



# Table Tennis News

No. 170

DECEMBER 1987

80p



**A WINNING SERVICE —  
JAQUES TABLES  
and DOUBLE FISH  
TABLE TENNIS BALLS**

**John  
Jaques**

# Three opportunities coming up!

TABLE TENNIS in Britain received an enormous boost in 1977 following the world championships in Birmingham. The first three months of 1988 will see three opportunities to make real progress. OPPORTUNITY No 1 is at Brighton in January when almost a world championship battle will be seen for certain because the top players from Asia and Europe will be travelling down from Cleveland after their contest at Thornaby. OPPORTUNITY No 2 will be in Norwich when England and Holland hopefully still unbeaten will be duelling for promotion to the Super Division of the European League and OPPORTUNITY No 3 will be in Paris when for the first time since the Leach-Bergmann era decades ago, England will be able to call on three world-class players — Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Carl Prean in the European team championships. I am sure the crowds will flock to Brighton and to Paris and we are assured of a full house at St Andrews Hall, Norwich. If England can win at Norwich and make the best Europeans fight all the way in Paris it will be a highly successful season.

\* \* \* \* \*

AT LEAST for another 15 months it is highly unlikely that anyone will oppose at an election the chairman of the ETTA John Prean. His positive style is accepted by the majority of the Management Committee, the National Council and the rank and file. He is generally accepted by the media, not just because he speaks freely and provides bright copy for journalists, but in hindsight it is now looking as though the sport in England did need and still does need a big new broom at the top. Remember he chairs the Management Committee. The difficult decisions are always around, the Committee have to make them and I even suggest that the chairman himself may not always agree with the decisions made. The anti-Prean Team lobbies are still there as they have a right to be but as far as this magazine is concerned they will need to choose new areas of debate.

**JOHN WOODFORD**

## ● WILL DES DOUGLAS RESUME COMMUTING ABROAD NEXT SEASON? ●

AGAIN, as this magazine goes to press the conflict between the man we most like to watch on court, the dazzling Desmond Douglas and the ETTA continues. Both parties have their legal beagles at work. The result can only be that Douglas will become a freelance star and not a staff man. An agreement will be reached on his programme of major events only. Smaller tournaments and PR appearances for him will be unlikely. But the danger is that for next season he will be eagerly scooped up by a foreign club and his commuting to the continent will start again, a result of the £833 fine decision.



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**Editor:**  
JOHN WOODFORD

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### ★ THE COVER PICTURE

CARL PREAN, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, who plays for Saarbrucken in the West German Bundesliga is the reigning Leeds-Stiga English Top-12 champion. At the European Olympic Qualifying tournament in Karlsruhe he lost some vital matches by narrow margins but could still qualify for Seoul on a wild card. Picture: Sylvio Dokov. ★



# SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

## Spotlight

ANDREA HOLT, 17 from Ramsbottom, Lancashire moves into the spotlight and hopefully will stay there. Her amazing collection of scalps at Farnborough and then finishing second again at the Midlands Open in Birmingham suggests that she will be soon finishing in first place in senior events and we shall be, along with our friends in Lancashire, taking the champagne out of the cooler.

Photographers at Farnborough failed to appreciate the need to get some good shots before it was too late. But that is not likely to happen again. At forthcoming events, Andrea will be getting used to seeing cameras flashing and the more expensive ones with motor drives and no flashes also hard at work.

Meanwhile, we search the drawers for Andrea Holt photographs for immediate use.

## 11-year record

THE defeat in Birmingham for Desmond Douglas by David Hannah has left many fans wondering about the last time he lost to Englishmen in England in an open event under normal scoring rules.

George Yates, a tower of strength with his memory and

for facts and figures has produced from his archives the following gems: In the autumn of 1976, Des was beaten twice. On 4 September, in the north of England a 2-star in Manchester he was beaten by the 16-year-old Bolton League champion at that time Stephen Cowley, who is now in Australia. On 24 October, also in 1976 Des lost in the semi-finals of the Humber-side 3-star at Hull to Denis Neale 21-14, 21-23, 21-19.

So it was a bleak autumn for our Birmingham professional, but since then only the Scottish-born Englishman David Hannah has defeated our European No. 3. And Hannah is not ranked in the Top 50 men in Europe!

## Chinese Invaders

NEWS from court-side in West Germany is that there has been an invasion of Chinese players replacing a number of leading European players especially Swedes who cannot under the new regulations, play in both the Bundesliga as well as their own national sides.

This information comes from Alan Fletcher the former England No. 6 who is teaching at Kings School, Gutersloh.

The top five Chinese players in the Bundesliga are: Li Yuxiang (ATSV Saarbrücken) which is

Carl Prean's club, Lu Qiwei (Sp.Vg Steinhagen), Sum Man (Post SV Mulheim), Shi Zhi (TTC Grenzau) and Guo Yuehua (SSV Reutlingen).

Carl Prean recently beat Shi Zhihao as Saarbrücken overpowered Grenzau 9-4. Carl also beat Georg Böhm, arguably the West German No. 1 especially after he up-ended three Swedes in New Delhi last February, in the Swaythling Cup.

And, Alan tells us, Borussia Dusseldorf, Desmond Douglas's old club are favourites to win.

## North West Kent to Celebrate

THE North West Kent Table Tennis Association celebrate their 40th Anniversary in 1988. In order to acknowledge this special year certain events are being planned and the Committee would like to make contact with ex officers and players to extend invitations. Please write to or telephone, Hon Secretary: Mrs Linda Sopp, 4 Horsham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7HP. Telephone: 0322 525760.

## 10,000 STUDENT ETTA COACHES

THE honour of being the 10,000th registered Student Coach has fallen to Douglas Hutchinson of Tottenham, London N17. Douglas is a member of Wood Green Youth Club and the Rejects Club, and plays in the North Middlesex League. He will be receiving his coaching instruction from Mike Pantin who, in addition to being an active teacher of coaching students, is also secretary of the Rejects Table Tennis Club.

Here's to the next 10,000!

## 1988 HERE WE COME . . .

The *Table Tennis News* staff — JOHN WOODFORD (Editor), JIM BECKLEY (Advertising) and BETH DAVIES (Distribution) send Festive Greetings to all readers with hopes that 1988 with its beckoning opportunities is going to be a year to remember for the sport.

## LEEDS ENGLISH OPEN — BRIGHTON —

### TICKET PRICES

	Wed	Thurs/Fri (per day)	Thurs/Fri (per eve)	Sat (morn)	Finals Sat 1.30pm
<b>STANDARD PRICE</b>					
(Balcony)	£1	£3	£2	£1	£2.50
(Ground floor)	£1	£4	£3	£1	£5
<b>*PARTY BOOKING</b>					
Rate for 20 or more (Balcony)	£1	£2	£1	£1	£1.50
(Ground floor)	£1	£3	£2	£1	£3
<b>CHILDREN UNDER 16 &amp; SENIOR CITIZENS</b>					
(Balcony)	£1	£2	£1	£1	£1.50
(Ground floor)	£1	£3	£2	£1	£3
<b>SEASON TICKETS</b>	£10 (Ground floor)	£8 (Balcony)			
(including Finals)	£5 Child & OAPs	£4 Child & OAPs			

\*This rate applies only to tickets booked at the standard price.

## LEAGUE COACHING

by JILL PARKER

Working for the ETTA as a National Staff Coach for the last eight months, I have been very conscious of the service that we should give to the affiliated leagues. It is the inevitable question from the leagues 'what do we get for our affiliation fees?'

From a coaching point of view in the North West of England, we have in my opinion provided good value for money. On three occasions I have written to all 40 leagues regarding a free league visit, a free coaching rally and an invitation to send young promising players to their catchment area Advanced Training Centre trials. Unfortunately the response on all three occasions was, from a coaching point of view, very disappointing. There is an apathy within some leagues and unfortunately players/coaches do not get the information which should be passed onto them. Not a fault of the ETTA, but a lack of communication within the local league structure.

While some leagues may not be interested in coaching, may I suggest that a well structured league coaching programme will in time, cause an expansion of the number of registered players. We are setting up a new system to try and help leagues improve their coaching structure, I hope leagues will allow us to help.

# Andrea zooms into orbit

By JOHN WOODFORD and GEORGE YATES

ANDREA HOLT, just 17 is ranked only No. 3 in her home county of Lancashire but it looks as though the England Lentec computer will soon be screening her at a high level in the English women's ratings.

For the last 15 years England have managed to produce a female defender of European standard — Jill Hammersley-Parker the former European champion, currently No. 10 Lisa Lomas and to follow in their footsteps — the girl from Ramsbottom, who thankfully, can also attack with venom.

Andrea's record this season in senior events is superb. Amongst her successes — finishing second at Farnborough in the Leeds-Stiga English Top-12, losing only to Mandy Sainsbury and Lisa Lomas is an incredibly brilliant performance. At Birmingham, Andrea struck again with a final round appearance after stopping Alison Gordon in the semi-finals.

## An academic success

England's brightest prospect at table tennis is also an academic success. With seven O-levels as a pupil at St Gabriel's Secondary High at Bury she is now going for a national diploma in banking and business studies at Bury Metropolitan College.

Coached by her father Wilton Holt she has been playing since she was seven, winning a whole string of junior titles although she suffered a surprise defeat in the final of the English junior championships last December at Macclesfield when she was defeated in the girls final by Kerry Hall who is the current No. 2 to Andrea on the England junior girls list.



Andrea Holt, just 17 is England's most exciting prospect. She comes from Ramsbottom, Lancashire and has been playing since she was aged seven, starting in her father's garage. Her style of play is said to be all round defence and attack and it is the 'attack' reference that will bring joy to the heart of England supremo selector Donald Parker.

Picture: BOLTON EVENING NEWS



ALAN COOKE



JOHN HILTON



ALISON GORDON

## 1988 Coaches

ALAN RANSOME  
JOHN HILTON, BOB WILEY  
ALAN COOKE  
ALISON GORDON  
DAVID HANNAH



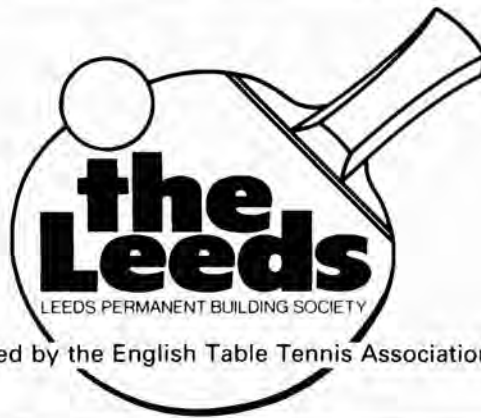
**BRITAIN'S TOP TABLE TENNIS HOLIDAY  
AT DURHAM CASTLE**

## 1988 Dates

**JULY 25 - JULY 29**

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# British Table Tennis League

## LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE

# ORMESBY DEFLATED BY BATH

by MIKE LOVEDER & JIM BECKLEY

DEFINITELY, it looks like being a 'Good Year' for Bathwick Tyres – Bath 1 who fulfilled their fixture with Ormesby while Des Douglas was busy beating the World No. 2, Jan-Ove Waldner (again!) in Hungary. Bath won comfortably despite Ormesby's brilliance in their previous fixture.

Alan Ransome would probably have liked to have given Denis Neale a knighthood for his performance against Grove where he beat both Graham Sandley and Bradley Billington to hold them to a 4-4 draw. It seems almost sad he could only gain about 60 ranking points for these spectacular results.

Grove experienced some difficulty with Chan Construction, just winning 5-3. Carl Morgan was brilliant in beating both Steve Mills and John Souter. Brian Johns fought gallantly too, beating Mills and losing 16-21 in the third to Sandley.

In Division I Ashford roll on relatively untroubled. Bradford IU did well to beat Trebor Dagenham. Martin Kinsella beat Des Charley and John Burleton in this match.

Steve Sharp won two-straights against John Green and David Dodd. Horsham Dolphins enjoyed the good form of Andrew Dodd who won his two comfortably for a 5-3 win. TSP Larkhall held Dagenham to a draw despite a surprise bonus win for Des Charley over Percy Collino. Mike Hammond won his two to steady the ship.

### REJECTS GO TO THE DOGS!

Plymouth Bulldogs move to the top of Division II South following a 6-2 home win over Rejects I. The latter were without their No. 1 Gary Spencer who had been injured the previous day at a football match.

Mike O'Leary beat Mike Short and Richard Beckham beat Tony Sweet but on the day Gary Wilson looked far too good. Doleq Carpets floored Gunnersbury Triangle with their 7-1 victory.

A rare duck from Tony Stark and a not-so-rare duck from Babs Adedayo did not help their cause! Team Ramlosa Essex continue to bubble although they could be severely tested at Ruislip. C&L Ruislip suffered a surprise 2-6 defeat to Rejects to illustrate the unpredictability of this Division.

