past. It was a management committee decision which was explained to the National Coaching Committee and National Council at the first opportunity. I want to express very warm thanks to Alan Ransome and Don Parker who did enormous and effective work in the early stages of the re-organisation. Despite diversions it was a period of great achievement.

### Membership drive

I shall place the names of my new membership committee before the management committee in early May. We shall then begin to try to arrest the membership losses of the last few years (one third since 1980, which underlines the enormity of the task).

Our first effort will be a poster sponsored and prepared by DUNLOP designed to aid both coaching and recruitment. Each

league will be sent one and we hope all clubs will place these not only in their club rooms, but in schools, clubs and other places where they hope to find new members. More of this later. In the meantime early and sincere thanks to Dunlop, who had the vision to join us in this enterprise.

### England - China

I write these notes before the England-China Tests which we hope will be a great success and increase public awareness of the sport. We managed to get TV (BBC Grandstand) for the first match in the series in addition to much local TV and Cable TV for three of the matches. I hope you saw some of it and enjoyed it. Tickets were selling well. There IS interest for table tennis and millions will have heard about the sport.

### Press coverage

We have done well in terms of press coverage, certainly compared with the more recent past and our sport is clearly regarded as more worth writing about. This is a great achievement. It also imposes responsibilities. I fail to see the point in bellyaching in the press and in making the sport look second rate. When a player does so, all he achieves is to undermine HIS future earning capacity.

### Money and ideas

The sport remains chronically short of money. We have made some headway, but not enough. The situation I found was far worse than I thought. I outlined the financial problems more fully in the ETTA's own News Letter. If you are interested, write to the office for a copy. There is no shortage of good ideas. Most cost money. It is depressing to turn them down on those grounds, but you cannot spend what is not there. Few have yet taken this on board.

### Chief Executive

Our new chief executive, Ted Wallbutton, starts on June 1 after a distinguished spell as marketing executive with the Squash Racquets Association. He is almost entirely funded by the Sports Council to whom we are extremely grateful. Ted has our confidence and we wish him well. Yet another sign that the sport is changing as, of course, it must to survive and compete with so many others in the market place.

### Coming attractions

More glamorous events are in the pipeline: "Master of Europe" (Wembley Conference Centre, September) and the "Open" (Brighton Conference Centre, January) both to be televised, the "Match Play Championship" (Lakeside Country Club, June 7) with Douglas versus Cooke for the title and much besides in a very up-market setting (tickets selling well).

### Minister of Sport

I had two good meetings, one with the Minister of Sport, Mr Richard Tracey, arranged by Bernard Rowley. I found the Minister remarkably well informed and very much aware of the premises problems, which, like us, he hoped to see resolved or at least helped by dual use of available facilities. A new Act of Parliament will help greatly, but clubs who need premises still have to do their part in locating and negotiating, for instance with headmasters. It can be done and it is being done all over the country.

### President Ogimura

I met recently elected President Ogimura of the ITTF during a visit to London. I was impressed with his many imaginative plans for the future of world-wide table tennis. As a player and world champion he was a legend. I have a feeling that he embarks on a period of even greater importance and service to the sport. I wish him well and I assured him of our support.

Despite our problems, which at times seem so great, my confidence in the sport remains. Have a good summer and keep working and planning to make next season our best ever.

JOHN

# County Championships; Hard bats

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP *by Doug Moss*

## A RECORD BREAKING SEASON

THIS has been the busiest season of the championships. A record number of 167 teams with 1,100 players involved in over 500 matches!

### SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Pride of place this time goes to this division. Congratulations to Middlesex on winning the championship for the 6th consecutive season. Lancs were again runners-up leading Derbyshire on games average. Staffs and Sussex (after one season) are the teams for demotion. Derby did very well to gain third place in their first season. There were many hard fought matches with 11 of the 28 over the series ending 5-4. Derby were involved in four of these and won each time! At this second weekend Sussex lost two matches 4-5, one of these against Lancs, and Staffs lost to Derby 4-5.

The best individual performance of the series came from Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) who had 100% success in singles, including the defeat of Fiona Elliott (St), the England champions. Middlesex men led the field with Nigel Tyler winning 9 of 10 singles, Graham Sandley 7 of 8 and John Souter 10 of 12. Middlesex pairings of John Souter/Colin Wilson and Nigel and Lesley Tyler got 100% wins in their doubles events. Mark and Angela Mitchell were part of the champion team and I am told that this season they each achieved 100 appearances for Middlesex.

Top junior Bradley Billington (Dy) played extremely well to win 7 of 8 singles in the second weekend (11 of 14 overall). This included a win over Graham Sandley — Bradley's only loss was to John Souter.

I comment on other divisions and conclusions on promotion/relegation:

**SENR. 2A** — Leics now confirmed as champions finishing with a 9-1 win over Northumberland. Interest was high in relegation stakes. Warwick saved their bacon with a 9-1 win at Cambridge! Worcs drew with Glos leaving their match at Cambridge to decide relegation. Worcs won 7-3 and Cambs join Glos for relegation.

**SENR. 2B** — Essex finished the season with 5 wins and 2 draws. They take the title and go back to the Premier Division. Surrey II seem likely demotees.

**SENR. 3A** — Lancs II dropped only one point and are champions of this section. The Cheshire II team is due for relegation.

**SENR. 3B** — Somerset undefeated and top of the table. They had two players with 100% singles records — Rebecca Russe and R. Wetherby. Dorset II had a 7-3 win over Worcs II to leave Worcs as relegation candidates.

**SENR. 3C** — Suffolk take the title winning all five matches and dropping only 12 events. Despite a 6-4 win over Norfolk, when Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell won three events. Beds are due for relegation.

**SENR. 3D** — With two 8-2 wins, over Bucks and Hants, Sussex win this section but, with their first team demoted, Hants seem to be likely promotion candidates. Berks II with only one win are at the bottom end.

**SENR. 4A** — A very successful season for Leics with their second team winning this section. In their last match they beat Hunts 6-4. Martin Pickles (Le) lost his 100% record when beaten by Keith Willett. For Hunts Helen Bardwell achieved a 100% record.

**SENR. 4B** — Glamorgan are winners of this section and set for promotion. Cornwall II in their last match lost 2-8 to Glamorgan and are at the bottom of the table.

**JUNR. 2A** — Warwick won the championship. They had five 6-4 wins and Leigh Jeffries won 13 of 14 singles events. Derby II and Staffs II seem to be demotion candidates.

**JUNR. 2B** — Devon are clear winners of this division. A good all-round team effort with Helen and Jane Wright outstanding. Devon beat Essex II 9-1 with Grant Solder (E) beating Sean Gaylard 23 in the third — and Grant lost to Richard Aitkin at 24 in the third! Herts and Berks (despite 100% singles record for Mary Allan) are for demotion.

**JUNR. 3A** — Lancs II gain promotion in their first season. A very good all-round team effort from Robert Lowe, Darryl Sneyd, Micky Malcolm, Karen Richardson and Debbie Fletcher. Clwyd are at the foot of the table despite Natasha Williams maintaining a clean sheet at singles.

**JUNR. 3B** — Hunts clear winners and due for promotion. A consistent team effort — Julie Haslop being unbeaten. The Cambs I team performed well but Cambs II failed to get a point.

**JUNR. 3C** — Somerset dropped only one point to take the title. Their girls were supreme — Tina Sadler unbeaten and Joanne Webber lost only once.

**JUNR. 3D** — The Kent II versus Berks II result is not available at the time of writing. A draw would give Kent the title. Leading counties having second teams in the top three places makes promotion from this section a non-starter. Herts, with just one point, are left at the bottom end.



*Doug Moss, press officer for the Halex county championships next season and the writer of all the county championships this season and before.*

**VETS PREMIER** — Cheshire are undisputed champions this season. With Essex beating Worcs 5-4 it left the Kent versus Worcs match to decide demotion with Hants. Kent won 7-2 so both promotees are on their way down.

**VETS 2A** — Cheshire II take the title on sets average but Herts are the promotees. Northants and Northumberland have to make an early return to division three.

**VETS 2B** — Bucks are champions — 7 wins, losing only 15 events. Alec Watson remained unbeaten in singles and doubles. Dorset beat Kent II when Trevor Smith/Joyce Coop won the mixed at 25 in the third game. This leaves Wilts and Hants for demotion.

**VETS 3A** — Yorks II are clear winners of this section but Norfolk seem to be the promotees. Mick Broughton and Tony Hipperson (Nk) unbeaten in singles and together in doubles! Lincs II with

just one win are at the bottom of the table.

**VETS 3B** — Warwick are champions, gaining promotion in their first year. In Herts III last match versus Warwicks, Gill White and Ann Lloyd met, both having been unbeaten. Gill won — 17, 16, 16. Herefords are bottom on sets average.

**VETS 3C** — Sussex II are the leaders and gain promotion. Wilts II, at the bottom, lost to Sussex II in the last match when Alan Duke (Wi) inflicted the only defeat of the season on Gerry Batt-Rawden.

**VETS 3D** — Sussex III also unbeaten champions. Mike Watts got 100% in singles and doubles (with John Millward). Val Jackson also with 100% singles. Mike had a close one with R. Emerson (He) winning — 21, 20, 16. Herts IV unfortunately had a second season at the bottom end of the table.

## The 16th International Club Hard Rubber Bat Tournament

HELD at Barnet on 29th March, the event was once again a pleasure to compete and officiate in. A splendid feat of good table tennis with many young players proving that they can play their shots when denied the aid of "magic" sponge.

Mary Symes took the women's singles for the third time beating Kath Fisher 18 and 19 in the final, the women's consolation being won by Lesley Popkiewicz in a good set with Gill Squier.

Laurie Landry and Mrs. Symes took the mixed for the fourth time beating first timer Gary Spencer and Sally Raymond. Mary made it a hat-trick in winning the women's

doubles with Sally against Lesley and Mary Fagan.

Fred Lockwood and Stuart Gibbs surprisingly lost the men's doubles event in a superb set against David Tan and Costas Papantoniou.

### A real thriller

Landry and Gibbs both had comfortable semi-final wins over David Tan and Ram Bhalla to set up the final which was a real thriller with Gibbs trailing 15-20 in the third he served well and drew back to 20 all before winning 23-21. The men's consolation was won by John Payne who defeated last minute local entry Tim Boucher.

# County Table Tennis Championships

## FINAL TABLES

### SENIORS

| Premier Division | P | W | L | F  | A  | P  |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Middlesex        | 7 | 7 | 0 | 53 | 10 | 14 |
| Lancashire       | 7 | 5 | 2 | 39 | 24 | 10 |
| Derbyshire       | 7 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 31 | 10 |
| Surrey           | 7 | 4 | 3 | 31 | 32 | 8  |
| Yorkshire        | 7 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 31 | 6  |
| Berkshire        | 7 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 34 | 6  |
| Staffordshire    | 7 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 44 | 2  |

| Division 2A     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Leicestershire  | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 16 | 14 |
| Yorkshire       | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 41 | 29 | 9  |
| Northumberland  | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 37 | 33 | 9  |
| Cheshire        | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 35 | 8  |
| Worcestershire  | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 39 | 6  |
| Warwickshire    | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 33 | 37 | 4  |
| Cambridgeshire  | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 26 | 44 | 3  |
| Gloucestershire | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 57 | 1  |

| Division 2A  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Essex        | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 46 | 24 | 12 |
| Middlesex II | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 25 | 11 |
| Devonshire   | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 48 | 22 | 9  |
| Kent         | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 41 | 29 | 9  |
| Avon         | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 25 | 45 | 5  |
| Wiltshire    | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 39 | 4  |
| Dorset       | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 24 | 46 | 4  |
| Surrey II    | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 20 | 50 | 2  |

| Division 3A     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Lancashire II   | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 20 | 9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 22 | 7 |
| Warwickshire II | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 21 | 6 |
| Clwyd           | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 24 | 4 |
| Lincolnshire    | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 24 | 26 | 4 |
| Cheshire II     | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 37 | 0 |

| Division 3B       | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Somerset          | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 8  | 10 |
| Devonshire II     | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 32 | 18 | 8  |
| Avon II           | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 24 | 5  |
| Cornwall          | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 33 | 3  |
| Dorset            | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 37 | 2  |
| Worcestershire II | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 40 | 0  |

| Division 3C       | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Suffolk           | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire  | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 20 | 8  |
| Essex II          | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 27 | 4  |
| Norfolk           | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 28 | 3  |
| Cambridgeshire II | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 29 | 3  |
| Bedfordshire      | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 34 | 2  |

| Division 3D     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Sussex II       | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 11 | 9 |
| Hampshire       | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 28 | 22 | 6 |
| Buckinghamshire | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 23 | 5 |
| Hertfordshire   | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 26 | 5 |
| Oxfordshire     | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 32 | 3 |
| Berkshire II    | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 36 | 2 |

| Division 4A         | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Leicestershire II   | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 13 | 12 |
| Essex III           | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 32 | 28 | 6  |
| Huntingdonshire     | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 28 | 32 | 6  |
| Kent II             | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 27 | 33 | 6  |
| Northamptonshire II | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 40 | 4  |
| Suffolk II          | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 41 | 3  |
| Bedfordshire II     | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 17 | 43 | 1  |

### SENIORS

| Division 4B   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Glamorgan     | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 9  | 10 |
| Hampshire II  | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 20 | 7  |
| Somerset II   | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 18 | 6  |
| Herefordshire | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 28 | 4  |
| Isle of Wight | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 37 | 2  |
| Cornwall II   | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 38 | 1  |

### JUNIORS

| Premier Division | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Yorkshire        | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 5  | 14 |
| Lancashire       | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 46 | 24 | 12 |
| Derbyshire       | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 44 | 26 | 10 |
| Staffordshire    | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 37 | 7  |
| Essex            | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 32 | 38 | 6  |
| Nottinghamshire  | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 42 | 4  |
| Kent             | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 46 | 3  |
| Glamorgan        | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8  | 62 | 0  |

| Division 2A      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Warwickshire     | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 42 | 28 | 13 |
| Yorkshire II     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 54 | 16 | 11 |
| Suffolk          | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 37 | 33 | 8  |
| Bedfordshire     | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 35 | 8  |
| Gwent            | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 37 | 7  |
| Cheshire         | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 32 | 38 | 6  |
| Derbyshire II    | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 46 | 3  |
| Staffordshire II | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 23 | 47 | 0  |

| Division 2B   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Devonshire    | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 16 | 13 |
| Essex II      | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 37 | 33 | 10 |
| Middlesex     | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 39 | 31 | 9  |
| Sussex        | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 34 | 36 | 7  |
| Surrey        | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 34 | 6  |
| Hertfordshire | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 42 | 5  |
| Cornwall      | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 42 | 4  |
| Berkshire     | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 46 | 2  |

| Division 3A    | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Lancashire II  | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 17 | 13 |
| Lincolnshire   | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 43 | 27 | 10 |
| Cumbria        | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 40 | 30 | 9  |
| Leicestershire | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 37 | 7  |
| Durham         | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 29 | 41 | 7  |
| Northumberland | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 30 | 40 | 6  |
| Cheshire II    | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 39 | 4  |
| Clwyd          | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 49 | 0  |

| Division 3B        | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Huntingdonshire    | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 12 | 14 |
| Cambridgeshire     | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 25 | 11 |
| Northamptonshire   | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 45 | 25 | 10 |
| Norfolk            | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 40 | 30 | 8  |
| Oxfordshire        | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 36 | 34 | 7  |
| Huntingdonshire II | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 22 | 48 | 4  |
| Norfolk II         | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 21 | 49 | 2  |
| Cambridgeshire II  | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 57 | 0  |

| Division 3C     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Somerset        | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 26 | 15 |
| Gloucestershire | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 30 | 14 |
| Wiltshire       | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 50 | 30 | 11 |
| Avon            | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 46 | 34 | 10 |
| Worcestershire  | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 40 | 40 | 8  |
| Hampshire       | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 46 | 6  |
| Dorset          | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 32 | 48 | 3  |
| Warwickshire II | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 31 | 49 | 3  |
| Cornwall II     | 8 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 57 | 2  |

| Division 3D      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Kent II          | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 49 | 21 | 12 |
| Surrey II        | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 26 | 11 |
| Middlesex II     | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 49 | 21 | 10 |
| Essex III        | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 34 | 8  |
| Sussex II        | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 41 | 6  |
| Berkshire II     | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 41 | 4  |
| Buckinghamshire  | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 45 | 4  |
| Hertfordshire II | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 51 | 1  |

### VETERANS

| Premier Division | P | W | L | F  | A  | P  |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Cheshire         | 7 | 6 | 1 | 44 | 19 | 12 |
| Sussex           | 7 | 5 | 2 | 41 | 22 | 10 |
| Lincolnshire     | 7 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 29 | 8  |
| Middlesex        | 7 | 4 | 3 | 30 | 33 | 8  |
| Kent             | 7 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 31 | 6  |
| Essex            | 7 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 36 | 6  |
| Worcestershire   | 7 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 42 | 4  |
| Hampshire        | 7 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 49 | 0  |

| Division 2A      | P | W | D | L  | F  | A  | P |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Cheshire II      | 7 | 6 | 1 | 43 | 20 | 12 |   |
| Hertfordshire    | 7 | 6 | 1 | 40 | 23 | 12 |   |
| Nottinghamshire  | 7 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 31 | 10 |   |
| Yorkshire        | 7 | 4 | 3 | 44 | 19 | 8  |   |
| Essex II         | 7 | 4 | 3 | 35 | 28 | 8  |   |
| Leicestershire   | 7 | 2 | 5 | 26 | 37 | 4  |   |
| Northumberland   | 7 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 47 | 2  |   |
| Northamptonshire | 7 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 47 | 0  |   |

| Division 2B     | P | W | D | L  | F  | A  | P |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Buckinghamshire | 7 | 7 | 0 | 48 | 15 | 14 |   |
| Surrey          | 7 | 4 | 3 | 38 | 25 | 8  |   |
| Kent II         | 7 | 4 | 3 | 38 | 25 | 8  |   |
| Berkshire       | 7 | 4 | 3 | 36 | 27 | 8  |   |
| Middlesex II    | 7 | 4 | 3 | 30 | 33 | 8  |   |
| Dorset          | 7 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 34 | 6  |   |
| Wiltshire       | 7 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 36 | 4  |   |
| Hampshire II    | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6  | 57 | 0  |   |

| Division 3A     | P | W | D | L  | F  | A  | P |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Yorkshire II    | 5 | 5 | 0 | 37 | 8  | 10 |   |
| Norfolk         | 5 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 18 | 6  |   |
| Cheshire III    | 5 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 26 | 6  |   |
| Huntingdonshire | 5 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 25 | 4  |   |
| Lancashire      | 5 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 27 | 2  |   |
| Lincolnshire II | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 31 | 2  |   |

| Division 3B        | P | W | D | L  | F  | A  | P |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Warwickshire       | 6 | 6 | 0 | 45 | 9  | 12 |   |
| Huntingdonshire II | 6 | 5 | 1 | 33 | 21 | 10 |   |
| Buckinghamshire II | 6 | 3 | 3 |    |    |    |   |

# Counties 1

## CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

ENTRIES were slightly down on last season when the 1986/87 Cornish Closed was held at Penzance over the weekend March 21st and 22nd. The Cornish Closed, normally dominated by players from West Cornwall took a sharp turn around this season. Launceston and District League players clinched ten of the fourteen titles in what must go down as the most remarkable tournament in its 35 year history. Most of the credit however must go to Bude's Neil Bevan who won five of the ten titles and at 13 years old became easily the youngest men's singles winner Cornwall has ever had. To round off the weekend Bevan also creamed off the intermediate (under 21) singles, the junior boys' singles, the junior boys' doubles and the cadet boys' singles. But it was the men's singles that aroused the interest of the many present which Neil Bevan won without the loss of an end. In fact, only Keith James (Falmouth) put up any real resistance but even his game broke up badly in the second end, as did the wooden screens that he took an instant dislike to. Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw, the performances turned out from Ian James (Met Police) were largely overshadowed by the achievements of Neil Bevan. But James, an ex-Penzance player was having his best tournament for ten years eliminating both Graham Reed (Falmouth) and John Bassett (St Ives) for the first time to reach his first final for six years. However, despite all this, he couldn't prevent number 8 seed Bevan promptly winning a two straight final in blistering fashion.

