



Table Tennis News

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Practice makes perfect



"Home Cooke-ing" by Jaques

Jaques

A Vital Communication

COMMUNICATION is vital to all sports. It has always been one of life's mysteries to me why the top decision-makers in table tennis have been shy of investing modest sums of money in this magazine. At the very least, we must try and compete with badminton who utilise the services of two persons in the production of their national magazine and attract material from national journalists to supplement the vast amount of information that is used from amateur sources in both sports. Working on "shoe-string" finances my Associate Editor Fiona Brown and I will be trying over the next seven issues of this magazine to present a bright publication that will attract more readers and more advertisers.

We will never please everyone and on occasions, material will have to be omitted through lack of space. I make that apology before we start to avoid prolonged conversations at tournaments on that issue.

To raise this magazine halfway towards what it could be, the input has to be by two people, the ideas, the nasty decisions on what to publish and what to hold over or reject should never be down to one person only.

This is a two-person operation for the first time and we hope that this new policy will reap dividends.

If this magazine is to flourish and be an attractive proposition to advertisers it is vital that we follow the lead of a number of rival sports and include the price in a national affiliation fee. It is a move that could take two years to happen, but steps should be taken now to persuade the National Council that this is the way forward.

The question of editorial policy in this magazine is always a thorny one, especially as it is the official organ of the ETTA. It has always been my view that the Editor should be a person outside the corridors of power either as an amateur or a professional. Previous editors have found themselves in difficult positions when it comes to opinion and also decisions on omissions.

Especially in delicate situations such as the election of a new chairman, remember there is sure to be another election apart from the present one starting in the new year, I shall remain impartial. Proof of impartiality came following my story in The Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, October 28. I was told that the piece favoured one candidate but he had declared only days earlier that I was opposed to him. Never assume that a journalist is on one side or the other.

JOHN WOODFORD



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The Sponsorship Lifeline

SPORT today almost owes its existence to sponsorship. Table tennis is no exception. Sponsors move their money around frequently so the ETTA is always seeking new information on companies or organisations who might consider sponsorship with amounts starting at £1,500 up to £25,000.

Any player, official or anyone interested in the welfare of and development of the sport who hears of anyone who might remotely consider sponsorship should contact Mike Watts, the Deputy General Secretary of the ETTA.

According to his judgement of the situation Mike will pro-

bably start by despatching a copy of a new brochure designed specifically to help potential sponsors, or he will make arrangements to contact the firm or business and if necessary will in many cases make a personal call.

These are the benefits available to sponsors, as detailed in the new brochure:



Mike Watts
Stephen Line 0273 453867

1. The sponsor's name could become an integral part of the title of the event, e.g. 'XYZ Table Tennis Championships'.
2. Facilities for hospitality, entertainment of customers and client areas including a post championship reception.
3. Facilities for sponsors' trade stand at the event.
4. The sponsors' corporate design will be included on all printed materials associated with the event. These include posters, programmes, tickets, etc.
5. Advertising banners may be placed in the venue and in the courts, subject to any television requirements.
6. Opportunities for coverage of the event in *Table Tennis News*.
7. A Press launch to announce the successful conclusion of negotiations for an event.
8. National Press coverage before, during and after the event.
9. Extensive local media coverage including local press and radio.
10. The ETTA will use its best endeavours to obtain coverage of its events on television, both nationally and regionally.
11. Major events would include the possibility of poster sites including British Rail.
12. Mail shots by the ETTA to all individual Table Tennis clubs within a given radius of the venue.
13. Sponsors' representatives would be invited to take part in ceremonial presentations during the events.
14. Free admission to the sponsors' guests up to an agreed number of complimentary tickets.

Two of a kind

Behind the scenes with Fiona Brown



Chris Oldfield
Photos Stephen Line 0273 453867

"WE both practice about one and a half hours a day, six days a week" says 15 years old Chris Oldfield of himself and his European cadet champion team-mate Michael O'Driscoll. What Chris modestly forgets to mention, and his coach Hans Soova is quick to explain is that this only refers to table time! "Michael and Chris travel frequently to my sessions at the Leeds Centre of Excellence and they both work very hard on general fitness training, then there are the school holidays which are often spent on junior England

camp, or abroad on England duty" says Hans.

For Michael the victory he scored over Russian Dmitriy Gusev to clinch the Cadet Team gold medal, in the 1986 European Youth Championships, made all the hard work worthwhile. "I remembered losing to him in 1985 and I was determined that it would not happen again. I don't think it sank in straight away after I had won that we were the champions."

Looking back on that final Hans Soova identifies victory in the doubles as a vital point and explains what gave Chris and Michael the advantage, "Being Yorkshiremen they don't give in easily; seriously though I think the fact that they practice together regularly and are good friends off the table makes a real difference. 29-27 in the third against Gusev and Tiapkin was a true test of character."

So what does the future hold in store, "I am looking forward to the European Junior Top 12 in Czechoslovakia" says Michael who earned his place by reaching the European cadet singles final. On the home front Chris is

already competing in the premier division of the Schildkrot British League with Rotherham although Michael has made a conscious effort to avoid the top flight, at least for this season. "One or two clubs have approached me but I am happy to stay with Bradford Investments, we have a fair chance of promotion into division one this season and that would suit me very well." But one thing both boys agree on is the importance of playing in this season's Stiga 3 Star Grand Prix events as Chris explains, "I expect that this will be my last year at school and its my ambition to make a career from table tennis which means establishing myself in the senior rankings." Michael who is just beginning his 'O' level studies is keen to establish himself academically before considering how big a part table tennis will play in his life, "Ask me again in two years time and I should know the answer" he says.

Meanwhile they both realise that there is a giant stride between junior and senior success having battled their way through the Stiga National Top 12 on a 'wild card' entry. Michael (4 wins) and Chris (1 win) thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "We realise that lots of people said we should not have played, that it should have been the top 12 on the mens ranking list, and we are sorry others

missed out but we tried our best and learned a lot at Soham." For Chris the fact that he managed to play at all at Soham was nothing short of a minor miracle. "I got glandular fever in August and the doctor said I wouldn't even be able to practice until November but somehow it went away, I don't know how, but I'm glad."

And so, on with the season, "financial support from their local authorities and the Sports Aid Foundation will help to pay for tournament trips", says Hans Soova, "and on the coaching front I shall be looking to develop my links with National Trainer Donald Parker and the junior boys captain, Paul Day to ensure that Michael and Chris remain on schedule for plenty more international success."



Michael O'Driscoll

THE LATE TOM BLUNN

Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association

by John Woodford

THE North Yorkshire resort of Scarborough was bathed in autumn sunshine as representatives of the table tennis world gathered to pay their last respects to the Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, Mr Tom Blunn, on September 25th.

Tom's widow Edna, their daughter and sons and their grandchildren were the principal mourners amongst the hundred people at the Woodlands Crematorium.

George Yates, the ETTA Deputy Chairman had the unenviable task of delivering a eulogy, from which I extracted: "Over 33 years I came to regard Tom as someone special. His service was a monumental stint that would test any marriage. We will miss him. God will accept him into higher membership," said Mr Yates.

I cannot be sure that I recorded all the table tennis people who made the journey from the four corners of the United Kingdom including Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Among those present were: Maurice Goldstein, George Yates, Aubrey Drapkin, Alan Ransome, Ian Whiteside, George White, Eddie Limberg (Ireland North and South), Brian Christie and Denis George (Scotland), Eddie Thomas (Wales), Don Parker, Jill Parker, Johnny Leach, Ron Crayden, Keith Ponting, Pat Archdale, Bryan Merrett, Alan Hydes, Tony Chatwin, Arthur Upton, Mike Watts, Mike Lewis, Bill Moran, Walter Mitton and representatives from Beneficial Trust, Rea Balmford, Eric Hill (Yorkshire). I represented the table tennis journalists.

Anyone wishing to comply with Tom's family's wish (instead of flowers) to make a donation — they will be acknowledged by St. Catherine's Hospice, Scalby Road, Scarborough, North Yorks.



Tom Blunn

Eileen Langsley 0246 883276

A tribute to Tom ...

A man of courage and commitment

by Ron Crayden

IN the early hours of Saturday morning, 20th September when most of us were deep in sleep, Tom Blunn passed away in St. Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough. His death, at the age of 69, came as a relief from the suffering he had so bravely endured, but cast a dark shadow over the table tennis fraternity he had inspired with his leadership.

Tom's close connections with table tennis in the Humberside area led many to believe he was from the county of the 'white rose', but this was not so. He was essentially a Lancastrian having been born in Oldham during the first world war. It was there, as a young man, that he was introduced to table tennis and so began a passionate love affair with the sport that was to last for more than fifty years. Until the end his enthusiasm remained undiminished and not even his terminal illness could restrain him from taking an administrative part.

As a player he did not reach great heights but as an administrator he was intuitively gifted; creativity and total dedication rarely come

together but in Tom's case they were closely intertwined. He played a major part in founding the Wirral League and the County Associations of Cheshire and Lancashire, and in 1952, his National career began when he was appointed Treasurer of the County Championships. By profession he was a Training Officer for a large firm of Chartered Accountants and his work was the reason for moving house to Hull, a stroke of good fortune for the Yorkshire T.T. Association. In 1958, he succeeded Bill Vint as Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, a post he filled with distinction for twenty years, and in that capacity he assumed financial responsibilities for a European and a World Championship.

It was at the World Championships in Birmingham, 1977, that he was taken ill and rushed to hospital, where a growth in his bladder was diagnosed. He received immediate treatment and upon his release from hospital, and notwithstanding the pain and emotional stress he must have undergone, he insisted on

returning to the stadium to fulfil his duties. His faith and fortitude plus expert hospital care allowed him to face this adversity with unquenchable optimism and remarkable courage. The following year, 1978, he was elected as Chairman of the ETTA and he immediately blazed a new trail, by altering the structure of the Management Committee. He saw his role as Chairman to be one of complete personal involvement; no problem was too great for him to tackle, no detail too small for him to investigate and no distance too far for him to travel. It could be said that perhaps he undertook too much, when he might easily have delegated some of his responsibilities. To shirk any challenge, however remote, was not his style, he was an insatiable hard worker who led from the front. The life membership he received for services to the sport was his badge of courage and commitment.

As a man, Tom Blunn was a keen humorist and some of his speeches, especially at the 100 Club dinners, were of professional quality. He was also a kindly man with honest intentions, patriotic, conscientious, a self-taught musician and one blessed with a happy family life. Sport, in most forms, provided him with much pleasure and in the summer months none more so than cricket. It was therefore most fitting that after the cremation his ashes were

scattered on the field of the Scarborough Cricket Club. Evidence of the respect in which he was held was clearly apparent at the Woodlands Crematorium, when one hundred mourners filled the chapel to pay tribute to a dedicated and popular man.

We all hope that the sympathy extended by his many friends will help to sustain his wife Edna and family in their great loss.

A message from Mrs Edna Blunn

PLEASE accept on behalf of myself and family my sincere thanks to all who kindly donated to St. Catherine's Hospice, and sent letters and cards of condolence to us in our time of sorrow. My thanks in particular to George Yates who gave a tribute to Tom on behalf of himself as a friend, and also everyone who had worked with Tom over the many years connected with his favourite sport.

He was dedicated to the ETTA, the sport, the officials and the players, and many of my happiest memories are of table tennis tournaments, and overseas championships. My thanks again and I wish you well in the years ahead.

Sincerely
EDNA BLUNN

Cooke blasts a new era Douglas loses nine-year record at Soham

by John Woodford

LOOKING BACK in five years from now, the historic victory by Alan Cooke over Desmond Douglas in an unforgettable and thrilling final round in the Stiga-sponsored National Top-12 at Soham Sports Centre could be a big milestone in the recent history of the sport in England.

It is not always that a Top-12 event produces superb clashes of classic quality in the final session although the odds are high that if the best players are drawn to clash very late on the last day, this will happen.

The last Top-12 I saw was the European in Nantes when despite a crowd of 3,000 the best matches did not come last but with a fine crowd at Soham of over 300, the organisers luck was in — only the last game between Douglas and Cooke was left on court for people to watch.

It was in my view one of the best games seen in England for some time. When Douglas took the first two games 11-6, 11-8 it looked as though his domination was all set to continue but "Cookie" had other ideas. He had nothing to lose so he went for his shots and eventually won the day.

The holder was almost forced on the defensive with some ancient-looking superfast half-volley returns that would have fooled and beaten most people but not the man from Chesterfield.

He simply decided to throw caution aside and battled onto the end. Douglas decided to hit back and came very close indeed to making it 4-4. The wind of change blew through English table tennis as Cooke clinched victory 11-7, 11-8, 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 14-12.

Both Douglas and Cooke finished with only one defeat each, but the ETTA Selection Committee decided to follow the rules of the European Table Tennis Union — when the clash of two top players or teams occurs the result between them counts and not games average.

This extraordinary rule cost England relegation from the Super Division of the European League two years ago when England lost to Holland.

There were some outstanding performances in the early rounds at Soham. At one stage John Souter was in second place with all guns blazing. He eventually finished fifth allowing Skylet Andrew and Jimmy Stokes to surge past him. Another player to cream some good results was Phil Bradbury.

David Wells lost his cool on the last day when facing Andrew. After a dispute on an alleged net ball, the Middlesex man walked off court and conceded but fortunately for him decided to play his remaining matches.

The two juniors Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield both came through the ordeal of playing the top men with flying colours. Oldfield's victims included Souter and Sandley. Graham Sandley played his heart out all weekend. Many games he lost were so close but he still finished eleventh, and unlucky to be there.



Alan Cooke celebrates while umpire David Miller commiserates with Desmond Douglas
Stephen Line 0273 453867

LISA BELLINGER, Alison Gordon and Fiona Elliot all finished with two defeats but this time no strange European rule could apply so it was worked out on games average that Lisa was the winner although many spectators who watched the final battle between Lisa and Alison Gordon thought that the winner would take the title. Not so, it was ace defender Lisa who snatched it from her three close rivals, Gordon, Elliot and Joy Grundy.

At one stage in the womens matches, the top four England women were playing each other for the honours. Lower down the order Chester's Claire Potts was the most impressive performer and she like O'Driscoll finished in ninth spot with Jean Parker, Juliet Houghton and Suzanne Airey under her.

The event was overall an outstanding success but nothing in this world is perfect. The scheduling was basically thought out to attract the crowds. Had it kept to schedule the media men present would have been happy with a 5.30 finish. The only way it was in fact over around 7 p.m. was because the referee agreed to use the tables continuously in the last hour or so, instead of waiting for the last game of each session to finish before changing from women to men.

When time permits this is an ideal arrangement. The answer to the problem lies in running an extra round on Saturday starting at mid-day instead of 2.30, leaving

QUOTES:

Douglas: "After winning the first two games I went to sleep. He took advantage by going for his shots and deserved to win."

Cooke: "I feel I have broken through the barrier, but he is still the better player."

only four rounds for the final day instead of five. A finish could then be achieved not later than 5 p.m.

Because of the new scoring format the referee had a difficult task in assessing the time of each encounter. What has been learned and I am sure Tony Chatwin will agree is that in the later rounds when the top players clash and longer games take place it is essential to allow more time.

Footnote: Paul Day and his extremely enthusiastic bunch of people at the Soham Sports Centre are very keen that the tournament should return to the same venue in 1987. To get over 300 people watching at one time is an achievement that many large towns could not have managed.

Final placings

Men:

- 1 A. Cooke (Dy)
- 2 D. Douglas (Wa)
- 3 S. Andrew (E)
- 4 J. Stokes (Bk)
- 5 J. Souter (Mi)
- 6 P. Bradbury (Bu)
- 7 N. Mason (Sy)
- 8 D. Wells (Mi)
- 9 M. O'Driscoll (Y)
- 10 K. Satchell (Wi)
- 11 G. Sandley (Mi)
- 12 C. Oldfield (Y)

Women:

- 1 L. Bellinger (Bd)
- 2 A. Gordon (Bk)
- 3 F. Elliot (St)
- 4 J. Grundy (La)
- 5 J. Harris (St)
- 6 M. Sainsbury (Bk)
- 7 J. Bellinger (Bd)
- 8 A. Holt (La)
- 9 C. Potts (Ch)
- 10 J. Parker (La)
- 11 J. Houghter (K)
- 12 S. Airey (Li)



Worthy champions, Alan Cooke and Lisa Bellinger.

Stephen Line

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Colgate North of England 2 Star Open Early doors at Stretford

George Yates reports

NINETEEN scratchings from a men's singles entry of 126, together with only seven out of 45 first round encounters going to a deciding game, set the scene for a very early finish to this season's Colgate North of England 2-Star Open played at Stretford Sports Centre on September 27th.

Yorkshire's Steve Mills was the top seed and defending title holder but, unlike last year when he beat Kevin Beadsley in the final, he fell to his fellow Tyke in a no holds barred semi.

Somewhat less captivating was John Hilton's penultimate success over Barry Johnson, as indeed was the former European champion's final victory over Beadsley when the Yorkshireman, after equating the match score at 1-all, fell away dismally in the decider.

Joy Grundy, top seed in the women's singles, had little difficulty in retaining her title with 2-straight wins over Ruth Bray of Hull, Nicola McGrath of Preston, Joanne Shaw of Wakefield and, finally, Jill Harris of Walsall. It was all too easy.

Not so for Michael O'Driscoll, the top seed in the boys' singles, as he bowed out in the semis when beaten by John Holland of Notts

who went on to beat Bolton's David Carse in the final.

There were only 18 entries for the boys' event unlike the vets entry which boasted 36 and provided yet another triumph for Derek Schofield, now a grandad, with a final win over Matt Shearer.

Main shock in the men's doubles was the elimination of top seeds Mills and Beadsley by the brothers, Andy and Howard Leigh of Bury. But the brothers were taken out in the semis by Martin Kinsella and Phillip Vickers who, in turn, lost to Hilton and Brian Johns in the final.

Holders, Joy Grundy and Jean Parker, retained their women's doubles title without coming under very great pressure as was the case with the organising committee led by Leslie Jones supported, in the main, by Harold Johnson, Alan Burton, Harry Ross, Benny Casofsky, Eric Pentland and, on the charts, George Frackrell and Jean Nield.

Results

Mens singles: Quarter-finals:

S Mills (Y) b P Bowen (La) 10, 18; K Beadsley (Y) b T Taylor (Ch) 20, 19; B Johnson (Wa) b S Turner (La) 22, 19; J Hilton (La) b C Bakewell (St) 16, -18, 12.

Semi-finals:

Beadsley b Mills -16, 19, 21; Hilton b Johnson 11, 14.

Final:

Hilton b Beadsley 18, -18, 10.

Womens singles: Quarter-finals:

J Grundy (La) b N McGrath (La) 7, 11; J Shaw (Y) b C Moran (Li) 14, 14; J Parker (La) b S Collier (Bk) 17, 15; J Harris (St) b L Popkiewicz (Sy) 19, 17.

Semi-finals:

Grundy b Shaw 11, 11; Harris b Parker, 9, 19.

Final:

Grundy b Harris 16, 13.

Boys singles: Quarter-finals:

M O'Driscoll (Y) b M Parker (Ch) 11, 17; J Holland (Ng) b H Whewell (La) 17, 19; J Taylor (Ch) b M Oakley (Y) -17, 16, 13; D Carse (La) b M Ward (Y) 16, 17.

Semi-finals:

Holland b O'Driscoll 17, 17; Carse b Taylor 18, -12, 18.

Final:

Holland b Carse 19, 15.