Even Paul Amos at No. 4 only won one and Rob Liquorish at 3 the other. John Taylor lost both in straight games though not without a fight. Kingfisher Reading II chalked up their first Leeds British League point of the season with a draw against fellow relegation contenders Fellows Cranleigh. Paul Sayer is reported to be playing well but he could not prevent the points being shared here.

### Div 2 North

A shock result for leaders Rushton Marconi Lincoln who went down 5-3 to Wolverhampton. A tremendous win for the Midlands side and it was national champion Fiona Elliot who clinched a vital set for Wolves at a vital time. Trailing 3-2 Fiona went on to beat the experienced Derek Munt and it turned out to be the result that broke Rushton's effort who then collapsed after pulling back from

two sets down.

Grove II took two points from EAE Waveney that could prove vital at the end of the season. They led all the way but there were some very tight games. No single figures and three sets to three games — any one of those might have made a big difference to the final score of 5-3.

An expected result for City of Leeds who maintained their chase for the title by beating Well Connected Wellingborough 6-2. Defeat though for Kevin Beadsley who lost to Graeme McKim in three games.

### Div 3 East

No surprise in the closeness of the result between Dagenham FC and AHW Pioneers with the home side winning 5-3. Seven sets went to three games with the home side winning four. Phil Cox was named Player of the Match being the only player to win two matches.

Britannia Ipswich extended their lead at the top of this division with a 5-3 win over rivals Chelmsford OC's. This top of the table clash went all Brit's way and it was only two late results in Chelmsford's favour that gave the result some respectability. Britannia are obviously going to be a real threat this season.

### Div 3 East

Norwich Foxwood moved into a challenging position with a 7-1 win over Fellows Cranleigh. Unbeaten performances from

Richard Stevenson, S. Howlett and D. Honor and a result that improves their sets performance.

### Div 3 North

The top of the table clash between Oldham and Kingsbro Insurance proved to be as tight as expected with both teams sharing the spoils. Lots of close matches with Mal Corking Player of the Match after winning two sets for Kingsbro.

### Div 3 South

Another draw this time between Deptford Rams who were held to a 4-4 result with Alpha Warriors. A disappointment for the Rams who now see the Warriors move ahead of them.

An expected result an Enfield where Ashford beat Thorn Ellenborough 5-3 to move further ahead at the top of the division. Juliet Houghton lost the opening set to Lesley Tyler but from then on it was success all the way for Ashford. Two late wins for John Lennon and Nicky McKoy helped make the final score a little more respectable.

Despite half the games going to three games, none of them went the way of Reigate and Redhill. But that is the way things go when you are struggling. Although Countrymen who handsomely 8-0, Reigate's performance wasn't as bad as that and suggests better times ahead.

Two well matched sides but victory in the end to Jolliffe Poole who beat Cheltenham 5-3. And it was mainly thanks to Martin Hughes whose win over Bill Dane in the last set of the match gave Jolliffe those two vital points.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



# Leeds British League 2

## Div 3 North

A useful win for Trinity in the race for promotion. A 5-3 result over Chan Construction puts them clear of their nearest rivals and they have Ivan Nain to thank after beating Andy Cockerill in the final set when the scores were 4-3.

At the other end of the division Byker beat Vickers 5-3. Plenty of close games and Vickers unlucky not to get a point.

## Div 3 West

Another hard luck story for bottom club Leominster as they went down 5-3 to Duchy Launceston. A last set win for Martin Rowe sealed Leominster's fate.

Two more useful points for Express Sports in a match at Yeovil where five sets went to

three games but only one came out in Bathwick's favour.

## Div 3 South

Larkhill and Rejects shared the points at Clapham Manor School and it was my PR colleague Mike Lovedar who helped claim for his team Rejects a last gasp draw after they had trailed all the way. In the last match of the afternoon Mike beat Frank Hams 21-16, 21-18.

## Div 3 East

Crusaders were no match for title chasing Birmingham Athletic Inst and went down 6-2. Jimmy Brewster won two sets for Crusaders and won Player of the Match award as well but his efforts were in vain.

### Premier Division:

Chan Construction 3, Ormesby 5  
Dunlop Express 3, Kingfisher Reading 5

### Division 2 (North):

City of Leeds 3, Grove 5  
Ruston Lincoln 6, Wellconn Wellingborough 2

### Division 2 (South):

Gunnersbury Triangle 3, Plymouth Bulldogs 5

### Division (West):

IMI Leominster 2, Bathwick Tyres 6

## RESULTS (November):

### Premier Division:

Bathwick Tyres 8, Butterfly Cardiff 1  
Dunlop Express 2, Chan Construction 6  
Grove 4, Ormesby 4  
Kingfisher Reading 2, Rotherham TTC 6

### Division 1:

Ashford 7, Byker Newcastle 1  
Treborg Dagenham 4, TSP Larkhall 4  
West Warwickshire 2, St Neots 6

### Division 2 (North):

Grove 6, Ormesby 2  
March 1, City of Leeds 7  
Ruston Lincoln 5, EAE Waveney 3  
Wellconn Wellingborough 3, Wolverhampton 5

### Division 2 (South):

Doleq Carpets 7, Kingfisher Reading 1  
Fellows Cranleigh 2, Plymouth Bulldogs 6  
Rejects 6, C & L Ruislip 2  
Team Ramlosa Essex 6, Gunnersbury Triangle 2

### Division 3 (East):

AHW Pioneer 3, Norwich Foxwood 5  
Birmingham Athletic 5, Trebor Dagenham 3  
Britannia Ipswich 8, Crusaders Lincoln 0  
Fells Cranleigh 3, Chelmsford 5

### Division 3 (North):

Byker Newcastle 5, Ormesby 3  
Chan Construction 7, Oldham 1  
Kingsborough 8, Vickers SC 0  
Leicester TTC 5, Trinity, Newcastle 3

### Division 3 (South):

Alpha Warriors 6, TSP Larkhall 2  
Ashford 5, Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 3  
Reigate & Redhill 3, Deptford Rams 5  
Rejects 4, Thorn Ellenborough 4

### Division 3 (West):

Bathwick Tyres 3, Butterfly Cardiff 5  
Cheltenham Saracens 6, Dunlop Express 2  
Duchy Windows Launceston 3, Jolliffe Poole 5  
Generation Fareham 6, IMI Leominster 2

## LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE- TABLES



### Premier Division

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Bathwick Tyres — Bath I	5	5	0	0	37	3	10
Grove I	5	4	1	0	30	10	9
Rotherham TTC	5	3	0	2	19	21	6
Ormesby I	5	2	1	2	19	21	5
Kingfisher Reading I	4	2	0	2	15	17	4
Butterfly Cardiff I	4	1	0	3	11	21	2
Chan Construction I	5	1	0	4	14	26	2
Dunlop Express I	5	0	0	5	7	33	0

### Division 1

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Ashford I	5	5	0	0	32	8	10
Treborg Dagenham FC I	5	2	2	1	25	15	6
Bradford Investment Unity	4	3	0	1	18	14	6
T.S.P. Larkhall I	5	2	2	1	22	18	6
Horsham Dolphins	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
St Neots	5	1	1	3	18	22	3
Byker Newcastle I	5	1	0	4	13	27	2
West Warwickshire	5	0	0	5	7	33	0

### Division 2 (North)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
City of Leeds	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
Ruston Marconi Lincoln	5	3	1	1	26	14	7
Grove II	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
March	5	3	0	2	19	21	6
Wolverhampton	5	2	1	2	20	20	5
EAE Waveney	5	2	0	3	24	16	4
Ormesby II	5	0	1	4	9	31	1
Well-Conn Wellingborough	5	0	0	5	10	30	0

### Division 2 (South)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Plymouth Bulldogs	5	4	1	0	26	14	9
Team Ramlosa Essex	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
C & L Ruislip	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Doleq Carpets	5	2	1	2	22	18	5
Rejects I	5	2	0	3	19	21	4
Gunnersbury Triangle	5	2	0	3	16	24	4
Fellows Cranleigh I	5	0	2	3	15	25	2
Kingfisher Reading II	5	0	1	4	9	31	1

### Division 3 (East)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Britannia Ipswich	5	5	0	0	31	9	10
Birmingham Athletic Institute	5	4	0	1	25	15	8
Chelmsford OC's	5	3	1	1	27	13	7
Norwich Foxwood	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Treborg Dagenham II	5	2	0	3	16	24	4
AHW Pioneer	5	1	0	4	16	24	2
Fellows Cranleigh II	5	0	1	4	12	28	1
Crusaders Lincoln	4	0	1	3	6	26	1

### Division 3 (North)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Trinity Newcastle-U-Lyme	5	4	0	1	29	11	8
Kingsbro Financial Services	5	3	1	1	27	13	7
Oldham	5	3	1	1	23	17	7
Chan Construction II	5	3	0	2	24	16	6
Leicester TTC	5	3	0	2	23	17	6
Byker Newcastle II	5	2	0	3	16	24	4
Ormesby III	5	1	0	4	13	27	2
Vickers Sports Club	5	0	0	5	5	35	0

### Division 3 (South)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Ashford II	5	4	1	0	29	11	9
Countrymen Tunbridge Wells	5	4	0	1	30	10	8
Deptford Rams	5	3	2	0	26	14	8
Alpha Warriors	5	3	1	1	23	17	7
Rejects II	5	1	2	2	14	26	4
TSP Larkhall II	5	1	1	3	17	23	3
Thorn Ellenborough	5	0	1	4	13	27	1
Reigate & Redhill LTTC	5	0	0	5	8	32	0

### Division 3 (West)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Butterfly Cardiff II	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
Jolliffe Poole	5	4	0	1	24	16	8
Generation Fareham	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
Cheltenham Saracens SC	5	2	1	2	18	22	5
Duchy Windows Launceston	5	2	0	3	19	21	4
Dunlop Express II	5	2	0	3	17	23	4
Bathwick Tyres — Bath II	5	1	0	4	17	23	2
IMI Leominster	5	0	1	4	14	26	1

# Germans visit after hurricane

## Drama at Tunbridge Wells

by JOHN KNOCK

AT 4am Friday, 16 October 1987, a time most folk in South East England will remember vividly as the hurricane struck with awesome fury. Daylight, and debris, trees down everywhere, roofs and buildings badly damaged, not electricity, few telephones, and many roads blocked. And three teams from Heusenstamm due to fly from Frankfurt airport to play return matches against us in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

'Don't stop them,' said Andrew, after we had cleared the ruins of a neighbour's room. Cyril stroked his beard thoughtfully, Ted reminded us of our opponents' plans for their special weekend, I pondered. A time for decision, a phone call to Dietmar in Germany, just leaving for the plane, and the visit and matches were on, with four cars off braving the weather to meet them at Gatwick.

### Arrival

And so the party of 17 players and supporters from Heusenstamm arrived in Southborough to stay at the Hand & Sceptre

### Candles lit

Hotel, fortunately with electricity restored, and at our homes in Kent where candles were the order of the day, or rather night! A minibus trip around the two towns of Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding villages revealed widespread and dramatic damage, with the bus wending its way on those roads passable through fallen trees and foliage, not to mention floods.

Yet our matches were played, and exciting and open table ten-

nis came from both sides. Andrew and Greg unbeaten in the 'A' team match, Carolyn and Audrey each winning games against their lady opponents in the 'B' team fixture, and Ted and John K just earning a draw in the final 'C' team doubles. A civic reception, with speeches from the Mayor replied to by Rolf who presented us with an inscribed plate.

### Rock climb

Rudi, perhaps the eldest but certainly the nimblest of our visitors, climbed to the top of the Rocks at Tunbridge Wells Common to acclaim all round. Hans wife and son Michel visited London with Carl Heinz and Walter, while the young ladies Beate and Sylvia preferred local scenes, Ray, Bob, Audrey, and the rest drove up and down the M25, A21

and Quarry Hill as the trees were slowly cleared, and the candles still burnt!

### Our turn next

Next year it will be our turn to visit Heusenstamm, but in all visits on either side of the Channel non are likely to provide more dramatic memories than this.

### The scores

Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells 'A' 6 (A. Houghton 2, G. Barden 2, B. Merfield 1, M. Roberts 0), Heusenstamm 'A' 4 (R. Barner 2, C-H. Hartmann 1, D. Mohr 0, W. Pohlman 0).

Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells 'B' 5 (C. Brown 1, A. Woollven 1, A. Archer 1, J. Butler 1), Heusenstamm 'B' 5 (E. Gerich 2, B. Gerich 1, F. Joerg 1, S. Helm 0).

Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells 'C' 5 (J. Knock 2, J. Batchelor 1, E. Houghton 1, P. Ledsham 0), Heusenstamm 'C' 5 (R. Adler 2, H. Schroth 1, Konig 1, M. Scholz 0, M. Schroth 0).