### Struggled

Few titles were retained and the women's singles was no exception. Esme Stevenson (Bude) was expected to retain her title with ease but struggled all day and was just pipped in the final by a Devonian. Cara Rowe (Holsworthy) who plays in the Launceston League was the delighted victor after a gritty performance.

### Results

**Mens singles - Quarter-finals:** N Bevan (Bude) b J Williams (Falmouth) 16, 13; K James (Falmouth) b A Bevan (Bude) - 16, 19, 20; I James (Met Police) b G Reed (Falmouth) 19, 22; J Bassett (St Ives) b A Hunt (Launceston) - 20, 7, 17. **Semi-finals:** Bevan b K James 18, 13; I James b J Bassett 19, - 16, 16. **Final:** Bevan b I James 8, 18. **Ladies singles:** C Rowe (Holsworthy) b E Stevenson (Bude) 14, 20. **Intermediate singles:** N Bevan b M James (Camborne) 19,

- 13, 7. **Mens doubles:** J Williams/J Bassett b G Reed/M James - 16, 17, 16. **Ladies doubles:** C Rowe/E Stevenson b B Rapsey/G Davey 16, 20. **Mixed doubles:** C Rowe/M Rowe b I James/E Stevenson 11, - 18, 13. **Veteran singles:** J Bassett b M White (Truro) 9, 14. **Boys singles:** N Bevan b A Bevan 18, 26. **Girls singles:** T Logg (Launceston) b R Plummer (St Ives) 17, - 11, 19. **Cadet boys singles:** N Bevan b N Martin (St Austell). **Cadet girls singles:** R Plummer b R Boon (Camborne) 11, 14. **U12 boys singles:** S Barrett (Bude) b S Baverstock (Launceston) 8, 17. **U12 girls singles:** R Boon b A Cahill (Camborne) 6, 9. **Junior doubles:** N Bevan/A Bevan b N Martin/J Menzel (Camborne) 14, 14.

Following the County Closed championships, the latest Lentec county computer print-out has been released with bonus points galore for those that did well at the Closed. Latest leading positions:

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. N Bevan (Bude)              | 471 |
| 2. J. Bassett (St Ives)        | 400 |
| 3. G. Reed (Falmouth)          | 370 |
| 4. J. Williams (Falmouth)      | 363 |
| 5. K. James (Falmouth)         | 339 |
| 6. M. Peters (Falmouth)        | 332 |
| 7. K. Stevenson (Bude)         | 318 |
| 8. R. Jacobs (Truro)           | 314 |
| 9. A. Hunt (Launceston)        | 313 |
| 10. A. Bevan (Bude)            | 298 |
| 11. M. James (Camborne)        | 290 |
| 12. M. Bawden (Launceston)     | 274 |
| 13. M. White (Truro)           | 257 |
| 14. M. Rowe (Holsworthy)       | 255 |
| 15. B. Cornelius (St. Austell) | 246 |

**Cornish Senior Knock-out - Semi-finals:** Camborne A 5, St Anstell-Slades A 1; Bude Central w/o versus Falmouth Docks A and St Ives (both disqualified).

### Cornish Inter-Town League

The final play off in this season's Cornish Inter-Town League looks certain to be contested between Bude and Falmouth. The two towns met recently when the home team, Bude, roared on by a large crowd could have taken advantage of a weakened Falmouth team. They failed, however, and Falmouth emerged 6-2 winners with notable wins for Graham Reed and Malcolm Peters both over Neil Bevan, and Neville Reed over Andrew Bevan. The remaining six teams lie a long way adrift.

|             | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Falmouth I  | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 7  | 12 |
| Bude        | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 8  |
| Camborne    | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 24 | 8  |
| Launceston  | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 7  |
| Truro       | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 24 | 24 | 4  |
| Falmouth II | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 19 | 29 | 4  |
| St Ives     | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 22 | 3  |
| Helston     | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4  | 52 | 0  |

## BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

WITH the league season all but over, results still to come in for the remaining week look like having little effect on the final placings in the Bracknell League. In the premier division it was almost a "no contest" right from the start, with title holders Woodley A opening the season with a 10-0 win over newly promoted Met Office A, a pattern which was to continue throughout the season as the young Woodley stars Keith Hodder, Graham Kemp and Paul Savins went on to amass over 200 points from their 22 matches, believed to be the first time the "200 barrier" has been surpassed in the 30-year history of the league.

A further measure of their supremacy over all comers is the astonishing result that Woodley have, in their clashes with two time runners-up ICL A, been 10-0 victors on all four occasions. Fortunately, in the interests of competition, the scene at the bottom of the premier was a much more closely contested affair. With only one week to go, Racal A looked sure of occupying one relegation spot, with Met Office A and SSV A on equal points fighting to avoid the other. Here Met Office took a gamble by bringing in their on form B team player Chris Kilsby to replace the established Peter Read, who had gone down with mumps. The result? Chris, playing for the first time ever in the premier, took the necessary two points from a strong Camberley side to keep the weathermen up in the stratospheric heights of the premier division.

In division 1 KWC B finished well clear of second placed Wokingham E (yes E!) with Ron Ellison having a great year before departing for the Midlands for the 1987/88 season. Royal Ascot A and B as predicted in the January County Notes qualified for their knighthoods by taking the division 2 and 3 titles. The runners-up deserve special mention here, Priestwood for achieving this position despite a chaotic period early in the season where through no fault of their own, they went four weeks without a match, and P. Clegg in contributing mightily to the second place of Broadmoor B, by only losing one match in the entire season.

### Voted

The Bracknell Committee have also voted on their individual trophies. Congratulations are due to Keith Hodder for the William Hill Sportsmanship trophy, to Jim Hodder (John Stickland Shield for services to league and club), and to Stuart Cockerill (Youth Cup) for persevering against seemingly superior players in inter-town matches finally to triumph in his last match.

## CUMBRIA

Colin Taylor

IN the Cumbria closed tournament John Backhouse (Barrow) gave a flawless performance and deservedly remained unbeaten throughout the day to take home four titles. A close second however was the showing of a potential superstar in the shape of Jonathan Lowes (Barrow) who was victorious in three finals and runner-up to John Backhouse in another.

### Inevitable

The Backhouse haul of trophies were men's singles, at the expense of Andrew Pachul (Barrow), junior boys' singles, men's doubles and the junior doubles. Both doubles were partnered with Jonathan Lowes. Jonathan's other title was an inevitable under 14 singles victory over M. Harkness (Carlisle).

### Three in a row

Julie McLean (Carlisle) was prominent in the ladies events with two wins out of three final appearances. A very good win over Karen Backhouse (Barrow) in the ladies singles was added to with the mixed doubles title partnered with Roger Stewart (C).

Karen Backhouse and Karen Griffiths (Barrow) seem to think the ladies doubles trophy is theirs to keep after three wins in a row.

Sarah Langstaff (Westmorland) beat her league colleague Jeanette Bannister in the junior singles final. Alan Fay (Barrow) gained his first county veteran's title at the cost of Eddie O'Hara (Barrow).

### Close finishes

The Carlisle League looks set for some very close finishes at the end of the season. In division one leaders News experienced defeat for the first time against a Royal Oak team who are now back in the hunt. Reigning champions SC Spartans currently lie in second place. Their only defeat so far has been at the hands of News with a 4-6 scoreline. The average table is also very close with Julie McLean leading Roger Stewart by a one percent margin.

In division two, SC Straits and Infirmary A are having a great tussle for supremacy. Straits currently lead on sets average, their only defeat so far was a 3-7 loss against Infirmary A.

Third placed SS Stars cannot be discounted from the race having only lost one match so far. Stephen Temple is favourite for the averages title with only two losses out of 30 sets. Infirmary A colleagues P. Devlin and Doug Baty lie in second and third place respectively.

Division three favourites are Salvation Army ably led by Raymond Steel who has lost only once in 30 sets.

# Counties 2

## DORSET

Martin Hughes

### County Championships

The senior second team have been unable to field a regular team this season, using ten players in the four matches played, and this has been a contributory factor in their poor results so far; but they achieved their first victory recently when two players made their senior county debuts. Dave Sharples and Debbie Applin came into the team for the match against Worcestershire seconds and both of them contributed to an excellent 7-3 victory. Dave Sharples won one of his singles and Debbie Applin, who is still a junior, won her singles and combined with Jean Smith to win the ladies doubles - 22, 17, 21.

The two regulars in the team, Martin Hughes and Terry Glennon, both won their two singles but lost their 100% record in the men's doubles this season, going down - 12, -17 to Lewis Siket and Paul Garner.

### Schildkrot British League

Jolliffe Poole played their final fixture of the season on 5 April when their opponents were Opella Leominster. The two teams went into the match in second and third place in the third division west, with the same number of league points, and both teams were looking for victory to secure the runners-up place and the £250 prize money. Jolliffe Poole won the day with a memorable 6-2 victory which was a reverse of the first half result.

The first two games were the most significant of the match, and both of them went to Jolliffe Poole by narrow margins.

Tony Clayton was first to the table, and was up against Darren Griffin who has rocketed up the England rankings. Griffin was the victor in the first half fixture but on this occasion Clayton had his revenge as he won a nailbiting match - 21, 17, 15 to set Jolliffe Poole on their way.

Hakan Sigrell then faced Mark Owen and won - 22, 18, 11 after surviving two match points. From this point on Opella Leominster appeared to lose their way and were 6-0 down before pulling back the final two games to regain some respectability.

### Poole Closed

The Poole Closed was sponsored this year for the first time, the Bournemouth and Poole Express newspaper being the sponsor, negotiated by Dorset TTA chairman Don Robinson.

The men's singles saw the top four seeds reach their allotted places in the semi-finals where Tony Clayton (1) defeated Terry Glennon (4) and John Robinson (2) defeated Martin Hughes (3). In a final full of good rallies, Tony Clayton triumphed to confirm his number one ranking status in two straight games, 12, 14.

## DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

AN excellent team performance at the senior premier weekend saw Derbyshire gain three victories for a final position of third, despite the absence of Alan Cooke and Kerry Hall.

A mature performance by Bradley Billington, a rejuvenated Jackie Billington, and vital victories from Martin Kinsella and Philip Vickers swung three 5-4 results our way - thank you Berkshire!

Matlock I clinched division one of the County Inter-Town League with a 9-1 victory over Burton I, with Eastwood and Derby fighting out a 5-5 draw.

In division two Burton II retain top position with a 7-3 win over Buxton, with Chesterfield and Matlock II fighting out a 5-5 draw.

Mick Thorley led Matlock veterans to a 7-3 win over Burton which included the first veteran defeat for Mick Fisher.

### Convincing

In the junior division, Andrew Grimmet, Penny Codren and Amanda Dawkins representing Derby were too strong for Chesterfield and gained a convincing 10-0 victory.

The Eastwood League championships were held at the Greasley Sports Centre. The tables were excellent and the playing standard shone brightly under the yellow lights.

The senior events were dominated by the Rolls Royce Raiders with Tim Sheppard in brilliant form to defeat Barry Taylor in the senior singles, but Barry gained revenge in the doubles when combining with Clive Spate to defeat Adrian Weightman and Tim in the best set of the tournament.

### Results

**Senior singles - Semi-finals:** Tim Sheppard (RR Raiders) b Clive Spate (RR Raiders) 10, 14; Barry Taylor (RR Raiders) b Adrian Weightman (Micro) 6, 18. **Final:** Sheppard b Taylor 15, -18, 8. **Senior doubles:** C Spate/B Taylor b T Sheppard/A Weightman - 18, 13, 19. **Veteran singles:** Malcolm Allsop b Barrie Woodcock 13, 14.

I hear that Gary Knights retained his men's singles title in the Burton Championships with victory in the final over Nigel Adams - but have received no report upon the rest of the tournament.

In the Derby League, St Andrews have retained the premier division title, ahead of YMCA II, Castle Donington I and Lancaster II.

Belper Sports Centre I return to the premier after convincingly winning division one; and YMCA III continue their climb up the divisions after winning the division two championship.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

THIS being the final report of the season it is seemingly only apparent that finals nights and such like has to be the order of the day.

As expected the strong Rudford team of Darren Griffin, Steve Moreman, Martyn Lane and Richard Pepperd clinched "The Providence Capital County Premier League Championship," by a clear margin of some 20 points, Cheltenham came second and the CEGB third, many thanks to John Smith of Cheltenham for his work this season as chairman of this league.

Table tennis in Gloucester City is indeed not lacking for spectator enthusiasm at the cities finals night there was at least 170 people present, far more indeed than I have seen for several years, the County Nol Darren Griffin won the open singles by beating Steve Moreman 14, 6, 19 in the final. Griffin has now won this title a total of five times.

The junior singles U17 went to Dale Saunders the County Nol junior who had very little trouble in beating Andrew Harris 9, 6.

The veterans singles was retained by Peter Wood of the CEGB who beat John Fannin (Rudford) 15, 18. This particular championship consisted of several long rallies and much considerable thought by both players a joy to watch in this day and age of short rallies and bicycle glue.

The open doubles event held us all spellbound, indeed it was a triumph for age and experience versus youth. Old timers Bryan Merritt and Roy Morley beat William Dawe and Sylvester Callum - 16, 21, 16, all hail from the Gordon League club.

After being the RU for so many years, Heather Colwill, the counties No. 2, eventually won the ladies singles with a stirring 16, 11, two straight victory against Judy Morley, this is the very first time that Miss Colwill has won the City ladies singles.

### Curriculum

However one very worthy aspect of news has just come my way, the Gloucestershire County Council in direct conjunction with the governing aspects of several sporting and governing bodies are organising what is termed "The first Gloucestershire School of Sport," and among the many sports that are listed table tennis is on the curriculum.

I am further informed that between the 13th and 16th of April six girls and ten boys have been selected for a series of coaching sessions with Nicky Jarvis and Kevin Satchell in charge at Chosen Hill School at Churchdown, near Gloucester. This cannot be bad can it?

## ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

COUNTY Championship-wise our last two matches are best glossed over. A 10 sets to love defeat was our reward for travelling to Somerset and only Ralph Duke was able to win a set in the final match when we entertained Glamorgan, at the conclusion of which the visitors broke open the champagne - so at least we made somebody happy!

The Island championships were a triumph for the seeding committee and for past winners. Seeds 1-4 all reached their rightful semi-final positions in the men's and ladies' singles events before Roger Hookey (Sandown) and Sharon Urry (Rookley) emerged to retain their titles. Hookey with a 16, 18 final win over Chris Angus and Miss Urry, who completed a junior/senior double defeating Joy Batten 19, 12.

Roger Hookey combined with Mike Turner to win the men's doubles. The unseeded Pauline Peach and Joy Batten are the ladies doubles champions and Miss Batten added to her trophies when in her third final of the day she won the mixed doubles in partnership with league secretary Keith Taylor.

Winner of the consolation event was ex-Portsmouth administrator Ian Wright (who wants consolation when living in the Isle of Wight!).

Sandown A have retained the Island first division championship with a 100% return from 20 matches. Leading first division player was Sandown Bs Steve Harris who twice fell to Keith Taylor but defeated everybody else.

### Trophy shared

The B sides of Wroxall and Newport Vics finished their second division campaign with identical records and with both teams promoted they have decided to share the trophy.

Traditionally the end of the winter season is taken over by the various cup competitions all of which are always very well supported.

The Knowles handicap competition was won by Wroxall whose hero was Alan Hulbert with a hat trick in the five sets to three defeat of Cowes High School. Dave Hilliam, ably supported by Joe Daly and Sandy Stritton, was unbeaten when Shanklin defeated Plessey in the final of the Peach Cup (a levels competition in which each team's composition is restricted to a maximum combined average from the previous season). Mark Stevens and Richard Skinner, disappointed runners-up in the Knowles Cup carried Cowes High School to success in the 2 player a side county press tournament.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE lowest-ever total of 39 players contested the county senior closed tournament on April 4 at Scotswood Sports Centre.