Veteran singles: Quarter-finals:

D Schofield (Ch) b G. Brooke (Y) 15, 12; G Sharples (La) b W Powell (Ch) 9, 18; A Timewell (Ch) b N Thewlis (La) 16, 18; M Shearer (Li) b E Griffiths (Ch) 6, 15.

Semi-finals:

Schofield b Sharples 11, 14; Shearer b Timewell 21, 10.

Final:

Schofield b Shearer 19, 21.

Mens Doubles: Semi-finals:

M Kinsella/P Vickers (Dy) b A Leigh/H Leigh (La) -20, 12, 10; Hilton/B Johns (Ch) b Johnson/P Machin (Wa) 13, 13.

Final:

Hilton/Johns b Kinsella/Vickers 20, -17, 10.

Womens Doubles: Semi-finals:

Grundy/Parker b Collier/J Dunning (St) 14, 15; Harris/Popkiewicz b A Goodwin (La)/J Harden (Wa) 13, 18.

Final: Grundy/Parker b Harris/Popkiewicz 20, 14.



Joy Grundy
Photo courtesy of Butterfly UK

FIONA STOPS LISA

by Laurie Selby

IT WAS a case of first the good news and then the very good news at the Wiltshire Two Star tournament.

The good news was the success of the tournament which ticked over like a finely tuned engine with everything on schedule. And the very good news was the finances. A loss on last year was turned into a healthy profit — and should safeguard the tournament for at least another year.

Fiona Elliot also made the news — she hit the headlines by defeating England number one Lisa Bellinger to take the women's singles.

Lisa looked invincible as she teased and tormented Fiona into errors to win the opening game.

But the Wolverhampton girl picked herself up, dusted down her game and turned the tables so radically that she allowed Lisa only nine points in the deciding game. Lisa did though have the consolation of retaining the doubles with her sister Jackie.

John Souter dominated the men's events. Quick-silver Souter just had too much on the ball for Andy Welman of Reading in the men's singles and the Neasden player picked up the £200 top prize in straight games.

Souter and Colin Wilson disposed of Graham Sandley and John Hilton in double quick time to sew up the doubles.

The junior tournament produced some surprises — and a few Houdini acts. Helen Lower of Wolverhampton, the number two seed, lost the opening game to giant-killer Kate Gower of Essex who had knocked out top seed Melonie Carey of Bridgwater in the semi-finals. But Helen clawed her way back to take the next two games.

Matthew Syed also had some anxious moments before reaching the under 17 boys final. But he never looked like falling at the final hurdle and his brand of deception and guile paved his way to victory over Sean Gibson of Chorley.

Caroline Buckley of Luton saved three successive match points before beating Joanne Roberts in the Cadet girls final.

Wiltshire's display of the day came from Michael Aucterlonie who reached the Cadet final where he lost to Brian Mileham of Margate.

Mike's performance won him £20 and a trophy given by the major sponsors, Honda dealers Bath Road Garage of Swindon, for the best Wiltshire performance. Kevin Satchell took the senior prize.

Senior results

Mens singles - semi-finals: J Souter b K Satchell 15, -20, 17; A Wellman b J Stokes -10, 12, 20. **Final:** Souter b Wellman 16, 17.

Womens singles - semi-finals: F Elliot b J Grundy 16, 12; L Bellinger b M Sainsbury 19, 16. **Final:** Elliot b Bellinger -17, 15, 9.

Veterans singles - semi-finals: R Bhalla b B Simmonds 20, 12; D Seaholme b F Hams 17, 11. **Final:** Bhalla b Seaholme 13, -16, 13.

Mens doubles - semi-finals: J Souter/C Wilson b S Dorking/D Dodd 17, 18; G Sandley/J Hilton b T Taylor/J Stokes 19, 18. **Final:** Souter/Wilson b Sandley/Hilton 7, 9.

Womens doubles - semi-finals: L Bellinger/J Bellinger b K Burrows/J Shaw 4, 10; M Sainsbury/C Butler bf J Grundy/J Parker 19, 12. **Final:** Bellinger/Bellinger b Sainsbury/Butler 7, 11.

Junior results

Under 17 boys singles - semi-finals: M Syed b D Holland 14, 16; S Gibson b A Ball 13, -15, 14. **Final:** Syed b Gibson 18, 14.

Under 17 girls singles - semi-finals: H Lower b A Ambrose 9, 20; K Gower b M Carey 19, 17. **Final:** Lower b Gower -16, 12, 15.

Cadet boys singles - semi-finals: B Mileham b J Patterson 4, 12; M Aucterlonie b G Solder 19, 18. **Final:** Mileham b Aucterlonie 9, 14.

Cadet girls singles - semi-finals: C Buckley b S Pengelly 17, -16, 13; J Roberts b T Cole 1, 17. **Final:** Buckley b Roberts -17, 9, 21.

Boys doubles - semi-finals: S Gibson/D Holland b J Taylor/M Ward 14, 12; D Morris/A Ball b A Thorp/D Smith 16, -13, 18. **Final:** Gibson/Holland b Morris/Ball -18, 15, 16.

Girls doubles - semi-finals: M Carey/J Wright b T Webber/C Brazier 16, 13; K Cox/K Gower b C Woodham/H Lower 16, -15, 15. **Final:** Carey/Wright b Cox/Gower 9, 11.

Alison lands a hat-trick

by Ron Kemp

ALISON GORDON lifted her third womens singles crown in succession at the Stamco sponsored Sussex 2 Star tournament in Hastings. She has now equalled the feat of arch rival Karen Witt, who has now retired from table tennis. John Souter regained his MS title, his toughest match in the semi-final against beaten finalist last year, Graham Sandley.



Stamco Sussex 2 Star Open, triple finalist Mandy Sainsbury Cheryl Fairholm 0735 292990

Allied Dunbar Milton Keynes Under 21 2 Star Open

by Vic Fussell



LISA BELLINGER (Bd) and Stephen Dorking (E) took the top honours in the Allied Dunbar Milton Keynes under 21 2 star open championships held at the Bletchley Leisure Centre on Sunday, 14th September. Lisa, England's No. 1, retained her womens title while Dorking won the mens title, along with the mens doubles when partnering Kevin Rogerson (Y).

Lisa, seeded 1, had a steady passage until the semi-finals when meeting Sue Collier, seeded 3. Lisa started slowly but eventually got her game together and won with ease 22, 11. Jane Barella (Sy) seeded 2, won the other semi-final against Teresa Moore (Sx) seeded 4; this turned out to be a cracking match with Jane eventually winning - 21, 20, 18. In the final Jane started with a rush and Lisa had to come from behind to win the first game, but once she had this under her belt she coasted home to win 18, -9.

Dorking, seeded 1, dominated the mens event from the start, his hardest match being in the fourth round when he defeated his doubles partner, Kevin Rogerson 18, 16. In the semi-final he beat Jason Clark (E) 17, 12. In the other half of the draw Jimmy Walsh (He) fought his way through to the final, with his

toughest match also being in the fourth round when he narrowly beat Richard Lines (Bu) - 21, 19, 20, in the semi-final Walsh defeated Michael Oakley (Y) 14, 19. Dorking never let Walsh get going in the final and despite a spirited finish from Walsh, he ran out a convincing winner 14, 19.

Results

Womens singles - semi-finals: Lisa Bellinger (Bd) b Sue Collier (Bk) 22, 11; Jane Barella (Sy) b Teresa Moore (Sx) - 11, 20, 18. **Final:** Bellinger b Barella 18, 9.

Mens singles - semi-finals: Stephen Dorking (E) b Jason Clarke (E) 17, 12; Jimmy Walsh (He) b Michael Oakley (Y) 14, 19. **Final:** Dorking b Walsh 11, 17.

Womens doubles - semi-finals: Jane Barella/Teresa Moore (Bu/Sx) b Julie Brion/Julie Norman (Bu/Bk) 18, 14; Rachel Knight/Helen Lower (Mi/St) b Sue Collier/Lesley Popkiewicz (Bk/Sy) 18, 18. **Final:** Barella/Moore b Knight/Lower 20, 15.

Mens doubles - semi-finals: Stephen Dorking/Kevin Rogerson (E/Y) b Dave Carter/Nick Csillag (Sy/Sy) 12, 9; Robert Fern/John Holland (Ng/Ng) b Tom Cutler/Kimba Ckoda (Mi/Mi) - 14, 6, 14. **Final:** Dorking/Rogerson b Fern/Holland 18, 19.

Under 17 mixed singles - semi-finals: Scott Greenbrook (Sx) b Adrian Elson (Ng) 17, 15; Robert Fern (Ng) b John Holland (Ng) - 25, 20, 12. **Final:** Greenbrook b Fern 12, 13.

Six of the eight mens singles seeds reached their places in the quarter-finals, the absent Colin Wilson (John Burleton filled the gap) and David Dodd (beaten by Neil Taylor in round 3) missing out. Quarter-finals saw wins by top seed David Hannah over Taylor, 3rd seed Steve Mills over Des Charlery, Sandley beat Burleton and 2nd seed John Souter beat Max Crimmins. The final session which commenced at 5.30 pm saw Souter just beat Sandley in a thrilling battle of 3 sets; and Mills, having led 11-7 in the 1st was caught at 11, and from then on it was all Hannah who won comfortably in two sets. The final itself was a little disappointing, Souter controlled the match with his crisp attack and won in 2 sets, never letting Hannah settle.

Top seeds in the womens singles Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury demonstrated their superiority by easily reaching the final. In the semi-finals Gordon beat unseeded Carol Butler, who had earlier excelled to beat 3rd seed Jill Harris; and Sainsbury beat unseeded Cheryl Buttery - the England No. 54, who had a remarkable victory in round 2 over England No. 9 and our 3rd seed Juliet Houghton. The final was full of tension and interest, as Gordon dropped the 1st game to 9 and looked in trouble. She levelled the match at 16, the 3rd being very even until, at 15 all, Gordon took five points in a row to seal the result.

The mens doubles began after the usual scratchings and re-pairing had been completed, and this found the mens finalists paired together as top seeds. They cruised through the event, winning all matches in two sets, including a final win against Steve Mills and Sandley, the 2nd seeds, the winners looking most impressive.

Womens doubles was fairly similar to the mens event, with the womens finalists paired as top seeds, and apart from a tough quarter-final against Sue Collier and Buttery, sailed serenely to the title, including a final win against 2nd seeds Jane Barella and Houghton.

The mixed final was the best match in the evening session, two quite nicely matched pairs fought a good fight, and it was only at 18 all

in the 3rd when the two pairs were separated, Kennedy and Sainsbury taking the next three points for an excellent win.

The veterans singles title was won for the third consecutive year by Henry Buist.

Results

Mens singles - semi-finals: D Hannah b S Mills 17, 17; J Souter b G Sandley 16, -14, 19. **Final:** Souter b Hannah 14, 15.

Womens singles - semi-finals: A Gordon b C Butler 17, 9; M Sainsbury b C Buttery 3, 11. **Final:** Gordon b Sainsbury -9, 16, 16.

Mens doubles - semi-finals: J Souter/D Hannah b R Beckham/G Holmes 11, 14; S. Mills/G Sandley b D Charlery/J Denison - 20, 9, 9. **Final:** Souter/Hannah b Mills/Sandley 15, 17.

Womens doubles - semi-finals: A Gordon/M Sainsbury b J Harris/L Popkiewicz 21, 11; J Barella/J Houghton b K Mudge/E Sayer 13, -15, 11. **Final:** Gordon/Sainsbury b Barella/Houghton 12, 15.

Mixed doubles - semi-finals: G Sandley/A Gordon b A Abbot/E Sayer 15, 15; J Kennedy/M Sainsbury b S Mills/J Harris 18, 15. **Final:** Kennedy/Sainsbury b Sandley/Gordon 14, -17, 18.

Veterans singles - semi-finals: H Buist b A Meads 15, 14; D. Schofield b B Adedayo 15, -20, 12. **Final:** Buist b Schofield 8, 11.

European Table Tennis League

RESULTS of matches played on Saturday 27th September. These are the 1st round for the season.

Super division

Netherlands 3 Czechoslovakia 4
France 1 Bulgaria 6
Poland 5 Hungary 2
Sweden 3 Yugoslavia 4

First division

ENGLAND 6 Turkey 1
Finland 3 Norway 4
Fed. Germany 6 Denmark 1
Italy 4 Austria 3

Second division

Guernsey 0 Belgium 7
Scotland 5 Spain 2

Table topper

THIS scheme, whereby clubs can obtain a top-class Dunlop or Jacques table by paying four annual instalments, currently £60 plus VAT, or one cash payment of £200 plus VAT, has been in operation for 16 years and yet many clubs are unaware of the opportunity. Discounts for quantity can be negotiated. Any club wishing to take advantage of this offer need only send us a cheque, together with a delivery address which must be available within business hours on a weekday, and a brand-new table will be delivered free of charge within about six weeks. Full details available from the ETTA office.

Tournament cancellations

Sussex Junior Open, due to be revived at Rye on November 29 and 30 has had a relapse and will not now take place. **Halton Junior Open**, due to be played at the Norton Recreation Centre at Runcorn on December 13 and 14 has also been cancelled.



Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

Strength in depth

Fiona Brown reports

PREMIER division challengers Grove Market Drayton emphasised their strength in depth in their first match of the season as they held champions Steelstock Wolverhampton to a 4-4 draw. One win each from the new Grove line up of John Souter, Jimmy Stokes, Graham Sandley and Steve Mills was enough to balance out two superb performances from Steelstock and England superstar Desmond Douglas.

Whilst Steelstock's other internationals Nicky Mason and Philip Bradbury won one each Carl Morgan, playing at No. 4 was on the wrong end of a three game scoreline after both his visits to the table - the second of which was against Steve Mills who had earlier seemed a little out of touch as he succumbed to Philip Bradbury - 14, -12.

Panoramic all washed up

Panoramic Bath started their campaign in fine style with a 7-1 win over newly promoted Butterfly Cardiff but came well and truly unstuck against Steelstock, crashing to an 8-0 away defeat. Panoramic team manager Paul Hewitt was dumbstruck, "I can't quite believe it, nobody has ever done this to us before. It wasn't



Phil Bradbury

Dave Wingar 0784 56006

as if we played badly they just went through us like a dose of salts."

For Steelstock it was their second straight sets win in consecutive days and a sure sign to Grove and their other challengers that the Schildkröt British League title will not be surrendered without a fight, the champions team manager Paul Chester was delighted, "I think we have issued a fairly clear message, we intend to retain our title in style."

Corking clanger

Kingbro Insurance Services, last seasons third division north champions have made a miserable start to their second division careers with an unenvied string of three consecutive defeats, including an 0-8 opener against EAE Waveney. Kingbro team captain Malcolm Corking is now busy trying to rebuild team morale, "It's all my fault, I can hardly credit what's happened, I

agreed to fixture changes in order to help our opponents and I didn't realise that members of our squad were unavailable, the worst part of it is that I know we can do well in this division but I haven't been able to field the 'A team' yet."



Desmond Douglas

Bonham Prestidge Limited 0902 22144/23235

1986-87 PRIZE FUND

Premier division

First place	£2000
Second place	£1200
Third place	£600

First division

First place	£1000
Second place	£500
Third place	£200

Second divisions North and South

First place	£600
Second place	£300

Third divisions North, South East and West

First place	£500
Second place	£250



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Schildkrot British League

Results

including matches played 28.9.86

Premier

Butterfly Cardiff 1 Panoramic Bath 7; MBS St Neots 2 Ormesby 6; Grove 4 Steelstock Wolverhampton 4; Panoramic Bath 8 Omega Reading 0; Rotherham 4 Butterfly Cardiff 4; Steelstock Wolverhampton 8 MBS St Neots 0; Steelstock Wolverhampton 8; Panoramic Bath 0.

First

Dagenham FC 2 Express Torbay 6; TSP Larkhall 5 Omega Claw 3; TCB Dolphins 5 Chan Construction 3; Byker Newcastle 5 West Works/Birmingham 3; Omega Claw 0 Dagenham 8; Chan Construction 5 TSP Larkhall 0; Express Torbay 5 Byker Newcastle 3.

Second North

Steelstock Wolverhampton 8 Oldham 0; March 5 Kingbro Insurance 3; Bradford Investments 1 EAE Waveney 7; Kingbro Insurance 0 EAE Waveney 8; Oldham 2 Ormesby 6; EAE Waveney 4 Steelstock Wolverhampton 4; Kingbro Insurance 2 Bradford Investments 6; Sincil Lincoln 2 March 6.

Second South

Medway 2 Ashford 6; Gunnersbury Triangle 3 Jaques Fareham 5; C & L Nittaku 6 Global Plymouth 2; TSP Larkhall 3 Fellows Cranleigh 5; Fellows Cranleigh 4 C & L Nittaku 4; Ashford 8 TSP Larkhall 0.

Third North

Ormesby 7 Byker Newcastle 1; Chan Construction 4 Unity Leeds 4; Crusaders Lincoln 7 Vickers Barrow 1; Unity Leeds 2 Ormesby 6; Grove 7 Chan Construction 1; Vickers Barrow 0 Leicester 8; Byker Newcastle 3 Crusaders Lincoln 5.

Third South

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

Third East

Smiths Motors Peterborough 0 MBS St Neots 8; AHW Pioneers 7 Witham Town 1; Norwich Foxwood 5 Dagenham FC 3; Witham Town FC 8 Smiths Motors Peterborough 0; MBS St Neots 2 Britannia Ipswich 6; Dagenham FC 6 AHW Pioneers 2; Well Connected Wellingboro' 6 Norwich Foxwood 2.

Third West

Leominster 1 Express Gwent 7; Jolliffe Poole 7 Omega Reading 1; Duchy Launceston 4 KCD Stiga 4; Express Torbay 5 Panoramic Bath 3; Omega Reading 4 Leominster 4; KCD Stiga 4 Jolliffe Poole 4; Panoramic Bath 3 Duchy Launceston 5; Express Gwent 7 Express Torbay 1.

SCHILDKROT FIXTURES

November

- 15th P MBS St Neots v Steelstock Wolverhampton
 16th P Ormesby v Butterfly Cardiff
 P Steelstock Wolverhampton v Omega Reading
 P MBS St Neots v Panoramic Bath
 P Rotherham v Grove
 1 Dagenham FC v Byker Newcastle
 1 TSP Larkhall v TCB Dolphins
 1 Omega Claw v West Works/Birmingham
 1 Express Torbay v Chan Construction
 22nd P Steelstock Wolverhampton v Butterfly Cardiff
 23rd P Ormesby v Grove

December

- 7th P Omega Reading v Ormesby
 P Steelstock Wolverhampton v Rotherham
 P Butterfly Cardiff v MBS St Neots
 P Grove v Panoramic Bath
 1 TCB Dolphins v Dagenham FC
 1 TSP Larkhall v Express Torbay
 1 Byker Newcastle v Omega Claw
 1 West Works/Birmingham v Chan Construction

Schildkrot British League handbook £1 from the ETTA office

Large entry for Ladyline Grove Junior Open

THE largest entry ever for the Grove School Junior 2 Star Open saw Yorkshire's Andrew Ball and Somerset's Melonie Carey emerge victorious in the Junior Boys and Junior Girls singles respectively with the corresponding cadet events going the way of Birmingham's Leigh Jeffries and Yorkshire's Joanne Roberts.

It was to be Ball and Roberts of the White Rose county who were involved in the closest of finals as the hard hitting Ball beat reigning champion Adrian Thorp of Wolverhampton at 21-19 in the decider whilst Miss Roberts after establishing a third set lead against county colleague Ellen Meddings saw the lead gradually disappear but kept cool to gain the verdict at 22-20 in the third set. Meanwhile Melonie Carey was in no mood to relinquish the girls singles title won twelve months earlier with Newbury's Julie Norman her final opponent in an event where the determined Somerset girl was never stretched to a third set despite Miss Norman's spirited effort in the second

game whilst in the cadet boys singles last years winner Neil Bevan of Cornwall tried desperately hard to cling on to his title but Midlander Leigh Jeffries had other ideas and gaining in confidence the latter reversed the decision of twelve months earlier to gain the title in style.