# TOP TABLES

# AT

# LOW

# LOW

# LOW



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# Norwich wins the Big Match

## THE CALENDAR of WORLD EVENTS

### From the International Table Tennis Federation

<b>1987</b>	
Dec 19-Dec 20	Olympic Qualifying Tournament (Doubles) Vienna
<b>1988</b>	
Jan 12-Jan 17	3rd European/Asia Tournament Team Events — 12th Rome, 14th Germany FR Individual Events 16th/17th Basle
<b>Jan 20-Jan 23</b>	<b>Leeds English Open Championships</b>
Jan 28-Jan 30	Irish Open Championships
Feb 1-Feb 11	6th Iran International Tournament
Feb 4-Feb 7	Federal Germany Open Championships
<b>Feb 12-Feb 14</b>	<b>European Top 12</b>
Mar 1-Mar 3	8th Israel Open Championships
<b>Mar 19-Mar 27</b>	<b>16th European Championships</b>
April 9-	Bermuda Open Championships
April 10-April 11	4th European Junior Top 12
May 20-May 22	Czech Junior Open Championships
June 6-June 11	4th Veterans World Championships
June 17-June 19	Hungarian Junior Open Championships
July 30-Aug 7	31st European Youth Championships
<b>Sept 23-Oct 1</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES</b>
Oct 28-Oct 30	Italian Open Championships
Nov 17-Nov 20	Yugoslav Open Championships
Nov 25-Nov 27	Dutch Open Championships
Dec 1-Dec 4	French Open Championships
Dec	4th Oceania Championships

# NORWICH FOR THE BIG CLASH

NORWICH is the city chosen for the most important European League match of the season. On Wednesday, 2 March at St Andrews Hall, the splendid ancient hall in the Norwich city centre will be the venue for the clash between England and Holland. Assuming neither team has lost by that day, the winning team will regain its place in the premier division.

Holland have two world-class women players Bettine Vreisekoop and Mirjam Kloppenburg, plus one very strong player Paul Haldan. England's hopes of promotion will depend largely on the result of the men's matches, at least that is the way it seems on paper this far ahead of the battle.

### NEWS OF THE WORLD . . .

WITH a circulation of about eight million, the largest of any newspaper, anywhere in the world, the *News of the World* has in recent months increased its space given to table tennis. The Desmond Douglas conflict has helped, but former world champion Johnny Leach now gets space in most weeks of the year. So, two newspapers, poles apart in their appeal, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *News of the World* can be noted as giving weekly table tennis news.

### ITTF PHONE NUMBER

THE International Table Tennis Federation have recently changed their telephone number at their Hastings office. It is now Hastings (0424) 721414.

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## Scotland defeated at Mossley

# Moors duel for Douglas, Hannah

by GEORGE YATES

IT was back to the little moorland township of Mossley, where an English team last took on Holland in 1985, that the route was retraced on 4 November for a three-man confrontation with Scotland who were overpowered 5-1.

The appearance of Desmond Douglas was the major attraction and in despatching John Broe and David Hannah the Warwickshire left-hander fully lived up to expectations.

But it was Hannah who took the lone English scalp by accounting for John Souter in devastating fashion unlike his later annihilation at the hands of Douglas.

Match of the evening was that between Jimmy Stokes and Broe which brought tumultuous applause with the Berkshire lad coming from behind in the deciding game to win 24-22.

### Backroom boys

The Tameside Metropolitan Borough's Recreational Department were the presenters of the match which was sponsored by Neilson, the Ashton-under-Lyne travel agents who also donated a trophy to the winning team. The backroom boys were Chris Hope and Dave Kinder.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council are a very

forward-looking authority, especially in sport and recreation. In an extract from the programme, chief Recreation Officer Ted Neighbour said: "The first international between England and Holland was staged to commemorate the Mossley Centenary Festival in 1985 and proved a resounding success. In fact table tennis has a high profile in Tameside with two local leagues, a Youngsters Development Scheme, and its own Advanced Training Centre.

### Chinese special

More recently a special training and coaching session by the Chinese table tennis team for local youngsters has all helped to put Tameside on the table tennis map."

### The Scores

Scores: J. Stokes b I. Stokes 16, 13; J. Souter 1 D. Hannah -17, -10; D. Douglas b J. Broe 15, 9; Souter b Stokes 14, 12; Stokes b Broe 18, -18, 22; Douglas b Hannah 13,5.

## Heart of England Cadet TT League

by BRIAN ASTON

THE first session of the league got underway on 10 October at St Nicholas Primary School, Kenilworth with Nuneaton leading. Ian Baxter maintained a 100% record for Nuneaton ably supported by Matthew Hobday, Philip Pagett and Jamie Paterson.

Last year's winners Banbury 'A' are hot on their heels and with two of last years side in Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett will take some stopping. Playing two matches this session they defeated Leamington 'A' 9-1 and Leamington 'B' 10-0.

Worcester made a welcome return after a years absence winning once against Bromsgrove 'A' 10-0 and losing two to Banbury 'B' and Leamington 'A'.

Newcomer Swadlincote also had a good start winning two from three.

Walsall hold second place thanks to a close 6-4 win against Banbury 'B'.

A full day's play left four players with 100% records. Ian Baxter Nuneaton and Sally Hughes, Dawn Barnett and Matthew Sims all of Banbury 'A'.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	3	3	0	25	5	6
Walsall	3	3	0	22	8	6
Banbury 'A'	2	2	0	19	1	4
Banbury 'B'	3	2	1	21	9	4
Coventry	2	2	0	15	5	4
Leamington 'A'	3	2	1	20	10	4
Swadlincote	3	2	1	15	15	4
Leamington 'B'	2	1	1	10	10	2
Worcester	3	1	2	14	16	2
Evesham	3	0	3	11	19	0
Rugby	3	0	3	8	22	0
Bromsgrove 'A'	3	0	3	0	30	0
Bromsgrove 'B'	3	0	3	0	30	0

### RESULTS

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

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## No changes at Halifax

### Yorkshire & Humberside 3-star Open

# Des, Alison hold their titles

by REA BALMFORD

WHEN the results of the finals of the Yorkshire & Humberside Open, held, at the North Bridge Leisure Centre in Halifax, go into the record books, little will appear to have changed from 1986 with holders Des Douglas and Alison Gordon each taking a second tenure on the singles titles; Douglas again finishing runner-up in the MD, this time with Jimmy Stokes; Mandy Sainsbury and Miss Gordon, second placed 12 months ago, moving up to take LD honours; and 'new' veteran John Hilton ousting holder Derek Schofield.

The bare finals results, however, in no way tell the story of a MS event which brought joy to some, frustration to others, but had the effect of keeping a high pitch of interest among both players and spectators.

At one early stage of the final 'pool' just after midday on Sunday, it looked to be a case of 'the old order changeth, yielding place to the new' as the seeds in the bottom half of the draw fell like autumn leaves, blown away by the teenagers who are looking to make their mark at senior level.

#### Storm coming

Early indications of the storm to come showed through in the Saturday groups, when Paul Giles (ranked 26), Dave Gannon (27) and, probably most notably, Nigel Eckersley (13) fell to Phil Smith (41), Andy Wellman (36) and Paul Whiting (21).

The climate became more unstable the following morning as Derby's Steve Yallop shot out former European champion John Hilton (23), and then 'Crash' — out went Graham Sandley (9), seeded 5=, at the hands of Bradley Billington (12), who only six months earlier had claimed the Yorkshire Junior Select title in the same hall and is now pushing hard for a top ten spot.

Greatest shock was the margin of victory — 21-9, 21-10! — and almost before the discussion had died down, the applause was ringing out at the far end of the hall as Billington's doubles partner, Sean Gibson (29) claimed the final point to dismiss the in-form third seed Nicky Mason (5) in a three-set thriller.

The demolition was completed when Matthew Syed despatched Phil Bradbury (10), also in three before coming past Gibson in the quarters for a semi-final tilt at Skylet Andrew, the second seed.

Meanwhile Billington had gone out to Kevin Satchell (14), Andrew's quarter final victim, while in the top half things had gone according to plan with Douglas coming through the top quarter, and the only hiccup at the bottom the quarter final defeat of Scottish international David Hannah, seeded 3=, by John Souter (6, seeded 5=).

Souter claimed the first game of the semi-final before Douglas got on top, while in the other half Syed brought the spectators to

their feet with some tremendous retrieving before the unpredictable, but at times brilliant Andrew came good at the end to get home in three.

The final was yet another three setter, with Andrew relying heavily on service and the reigning champion using his lightning reflexes and sniping off the occasional sharply angled winner but, with too many errors in the game, this battle of the left handers never really reached the heights.

#### Predictable

The Ladies event followed a much more predictable pattern, the only deviations from the expected coming in the groups where Karen Burrows (30) came past Teresa Moore (17) and Julie Billington, unranked after a year on the injured list, tipped out Yorkshire's young hope, Debbie Toole (22).

#### Mrs Sainsbury

From that point on top seeds Lisa Lomas and Miss Gordon moved steadily to the final, although each dropped a game, Lisa to Kerry Hall and Alison to Berkshire colleague Mrs Sainsbury.

The final itself was an attractive game in the old pattern of attack versus defence, with the winner showing great consistency as she got the verdict at 16 in the third.

#### Conceded

In the MD Hannah and Scottish colleague John Broe, seeded 5=, shot out Souter-Chris Rogers (3=) in the quarters before giving best to Mason-Andrew. Douglas-Stokes beat Sandley-Bradbury in the other semi, with Mason-Andrew taking the title in a straight sets final.

What a pity that two pairs, due to meet the seeds, preferred to concede rather than accept the built-in break in the schedule to allow for an afternoon Singles Finals session.

#### Snippets

'Let' called umpire Clive Warley in the middle of a rally. With no extraneous ball in the court, the players looked questionably at Clive — 'Why a "let"?'

'As a matter of fact, lads, I'm slipping off my chair' was the reply.

Whether the requirement 'Play shall be continuous . . .' was observed as both players dissolved into fits of laughter is not recorded.

Surrey veteran Gordon Chapman will have mixed memories of his visit to Yorkshire after making his way to the semi-finals of the Veteran Singles on Saturday before going out to eventual winner John Hilton.

A pleasant social evening followed; remembering his extra hour in bed Gordon adjusted his watch before retiring; and, intending to watch some table tennis before returning south, planned at 8.30am breakfast.

How unfortunate that he put his watch on and not back, and how surprising that nobody was about when Gordon reached the breakfast room at 6.30am on Sunday.

Gordon's comments are perhaps best left unrepeated!

#### RESULTS

**Men's Singles:** Quarter Finals: D. Douglas b J. Stokes 18, 17; S. Andrew b K. Satchell 19, 17; J. Souter b. D. Hannah -15, 19, 11; M. Syed b S. Gibson 19, 19.

Semi-finals: Douglas b Souter -19, 7, 15; Andrew b Syed —18, 16, 17.

Final: Douglas b Andrew 14, -18, 10.

**Ladies Singles:** Semi-finals: A. Gordon b M. Sainsbury 14, -10, 14; L. Lomas b F. Elliott 19, 19.

Final: Gordon b Lomas 13, -19, 16.

**Men's Doubles:** N. Mason-Andrew b Douglas-Stokes 21, 16.

**Ladies' Doubles:** Sainsbury-Gordon b Elliott-Lomas -15, 8, 23.

**Veteran Singles:** J. Hilton b D. Schofield 17, 15.

**Class 2 Mixed Singles:** Semi-finals: K. Beadsley b S. Brunskill 11, 14; M. Stead b M. Short 17, 15.

Final: Beadsley b Stead 19, 21.

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## Sensation in Birmingham

### Midland Counties 3-Star Open

# Revenge for David Hannah — Desmond loses thriller

by NEIL WHEATLEY

WHAT a sensation at the Midland 3-Star Open on 8 November with Desmond Douglas defeated in the Men's Singles by second seed Dave Hannah — and what a match!

Douglas had cruised into the final and at 20-16 in the first looked set to win the title for the fifth time. However, with remarkable speed around the court and powerful hitting down both wings, Hannah pulled back the deficit and after a series of fantastic rallies clinched the set 26-24. Could this be the end of Douglas's reign? Not so, we thought, as he walked away with the second set, but Hannah refused to be overawed, got his game back together and aided by some canny serving and a flurry of fast angled drives, swept to a memorable victory.

#### Record revenge

For the record, Douglas crushed Hannah without mercy ten days earlier at the England v Scotland friendly match at Mossley, so this was a real revenge victory by Hannah, who occasionally shows touches of world-class, yet he has still to win a European ranking.

This exciting match was a fitting climax to a great tournament for the Midlands. The opening of a brand new Sports Centre at Cocks Moors Woods, Kings Heath gave the Birmingham and District Association the opportunity to bring the event back to Birmingham after several years at Warley and Walsall and with sponsorship from the City's Recreation and Community Services department, Stiga Ltd and two local firms, an entry of 240 and a large crowd, they must have been pleased with their decision.

Midlanders too figured prominently in most of the finals. Wolverhampton's Fiona Elliott comfortably defeated Andrea Holt in the Ladies Singles final after an epic semi-final battle against top seed Lisa Lomas which provided the tournament's other main highlight. Holt's semi-final win was at the expense of Alison Gordon in another attack v defence classic much enjoyed by the spectators.