Newly-ranked No. 1 Eddie Smith, who had earlier struggled against Neil McMaster in his semi-final, won the men's singles title for the first time. He defeated fellow left-hander Ian Robertson in an extremely absorbing final, the latter having already made his mark in the other semi-final by putting out defending champion Peter McQueen.

Clare Mouzon once again demonstrated how far she is ahead of the rest of her field when she retained her women's singles title without a great deal of trouble.

### Results

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** Smith b McMaster - 14, 15, 18; Robertson b McQueen 17, 14. **Final:** Smith b Robertson 12, -14, 19. **Womens singles:** Clare Mouzon b Caron Guthrie 15, 11. **Veterans singles:** Fred Short b Gordon Bissett - 19, 14, 13. **Mens doubles:** McQueen/Robertson b Smith/Peter Whiteman 14, 15. **Womens doubles:** Mouzon/Pauline Long b Guthrie/Christine Burke - 17, 18, 15. **Mixed doubles:** Robertson/Guthrie b McQueen/Mouzon - 15, 17, 12. **Individual handicap (Premier Div. 1):** Keith Bibby (+14) b Bob Dodds (+12) 20, 15. **Individual handicap (Div. 2-4):** Phil Robson (+8) b Barry Forster (scr) 17, 14.

The veterans' representative side went out of their team competition when they lost 1-5 at home to Wakefield, Fred Short winning the only set. The remaining county matches involving the seniors v Leicestershire (1-9), the juniors v Lincolnshire (3-7) and Cumbria (4-6), and the veterans v Yorkshire (1-8) were all lost. The outstanding senior match v Cheshire, originally postponed because of weather conditions, had not been played at the time of writing and is currently awaiting the administrators' decision.

It has certainly been an eventful time for 12-year-old Barry Forster (Blaydon YC). He made his county junior debut away to Lincolnshire and won both his singles as well as the doubles with Stephen Coverdale. Not content with that, he took the U12 singles title in both the North Yorkshire and Derbyshire open tournaments, and has now gained international recognition by being selected for an U12 Jill Hammersley Foundation representative match in Luxembourg. Congratulations are due to Barry on these remarkable achievements so early in his career.

The Byker Newcastle second team, after struggling for most of the season, picked up with an excellent 7-1 win away to Sincil Lincoln. Fred Short dropping the only set. This was followed by a creditable 4-4 draw at home to Chan Construction II, the sets being won by Michael Thomas (2) and Short and Peter Whiteman (1 each). These results show a great improvement in the team performances during the second half of the season.

## MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

ONCE again we have pleasure in offering our congratulations and thanks to our first team for winning the County Championships for the 6th year in succession. Len Pilditch had some worries over the second weekend as Nigel and Lesley Tyler had to play in the Gwent Open on the Saturday and Angela Mitchell had an engagement on the Sunday, but with the co-operation and good play of our team we managed to pull it off without losing a match. The loyalty of our players is much appreciated by us all.

Our special roll of honour of players who have represented the county on 100 occasions or more has now been increased to five, with Angela Mitchell and Alan Lindsay joining the three already there, Diane Scholer (Rowe), Laurie Landry and Mitchell. And to think that I remember them all as juniors!

### Sufficient

Although the entry for the Middlesex Junior Closed Championships was not as good as it has been in previous years, it was sufficient to make it worth while holding the event at Aylestone School over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March. The total entry amounted to 73, a drop of almost exactly the number entered last year by one of our most dedicated coaches, who this year decided he would only enter those who paid their fees to him before the event, and in consequence entered only three, instead of his usual 35-40. One wonders how much he has been out of pocket in past years!

In order to give groups of four where possible, with the cadets events on the Saturday and the junior events on the Sunday. Thanks to Doris Moors, the referee, and her assistant, Alan Harwood, everything ran very smoothly with early finishing on both days.

The winners and runners-up for each event were: **Cadet boys singles:** David Baker b Damien Abrahams 12, 12. **Cadet girls singles:** (Group of 4) Sara Williams won with Lisa Jackson as runner-up. **Cadet boys doubles:** David Baker and Bradley Matthews beat Mark Williams and Sam Henley 13, 19. **Cadet girls doubles:** (Only 2 pairs) won by Sara Williams and Georgina Matthews.

**Junior boys singles:** Tom Cutler beat Phillip Szekeres - 14, 12, 8. **Junior girls singles:** (Final group) Rebecca Fisher was the winner, with Sara Williams as runner-up. **Junior boys doubles:** Tom Cutler and Phillip Szekeres b Matthew Boon and Sean Homer - 19, 16, 6. **Junior girls doubles:** Sandy Lynes and Rebecca Fisher b Sara Williams and Georgina Matthews 18, 18. **Mixed doubles:** Phillip Szekeres and Sara Williams b Tom Cutler and Lynne Moore 7, -13, 13.

Our thanks go to the London Borough of Brent and Brent Table Tennis Club for allowing us to use their accommodation and equipment, to the "mums and dads" who provided the refreshments and to the umpires for keeping the ball rolling.

## LINCOLNSHIRE

Chris Bryan

THE County Junior Championships were played at Grantham on January 11th, with 65 players turning out on the day despite the grim weather conditions and some absences because of impending school exams. Although most of the top seeds reached the semi-final stages, many of the No. 1 seeds finished as runners-up. Lee Robinson beat the top two seeds on his way to victory in the Boys U15 event, overtaking Neil Smith (who had his revenge in the mixed class event) and then Matthew Warren in the final. In the corresponding girls event Sally Johnson, the No. 1 seed, lost out in three close games to Jeanette Baxter. The Girls U17 final brought together old adversaries Helen Stephens and Joanne Mole, with Helen scoring her first victory over Joanne at this level. Jason Williams, another top seed, had to fight all the way against Jonathan Rowson in the closest final of the day, the Boys U17, scraping home at deuce in the third.

### Results

**Boys U17:** J Williams (Lincoln) b J Rowson (Scunthorpe) - 17, 12, 20. **Girls U17:** H Stephens (Grantham) b J Mole (Grantham) 13, -12, 12. **Boys U15:** L Robinson b M Warren (Grantham) - 16, 19, 11. **Girls U15:** J Baxter (Grantham) b S Johnson (Lincoln) 16, -22, 18. **Boys U13:** M King (Grantham) b T Pexton (Grantham) 16, 13. **Girls U13:** C Challis (Grantham) b A Durrands (Grantham) - 22, 11, 4. **Boys U11:** D Stokes (Grantham) b M Wallhead (Boston) 5, 14. **Girls U11:** N Massingham (Grantham) b L Stokes (Grantham) 13, 19. **Boys doubles:** Warren/N Smith (Lincoln) b Williams/Rowson 18, 19. **Girls doubles:** Mole/Stephens b Baxter/C May (Grantham) 19, 16. **Mixed class:** Smith b Robinson 17, -18, 14.

In the Inter-Town competitions Grimsby's ladies have already won the Butlin Cup, dropping only one point to Grantham II. For Grimsby Connie Moran won all her singles and doubles, supported by Elaine Blastland, Pauline Jacklin, Sharon Harvey and M Lilley. Runners-up were Louth (Kath Fisher, Sue Allison, Kerry Allison) who pipped Grantham I (Joanne Craik, Joanne Mole, Cathy Bryan, Ginny Dixon). For Mablethorpe, county ladies champion Beryl Voss had the distinction of winning all her 15 singles, two straight.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

THE Byron Roofing and Cladding Ltd. Senior Leicestershire Closed Championships took place at the Hinckley Leisure Centre on March 22nd with a much reduced entry. The low entry, probably was mainly due to the Leicester League's own Closed Championships being staged the week previous, caused serious concern to the organisers but hopefully this will be remedied next season. Nevertheless, we must thank Mike Holt for organising the event - which incidentally ran in tandem with the Hinckley League's own Closed Championships - at all. Thanks also go to our National referee, Mr Geoff Taylor who expertly took charge of both events. The event itself produced many fine matches, in fact too many to mention them all in this column but, the Mens Singles clash between Keith Fellows and Martin Pickles was particularly exciting as was the Simon Griev v Graham Hughes match. At the end of the day, Chris Rogers won the Men's Singles. Sister Karen won the Women's, David Grundy won the Intermediate's. Simon Griev and Keith Fellows took the Men's Doubles Crown whilst Chris teamed up with Karen to win the Mixed Doubles. **Results: MS:** Chris Rogers b Dave Gannon 6, 11. **WS:** Karen Smith b Julie Revill 16, 12; **IS:** David Grundy b Ian Brown 16, 21; **MD:** Simon Griev/Keith Fellows b Chris Rogers/Martin Pickles 17, 19; **XD:** Chris Rogers/Karen Smith b Simon Griev/Julie Revill 8, 11.

Harold Clark has successfully restored respectability to the Rose Johnson Bowl handicap competition. The semi-finals saw Knighton Park, with a +92 pt advantage, prove too strong for Hogg Robinson despite Bob Norman's effort. The other semi-final was between Byron Roofing and Electricity. Byron, with a 76 pt start added to the maximum 84 pts won by Graham Taylor, were too strong for Electricity although Derek Bunting and Keith Toynton performed admirably. Final: Byron Roofing (+76) 339 b Knighton Park 275.

## OXFORDSHIRE

Matthew O'Flynn

THE Oxfordshire Closed County Championships took place at the Redefield Sports Centre in February. Despite several experiments and changes to the format the event still failed to achieve the support that such a tournament should receive. However, the tournament did not lack excitement or quality table tennis.

In the men's singles the performance of note came from the top Banbury League player, Steve Joyner. Not only was this a personal triumph but marked the effort made in recent years by the Banbury Association to become more involved in table tennis beyond the confines of their own league. Joyner reached the final with an honest attacking display against the county number two Arthur Chilvers which was won in two straight sets.

Similarly impressive was the display given by Kidlington player Peter Jones. The talented natural topspin player defeated Norman Swift in straight sets having previously ended the hopes of top seed Karl Bushell. In the final the flair of Jones overcame the workmanlike approach of Joyner. The final was staged in the early afternoon thus enabling a good number of spectators to enjoy the worthy displays.

Neither player finished with the men's event. Peter Jones and his partner Clive Morris took the men's doubles title defeating Bushell and Swift. Steve Joyner collected the under 21 title beating fellow Banbury League player Dominic O'Flynn in the final.

The closest and longest final was that of the veteran singles event. It was the only senior final to go to three sets. David Harse was the winner 17, - 19, 18. The ladies singles title went to Brenda Lee from Swindon who defeated Eleanor Harrison in the final. Cathy Singleton enjoyed a successful day when she equalled the feat of Jones in taking two titles. With partner Mary Thompson she gained a comprehensive victory over Paddy Allan and Margaret Abbott in the ladies doubles. She partnered Neil Abbott to victory in the mixed doubles against Clive Morris and Eleanor Harrison.

The star of the junior tournament was nationally ranked cadet Gavin Yates from Thame who collected three titles. Yates won the junior boys title against Richard Giblin of Banbury where a deuce first set proved decisive. Unfortunately, county number one Paul Poulter was forced to withdraw due to severe illness during his semi-final clash with Yates when the score stood at one set each. Yates won the cadet boys title when he beat Michael Rose. The third of his titles was won in the boys doubles when he was joined by his elder brother Neil. They defeated David Rose and Richard Giblin.

### Results

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** P Jones b N Swift 17, 16; S Joyner b A Chilvers 15, 11. **Final:** P Jones b S Joyner 15, 18. **Ladies singles:** B Lee b E Harrison 18, 12. **Intermediate singles:** S Joyner b D O'Flynn 11, 18. **Veterans singles:** D Harse b A Davies 17, - 19, 18. **Mens doubles:** C Morris/P Jones b K Bushell/N Swift 12, 17. **Ladies doubles:** C Singleton/M Thompson b P Allan/M Abbot 5, 9. **Mixed doubles:** N Abbott/C Singleton b C Morris/E Harrison 18, 16. **Junior boys:** G Yates b R Giblin 21, 14. **Junior girls:** S Hughes b D Barnett 18, - 19, 15. **Cadet boys:** G Yates b M Rose 15, 12. **Cadet girls:** D Barnett b S Hughes - 18, 17, 16. **Under 12:** M Sims b S Groves 9, 4. **Boys doubles:** N Yates/G Yates b R Giblin/D Rose 15, 13. **Girls doubles:** S Hughes/D Barnett b M Shaw/L Shaw 9, 15. **Mixed doubles:** D Rose/D Barnett b S Hughes/M Rose 20, 19.

her three year lay-off to claim the honours.

Kimbell gained revenge in the doubles, teaming up with Anne Nicoll to make it four titles in a row, this time at the expense of Johnston and Cox, while Cox suffered further disappointment in the mixed, when with Steve Brown she went down in the final to brother and sister combination Keith Nicoll and Johnston, Nicoll's powerful hitting finally proving too much for Brown's superb defence.

McKim and Andy Troit took the mens doubles, although they were fortunate to negotiate a pulsating semi-final against Mark Nannery and Brown, before finding their best form to overcome Chris Handshaw and Keith Nicoll, their combined flair outweighing the losers' more workmanlike qualities.

## HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

MY last report of the season and the first teams hopes of an early return to the second division evaporating with the prima dona attitude of some of the players. I know Chris Shetler, the most dedicated of captains, was disolusioned and I hope his threats of giving up the job do not materialise. The veterans A team were outclassed in the premier division and I hope that despite their veteran status they are not too old to learn from the experience! The B team make way for them by 'gaining' relegation from the second division.

In the Hampshire Schools individual championships a good entry and Harold Albury reports that future prospects look good. Phillip Watson beat County champion Martin Johnstone - 18, 13, 17 to win the under 19 boys singles, while Mark Thorne beat Southampton Champion Jeff Giles 14 and 10 in the under 16 event. Mark Shuter won the under 13 and Charles Fell the under 11. In the girls events Lisa Rice won the under 16 and Clare Woodham the under 13.

In the inter town leagues Aldershot retained their mixed title, Portsmouth won their first title for some time with the mens division and Bournemouth won the veterans first division, Southampton B the second.

Very little response from most leagues to my request for reports but apologies to Portsmouth's Owen Plunkett for if I published his report in full it would take my seasons space! Briefly therefore, Generation Aces beat Cowplain Blue and Gold teams to the division 1 title with Graham Toole topping the averages. Colt Hurricanes won division 2, Community Yellow division 3 and Portsea Police the Fourth division.

In the Aldershot Closed, Sean Gibson beat Neil Taylor 12 and 7 in the mens while Andrea Seagar beat Gail MacCulloch - 16, 12, 10 in the womens.

## STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

IT is with sadness that I report the premature death of John Carter. John was the president of the West Bromwich League but he will be known to a much wider table tennis circle as the donor of the Carter Cup, the junior boys inter-league competition. John was only 48 when he died. He was married with two children and recently became a grandfather. He was, in his day, a very good player, gaining county second team honours on several occasions. Perhaps the best epitaph that I can report is what was said about him by one of his playing colleagues "a most likeable fellow!" — and obviously one who will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife and family.

This season sees the end of our spell in the premier division of the county championship. We have had a good run, and relegation was in no way due to any lack of effort and enthusiasm from our current team. We obviously missed the contribution which Andy Bellingham gave in previous seasons, but now we must look forward to the challenge of the second division and the chase for promotion which could bring out the best in us. The juniors easily retained their place in the top division, but with the inevitable cycle of things, we could find it hard going next year.

The juniors who performed so well as a team also excelled themselves in the county closed. The tournament went outside the county to the nearby Lilleshall National Sports Centre where excellent facilities were provided without the fussy restraints of our previous venue, and with willing help from all the staff there (for which many thanks!). Craig Bakewell (Pott) retained his men's singles title convincingly, preventing Andy Rich (Wolv) in a three set final, from taking his first title after five appearances in the final. Greg Hallam (Pott) and Tony Isaac (Wolv) — still going strong — were the losing semi-finalists.

Helen Lower (Wolv) had her best championship, gaining the maximum of four titles — women's and junior girls' singles, women's and mixed doubles — a splendid performance, capped by a repeat of last year's victory over Janet Dunning (Wolv) in the senior singles.

Her opposite number in the junior rankings, Adrian Thorp (Wolv), duly won the junior boys' title but at intermediate level, Stephen Slater (Pott) reversed last year's final result with a mature performance. Both Slater (Pott) reversed last year's final result with a mature performance. Both Slater and Thorp were losing quarter-finalists in the men's, along with Mark Evans and Stan Deakin (both Pott).

## NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

GRAEME MCKIM clinched his fifth successive Kettering League singles crown, but not until the 15 hour programme had stretched beyond midnight, and this despite the superb organisation of Phil Slade who was completing the second leg of three successive weekend tournaments.

The majority of the spectators had gone home when McKim and Keith Nicoll met to do battle, but what the final lacked in atmosphere, it certainly gained in sportsmanship, with both players shrugging aside the tensions of an arduous day.

Neither McKim nor Nicoll had been at their best in their semi-finals, but well though their respective opponents Andy Troit and Steve West played, the penultimate accolade eluded them and the top seeds duly took their allotted places in the final. McKim took the opener, saw Nicoll level, and then pulled away in the decider.

However at the halfway stage he faltered and Nicoll seeing an unexpected opportunity clawed his way back into contention — but was too drained at the end of a long day to take full advantage as the super-fit McKim went on to take the title yet again.

The big disappointment of a day which saw over 370 matches played, was the non-appearance of former ladies champion Ann Lenton who had succumbed to flu the previous evening. That should have left the way clear for the highly ranked England junior Kristina Cox, but Debbie Kimbell had other ideas, outplaying the Rushden girl in the semi-final with her own brand of accurate play.

She almost repeated that performance in the final against Jane Johnston, who as Jane Nicoll had won in 1983, but after taking the first comfortably, she fell away as Johnston came fighting back after

# Counties 5

## WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

WITH one match remaining the veterans team look pretty certain of promotion. Terry Bache and Ann Lloyd both have 100% records to date. The junior A team continue on their winning ways and are still in line for promotion to the junior premier.