Local players seemed to be destined for a weekend of disappointments but the Grove due of John Ellis and David Morris gave the home club pride as they recovered from defeats in the boys singles semi-finals to win the boys doubles in fine style over Adrian Thorp and Darren Smith in straight sets to justify their top seeding whilst on the distaff side it seemed that Yorkshire's Joanne

Roberts and Kate Goodall might pull off a major surprise when they won the opening set in the final against Lancastrians Julie Clegg and Nicola McGrath but the Battle of the Roses was the way of the Red Rose in the third set with the losers comforted by the fact that the cadets had ousted the top seeds Melonie Carey and Jane Wright in the semi-finals.

Results

Junior boys singles

- S.F. A Thorp (Wolves) b J Ellis (Grove) 16, 23.
 S.F. A Ball (Wakefield) b D Morris (Grove) 12, 17.
 F. Ball b Thorp 19, -19, 19.

Junior girls singles:

- S.F. M Carey (Bridgwater) b J Wright (Plymouth) 13, 14.
 S.F. J Norman (Newbury) b N McGrath (Preston) 15, 21.
 F. Carey b Norman 10, 19.

Junior boys doubles

- S.F. J Ellis/D Morris (Grove) b J Taylor (Stockport)/M Ward (Sheffield) 17, 6.
 S.F. D Smith (Birmingham)/A Thorp (Wolves) b M Stephenson (Halifax)/N Bevan (Launceston) 11, 21.
 F. Ellis/Morris b Smith/Thorp 15, 11.

Junior girls doubles

- S.F. J Roberts/K Goodall (Leeds) b J

- Wright (Plymouth)/M Carey (Bridgwater) 22, 17.
 S.F. J Clegg/N McGrath (Preston) b K Cox (Bedford)/K Gower (Chelmsford) -21, 8, 15.
 F. J Clegg/N McGrath b J Roberts/K Goodall -18, 11, 11.

Cadet boys singles

- S.F. L Jeffries (Birmingham) b C Smith (Selby) 18, 16.
 S.F. N Bevan (Launceston) b G Knights (Burton) 12, -21, 18.
 F. Jeffries b Bevan 16, 8.

Cadet girls' singles

- S.F. E Meddings (Selby) b H Wright (Plymouth) -16, 13, 14.
 S.F. J Roberts (Leeds) b S Lawton (Middlesbrough) 5, 16.
 F. Roberts b Meddings -18, 18, 20.

Cadet boys' doubles

- S.F. G Knights (Burton)/L Jeffries (Birmingham) b M Auchter-Ionie (Salisbury)/M Bawden (Launceston) 16, 20.
 S.F. M Stephenson (Halifax)/N Bevan (Launceston) b P Bowler (Dunstable)/G Solder (Dagenham) 22, 17.
 F. Knights/Jeffries b Stephenson/Bevan -20, 18, 18.

Cadet girls' doubles

- S.F. J Roberts/K Goodall (Leeds) b J Haslop (St. Neots)/E Meddings (Selby) 19, 14.
 S.F. H Wright (Plymouth)/S Pengelly (Torbay) b S Lawton (Middlesbrough)/V Fletcher (Oldham) 14, 17.
 F. Roberts/Goodall b Wright/Pengelly 19, 17.

European League

Turkey roasted

Fiona Brown reports from Pontesbury

FOUR wins by English No. 1 Desmond Douglas and able support from Alan Cooke, Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot gave England a 6-1 victory in their first European League match of the season at Pontesbury. For Douglas it was his 79th appearance in this competition and the start of his 14th consecutive season in the navy blue and gold colours of the English table tennis team.

His part in the match was decisive with straight game victories in both singles and an admirable demonstration of calm experience in the men's doubles with Alan Cooke and in the mixed with Fiona Elliot. Before a capacity crowd of 400 he displayed the tactical skills and the technical genius of his aggressive over the table style which once again placed him in a class of his own.

Lisa Bellinger was equally successful as she deftly combined fierce backspin with disguised float to repeatedly outwit Selda Dogan who was outclassed from the first ball. With her usual modesty Lisa claimed: "It went well because I went out to defend. It could have been a different story if I had tried to hit her off." Personally I think she could have won with a frying pan but we all have our own opinions.

Alan Cooke faced a much tougher task in his second set against Oktay Cimen. Cimen, now ranked No. 2 in Turkey, was clearly their best player in Pontesbury and it took every trick in the Cooke book to level the score at 1-1, indeed the second game was only resolved when Cimen sportingly admitted that his final return had gone from bat to shirt before crossing the net.

Cimen raced to 9-3 in the third but Cooke refused to accept defeat and battled to level at 15-15. Alas this effort had drained the reservoir and he went down, albeit still fighting, 20-22. As Alan headed for the door and a 4.30 a.m. flight to Sweden he remarked: "We have started with a good win and that is what matters most" — it's nice to know that the Parker regime is building not only players but team men, for in unity we shall find success.

RESULT

England 6, Turkey 1

Desmond Douglas b Oktay Cimen 15, 20; Alan Cooke b Gurhan Yaldiz 14, 19; Lisa Bellinger b Selda Dogan 7, 8; Douglas/Cooke b Cimen/Yaldiz 11, 19; Douglas/Fiona Elliot b Cimen/Dogan 13, 14; Douglas b Yaldiz 18, 16; Cooke lt Cimen - 19, 20, - 20.



Oktay Cimen — a good sport and victor over Alan Cooke. All pictures Neil Houghton

Breakthrough every Tuesday

The Daily Telegraph are currently running a table tennis story every Tuesday, so a response by readers buying the newspaper on Tuesdays could lead to a permanent arrangement.

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TSP Mistral	straight B grip
TSP Windsor	Anatomic D grip

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Turkish women's champion Selda Dogan was out of her depth against Lisa Bellinger.



Pontesbury youngsters enjoyed a hard fought set between Gurhan Yaldiz (L) and Alan Cooke.

Paul Day steps up

PETER CHARTERS, Chairman of Englands Table Tennis selectors has decided to step down and appoint Paul Day (27), a former international and English Champion as his successor. During his eight years as chairman, Mr Charters and his selection committee have introduced many innovations including a computer ranking scheme and most recently the Stiga Top 12 Tournament. Over the last few years more medals have been won in major junior international competition than ever before, indicating a bright future for English table tennis. Mr Charters (47) will now concentrate on his wider managerial role for all coaching selection and training matters and says of his successor, "I have found a young man to succeed me whose ideas on selection reflect my own. Paul showed tremendous fighting spirit and pride in English success as a player, he has shown the same determination as junior captain and as a selector. Along with Donald Parker the England trainer, we are as one in our ambition to lift English table tennis to the top. Paul has experience, intelligence and

energy, he will do a good job for the sport."

On the timing of the decision Charters says, "I first asked Paul to prepare to take over nearly two years ago during the World Championships in Sweden. I feel now is the right time, Paul has learned quickly the role required of the Chairman of selectors and I will have more time to concentrate on the more political aspects which have arisen in Table Tennis since the death of the ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn."

Mr Charters has filled the vacant seat on the selection committee with another ex-international player, Jill Parker MBE, formerly Jill Hammersley, the 1976 European Champion, who now finds herself able to devote the time required of a selector and her experience and insight will be of great value to the England team and her trainer husband Donald. This is the second time Jill has been invited to serve as a selector: on the last occasion she resigned after six months to stage a comeback as a player.

Selection matters

by Peter Charters (vice chairman, selection and coaching)

AT a meeting of the National Council on the 4th October, the councillors voted to change the weighting of the 'Lentec' computer ranking scheme so that the Schildkrot British League and County Championships had parity and that all divisions were given equal weighting. This means to keep the essential weighting balance, fundamental to the whole scheme, the weighting factors and group event points for the 1986/87 season are as follows.

All other details are as published in the Aug/Sept issue of Table Tennis News.

Weighting factors for 1986/87 season

Senior

2 Star Open Tournaments	X1
All British League Matches	
All County Championship Matches	X2
European Club Cup	
International Events Class III	X3
3 Star Tournaments	
International Events Class III	X4
Stiga Grand Prix Finals	
English National Championships	
European League	
International Events Class I	X5
European Top 12	
World Championships	X6

Note: Qualifying rounds of the Welsh Open and any team plate competition will be X4 (main event X5)

Juniors and cadets

2 Star Open Tournaments	X1
All County matches	X2
International Events Class III	X3
Select Open Tournaments	
Grand Prix Tournaments	
Ranking Tournament - Knock out stage	X4
International Events Class II	
English Junior and Cadet National Championships	X5
International Events Class I	
European Youth Championships	X6

Note: The qualifying rounds and any team plate competition in the English Junior International Open Championships will be X4 (main event X5).

Veterans

2 Star Open Tournaments	X1
All County matches	X2
Regional Open Tournaments	X3
3 Star Open Tournaments	X4
The National Age Group Championship	X5

STIGA NATIONAL TOP 12 RESULTS

Michael O'Driscoll	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-2	5-1	5-0	5-1	3-5
Chris Oldfield	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-2	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	2-5	
Kevin Satchell	5-1	5-0	5-3	4-5	5-0	5-1	4-5	5-3	1-5		
Philip Bradbury	1-5	5-0	0-5	5-4	5-4	5-0	5-2	2-5			
David Wells	5-2	5-0	5-2	3-5	5-3	5-2	5-4				
Graham Sandley	5-3	5-0	5-3	0-5	5-3	4-5					
Nicky Mason	2-5	4-5	4-5	2-5	5-4						
Jimmy Stokes	5-4	5-0	5-3	5-1							
John Souter	5-2	5-2	4-5								
Skylet Andrew	3-5	5-0									
Alan Cooke	2-5										

Andrea Holt	4-0	4-0	4-1	4-0	4-0	4-1	2-4	4-1	4-1	3-4	4-3
Claire Potts	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-2	4-0	3-4	4-0	4-0	1-4	4-3	
Suzanne Airey	4-0	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-0	4-0	4-0	3-4		
Juliet Houghton	4-2	0-4	4-0	2-4	4-1	4-3	4-1	4-0			
Jean Parker	4-3	4-1	4-0	4-0	4-3	2-4	4-1				
Jill Harris	4-1	4-2	4-0	4-2	4-0	1-4					
Jackie Bellinger	3-4	2-4	4-1	4-1	4-0						
Mandy Sainsbury	2-4	3-4	4-2	4-2							
Fiona Elliot	1-4	1-4	4-3								
Alison Gordon	2-4	2-4									
Joy Grundy	1-4										

Group events

The new group event points will be:-

English Top 12's

1st - 400 pts; 2nd - 340 pts; 3rd 290 pts; 4th - 240 pts; 5th - 190 pts; 6th - 150 pts; 7th - 120 pts; 8th - 80 pts; 9th - 50 pts; 10th - 30 pts; 11th - 20 pts; 12th - 10 pts.

English Junior and Cadet ranking trials groups

Junior boys		Junior girls	
Pos.	Pts.	Pos.	Pts.
1	- 100	1	- 90
2	- 80	2	- 70
3	- 70	3	- 60
4	- 60	4	- 50
5	- 50	5	- 40
6	- 40	6	- 30
7	- 30	7	- 10
8	- 10		

Cadet boys

Pos. Pts.

1	- 90
2	- 70
3	- 60
4	- 50
5	- 40
6	- 30
7	- 10

Cadet girls

Pos. Pts.

1	- 110
2	- 90
3	- 80
4	- 70
5	- 60
6	- 50
7	- 40
8	- 30
9	- 10

Regional trials - Top 10 Juniors and Cadets

1	- 20
2	- 15
3	- 12
4	- 10
5	- 8
6	- 6
7	- 5
8	- 4
9	- 3
10	- 1

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

I did it my way



Fiona Brown

Fiona Brown in conversation with Colin Deaton, ETTA 2 Star Coach and leisure industry entrepreneur

IT took me almost three hours to successfully complete what should have been a half hour interview with table tennis coach turned sporting entrepreneur Colin Deaton. After all, he didn't become a self-made millionaire by wasting time and our chat had to stop whilst a snooker coach was located, a query over expenses was settled and the foundations of a major agreement were laid.



Colin Deaton

The world of exhibitions and personal appearances is, according to Colin, an area which remains largely untapped, "Joe Public loves a winner, not necessarily a No. 1 but someone who is up there with a chance. Take Alan Cooke for example, he is not number 1 yet but he sells himself well. A smart appearance, confident attitude and a friendly manner have made him a firm favourite with audiences around Britain. For the time being Alan's table tennis career has to come first so he has gone off to Sweden but I won't have any problem in finding work for him when he is available because of the reputation he has worked hard to establish - quite simply, he gives value for money."

So what does the future hold for Colin and Sandra? "Our immediate projection is to expand the personal management side of the business, we are currently negotiating with a number of well known sports stars."

As I drove away from Deaton House, an impressive complex set in five acres of beautifully manicured garden, past Colin's gleaming XJ6 and Sandra's equally impressive Mercedes, I recalled with a wry grin Colin's claim "I remember the days when I had to walk home from work because I didn't have the bus

fare until pay day."

The Deatons have done much to project table tennis wherever they have gone and whilst the establishment figures, with their voluntary hats on, have often grimaced at the thought of table tennis and commerce as bedfellows, I for one would probably never have heard of our sport if a certain Mr Deaton and Mr Neale had not stood in my path in bygone schooldays.

So what are the vital qualities which help a sports star become a personality? "He needs to be cheerful and witty, a bit of an extrovert I suppose, he has to think of himself as an entertainer, but most of all he must recognise his own worth." The downfall of many talented sportspeople is their own inflated value of themselves. "There aren't many people who are natural athletes and entertainers, rolled into one. The ones who succeed commercially are the ones who put their mind to the task of learning - after all there aren't many born actors, most of them go to stage school - in a far more basic sense sportsmen need to be groomed if they are going to maximise their income" says Colin.

Even with their years of experience, neither Colin nor Sandra would claim to be perfect judges of character and inevitably staff problems

arise. That's where operations manager Tim Weaver may be called upon. Educated at Loughborough University and with over ten years of leisure management experience behind him Tim has recently joined the company, "Sometimes I think they should have employed a juggler!" he says jokingly. "Dealing with sportspeople from such diverse disciplines as darts and judo calls for a wide variety of diplomatic skill but they all know that we offer good rates and conditions so the major problems usually occur when someone takes ill and we have to track down a suitable replacement, sometimes with only an hour or two's notice."

Colin Deaton's international 'World of Sport' was established in 1983 and has gone from strength to strength as Colin explains, "the growth of our business has exceeded all of our expectations, we are now dealing worldwide."

Although commercial success has involved the promotion of a whole range of sports Colin's devotion to table tennis remains, "I try to include table tennis in every package we sell, whether it be to a small independent holiday centre or to Cunard where we have an exclusive contract to provide sporting entertainment on board the QE2.

From modest beginnings

the Deaton empire now provides 120 people with full time employment in addition to a vast range of seasonal work for the student market.

"Life has certainly changed since Denis Neale and I travelled the country giving exhibitions" says Colin, "Sport is big business today and everything seems to point to even better days ahead, I only hope that table tennis can keep up with the boom." The lack of a real personality in the English game today is causing concern, "I know that I'm not the first person to say it but we desperately need another Chester Barnes, he was a likeable rogue in the eyes of the public - although I doubt that the Association saw it that way!"

Even now, Colin and his wife Sandra, who between them operate Britain's largest sporting agency, lead a very hectic lifestyle.

The couple, who married in 1973, ideally compliment each other in business, with Colin up front selling the services of such famous names as Joe Johnson, Duncan Goodhew, Sebastian Coe and Tessa Sanderson, whilst Sandra, with the benefit of her training as a PE specialist, coordinates the leisure packages enjoyed by holidaymakers at Pontin, Butlin, Warner and Ladbroke holiday centres throughout Britain each summer.

County Championships

by Doug Moss

THE first round of matches have not been played at the time of writing but I look to prospects this season. Arrangements have been made for the Senior and Junior Premier Weekends, which provided such good and exciting competition last season:—

Senior: 29/30 November — Birmingham Athletic Institute (change of venue); 21/22 March — Oldham Leisure Centre.

Junior: 22/23 November, 7/8 February — St. Neots T.T.C.

In the Senior Premier Derbyshire, with three Juniors in their team, and Sussex take over from Kent and Leicestershire. In the Junior section Sussex is demoted, with Middlesex, and are replaced by Glamorgan and Notts.

SENIOR DIVISIONS

2A — Leicestershire will obviously be quite a force if they again have Chris Rogers and sister Karen Smith in action. It will be interesting how Glos and Northumberland I fare after both having been unbeaten in sections of Division 3. For Glos Darren Griffin had a "clean sheet" last season and had excellent support from Steve Morean and Graham Slack, and Northumberland have a formidable trio in Peter McQueen, Neil McMaster and Ian Robertson.

2B — The strong Middlesex II team, last season's champions, continue but can expect strong opposition from Kent. On promotion Avon I, for whom Andy Creed and Helen Perrott were unbeaten last season, and Surrey II will obviously be keen to do well.

3A — All sections of Div. 3 have six teams this season. Lancs II, down from Div. 2, will be favourites to win this section. Disappointing to note that Durham have not entered a senior team this season.

3B — Somerset I team, on demotion, replace their II team. They should provide some strong opposition for Devon II, the current and unbeaten champions from last season.

3C — This Section has something of a "new look" with Cambs II, Essex II and Suffolk moving into it with three of last season's teams — Norfolk (the runners-up), Northants I and Bedfordshire I. I predict competition will be fairly even. Suffolk, of course, have a real match winner in Stuart Palmer.

3D — There are just two teams from last season, namely Berkshire II and Sussex II. They are joined by Bucks and Hants, on relegation, and Herts and Oxford. Herts look strong contenders to top this section, having John Taylor who produces consistently good results.

4A — Covers mainly the Eastern side of the country. Leics II and Suffolk II are new teams and a welcome also to Hunts who make a return to the Championships.

4B — Mainly covers the south west. Five teams were in section 3B last season and are joined by another new team — Hampshire II. Andrew Jones (Gn) should prove to be one of the top players and repeat his success of last season.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS

With the inevitable annual changes in the composition of junior teams it is difficult to comment on prospects for the season ahead. It is pleasing there are 57 teams in all — an increase of four on last season. New teams are Durham, Lancs II and Northumberland (3A) and Hunts II and Norfolk II (3B). Bedfordshire do not have a II team this season. There is an equal distribution of teams with six divisions/sections of eight teams and just Section 3C with nine teams.

It is perhaps easier, with the knowledge of players coming up through the Cadet and Junior Ranking lists, to comment on the Premier Division. Yorkshire will no doubt have designs on retaining the Championship with the services of Michael O'Driscoll, Chris Oldfield and Debbie Toole. But there will be very strong opposition from Derbyshire with Bradley Billington, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington and, of course, Lancashire — Sean Gibson, David Carse, Andrea Holt and Nicola McGrath!

Staffs so narrowly missed the title last season but have lost the services of Adrian Dixon. They will have Adrian Thorp, who did very well on his debut to the Premier Division at the second weekend last season and has climbed up the ranking list, and Helen Lower who was unbeaten last season and has since won the Intermediate Girls Singles title at the Dunlop International Schools Championship. Another exciting series of matches seems in prospect. The best of fortune is wished for Glamorgan and Notts on their promotion to Premier Division.