David Hannah

Elliott and Lomas teamed up to win the Ladies Doubles from Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury, whilst the Men's Doubles saw top seeds Desmond Douglas and Jimmy Stokes overwhelm Glen Baker and Max Crimmins.

The Class 2 Men's Singles went to Derbyshire's Phil Vickers who beat Andy Rich of Staffs, pulling back from 5-10 in the third set to win 16 of the last 18 points.

There was an all Midland clash

in the final of the Ladies Class 2 Singles with Wolverhampton's Helen Lower defeating Chesterfield's Julie Billington.

Local No. 1 and title holder Ralph Gunnion sprang the only surprise in the Veterans event — by not turning up, leaving Manchester's John Hilton to stroll to the title.

#### RESULTS

**Men's Singles Semi-finals:** D. Douglas b K. Satchell 12, 11; D. Hannah b J. Souter 11, -18, 13.

**Final:** Hannah b Douglas 24, -13, 18.  
**Ladies Singles Semi-finals:** F. Elliott b L. Lomas 15, -21, 20; A. Holt b A. Gordon 16, 18.

**Final:** Elliott b Holt 14, 19.  
**Men's Doubles Semi-finals:** D. Douglas/J. Stokes b D. Hannah/J. Broe 12, 15; G. Baker/M. Crimmins b P. Giles/P. Whiting 15, 17.

**Final:** Douglas/Stokes b Baker/Crimmins 13, 6.  
**Ladies Doubles Semi-finals:** F. Elliott/L. Lomas b J. Barella/S. Roden 19, 9; M. Sainsbury/A. Gordon b A. Holt/J. Shaw 12, 9.

**Final:** Elliott/Lomas b Sainsbury/Gordon 11, 12.  
**Veterans Singles Semi-finals:** T. Campbell b F. Jones 26, 14; J. Hilton b W. Allanson 9, 17.

**Final:** Hilton b Campbell 16, 17.

## SCOTLAND

BY DENIS GEORGE

#### STTA Assessment Tournaments, Meadowbank SC, Edinburgh

The Senior tournament, held on 6 September, attracted a large entry. The Men's event was won by David Hannah with John Broe in second place. Brian Wright, Ian McLean, David McLlroy, Ian Stokes and Gordon Clancey — each with three wins — required reference to the ITF 'Equality in Group play' regulations to place them in third to seventh order. Carole Dalrymple won the Ladies event with Janet Smith in second place. The Junior and Cadet tournament was held at the same venue on 20 September and attracted such a large entry that two halls had to be used. Paul Clark and Kevin McKellar won the two boys' events, whilst Lorraine Anderson defeated Sarah Hurry to win the Junior Girls and Catherine Symons from Orkney took the Cadet Girls.

#### 14th Home Countries Quadrangular, Washington, 11/12 September

Scotland's tenure of the British

## Hannah, Broe are top Scots

Aerospace Trophy lasted only one year. However, we did not give it up without a fight. After 6-2 victories over Ireland and Wales, Scotland came back from 0-2 down to 2-all against England and finished with a respectable 3-5 scoreline; David Hannah and John Broe both beating John Souter and the Dalrymple/Smith combination beating Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt.

★ ★ ★

#### 4 October: STTA Team Cup, Meadowbank SC, Edinburgh

Central YMCA (Glasgow) — David McLlroy, Ian McLean, David Thomas, Paul Clark and Martin Shields — retained the title of top Scottish club team for the eighth successive year with Blacklands 'B' (Ayrshire) and Shell Elite (Aberdeen) in second and third places.

★ ★ ★

#### 4 October: STTA Veterans' Inter-League, Meadowbank SC, Edinburgh

This new venture, which had an

entry from seven leagues, was won by Edinburgh — Michael Maclaren, John Lynn and Roger Thomas.

★ ★ ★

#### European League, Division 2

After an ignominious 1/6 defeat in Totana (Murcia) by Spain on 3 October, Scotland recovered to beat Greece 5/2 in Athens a fortnight later. In the Spanish match the Scots were troubled by Sponge — not on their opponents' bats but on the floor of the indoor football stadium which produced a very slow bounce, and we were not helped by the first appearance for Spain of Barbara Lippens (ex Belgium).

★ ★ ★

#### Scotrail National League

After only two rounds of matches the three divisions are already beginning to polarise with Greaves Sport (Glasgow), Team Wilson Insurance (Edinburgh) and TSB Alexandria (W Dumbarton) heading their respective divisions.

#### 10 October: Girobank International Challenge, Aberdeen.

The Scotland team of David Hannah and John Broe defeated a young England team of Matthew Syed and Sean Gibson 4-1 before the TV cameras. Syed's win over Broe was the only English success. The ????? was televised a week later on both Grampian TV and Scottish TV for a full hour and was well received all over Scotland, the highlight being the Hannah-Syed attack-defensive match.

#### The Tournament Scene

David McLlroy and Carole Dalrymple won the Meadowbank Open singles titles on 11 October with final wins over Ian Stokes and Janet Smith respectively. Gordon Clancey defeated Brian Wright in the East of Scotland Open on 8 November with Carole Dalrymple defeating Sarah Hurry for the Ladies title.

**STOP PRESS:** As I write this comes news of David Hannah's memorable first victory over Desmond Douglas in the Midlands Open and Ian McLean's victory in the Ulster Open final over Welsh Nigel Thomas the previous day.

# On those encouraging trends

SINCE my election I have often been reminded of the following story. Two parachutists who are about to make their first jump are addressed by their commanding officer. 'You are fortunate indeed. You have received splendid training. Now you are about to have a wonderful experience. You will be completely safe. If your first parachute does not open (which never happens), you carry a second as an added safety measure. When you arrive on the ground, it will be like landing on an eiderdown. A limousine will be waiting. This will take you back to your barracks. That is how easy it all is.' They jump out of the aeroplane, pull the cord of the first parachute and this does not open. They pull the cord of the second and this does not open either. 'And when we arrive on the ground,' says one of them, 'given the efficiency of this outfit, I bet the limousine won't be there either.'

### All is well . . .

I, too, had received assurances that all was well, particularly on the financial front where I had received happy forecasts that we would 'more or less break even'. What happened, as we all know, was vastly different. I note on another page the cheerful view that no action was needed. Suggestions so far have included some cosmetic book-keeping (to add to current income what we hope to earn in the future), making things look better and pretending that all was indeed well by burying our heads in the sand. Such economic philosophies have been tried, notably by banana republics and huge debts resulted which could not be repaid. Since the full horror of our own situation is not understood by some, let me spell it out again:

The loss of £49,000 was not a book-keeping eccentricity of the new Treasurer, but a stark statement of what had happened. That is what our Accounts showed and that is what our Accounts showed and that is what an AGM of the Association approved.

Simpler to understand may be the cashflow situation, which showed that from the end of one financial year to the next there had been a deterioration of £35,000. Further heavy expenditure of perhaps £25,000 in respect of our offices, which are infested with dry rot, is yet before us. That is the situation I found on taking office.

### What next?

I had not expected to become an unpaid company doctor and, as I said at the AGM none of this was of my making. Neither is it profitable to apportion blame and cast stones. The mess had to be put right and my team and I have taken on this task. Some, including one persistent correspondent, have short memories. That is why I have re-stated the position. The one option we did not have was that of doing nothing. Clearly cuts had to be made and

these included redundancies. We placed our proposals before the Sport's National Council (one representative from each county) and they were accepted by 33 votes to 4. No real alternative was stated except going to our members for more money. This was done in both 1982 and 1984. It merely postponed the inevitable. Wherever I go, I find considerable feeling among our members that our current affiliation fees are too high. I agree with that view. From now on the Association will live within its means, at any rate whilst I am its chairman.

### Hard decisions

There had to be staff cuts as well as redundancies. Running expenses had to be pruned. New income is being generated and many of our activities are now being conducted more efficiently, cost-effectively and better. An immense amount of work has been done by our Marketing Committee under Alan Ransome to bring this about. We shall produce a better financial year. We have to, since the alternative of accountancy cosmetics would have produced bankruptcy or its ETTA equivalent. This summer we were on the brink of collapse and no one wants to live through all this again.

### Foot-shooting

Despite the crisis the above time-honoured custom has continued. The recent 'boycott' of our Top 12 was a classic of that genre. Only three players out of 24 were involved, but it was their non-appearance rather than much excellent play which captured parts of the sports pages. Sponsorship and nothing else had enabled prize money to be increased to £4,000 — large by our standards. Professional rewards will hardly result from unprofessional attitudes and if the sport fails to advance, the first and main sufferers will be our professional players. The Top 12 did not advance their cause. They shot themselves in

the foot in full view of membership and media. One has to add to this the recent handling of the press by a leading player whose numerous statements led to the not unjustified headline 'Why Europe's No. 1 hates the sport'. This makes it harder to sell the sport to the wider public and to sponsors. It lets down those who work hard towards that task. It is due to their efforts that the sport has continued to make progress. It is hoped that the other sport, that of shooting ourselves in the foot will be conducted in more private, less publicised surroundings from now on.

### Blue Tables

I thought these a great success in terms of presentation and visibility, far better than the drab green ones in wider use. I speak of TV and spectator events. Clubs and Leagues may feel differently. I hope this will not become the next cause celebre of the Rip Van Winkles in the sport.

### World shaker

I am confident that the Leeds English Open will be a fascinating event and that many of the world's best players will be on view. The schedule devised by Referee Doug Young sees spectators as very much part of this great event. The past custom of gallery seating only has been abandoned. There will be plenty of seats nearer the action and the more entertaining matches, as far as possible, nearer the audience. A week earlier the Europe/Asia Individual Tournament takes place at the Thornaby Pavilion, sponsored by the county of Cleveland. Again the world's best will be in action, together with British 'wild cards' to add patriotic interest — hopefully more. This will be a month to shake the Table Tennis world. We shall welcome President Ogimura of the ITTF.

### Membership

Membership, as we know, has been declining since 1980 and a third of our members have disappeared since then. That trend is being reversed. Membership losses have slowed down. Some leagues (quite a few) have actually increased their numbers. I congratulate them on this effort and success. We have tried to provide a high profile and more exciting image for the sport and we hope this has contributed. The sports pages feature the sport far more (though far from enough) than they did a year ago. We are working hard on the TV front, with some success. With luck we may have some encouraging announcements to



*The Chairman seems to have more smiles on his face than he did a year ago.*

make soon. We are supporting our leagues at national level. We try to speak for the sport. We want the larger public to know what our sport has to offer.

### Junior Leagues

There is a welcome trend towards junior leagues, not yet reflected in membership increases. That is where many of the members of the future will come from. To recapture the members we have lost, to gain new ones is a challenge for all of us. It will not be done by public bellyaching. It will be accomplished by publicising the simple truth, that ours is a fabulous sport.

### 'The right things . . .'

I have kept the promise of replying to every member who has taken the trouble to write to me and I have travelled the country week-end after week-end. I have tried to keep the lines of communications short. Again and again I hear from members, who did not support me last time, that they do so now, that the right things are being done and that they feel for the first time for many years that the sport is moving forward. Ranks are closing. There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm in our sport.

With a strong team by my side, terrific support from our main sponsors, the Leeds and, of course, the Sports Council I feel considerable confidence in the future of the sport. We shall enter the ranks of the great, successful sports when we match their discipline and self-discipline. Without this we cannot even survive in the tough market place of modern sport.

A very Happy Christmas and Successful New Year to all our Members.

**JOHN**

## COOKEY ROASTS FOUR IN A ROW

by JOHN WOODFORD in Karlsruhe

WATCHING Alan Cooke forging his way to Seoul from the courtside as opposed to it from the arena seating, a running track distance away was an experience.

My colleague Richard Eaton said that he would come to more table tennis tournaments if that court-side facility were available, but of course, only 50 journalists present meant that officials closed a blind-eye as long as too many people did not appear court-side, whereas at events attracting 200 journalists, the press benches have to suffice.

In the first two days of play, survived by all five of the England squad there were odd defeats but mainly successes. The writing was on the wall warning of trouble ahead for Carl Prean when he lost to the Austrian (Chinaman) Ding Yi, who completed his hat-trick against England as he beat Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke at Newmarket in the European League.

However, getting through was the task to the half-way stage. At that point, the lesser players were out and the chips were really down. There followed in the last two days a string of defeats for Lisa Lomas who at times was playing like a rudderless ship but at the same time, fighting all the way.

### Distressing

The most distressing loss by Lisa was on Day 3 when she led the powerful German girl Ilka Bohning on expedite 17-13 in the fifth but lost 24-22. Lisa seems to have reached a point in her career where she knows that chopping hard will eventually beat some players but not others. She knows that more aggressive strokes are needed and at this moment in time, she cannot utilise her armoury effectively.