### Coventry Closed

Mark Randle became men's singles champion for the first time when he defeated former champion Adrian Pilgrim in the final. The Pilgrim family got their revenge in the men's doubles when Kevin and Adrian defeated Mark and Ian Randle in the final.

Lynn Sibley retained her women's title comfortably against junior Claire Woodward in the final and then went on to win the ladies and mixed doubles.

Warwickshire cadet champion Dave Clarke won the U15 title while D. Thomas won the U17s.

### Top 12

Leigh Jeffries and Nicola Meddings have both qualified to take part in the gruelling cadet Top 12 competition to be held at Lilleshall in April. Good luck to them both.

At the Derby Junior Select, Nicola won her second U12 singles title defeating Kate Goodhall (Yorks) in the final and Sally Marling in the semi's. This was only the second time Nicola had beaten Kate and the first time she had defeated Sally.

(Continued on page 25)

## SURREY

Frank Hams

MIKE KERCHER, who has been in poor health recently (he looked much better at the Essex 3 star) has handed over the responsibility of captaincy of the senior 1st and 2nd teams to Brian Garroway and David Harding respectively. So long the driving force behind Surrey table tennis Mike has coached many players at all levels. He will continue to be responsible for the junior teams but I understand he is also looking for new blood here. For any players who need advice or coaching I'm sure Mike will still be around for years to come.

At the second Premier weekend the 1st team won two and lost two. This means they finished fourth overall. However, there were one or two great wins, notably Max Cummins over J. Souter and Glen Baker's victory over C. Wilson. Mike Hammond also beat A. Dixon. No luck for the 2nd team. They travelled to Avon and lost. This probably means they are relegated. The

veterans first team lost to Kent II but the second team beat Berks.

In the 1st round of the veterans' event at the Cleveland International tournament Gordon Chapman was playing Denis Neale. Having lost the first he was 16-17 down in the second when a ball from an adjoining table entered the court behind his opponent. With a rally in progress Gordon lobbed the ball back, and putting an arm up in the usual manner called for a let. Denis smashed the 'loose' return. The umpire, perhaps thinking that the 'loose' ball was in response to Denis's shot, and not seeing the other ball, did not call a let. To the watching veterans, however, who had the best view of the incident it seemed clear that a let should have been called. Denis didn't respond to his opponent's request nor to the spectators' response to "play the game". He argued petulantly implying he agreed with the umpire. In my opinion, however, he wasn't playing in the spirit of usual veterans' games and any sympathy one might have had with his views was lost by his hostile attitude to some of the watching veterans. Not a nice one — Denis!

## WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

THE greatest show for ten years was staged at the Swindon table tennis championships by Jasvinder Singh.

His outstanding performance in the junior events earned him three titles. But he saved his most dramatic act for the senior tournament when he stole the show by winning another two championships.

He put out number two seed Raymond Powell in a thrilling three game quarter-final and won for a semi-final clash with veteran Basil Thompson.

Top seed Steve McBean was beaten by Ray Hughes who saved a match point before clinching victory.

Hughes then defeated number three seed Brian Powell for a place in the final. Singh opened up a good lead but Hughes caught him at 13-13. Singh responded to the danger signals allowing Hughes only two more points in that game and then cruised the second.

Singh picked up another title in the men's doubles when he and Ray Powell beat Steve Davies and Mike Oxley (junior) in a three game final.

It was the first time a Swindon player had won five titles in the Swindon championships since 1977 when Wendy Parker served up a nap hand.

Brenda Lee took two titles in the women's events which produced a small entry.

There were no surprises in the veterans' singles as top seed Powell retained his title.

His son Ray took home his second title when he and Jenny Neale held on to the mixed doubles championship by beating Davies and Miss Lee in the final.

Both Singh and Lorraine Cox picked up a hat-trick of Swindon junior titles in their final season as juniors.

Singh, runner-up last season, was in a class of his own as he clinched the boys' under 17 singles title with a straight games victory in the final over number two seed Martin Edwards.

Singh teamed up with Neil Everden to take the boys' doubles and title number three came when Singh and Lorraine eased their way to victory in the mixed doubles final.

Lorraine brushed aside the challenge of Melissa Potter in the final of the girls' singles.

### Senior results

Men's singles - Final: Singh b Hughes 15, 9. Women's singles - Final: Miss B Lee b Miss J Neale 14, 13. Veterans' singles - Final: Powell b Howell 16, 11. Division 2-4 singles - Final: M Dams b L Godbold 19, -8, 23. Men's doubles - Final: R Powell/Singh b M Oxley/Davies 18, -16, 18. Mixed doubles - Final: R Powell/Miss J Neale b Davies/Miss Lee 18, -18, 13.

### Junior results

Boys' singles - Final: Singh b Edwards 14, 10. Girls' singles - Final: Miss L Cox b Miss M Potter 7, 9. Under 15 boys' singles - Final: A Collar b P Fry 20, 18. Under 15 girls' singles - Final: Miss Potter b Miss T Flippance 11, 12. Under 13 boys' singles - Final: A Collar b S Fry 18, 14. Under 13 girls' singles - Final: Miss Youldon b Miss Young -21, 20, 18. Junior divisional - Final: P Fry b S White 17, 12. Boys' doubles - Final: Everden and Singh b P Fry and A Collar 19, 13. Mixed doubles - Final: Singh and Miss Cox b Edwards and Miss Potter 10, 15.

### Wiltshire Inter-Town League

The Swindon A team of Jasvinder Singh, Martin Edwards and Mark Powell swept aside all opposition to finish top of the Wiltshire inter-town table tennis league. They finished unbeaten in the competition, fought out between six teams.

Results: Salisbury B 2, Swindon Cadets 4; Salisbury B 4, West Wilts 2; Salisbury A 1, Swindon A 5; Swindon B 6, Swindon Cadets 0; Swindon A 4, Swindon B 2; Swindon B 6, West Wilts 0; Salisbury A 6, Swindon B 0; Salisbury A 6; Salisbury B 0; Salisbury A 6, West Wilts 0; Salisbury A 6, Swindon Cadets 0; Swindon A 5, Swindon Cadets 1; Salisbury B 0, Swindon A 6; Salisbury A 6, Swindon B 0; Swindon Cadets 5, West Wilts 1; Swindon A6, West Wilts 0.

| Final table | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | P  |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Swindon A   | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 4  | 10 |
| Salisbury A | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 5  | 8  |
| Swindon B   | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 10 | 6  |
| Swindon Cad | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 20 | 4  |
| Salisbury B | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3  | 27 | 0  |

Three Swindon players finished level on wins in the Wiltshire cadet assessment tournament. Alexander Collar, Simon White and Peter Fry all recorded nine wins in the tournament used for ranking purposes.

On a countback of games for and against, Collar (currently ranked 3), was first, White (ranked 7) was second and Fry (ranked 2) was third.

## SUSSEX

John Woodford

NEW Sussex champion Ritchie Venner of Crawley rounded off the season's activities in West Sussex by winning the Seaman cup, the invitation event for the top Sussex players at Burgess Hill.

The Crawley and Horsham League made it a double for Crawley - who are now the top town in Sussex table tennis once again - when Sally Weston, also the reigning Sussex champion won the Nicholls Cup.

Organiser of both events Mrs Pat Wales took a lot of trouble to get a full complement of women players to compete in the Nicholls Cup, but she will be disappointed that only six men turned up on a glorious summer's day to compete for the Seaman Cup.

Phil Smith, Keith Horton and Robin Stace were all absentees. The men were divided into two groups. The rising Horsham star Tony Murrell made his mark again by stopping Elphick and Bartram. In the other group Venner beat John Thorpe and Andy Walker.

In the final round Venner triumphed 20, 17, 12 over Murrell whilst Miss Weston topped Sheila King 14, 20.

### Snookered

Sussex resident and England No. 6 Nicky Mason was watching snooker on TV at midnight on the night of April 25. Hours earlier, Skylet Andrew crashed into the umpire's table at Sunderland's Crowtree Leisure Centre where England were losing 4-2 to China in the first match of the tour.

The midnight telephone call came from Don Parker the England captain who invited the Bexhill man to join the England team to replace Andrew at Oldham. Mason is said to have taken 4½ hours from Bexhill to Oldham, so it was fast lane all the way before the radar guns could be pointed his way.

Paul Elphick (Haywards Heath) was the winner of the last tournament of the season in county the Hollington 1-star. His crop of victims included Nicky Standen, John Thorpe, Andy Cunningham and in the final Philip Cox of Kent.

# Counties 6

## STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

OUR third annual Hard Bat Tournament again proved popular and quite a number of players in the county are beginning to show prominence in this style of table tennis. Particularly noticeable is the effort that has to be put into the game, especially when an attacking player is opposed to a defender. It seems that the attacker more often wins but he has to have consistency (obviously) and be able to build up to a hitting speed to penetrate his opponent. There were some very tired players at the end of eight hours of play in the team (James Beattie Trophy) and individual events (Turner Trophy). Mark Evans (Potteries) again proved his mastery of the hard bat by retaining the individual title, beating a weary Steve Dunning (Wolverhampton) in a good final, despite the one-sided result. Steve had earlier figured in the best contest of the day when he beat Craig Bakewell (Potteries) 4-3 in a see-saw quarter final of tremendous skill and quality. Detailed scores were 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 9-11, 6-11, 11-4, 11-3. (We again played best of seven sets, up to 11 points with normal deuce at 10 all). In a fairly straightforward ride to the final, only Dennis Davies (Stafford) caused any trouble to Mark Evans, taking 2 sets off him.

**Results: Semi-finals:** M Evans b A Rich (Wolv) 16-14, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7; S Dunning b J Hancock (Pott) 11-6, 11-4, 11-4, 11-6. **Final:** Evans b Dunning 11-9, 11-9, 11-4, 11-4.

In the team event, Wolverhampton retained the James Beattie Cup by a very narrow margin over Potteries. Both teams collected 14 wins (out of 18) in the groups but Wolverhampton had the superior sets average - 56-23 (70.9%) to 50-24 (67.6%). Walsall (12 wins, sets 51-34) pipped Stafford (12 wins, set 45-38) for third place, followed by Tamworth (7 wins), West Bromwich (6), Lichfield (4) and Stone (3). Generally, a very good day with plenty of keen, energetic competition!

### Confounded

West Bromwich, surprise winners last year of the County League, again confounded the critics by retaining the title, despite dropping a point to runners-up Walsall. Wolverhampton A (in the 2nd division of all places!) had a superior sets average over Tamworth A to take the division title, but Tamworth B re-emphasised the growing strength in their league by winning division 3 in style. Walsall C take credit for having the only 100% record in the league in topping division 4.

| Division 1  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| West Brom   | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 7   |
| Walsall A   | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 6   |
| Potteries A | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 5   |
| Stafford A  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 28 | 2   |
| Potteries B | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3  | 36 | 0   |

| Division 2  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Wolv'pton A | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 8  | 7   |
| Tamworth A  | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 14 | 7   |
| Walsall B   | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 3   |
| Stone       | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 26 | 2   |
| Stafford B  | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 8  | 32 | 1   |

| Division 3   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Tamworth B   | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 12 | 7   |
| Potteries C  | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 11 | 6   |
| Staff. Vets. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 18 | 4   |
| Wolv'pton B  | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 27 | 3   |
| Stafford C   | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8  | 32 | 0   |

## WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

CONGRATULATIONS to our Vets team who have won their division and to our County 'A' team who have earned promotion to the Junior Premier Division next season.

Further congratulations to Leigh Jeffries, selected to play for England in the Cadet Six Nations Competition for the second year. Last year it was held in Germany but this year has switched to Holland.

I was proud to go to the same competition as one of the England captains, the other being Dave Fairholm. This added to the pleasure I already felt by captaining the Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation girls team at the English Junior Open in Newcastle. They provided two great opportunities to study foreign opposition.

The final of the **Warwickshire Club Competition** was fought out between two Birmingham teams, Redhill and Birmingham Housing. The winners were Redhill.

The **Warwickshire League** was finally reduced to only three teams, Leamington, Coventry and South Birmingham. The matches were played on three Sundays in April and the eventual winners were South Birmingham.

Extensions to the Coventry Centre for the Disabled will be officially opened on 13th June. It will have a capacity for twelve tables.

### COVENTRY CLOSED

Mark Randle became men's singles champion for the first time when he defeated former champion Adrian Pilgrim in the final. The Pilgrim family got their revenge in the mens doubles when Kevin and Adrian defeated Mark and Ian Randle in the final.

Lynn Sibley retained her womens title comfortably against junior Claire Woodward in the final and then went on to win the ladies and mixed doubles.

Warwickshire cadet champion Dave Clarke won the U15 title while D. Thomas won the U17's.

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THIS end of season issue seems the appropriate place to summarize the results of Closed Championships which have been held in the County.

**Bradford:** MS Mick Stead; MD Stead - Steve Kosmowsky; LS Helen Shields; LD Shields - Sylvia Broadbent; XD Richard Priestley - Shields; VS Arthur Lupton; JBS Kevin Pickles; JGS Joanne Keighley.

**Bridlington:** MS Dave Cammish; LS Amanda Steeley.

**Doncaster:** MS Glenn Roberts; MD Roberts - Mick Scott; LS Melanie Bramhald (nee Seaton); JBS Neil Simms.

**Halifax:** MS Kevin Beadsley; MD Mark Stephenson - Simon Pugh; LS Tracey Robertshaw; VS Stuart Milnes; JBS Mark Whiteley.

**Hull:** MS John Bult; MD: Bult - Nicky Newton; LS Hazel Kavanagh; LD Ruth and Kathryn Bray; XD Lee Hewitt - Kavanagh; VS Mick Farnill; JBS Ian Parker; JGS Kavanagh.

**Leeds:** MS Mick Emmerson; MD Emmerson - Richard Whiteley; LS Cathy Johnson; VS Geoff Brook. **Northallerton:** MS Ian Plummer; MD Steven Cooper - Richard Scruton; VS Richard Daniel.

**North Yorkshire:** MS Emmerson; MD Emmerson - Whiteley; LS Ellen Meddings; XD Emmerson - Meddings; VS Barry Pearson; JBS Craig Smith.

**Selby:** MS Mick Wilcockson; MD Craig Smith - Chris Nicholls; VS Nigel Thorn; JBS Smith.

**Sheffield:** MS Chris Oldfield; MD Clive Guest - Kevin Thompson; LS Lesley Longstone; LD Janet Deakin - Josette Ryalls; XD Guest - Ryalls; VS Tony Hunt; JBS Oldfield.

Harrogate based Mick Emmerson took his first Leeds title beating defending champion Mick Stead in the final. Shortly before, Mick had included the North Yorkshire MS title in a triple success, and to complete a fine season, he led his club St Georges to the Harrogate Division 1 title.

With everything depending on the final match with current champions Wanderers Mick came back from a first game defeat and second game deficit against former International star Denis Neale to take the game and that all-important point.

Feature of the Doncaster championships was the tussle for the Bert Dainty Memorial Trophy, donated by his family in memory of the late Doncaster and Yorkshire enthusiast.

A point was won for each victory in a maximum of four events, and Glenn Roberts was soon in contention with a win in the League Singles over none other than Mick Dainty, and further successes in the League Doubles (with Mick Scott) and Handicap Doubles (with sister Jane) took him to a 17 point tally at the end of day 1.

## PLAYERS NEAR BOMB HORROR

by Francis Kennedy

BOTH the Connacht and Leinster teams travelling to Newtonabbey for the 1987 Junior Inter-Provincial Championships on Saturday May 2 missed the bomb blast which killed Lord Justice Gibson and his wife by less than five minutes. The Connacht team arrived on the scene just after the bomb had exploded and the Leinster bus, which had stopped at the border customs post, arrived just minutes later. Irish international rugby player Nigel Carr was being tended to at the roadside as the police car was engulfed in flames. Police, ambulances or fire-engines had not arrived at the horrific scene.

### NARROW ESCAPE

Though their narrow escape was foremost in their minds, Connacht's team of Sean Spelman, Martin O'Flaherty, Michael Kelly and Pat Curran went on to record their provinces first ever inter-provincial title in any grade since the series began over thirty years ago. The western province defeated Ulster 9-0, Munster 5-2 and Leinster 5-4 to take the Junior Boys team title.

Limerick's Sexton Street squad coached by brothers Con Higgins and Gary Creevy have been making a huge impact on Ireland's Under-12 scene throughout this season. Absolute beginners last season, the lads have been reaching the final stages of all this season's open tournaments, and had a very deserved and satisfying win representing Munster in the Under 12 inter-provincial championships.

All but one place on the Irish team for the European Youth Championships in Greece were filled by the selectors, but finding it impossible to decide between Billy Marshall (Munster), Martin O'Flaherty (Connacht) and Owen Molloy (Leinster) for the third spot on the Junior Boys team, a three way play-off was arranged to be played during the Irish Junior Open in Dublin. Marshall, almost completely recovered from a broken leg, lost 19, 19 to the on-form O'Flaherty who was unbeaten at the previous week's inter-provincials, but beat Molloy to take the reserve spot. O'Flaherty beat Molloy very convincingly and joins his club-mate Sean Spelman and Leinster's Gary Neilson on the team.

Galway's St. Dominic's club, celebrating the seventh anniversary of their founding made it a very lucky seventh birthday indeed when their players took all seven titles at the Clarenbridge Crystal Connacht Championships. Sean Spelman defeated Terry Donlan to take his first Mens Singles title and added to that the Mens Doubles (with Martin O'Flaherty), Mixed Doubles (with Caroline Anderson) and the Under-21 Mens Singles. Caroline Anderson won her fifth Ladies Singles title in a row, Mixed Doubles, Ladies Doubles (with Denise Spelman) and Under-21 Ladies Singles.

# Vetts and Cleveland International

## VETERANS ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS SOCIETY

by Mike Watts

THE National Team Championships has reached the Quarter Final stage and the draw is as follows:

Reading v Wakefield; Hunts v Bournemouth; North Middlesex v Stockport; Louth v Crawley.