VETERANS DIVISIONS

Premier — Only one game average separated Lincs and Cheshire at the top of the table last season and they again seem to be favourites for the championship. Matt Shearer and Cathy Moran make a good "strike force" for Lincs. The best of luck to the promotees Hampshire and my own county — Worcestershire.

2A — I doubt whether Notts, on relegation from the Premier Division, have the all-round strength to knock Essex II off their perch. David Seaholme (He) seems likely

to be the leading player again. It will be interesting to see how Northumberland, especially well served by Fred Short and Maurice Cheek, and Northants fare on promotion.

2B — Bucks, on relegation, should be strong contenders, having Alex Watson who is amongst the top veteran players in the country. Both Hants teams gained promotion and their II team replaces the I in this Section. Wilts accompany Hants II from Division 3C.

3A — Lancs join the Veterans ranks and Lincs add a II team in this section. Hunts come down from 2A. Yorks II, with Vic Smith their top player, won comfortably last season and seem unlikely to be beaten.

3B — Warwickshire are another addition and could have a good team. Hunts II come in on relegation from 2A. Berks now have 4 teams and are represented in this section and 3C and D.

3C — Oxon and Sussex II join this Section on relegation. Essex III won 3B last season and could take over the lead in this Section.

3D — This is an extra Division with a new Surrey II team and Avon joins on relegation. Berks II seem likely to be the most successful team.

NORTH WALES

Charles Bayliss

NORTH WALES players were in superb form to pick up the majority of the titles at the recent Aberdare Open.

Evelyn Wright of Mynydd Isa followed up her womens win at Swansea last month by again picking up the title and also took the doubles crown with her partner Heidi Cotter.

Caergwrle's John Ellis took the junior boys title and narrowly missed reaching the men's final after going down to Welsh number two Nigel Tyler in the semi-final.

Spencer Harris of Coedpoeth near Wrexham picked up his first Open title when he took the cadet boys singles going through the event without dropping a set.

Justine Thomas reached the final of the junior girls but despite playing well she went down to a good England junior.

Rhyl's Mark Thomas partnered by the men's winner Nigel Thomas won the mens doubles in what was one of the most successful days ever for the North Wales squad.

Clwyd County teams have been training hard for the coming season with both senior squads and also junior ones doing squad training at the Castell Alun Sports Centre (Hope).

Scottish assessment events

a report by Denis George

THE National Girobank are sponsoring the two junior/cadet assessment tournaments again this season. The September event attracted a large entry including a good number of youngsters recruited through our junior registration scheme (for those who do not play in affiliated leagues) who had not previously participated in an open tournament.

Euan Walker (West of Scotland), in his first junior season, went through the day undefeated with all 2-0 wins, including the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 seeds - Paul Clark, Martin Shields and Chris Woess. Similarly Sarah Hurry (Stirlingshire), also in her first junior season, won the girls section. In the cadets the West Dunbarton due of Andrew Bruce and Kevin McKellar achieved first and second places in the boys section and Claire Hood won the girls section. Jennifer Hook, although still a cadet, opted for the junior section and finished in 4th place. In second place in the cadet girls was Catherine Symons from the Orkneys; Catherine is the daughter of W.R. (Bill) Symons who played in the Bristol and Bath leagues in the immediate post war years.

Scottish Team Cup

This annual competition, open to the top two teams in each affiliated league, has been reduced in importance in recent years since the inauguration of the Scottish National League. In consequence the number of entrants has fallen. This year, in the hope of revitalising the event, a new concept was introduced i.e. each match was played 11 up, best of 5, in order to create more crisis points. Whilst the experiment caused a certain amount of criticism, and the withdrawal of the two Edinburgh teams, on the whole the new format seemed to be well received - some thought the games were over too quickly and suggested 'best of 7' for next year. The top players thought "11 up" was great for sharpening up their games and would like to see it introduced at National Squad training sessions. Nevertheless the three seeded teams Central, Nightswood and GCED, all from Glasgow, won their way through to the top group of three to fight for the title which was won for the 7th consecutive time by Central - David McIlroy, David Thomas, Ian McLean and Stuart Wallis.

County Notes

BEDFORDSHIRE

Dawn Campbell

New County Rankings

Men

- 1 D Sharpe
- 2 I Doughty
- 3 D Foster
- 4 D Cartwright
- 5 N Jarvis
- 6 P Edwards

Boys

- 1 G Black
- 2 P Bowler
- 3 M Beaumont
- 4 M Wilkin
- 5 G Awudu
- 6 C Bowler

Vets. men

- 1 J Wooliscroft
- 2 G Sharpe
- 3 D Holden
- 4 B Bowron
- 5 L Jones
- 6 S Griffiths

Women

- 1 L Bellinger
- 2 J Bellinger
- 3 J Dimmock
- 4 L Robins
- 5 D Campbell
- 6 M Jarrett

Girls

- 1 L Robins
- 2 K Cox
- 3 C Buckley
- 4 L Dean
- 5 J Strode
- 6 A Cotterill

Vets. women

- 1 J Mayson
- 2 D Harmer
- 3 M Cox

Bedfordshire Games

Teams from Mid Beds, North Beds, South Beds and Luton represented Table Tennis in the Bedfordshire Games held at RAF Henlow on Sunday 28th September 1986.

For the second consecutive year the South Beds team consisting of Jeff Giles, David Cartwright, Lyn Jones, Dawn Campbell, Bernadette Carton and Lyn Hanratty won the Table Tennis Section. Overall for the third consecutive year Luton were the winners of the Games. The team of David Foster, Marc Lyons, Lisa Robins, Mary Jarrett and Ruth Forrester now go on to compete in the Regional Final for the Townsend Thoreson Trophy.

Table-Tennis on the Increase in Dunstable

With the disappointment of only having two divisions last season the Dunstable League have two further divisions for the forthcoming season; premier and junior.

It is hoped with these two new divisions we can attract more good players from surrounding areas and also up and coming juniors.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

AFTER my crack in the August/September issue about the Met. Office playing indoor sports so they can't have their matches rained off, comes the news that the Berkshire senior trial at Bulmershe suffered that very fate - a leaking roof leaving the area for sixteen tables awash! This left the junior trial at Thatcham to go ahead on its own, but without the potential top three players who were still paddling their way back from the senior event. The top four places in the trial went to Justin Wraight and Martin Adams - equal first, Mark Stanger - third, Antony Baker - fourth in the junior boys, and to Mary Allan, Diana Spindlow, Vanessa Skinner and Lisa Crick in the girls. All four Berkshire leagues were represented by these eight players, but with no less than five of them coming from Maidenhead, the latter can be justly proud of their youth policy, which is obviously paying dividends. Other notable performances which met the eye came from cadet Nicky Bradfield, and Stephen Joel who by beating the seeded Jeremy Willis to win his group, jumps straight into the junior rankings at No 8.

County rankings just announced for the start of the season are as follows:

Men

- 1 Jimmy Stokes
- 2 Andy Wellman
- 3 Dave Barr
- 4 Neil Taylor

Veteran men

- 1 Bob Holiday
- 2 Bert Foster
- 3 Syd Montgomery
- 4 David Jones

Junior boys

- 1 Robert Ettridge
- 2 Julian Jones
- 3 Martin Adams
- 4 Justin Wraight

Women

- 1 Mandy Sainsbury
- 2 Sue Collier
- 3 Jane Cohen
- 4 Janet Parker

Veteran women

- 1 Gill Knightley
- 2 Christine Basden
- 3 Pam Spooner
- 4 Marion Dyke

Junior girls

- 1 Julie Norman
- 2 Mary Allan
- 3 Diana Spindlow
- 4 Tracy Hooker

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Geoff Waters

TIM VINE, of the Wesley club, Cambridge, caused a bit of a stir at the Cambridgeshire men's county trial held at the Soham Sports Centre on 5th October.

Tim, who has made only two county second team appearances, beat the top three of the March British League team, Geoff Davies, Andy Withers and Gary Jordan all on the same day. This effort earned Tim a lift from number eleven last season to number five.

There were no other sensational happenings and the County Selection Committee decided in the following order -

- 1 Keith Richardson (Cambridge)
- 2 Mick Harper (Cambridge)
- 3 Andy Withers (Cambridge)
- 4 Julian Wheel (Ely)
- 5 Tim Vine (Cambridge)
- 6 Gary Jordan (March)
- 7 Trevor Smith (Ely)
- 8 Peter Holliday (March)
- 9 Martyn Livermore (Cambridge)
- 10 Philip Pyburn (Cambridge)
- 11 Kevin Gray (Cambridge)
- 12 Gary Wood (Cambridge)

Geoff Davies (Cambridge) was omitted from the list as he is unavailable for County matches this season.

This season's Constable cup, which was held at March on Sunday, 21st September, proved to be the closest on record. The cup is competed for by one under 21 player from each member league within the county. This season there were only four competitors as the Haverhill league is now defunct following the sad death of Mike Hinks in August.

CUMBRIA

Colin Taylor

FOLLOWING the trials held recently at Kendal, the County Table Tennis Association issue the following ranking lists:-

Junior boys

- 1 John Backhouse (B)
- 2 Gordon Dwane (W)
- 3 Stephen Temple (C)
- 4 Stephen Watt (B)
- 5 Mark Temple (C)
- 6 Ian Armstrong (C)
- 7 Jared Winder (W)
- 8 Martin Lewis (B)
- 9 Nicholas Thompson (C)
- 10 Mark Nanson (C)
- 11 David Wade (B)
- 12 Mark Tadross (W)
- 13 Andrew Page (B)
- 14 Joseph Cotton (B)

Junior girls

- 1 Margo Lewis (B)
 - 2 Paula Eddy (B)
 - 3 Caroline Watt (B)
 - 4 Carrie Lowes (B)
- B - Barrow, C - Carlisle,
W - Westmorland

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

THE future of table tennis would be bright if every league had the enthusiasm of the Burton league. This enthusiasm has been generated by the Granville School coaching scheme producing England ranked and other top young players: the launch of the Uxbridge Activity Centre which provides a 9 table facility and coaching for anyone: the East Staffordshire Physical Education Centre which has a 7 table facility for all school children: and good local publicity.

Coaching is one of Burton's strong points, and a second Club Coach Award Course has been run by Peter Simpson at the Uxbridge Activity Centre with assistance from Terry Gadsby, Philip Vickers and Darryl Sutcliffe.

The Burton summer league had 4 divisions this year, an extra division being added for the second consecutive year!

Uxbridge Gold (Mick Fisher, Roger Vernal and Jane Vickers) were the **division one** Champions ahead of Central (N. Parry, Simon Hall, Andy Walker and David Stanforth).

Division two: Champions - Lloyds Bank, runners-up - Burton Mail. Relegated Bass and Robert Sutton Blue.

Division three: Champions - Hillside YC; runners-up Linton A. Relegated Hanbury Arms A.

Division four: Champions - Bretby; runners-up George St. Club.

Fourteen year-old Ben Chell of Vicarage Road, Swadlincote became the latest success from Granville School's advanced table tennis coaching centre when he won the Staffordshire Under-15 Tournament at Joseph Leckie School, Walsall. Playing against 30 other selected competitors, Ben was unbeaten during the course of the day.

Ben began playing table tennis when he started at Granville School three years ago. He has quickly moved up the local adult leagues and will be representing Granville Aces in division one of the Burton senior league this season.

Membership figures and finance are the major talking points at the start of this season. A decrease in membership within a league hits not only the income of that league, but also the county and national associations when membership fees are the major source of income.

The Derby and Matlock leagues have lost membership this season, which the Matlock League state will cost them £100 in entry fees.

Despite the strong coaching and youth policies in Burton and Eastwood; Eastwood show an increase of 2 teams with Burton only equalling last season's entry.

County Notes

DEVON

Dot White

THE new season sees Devon with a wealth of talented players competing at both County and British League level. Our county teams will be playing in the same divisions as last year, our first teams loss to Sussex killing all their dreams of promotion and leaving our top of the table second team having to battle out another season in division 3B. Devon's British League teams have a happier tale to tell. There's a new title and a new signing for last year's division two south winners. Judging by the way they have rapidly gained promotion through the divisions of the British League, they are now aptly named 'Express Sports I'. Helping them in their contest for promotion from division one is Andy Creed. Devon still have interests in the second division south though, as Global Sports Plymouth take up their promotion place, leaving Express Sports II to fight it out alone in the third division west. They too have a new signing in the shape of Somerset's number one Lee Sadler.

After a start of the season assessment, Devon's newly released ranking list reads:-

Men

- 1 Gary Wilson
- 2 Paul Whiting
- 3 Paul Giles
- 4 Gary Lambert
- 5 Mike Short
- 6 Stuart Richards
- 7 Tony Sweet
- 8 Steve Black
- 9 Kevin Bidell
- 10 Barry Davis

Women

- 1 Carol Butler
- 2 Elaine Short
- 3 Penny Perry
- 4 Sue Butler
- 5 Teressa Butler
- 6 Gabbi Winter
- 7 Debbie Whiting

Boys

- 1 Richard Aitken
- 2 Chris White
- 3 Sean Gaylard
- 4 Graham Yardley
- 5 Phillip Nile
- 6 Gregory Bridget
- 7 Stephen Cookson

Girls

- 1 Jane Wright
- 2 Sarah Pengelly
- 3 Helen Wright
- 4 Joanne Loosemoore
- 5 Helen Burch
- 6 Rebecca Stevens
- 7 Kim Tucker

Our players who have won through to the Top Ten Regional trial are:- cadet boys, Gregory Bridget; cadet girls, Clare Vincent and Rachel Sandford. Junior boys, Richard Aitken, Sean Gaylard and Chris White; junior girls, Jane

Wright, Helen Wright, Sarah Pengelly and Joanne Loosemoore.

Devon was well represented at the Wiltshire Two Star Open Tournament. A newly formed partnership of Melanie Carey (Somerset) and Jane Wright of Devon started off on a winning footing by taking the junior girls doubles title. Helen Wright and Sarah Pengelly both played well in the cadet girls singles, but both had the misfortune to meet up with number one seed Caroline Buckley in the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively. We all enjoyed our days table tennis in the fantastic surroundings of the Link Centre, but had to leave Swindon with one question unanswered, please 'What were those walking buckets, tables and knives and forks to music significant of?'

DORSET

Martin Hughes

THE Dorset Super League, now in its second year, is again underway, and this season is being held at a new venue in Ferndown which is proving very popular. The Dorset representatives who competed for last year's title are supplemented by leading players from Hampshire in the battle for this season's honours, and although the competition is still in it's early stages, Tony Clayton, the Dorset number one, is again the leading player, and at the time of writing he remains unbeaten, with Hakan Sigrell in pursuit, also unbeaten.

Schildkrot British league

Jolliffe Poole have made a good start in the Schildkrot British League with a 7-1 victory over Omega Reading III and a 4-4 draw against KCD Stiga.

Two good team performances have earned three points for Jolliffe Poole but no player has kept his 100% record. Tony Clayton lost possibly his only match of the season when going down against Dave Hannah, but each team member won one match to secure the 4-4 draw at Southsea.

County Championships

At the time of writing, Dorset have not yet played any County Championship matches, but the selection committee are pleased to note there is now a surplus of ladies who have stated they are available for selection this season. These include those who have previously represented Dorset, but were unavailable last season due to continuing with their academic studies or not being in the area.

The shortage of female players has caused a major problem in Dorset in recent years and we will now be hoping to improve on last season's results.

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell

FOLLOWING the junior and cadet ranking trials held in early September at Fellows Cranleigh the junior selection committee of Alan Shepherd, Phil Gower, Barry Granger, Gordon Hayden and Joe Wigley have issued the following lists:

Junior Boys

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Damian Holland | Brentwood |
| 2 | Jason Clark | Dagenham |
| 3 | Jason Tendler | Waltham Forest |
| 4 | Gary Killington | Dagenham |
| 5 | Martin Cole | Brentwood |
| 6 | Ian Harris | West Essex |
| 7 | Grant Solder | Dagenham |
| 8 | Scott Solder | Dagenham |
| 9 | Allan Radford | Romford |
| 10 | Tao Fasanya | Dagenham |

Another opportunity for all the youngsters to catch the selectors eye will be at the Junior Closed Tournament. The selection Committee will meet after the Championships to revise the Ranking List and again at appropriate intervals throughout the season.

On the Senior front Barry Granger will base his selection for the first County Championship matches on last season's ranking list. For the first time in three seasons all leagues have been asked to submit candidates for trials. The ranking list should be revised in time for the November fixtures.

Clive Oakman reports that the Senior Closed Championships will be held on Sunday 3rd May and Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 1987 at the Essex Institute for Higher Education, Park Road, Chelmsford.

Junior girls

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Tanya Holland | Brentwood |
| 2 | Kate Gower | Chelmsford |
| 3 | Sarah George | Colchester |
| 4 | Alison Gower | Chelmsford |
| 5 | Joanne Cook | Brentwood |
| 6 | Kelly Bennett | Waltham Forest |
| 7 | Linda Radford | Romford |
| 8 | Delia Holland | Brentwood |
| 9 | Tracey Pincombe | West Essex |
| 10 | Tracey French | Chelmsford |

Cadet boys

- | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Grant Solder | Dagenham |
| 2 | Tao Rasanya | Dagenham |
| 3 | Andrew Thompson | Becontree |
| 4 | Russell Thornton | Brentwood |
| 5 | Jonathon West | Becontree |
| 6 | Neil Butcher | Chelmsford |
| 7 | Keith Buers | Brentwood |
| 8 | Matthew Reid | Brentwood |
| 9 | Chris Sladden | Dagenham |
| 10 | Gary Tendler | Waltham Forest |

Cadet girls

- | | | |
|----|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Alison Gower | Chelmsford |
| 2 | Linda Radford | Romford |
| 3 | Delia Holland | Brentwood |
| 4 | Tracey Pincombe | West Essex |
| 5 | Tracey French | Chelmsford |
| 6 | Anne Faber | Clacton |
| 7 | Julie Shaw | Chelmsford |
| 8 | Nadine Barthee | Brentwood |
| 9 | Julie Rand | Romford |
| 10 | Frances Honeyman | Brentwood |

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

NOT a great deal of news about this month considering that we are well past the threshold of the new season.

The Capitol Providence Assurance Co. have yet again kindly offered to sponsor the County Premier League, which this season I understand has a new Chairman - John Smith of Cheltenham who takes over from former Chairman John Boyd, Mr Smith is also the County Vice-Chairman.

The C.P.L. this season has an additional new team in it namely Newent, along with - Cinderford, Cheltenham, Stroud, Rudford, Cheltenham Saracens & the C.E.G.B. - the inclusion of Newent means a slight alteration in the running of this Super-League and this season will see each team playing each other only once, instead of twice as in previous years.

Joining the County Association for the first time is Rudfords' - Frank Jones, who takes over as Hon. Umpires Secretary, a job previously held by Les Smith whom I think we all agree is somewhat over worked at the best of times.

Junior trials were held on the 5th October at Cheltenham College and proved most successful. The undermentioned have been selected as the top six players in Gloucestershire.

Code:- Gloucester (G). Stroud (S).
Cheltenham (C).