Both Fiona Elliot, the England champion and last-minute entry Alison Gordon England's 'prize-fighter' secured some impressive wins during the first three days, although Fiona was well beaten by the English Open champion Elena Kovtun (USSR) whose defensive strokes so impressively 'wristy' only took her to eighth place at the end of the four days, so even her classic defence collapsed at times.

Back to our English star Alan Cooke — he is sometimes a slow starter but on this occasion he burst into life in the last two days with four great wins that ended in his clinching his Seoul ticket by stopping Zoran Primorac, the impressive young Yugoslav 21-19, 22-20, 16-21, 12-21, 21-19.

In the final hour of the tournament Cooke lost to Jean-Michel Saive (my tip for big successes) of Belgium, but the result was not important.

Prean had the most colossal battle at breakfast-time with Saive. Once again, the Saarbrücken No. 1 with a defeat by George Bohm behind him took a substantial lead — 16-11 — in the final fifth game but after holding match points, lost 26-24. Had that result gone to the Isle of Wight professional, I think that he would now have a Seoul ticket for sure instead of waiting until next February or March to see if he can get a wild card.

### Not clear

This was a tournament where no-one was really clear what was going on most of the time! No doubt when it is run for the second time in 1991 when table tennis is sorting out who is going to the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, the ETTU organisers will have benefited by their experiences in Karlsruhe.

There are a batch of European countries that a few years ago could be dismissed as serious contenders at tournaments of this standard. Those days are gone. Countries like Bulgaria, Belgium, Austria, Italy to name but four have some extremely skilful players who England players, men and women have to fight hard to beat.

Four years ago in Moscow when England men were demoted from the top category after a shock defeat by Norway and Peter Simpson was blamed for playing Desmond Douglas in the wrong order, was a milestone. From that time half-a-dozen countries in Europe were regarded as easy meat.

We, England, now have to take very seriously Holland, Belgium, Turkey, Italy and Austria. In fact,

we cannot be certain of beating any of them, especially when they recruit players from China and elsewhere. Holland have got Paul Haldan — a vital move now that the von Spanje brothers do not seem to be in the top class. To back Bettine Vreisekoop they now have Mirjam Kloppenburg surging forward. She finished a powerful third in Karlsruhe.

Looking at the names of the top people in the final finishing tables . . . Jorg Roszkopf is obviously destined for stardom, but Bulgaria's Mariano Loukov finished second with Gatién (one of Cooke's strongest victims) third.

Jasna Fazlic is a new name to me. The Yugoslav girl first! And it was her well-known team-mate Gordana Perkucin who ham-

pered off a dangerous looking Valentina Popova, the lady with the dynamic backhand.

Another favourite with the 1,000 strong daily crowd was of course Katja Nolten. She has improved to a point where, the Roszkopf and Bohm in the same West German team, I can see very little prospect of England beating them in a mixed match in the near future.

### FINE STADIUM

The Europahalle at Karlsruhe is a dream of a venue. Mike Watts has sung its praises in the past when he has visited the German Open held there on several occasions. It is roomy, with a running track, great lighting including daylight, not too many seats perpetually empty and is within twenty minutes walk of hotels and the main station.



Alan Cooke — through to Seoul!



Fiona Elliot and Alison Gordon.

## FINAL PLACINGS

### MEN

1. J. Roszkopf (West Germany)
2. M. Loukov (Bulgaria)
3. J. Gatién (France)
4. I. Lupelescu (Yugoslavia)
5. Ding Yi (Austria)
6. P. Haldan (Holland)
7. Z. Harczy (Hungary)
8. G. Bohm (West Germany)
9. J. Saive (Belgium)
10. A. Cooke (England)

11. Z. Primorac (Yugoslavia)
12. P. Birocheau (France)
13. C. Prean (England)
14. J. Javurek (Czechoslovakia)
15. A. Moldenda (Poland)
16. R. Wosik (West Germany)

### WOMEN

1. J. Fazlic (Yugoslavia)
2. Safarova (Czechoslovakia)

3. M. Kloppenburg (Holland)
4. K. Bogaerts (Belgium)
5. R. Kasalova (Czechoslovakia)
6. G. Perkucin (Yugoslavia)
7. K. Nolten (West Germany)
8. E. Kovtun (Russia)
9. V. Popova (Russia)
10. Wang Xiaoming (France)
11. M. Svensson (Sweden)
12. S. Grefberg (Finland)

## Last look at Farnborough

by JOHN WOODFORD

THE LEEDS-STIGA English Top-12 eight weeks on, is probably not the best time to compile a second report on the happenings on the day following The Hurricane and the boycott storm.

My most vivid memory was actually getting there — travelling for nearly four hours with Nigel Mansell (Nicky Mason) at the wheel, thrashing our way through fallen trees by the hundred. Our other passenger, Robert from the ETTA office, bravely took the front seat, as Nicky hurled the Renault up to and past so many obstructions! The Bexhill-based man from Surrey, who drove fast, furious but skilfully to Farnborough must have fancied his chances — he came second and won £500.

### Precious asset

After all the fuss over the 11-up scoring, I certainly hope we have seen the last of it. Let us hope that the absence of Desmond Douglas, his subsequent heavy fine has not led to a breakdown in what is still our most precious asset on court, Douglas himself. However, Carl Prean took full advantage of the situation and carved up all ten of his opponents.

The twelfth man was Phil Bradbury, whose explosive temperature flared against Mason and we saw no more of him. He is perhaps fortunate, not to have been involved in some disciplinary action.

### Invincible

Prean looked invincible at Farnborough's huge sports complex — must be one of the biggest in the south — and so it proved. Lisa Lomas also looked as though she could chop herself above her European No. 10 ranking. I only wish she could have played to that standard at Karlsruhe more recently.

But the success of the tournament in the women's events was without doubt Andrea Holt, who subsequently stormed into the final of the Midlands Open, where Fiona Elliot managed to beat her, a revenge win. Miss Holt lost only her opening match against Mandy Sainsbury and then to Lisa Lomas. Looking at the list of players she halted, it is

really something and if she can develop an all-round game, rather than becoming wholly defensive all things are possible.



*Vivacious Mrs Mandy Sainsbury from Newbury is 26 and has been playing since she was nine. She is a secretary, enjoys lawn tennis, swimming, golf and has been the losing finalist in a host of table tennis events, some at the highest levels. She is a dynamic counter-hitter who, if she decided to go full-time as a table tennis pro might well have advanced further into the top echelons of the England squad.*

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## BALKAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

### Rumansians comfortable at home

by GEORGE YATES

IN the absence of Yugoslavia, only one title — the women's doubles — was retained in the Balkan Championships played in Constanta, Rumania over the period 1-4 October.

Rumania swept to unbeaten success in both the men's and women's team events accounting for Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. 16-year-old Daniel Cioca, Rumania's shock winner of the junior Singles title at the European Youth Championships in Athens, was the winner of the men's singles in Constanta eliminating Ismail Ozcelak of Turkey, Calin Creanga of Rumania, Gurham Yaldiz of Turkey and, finally, Ivan Stoianov of Bulgaria.

Otilia Badescu, yet another host nation junior, won the counterpart women's event beating her compatriot Maria Alboiu in the final.

#### Women's Team — Final Table

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
RUMANIA	3	3	0	9	0	6
Bulgaria	3	2	1	6	3	5
Turkey	3	1	2	3	6	4
Greece	3	0	3	0	9	3

#### Men's Singles:

Semi-finals: D. Cioca (RUM) b G. Yaldiz (TUR) 19, -12, -19, 20, 12; I. Stoianov (BUL) b S. Stefanov (BUL) 16, -19, 13, 18.  
Final: Cioca b Stoianov -7, -18, 16, 20, 13.

#### Women's Singles:

Semi-finals: O. Badescu (RUM) b M. Bogoslov (RUM) 15, 14, 13; M. Alboiu (RUM) b K. Lohr (RUM) 11, 16, 8.  
Final: Badescu b Alboiu 16, 21, 11.

#### Men's Doubles:

Final: O. Cimen/Yaldiz (TUR) b Stefanov/Stoianov 10, -12, 19.

#### Women's Doubles:

Final: Alboiu/Badescu b Lohr/A. Nastase (RUM) 20, -16, 14.

#### Mixed Doubles:

Final: C. Toma/Lohr (RUM) b S. Crisan/Bogoslov (RUM), 19, 11.

#### Results:

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
RUMANIA	3	3	0	15	8	6
Turkey	3	2	1	14	10	5
Bulgaria	3	1	2	12	11	4
Greece	3	0	3	3	15	3

# CLEVELAND TO HOST CLASH — EUROPE v ASIA

## Leeds move in

### Middlesbrough scoop

THE top nine men and the top six women in Europe and Asia will be hosted by a £50,000 sponsorship from the Cleveland County Council when they meet at the Thornaby Stadium, Cleveland on 16 and 17 January.

ETTA Deputy Chairman Alan Ransome and his Middlesbrough-based colleagues are behind the move, heralded as the biggest and most prestigious tournament to be staged in Europe this season. In terms of sheer world-class power the claim is valid.

Desmond Douglas, as the European No. 3 will be on parade, although he cannot be relishing meeting again the best that China can produce. Cleveland has in recent times not been a favourite venue for huge crowds, let us hope this is an exception — bearing in mind that the Chinese tour last May was a huge success with huge crowds everywhere except Sunderland.



See page 27 for more information

## THE JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER SUMMER SCHOOL

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JUST before Table Tennis News went to press it was announced that the Leeds Permanent Building Society had stepped into the Cleveland spectacular with £50,000 sponsorship extra to the same amount being provided most generously by the Cleveland County Council.

The largest prize pool in the history of table tennis amounts to US\$50,000.

ETTA deputy chairman Alan Ransome said, 'The Leeds sponsorship of table tennis in this country has put us back on the world map and helped us to stage this major tournament at the beginning of table tennis's first Olympic year.'

Mr Ted Germaine, general manager of the Leeds Permanent Building Society said, 'We are extremely pleased with the success of our sponsorship so far and the opportunity to join forces with Cleveland County Council for this outstanding event was not to be missed.'

**STOP PRESS:** In a massive breakthrough on the television front, Channel 4 is to screen long sessions of play from the Thornaby Pavilion on 16 and 17 January. Channel 4 makes no secret of the fact that it regards itself as a minority channel, screening things that other channels would not use. This is where it becomes essential that large areas of seating have to be filled to make the proper atmosphere for television.

## DOUGLAS STATEMENT

**Desmond Douglas's solicitor Mr Paul Smith of Birmingham issued this statement on 11 November:**

MR DOUGLAS has been distressed and aggrieved by the recent decision of the Management Committee of the ETTA to discipline him for an alleged breach of contract. He has had no opportunity to answer the charge and has found it necessary to seek legal advice.

His decision not to play in the recent Top-12 event which was played under experimental rules was something which he believes was necessary for the protection of the sport itself.

He has always acted in the best interests of table tennis and he is distressed by the implication that he might do otherwise.

Mr Douglas has been advised that he has not been in breach of contract with the ETTA who

were wrong to seek to impose or vary terms without agreement. In addition the disciplinary action was taken without proper consultation and was a breach of the rules of natural justice. He has therefore been advised to challenge the decision in the High Court in order to protect his reputation. However, Mr D. is anxious to avoid taking any action which could harm table tennis.

Consequently and with great regret the Association has now been informed of his decision to request the early termination of his contract with the ETTA. Mr Douglas will of course, continue to support the interests of English table tennis.

## Candid camera in Karlsruhe



These are the young men who like our Carl Prean and Alan Cooke aspire to European domination in the next five or six years. On the left is Mariano Loukov (Bulgaria) who came second — further proof that Bulgaria is now a major force in Europe; in the centre is the man who drew most applause from the 1,000 West Germans present Jorg Roskopf (the winner) and in third place Jean-Philippe Gatien of France who came third but lost to Cooke. Just how far England are trailing in the search for women of world class can be judged by comments made only last week by Don Parker who said that the top European women are way behind the Asian women. This fact was apparent in Karlsruhe.



H. Roy Evans, MBE, was the manager of the British squad at the Olympic qualifying event in Karlsruhe. He spent a lot of time courtside with the five Britons and it was nice to see him back in action instead of a remote figure in the VIP seating.



The tension shows in these two shots of Alan Cooke and Don Parker — All pictures (except Roy Evans) by John Woodford's Pentax.

## Success for new event

by REA BALMFORD

GOOD playing conditions — a rather slippery floor, something which will certainly be put right before next year's event, was the only adverse comment — and equally good spectator accommodation were two major features of the brand new East Yorkshire Junior 2\* Open Championships held at Bridlington in early October.

Organised at the Spa Royal Hall by the North Yorkshire TTA in co-operation with the East Yorkshire Borough Council and the Bridlington League, Yorkshire's smallest and itself based on the Council's facilities at the Spa, the event brought much favourable comment and looks set to take a regular place in the calendar.

Biggest plus was probably the consideration given to spectators — ample seating room, tables to facilitate civilised eating in full view of the play, a cafeteria open throughout the duration of play and, for the adults, an easily accessible licensed bar.