### Interesting

In the zone finals there were a number of interesting matches. Easiest winners were Wakefield who polished off Harrogate 5-2 with Cleve Judson and Les D'Arcy unbeaten. Reading won at Croydon 5-3 despite a Connie Warren hat-trick for the losers. Nottingham were another team to lose at home 5-3 to Louth although again the losers provided the only unbeaten player in Alf Saunders who had good wins 24-22 in the third over Brian Allison and 21-15 in the third over Matt Shearer.

### Smith unbeaten

Another home loser was Swindon beaten 5-3 by Bournemouth. Trevor Smith was unbeaten in a match where five games went to three and at 3 all Bournemouth clinched the final two matches at 21-19 in the third and 21-18 in the third.

North Middlesex won 5-2 against Dagenham with Jack Bender

unbeaten. John Holland was also unbeaten winning Dagenham's two sets whilst in another Southern encounter Henry Buist's three wins for North West Kent were not enough to stop Crawley progressing 5-3.



Another close encounter saw Hunts Central scrape home 5-4 over Lowestoft the final game being won by Jim Sizer 22-20, 20-22, 21-17. Meanwhile tournament favourites Stockport won 6-0 against Bury and their team of Roger Hampson, Derek Schofield and Brian Kean will take some stopping.

The National Veterans Masters due to take place over the weekend 23rd/24th May at Bracknell has attracted a record entry of 166 players. Sixteen tables will be used to ensure that the tournament can be completed in the two days. The Annual General Meeting of the Society has been arranged for Sunday 21st June.

## CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

### DOMINANT DESMOND

ENGLISH Champion Desmond Douglas dominated the Cleveland Open International Table Tennis Championships at Thornaby Pavilion on 28th & 29th March by retaining both the Mens Singles and combining with Veteran Champion Denis Neale to win the Mens Doubles.

Douglas did not have things all his own way in the Mens Singles. In the final, England No. 6, Nicky Mason from Surrey snatched the first game and led by 13-12 in the second before Douglas recovered his rhythm and went on to win 21-15. The decider was also close for the first 13 points as Mason led 7-6 but again Douglas's extra class showed through and the champion went on to win 21-12.

Mason did well to reach the final by beating Norwegian No. 1 Tommy Johannssen in a close semi-final and the England No. 2 Junior Bradley Billington of Derbyshire in the quarters. Billington provided the biggest shock of the tournament by defeating England No. 3 Skylet Andrew of Essex.

In the Mens Doubles, Desmond Douglas and Denis Neale quickly rebuilt the understanding they enjoyed 10 years ago when they were one of Europe's top doubles pairs. They won the Mens Doubles title with a victory over the current English Champions Mason and Andrew in the final. Although the final needed the deciding game, Mason and Andrew looked out classed by the greater skill of the winners.

Neale had more trouble in retaining his Veterans Singles title. The earlier doubles matches had taken a toll on Neale's stamina to such an extent that he considered withdrawing from the Veterans after a couple of hard matches in the early stages. Persuaded to carry on, he saved two match points in the deciding game of his semi-final with Ralph Gunnion and then went on to win the final against Maurice Billington of Derby in straight games.

The Womens Singles Championship was won by the English Champion, Fiona Elliott who saved 4 match points in the second game of the final against Lancashire's Joy Grundy.

Miss Grundy had hoped to take this opportunity, the first since the England Team she had been left out of had returned from the World Championships in New Delhi, to prove her point. She made a good start in this direction by defeating the England No. 1 Lisa Bellingier in the semi final and looked set to complete the task by beating a second England team player Fiona Elliott before the Staffordshire girls amazing second game recovery.

**Mens Singles: Final:** D Douglas b N Mason - 19, 15, 12.

**Womens Singles: Final:** F Elliott (Staffordshire) b J Grundy (Lancashire) - 13, 20, 17.

**Mens Doubles: Final:** D Douglas (England)/D Neale (Cleveland) b S Andrew (Essex)/N Mason (Surrey) 14, -16, 15.

**Womens Doubles: Final:** A Gordon/M Sainsbury b F Elliott/J Harris 13, 10.

**Veterans Singles: Final:** D Neale (Cleveland) b M Billington (Derbyshire) 15, 17...

**Class Two Singles: Final:** C Oldfield (Yorkshire) b M Brown (Warwickshire) 18, 12.

### A DATE FOR THE NEW SEASON ...

### Under-21 Open on September 12

IT gives me considerable pleasure once again to be sponsoring the Allied Dunbar Milton Keynes Under 21 Open Championships with increased prize money at Bletchley Leisure Centre on Saturday September 12.

As a table tennis fanatic myself, I have been extremely involved and in love with the sport, certainly from the time that I picked up my bat and played my first competitive league match in division seven of the North Action League - at the fairly ripe old age of sixteen!

I subsequently achieved reasonable success, representing my county Middlesex around three years later, gaining my E.T.A. coaching certificate and in many recent years and many tournaments on, playing in and managing in the National League competition.

Sixteen years of age in today's terms, however, could be seen as a late time to start in the sport for a player who wanted to achieve greater heights, and although my keenness and overwhelming enthusiasm to play and compete twenty-four hours a day, if possible, pushed me along, I was extremely aware that there was not much around for me to glean in the form of guidance and encouragement. Certainly, the ages from seventeen to twenty-one were, and probably still are extremely neglected - something I can relate to myself, having been caught up in the need for competition and coaching in what were very important and formative years in my own development as a player.

These days my business and family commitments have meant that I no longer can find the time to devote to the game. It does however give me great pleasure to maintain my involvement in a sport that I have loved, by sponsoring this under 21 event and giving some encouragement to young adults to maintain their interest and enthusiasm in table tennis.

WALLY MASCARENHAS  
Financial Management Consultant

Wally Mascarenhas  
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## ELEVEN YEARS — £3m TRAINING GRANTS

by **ROY MOOR** former *Daily Mail* staff Table Tennis reporter

SPORTS AID FOUNDATION has been paid countless compliments since being launched in 1976 but none greater than was given by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, during a private fund-raising occasion in London. Speaking to a distinguished gathering of company executives and media Sports Editors, the Prime Minister said of SAF:

"I think you are doing a fantastic job ... I'm hoping you will go from strength to strength. Yours is very important work and it too is part of the essential spirit of Britain." And the Prime Minister went on to say: "I think it very remarkable that since the Foundation began we have won more and more gold medals and we do congratulate you."

### Talent

Sports Aid Foundation came into being for the very purpose of helping Britain's talented amateur sportsmen and sportswomen to have a better sporting chance when opposed to State-aided competitors in the Olympic Games and other world championships. A group of sports-loving businessmen were asked by Denis Howell, then the Minister for Sport, to meet and discuss ways and means of helping the best of Britain's amateurs to achieve their full potential for these big occasions. It was agreed that funds were needed to assist talented competitors with the cost of specialised training. So SAF was born.

Since that day eleven years ago, the Foundation has disbursed more than £3 million in training grants. The reward for the Governors (all honorary) responsible for raising the

money has been the growing number of Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth titles won by Britons. No fewer than 59 of Britain's medal winners at the last Olympics in Los Angeles three years ago had received grant aid from SAF at some time, Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson among them.

For next year's Olympic Games in Calgary and Seoul, £1.5 million has been put at SAF's disposal by Minet, the international insurance brokers, specifically to help likely members of Britain's teams who are in need, to have the best possible preparation between now and the Games. Already £810,000 of that money has been committed because it is from now on that the hard preparatory work needs to be done to build for Olympic success.

### Potential

Those with medal potential for Calgary or Seoul are entitled to annual grants of up to £6,000 if they are in financial need. Other competitors likely to compete with distinction qualify for a four-figure grant and the rest of potential candidates up to £1,000 between now and the Games.

Where table tennis is concerned the situation is complicated because

of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales having to hold a preliminary tournament to decide three men and two women to represent Great Britain in a European qualifying competition in November. From this 12 men and six women can go forward to the Games where only 54 men and 32 women from the world are permitted to play in the singles.

### Applications

Competitors in non-Olympic sports also qualify for SAF grants but in all instances applications must be made through the governing body of the sport concerned. When grants have been allocated the money is sent to the governing body for distribution to avoid risk to the recipient's amateur status.

With SAF becoming such a vital organisation in British amateur sport, the governors reached agreement with the Charities Commission to launch a SPORTS AID TRUST as an educational charity. The Trust's funds are used only for sports people in education or who by reason of their youth or social and economic circumstances are in need of help.

The executive committee of SAF's board of governors include Paul Zetter, honorary vice president; Sir Leslie Porter, chairman; Mrs Mary Glen Haig, vice chairman; David Coleman; Major-General Ian Graeme; Eddie Kulukundis; Bill Slater and Denis Thatcher. Among the trustees of the

Trust are Adrian Metcalfe, chairman; Colin Moynihan, MP, vice chairman; Sebastian Coe and Miss Anita Lonsbrough. All are publicly well-known for their deep interest in sport.

Seb Coe, the double Olympic gold medallist, frequently expresses his appreciation for the financial assistance given him by SAF in his early days and other Olympic champions who state publicly that they would not have achieved their Olympic triumphs without the financial back-up given them for their specialised training, include swimmers David Wilkie and Duncan Goodhew and shooter Malcolm Cooper.

### Instant lottery

Readers may wonder how the Foundation and Trust raise their money to distribute in grants. Commerce and industry gives support in many ways, notably in sponsorships linked with their products or direct donations. The public also rallies well, particularly on occasions like the London Marathon when they sponsor runners. But if SAF depends on one source of income more than any other, it is the Instant Lottery run at Tesco Superstores throughout Britain. There the chance is offered to win £1,000 on the spot. This lottery was given a considerable boost recently when four Ford Fiesta cars were added to the prize list. Not a bad prize for a 25p outlay!

## A MOST UNUSUAL IRISH EVENT

A personal view by **FRANCIS KENNEDY**

THE annual Senior Inter-Provincial Championships is the most prestigious team event in the Irish domestic calendar. It consists of a league played between teams of three men and two ladies representing the four provinces of Ulster, Leinster, Connacht and Munster, but in the long history of the event, it is doubtful if it were ever surrounded by so much controversy and intrigue as this year.

To set the scene, we must go back in time to the Munster Open Championships which took place in Cork on January 17th. It had been announced the previous week that the Irish team for the 1987 World Championships in New Delhi would be selected on the night of January 17th, thus leading everybody to believe that the result of the men's singles in Cork would have a bearing on the composition of the team. Irish No. 2 Andrew Dennison didn't take part; Jim Dill who had won the Senior Top 10 a couple of weeks previously, was knocked out in the quarter-final by Irish No. 15 Terry Dolan; Tom Heasley went out to

Sean Spelman and Kevin Keane beat Hilton Meneally in the final.

Later that night the team for India was announced. It was Colum, Slevin (playing professionally in Germany, an automatic choice), Dennison, Meneally and Dill. To say eyebrows were raised at the omission of Keane would be an understatement. But back to the Inter-provincial Championships. First, the team selections. Jim Dill was left out of the Ulster team which was Dennison, Meneally, Mervyn Kelly, Jennifer Reid and Nora McEvoy. Leinster's team was Keane, Aidan Walsh, Anthony Redmond, Ann

Leonard and Siri Akal. Connacht selected Terry Dolan, Sean Spelman, Alan Roughnead, Caroline Anderson and Marion Heery, while Munster's team was Alan Marshall, Seamus Flavin, Maurice Cronin, Caroline Leonard and Sandra Hayes.

### Unavailable

Within a week, four of the original five selected by Leinster had declared themselves unavailable, only Miss Akal was left. It would seem that it was in protest at Keane's omission from the national team. They were replaced by veteran international Tommy Caffrey, Dave Pemberton, Paul Reid and Lorraine Cullen. Munster had their problems too. There was dissatisfaction among some Limerick players about the selection process, and three of the provinces top players refused to play in a final trial. This allowed Cronin to take the third spot.

Connacht, who were in a position to field their strongest team for years, were aware of an old ITTA rule which prohibited any player from playing in the Junior Inter Provincials later in the season if they had already played in the senior event.

Irish No. 1 junior and No. 10 senior Sean Spelman would be affected by this rule, so Connacht applied to the ruling body for permission to field Spelman in both events. Their request was turned down, so a very disappointed Spelman reluctantly opted to play with the junior team in April. He was replaced by Pat McCloughan.

And so, the depleted ranks converged on the Edmund Rice Hall in Limerick on Friday 13th to do battle. No big upsets in the Friday evening matches, Ulster defeated Connacht and Leinster defeated Munster, but who was prepared for the shocks of the following day?

Okay, Ulster predictably won the team event, after all, they were the only team which hadn't had defections, but they probably would have won anyway.

# The Swaythling President retires

## JOE VESELSKY — A MAN OF COMPASSION

by Ron Crayden

BRATISLAVA, the medieval capital of Slovakia, is a busy river port situated on the banks of the Danube. It was there in October, 1981, that the Swaythling Club recently retired President, Joe Veselsky, was born, coincidentally in the same month that a free Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed.

Owing to its geographical position, close to where the boundaries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria meet, Bratislava, quite understandably, is an historic town with a mixed population consisting of a Czechoslovakian majority with strong German, Jewish and Hungarian minorities. It was in this atmosphere that Joe spent his formative years and miraculously the best qualities from each of these ethnic groups seemed to rub off on him. As a Slovak he had an inborn sense of pride with a spirit of enterprise, and to it he added the outgoing charm and suavity of the Hungarians, the purposefulness of the Germans and the innate business acumen of the Jewish race. Although his young life was not entirely free from hardships he retained a sense of infectious humour and in spite of unpleasant wartime experiences he bore no malice and became a man of great compassion.

In his youth, Joe, like many of his contemporaries, had sporting ambitions and directed his energies into becoming a table tennis star. It must be remembered that at this time the sports was on the upsurge in Eastern Europe and following the great

Hungarian teams the Czechs began producing their own champions. I have not spoken with anyone about Joe's ability at the sport, but he proudly informs me that he gained a national ranking of No. 7 at a time when such immortals as Vana and Tereba were in the Czech team. Enthusiastic as he was about improving his table tennis, Joe had to earn a living and chose to work in a bank, a decision that was to alter the course of his life. It was while working in the bank that he met his beloved Kathy, who with great affection he calls 'Mama', and there began a blissful love affair that ended in marriage with two fine children. It is said, that behind every successful man lies a woman, and in Joe's case this statement could not be more true. Kathy is a charming person; tolerant, shrewd in her judgement and blessed with a wonderful sense of humour. She is the one who quietly steers a course for Joe, yet at the same time remaining very much in the background.

It was in 1938, when Joe was a youth of 20, that Hitler's hordes invaded Czechoslovakia. It was a time of great turmoil and upheaval and Joe joined the Czech underground

movement, living and operating in the Carpathian mountains. He was still relatively young when the War ended and immediately renewed his interest in table tennis and indeed had the honour of captaining a Czech team. Life however, was becoming increasingly grim under the new political regime so a major decision was made, one that eventually has had a fairy-tale ending. On a carefully chosen date Joe and his family bade farewell to Czechoslovakia and escaped by crossing Hungary to eventually reach Switzerland, where political asylum was sought. It was the family's original intention to settle in Australia but difficulty in getting the necessary emigration papers brought about a change in plans and in August 1949 they set off for Ireland.

### Doughnut rings

Why the 'Emerald Isle' was their chosen objective has never been disclosed, although a wag said that "Joe went there to sell doughnut rings to Leprechauns for toilet seats." What he did achieve however was quite remarkable, for with a limited knowledge of English and involved in a business venture, an agency for Swiss watches, with which he had virtually no experience, he built up a successful jewellery business.

Once he and the family had settled into their new pattern of life, Joe

turned again to table tennis for relaxation and he so impressed the Irish Association with his sincerity that he soon became the non-playing captain of the Irish team. At the World Championships in Sarajevo, 1973, his personality and leadership then impressed others in the sport and he was elected as the new President of the Swaythling Club — for 14 years he has been the guiding light in the club's development. Looking after a national team is a big enough task, but welding together representatives from the far corners of the world, with differing politics and often volatile temperaments, is a far greater problem, but Joe managed it without there being hostility or rancour. He controlled the Biennial General Meetings of the club with the benevolence of an affectionate father rather than that of an authoritative chairman, and yet the members warmed to him and he never lost their respect.

### Shamrock Rovers

Today he has expanded his horizons and has become a director of the Shamrock Rovers Soccer Club; we all wish him well for the future and may his association with Irish football be as rewarding as has been his career in table tennis.

## VICTORY FOR RICHARD BECKHAM

KIRBY Sports Centre, near Liverpool, was the venue for the 56th National finals of the Civil Service Sports Council Table Tennis Championships which were held on Friday 24 April and which were once again generously sponsored by Grants of St James.

### Doris, again

This year's tournament, refereed by Miss Doris Moors, saw titles and trophies spread all around the country — there were only two which did not change hands. In the men's singles Richard Beckham of the London Region and Nicky Standen of the South East Region reached the final as seeded with the former emerging victor over three games. In the semi-finals Richard Beckham had over-powered Dave Wright of the Eastern Region while Nicky Standen had out-manoeuvred Steve Bertie from the West Midlands. The final was somewhat closer than it had been in 1986 with Nicky Standen looking a much better player, but it was the title holder Richard Beckham who pulled through to take the title for the third consecutive year by this time win-

ing 21-17 in the third game.

The veteran's singles saw some problems with the draw as five of the players had scratched from the tournament. Alan Jesson, the holder, beat the No. 2 seed, London's Dave Moss, in one semi-final while Welshman Alwyn Morgan beat Kenneth Long of the South East Region in the other. Nottingham's Alan Jesson dominated much of the final with some brilliant flat hitting and retained his title in two straight games.

### Edged out

Both seeds were removed from the women's singles at the semi-final stage. The No. 1 seed, London's Jane Barella who is still ranked among England's top 25, was edged out by a former title holder Helen Shields from the Yorkshire & Humberside Region by the scores of 19, 19. In the bottom half of the draw the battle between the No. 2 seed Sally Weston of the South East Region and Newcastle's Claire Mouzon was another close affair.

Claire got by with a 21-15 third game win and later secured victory in the final by beating Helen Shields

21-12 in the third game. By trying to attack on both wings with her combination bat Claire lost the first game of the final — 13. However greater patience and much more 'digging around' unsettled her opponent sufficiently to enable her to pull through.