Senior men

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | Darren Griffin | G |
| 2 | Graham Slack | C |
| 3 | Steve Moreman | G |
| 4 | William Dawe | G |
| 5 | Martyn Lane | G |
| 6 | Sylvester Callum | G |

Senior women

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Heather Colwill | G |
| 2 | Judy Morley | G |
| 3 | Kim Jackson | G |
| 4 | Julie Taylor | C |
| 5 | June Hall | C |
| 6 | Julie Hogarth | G |

Junior boys

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | Dale Saunders | G |
| 2 | Howard Williams | S |
| 3 | Andrew Stratford | S |
| 4 | Keith Rodway | S |
| 5 | Stephen Rodway | S |
| 6 | Adrian Stalley | C |

Junior girls

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Cheryl Fannin | G |
| 2 | Wendy Nicholls | S |
| 3 | Penny Wyatt | S |
| 4 | Caroline Thompson | S |
| 5 | Heather Fannin | G |

Hearty congratulations to Dale Saunders of the Gloucester league and Howard Williams of Stroud for having qualified at the regional trials at Bath Leisure Centre for the final trials at Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater Somerset on October 25.

County Notes

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

NOT a lot to report to date with the County League still to get under way. The new ranking lists have been published and are attached. As usual with a list it does not please everyone. Graham Toole is relegated to number 2 with Terry Halley of Aldershot coming straight in at number 1 having won all his games in the trials, including a win over Toole. Graham has not been at his best in recent seasons and lost to Clive Young in each of the last two closed finals. Clive is also unavailable this season for the County team which leaves Tony Duffield in the number 3 spot.

Graham has stated he is unavailable for selection in view of his demotion. On the female side Sarah Hammond and Cheryl Buttery. The second team who played the first batch of matches at Redbridge against Somerset, Cornwall and the Isle of Wight over the weekend of October 18th/19th had not been finalised at the time of going to press in view of the promotion of some players to the first team. The veterans are suffering from a playing point of view from the absence of Fred and Ivy Kershaw who did a lot to gain the County Premier Division Status. Unfortunately Fred has not proved the ideal team member and has been omitted from the team at the insistence of the remainder of the players. Not a happy way to start the season!

County Ranking List 1986/87

Men

1 T Haley	Ald
2 G Toole	G/F
3 T Duffield	Bas
4 R Bhalla	Ald
5 M Sinanan	P'mth

Women

1 S Hammond	S'ton
2 J Green	Ald
3 C Buttery	S'ton
4 K Ridgard	Win
5 B Clark	Ald

Veterans

1 N Stagg	P'mth
2 R Lush	P'mth
3 G Philpott	Ald
4 R Bennett	S'ton
5 K Giles	Win

Women

1 C Davies	S'ton
2 A Abraham	G/F
3 M Clegg	Ald
4 K Lyne	P'mth
5 D. Winmill	G/F

Junior boys

1 Gregory Moore	S'ton
2 Jason Hickeys	Bas
3 Bryant Consalves	Ald
4 Martin Johnstone	S'ton
5 Edward Connell	Ald

Junior girls

1 Lisa Rice	P'mth
2 Rachel Cheffey	S'ton
3 Elizabeth Shubrook	Ald
4 Lisa Capaldi	G/F
5 Clare Woodhams	Ald

Cadet boys

1 Mark Shutler	G/F
2 Carl Hutchinson	Ald
3 Paul Myers	Ald
4 John Crouch	Ald
5 Stephen Crouch	Ald

Cadet girls

1 Clare Woodhams	Ald
2 Lisa Capaldi	G/F
3 Tina Caws	S'ton

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

KEITH SAMUELS has been ranked No 1 in Hertfordshire, following the county ranking trials held last month at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Hot on his heels in the No 2 spot is Senior County Match Secretary John Taylor, who at the trials dominated everyone, in Keith Samuels' absence, with his own super defensive style.

Most pleasing of all is the meteoric rise of Watford's Peter Harris, who was last year playing in the junior ranks, leap-frogging over far more experienced players than himself to take the third position.

The men's ranking positions are; 1. Keith Samuels, North Herts; 2. John Taylor, Barnet; 3. Peter Harris, Watford; 4. David Seaholme, Watford; 5. John Lennon, Barnet; 6. Mark Taylor, Cheshunt; 7. Perry Somers, Barnet; 8. John McCance, Barnet; 9. Gary Morgan, Barnet; 10. Rob Liguorish, Hemel Hempstead.



John Taylor, Hertfordshire No 2
John Wood 0442 44547

The women's No 1 spot has gone once again to Alison Boxall of Cheshunt, the current Middlesex 3 Star Open women's singles holder.

The Women's ranking positions are; 1. Alison Boxall, Cheshunt; 2. Linda Walters, Cheshunt; 3. Karen Morton, Stevenage; 4. Margaret Harris, Barnet; 5. Jeanette Maybanks, Barnet.

Ian Black of Hemel Hempstead has taken the No 1 title in both the under 17 and the under 14, whilst Emma Hurling, also of Hemel Hempstead, has taken the girls No 1 place.

Andrew Rose of St. Albans who has been ranked No 5 in the cadets, had the honour of winning the 1st round of the cadets ranking, in the London Open Table Tennis Ranking Tournament, at the Gladesmore Sports Centre, North London on Sunday 5th October.

Whilst diminutive Sarah Seaholme, who comes from the famous Watford table tennis family, has been ranked the No 1 cadet girl.

The junior boys ranking positions are; 1. Ian Black, Hemel Hempstead; 2. Stuart Grassick, Barnet; 3. James Patterson, Hatfield; 4. Maurice Greenberg, Barnet; 5. Eddie Taylor, Welwyn Garden City; 6. Richard Grethe, Hertford; 7. Scott Kennedy, Stevenage; 8. Clive Grethe, Hertford; 9. Stephen Black, St. Albans; 10. Terry Boucher, Barnet.

The junior girls ranking is: 1. Emma Hurling, Hemel Hempstead; 2. Caroline Seaholme, Watford; 3. Maria Williams, Barnet; 4. Lynn Flowers, Ware; 5. Jackie Felstead, Letchworth.

The cadet boys ranking is; 1. Ian Black, Hemel Hempstead; 2. James Patterson, Hatfield; 3. Maurice Greenberg, Barnet; 4. Kevin Harber, St. Albans; 5. Andrew Rose, St. Albans.

The cadet girls ranking is: 1. Sarah Seaholme, Watford; 2. Helen Rose, St. Albans; 3. Talya Greenberg, Barnet.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

David Deller

THE St. Ives Inter Club Team Tournament provided the largest event, to be staged within our county table tennis boundaries, whilst St. Neots started their premier division fixtures in the British League, and Peterborough start their British League fixtures in their initial season. Two county cadet matches have seen September rate as one of the busiest in the county's history.

The Inter club team tournament held at St. Ivo Recreation Centre over the last weekend of September saw 72 club teams from 19 counties participating, around 50 members and friends of the St. Ives club contributed to make the organising committee's workload much easier,

and all must be thanked in ensuring the success of the tournament. Local clubs fared well with St. Neots finishing sixth in the under 12 event. The home club finished seventh in the junior event from an entry of 24, whilst St. Neots and St. Ives finished 14th and 15th respectively in the cadet section. Peterborough finishing just below the half way point, of the 32 teams. A fuller report appears elsewhere in this magazine.

St. Neots have started their premier division fixtures in the Schildkrot British League with a 2-6 reverse against Ormesby. Stuart Palmer got the hosts off to a great start with a straight set win over Nigel Eckersley, whilst Stephen Moore won the third match with a two set victory over Keith Rodgers. This however was to be the end of the St. Neots scoring tally, although another couple of games went close. Peterborough started their division three fixtures with a 8-0 loss against St. Neots seconds in an all Hunts encounter. I wish all three sides the best of fortune for the rest of the season.

Congratulations go to Julie Haslop of St. Neots who is ranked number 12 cadet girl in the first ranking list of the new season. Giles Betts of St. Ives reached the semi final of the Kirklees 2 star under 12 event in early September.

Hunts fielded an under 13 and cadet side against Northamptonshire at Wellingborough in September, which was excellently staged by the Northants county association. Encouraging from this county's view was the performances of our boys in both matches, which ensured narrow wins in both matches. If any county would be interested in matches at these age groups, if they contact me on St. Ives 66607, I will be delighted to forward this to the county associations next meeting.

If September was a very exciting one on the table, the death of our county President/Chairman Mappin Webb overshadowed all. Mappin's contribution to our sport was tireless, coaching youngsters just two weeks before his death at the age of 78.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

I WOULD like to congratulate the County Association's new Chairman, Mike Holt for being honoured with the Ivor Montague Award. It was typical of Mike when he quickly praised the many people who have helped him over the years with his services to table tennis. I am sure that they, as well as everyone else in Leicestershire, would say well done Mike you richly deserve it.

It was heartening to note recently that, along with the rest of the World, our governing body the ETTA are committed to the cause of

County Notes

ridding our society of drug abuse. Whilst this problem is certainly the cancer of modern times, to my knowledge apart from the odd cigarette or pint of beer, there is no suspicion of it locally on the table tennis scene. Nevertheless no one's saying it couldn't happen, and if it does action must be quick and decisive.

The running of the 1986/87 county-wide Rose Johnson Bowl handicap event was assumed when Harold Clark 'volunteered' to take over the reins. Whilst I am sure that Harold - who incidentally plays for British Rail in the Leicester league - will do a first class job, it was of some surprise to me that some of the Association's committee members had never participated in the competition. Come on fellas' give it a try you won't be disappointed.

New Coaching Secretary, Steve Adams has started his regime by keenly trying to drum up interest to enable him to organize a club coaching course for sometime in the future. There are no cast-iron details as yet but, it will probably be held at the Leicester University at a cost of between £10 to £15 which includes the necessary paperwork. Well done for trying Steve, hope you get the dozen or so people required to make the scheme worthwhile.

After last seasons none event it is hoped to resurrect the Leicestershire Closed Championships on March 27 but, with a difference. It is envisaged that proceedings will take place in conjunction with the Hinckley Leagues own domestic Championships at the Hinckley Leisure Centre. On the face of it then, a good idea when it comes to sharing costs etc., but it does mean that a few events will have to be cut. Even at this early stage Mike Holt has secured a sponsor in the body of Byron Roofing and Cladding Ltd. More news to follow.

SHROPSHIRE

John Morris

FOLLOWING the very successful staging of the first international match of the season, between England and Turkey, at the Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, the village association has found ever increasing interest in their new TSB Bank, sponsored pairs league. While many associations in the county struggle to retain members, Pontesbury, a village of 3,000 people, have increased their membership by 300% in 2 years, which must conclusively prove, that many table tennis players are ripe for change.

The pairs league, which offers each player an opportunity to play 2 best of 5 sets singles, and 1 best of 3 doubles, with all matches played at a central venue, and finishing by 10.00 p.m. To further improve the games presentation, the organising committee levy a table erection fee from all members, also insisting that all players play to the national rules, including the wearing of acceptable table tennis dress.

LANCASHIRE

George Yates

FOLLOWING trials at Lostock and Blackburn the LTTA Selection Committee have formulated the initial Red Rose rankings as follows:-

Men

1	Stephen Scowcroft	Bolton
2	John Hilton	Manchester
3	Nigel Eckersley	Manchester
4	Steve Turner	Preston
5	Andrew Leigh	Bury
6	Brian Carney	Fleetwood
7	Peter Blake	Blackburn
8	Keith Rudd	Blackburn
9	Graham Clarke	Blackburn
10	David Carse	Bolton
11	Keith Jackson	Blackburn
12	Martin Ireland	Blackpool

Boys

1	Sean Gibson	Preston
2	David Carse	Bolton
3	Wayne Renton	Oldham
4	Michael Malcolm	Preston
5	Darryl Sneyd	Oldham
6	Robert Lowe	Southport
7	Andrew Eden	Preston
8	Sam Valentine	Preston
9	Howard Whewell	Burnley
10	James Bradbury	Oldham

Cadet boys

1	Andrew Eden	Preston
2	Howard Whewell	Burnley
3	Robin Faulkner	Bury
4	Adrian Denson	Bolton
5	Michael Power	Liverpool
6	Mathew Heap	Bolton
7	Sohit Khurana	Oldham

Veteran men

1	John Mason	Blackpool
2	Ray Ashley	Preston
3	Norman Pearson	Mid-Lancs
4	Arthur Hartshorn	Burnley
5	Alan Chase	Liverpool
6	Frank Murphy	Liverpool

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

A GOOD response to the junior and cadet rallies and trials have given us an encouraging start to the season. The junior ranking lists, when they are issued, will no doubt be headed by Adrian Thorp and Helen Lower who were excused from the trials, but other names challenging for positions include Gary Knights (who lives on the border with Derbyshire but we are pleased to say has decided after some hesitation to stay with Staffs.), Kirk Roberts, Mark Stretton, Louise Sherratt, Jane Winter and Natalie Riley, all of home performed well at the trials. One name absent from this list is Nigel Tongue who, despite representing the County last year, appears to be losing interest in the game.

I am pleased to report that our County Closed will this season be staged at Lilleshall on Sunday, March 29th. The increasing difficulties at the Northwood Sports

Centre - poor conditions, a doubling of the costs, various organising restrictions - made a change inevitable, and the opportunity to play under the excellent conditions at the National Coaching Centre should ensure a good entry from around the County. Although Lilleshall is a few miles over the border into Shropshire, it is a reasonably central venue and easily reached from the north and south of the County.

LINCOLNSHIRE

FOR the second year running we have had an increase in teams for the inter-town competitions.

In the Butcher Cup, Mablethorpe, who have been absent for a time, return to increase the teams from seven to eight.

For the Vets, Grantham join the ranks to make it seven teams, and Mablethorpe and Grantham II make two extra teams for the Butlin Cup. This is a great boost for the ladies.

Scunthorpe have withdrawn from the Haigh Cup. Lincoln II have replaced them so they stay the same with eight teams.

The Vets Eastern Masters was held at Grimsby on Saturday, 20th and Sunday 21st September. This was the first Vets event to be held in this area and it ran very smoothly and produced some very good games. The entry was a little low, but this was anticipated for the first one as unfortunately it also coincided with a competition in Humberside.

Instead of the usual trophies the prizes were lovely items of cut glass which pleased the players very much.

An exhibition of 'Hobbies for all' was held in Grimsby, and the Table Tennis Association worked very hard to promote the game and encourage people to play.

From 4pm to 10pm Friday, 10am to 10pm Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday the 26th, 27th and 28th September members gave exhibitions, coaching, videos and a great attraction was the Robot Machine which fascinated young and old alike - the children were queuing up for a 'go'.

Mablethorpe started their season by holding a doubles tournament first. Thirty four players entered and this was eight up on last year. Partners were drawn and then divided into two groups, one of eight pairs and one of nine pairs. All pairs played everyone in their group and then the top pair from each group played the runner-up from each opposite group as semi-finals. T Dalton/S Watchorn b J Turner/N Burton 9, 9; P Birkett/G Hill b R Cox/Armstrong 16, 16.

Final:
T Dalton/S Watchorn b P Birkett/G Hill 17, 19.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

THE first action of the new season, enabled new County Coach Dave Marsh to parade some of his future starlets in two county cadet matches against Huntingdonshire. Despite conceding both age and experience to some fine Hunts prospects, particularly the calmly assured John Wilsher, and the confident Mark Holton, the Northants Under 14's acquitted themselves well, and none more so than Andrew Lingley who came close to toppling the Hunts No. 2 Glen Murray, before playing the major part in a narrow doubles defeat when partnered by Kieron Dabbs.

However in the end it was Tracy Marriott, with a superb singles win over Caroline Bradley, and a shared doubles success in tandem with Clare Waples who did most to gain the Northants firsts points as they went down by eight rubbers to two.

Alister Brudenall and Stephen Atkinson took ends off their Hunts counterparts, and then came within two points of winning the doubles, but again it was the girls - Julia Piercy and Jane Coe, who had the measure of the opposition as they took three rubbers between them without dropping a set, but it was not enough and the homesters suffered a seven three reverse at a much improved Westfield venue in front of an appreciative audience.

SURREY

Frank Hams

IN the first tournament of the season at Lewisham, most of the usual Surrey faces were seen. All the hard work put into practice during the summer was exposed to competitive play and the luck of the draw. If gaining computer points is how to judge results, very few were successful. Dave Harding won through a couple of rounds and Frank Hams went to round 2. Glen Baker and Max Crimmins were seen running around a circuit at Ashford for their preparation. They also made a little progress. Perhaps Rue Bole, Mike Hammond and others should imitate because they went out in the first round, Nicky Mason must have trained for the marathon because he reached the final eliminating Dave Hannah in the semi's only to lose to Souter.

Jane Barella and Debbie Simmonds both lost to higher ranked players.

At Wiltshire, Jane Barella who has reached the highest England ranking (No 14) for a Surrey lady for some time, surprisingly lost in the 1st round. The only other Surrey lady (unless Ms H. Etherington is from Surrey) was Debbie Simmonds who won her group but lost in the 1st round. With Michele Ham's departure to Sheffield University we badly need more ladies.

County Notes

SUSSEX

John Woodford

NOT so long ago, the Randall sisters Carole and Christine provided a strong combination on the tournament circuit. They came from Derbyshire to Sussex some years ago.

Now they are both married, Carole is Carole Hewitt and Christine is Christine Wicks and both girls are providing some shocks in Sussex circles and now look set for a few more fireworks this season.

After some slight misunderstandings with the county selectors Carole is back at No. 4 on the Sussex rankings with Christine at No. 5 so the selectors have acknowledged their presence and I understand they are both available for the county championships. The sisters are both fine doubles players, so other pairs are warned that when faced with "Hewitt and Wicks" it is not likely to be easy going.

The English National Championships (formerly Closed) make a welcome return to Crawley Leisure Centre on the week-end of January 24th and 25th. Reports from the ETTA office suggest that the staff and management of Crawley are exceptionally helpful and that could have been a vital factor in the negotiations and subsequent decision.

Hastings and Eastbourne are looking carefully at the progress being made by Paul Barry, 21, son of the well known Hastings player and former Byfleet champion Jim Barry.

Young Paul is becoming a force to be reckoned with at local events and just recently he made his debut and scored in the Schildkrot British League for Erreys Print.

WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

RESULTS of the trials held in September for junior boys, girls and veterans were taken into account when formulating the ranking lists as follows:

Junior boys

- 1 L Jeffries
- 2 D Smith
- 3 R Singh
- 4 D Thomas
- 5 N Felton
- 6 D Ameghino

Junior girls

- 1 A Ledwitch
- 2 L Spilsbury
- 3 A Meddings
- 4 C Woodward
- 5 R Ledwitch
- 6 S Hoolihan

Veterans

- 1 R Gunnion
- 2 R Brown
- 3 B Belcher
- 4 T Bache
- 5 F Norton
- 6 R Barton

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

FOLLOWING last season's highly successful promotion campaign, Nottinghamshire County Junior team make their very first appearance in the premier league in the forthcoming season. The squad have remained together for the past two seasons which has seen them through Division 3A and Division 2A. Only Tim Sheppard leaves us this season and our best wishes go out to him as he continues his table tennis career with the seniors.

Congratulations are in order for John Holland who was recently selected to represent England Schools in the Intermediate section and his steady progress up the National junior rankings has certainly helped his progress in this direction.

Our county junior trials took place at the Sycamore Sports Centre, Nottingham, recently, the outcome of which is printed below.

Junior boys

- 1 John Holland
- 2 Adrian Bolton
- 3 Adrian Elson
- 4 Robert Fearn
- 5 Paul Wood
- 6 Richard Grant
- 7 Stephen Harrison
- 8 Ashley Hewes
- 9 Robert Yong
- 10 Gary Lee
- 11 Kevin Flynn
- 12 Paul Davison
- 13 Peter Furneaux
- 14 Mark Rothwell

Junior girls

- 1 Kay Mayall
- 2 Claire Oldman
- 3 Tracey Wass
- 4 Michelle Tomlinson

WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

BEHAVE yourselves - that was the stern message rapped out at the annual meeting of the Wiltshire TTA.