The local press took an interest, and the icing on the cake was a series of 'slots' on BBC Radio Humberside's sports programmes before, during and after the event.

For the players, Restricted Singles events in both Junior and Cadet age groups widened the opportunities for those entrants outside the top bracket, giving them plenty of table tennis, while the officials were well looked

after with the large raised platform providing both umpires and administration team with an excellent view of play.

With the withdrawal of top seed Chris Oldfield, still plagued by fitness problems, the prestige Junior Boys Singles title went to another Sheffield boy in Mark Ward, seeded 3, who was only once taken the distance in the event, by Yorkshire's new acquisition, Michael Auchterlonie (seeded 5=), in the semi-final.

### In the shadow

Ward, who has been on the junior scene some little time, but lived in the shadow of lads of the calibre of Michael O'Driscoll and Oldfield, has worked at his game and looks a good player.

With plenty of time to play his shots — the hallmark of a class player — he appears to move almost lazily, yet gets into position with time to spare.

In the final he came comfortably through against Londoner Tom Cutler, who had taken out Neil Pickard (5=) and Andrew Eden, Round 2 winner over Jonathan Taylor (2), on his way.

Cutler was on the wrong end of the BD final in partnership with Grant Solder, reaching the last stage past Auchterlonie-Howard Whewell, but the title went to the unseeded Graham Cook-Mark Stephenson.

Top seeds Taylor-Ward were taken out at the first time of asking by Tim Pike-James MacIver, who, in turn, fell to Cook-Stephenson in Round 2 before the West Riding pair came through the final in straight sets.

The Junior Girls' events went the way of the top seeds, Debbie Toole (1) ousting Julie Billington who had taken the place allocated to Julie Norman (2), and the singles contestants then joined forces to claim the GD from the Marling sisters, Samantha and Sally.

Durham's Ian Collier belied his No. 12 ranking spot to take the CBS title, with Gareth Jones giving a helping hand as he tipped out second seed Paul Davison in Round 2. Darren Howarth — the 'find' of the tournament who won both Restricted Boys events, beating Martin Dobson (Cadet) and Ben Kellard (Junior), as well as progressing to the semi of the CBS — was Collier's victim before he came past James Patterson, top seed and semi final winner over Auchterlonie at the last fence.

## RESULTS

### JUNIOR

**Boys' Singles:** Mark Ward (Sheffield) b Michael Auchterlonie (Halifax) -15, 12, 16; Tom Cutler (Middx) b Craig Smith 12, 13.

**Final:** Ward b Cutler 13, 17.  
**Girls' Singles:** Debbie Toole (Northampton) b Julie Billington (Chesterfield) 20, -13, 16.

**Boys' Doubles:** Graham Cook (Pontefract)-Mark Stephenson (Halifax) b Cutler-Grant Solder (Surrey) 13, 16.

**Girls' Doubles:** Toole-Billington b Samantha and Sally Marling (Hull) 12, 15.

**Restricted Boys' Singles:** Darren Howarth (Cheshire) b Ben Kellard (Kent) 20, -20, 16.

**Restricted Girls' Singles:** Katy Goodall (Leeds) b Samantha Marling 18, 21.

### CADETS

**Boys' Singles:** Ian Collier (Durham) b Howarth -17, 10, 19; James Patterson (Norfolk) b Andy Nicholls (Selby) -15, 9, 16.

**Final:** Collier b Patterson -14, 17, 11.  
**Girls' Singles:** Ellen Meddings (Harrowgate) b Goodall 18, 20.

**Boys' Doubles:** Steve Coverdale-Barry Forster (Northumberland) b Martin Adams (Berks)-Patterson 16, -19, 16.

**Girls' Doubles:** Meddings-Goodall b Jennifer Hook (Scotland)-Nicola Meddings (Warks) -11, 10, 18.

**Restricted Boys' Singles:** Howarth b Martin Dawson (Sheffield) 14, 10.

**Restricted Girls' Singles:** Maria Thornley (Preston) b Sally Marling 11, -15, 16.

### UNDER-12

**Boys' Singles:** A. Nicholls b Steve Meddings (Warks) 14, 13.

**Girls' Singles:** 1. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield); 2. Sally Marling. (Round Robin final from three group winners.)

## OBITUARY LEO THOMPSON

by ALAN CATCHPOLE

A CHAPTER in the history of Buckinghamshire table tennis came to a sad close last month with the death at the age of 79 of Leo Thompson, President of Bucks TTA. Leo was founder member of the Association in 1948 and its Secretary from that year until 1969. He later served in other capacities, including Chairman and National Councillor, before becoming President two years ago.

He was a past chairman of the Slough League and the driving force behind the Bucks Open tournament, played at Slough, when it was one of the premier events in the national table tennis calendar in the 1950s. As a player with a particularly fluent backhand, he dominated the local scene during that period representing Bucks and Slough on many occasions and winning many local titles. He was English Open Veterans Champion in 1951.

But Leo will, perhaps, be best remembered as a top-class coach who captained England's junior team at one time and who, right up to the time of his death, was involved in teaching and encouraging youngsters with whom he always had a natural affinity. Jill Hammersley-Parker was one of those who owed much to Leo in their early playing days.

Leo was a delightful companion with a constant bubbling sense of humour. He was not easily ruffled. At this year's Annual General Meeting, I reminded Ron Crayden of the one and only time that Ron ever beat Johnny Leach, then reigning World Champion, in an early round of the Bucks Open. That was fine so far as it went but the snag was that posters advertising the appearance of the World Champion had been plastered all over Slough and some hundreds of tickets had been sold as a result for the finals evening.

Notwithstanding this embarrassment to him as tournament organiser, it was typical of Leo that he should be the first person to go up and congratulate Ron on his success.

### and by RON CRAYDEN —

YET another stalwart of the rubber bat era has passed away, when during the second week in November, Leo Thompson suffered a severe heart attack and died at his home at Wraybury, Staines. He was 79.

Leo was one of the sport's great enthusiasts, kind, co-operative and always willing to help. As a player he fell just short of international level, although his skills were quite considerable. Perhaps, if he had devoted more time to developing his own game, he would have gained the coveted badge, but he was content to help others particularly the young.

In coaching, he found an outlet that gave him great satisfaction and I know that he took special pride in the knowledge that one of his pupils, Jill Hammersley, reached such eminence in the sport. For his services to table tennis, particularly in the coaching field, Leo was awarded the 'Blue Riband' of the sport — an Honorary Life Membership.

When most others in their seventies like to sit with their feet up, Leo was out chasing the celluloid and imparting his vast knowledge of the sport to the young; he will be sorely missed.

Leo was cremated on 17 November at the Slough Crematorium. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow Iris who was frequently at his side at major tournaments.

## Yorkshire juniors seem invincible



by DOUG MOSS

JUNIOR Premier Division — St Neots TTC hosted the first series of Junior Premier matches — played under very good conditions.

Yorkshire again looked invincible and, without Chris Oldfield (injured), won their 3 matches dropping only 2 events. New recruits Mark Ward and Mark Stephenson won all their events. Their closest rivals are again Lancs, who also won their 3 matches. Bradley Billington was not available for Derbys and the team dropped 1 point.

Warwickshire, on promotion from Division 2, did well to make a draw with Derbys. At 4-5 down Rajinder Singh (Wa) met Stephen Hanks. It was interesting to see Singh using a chop defence, with astute counter-hitting, gain ascendancy over Hanks to win 17, -18, 16 to secure the draw. There were some good performances from Warwicks players in their match v Yorkshire. Nicola Meddings played very well to beat Joanna Roberts 20 and 12 and Leigh Jeffries took Michael O'Driscoll to -14 in the third game. In Warwicks 3-7 loss to Lancs 2 singles events went against them at -19 in third.

Devon, the other promotees, got 2 points from a convincing 8-2 win over Notts with the Wright sisters winning their 3 events and Sean Gaylard getting his 2 singles. Chris White also did well to win his 2 singles against Lancs.

It was good to see Julie Billington (Dy) playing again after a long break and she was in good form. She did not drop a game over her 3 matches.

The hardest fought match was between Essex and Derbys. Derbys won 6-4 but Essex lost the boys doubles at -20 in third game and 2 singles at -18 in the decider. One of these wins was by Jason Bamford (Dy), not in the top 100 rankings, who beat Damien Holland (No. 6)!

100% performances in singles and doubles were achieved by Michael O'Driscoll Mark Ward and Debbie Toole (Y), Andrew Eden and Nicola McGrath (La) and Kerry Hall and Julie Billington (Dy). These players will meet in the next series.

The championship will be resolved at St Neots in April when the battle of the Roses will again be vital. But Derbys, if they have the services of Bradley Billington, and with Kerry Hall and Julie Billington, will obviously have a big say; they will meet both Lancs and Yorks teams. There will be a lot to play for in the next series.

### Results

York 9, Notts 1; Lancs 7, Devon 3; Derbys 5, Warwicks 5; Staffs 2, Essex 8; Warwicks, 3 Lancs 7; Essex, 4 Derbys 6; Devon 0, Yorks 10; Notts 2, Staffs 8; Yorks 9, Warwicks 1; Lancs 6, Essex 4; Derbys 6, Staffs 4; Notts 2, Devon 8.

### League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	28	26	
Lancs	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Derbys	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Essex	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Staffs	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Devon	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Warwicks	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Notts	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

SENIOR 2A:— Yorks II 7, Warwicks 3; Lancs II 1, Cheshire 9; Staffs 3, Worcs 7.

Fiona Elliott stepped into the Staffs team and, not surprisingly, with Helen Lower they took the 3 Ladies events. Staffs again did not win a mens event and Worcs, who introduced Worcester born Malcolm Green, got a good 7-3 win.

SENIOR 2B:— Wilts 5, Kent 5; Middlesex II 4, Avon 6; Hants 1, Devon 9; Sussex 9, Somerset 1.

Wilts did well to get a draw against Kent with Kevin Satchell winning his 2 singles. Claire Maisey and Claire Hunter (Wi) won their singles but lost the doubles. John Burleton (K) won the last singles against Ray Powell -19, 9, 18 to get the draw.

SENIOR 3A:— Lincs 7, Cumbria 3; Warwicks II 6, Norfolk 4; Worcs II 5, Leics II 5.

Leics made a good comeback from 2-5 down at Worcester. Martin Pickles (Le) turned the tide with a -12, 18, 14 win over Ken Walton, who had previously beaten Keith Howard.

SENIOR 3B:— Devon II 10, Glos 0; Somerset II 6, Cornwall II 4; Somerset II 2, Cornwall I 8; Dorset II 0, Dorset I 10.

The Cornish teams got a win and a narrow defeat on their visit to Yeovil. A -19, 15, 22 win in ladies doubles by S. Dark/S. Wilson, proved vital in Somerset's 6-4 win.

SENIOR 3C:— Herts II 6, Suffolk II 4; Beds 5, Northants II 5; Beds 3, Northants I 7; Cambs II 8, Beds II 2; Hunts 4 Cambs I 6.

Northants teams had a successful visit to Beds with a 1st team win — Graeme McKim being involved in 3 wins. And the 2nd team made a draw with Dave Gallo and Rafe Miller getting the 5 wins between them.

SENIOR 3D:— Essex II 7, Berks II 3; Herts 8, Bucks 2; Essex II 9, Hants II 1; Oxford 0, Surrey II 10.

Essex II played 2 matches simultaneously. Just 1 player — Marjorie Dawson — featured in both matches and she won 3 of the 4 events in which she played.

JUNIOR 2A:— Cheshire 3, Lincs 7; Cambs 6 Suffolk 4; Lancs II 9, Hunts I 1.

Despite a 9-1 defeat for Hunts there were some close matches with Lancs. Ian Windle/Craig Hawkins (Hu) won the boys doubles rather easily, although they lost all their singles events.

JUNIOR 2B:— Middlesex 5, Sussex 5; Herts 7, Somerset 3; Kent 1, Surrey 5.

With some narrow wins Surrey went into a 4-0 lead but credit to Kent on their fightback. B. Mileham (K) beat J. Kryzstyniak 18, 10 in the last event to secure a draw.

JUNIOR 3A:— Derby II 6, Clwyd 4; Lancs III 4, N'berland 6.

A vital factor in Derbys win was Nicola Deaton's 18, -14, 20 defeat of Natasha Williams. Darren Pacey secured the victory in the last singles.

JUNIOR 3B:— Norfolk II 3, Norfolk I 7; Northants 7, Warwicks II 3.

The girls, Rebecca Ledwitch and Angela Stych, were the only winners for Warwicks.

JUNIOR 3C:— Avon 7, Glos 3; Cornwall II 0, Worcs 10; Cornwall I 4, Worcs 6; Hants 4, Dorset 6.

Avon already looking to be championship contenders. Worcs got 2 wins after their long journey to Camborne. Jason Thompson made an excellent debut for Worcs winning all his events. In the Cornwall I match 3 events decided at deuce in the third game — 2 of these going to the home team.