### Without seeds

The women's doubles final was without its seeds too. The holders, Jane Barella and Heather Payce-Drury, lost their semi-final — 18, 22 to Ruth Bentley and Joanne Pickles of the East Midlands Region. The No. 2 seeds, Helen Shields and Jean Newton, lost their semi-final by similar scores to Joanne Pettit and Alison Rowbottom of the Eastern Region, who conceded just one more point in their first game to win 19, 20. So the scene was set for a closely fought final in which the East Midlands' pairing just missed out by narrowly losing the set by the scores — 20, 19.

Somewhat more predictable was the men's doubles event with the London pairing of Joey Kennedy and Ian Kenyon in the No. 1 seeds

slot. They easily outplayed Steve Bertie and Richard Welsh in their semi-final conceding only 20 points without too much obvious effort. Tony Rigby and Andy Gray of the North West Region came through against Dave Wright and Derek Wortley 13, 23, 17 in their semi-final encounter. The combined talent of the London pair looked very convincing as they took the final barely raising a sweat!

### Results

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** Richard Beckham b Dave Wright 12, 24; Nicky Standen b Steve Bertie 16, 20. **Final:** Beckham b Standen — 11, 14, 17. **Womens singles - Semi-finals:** Helen Shields b Jane Barella 19, 19; Claire Mouzon b Sally Weston — 15, 12, 15. **Final:** Mouzon b Shields — 13, 18, 12. **Veterans singles - Semi-finals:** Alwyn Morgan b Kenneth Long 18, 18; Alan Jesson b Dave Moss 8, — 15, 17. **Final:** Jesson b Morgan 16, 16. **Mens doubles - Final:** Joey Kennedy/Ian Kenyon b Tony Rigby/Andy Gray 16, 15. **Womens doubles - Final:** Joanne Pettit/Alison Rowbottom b Joanne Pickles/Ruth Bentley 20, 19. **Mixed doubles - Final:** Nicky Standen/Sally Weston b Steve Worsman/Helen Shields 14, — 13, 13.

# Joola trophies in New Delhi



The Joola presentation photograph taken in New Delhi at the World Championships. From the left Mrs. Nancy Evans, Chen Longcan, Mr. Roy Evans, Jiao Zihmin, Mr. Mihaly Kozak, Secretary of the Table Tennis section of the Association International Press Sportique and Mr. Michael Bachtler.

## THE JOOLA TROPHY

AT the 39th World Table Tennis Championships in New Delhi, the JOOLA Trophy was presented for the fifth time. The winners of the JOOLA Trophy 1987 are — Ladies team competition: Jiao Zihmin (China) 8:0 score, 48 points. Men's team competition: Chen Longcan (China) 13:0 score, 84 points.

The JOOLA Trophy was introduced by JOOLA Tischtennis GmbH and Co. KG and International Sports Press Association and is presented to the player with the best score in the team competition of the World and European Championships. We think that the players who are fighting more for their team, for the country which they represent, who consider team events more important than the individual competition, do not receive sufficient recognition from the press and from all of us generally, which they deserve. In recognition of this special human quality, JOOLA Tischtennis GmbH & Co. KG and the International Sports Press Association have introduced the JOOLA Trophy.

The JOOLA Trophy was presented for the first time at the 37th World Championships in Tokyo in 1983, therefore we would like to remind you of the previous winners: WTTC 1983, Tokyo: Kim Gyong Sun (PRK) and Kiyoshi Saito (JPN). ETTC 1984, Moscow: M. Lindblad (SWE) and J. Secretin (FRA). WTTC 1985, Gothenburg: Li Bun Hui (PRK) and Andrzej Grubba (POL). ETTC 1986, Prague: Csilla Batorfi (HUN) and A. Grubba (POL).

JOOLA Tischtennis GmbH & Co. KG and AIPS decided to make the prizemoney for the JOOLA Trophy 1987 equal for men and ladies team competition. Therefore the players with the best score in the team competition have been awarded — Men's team competition: JOOLA Trophy plus DM 5.000,00; Ladies team competition: JOOLA Trophy plus DM 5.000,00.

The presentation of the JOOLA Trophy '87 was made by Mr Roy Evans, the ITTF Honorary President for life; Mrs Nancy Evans, Mr Michael Bachtler, managing director of JOOLA Tischtennis GmbH & Co. KG; and Mr Mihaly Kozak, secretary of AIPS, table tennis section.

## MIDLAND LEAGUE

### VETERANS SECTION

**Division 1:** Birmingham A 9, Worcester 1; Oxford A 2, Birmingham A 8; Oxford B 9, Leicester 1; Notts A 10, Birmingham B 0; Birmingham B 5, Leamington Spa 5; Oxford B 1, Notts A 9.

|              |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Notts A      | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 3  | 12 |
| Birmingham A | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 48 | 12 | 11 |
| Oxford B     | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 20 | 7  |
| B'ham B      | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 38 | 7  |
| Oxford A     | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 27 | 5  |
| Leamington   | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 37 | 5  |
| Telford      | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 16 | 34 | 1  |
| Leicester    | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 56 | 1  |

Leading scorers: Alf Saunders 18 wins (100%), Ron Botton 17, Allan Jesson 17 (all of Nottingham A).

Birmingham B and Leamington usually have a close match and this was no exception, the home side winning the last two to clinch a point. The championship of Division 1 will be decided when Nottingham play against Birmingham A. Notts must be favourites having dropped only three sets all season.

**Division 2:** Walsall 8, Stratford 2; W Bromwich A 8, Notts B 2; Coventry A 9, W Bromwich A 1; W Bromwich B 5, Stroud 5. Walsall maintained their 100% record to become champions. Stratford, the bottom team, gave them some very close games.

by John Barber

### Division 2

|              |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Walsall      | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 16 | 12 |
| Coventry A   | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 45 | 15 | 10 |
| W Bromwich A | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 24 | 8  |
| Stroud       | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 27 | 33 | 5  |
| W Bromwich B | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 27 | 33 | 5  |
| Notts B      | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 43 | 2  |
| Stratford A  | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 18 | 42 | 1  |

Leading scorers: Phil Canning 15, John Beresford 13 (both Walsall — from 6 matches), Alan Giles (Stroud) 11 in 4 matches.

**Division 3:** Nuneaton 6, B'ham C 4, Pontesbury 5, B'ham C 5, B'ham C 5, Stratford on Avon 5. Birmingham, playing off arrears, were engaged in three closely contested encounters.

|             |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Cheltenham  | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 20 | 11 |
| Nuneaton    | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 27 | 8  |
| Stratford B | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 33 | 27 | 7  |
| Pontesbury  | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 29 | 6  |
| Coventry B  | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 25 | 4  |
| B'ham C     | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 26 | 4  |
| Rugby       | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 47 | 0  |

Leading scorers: Don Richards (Pontesbury) 13, Mike Gray (Cheltenham) 12, Arthur Cross (Nuneaton) 12, Graham Hoskin (Stratford B) 12.

# Cadets Top 12, Ireland, Scotland

## Billington and Bevan the stars

by Mike Watts

BRADLEY Billington from Derbyshire and Neil Bevan from Cornwall were the unbeaten stars that emerged from the national junior cadet Top 12 held at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, over the weekend of 4th/5th April.

Billington had a tremendous weekend winning ten of his junior singles games two straight, dropping the only game to Sean Gibson in the penultimate round whilst Bevan was made to fight all the way in the cadet singles for his eleven wins with seven going to three; the closest being against Michael Auchterlonie 26-24 in the third and Andrew Eden 22-20 in the third.

At the other end of the scale, two players who might have expected to finish in medal places had a horrendous time both losing all eleven games. Damien Holland in the juniors and Brian Mileham in the cadets being the unlucky players.

In the junior girls there was a final three way tie between Andrea Holt, Kerry Hall and Debbie Toole, all with ten wins each. Going into the last round Kerry Hall was unbeaten and only needed one game to clinch the title. Andrea Holt had to beat her two straight having earlier lost in three to Debbie Toole. This she did 21-19 to win on games average.

Again in the cadet girls there was a thrilling finish with Caroline Buckley just getting home in the last round after Joanna Roberts lost her chance losing to Helen Potts. Helen Wright, after losing her first two matches, then had a good run to win eight out of nine to just edge out Joanna for second place.

| Junior Boys        | P  | W  | L |
|--------------------|----|----|---|
| Bradley Billington | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| Michael O'Driscoll | 11 | 9  | 2 |
| Sean Gibson        | 11 | 9  | 2 |
| John Holland       | 11 | 8  | 3 |
| Adrian Thorpe      | 11 | 7  | 4 |

|                 | P  | W | L |
|-----------------|----|---|---|
| Jonathan Taylor | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Chris Oldfield  | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Tom Cutler      | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Mark Ward       | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| Matthew Pernet  | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| Leigh Jeffries  | 11 | 2 | 9 |

| Junior Girls   | P  | W  | L  |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| Andrea Holt    | 11 | 10 | 1  |
| Kerry Hall     | 11 | 10 | 1  |
| Debbie Toole   | 11 | 10 | 1  |
| Claire Potts   | 11 | 8  | 3  |
| Julie Norman   | 11 | 7  | 4  |
| Helen Lower    | 11 | 6  | 5  |
| Nicola McGrath | 11 | 5  | 6  |
| Melanie Carey  | 11 | 3  | 8  |
| Andrea Ambrose | 11 | 2  | 9  |
| Jane Wright    | 11 | 2  | 9  |
| Karen Perkins  | 11 | 2  | 9  |
| Kate Gower     | 11 | 1  | 10 |

| Cadet Boys           | P  | W  | L  |
|----------------------|----|----|----|
| Neil Bevan           | 11 | 11 | 0  |
| Michael Auchterlonie | 11 | 9  | 2  |
| Andrew Eden          | 11 | 7  | 4  |
| Peter Bowler         | 11 | 7  | 4  |
| Grant Solder         | 11 | 6  | 5  |
| Mark Stephenson      | 11 | 6  | 5  |
| Garry Knights        | 11 | 6  | 5  |
| Ian Black            | 11 | 5  | 6  |
| Alan Cole            | 11 | 5  | 6  |
| Craig Smith          | 11 | 3  | 8  |
| James Patterson      | 11 | 1  | 10 |
| Brian Mileham        | 11 | 0  | 11 |

| Cadet Girls      | P  | W | L |
|------------------|----|---|---|
| Caroline Buckley | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| Helen Wright     | 11 | 8 | 3 |
| Joanna Roberts   | 11 | 8 | 3 |
| Samantha Marling | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Ellen Meddings   | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Helen Potts      | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Sarah Pengelly   | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Susanne Lawton   | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Kate Goodall     | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| Alison Gower     | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| Nicola Meddings  | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| Elizabeth Bryant | 11 | 3 | 8 |

## Irish Championships

by Tony Martin

COLUM Slevin, the Dubliner who plays for T.U.S. Germania in Hamburg, West Germany, paid a flying visit home to emphasise his place as Irish number one. Slevin returned for the Irish Close Championships in Limerick, and had no problems coasting to another Irish title, his sight to date, defeating his long time adversary Kevin Keane in the final 21-9, 21-8.

On the way Keane beat Tom Heasley and Andrew Dennison the second seed in the semi-final.

Anne Leonard, as expected collected a hat-trick of titles. She beat Caroline Leonard 21-10, 21-9 in the singles and then partnered the same player to victory in the doubles. She teamed up with Slevin for another success in the mixed doubles.

Hilton Meneely and Andrew Dennison won the mens doubles beating another Ulster pair, Tom Leasley and Jimmy Robinson 21-18, 25-23 in the final.

### Results

**Mens Singles Semi-Finals:** C Slevin b H Meneely 10, 11; K Keane b A Dennison - 18, 14, 14. **Final:** C Slevin b K Keane 9, 8.

**Ladies Singles Semi-Finals:** A Leonard b N McEvoy 10, 12; C Leonard b C Anderson - 18, 15, 14. **Final:** A Leonard b C Leonard 10, 9.

**Ladies Doubles Final:** A Leonard/C Leonard b S Akal/P Monaghan 12, 15. **Mens Doubles Final:** H Meneely/A Dennison b T Heasley/J Robinson 18, 23. **Mixed Doubles Final:** C Slevin/A Leonard b J Robinson/H McEvoy 18, 16.

## Ireland's Eye



by FRANCIS KENNEDY

AT the Irish Junior "Top 10" Round Robin which took place in Edenmore Community Centre, Dublin, Irish No. 1 (U-17) Sean Spelman (St Dominic's, Galway) came out on top and retains the coveted Irish No. 1 spot (U-17).

| Player                   | W | L |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Sean Spelman (C)      | 8 | 1 |
| 2. Gary Nielson (L)      | 7 | 2 |
| 3. James Mullan (L)      | 7 | 2 |
| 4. Owen Molloy (L)       | 7 | 2 |
| 5. Martin O'Flaherty (C) | 6 | 3 |
| 6. James Langan (L)      | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Michael Cormican (L)  | 2 | 7 |
| 8. Darren Perris (L)     | 2 | 7 |
| 9. Michael Lemass (L)    | 2 | 7 |
| 10. Darren Strong (U)    | 0 | 9 |

C: Connacht, L: Leinster, U: Ulster  
Kirsteen Stafford (U) won the girl's event.

### Connacht Senior League

St Dominic's TTC Galway regained the Pierce Cup which they last held in 1985 when they defeated University College Galway by 7 games to 1 in the final of the Connacht Senior League recently. St Dominic's: Sean Spelman, Martin O'Flaherty, Caroline Anderson. UGC: Pat McCloughan, Willie Connelly, Sean Tedders.

Shocks only in some people's eyes, but the results which captured most attention at the Irish Close Championships in Limerick were Kevin Keane's eclipse of Andrew Dennison in the men's singles semi-final and the defeat of Irish No. 2 Jennifer Reid by Caroline Anderson in the ladies singles quarter-final.

This year's Sligo Open was badly supported and it seems that this new tournament, efficiently run by an enthusiastic committee, cannot continue unless it is made a ranking tournament next season. Speaking about ranking tournaments, three of this season's junior ranking tournaments are being held in Dublin, while not one is being held west of the Shannon. This makes it very difficult for young players from the west of the country, while Dublin players can catch a bus or walk to these important events.

### Fine entry

The Corrib Open attracted a fine entry from Galway, Sligo, Limerick and Cork, to Galway on March 28th. **Mens singles:** Sean Spelman b Terry Dolan (McCambridge Cup). **Ladies singles:** Caroline Leonard b Caroline Anderson (Deacy Cup). **U-21 mens singles:** Alan Marshall b Sean Spelman. **U-21 ladies singles:** Caroline Anderson b Maria Murray. **Mens doubles:** Spelman/O'Flaherty b Dolan/Marshall. **Ladies doubles:** Leonard/Anderson b Howley/Coffey.

## SCOTLAND

by DENIS GEORGE

### 39th World Championships

Despite the debilitating effects of 'Delhi Belly', which affected most of the Scottish party to a greater or lesser degree, our teams performed with credit to raise their world status several positions. The men defeated Switzerland 5-4, Peru 5-0, Wales 5-4 and Hong Kong 5-2 to finish 28th (33 in '85) and the ladies beat Syria 3-0, Ghana 3-2 and Greece 3-1 to finish 38th (44 in '85). David Hannah and Janet Smith were our best performers with 15 wins from 21 and 7 from 11 respectively.

### European League Division 2

Following our 0-7 defeat by Belgium in January, a scoreline incidentally which did not truly reflect the tightness of most of the games, Scotland ended the season with a 5-2 win against Luxembourg and a 3-4 defeat by Switzerland, both matches were played away over the 20/21 weekend in March, to finish midway in the final table.

### Scotrail Festival Weekend

All roads led to the Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre at Largs on 13 March for the Scotrail Festival Weekend which combined the STTA Inter-League competition with the Dunlop Scottish Closed. In the latter both David Hannah and Carole Dalrymple retained their singles titles, David for the 7th successive year and Carole for the 8th, but both had hard matches with their finals opponents John Broe and Sarah Hurry.

### Dunlop Scottish Closed Championships

**Mens singles - Semi-finals:** J Broe b I Stokes 16, 6; D Hannah b G Clancey 12, 13. **Final:** Hannah b J Broe - 16, 14, 13.

**Womens singles - Semi-finals:** C Dalrymple b E Robb 15, 5; S Hurry b V Thomson 12, 18. **Final:** Dalrymple b Hurry 17, 20.

**Junior boys singles - Final:** E Walker b P Clark 13, 13. **Junior girls singles - Final:** S Hurry b L Hood 9, 16. **Cadet boys singles - Final:** A Bruce b K McKellar 13, -18, 13. **Cadet girls singles - Final:** J Hook b C Hood 17, -10, 11.

### STTA Inter-League Competition

The winners were: **Men:** West of Scotland (I Stokes and C Gerrard). **Women:** Stirlingshire (C Dalrymple and E Robb). **Junior boys:** West of Scotland (E Walker and M Shields). **Junior girls:** Stirlingshire (S Hurry and L Reid). **Cadet boys:** West Dunbartonshire (A Bruce, K McKellar and C McDonald).

### Scotrail National League

Greaves Sport (Central YM, Glasgow) retained the Division 1 title for the 5th successive season with Carole Dalrymple's Korrugal (Falkirk) in second place. Anwar Majid (Murrayfield) and John Broe (Greaves) had 100% records.

# On his own in India

Edited extracts from Geoff Taylor's story of New Delhi World Championships

## DELHI'S ONLY BRITISH UMPIRE

by GEOFF TAYLOR of Coventry

HELD in New Delhi, India, the championships promised to be something different, and different they were. I was selected as the only umpire to officiate from the British Isles and immediately had to start a course of injections and tablets for what I may, perhaps, catch out in India. I did not have to have the treatment but, as we know, prevention is better than cure. We flew from Heathrow on Tuesday 17 February.