It came from Malcolm Phillips of West Wilts who complained of tantrums at tournaments and ranking sessions.

Secretary Colin Bendall called for more support both from players and volunteers for administration work.

Good news came from treasurer Doug Parsons who reported a balance of nearly £1,000 and it was decided not to put up affiliation fees.

Officers elected: chairman - Colin Bendall; vice-chairman - Bill Moulding; secretary - Doug Parsons; treasurer - Doug Parsons; match secretaries, senior - Bill Moulding, junior - Val Clack, veterans - John Bright; umpires' secretary - Margaret Willson; coaching officer - Val Clack; press officer - Laurie Selby; inter-town secretary Alan Duke.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug Moss

THE County has not fared as badly as some areas in reduction of affiliated teams. This season there is a decline of approx. 5% with 13 less teams. Both Dudley and Kidderminster have lost 7 teams, Evesham -2, Malvern remain the same, Bromsgrove add 1 and Worcester 2, due to the enthusiasm of Secretary Chris Price making a deal of effort in "rounding up" players and forming teams. Complacency over a 5% loss is not implied but it shows that getting players organised can provide more teams. Although this can be possible in smaller Leagues, where players are better known, it is not feasible in bigger areas. There are obviously many reasons for loss of players but I feel the length of matches and lateness of finishes is quite a factor and does handicap the introduction of young players to senior teams where they can gain valuable experience.

The County team trials dates were announced well in advance but unavoidably some players were not available. The Senior trials did not have Louise Davis, Murray Jukes, Simon Claxton and Trevor Washington. Murray is now at Bath University but it is hoped he will be available for County matches. Murray, Simon and Trevor are down to play in the first match (H to Yorks II) but Louise is not available. Sandra Roden played well in the trials and will be No. 1 lady against Yorks. The No 2 will be Mandy Mytton - it was very pleasing to see her return to the County teams.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

FOLLOWING the recent practice sessions, the first County ranking lists of the season were issued, and these are as follows:

Men

- 1 Peter McQueen
- 2 Neil McMaster
- 3 Eddie Smith
- 4 Ian Robertson
- 5 Thomas Blackman
- 6 Fred Short
- 7 Peter Whiteman
- 8 Maurice Cheek
- 9 Bob Dodds
- 10 Charlie Robertson

Women

- 1 Clare Mouzon
- 2 Caron Guthrie
- 3 Christine Burke
- 4 Margaret Morley
- 5 Pauline Long
- 6 Karen Wilkinson
- 7 Daphne Russell
- 8 Joan Leslie

Junior boys

- 1 Michael Curry
- 2 Darren Shaw
- 3 Steven Penman
- 4 Michael Karczewski
- 5 David Watson
- 6 Stephen Coverdale

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

Tom Blunn

WHILE the passing of Tom Blunn, which saddened the whole table tennis world at the beginning of the season, will bring a sombre note to the whole of this issue of a magazine to which he contributed so much, it is only right that these notes, too, should begin with a tribute from his adopted County.

Although born on the other side of the Pennines, Tom spent much of his working life in Hull, where he was a middle division player for his works club, Hodgson Harris and served on the Association committee for a number of years.

As a Vice President of both Hull and Yorkshire, he was a good friend to both, always available for help and advice, and always making a special effort to attend events. His genial friendship will be missed, and condolences go to his wife Edna and to his grown-up family from both Associations.

The finest tribute city and county can pay to Tom is to keep the sport he loved and for which he worked so hard flourishing in their own areas - I am sure that they will make every effort to do that.

Richard Scruton, who has taken over the duties of Competitions Secretary, has made a big drive to revive the ailing Yorkshire Club's Championship, and will no doubt be highly delighted with the response.

21 teams will contest the mens' event from as far apart as Northallerton in the north and Sheffield on the Derbyshire border, while the womens championship, which has been dormant, is resurrected with six clubs and again spans the County from Bradford in the depths of the West Riding to Hull on the east coast.

With six junior teams also competing, there will be a full programme and, if anyone wishes to offer odds (don't tell the ETTA disciplinary people!), how about Bradford for both senior titles?

Before letters begin to come in, particularly from Sheffield who look like mounting a very strong challenge, I am not going to risk backing the boys and girls from the Woollen city.

Family T.T. in Hull

Table tennis has really become a family sport in the lower divisions of the Hull league, with three clubs playing in divisions 7 and 8 in which Dad is skipping a side which introduces his children to competitive play.

Wold Jaguars (div. 7) features Dave Neal, Julia and Philip, already ranked in the city cadet list at a tender ten years of age, and they have made a fine start with three wins in as many games.

Election/Celebrity Challenge

We've started, let's finish!

an appeal by Aubrey Drapkin

THE call is for change, but it is happening. Consider the following: setting up the British League, computer ranking, regional coordinating committees and competitions, MSC schemes, Junior and Senior Grand Prix, assistance for juniors, administrators' seminars. Appointment of a Coaching Director, Regional Development Officers. The experimental Top 12 competition, the acquisition under contract of the country's leading player.

The plan submitted to Sports Council contains more changes including appointment of a Chief Executive (I insist that his first priority is promoting and marketing our sport), appointment of a Promotions Manager, a request for an additional National Coach, Development Officers for each region, more assistance for promotion of the sport, etc.

The overall objective of the plan is to provide for a better sport and to work towards increased membership, to produce a better National team, and a better image.

We've started, let us finish!

I believe in necessary change but I am not a rebel. I believe in evolution, not revolution.

I have the full backing of the present management. My priorities will be grass roots and player involvement, a drive to in-



Aubrey Drapkin

crease membership, attempts to obtain more TV and National Press publicity.

I want to hear the views of grass roots at all times and will meet, discuss with and, where possible, help local leagues.

I will always maintain that the sport is about players and endeavour to create greater participation.

I have been involved for over 30 years and still play regularly in my local league. I am a local league secretary, tournament organiser, National Referee, International Umpire, serve on County committee and selection committee, former National Councillor, former County Championships administrator, Chairman of County Championships Committee, ETTA Treasurer. I have no personal or family interest in the financial or selection affairs of the Association.

PLEASE SUPPORT ME.

My hopes for the future

An outline from John Prean

THE Editor has given me 300 words on my candidacy for the Chairmanship of the Association. It is not enough to tell you of my dreams and hopes for the Sport. I have had tremendous fun and sometimes success as a local official, player, coach and writer who has been quoted as far away as Germany and Japan. For me there is no better sport.

It breaks my heart to note that a third of our members have left us since 1980, that the national newspapers have almost forgotten us and that we have nearly lost Television. Locally, I see fewer teams every year and I worry how it will end.

I make no personal criticisms of our policy-makers. They have done their best. They are not businessmen and they have not realized that all around them has changed, that sport today is business and has to be run like a business and that is how it has to approach its challenges and problems.

You may not see it this way. You may be happy with the state of the Game and, if you are, you must vote for Aubrey. He will appoint generally the same people. Nothing will change in any meaningful way. It has not satisfied



John Prean

the lost members. Our sport deserves better.

I ran a successful business for 30 years, several times the size of the Association in staff and sales. I have a marketing background. I am a good innovator and administrator.

If you think that is what the sport needs, you should think about voting for me. With me the membership will come first. There will be greater public accountability. Table Tennis will start moving again.

If you are in doubt, why not ring 0983 62747? - **I shall be pleased to hear from you.**

Stiga Select v Maldon Wanderers

by Colin Trundle

HAVING been somewhat starved of late of table tennis of this calibre, over 300 local connoisseurs took the opportunity to bolster those meagre rations by turning up to watch the International Challenge Match between a Stiga Select team and the first champions of the Central Essex Summer League, Maldon Wanderers.

On the menu at the Chelmer Valley School, Chelmsford on 16th September were the talents of current England stars Lisa Bellinger, Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason pitting their skills against those of Dave Newman, Stuart Gibbs and Dave Bowles, the Wanderers trio.

The appetites were certainly satisfied on the night, the varying courses having specialities to savour and remember: the charm and modesty of Lisa, quickly turning impressive defence into tell-



ing attack: the deceptive speed of Skylet, coupled with uncanny reading of the opponent's play and service: the all-round ability of Nicky, making full use of the playing area in serving up his particular brand of power play. Not that the internationals had the monopoly on the mouth-watering

fare on offer. Far from it. Dave Newman showed frequent glimpses of the ability that not so long ago took him to a high England placing and why he still warrants a ranking in the top 50, despite curtailing his tournament activities: the experience and know-how of Stuart Gibbs, as befits a man who made more than fifty appearances in an England shirt: the entertainment value of Dave Bowles, his running battle with an armful of screens bringing the house down.

And there were side-dishes as well.

The efficiency of international umpires Fred Groom and Dave Miller, entering into the spirit of the occasion: the chance for the youngsters in the audience to face up to the stars during the interval. But as in all good things, there is

some disappointment to be had. Those of us who had surreptitiously and hopefully brought our bats, did not get a chance, leaving helpings of talent unserved and unsung in the kitchen as always.

Certainly not forgotten and there for all to see was the stage management and organisation of promoter Clive Oakman. He certainly used the correct ingredients, showing that if you get things alright **before** the night then they will be alright **on** the night.

What about the results? I hear you cry!

Well, they were really superfluous to the entertainment of the whole evening out, but for the record the Stiga Select team won 5-1, the Wanderers getting a deserved consolation when Newman and Gibbs just had the edge over Andrew and Mason in the doubles.

Coaches' Palace weekend

by Neil Houghton



Vivian Crisogono helping coaches to 'bone-up' on anatomy of the vertebral column.



Paul Day giving guidance on technique in his practical talk

The 'first lady' of Table Tennis, Jill Parker, in consultation with Derek Marples, John O'Sullivan and Stan Clarke.

THE weekend of September 19th saw the inaugural ETTA senior coaches conference at Crystal Palace. Organised by David Fairholm, Director of Coaching, the aim was to bring together influential figures in table tennis coaching. Addresses from invited speakers related to the theme of 'Requirements for a Successful National Team'.

Coaches from all over England were present, from Bob Dodds (Durham) in the north to Adrian Wright (Devon) in the south. Across from Les Rayment (Norfolk) to Mike Lewis (Avon).

Over an intensive series of sessions from Friday evening until late Sunday afternoon, the delegates were treated to talks on a variety of topics followed by some lively discussions. The culmination of events on Sunday was an open forum of all the speakers, taking questions from the previous discussion period of coaches groups. The only damper on the proceedings was to hear of the death of Mr Tom Blunn. So it was that the sad news was directly relayed to this large gathering and a minute's silence appropriately observed, most people present being specially aware of the contribution of our late Chairman to the sport.

The speakers, in order of presentation following Peter Charters' introduction on 'The Way Forward', were — Vivian Crisogono (physiotherapist to a number of national squads) who intrigued us with a well-explained introduction to "Injury prevention and rehabilitation". Peter McQueen with an account of "Learning from China". Donald Parker in his accustomed role of "Producing a successful national team". Colin Wilson, Hon. Sec. of ATTP, raising awareness concerning "Opportunities for fringe players". Dr Tony Morris (Sports

Psychologist) boggling minds with "Psychology with a view to excellence". Paul Day related a forthright account and views on "Transition from cadet to senior international". Nicky Jarvis was "Coaching across the world" as the final speaker before the last open forum.

The intention, which received overwhelming approval from the delegates, is to hold a similar conference annually in order to disseminate the latest coaching philosophy and to gain feedback from coaches as part of the shaping of future policy. All this with the aim of keeping up the best standards of coaching throughout the country. Thanks is due to the Sports Council for assistance with the inevitable cost of the weekend and to all those involved with the staging of the conference.

For those not present, an account of the proceedings will be available in due course. The tone for the weekend was set by Peter Charters in emphasising co-operation and teamwork, especially between coaches and their Regional Coaching Panels. We need to "keep open and receptive minds — national responsibility rather than parochial situations leads to mammoth strides."

Donald Parker continued with this principle of coaches co-operating with each other and with suggestions from the 'front line'. This seemed to emerge as a major recommendation of the conference, as in his final words about those young players who appear to be coached for present success rather than future progress. "I feel that some of the players (juniors) have a negative game. To be a success in the senior and in top junior competition (especially internationally) they and their coaches need to think ahead. They need to give it a go by playing forceful and positive table tennis."

At the conclusion of the proceedings there was an expression of thanks from the speakers and organisers, relayed by Peter Charters. A reply on behalf of the other participants was given by Stuart Sneyd and brought about a convivial conclusion amidst much applause. It was indeed a most enjoyable and enthusiastic weekend which seems likely to rise to prominence in the ETTA calendar. It certainly appears that all 50 delegates are excited in anticipation of the next event and looking forward to another series of fascinating talks on a variety of coaching topics next year.



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Cambridgeshire club tournament

by David Deller



Some of St Ives TTC Juniors with representatives of two of the major sponsors Mrs Sue Pittams of Peterborough Building Society and Mr Terry Red of St Ives TV Video and HiFi Centre.

SEVENTY-TWO club teams representing 19 counties were involved over the weekend of September 27th/28th at St. Ivo Recreation Centre, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, for the St. Ives Inter-club team tournaments. Well over 300 youngsters had registered for the events, which brought some first class table tennis in all three events.

In the cadet team event sponsored by St. Ives TV Video & Hi Fi Centre 32 club teams took part. In the opening groups of eight teams in each of four groups, Dunstable (Beds) won group 1, with Barnet second and City of London School third. In group 2 Sturges of Selby were the winners, followed by Taverham of Norwich and Chelmsford. Group 3 winners were Rejects of Croydon, who did not drop a set in the group games, second were Norman Centre (Norfolk) whilst Brentwood were third. The final group saw Fellows Cranleigh who were also unscathed in their group, Wellingborough were second and Time and Talent of Kent third.

The first semi-final saw Dunstable play Fellows Cranleigh, with the latter gaining the opener through Grant Solder who defeated Peter Bowler 18 and 11. The Bedfordshire team won the match as first Caroline Buckley then Colin Bowler defeated T. Tastanya and J. West respectively. The other semi-final brought what is thought to be one of the best matches of the weekend

as Rejects of Croydon overcame Sturges of Selby 3-0, Alan Cole defeated Craig Smith at 12 in the third, P. Carter beat Ellen Meddings at 22-20 in the decider, whilst Jason Blake defeated Andrew Nicholls at 17 in the third.

The final saw Dunstable get home 2-1 against the Surrey trio, with Peter Bowler winning 21-18 in the third against A. Cole, Caroline Buckley 21-19, 21-19 against P. Carter, whilst Jason Blake gave Rejects some consolation with a three set win over Colin Bowler. Caroline Buckley won the top players award for the cadet team tournament. Fellows Cranleigh were 2-1 winners over Sturges for 3rd and 4th place.

Final positions ... 1st Dunstable, 2nd Rejects (Croydon), 3rd Fellows Cranleigh, 4th Sturges (Selby), 5th Barnet, 6th Norman Centre (Norwich), 7th Taverham, 8th Wellingborough, 9th Chelmsford, 10th City of London School, 11th Brentwood, 12th Time and Talent (Kent), 13th Lowestoft, 14th St. Neots, 15th St. Ives, 16th S.C. Oxstall (Gloucester), 17th Peterborough, 18th Wellingborough II, 19th Foxwood (Norfolk), 20th St. Ives II, 21st Bedford, 22nd Woodford Wells, 23rd Lowestoft II, 24th Soham, 25th Castle Hill (Maidenhead), 26th Huntingdon, 27th Woborn Sands, 28th Bletchley, 29th St. Neots II, 30th Milton Keynes, 31st March, 32nd Woodford Wells.

The Mayor and Mayoress of St. Ives Councillor P. Pegram and Mrs Hilton presented the trophies on both days. Over 1,000 matches were played during the weekend.

Mike moves up

THERE are several new faces on the London and South East Regional Coordinating Committee. Michael Close has taken over the Chairmanship from Brian Spicer who remains on the Committee as co-ordinator for South East matters. Nicky Jarvis is now the staff coach in place of David Fairholm, Freddie Groom represents Referees and Umpires, Reg Rockall Middlesex and Terry Vance Surrey, with Doris Moors looking after the interest of the ladies.

The Regional junior cadet trials took place at Sedge Hill School, Catford on 25th October with Alan Shepherd as Referee.

Jill on the run

SATURDAY morning at Crystal Palace commenced with a short jog for a few hardy souls. Jill Hammersley-Parker seemed to choose her own route. She flashed past me like a thing possessed after about 50 yards writes Neil Houghton, but as Don and I continued a leisurely run, it seemed every time we turned a corner Jill came crashing out of the undergrowth ahead of us. The jog started the day well.

Three out of three ain't bad



Members of the Wakefield Dunlop Squad line up behind internationals (l to r) Debbie Toole, Andrew Ball and Joanna Roberts.

OVER the past four seasons three England number ones have passed through the Wakefield Dunlop Squad coached by Rowden Fullen reports Les D'Arcy. Michael O'Driscoll followed Joanne Shaw and now Debbie Toole has made her mark at national and international level. This amazing success has come as no surprise to Rowden who believes that there are already players in the

Wakefield pipeline to match these achievements. Asked for his recipe for success Rowden considers three main areas to be vital.

- Detailed attention to and sound development of technique.
- Planned progression of each player's personal style.
- Total backing and proper preparation for all tournaments.



How can we win back the crowds?

Johnny Leach, former world champion says this would be my way...

REMEMBERING how enthusiastic crowds once fought and fiddled for tickets to watch us play an international match at Wembley, it has saddened me in recent years to witness the gradual collapse of table tennis as a popular spectator sport.

Oh, it is still well organised, people of all ages still enjoy playing and participation in clubs, leagues, counties and tournaments still looks healthy. The trouble is all too few seem interested in watching. Indeed crowd support even at major events is pathetic. It is limited only to dedicated enthusiasts, not sufficient in number to justify our claims for more TV exposure nor to help alleviate ever increasing costs.

I don't find it difficult to identify the main reason why the average sports fan has fallen out of love with our sport. The truth must be that he cannot understand the modern game in which even international champions seem to make unforced errors like returning the ball into the net or wide of the table and sometimes missing it altogether.

Sports fans want to see a contest of athletic skill between players who are well matched, not a test of their respective equipment. They wouldn't be impressed to learn that a choice of some 300 different racket surfaces are available today plus the aid of bicycle glue to help produce weird and wonderful spins at abnormal speed. They can do without the clever stuff. What they want is the thrill of desperate long range recoveries against fierce hitting; long, tense rallies when the result is in the balance; the power of the bludgeon matched by the subtle manoeuvring of the rapier. Table tennis, in other words, as it used to be but now played by the faster, fitter and equally skilful stars of today.

The irony is that we could quite easily give spectators what they want to see simply by making a rule to standardise racket surfaces, but such a rule is most unlikely to receive international approval in the foreseeable future so regretfully we must dismiss it as a ready solution.

How, then, can we start to reverse the trend, eventually to put table tennis right back on the map again? I've been giving the matter a lot of thought and come to the conclusion that we must first concentrate our attention on those real enthusiasts who play and support the game at all levels.

Why shouldn't we institute a bumper annual event designed entirely for their pleasure which initially does not count on support of any consequence from the general public? If we do it properly, believe me the public will soon be clamouring for tickets to attend future events.

This event should involve every active county. It must be one in which every enthusiast will want to compete and also watch. It must carry big prize money and be planned as the highlight of the season to be anticipated with pleasure and remembered with pride.

I would base it on the 'English Closed'. Let that tournament live up to its name. But the event should be extended to a 4 or 5 day event at a prestigious venue such as Wembley or Alexandra Palace, and there should be an important team, as well as individual competitions.