JUNIOR 3D:— Surrey II 4, Kent II 6; Sussex II 7, Middlesex II 3; Bucks 7, Herts 3; Essex III 7, Berks II 3.

Sussex 7-3 over Middlesex included 2 deuce in third events. Dean Norgate (Sx) was involved in both events beating David Baker 17, -21, 21 and with Stuart Burdock taking the doubles 14, -18, 20!



Grant Solder, Hertfordshire

VETS 2A:— Notts 3, Warwicks 6; Leics 2, Yorkshire 7; Worcs 5, Norfolk 4.

A good win for Warwicks with Terry Bache again getting 3 wins.

VETS 2B:— Middlesex II 7, Sussex II 2; Surrey I 9, Herts II 0; Kent II 6, Berks 3.

Mike Watts involved in the 2 Sussex wins. In singles he beat A. Taylor 14, 10 and, with J. Millward took the doubles against Holland/Taylor 17, -17, 12.

VETS 3A:— Yorks II 7, Hunts 2; Clwyd 2, N'berland 7.

Hunts led 2-0 after 2 hard fought matches. Eddie Haslop (Hu) beat Barry Pearson 19, 20 and then Len Saywell beat Ken Burgess -18, 19, 19. Hunts must have been pleased at that stage but Yorks took the next 7 events!

VETS 3B:— Berks IV 5, Beds 4; Essex III 8, Northants 1.

A similar situation applied in Berks/Beds match when Beds took a 3-0 led after 3 close matches. The third of these was a win for Jim Wooliscroft (Bd) over John Golding -17, 13, 20 with expedite called at 19-19 in the third game! But Berks came back to win 5-4 and John Golding got some revenge when, partnered by John Glew, beat Jim Wooliscroft and Brian Bowron 18, -16 19!

VETS 3C:— Wilts II 4, Oxford 5; Hereford 0, Herts IV 9; Surrey III 4, Bucks II 5; Glos 4, Berks III 5.

Wilts looked good at 4-2 but Oxford had other ideas and very convincingly won the last 3 events. The Surrey team also came back from 2-4 to 4 all. Although M. Atkinson (Bu) lost the first game at -12 to R. Wilde he recovered to win 9 and 9 and secure the win for Bucks.

VETS 3D:— Berks II 4, Wilts 5; Dorset II 4, Hants 5.

Fortunes went to and fro in the Dorset/Hants match. The match score stood at 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 and then Maurice Shave (Ha) beat Davie Woodcock 18 and 17 to gain the win for Hants.

# Leeds County Championships 2

## Positions as at 11 November 1987



*YORKSHIRE county player Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield) is currently ranked No. 38 in the England men's list and No. 2 in the junior listing.*

SENIORS						JUNIORS (continued)					
<b>Division 2A</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 2A</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	17 3 4	Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	15 5 4
Worcester	2	1	1	0	12 8 3	Yorkshire II	1	1	0	0	8 2 2
Suffolk	1	1	0	0	6 4 2	Bedfordshire II	1	1	0	0	8 2 2
Northumberland	2	1	0	1	11 9 2	Lancashire II	2	1	0	1	11 9 2
Yorkshire II	2	1	0	1	9 11 2	Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	10 10 2
Lancashire II	2	0	1	1	6 14 1	Huntingdonshire	2	1	0	1	7 13 2
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	6 14 0	Suffolk	2	0	0	2	6 14 0
Warwickshire	1	0	0	1	3 7 0	Cheshire	2	0	0	2	5 15 0
<b>Division 2B</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 2B</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Devon	2	2	0	0	16 4 4	Kent	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Avon	2	2	0	0	13 7 4	Sussex	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Sussex	2	1	0	1	12 8 2	Surrey	2	1	1	0	11 9 3
Somerset	2	1	0	1	7 13 2	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	10 10 2
Kent	1	0	1	0	5 5 1	Somerset	2	1	0	1	9 11 2
Wiltshire	2	0	1	1	8 12 1	Middlesex	2	0	1	1	9 11 1
Middlesex II	2	0	0	2	8 12 0	Glamorgan	1	0	0	1	4 6 0
Hampshire	1	0	0	1	1 9 0	Essex II	1	0	0	1	3 7 0
<b>Division 3A</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 3A</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Warwickshire II	2	2	0	0	14 6 4	Derbyshire II	2	2	0	0	12 8 4
Lincolnshire	2	1	1	0	12 8 3	Durham	2	1	1	0	11 9 3
Leicestershire II	2	0	2	0	10 10 2	Northumberland	2	1	0	1	10 10 2
Norfolk	2	1	0	1	10 10 2	Leicestershire	1	0	1	0	5 5 1
Worcester II	1	0	1	0	5 5 1	Lancashire III	2	0	1	1	9 11 1
Cheshire II	1	0	0	1	4 6 0	Cheshire II	2	0	1	1	9 11 1
Cumbria	2	0	0	2	5 15 0	Clwyd	1	0	0	1	4 6 0
<b>Division 3B</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 3B</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Devon II	3	3	0	0	25 5 6	Berkshire I	2	2	0	0	16 4 4
Dorset I	2	2	0	0	20 0 4	Norfolk I	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Cornwall I	3	2	0	1	20 10 4	Oxfordshire	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	8 12 2	Huntingdonshire II	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Somerset II	2	1	0	1	8 12 2	Northants	2	1	1	0	12 8 3
Avon II	2	1	0	1	6 14 2	Warwickshire II	2	0	0	2	7 13 0
Herefordshire	1	0	0	1	4 6 0	Norfolk II	2	0	0	2	6 14 0
Cornwall II	3	0	0	3	7 23 0	Cambridgeshire II	2	0	0	2	3 17 0
Dorset II	2	0	0	2	2 18 0	<b>Division 3C</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
<b>Division 3C</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 3C</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Cambridgeshire II	2	2	0	0	16 4 4	Avon	2	2	0	0	16 4 4
Northants I	2	2	0	0	14 6 4	Worcester	2	2	0	0	16 4 4
Cambridgeshire I	2	2	0	0	14 6 4	Dorset	1	1	0	0	6 4 2
Northants II	2	1	1	0	13 7 3	Hampshire	2	1	0	1	12 8 2
Bedfordshire I	3	1	1	1	14 16 3	Cornwall I	1	0	0	1	4 6 0
Hertfordshire II	2	1	0	1	8 12 2	Gloucestershire	1	0	0	1	3 7 0
Suffolk II	2	0	0	2	6 14 0	Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	3 17 0
Bedfordshire II	2	0	0	2	6 14 0	Cornwall II	1	0	0	1	0 10 0
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	9 21 0	<b>Division 3D</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
<b>Division 3D</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 3D</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P
Essex III	3	3	0	0	22 8 6	Kent II	2	2	0	0	15 5 4
Surrey II	2	2	0	0	17 3 4	Middlesex II	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Hertfordshire I	2	2	0	0	16 4 4	Buckinghamshire	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Berkshire II	2	0	1	1	8 12 1	Hertfordshire II	2	1	0	1	11 9 2
Oxfordshire	2	0	1	1	5 15 1	Essex III	2	1	0	1	8 12 2
Buckinghamshire	2	0	0	2	6 14 0	Surrey II	2	0	0	2	7 13 0
Sussex II	1	0	0	1	3 7 0	Berkshire II	2	0	0	2	6 14 0
Hampshire II	2	0	0	2	3 17 0	Sussex II	2	0	0	2	5 15 0

### Veterans (continued)

<b>Division 2B</b>	P	W	L	F A P
Surrey	2	2	0	15 3 4
Kent II	2	2	0	13 5 4
Middlesex II	2	1	1	11 7 2
Sussex II	2	1	1	8 10 2
Hertfordshire II	2	1	1	5 13 2
Berkshire	2	0	2	6 12 0
Hampshire	1	0	1	3 6 0
Dorset	1	0	1	2 7 0
<b>Division 3A</b>	P	W	L	F A P
Yorkshire II	2	2	0	15 3 4
Lancashire	1	1	0	9 0 2
Cheshire III	1	1	0	6 3 2
Northumberland	2	1	1	8 10 2
Clwyd	1	0	2	5 13 0
Huntingdonshire I	1	0	1	2 7 0
Lincolnshire II	1	0	1	0 9 0
<b>Division 3B</b>	P	W	L	F A P
Essex III	2	2	0	12 6 4
Huntingdonshire II	1	1	0	6 3 2
Northants	2	1	1	10 8 2
Berkshire IV	2	1	1	6 12 2
Hertfordshire III	1	0	1	4 5 0
Bedfordshire	2	0	2	7 11 0
Norfolk II	0	0	0	0 0 0
<b>Division 3C</b>	P	W	L	F A P
Hertfordshire IV	2	2	0	14 4 4
Buckinghamshire II	2	2	0	13 5 4
Oxfordshire	2	2	0	11 7 4
Surrey II	2	1	1	9 9 2
Berkshire III	2	1	1	9 9 2
Wiltshire II	2	0	2	8 10 0
Gloucestershire	2	0	2	7 11 0
Herefordshire	2	0	2	1 17 0
<b>Division 3D</b>	P	W	L	F A P
Wiltshire I	2	2	0	13 5 4
Surrey II	1	1	0	6 3 2
Hampshire II	1	1	0	5 4 2
Berkshire II	2	0	2	7 11 0
Dorset II	2	0	2	5 13 0
Sussex III	0	0	0	0 0 0

JUNIORS						VETERANS					
<b>Premier Division</b>	P	W	D	L	F A P	<b>Division 2A</b>	P	W	L	F A P	
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	28 2 6	Yorkshire	1	1	0	7 2 2	
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	20 10 6	Worcester	1	1	0	5 4 2	
Derbyshire	3	2	1	0	17 13 5	Warwickshire	2	1	1	10 8 2	
Essex	3	1	0	2	16 14 2	Norfolk	2	1	1	10 8 2	
Staffordshire	3	1	0	2	14 16 2	Essex II	1	1	0	5 4 2	
Devon	3	1	0	2	11 19 2	Leicestershire	2	1	1	7 11 2	
Warwickshire	3	0	1	2	9 21 1	Cheshire II	2	0	2	7 11 0	
Nottinghamshire	3	0	0	3	5 25 0	Nottinghamshire	1	0	1	3 6 0	

# County notes 1

## BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

TABLE Tennis in Newbury made a significant contribution to the Hungerford Tragedy Fund when players staged a 'Table Tennis Spectacular' at St John O'Gaunt School, the scene of the final part of the drama which so tragically hit the national headlines in August. Promoted by the Newbury Journal, and organised by George Parry and Dave Fairholm, Newbury players Mandy Sainsbury and Dave Barr were joined by Jimmy Stokes in a three-way contest which resulted in one win each, but with Dave being declared the overall winner. This triangular tournament was preceded by a demonstration session involving the 'stars' under Dave Fairholm's control, and followed by coaching incorporating Newbury juniors and others who wished to receive tips from the top. A fine evening's work by all concerned, particularly as the result was a contribution of £100 to the fund. During the evening, a presentation was made to Mr and Mrs George Parry, who had played a major role in organising the event, and for the efforts they have made in helping to promote youth activities in Hungerford.

Powerful performances by Berkshire ranked Juniors and Cadets in the Regional Trial at Southampton saw five of our players through to the National Ranking Trials in the new year, with Berkshire represented in three out of the four categories. It was nearly a 'full house', but just missing out was the luckless Nicola Cracknell who despite defeating the overall winner of the Cadet event was pipped at the post into third place (two qualifiers). In the Junior event with three qualifiers, she came fourth! Never fear Nicola, next year it will all come right! Julie Norman (automatic qualifier) and Lisa Crick are our National qualifiers in this section, whilst Marc Priddle who won the Cadet boys will be joined by Nicky Bradfield (third) and Martin Adams (automatic qualifier). If we include Matthew Greenwood (Bucks) all four qualifiers in this section have Berks connections, since all are members of Kingfisher Reading, the leading new club whose membership role already bears a more than passing resemblance to the England ranking list. Martin completes the list by becoming the only Cadet from the five counties of the region to qualify for both Cadet and Junior events at the National Trial, by recording an equal number of wins as winner Paul Poulter (Oxon), but falling back to second place by virtue of his defeat by Paul, who thus reversed the result at the Preliminaries

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## CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

IN the wake of John Bassett's epic 100th appearance for Cornwall back in October the domestic table tennis scene has now returned to normal. Activity, however has been mainly confined to local league action with nothing to report on the Cornish Inter-Town League, the team knock-out competitions or the county computer print out.

Morale in West Cornwall was quite low at the beginning of the season due to the loss of the league's regular sponsorship and a handful of leading players had either left the area or stopped playing. But league secretary Tom Honey has been plugging away of late and has recently clinched a major long term sponsorship deal with Helston Garages who have agreed to sponsor the league in potentially the biggest way the league has ever seen. In addition, Tom has secured sponsorship with H. Tempest (Photographers) Ltd who are now backing the Cornish Junior 2-star and junior development within the county generally. This is seen as a great boost for Cornish table tennis, particularly in the West Cornwall area.