After stops at Kuwait and Dubai we arrived in Delhi at 5 am local time, a time difference of 5½ hours. Chaos started almost immediately we cleared customs. They told us all to get on a coach to take us to our hotels — which hotels we were in they didn't seem to know. By the time I had settled into my hotel room, which they finally managed to find, I was sharing with an ex-England player Stan Proffitt. It transpired he had been playing for England before I was born and he certainly had some tales to tell of table tennis long ago — he is only a young 76 years old.

My first sight of the Indira Gandhi Stadium some two hours later, around 9.30 am, was one of awe. I had heard it seated 25,000 and from the outside it looked large but inside it was enormous. There were 24 tables set out in 3 rows of 8 and between them was a platform for TV cameras and photographers.

### Squad of six

I was placed in a squad of six umpires for team events and the rest of the squad were a Yugoslav (lady), a Hungarian (lady), Swiss, German, Indian (fortunately I could converse with them all as they all spoke English). The team events were played from Wednesday 18 to Tuesday 24 February and the winning teams were China in both men's and women's events. During our second day all foreign umpires were transported into Delhi and we were all measured for a uniform which we collected about 5 days later. It consisted of navy blazer, grey trousers, black shoes and tie and from then on we wore our new outfits.

### Spoke English

In the individual events the umpiring squads were reorganised and I finished in a squad comprising a Dutchman, Malaysian and a Chinese man and again it was fortunate for me that they all spoke English. Finals day was on Sunday 1 March and I was at the stadium all day. I was table manager for the women's doubles final which means I had the job of making sure the presentation of umpires as well as players was correct, that they knew where to stand after marching into the arena and ensuring they all went to their correct stations. I watched all the finals and the people who

have attended recent World Championships agreed they were the best finals seen for many a championship. Although China won 6 out of 7 trophies played for including team matches (they only lost the women's doubles to South Korea), the only final in which they had all the finalists was the mixed doubles — this was the worst final of them all.

### "Farewell party"

After the finals there was a "farewell party" held at a polo ground owned by one of the top Indian officials. There was food being cooked and you just helped yourself. The party was different in as much as you could have an elephant ride or a camel ride but if you preferred to walk you could put your feet into things the elephants and camels did not want anymore — it was pretty dark!

### Boneshakers

During our free sessions we managed to see quite a lot of both Old and New Delhi. I had met a Canadian umpire on my first day in Delhi and we spent a lot of time together both sightseeing and shopping. We did tours of the two parts of Delhi mostly travelling by 3-wheeler taxis, these were a motor bike engine with a double seat at the back and the driver sitting on a single seat at the front. Although they were boneshakers they were very cheap, you could travel 7 or 8 miles for 15p (3 Rupees) and they would wait as long as you wanted them to.

### Poverty

To see pictures of Delhi it looks quite modern (which it is in parts) and the buildings are impressive, but once you leave the centre the whole scene changes. There is a lot of poverty with people begging in the streets, people sleeping on pavements and in a lot of instances home is a tent made of old sacks, carpets, tins or anything else they can lay their hands on! The families live in these — eating, sleeping and sometimes even working if they are lucky enough to have a job. There are no facilities for tourists to be entertained (pubs, clubs, etc.) therefore in the evenings if we were not working we watched play at the centre and then went back to the hotel for a late meal and just sat talking till turning in time.

The highlight of our free time was the day trip we had to Agra to visit Fort Agra and the Taj Mahal which was arranged by our Indian Umpire Liaison Officer. On our free day some 24 foreign umpires boarded a coach at 7.30 am and arrived in Agra around 12.30 pm after a 120 mile journey and a stop for breakfast at a restaurant en route. First stop was Fort Agra, an impressive sight and a huge place, where we spent about 1½ hours. We then went to a hotel for our mid-day meal and afterwards the short journey to the Taj Mahal.

### Breathtaking

You cannot see the main building from the road and you enter the grounds through a large front building, but once inside the sight that meets you is breathtaking. The building is about 100 yards in front of you and it stands out against the blue sky, a magnificent almost white building made of marble and inlaid with coloured semi-precious stones. There are 4 Minars placed at each corner pointing skywards. These are tall but they are dwarfed in comparison to the large dome of the main building. This was built by Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial burial place for his wife, who was interred inside, and when he died he was buried alongside her, and apart from the two tombs there is nothing else inside the main building. The tombs in the main building are only replicas while the actual burial place is in the crypt immediately below the replicas.

The organisation of the championships was not 100% perfect, words the organisers seemed to use frequently were 'perhaps', 'maybe' and 'later', but as the old saying goes 'it will be all right on the night', which as usual turned out to be correct.

### The runs

The one thing I have not mentioned was the food and its effects. Virtually everything was spicy and too hot for me and most of the England party and almost 80%, I would think from the people I spoke to from other countries, said the same and suffered the same from 'Delhi Belly'. Although it didn't make me sick as it did some people, it was really unpleasant having to stand by ready to run at any moment and any place, but again we all managed to survive.

It was an experience I would not have missed and I have to thank the ETTA for the opportunity to have attended and also the NURC for my selection.

## BRIAN JEANES GWENT CHAMPION

by STEPHEN GIBBS

GWENT'S four top players, all members of the successful Doleq Carpets British League team, reached the semi-finals of the Halex Gwent Closed Championship held at Abersychan Leisure Centre on Sunday 22 March. Even so, there remained little doubt that the hot favourite, Brian Jeanes, would regain the Halex Gwent singles title. True to form Jeanes was the eventual winner and crowned a superb six week period in which time he has become the local Eastern Valley League Champion, the Halex Gwent Champion, and the Welsh Champion.

In the Halex Gwent Closed, Jeanes fought back to dismiss Warwick Armstrong at the semi-final stage in three games and earn the right to play Andrew Evans, the defending champion, in the final. Evans none the pleased at being seeded below Nick Williams beat the number two seed Williams 21-18, 26-24 in his semi-final to reach the final.

After a long day the final proved to be a disappointment. Evans is probably the only Gwent player to have the game to beat Jeanes but Jeanes is now in superb form and he took the title 21-17, 21-10 as he beat Evans in every department of the game. Recent months have shown the new Welsh champion Jeanes to have a new outlook on the game. His concentration is now prolonged and he has forsaken some pace for more severe top spin. He is enjoying his new found abilities and he is now a severe test for all opponents. Having beaten both Nigel Tyler and Nigel Thomas in the Welsh championship Jeanes is knocking on the door of a Welsh team in the near future.

The Halex contribution to Gwent table tennis has been quite considerable over the past five years. Their representatives at the Halex Gwent closed will have been pleased to see that so much of their input has been channelled towards a youth policy. Thirty good quality juniors contested the junior title with Steve Ward (Newport) the favourite. He reached the final at the expense of the diminutive David Buck but in the other half there were two upsets as sixth seed Mark Alford (Eastern Valley) knocked over Steve Buck (Eastern Valley) and new county junior Andrew Penduck (Newport) to earn a final place against Ward.

### Results

**Open singles:** Brian Jeanes b Andrew Evans 17, 10. **Open doubles:** Jeanes/Nick Williams b Evans/Kevin Boalch 12, 16. **Handicap singles:** David Buck (+10) b Williams 17, -17, 15. **Junior singles:** Steve Ward b Mark Alford 17, 16. **Veteran singles:** Dave Allen b Les Evans 14, -14, 15. **Ladies singles:** Sian Evans b Janet Helps 15, 9.

## Hard facts

IN response to your article on Crawley in Table Tennis News February issue, I write as Chairman of the English Championships Committee. Under your heading of 'one fault' I must protest at your reference to the relatively inexperienced referee; we do not use inexperienced referees at national senior events. A system of qualifying has been established within our committee, and when a referee is chosen to referee a senior event it is because we are confident that they are qualified to do so, and we have every faith in their ability.

It is a pity you didn't read your programme before writing your article as you would have found that it was Trevor Openshaw and not John as quoted by you.

When deciding the order of play for the finals, many factors have to be taken into consideration, I am sure the referee had his reasons for the order chosen, and it must always be his decision.

The English Championships Committee have tried extremely hard to be co-operative with the press requests, but for all our efforts we only get bricks thrown at us. A lot of time and considerable effort and hard work goes into the organisation of a championship, perhaps, Mr Woodford, you would like to join our committee and learn for yourself the hard facts!

**DOREEN STANNARD**  
Chairman English Championships  
19 Paddington Close  
Yeading, Hayes  
Middlesex UB4 9QH

**Editor's Note:** Doreen Stannard and myself and many others have been looking at the hard facts at big tournaments for more years than any of us care to remember. Times have changed. If table tennis is going to compete with its rival sports one of the first things a new chief executive will insist on is that the showpiece singles finals are staged not later than the middle of the finals session, in line with the other racquet sports.

## Ashford thanks

I WOULD like to thank the Ashford Table Tennis Club for giving our national team the opportunity to train and prepare for the third division of the European League which we took part in in Jersey on the 28th and 29th of March.

The Ashford centre is an ideal place to train at and when we in future travel via London we hope we can revisit our friends at Ashford and use their excellent facilities. Thank you for your very good magazine. I enjoy it very much, specially the international news. It keeps us up to date with what is going on in the world.

**GUNNAR JÓHANNSSON**  
President  
Icelandic Table Tennis Assoc.

## Foul serving — the last word

I WAS interested in the editorial in the January 1987 issue of Table Tennis News on the subject of the incidence of foul serving now prevalent in the game.

I have regrettably not been closely connected with table tennis since the mid 1970s and the deterioration in this aspect of the game is, therefore, more acutely noticeable to someone like myself.

I believe that this issue of the doubtful service has been precipitated mainly by the introduction during the past decade by the multiplicity of rubbers and adhesives now available on the market, and which has inevitably led to players attempting to obtain the maximum advantage over their opponents by a multitude of peculiar contortions in the service action at the expense of the legal requirement to propel the ball from the palm of the hand upwards within the acceptable limits.

The service law is sufficiently clear and precise, and does not, therefore, need repeating here, and the sole adjudicator, as has always been the case of a valid or foul service is the umpire whose decision in the matter is final.

The umpire must have no reservation, or place any emphasis on either the occasion or circumstances, and if, in his or her opinion, any service is not valid, it must be called.

Reference has been made in the editorial to the reticence shown by umpires in certain circumstances to strictly apply the service law for fear of adverse criticism, and indeed open abuse, from players, supporters, and spectators.

I am also tempted to ask how many times does one see the players calling a let service of their own volition on a very fine net cord which it is very easy for an umpire to miss.

Once again the decision as to a let service call is solely within the jurisdiction of the umpire who must resist any attempt by the players to stop play of their own accord by a warning to the above effect and subsequently upon repetition by the appropriate award of the point against the offender.

Returning more directly to the subject matter of the editorial, it is very noticeable that generally the younger the player the more prevalent is the foul service.

Although I shall no doubt be criticised strongly by righteously indignant coaches of junior players, I believe that more than a fair proportion of those coaches, rather than deterring their charges from employing the foul service, actively encourage the use of doubtful serving tactics in order to obtain that little extra advantage.

More senior players are by no means exempt from this criticism, and its incidence was no more noticeable than in one of the men's singles rounds of the recent Triumph Adler English Closed Championships at Crawley when

play was suspended for no less than six minutes whilst one of the participants clashed bitterly with the umpire over a foul service call and which, for most of that time, involved argument with the tournament referee.

Leniency and 'benefit of the doubt' on the part of the umpire is all very laudible, but blatant evasion of the service law by the players is inexcusable and must be dealt with accordingly at all levels of the game.

Although not entirely unknown, foul serving and incidents of the above nature are a very rare occurrence in the increasingly strong veterans competitions, due, I imagine, to the earlier development years of those participants not being complicated by rubber technology and the resultant weird contortions in the service actions of the present day seniors and juniors.

The argument that overseas players and overseas umpires do not observe the service law as closely as the English, the latter therefore being at a disadvantage, does not hold good.

Very few of the registered membership of the ETTA ever have the opportunity to participate in events which come within the legislation of overseas bodies, and those who do so must, at that level, be quite capable of adjusting to deal with any problem of that nature.

I urge all umpires, at whatever level, and in whatever circumstances they may find themselves adjudicating, to simply apply the service law, to be strong and definite in so doing, and the offending players will soon learn.

**P.J. WALES**  
Merrivale, Station Road,  
Angmering, West Sussex

## Junior Events

I HAVE been very disappointed at the coverage of junior and cadet events during the season and know that this is the view of many parents with youngsters who travel the country to tournaments.

As a large number of teenagers purchase periodicals then surely they must be a target group for the magazine.

Grumbles that tournament organisers do not provide the necessary information can no longer be accepted as an excuse. Before accepting a tournament the association must insist on the receipt of appropriate copy and photographs on completion of the competition.

**D. HANKS**  
390 Burton Rd, Burton-on-Trent

**Editor's Note:** When the information has been supplied very few junior events have been omitted, despite the pressure on space. The ETTA has no powers to insist on organisers sending copy and pictures and some officials fail to supply the information required. How about persuading more people to buy this magazine? That could lead to more pages.

## Standardise the bats

**STAN PROFFITT**, 76, a former England player and a member of the Swaythling Club, gives some of his impressions of the World Championships in Delhi. These are extracts of his letter, some of the parts omitted are a little too sharp even for this magazine — Editor.

In Delhi, where the world table tennis championships were staged in a magnificent stadium capable of seating 25,000 spectators, 63 countries entered and, finals apart, there was only a small number of paying public.

Far different indeed from pre-war days when if you hadn't obtained a ticket for even the English Championships at Wembley, you would be lucky to get a seat in March.

Progress in public interest will never progress whilst the fat cats in the business world dream up ever fresh ideas to collar the market at the expense of young players.

The Chinese once again scooped the major prizes, but this time not without many hiccups. But without taking anything whatsoever of their skills and athleticism, their close-to-the-table push on the backhand and wallop from the forehand (aided and abetted by all the rubbish under the bat rubber) is not the stuff to fill the halls. Mr Public will only loosen his pockets to see an exhibition of attack and defence. I felt sorry for the excellent Swedish players whose exhilarating endeavours were boxed up by this method.

The Asians, I am informed, outvoted the Congress for any change. The must-win-at-all-costs satisfies the Chinese sponsorships and the players personal ego. Not only is this a short-sighted policy, but foolhardy and will eventually kill off the golden egg.

The ITTF play up to the vested interest boys and the previous time the Congress met they voted different coloured rubbers (red and black) on each side of the bat. A pathetic answer to a vast problem and it screams out to my mind that the majority sat down there have only a vague idea of the world-wide sport. No doubt capable of running a local village league, but out of their depth when dealing in big business. But nevertheless happy enough to sit on the gravy train.

Not only my solution to the ills, but many others, is that the equipment, common to ALL PLAYERS, must be standardised. This alone will ensure the game will be a battle of skills and not one of technology.

No sir, it would not be a retrograde step. Preferably a solid rubber covered bat, with high and bolder pimples to elevate the hidden spins and no stupid glue which accentuates speed giving the defender little chance to excite the spectator; for it is he who has the last word.

**STANLEY PROFFITT**  
251 Heywood Old Road  
Bowllee  
Greater Manchester

## Yesterday's Newspaper

DURING the elections Mr Charters alleged that my father would use "influence" to have me selected. It did not bother him that I was an automatic choice in all major events and had been since I was 15. I did not need "influence" and there is no straighter or more honest guy than my father. The electors showed Mr Charters the door, but we still keep hearing from him.

Then he saw me practising in Reading with my friend Jimmy Stokes and suddenly sections of the press and an England colleague were dragged in and it was alleged that my injury during the World Championships was not real. It did not bother Mr Charters that it was the first time I had picked up a bat in a month or that the World Championships were nearly over. The main thing for him was to get at my father yet again.

Like most of us, I thought hard about going to New Delhi. As things turned out, 500 were ill (according to the German Magazine), one player returned with malaria, another with polio, it was not exactly Butlins. I often talked to friends about my doubts. In the end it was decided for me. I was not fit when the team left and you do no one favours if you break down, not the team, not yourself.

All that is yesterday's newspaper. I reply, because Mr Charters is so persistent in this pathetic cause. He does not make the game look good. He does not make himself look good.

CARL PREAN

## The dream and the reality

TABLE TENNIS, or indeed any sport, is a mirror of life. If we are to progress through life we need to dream of achievements and work to bring them to reality. So it is with any young players whose imagination gets captured by table tennis, he dreams of wearing his England shirt, winning titles, conquering the world. Alas, many are called and few are chosen.

It is in the area between the dream and the reality that the coach must work. If the coach cannot help his player to dream he is not creating the right environment in which his charge can flourish. However, the coach must also be aware of the reality, try not to over assess the capabilities of the player and base the player's progress on achievable goals. When those goals are not achieved the coach has to help the player rebuild on shattered dreams. It is not easy. It needs character on both the part of the player and the coach.

Often the unfulfilled hopes of parents get in the way and put ad-

ditional pressure on the player. Only recently a parent of a junior told me that if the player did not get an England badge this year 'everything would have been wasted'. Presumably the player has also been fed this assessment. What a pity! The players has done extremely well with the talent inherited but these days to get an England shirt one needs more than hard work. Hard work will produce a good player but it also requires natural ability, a dominating personality and a desire to win, rather than a fear of losing, to produce a player of international calibre. The player also needs a style of play that is currently in vogue with selection. The player has to stand a good chance of winning at international level. Many are called, few are chosen.

So coaches assess your players fairly. Try to keep an open mind, set realistic goals and don't 'pump up' your players to believe they are something that they are not. This can only lead to inevitable disappointment and a feeling of failure, when probably much success has been attained.

Just to bring everyone back to earth, what about the players who have achieved the dream and find even then the reality is hard to take? For instance our players recently back from the World Championships in New Delhi. I know how hard these young people work. I see them at tournaments, at British League matches, at training camp. What was the reality for our ladies? Stomach upsets that prevented playing up to form. Poor Fiona Elliot even had to scratch from the individual event because of sickness. Imagine how she must have felt. It is not all glamour. Never mind girl, there will be other times. But a lot of hard work went before that disappointment. Nor did the men escape lightly. It may have been a joke, but there is an element of truth, when one player told me he 'was glad to survive'. The reality can often be as hard as the disappointment of not being chosen. Thus it has ever been.