The team competition should involve all active counties of which there are some 40 of varying standard, so we'd need 5 divisions of 8 teams and a promotion and relegation system. Whether there should be separate men's and women's teams, like the World's and European, or mixed teams as in the county Championships would depend on the time schedules, which we can safely leave to the experts.

The new 'English Closed' should be a four, or five day annual event, finishing with a special 'Farewell Party' on the Saturday afternoon.

To set all this up I suggest that the ETTA should set up an Entertainment Championship Committee with a sub-committee in every participating county.

This Committee would negotiate a range of packages to offer and encourage supporters (through their clubs) such one covering the entire period of the Championship with the party, another without the party; one for a 2-day visit to cover either individual or team events; one covering the Final Day and Farewell Party only. Alternative means of transport could be offered and prices geared to cover coach, rail or private transport arrangements.

We would need an overall sponsor for the Championships, whose name would be incorporated in the title and exposed on the usual banners and surrounds, and also equipment sponsors. This would be arranged by the ETTA together with Television contracts. The latter could well cover the entire period since the participation of 40 counties would be of interest throughout the country.

Participating counties would also seek separate sponsorship for their teams with exposure on shirts, shorts or skirts and holdalls available for the team competition, though sponsored players would be permitted to wear apparel with their own special endorsements during play in the individual events.

What would all this cost? The first essential is big prize money to get into line with competing sports like snooker and darts. I would like to see a sum of £40,000 made available and split between team and individual events. By my reckoning, this means we would need a minimum budget of £100,000. Pie in the sky? No, with the right team of organisers it can be achieved.

One would look to the counties to contribute £500 each for team entries, the money to be raised through sponsorship. Total - £20,000. Individual entries could raise £5000. Main sponsors - £20,000. Equipment adoption £10,000. TV £10,000. Ticket sales £25,000. Programmes etc. £10,000. I make that £100,000.

Cost of overheads can be frightening, but hard bargaining must be done. Everyone concerned must enter into the spirit of things. We'll need a lot of unpaid helpers as usual, giving up part of their holidays in many cases.

With table tennis as our hobby we must be prepared to make sacrifices and work even harder for it. The event must be such a success socially, competitively, financially and as an attractive spectacle that as soon as the Farewell Party is over we will start to anticipate the next one with pleasure.

This would be the first championship to give all counties the opportunity of participating under the same roof. It would be the first national event in which the entire, substantial prize money would stay in England to the benefit of our sport.



Johnny Leach

It would be an event totally supported by players throughout the country and respected by the media. And, I firmly believe, the event would serve as an ideal launching pad for table tennis to return to the big time for keeps.

There is no end to the benefits that could accrue. A supporters club linked to the ETTA by direct affiliation, offering discounts for hotels, travel and tickets is just one of many possible spin-offs.

What guarantee is there that this would eventually bring back the crowds? I'll give you one - if we have the courage to insist that all players agree to use standardised playing surfaces on their bats, a maximum thickness of 1.5mm and to ban the use of bicycle glue. If the prize money is big enough very few players would object to this. As for the younger sports fans they would thrill to a form of spectacular table tennis they never believed possible and would want to return to watch over and over again.

But even if it were a gamble, wouldn't it be worth a flutter with the chance of such an important result?

Table tennis and the Commonwealth Games

Albert Shipley explains

SINCE the showing of badminton on television from the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, many members have queried why table tennis was not included.

The situation is that the current regulations covering the Games allow for only ten sports two of which must be athletics and swimming. The organising country can choose which other eight sports make up the Games and since their inception in 1930 only eleven other sports have been chosen and of these, archery and gymnastics have each appeared once only. Therefore, the eight chosen sports

have come effectively from a narrow band of just nine sports: badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, fencing, rowing, shooting, weightlifting and wrestling.

The Scottish Table Tennis Association made strong representation to the organisers of the 1986 Games in Edinburgh to include table tennis but without success. Let us hope our friends in New Zealand will have more luck in breaking into what seems to be a fairly set pattern when the Games are organised in Auckland in 1990.

See Mailbox Page 31

Equipment

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Cover your new racket successfully by following these twelve easy stages described by Clive Oakman.



1. Prepare a clean, flat work area, with a firm base, and assemble your kit.



2. Apply glue in a line across the base of the wooden blade.



3. Using a piece of card (cut from the rubber packaging) spread glue evenly, paying particular attention to the edges. Place the blade aside.



4. Ensure that the work surface is glue free. Then place rubber, playing face down, on the board and apply glue. If the rubber is covered by a protective paper it is wise to leave this in place.



5. Spread glue evenly.



6. Retrieve blade and position rubber centrally at the handle.



7. While holding the handle, gently lower the rubber into place.



8. Using an ordinary clean kitchen rolling pin roll firmly 2 - 3 times.



9. Turn the blade over. Press down firmly on the blade as you cut around the perimeter with a sharp knife (a snap off model making blade is ideal).



10. Remove all the excess rubber and repeat the operation on the other side of the blade.



11. Edging tape is inexpensive and will protect your blade from damage.



12. Finally remove the protective papers which have prevented damage to the rubber during assembly and you are ready to play.

Clive Oakman Table Tennis Services will be represented at most major events during the season, including all of the Stiga 3 Star Grand Prix Tournaments. Clive or his assistant will be pleased to advise you on all aspects of racket construction and equipment selection.

Equipment provided by Teessport 0642 223333
All photographs by Stephen Line 0273 730788

Inspired by Derek Baddeley's article "The history of spin" (TTN August/September 1986), Scotlands Denis George takes us for a very personal trip.

Down memory lane



CONGRATULATIONS to Derek Baddeley on his very comprehensive exposition on THE HISTORY OF SPIN. It is just the sort of article sadly missing from table tennis magazines in recent years and is worthy of reprinting in the new ITTF magazine or the AIPS/ETTU magazine. I consider it is most important that the present day players, who have only known the game as played with modern rubbers, should have an understanding of how table tennis has evolved over the years.

I was most interested in what he had to say about the 'introduction' of the loop drive in the 1960/61 season as it was about this time that I took up 8mm cine-photography at table tennis events and have film records of several 'historic' matches when the loop drive was being developed. My 'archive collection' includes the China 'B' tour in the winter of 1959 when we in the West first saw the teenage Chuang Tse-Tung and Fi Fu-Young, Harrison v Jacobson in the 1961 Bath Open final and Markovic v Larsson in the English Open final at the Albert Hall in January 1961.

After the disastrous 'fifties' which began with the dreadful pushing play of unenterprising 'chisellers', followed by the use of uncovered sponge of unrestricted thickness by rejuvenated veterans who produced unpredictable spins to bamboozle the established western stars but were impotent against the athletic Japanese, witness Ogimura v Flisberg

Stellan Bengtsson

(Sweden) in the 1954 Wembley World final and the 1955 World final in Utrecht when the diminutive Tanaka saw off the giant Yugoslav Dolinar - who had been supreme in Europe that season with a large sponge covered racket - in about 20 minutes most of which was spent by the Yugoslav picking up the ball from the back of the court. Few western players, apart from Ann Haydon - who reached three World finals in Stockholm 1957, who played with sponge, could make much impression on the Japanese of that era. Ann used a fairly thin sponge which still gave her good control. Scots girl Helen Elliott with thicker sponge defeated the top Japanese player Watanabe in 1957, but lost to Miss Haydon in Round 1 of the World singles.

Covered sponge (i.e. sandwich) became the rule in 1959 but for a while European players continued to play the 'hard bat' style until the revival of the loop drive in the early sixties broke the stranglehold of the defensive players and attack once again took over by the mid sixties.

I well remember Stan Jacobson's meteoric rise to fame in the autumn of 1960 with a finals win over England No. 1 Ian Harrison in the Essex Open. However Harrison soon worked out the 'antidote' to win the Newbury Open, followed by the Bath Open which I filmed (I was residing in Bath at

that time). Ian's answer was to take the ball very early on the bounce with a half-volley block - before the excessive spin took over - or a late hard chop after the spin had spun. Although Jacobson's success got him into the English squad for the Yugoslav open in November 1960 he achieved no great success once players learned how to tame the loop, in fact he was beaten by an English junior - Offenbach - before the season was out. However one spin-off (no pun intended) of his appearance in the Yugoslav Open was that one of the Markovic brothers (known as Markovic I and Markovic II as both had christian names beginning with 'V') - Vojislav - observed and copied Jacobson's loop drive to such good effect that only two months later in the 1961 English Open in January at the Albert Hall he won the title from Tony Larsson (Sweden).

However, to my mind, the most dramatic change in playing style did not come until 1963 when at Brighton in March we saw the arch-defender - Zoltan Berzcek (Hungary, reputed to have the 'hardest chop in the west') blossom forth as an attacking and counter-hitting player against a similarly styled young compatriot - Janos Fahazi - to win the English Open title once again. Both players used sandwich bats and produced what everyone present acknowledged to have been the most spectacular final since the war. There was no TV that year so my cine-film is possibly the only existing record of a marvellous match.

By the following season the new generation of young European players had taken over - led by the great Kjell Johansson (Sweden) - and for the next 10 years the TT world was treated to displays of very thrilling and spectacular table tennis based on fast

topspin driving, fast counter-hitting and long range lobbing returns.

As a progression from the loop drive the long range high lob defence was evolved to counter the faster speed of the attacking player. Although in the old hard bat days Bergmann was occasionally seen to lob the ball back from deep in the court this was only a last resort if the ball did not have enough speed/spin to chop in the normal manner, the high lob return, later exploited by such European players as Surbek and Secretin, was first seen in the West at Wembley in May 1965 during the exhibition between Chuang Tse-Tung and Li Fu-Yung at the conclusion of the England v China match.

But then came the Yugoslav Open of 1965 and the appearance of 'funny rubbers' allied to a combination bat wielded by Chinese Huang Liang which saw him defeat Stellan Bengtsson 14 and 4 and Kjell Johansson 4 and 12!!! So we were back to the 'fifties' and unpredictable spin once again.

The 'anonymity' of the combination bat has now been done away with but the multitude of rubbers imparting more, less or no spin are still with us. The 'percentage of error' still remains the dominant factor in top class play and TV audiences (when we are able to get coverage) see alleged world class players making - to them - simple errors. What is the next step? Twice world champion Johnny Leach - still a much respected figure in world TT circles - advocates a return to rackets with the same rubber on both sides. It will be interesting to see what measures to bring back thrilling spectacle to our game will be advocated at the forthcoming ITTF Congress in New Delhi next February.



Kjell Johansson hit the heights but fell foul of the Chinese with their funny rubbers Don Morley

VETTS season opens

Robin and Marion on form

by Mike Watts

THE opening event of the VETTS season took place over the weekend of the 20th/21st September 1986 when a new tournament the Eastern "Masters" was played at the Grimsby Sports Centre. There are now four regional opens and it is to be expected that the Western region will be the next to complete the circuit.

The tournament was the brain-child of Sue Allison who did a tremendous job as Organiser. Sixty plus persons sat down to an excellent meal on the Saturday evening and the only losers were those people who failed to enter. The total number of entries was disappointing 64 being the entry but the tournament did clash with the Wiltshire 2

Star which took away many of the regular participants.

With most of the top players in attendance it was expected that Derek Schofield (Cheshire) would dominate proceedings and whilst he made both the Over 40 and Over 50 mens singles finals he was beaten in both - by Robin Stace (Sussex) in the Over 40's and by Babs Adedayo

(Middlesex) in the Over 50's. In the Over 60's Les D'Arcy (Yorkshire) gained a rare success over Ron Etheridge (Kent).

In the ladies events Grimsby saw the emergence of a new star Marion Carlinge who in an all-Kent final overcame Margaret Dignum. Earlier top seed Doreen Schofield (Cheshire) had been beaten by Mabel Neary (Lancashire) who in turn lost to Margaret Dignum in the semi. Further success for Kent came when Joan Beadle (Kent) won the Over 50 womens singles whilst Betty Dunbar all the way from Scotland beat Dolly Harmer (Bedfordshire) in the Over 60 womens singles.

Results

Over 40 MS: R Stace (Sx) b D Schofield (Ch) 11, 17. Over 50 MS: B Adedayo (Mi) b D Schofield (Ch) - 16, 13, 16; Over 60 MS: L D'Arcy (V) b R Etheridge (K) 19, 19;

Over 40 WS: M Garlinge (K) b M Dignum (K) 18, -13, 22; Over 50 WS: J Beadle (K) b C Moran (Li) 14, 20; Over 60 WS: B Dunbar (Sco) b D Harmer (Bd) 14, 10; Over 40 MD: R Stace/K Horton (Sx) b D Jones/S Montgomery (Bk) 20, 10; Over 50 MD: D Schofield (Ch)/M Shearer (Li) b D Jones (Bk)/L Pratt (Bu) 15, 14; Over 60 MD: R Etheridge (K)/L D'Arcy (Y) b J Mansi (Nk)/A McAllister (Y) 9, 12; Over 40 WD: P Butcher/M Dignum (K) b D Schofield (Ch)/C Moran (Li) 14, -16, 14; Over 50 WD: P Butcher (K)/C Moran (Li) b J Beadle (K)/K Fisher (Li) -18, 12, 14; Mixed doubles: M Wood/L Reid (Wo) b D Schofield/D Schofield -7, 15, 18; Mens restricted: M Garlinge (K) b A Robinson (Spain) 11, 5.

A Bulgarian bonus

by George Yates, Deputy Chairman of the ETTA

MORE often than not my journeyings abroad are purely table tennis affairs as Hon. general Secretary of the European Table Tennis Union. However my most recent trip to Bulgaria was at the invitation of Bogomil Guerassimov, the Vice-President of the Bulgarian Table Tennis Federation who I met for the first time in Saarbrücken, on the occasion of the mens final of the Europe Club Cup of Champions between ATSV Saarbrücken and Vitkovice of Czechoslovakia.

It was in Saarbrücken that Bogomil enquired of me as to whether I had ever visited Bulgaria and on being told no he assured me that something would have to be done about it.

Some few weeks later Bogomil, true to his word, telephoned me from Sofia to say that an air ticket was awaiting my collection at Heathrow for Balkan Bulgarian Airlines flight 132C departing on Monday August 18.

And so, in a 161-seater TU-154 jet I was transported to Sofia passing over Brussels, Frankfurt, Linz, Graz, Zagreb and Belgrade en route. Having ascertained that no visa was needed by a tourist I was somewhat taken aback when I was informed at the Passport Control at Sofia Airport that without a visa I could not enter the country. I was not a tourist!

But, after a lengthy wait and a payment of £15, a visa was afforded me and exit through customs, without further stoppage, was allowed. In the arrivals hall I was met by Bogomil together with Nayden Kovov, the BTTF secretary and Stefan Shivachev, Head of Department, Bulgarian Union of Physical Culture and Sports.

By taxi I was taken to the Hotel Ronina for a quick wash and brush-up and then by tram to a sports complex boasting a restaurant where we dined, the first course being chips and grated cheese.

The following morning was taken up viewing the sights of the Bulgarian capital, partaking of lunch, with the BTTF President, Prof. Delcho Poryazov at the New

Otani hotel which boasted a 5★ rating and lived up to it. Average temperature was 34 degrees centigrade, 90 fahrenheit.

On then back to the more down-to-earth Ronina to pick up my luggage and by car to Sofia Airport for the short flight to Varna on the Black Sea coast. There we were met by Bogomil's friend Ivan Vassilev, a former Bulgarian table tennis champion, who transported us to our lodgings, mine being in a guest house used as a holiday home by the Trades Union and first class in every respect.

It was in Varna in an open air terraced garden restaurant that I was carried across the raked embers of a wood fire by a certain Mrs Kalinka Palicheva who, barefooted, lifted me up and across those smouldering ashes. Nestinarka (fire walker) indeed!

Thursday brought a long, long car ride, from Varna to Plevin via Tirnovo, the old Bulgarian capital, and Gabrovo whose inhabitants are closely aligned to the Scots insofar as they are, or were, reputed to only half bury their dead leaving the head and shoulders above ground to be whitewashed thus saving a headstone!

They are also accused of dancing in bare feet, not to prevent wear of shoe leather, but to enable them to hear the music from the next town and thus dispense with engaging a band of their own.

All in all it was a marvellous break and I made many acquaintances amongst these friendly people.

Umpires tournament

Ace defender Emil on top

by Brian Lamerton

DOREEN STANNARD and her happy band of travelling umpires hit Swindon on September 13th for an early season get-together and, more seriously, to contest the 'Kay Waters' trophy. Presented in 1976 for competition amongst umpires in memory of a very popular official it was appropriate that, the first time held away from one of the national championships, the event took place in Kay's own county of Wiltshire.

It remains a mystery as to how only the Middlesex contingent had difficulty in locating Churchfields school but play eventually commenced in four groups with every set keenly contested. Whilst a certain amount of rust was apparent there is amongst the present umpiring fraternity some considerable talent and much of the play was of a high standard.

Star of the day was undoubtedly Emil Emezc who after close group encounters with Harry Spraggs and Ken Green swept aside Bill Willson and Alan Duke in the quarters and semis and threatened to do the same to Jack Melnick in the final. Jack, however, 'dug in' and was unfortunate not to take an entertaining set into a third game.

Doubles partners were drawn by some ingenious method, devised by assistant referee Pat Archdale, based on the singles results, Emil drew Di Winmill and whilst he got on with the game

their opponents watched Di and the successful result enabled him to take home a bag full of trophies as consolation for missing his son's birthday.

The award for 'most improved player' must surely go to your scribe who producing a bat (illegal) for the first time in five years advanced from one point in his first game to two in the second and six in the third; later on one of the benevolent lady players even allowed him ten (points).

At the dinner which followed in the Wiltshire Hotel a painful attack of cramp threatened to spoil Jack Randall's meal but expert massage by Val Roffe soon had Jack eating again only to produce several similar attacks from male members around the room.

Denis Waters (brother of Kay), well known in local table tennis circles, presented the trophies and other thanks for a very enjoyable weekend, surely the first of many such, are due to Doreen and Pat, Ted Fisher as referee, Margaret and Bill Willson for the local organisation and, of course, Sylvia Morse in the kitchen.

Singles - Quarter-finals: Jack Melnick b Reg Glover - 15, 19, 15; Alan Duke b John Jermyn 14, 13; Harry Spraggs b Geoff Taylor 10, 8; Emil Emezc b Bill Willson 4, 9.

Semi-finals: Melnick b Spraggs 16, 5; Emezc b Duke 16, 9. **Final:** Emezc b Melnick 18, 16.

Doubles - Final: Emezc and Winmill b Spraggs and David Howes 16, 23.

Crossword capers

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CLUES - Across

1. Ran after Charles and Edward (6)
5. Sounds like homes for Parkers and Preans - in Chester? (6)
8. Cart melon around to HQ (9)
9. Dash up a twisting lane (4)
10. Lion's lair is 6, and was a menace to 5 Across (5)
11. On which to put forward motions, and serve (5)
14. No more than an inland lake (4)
15. Yorkshire official in former East Riding (3)
16. Sound heard again from fine choir (4)
18. Not in, not in - beat that! (5)
19. Corpulent Birthday Honour in the London area (5)
20. Throw out in strenuous training (4)
22. Japanese insect nesting in Cleveland? (9)
23. Such a bird might catch a worm, or a Syed (6)
24. Ray and Ben get lost around Munich (6)

Down

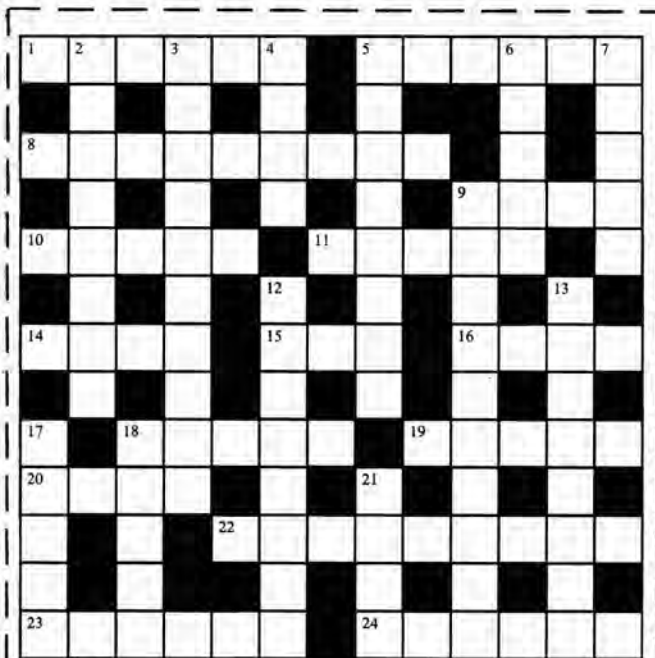
2. Hoodlum leader changed, and was held up by the collar (8)
3. Wrong side of the line at Wimbledon (7,3)
4. Final scene in Brighton? (4)
5. Outlawed a racquet sold by Jarvis (5,3)
6. Just the tippie for 10! (5)
7. Grand place to sit, on one's feet! (5)
9. Sweet wine from old fruit? (10)
12. Young Billington to inter Philip (8)
13. Tuneful artist with famous mother (8)
17. Little Chef winning friends in Sweden? (5)
18. Willow put together by Rosie (5)
21. Inflict wound with reversed TT racquets (4)

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QS.

CLOSING DATE: DECEMBER 12th.

ANSWERS PUBLISHED: JANUARY 1987.

Photocopies are acceptable.



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Steelstock in Europe

STEELSTOCK Wolverhampton - the reigning Schildkrot British League Champions led by England No 1 Desmond Douglas, made their European debut by playing Budapest Vasutus SC in Hungary 20th September.

In an exciting match Steelstock won 5-4 with Douglas winning his three, including an exciting recovery against Ex-European Champion Gabor Gergely.

Newcomers to the Steelstock team, Phil Bradbury (England No 11) and Nicky Mason (England No 7) both won their match against Budapest No 3 Krenhardt.

Steelstock Team Manager Paul Chester said afterwards: "It was a tough match, with Budapest having won the European Cup three times previously, but all the players performed brilliantly and we are, of course, delighted."

Results

Douglas b Krenhardt 13, 4; Bradbury lt Gergely - 9, - 16; Mason lt Nozicskq 16, - 8, - 17; Douglas b Gergely - 14, 18, 14; Mason b Krenhardt 21, 10; Bradbury lt Nozicskq - 15, - 23; Mason lt Gergely - 15, 22, - 16; Douglas b Nozicskq 15, 16; Bradbury b Krenhardt - 19, 14, 15.

Second Round Victory!

Steelstock maintained their winning run with another successful trip abroad. With Desmond Douglas and Nicky Mason undefeated in Athens A.O. Tatasuola were defeated 5-1.

Results

Philip Bradbury lt E Zikos - 16, - 16; Desmond Douglas b A Katahunus 13, 10; Nicky Mason b CH Lamis 11, 15; Douglas b Zikos 5, 5; Bradbury b Lamis 9, - 21, 13; Mason b Katahunus 12, 12.

All for one...

WITH reference to Johnny Leach's letter in the August/September issue of *Table Tennis News*, let me say that generally I am in favour of his suggestions. However, I think some points need to be considered.

One of the main arguments for the selection committee system has been that it afforded the National trainer/captain/manager, whatever he/she be called, with a certain degree of protection. It has been considered crucial that he/she should have a harmonious working relationship with the players. On occasions players do not get what they want; when this arises now, they may not blame Donald Parker for they know that events are the result of a committee decision. If the proposal of a one person selection becomes reality, the finger knows where to point. At some later stage the aggrieved player and the national trainer may need to work together again. The suggestion as laid out by Johnny already exists in relation to training camps.

At the moment Donald's position is not dependent on the success or failure of the England team. It would be a fair statement that the success or otherwise of the England team depends on far greater happenings than the selection of players. I am sure that if his job relied on it, Donald would demand more support (financial and otherwise) from other sections of the English table tennis community. Are these other areas of interest prepared to give their support? This may involve some sacrifices locally and nationally. Donald would have to make some hard and perhaps unpalatable decisions with the incentive that his job was on the line if he were to fail.

It must also be accepted that any one man/woman selector is going to be a human being, subject to the same emotions, influences, preferences etc. as the rest of us. He would have to be given freedom to resist those pressures brought to bear by parties not so much interested in the success of the whole England team, but in one part of it. Parochial and political considerations would need to be pushed into the background.

Although he may not at the moment, necessarily get entirely his own way on selection, Donald is the most influential person. Please don't feel that there would be any massive changes under one person selection because there

Golden Quill

Commonwealth challenge

IT is sad and depressing to read your editorial comment (TTN Issue 159) regarding our very own Commonwealth Table Tennis Association.

England, the Father nation of the Commonwealth, has participated in every Commonwealth Championships since the inception in 1971 and found that the table tennis has always been of a very good standard; as it is noted that when they sent their second string to Guernsey in 1977, they failed to walk away with all the titles.

Your remark that the financial burden is unwelcome upon the host association is quite true, but it is a challenge and has given great satisfaction to those associations that have made these championships so successful and worthwhile. It is hoped that England will one day join the list of host countries and find out for themselves the degree of prestige awarded to those who put their heart into the game and do not forever dream of the burden.

Table Tennis hopefully will be included in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in 1990 but there is never any guarantee that every

host country would include table tennis and we may find gaps of 8 or 12 years. Also, the event would be very limited for the few lucky participants.

I do not believe that the ITTF would drop World Events because we now have Olympic status.

Come on England, be enterprising and patronising! The home counties of Wales, Scotland, Guernsey and Isle of Man have all contributed very successfully with much hard work given by their Honorary Members, so please England show us that you have the right spirit!

Yours sincerely
Horace Mallett
Chairman
Commonwealth Table Tennis Association
Brackenhurst, Les Hubits,
St Martins, Guernsey

Ed: I would welcome members views on whether England should pick up this gauntlet but please bear in mind the main thrust of my editorial which suggested that our 'god' publicity was to be found in the commonwealth games camp.

Winner of a £5 TEES SPORT voucher

wouldn't. What there would be is perhaps greater consistency and direction of purpose. It would also allow the national trainer to speak more positively to the players knowing that his would be the final say as to who should play and where.

At present, player selection takes up approximately 20% of the meeting time at the most. The committee are involved in many other activities but an advisory roll would shorten meetings and reduce the number of meetings needed.

As I have said, all things considered I personally favour the proposal that the national trainer should alone pick the teams. Donald Parker is the right man for the job; give him the power, let him take the responsibility.

Peter Charters
Vice Chairman Selection & Coaching

Pen-pal wanted

IT is my privilege to write you this letter. Though this is my first time of writing to you.

Now please it is my request to get pen-pals all over the world. I believe you will help me. It is my hobby to write letters. Because through that we can have fellowship with each others. As a human being is not a stational being, I believe we should have people or friends from other part of the world.

I hope to hear from you soon. Greetings to you all.

Your faithfully
FELIX OFUSY BAAFI
c/o Madam Ruth
P.O. Box 3711
Kumasi-Ash-Ghana
5th October, 1986

No Go for Carl

YOUR article 'No go for Douglas and Prean' (October) gives the wrong impression. I turned down the Europe/Asia tournament because it does not fit in with my schedule. There is a limit to the number of commitments I can take on. For instance, I can't play an important match two days after coming back from Japan (jet lag, time difference, etc.), I don't want to let the public or myself down. I have to earn a living.

I still see the Magazine from time to time and I am very disappointed. There is no more than ten minutes reading in it and the October one had the worst cover ever. Who wants to see two bits of wood?

Finally, I didn't like the prize-winning letter "A wise head" which was from a fifteen year old who had read the Magazine twice which he felt entitled him to be rude to a former World Champion, but I suppose that is our sport all over. Lots of disasters and non-events and, when someone does achieve something, no respect.

I don't come back very often these days and when I see what goes on, I am not sorry.

Carl Prean
Am Hülsenbusch 1,
Hamm, Germany

Ups and downs

WELL done on improving the presentation and content of the *Table Tennis News*, I am pleased to see that John Prean is once again a contributor - whether you agree or disagree with John, his comments are always thought provoking.

Your comments on the inclusion of table tennis in the Commonwealth Games are well founded - though it should be remembered that on this occasion the BBC were geared up for full coverage on home territory and the subsequent withdrawal of so many competitors presumably meant they had no option other than to extend their coverage to a variety of events.

In looking for ideas, possibly it could be worthwhile to consider encouraging associations to forward copies of their newsletters/publications? This would not only provide grass roots comments, but some publications come up with excellent cartoons, anecdotes etc. which could be worthy of re-production.

Name and address supplied.

Competition for all

MAY I offer words of praise regarding the make-up of the August/September issue of the magazine. It was good to see the return of John Prean. Whether you agree or disagree with his views they are always well expressed and thought provoking. It was good to see a number of technical articles - let's have more of them, especially those directed toward the lesser player. There is a huge potential market of magazine customers in the lower divisions of our leagues, but if they are to become readers there must be something for them.

It is my strong view that what is badly needed in this country is a national individual players ratings system similar in concept to that which exists in the United States of America. In 1980 I spent three enjoyable weeks in Washington DC during which time, thanks to some advance planning and the kind co-operation of my host, I visited most clubs in the Washington area and was able to fit myself into their ratings pattern.

On my return home, after much trial and error, I compiled a list of all players in my own league (Bromley & District) and set up a similar type of ratings system, making refinements in the light of experience to their method of awarding points. This system has operated in the Bromley league continuously since then. It is now computerised. Unlike the Lentec ETTA ranking scheme where players can only win points, our ratings system subtracts points from a losing player. The number of points won or lost depends on the comparative ratings of the players involved - if you beat a higher ranked player you gain more points on a scale which is graduated according to the difference between the two rankings. Conversely, you lose fewer points when going under to a higher ranked player. The calculations are made for every league match and for every league tournament, excluding handicap matches of course.

The disadvantage of the Lentec ETTA scheme is that the more a player competes the more points he/she can accrue without the balancing factor of being able to lose points. Thus the Bromley league scheme provides a more accurate reflection of playing ability although obviously no such scheme can ever be perfect.

I note that in the Cheshire 2 star tournament that the Class 3 singles proved to be a most popular event. That is not a bit surprising. In general players like to enter tournaments where they feel they may have some chance of progressing through a few rounds at least. In the States most of their tournaments contain numerous Ratings events ranging down to Novice events for players below a certain rating. A similar system here could produce a massive increase in tournament entries and provide a perfect progression for the improving player. Certainly in Bromley such tournaments have proved immensely popular.

It will be argued that there are too many difficulties to make the scheme a viable proposition. As John Prean rightly states everything that is worth doing is difficult. In the States one individual is paid to operate the system. Surely we could do the same here?

In my view this type of Ratings system would do much to recover the near 30% loss of members since 1980. Ally it to a free magazine as John Prean has suggested and who knows, the sky could be the limit. Each and every week I have six free newspapers popped through my letter box. They are full of advertising and they certainly do not lose money.

Ron Etheridge
163a, Eden Park Avenue,
Beckenham,
Kent BR3 3JW

Ed. The ETTA Development department is currently considering a Rating Scheme very similar to that which you describe Ron. National Referee Stuart Sherlock hopes to hold a pilot event during the 1986/87 season and the outcome could well predict a bright future for competitive opportunities at the lower levels of play.

Tom Blunn

ALL in Scotland were saddened at the news of the death of Tom Blunn. He was always a most welcome visitor when ever he came to Scotland and is well remembered for his witty speeches and verses at Quadrangular post-match receptions. Our condolences to Mrs Blunn and his family.

The passing of such a dedicated man, so soon after the death of our own chairman Harry Baxter last year, is a loss which British table tennis will find hard to bear.

DENIS GEORGE

High hopes at Horsham

HORSHAM Table Tennis Club, which is now in its 49th year, recently held a social evening to welcome its new president Danny Hillyard. Present at the social evening were many old and new members, including top England ranked players Phil Smith and Sally Weston, and top County players Keith Horton, Paul Elphick and Phil Richardson.

The club, which is moving into new purpose-built premises in the new year, is holding a recruitment drive and can already boast a 27% increase in membership. Horsham Table Tennis Club has 9 teams playing in the local Hor-

sham and Crawley Table Tennis League. It hopes to become the largest club in the South of England when it has settled into the new premises by then having a British league side and offering facilities for holding county matches.

We are at the moment looking for sponsorship, if you are interested or have any ideas we would be very keen to hear from you.

We hope that this letter gives encouragement to other clubs who are also trying to expand for the sake of the game.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL
Social Secretary
Horsham TTC,
5 The Wadeys, Billingshurst,
West Sussex RH14 9UD

An appreciation of Ken Merrett

KEN MERRETT started playing table tennis at the age of 12. He took to the game and soon became a top class player. His first major success came in 1939 when he won the South of England Junior Championship when only 13. Ken continued to make progress with the help of his elder brother Cyril, who was an England international and considered by many to be the next England No. 1. Ken and his brother's careers like so many were cut short due to the outbreak of the Second World War. Cyril was tragically killed whilst on active service with the RAF and England lost a potential world champion.

With the war drawing to a close, Ken was invited with Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach to travel to Germany to give a weeks exhibition for the Red Cross. At the end of the war, Ken picked up the threads of his table tennis career and was soon in action for his county team, Surrey. It was not long before Ken's class and style attracted the attention of the England selectors and he was selected to represent his country against Ireland. England won the match 10-1.

This was also the first appearance for England of future World Champion Johnny Leach. Ken made a total of four appearances for England which included the semi-final of the European Cup against Switzerland which England won 4-1. Ken remained unbeaten in all his matches for England.

He also had the distinction of being the youngest player to participate in the World Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in January 1947. Later in the year Ken was extremely successful in the English Open Championships when he became the only Englishman left in the last eight.

He was beaten by Tereba, the Czech, who was the eventual winner.

Ken continued his career for a while and had some notable wins in the doubles with his partner, Ron Crayden, one being against Leach and Carrington who had not been beaten by an English pairing for three years.

Within a couple of seasons Ken retired from the game. Twenty-four years later Ken and his family moved to Burgess Hill and after a settling down period was surprised to be approached by Father Bernard Rowley who invited him to help some youngsters at the St. Wilfred's Club in Station Road. Ken visited the club and liked what he saw and gave valuable help to Mick Burrows and twins Phil and Cathy Harvey.

Ken continued to play in the league and captured the closed tournament three times thus setting a target for the rising stars of the future. Ken was elected president of the league in 1966 and continued to give valuable assistance to the league as a very active president until his untimely death.

Ken was a real credit to the game of table tennis and in particular the Haywards Heath and District Table Tennis League.

KEITH JACKSON



Ken Merrett

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

NOVEMBER

- 15/16 South of England Junior 2 Star, Croydon.
16 **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (5)**
20/23 Yugoslavian Open, Novi Sad
22 **County Championships (2)**
22/23 **ETTA Advanced Coaching Course (Crystal Palace)**
Junior Premier Weekend
26 **EUROPEAN LEAGUE: England v. Italy (Tonbridge)**
29/30 **Senior Premier Weekend**
Cleveland Junior 2 Star including Ladbroke
Dragonara International team event (Eston)
VETTS Midland Masters (Coventry)

DECEMBER

- 5/7 French Open (Lyon)
6/7 **ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
(Macclesfield)
7 **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (6)**
10/14 Europe v Asia (Japan)
13/14 **Stiga Middlesex 3 Star (Picketts Lock)**
20 **County Championships (3)**
21 **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (7)**

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

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

★ Richard Eaton

Fleet Street racquet sports favourite writer contributes a special feature.

★ International Interview

With one of England's leading players

★ Stiga 3-Star Grand Prix

Lift-off at Halifax by Rey Balmford

★ Pride or Pressure

Comment by John Woodford on how the recent TV drama on a swimming mini-star reminded viewers of table tennis problems.

★ County Notes

Six pages of news from the county contributors.

OBITUARY

MAPPIN WEBB

IT was at the St. Ives Table Tennis Club Inter Club team tournament on Sunday September 28th that the announcement of Mappin Webb's death was made and a minutes silence was held in his memory. As county president Mappin had written in the programme, and this tournament tribute was to a man who had devoted 40 years to table tennis in Huntingdonshire. Mappin started playing table tennis in the London Business houses league at the age of 17, moving to Huntingdon in 1941. In 1948 he was a founder member of the Hunts County Association and has held the position of chairman and president since this date. He was a founder member of the South East Midland League and chairman from 1961 - 1978 and he was a member of the Eastern Region Coordinating committee.

He was a diploma one star coach and it was in this capacity that he had his greatest enjoyment, only three weeks before his death he was regularly carrying out three nights coaching each week at St. Ives and St. Neots.

Huntingdonshire has always figured well in English Table Tennis circles and much of its success can be attributed to Mappin Webb's dedication, he will be sadly missed and long remembered...

CLIFF OLVER

Memories of Tom Blunn

I WAS saddened to learn of the death of Tom Blunn. He did so much for what he believed in, namely table tennis.

In February 1984, at The Cotswold Junior Select I had the pleasure of interviewing him for local radio, he told me then in his lovely Lancashire accent - that he had many friends in the "West of England" indeed he did, and elsewhere as well.

A few months later in company with his wife Edna - Tom kindly opened our new table tennis playing headquarters at Rudford in Gloucestershire, nearly two years passed by, ere we met again, this time at Stroud last April where he was guest of honour at Strouds 50th year anniversary celebrations, once again he obliged me with quite a long radio interview, after it was over he placed his hand on my knee and quietly said - "That's the last interview Alf that I shall be able to give you, I knew what he meant, we shook hands and returned to our respective friends, after that evening I never saw him again, but I do have the tapes of those interviews, they are a very sincere and genuine reminder of a man whom I suspect, gave to our sport far far more than he ever took out.

If indeed I have any regrets about Tom, it would be better expressed that we met in the autumn of both of our lives, I would have dearly enjoyed knowing him when he was a much younger man. Finally, it was a privilege to have known a man like Tom, and perhaps if only upon one or two occasions to have shared a few of his private thoughts.

ALF PEPPERD, Gloucestershire

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

THE first of the season's St. Neots Winter League fixtures were held on September 21st. Each season juniors, seniors and veterans have their own inter league competition. On the first Sunday the St. Neots Invitation Junior division got underway, with the following results: Bedford 8, Wellingborough 1; Dunstable 8, North Herts 1; Kettering 4, Hunts Central 5; Northampton 4, St. Neots 5; Peterborough 7, Daventry 2; North Herts 0, Bedford 9; Hunts Central 4, Dunstable 5; St. Neots 6, Kettering 3; Daventry 4, Northampton 5; Wellingborough 3, Peterborough 6.

Tom's tune up

FOLLOWING the replacement of his cardiac pacemaker *Table Tennis News* is delighted to hear that ESTTA President Tom Matthews is well on his way back to full health. Having retired from his teaching post in Leeds, Tom, who has been at the head of ESTTA since 1978, has no shortage of interests to occupy his leisure hours. Aside from table tennis he enjoys a wide variety of outdoor pursuits.

● CONGRATULATIONS! ●

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