TONY RUSSE  
22 Beaumont Close  
Weston-Super-Mare  
Avon

## My last word

I DO not intend to pursue the same questions beyond this point for clearly John Prean does not intend to answer directly the accusations made in the National Press, not by me as stated.

His use of the word 'public' is not what the papers said - it was about the chairman of ETTA making scathing remarks about Des Douglas to the National trainer.

I have no arguments about the election - the country voted for change - but does that mean to say that the new chairman cannot be

asked to reply when questions are raised?

The successes achieved by the England team during my term as chairman of selectors are a matter of record for all those interested to discover. They were far from undistinguished in terms of medals won in the major senior and junior international championships. The coaches (particularly Peter Simpson and Donald Parker) and the players take the credit for those successes and if John Prean wishes to personally blame me for any failures that occurred then so be it.

I have never attacked John Prean's family. I have said that the roles of chairman of the ETTA and Father/Manager/Coach to one of England's top players are incompatible and I still believe it. If there was no other reason then say so. I hope Carl replies to these press statements rather than hurling insults at me.

John Prean is right when he says that table tennis should not be subjected to too much of this type of in-fighting. The same was said about John Prean's persistent attacks in the years before his election. For this reason I make this my last word on the above subjects and leave the matter to the ETTA internal affairs.

PETER CHARTERS  
57 Burghfield Road,  
Reading  
Berks.

## Chairman's last word

IN reply to Mr Charters' campaign: (1) When I decided to stand as Chairman of the Association I handed Carl's business affairs to a German Sports Agency and that remains the position. I do not even coach Carl in his English appearances. The allegation by Mr. Charters that I would "influence" is, of course, totally untrue - a slander on Donald Parker and me. (2) I am not aware of any remarks I would consider 'scathing' in respect of Des Douglas or any other player. I have checked with Donald Parker (to whom these 'scathing' remarks are alleged to have been made) and he does not see anything I have said in this light.

However, I am concerned about what is said to the Press. We are trying hard to lift the Image of the Sport out of the dark ages and anything that undermines our efforts harms the future of the sport.

However Mr. C interprets my remarks, they were private and therefore not his business.

(3) It is fair to examine the record of a man who is so free with his criticisms of others. In the end we shall all be judged by our achievements. During Mr Charters' era we were (a) relegated from the European Super-League (b) relegated from Category 1 in the

European Championships (c) had seven man selection committees choosing two man (playing) teams, a true Mickey Mouse situation. Those were his high spots as a Selector.

As a member of the ETTA's highest committee he shares the responsibility for the sport's general decline (a third of our members lost since 1980) and the situation in which our premises in Hastings were allowed to deteriorate to a point where it will cost £25,000 to put them right - money we do not have. Years of neglect, leading to dry rot, symbolic of our decline. Mr. Charters was around whilst all this happened. He promises that this will be his last word - a wise decision under the circumstances, a help to those who are now trying to clear up the mess he (and others) left us. The sport is on the move and things are happening. Press, TV are immeasurably up. Some leagues are actually talking about increased membership. We have made a lot of progress in a few short months. We shall make a lot more if we are allowed to get on with the job without having constantly to look over our shoulder. May I appeal to Mr. Charters to make the best contribution he can? At this time it is silence resulting from humility about the past and his part in it.

JOHN PREAN

*Editor's note: The battle between Mr. Prean and Mr. Charters (on recent history in these columns) is now terminated.*

## RAF and WRAF championships

The RAF and WRAF Championships were held at Stanmore Park, Middlesex, on the 3rd and 4th April. **Ladies Plate:** SACW Ryan b SACW McCarthy 19, 11. **Mens Plate:** Ch Tech Atkinson b Wv Cdr Shorrick - 18, 13, 8. **RAF Veterans:** Ch Tech Bob House b Flt Lt Dick Clode 14, 10. **WRAF Station Pairs:** RAF Northold b RAF Honington 17, - 17, 15. **RAF Station Pairs:** RAF Lyneham b RAF Abingdon - 8, 15, 17. **Mixed doubles:** Cpl Ian Denton & Sgt Jan Wright b Ch Tech Ambrose & J/T(W) Bignell 12, 19. **WRAF doubles:** Sgt Jan Wright & SACW Rose Danby b J/T Sarah Bignell & Cpl Debbie Iddon. **Mens doubles:** Cpl Ian Denton & Sgt Roy Claxton b Sgt Tony Bass & J/T Mick Bannion 15, 13. **Mens singles - semi-finals:** Cpl Ian Denton b Flt Lt Dick Clode; SAC Mark Donaghue b Sgt Tony Bass. **Final:** Cpl Ian Denton bt SAC Mark Donaghue 13, 10. **Ladies singles - semi-finals:** J/T(W) Sarah Bignell b Cpl Julie Parrack; Sgt Jan Wright b Cpl Debbie Iddon. **Final:** J/T(W) Sarah Bignell b Sgt Jan Wright 10, 6. **RAF Plate winner:** Ch Tech Atkinson (Lyneham). **WRAF Plate winner:** SACW Ryan (Honington).

## RE-ELECTED

AT the annual general meeting of the English Schools Table Tennis Association on May 10 at Mansfield, all the officers were re-elected.

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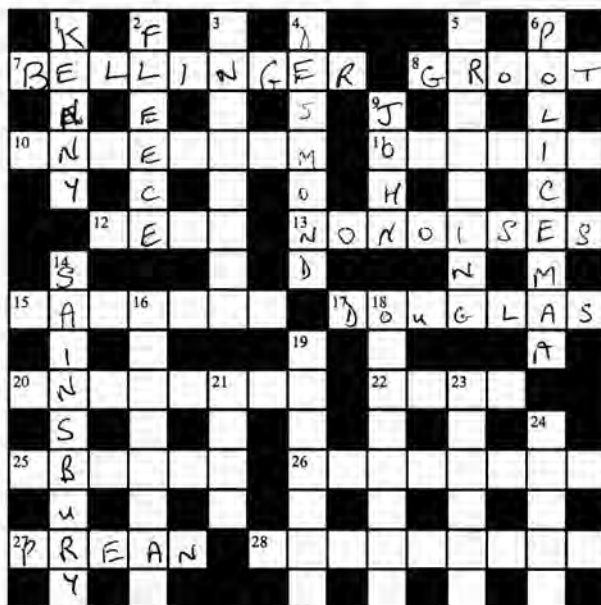
### CLUES

#### ACROSS

7. Bill Green could be one of two sisters (9)
8. Girl who might grow initially and take root in Holland? (5)
10. Small part of house where uncles like to be? (8)
11. Not in healthy condition to wear it! (6)
12. See 15
13. Compound of Neon is so quiet in the dead of night (2,6)
15. and 12. Stefan Atega got changed and vocalised at a Garden Party (4,2,1,4)
17. See 4
20. Glue on an altered timepiece with hands (8)
22. Sound made by 20? Mark correct! (4)
25. Old boy is not short, and certainly not square! (6)
26. A riot Tim organised for a copy-cat (8)
27. See 9
28. Famous wearer of EEC trilby? (9)

#### DOWN

1. Blade Jackson used to use? (5)
2. Con the shirt off a sheep's back! (6)
3. Framed, not nice 'n not guilty! (8)
4. and 17. Crazy dogs mauled Don's best player (7,7)
5. In agony, writing about the start of Heartburn (8)
6. PC Ian Mole is such an officer (9)
9. and 27. Could he phone RN? Ja! And all for ride to Pompey, we hear! (4,5)
14. Where Mandy does the weekly shopping? (9)
16. Allow Gay to wander in part of Scotland (8)
18. Got into a bed somehow (8)
19. Defamed Vicar I was in charge of? (7)
21. Musical horse? (4)
- 23 and 24. C. Terl is a top Junior girl (6,5)



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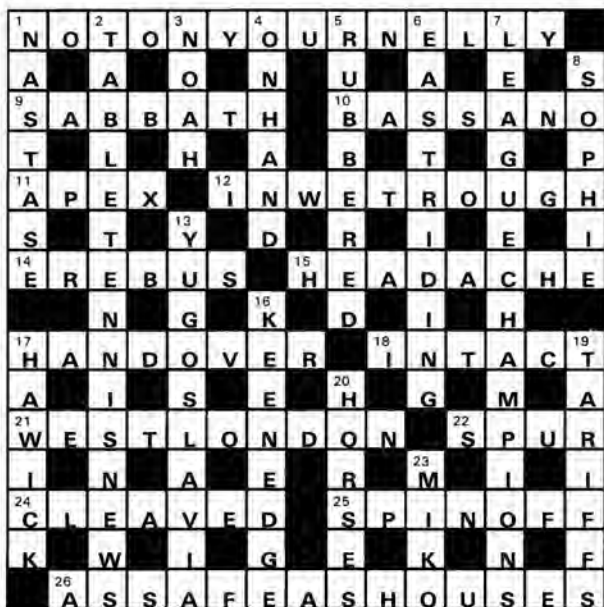
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#### WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No. 5 March Issue

First prize, (2 sheets rubber): Robin Harding, 11 Hordle Gardens, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 1JW.

Runners-up: Clive Oakman mini-bat 1, Lynn Potts, 126 Queens Road, Vicars Cross, Chester; 2, S. Sherlock, 20 Ullswater, Macclesfield, Cheshire; 3, Simon Griew, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

# Lentec computer rankings

## LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS — APRIL — TOP 30

### LEADING MEN — APRIL

|                               |                 |      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| 1. Desmond Douglas            | (Birmingham)    | 3476 |
| 2. <del>Alan Cooke</del>      | (Chesterfield)  | 2280 |
| 3. Carl Preat                 | (Ryde)          | 1818 |
| 4. Skylet Andrew              | (London E15)    | 1725 |
| 5. Nicky Mason                | (Bexhill)       | 1259 |
| 6. John Souter                | (Neasden)       | 1172 |
| 7. Jimmy Stokes               | (Reading)       | 1115 |
| 8. Steve Mills                | (Sheffield)     | 896  |
| 9. Philip Bradbury            | (Aylesbury)     | 825  |
| 10. Graham Sandley            | (Potters Bar)   | 817  |
| 11. <b>Bradley Billington</b> | (Chesterfield)  | 815  |
| 12. Kevin Satchell            | (Frome)         | 739  |
| 13. Steven Scowcroft          | (Bolton)        | 731  |
| 14. Nigel Eckersley           | (Warrington)    | 731  |
| 15. Chris Rogers              | (Leicester)     | 728  |
| 16. Max Crimmins              | (Wimbledon)     | 701  |
| 17. Matthew Syed              | (Reading)       | 692  |
| 18. Colin Wilson              | (Cuffley)       | 676  |
| 19. Adrian Dixon              | (Wolverhampton) | 661  |
| 20. John Hilton               | (Manchester)    | 653  |
| 21. Paul Whiting              | (Plymouth)      | 645  |
| 22. Glen Baker                | (Guildford)     | 636  |
| 23. Steven Dorking            | (Hornchurch)    | 626  |
| 24. Tony Taylor               | (Manchester)    | 623  |
| 25. Paul Giles                | (Plymouth)      | 612  |
| 26. Edwin Smith               | (Gosforth)      | 611  |
| 27. Michael Hammond           | (Surbiton)      | 592  |
| 28. Adrian Moore              | (Bexhill)       | 584  |
| 29. Andy Creed                | (Bristol)       | 570  |
| 30. Barry Johnson             | (Birmingham)    | 556  |

### LEADING WOMEN - APRIL

|                           |                 |      |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------|
| 1. Lisa Bellinger         | (Dunstable)     | 1964 |
| 2. Fiona Elliot           | (Wolverhampton) | 1806 |
| 3. Joy Grundy             | (Preston)       | 1803 |
| 4. Alison Gordon          | (Reading)       | 1729 |
| 5. Mandy Sainsbury        | (Newbury)       | 932  |
| 6. Jill Harris            | (Walsall)       | 685  |
| 7. Jean Parker            | (Preston)       | 563  |
| 8. Joanne Shaw            | (Normanton)     | 554  |
| 9. Andrea Holt            | (Ramsbottom)    | 552  |
| 10. Karen Smith           | (Leicester)     | 506  |
| 11. Juliet Houghton       | (Tonbridge)     | 494  |
| 12. Carol Butler          | (Plymouth)      | 479  |
| 13. Jackie Bellinger      | (Dunstable)     | 469  |
| 14. Susan Collier         | (Maidenhead)    | 390  |
| 15. Suzanne Airey         | (Grantham)      | 354  |
| 16. Claire Potts          | (Chester)       | 346  |
| 17. Teresa Moore          | (Bexhill)       | 300  |
| 18. Helen Bardwell        | (Ware)          | 292  |
| 19. <del>Kerry Hall</del> | (Chesterfield)  | 288  |
| 20. Elaine Short          | (Plymouth)      | 271  |
| 21. Jane Barella          | (Surbiton)      | 268  |
| 22. Debbie Toole          | (Normanton)     | 263  |
| 23. Claire Maisiey        | (Swindon)       | 244  |
| 24. Helen Perrott         | (Bristol)       | 242  |
| 25. Sandra Roden          | (Dudley)        | 241  |
| 26. Debbie Soothill       | (Carnforth)     | 233  |
| 27. Elaine Sayer          | (London E12)    | 232  |
| 28. Kim Mudge             | (London E13)    | 224  |
| 29. Helen Lower           | (Wolverhampton) | 216  |
| 30. Karen Burrows         | (Castleford)    | 208  |

## OBITUARY STUART DANE

SADLY I have to report the death of yet another stalwart of table tennis. Stuart Dane, who was an honorary life member of the Middlesex TTA, vice-president of Thames Insurance Central TTL, vice-president of London Business Houses TTL and one of my oldest friends, died on May 1 after a long illness which he resolutely refused to allow to interfere with his normal activities.

He was working until 2 weeks before his death when he was retired on his 65th birthday and on the last weekend of his life was at Stoke Mandeville carrying out his duties as treasurer of the paraplegic club which met there.

When I first met Stuart some 40 years ago he was already involved in both the leagues and also played in the now-defunct Tobacco Trades League. He was amongst the first to qualify as an umpire when the scheme was introduced by the ETTA and also in the fore-front when qualifying as a tournament referee. He became a national in both schemes.

He attended all Middlesex events — he was assistant referee for all the Middlesex Open Championships — as well as many national and international events. He served on the Middlesex committee from 1962 to 1982.

Then 30 years ago he became involved in the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Paralysed and although he still did a lot of work for the able-bodied, this became his greatest interest. He took over the running of the table tennis event in the national and international Stoke

Mandeville Games and travelled the world organising or overseeing the organisation of the table tennis event in the paralympic games.

When the British Paraplegic Wheelchair Table Tennis Association was formed, he went onto the committee as the "events organiser". Stuart was an indefatigable fund-raiser for the Stoke Paraplegic Athletic Club, of which he was treasurer, and it is a measure of the affection in which he was held that eight of the wheelchair athletes attended his funeral at very short notice.

Wheelchair table tennis players all over the world will regret his passing and he will be sadly missed by his many friends and his family.

IRIS MOSS

### TABLES FOR SALE

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## ANOTHER O'DRISCOLL VICTORY

THE Nat West Derby Select attracted 350 players but the pattern of entry — more in the juniors, and the snow over the weekend put a lot of pressure on the referee Stuart Sherlock. In the end the finals were completed to time, although as last year, an 0830 start was required.

There were some upsets in the cadet boys singles in the top half of the draw — with Leigh Jeffries, the No. 1 seed, out to Grant Solder, and Gary Knights to Howard Whewell. The lower half went as the form book with Neil Bevan at two beating Mark Stephenson. After a shaky start by losing game six in the first, Bevan beat Brian Mileham in the final.

The final pair in the cadet girls were the No. 1 and 2 seeds but the result was a win for Ellen Meddings over Joanne Roberts.

High hopes of a clean sweep for Derbyshire in the junior singles were dashed. In the top half Matthew Syed did not show and Sean Gibson was beaten by Michael Aucherlonie. Aucherlonie had a good tournament — semi-finals in the cadets and quarters in the juniors. This left the way to the final clear for the No. 2 seed Bradley Billington but he was stopped 11, 10 by Michael O'Driscoll. O'Driscoll went on to beat John Holland in the final.

Kerry Hall was also seeded to go to the final but was stopped by Claire Potts. Claire beat the No. 1 seed Andrea Holt in the hard hitting three set final.

### Results

**Under 12 girls singles:** Nicola Meddings (Wa) b Katherine Goodall (Y) 19, 12.  
**Under 12 boys singles:** Barry Forster (Nd) b Darren Blake (Sy) — 20, 16, 14.  
**Cadet girls singles:** Ellen Meddings (Y) b Joanne Roberts (Y) 19, 19.  
**Cadet boys doubles:** Andrew Eden/Brian Mileham (La/K) b Neil Bevan/Mark Stephenson (Co/Y) 17, — 22, 11.  
**Cadet girls doubles:** Sarah Pengelly/Helen Wright (Dv/Dv) b Liz Bryant/Ellen Meddings (Le/Y) 9, 12.  
**Junior boys singles:** Michael O'Driscoll (Y) b John Holland (Ng) 9, 15.  
**Junior girls singles:** Claire Potts (Ch) b Andrea Holt (La) 15, — 18, 16.  
**Junior girls doubles:** Melonie Carey/Andrea Holt (Av/La) b Claire Potts/Helen Potts (Ch/Ch) 16, 19.  
**Junior boys doubles:** Sean Gibson/Bradley Billington (La/Dy) b Robert Fearn/John Holland (Ng/Ng) 17, 19.

## FUTURE EVENTS...

- Sept. 5-6 Lambeth 2-star
- Sept. 12 Milton Keynes Under-21 2-star
- Sept. 13 British League 1
- Sept. 19 Woodfield 1-star
- Sept. 20 Wiltshire 2-star
- Sept. 26 North of England 2-star
- Sept. 27 British League 2
- Oct. 3-4 Sussex 2-star
- Oct. 10 County Championships 1

THE DELAY in publication of this issue is intentional - to accommodate the English Junior International Championships at Newcastle on May 30 and 31.