On the county front, the senior first team recently lost to Devon II at St. Austell by 4-6 a result that dashes promotion hopes and confirms Devon as Cornwall's bogey side. However, Cornwall rallied round to a fine win at Yeovil over Somerset II by 8-2 to keep hopes alive. One early defeat can shatter the morale of a county side but Cornwall will keep battling. There must surely be a case for a two up, two down promotion/relegation system to prevent these lower divisions from stagnating.

The second team have shown promise in some departments but have suffered three defeats already and will be candidates for relegation to division four unless they buck their ideas up. Graham Reed has played for both teams to date and has the most impressive playing record with six out of eight Singles wins. Meanwhile, Austin Chapman looks set to be appointed officially as the new first team coach and his hard line approach which has brought Redruth RFC Colts considerable success is expected to do the team no harm at all. Holsworthy's Martin Rose however, has to be content with sitting on the sidelines at present after an impressive county debut for the senior seconds in October.

Cornwall and Devon are still haggling over the player and it is uncertain whether Devon will release him to the county he wishes to play for.

## DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

CONGRATULATIONS from Derbyshire to the England team which did so well in Poland. Not only to Alan Cooke who, with a bit of help from Carl Preat, reached the final of the team event but also Derek Marples was making his international debut as team captain.

The Derbyshire Junior team exceeded all expectations by going unbeaten through the first Premier weekend despite the absence of Bradley Billington.

A draw against Warwickshire was followed by 6-4 victories over Essex and Staffordshire, and praise goes to the entire team for their efforts.

Our girls, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington were as dependable as ever with 9 victories from 9 sets. Not only is it nice to see Julie back, but playing so well is a bonus.

Stephen Hanks won 4 Singles and his victory in the final set against Granville schoolmate, Gary Knights, clinched the 6-4 victory over Staffordshire.

Jason Bamford, making his Premier debut, demonstrated his rapid improvement with 3 victories including a 21-18, 18-21, 21-18 win over Damien Holland of Essex when we were 0-2 down which encouraged the team to a 6-4 victory.

A mixture of injury, illness and unavailability have hit the selection of the Derbyshire Junior 2nd team who have responded with results which show strength-in-depth. Six new faces have appeared in the team's two matches so far, with 6-4 victories gained on both occasions.

Andrew Clarke, Lee Day and Sally Dawson made their debuts at Newcastle against Northumberland together with William Hollingworth and Julie Forster. Michael Curry and Philip Robson won 2 singles each for the Northumberland side, but we managed to bring a 6-4 victory home.

Entertaining Clwyd at Burton, Michael Davies, Darren Pacey and Nichola Deaton made their debuts alongside Hollingworth and Forster. Deaton gained a close 21-18, 14-21, 22-20 over Natasha Williams, while Darren Pacey won both his singles including the vital last set for a 6-4 victory. Special praise to William Hollingworth, now the veteran of the team, who encouraged his team mates with his play and tactical advice.

Sadly, Tony Hunt has transferred his playing services to Yorkshire as he wishes to play in the County Veterans team. Our best wishes go with Tony, with thanks for his many valuable years contribution to Derbyshire.

In the Derby and District League, Castle Donington are the in-form club. Not only have they three teams in the Premier Division, but the 4th team are leading Division One and 5th team lead Division Three.

Most surprising so far is the success of Ralph Dowding in the Castle Donington 1st team challenging for honours in the Premier Division. Dowding was Derbyshire Junior Champion 30 years ago, retired for over 20 years, but has come back and proved a force to be reckoned with.

The Tattersall Select 16 Tournament held at the Meadows Sports Centre proved an outstanding success. Organiser Terry Gadsby is already making plans to repeat the Tournament next season.

## CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

CUMBRIA table tennis team have lost both their opening Leeds County Championship matches. Latest set-back was at Lincoln on Saturday when they went down 7-3 to Lincolnshire.

Cumbria victories were recorded by Stephen Temple (Carlisle) and brother and sister John and Karen Backhouse (Barrow) in singles events.

Temple's victory was over fast looping No.1 Jimmy Brewster in two straight games.

Karen Backhouse also won in two straight over Lincoln's number two, Jane Strawson. This was followed by a superb performance by brother John.

John also performed well in his other set, against No. 2 Chris Bryan. He won the first game easily after leading 20-12, but relaxed and allowed his opponent to snatch the next two games, 23-21, 21-17.

Thanks to the wins by the Backhouses, Cumbria improved from 5-1 down to 5-3.

But the come-back ended when skipper Julie McLean lost her singles to her No.1 counterpart, Susan Radley. Miss Radley went for her shots with flat hits and most of them went on.

Lincolnshire names first: C. Bryan beat J. Backhouse 16-21, 21-23, 21-17; beat N. Thompson 21-6, 18-21, 21-18. P. Moore beat N. Thompson 21-6, 21-16; beat S. Temple 21-18, 21-11. J. Brewster lost to S. Temple 20-22, 19-21; lost to J. Backhouse 22-20, 19-21, 10-21. Jane Strawson lost to Karen Backhouse 13-21, 19-21. Susan Radley beat Julie McLean 21-14, 13-21, 21-11. Jimmy Brewster and Chris Bryan beat Backhouse and Thompson 19-21, 21-13, 21-17. Susan Radley and Jane Strawson beat Julie McLean and Karen Backhouse 19-21, 21-17, 21-11.

# County notes 2

(contd. from page 20)

Setting an early pace in the Westmorland League were Lancaster Nomads, who changed their name from Morecambe Nomads, under which banner they won last season's league knock-out cup.

Under the league's system of four points for 10-0, 9-1 or 8-2 win, three points for 7-3 or 6-4, two points for a draw and one point for a 6-4 or 7-3 defeat, Nomads had 10 points from three games at the time of writing.

Running them close, however, were 100% from two matches Queen Katherine School and Natland A, last season's champions and runners-up respectively.

Kendal Cricket Club B were leading Division Two with 10 points from two victories, a draw and defeat with Natland D, 100% from three matches, runners-up a point behind.

Kendal Cricket Club A were also 100%, two wins giving them seven points.

Promoted to the top flight last term were Natland C and Cartmel A. David Hilbeck (Queen Katherine) won the men's singles with Carl Stebbings (Nomads) the defeated finalist.

Carl and son Paul were also on the losing end in the doubles — to Hilbeck and Geof Baines (Queen Katherine).

But Carl made amends by collecting the veteran's Singles at the expense of Cumbrian county chairman Bob Gale (Natland A).

Queen Katherine, whose B team were relegated from first to second division last season, had the player at the top of the first division averages.

He was Paul Sedgwick, who had a 100% record. Carl Stebbings was second with 97%. Chris Jones (Libbys) was top of the second division averages with 91%.

## DORSET

Martin Hughes

DORSET seniors have had a convincing start in the Leeds County Championships. Two 10-0 victories, against Avon II and Dorset II, could signal an early return to Division 2B after their relegation last season.

Dorset number one, Tony Clayton, who won 10 out of 14 of his singles in relegation year, was disappointed at the team going down, but the other players were unable to add to his successes, and he was often the only light in the gloom.

Clayton had some memorable victories over highly ranked players, and these saw him leap the Lentec ranking list to number 41, despite no longer playing on the tournament circuit. His only losses

were to Kevin Satchell (14), Colin Wilson (20), Andy Creed (31) and Des Charlery (38).

The senior second team meanwhile have had two defeats so far; 2-8 against Gloucestershire and 0-10 against the first team.

Once again Dorset have difficulty in finding enough ladies of a sufficient standard to compete in the County Championships and would certainly benefit from only having one lady per team instead of two.

The new junior rankings are as follows:

### Boys

1. Kevin Smith
2. Paul Bickell
3. Mark Butler
4. Lawson Thrower
5. Clayton Fitzpatrick
6. Mark Chandler
7. Robert Sainsbury
8. Tom Painter
9. Damian Gent
10. Stephen Burt

### Girls

1. Tracey Scott-Pawson
2. Deborah Applin
3. Samantha Dench

The juniors started this season with a fine 6-4 victory over neighbours Hampshire, although it was not until the final game that the outcome was decided. Paul Bickell, Tracey Scott-Pawson and Debbie Applin all had maximum wins, with Mark Butler picking up the other game.

Lawson Thrower made his county debut in this match and acquitted himself well, despite losing both his games in the deciding ends.

After recent lean years in the junior ranks, the team will be looking to build on this success, and hoping that all their practice will be rewarded in the results of their coming matches.

### DORSET SUPER LEAGUE

The Dorset Super League is well under way with Hakan Sigrell leading the way. Tony Clayton is close behind with two games in hand; both players only defeat being to one another.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hakan Sigrell	17	16	1	32	8	16
Tony Clayton	15	14	1	29	3	14
John Robinson	15	8	7	18	18	8
Martin Abbott	12	7	5	16	16	7
Terry Glennon	17	7	10	17	17	7
Chris Budden	10	4	6	10	10	3
Martin Hughes	14	3	11	12	12	3
Eric Buckley	10	3	7	6	16	3
Mike Hughes	14	2	12	6	25	2
Alan Charles	4	0	4	0	8	0

### THE LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE

Jolliffe Poole are once again challenging at the top of the 3rd Division West in the Leeds British League after finishing in second place last season. Three victories and one defeat at the time of writing have put them into second place behind Butterfly Cardiff II.

## ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

THE best piece of news to come my way so far has been that as to the opening of the Advanced Training Centre at the Chelmer Valley School, Chelmsford on 3 November. Initially the Centre will be under the personal direction of Nicky Jarvis, the National Coach for our area, and I understand that he has invited a selection of the ranked juniors and cadets in Essex and the adjacent counties. I can only hope that this venture receives the full support of those invited, together with senior players and coaches.

In the absence of information from our Senior Match Secretary I have to concentrate on the juniors this month. The first Premier weekend saw our team facing Staffs, Derbyshire and Lancs. Once more we came away with one win, two losses by 6-4, and a sense of burning injustice. If we could only win these close ones we might be champions again one day — sorry Yorkshire!

For a change, we won our opening match against Staffs by the good score of 8-2. I have an idea that this was our first ever victory over the Black Country team. Oddly enough, we put down our loss last season to the narrow defeat of Damian Holland by Adrian Thorp. This time Damian came out on top (although the cherubic Gary Knights did the opposite — this time he beat Damian!). Grant Solder had two good wins.

We lost to Derbyshire — again, curse it! We actually beat them in 1985 when Bradley was in their team. Now he has graduated to the Senior ranks we ought to beat them, shouldn't we? On reflection I think we might have to wait until Kerry and Julie become too old — in about 1997. Grant again won his two sets in this match — I hope he does not become (more) big-headed as a result of these successes.

On to the Lancs match. Another loss by 4-6. This time Damian came up with two good wins over Darryl Sneyd and Wayne Renton but Grant rather surprisingly lost easily to Andrew Eden. Kate Gower was unable to repeat her Ranking Trials win over Nicola McGrath and found the step up to No 1 a little daunting, but little Allison lost only to Julia Billington over the weekend.

Impressions of the weekend conveyed to me by my non-playing captains are that Jason Tendler was a little disappointing in his results but that the team spirit was excellent and the prospects for the second weekend are good. Everybody tried their hardest and no County can ask for more from their players.

We have been very fortunate in that the Principal of the Peniel Academy at Brentwood permitted us to stage our Ranking Trials in his beautiful Sports Hall and also play various County matches there. The second team had what was, by all accounts, a splendid match against Kent there, in front of a most enthusiastic and vociferous audience of Peniel pupils. Kent were too good for our side but they could not be faulted for effort, and probably have played the best team in the Division.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gordon Brown

AT THE time of reading these notes the Festive season will unquestionably be upon us — may I take this opportunity to wish all table tennis enthusiasts, A very happy Christmas and the oft repeated — follow up, 'And a bright and prosperous New Year'.

### People in the news

George Novorth, one of Gloucester City's coaches has passed his County Diploma Coaching award. He recently attended a three-day course at Lilleshaw, congratulations George and well done.

County No. 1 Darren Griffin has missed several important County and National League matches (he plays for Cheltenham Saracens in Division 3 West), owing to an accident that he sustained upon his playing hand, as these notes are being written in early November, perhaps when published Darren will be back again, fit and well — let's sincerely hope so anyway.

Hearty congratulations to Cheltenham's Ivor Wakeman, who was awarded the MBE in the last honours list — he was recommended by Smiths Industries of Bishops Cleeve. Ivor has done a stint of some 30 years in youth work, has also spent 27 years at running 'The Grosvenor Youth Club in Cheltenham and I further understand that he still works for the Gloucestershire Association of Boys Clubs.

He travels to London to receive his award at the end of the month and gets expenses for *second class rail travel only* (couldn't his firm have made it first at least for such an important venture such as this?).

Just imagine taking a taxi from Paddington and saying to the driver — 'Buckingham Palace if you will please.' Well done Ivor — congrats from all of us TT enthusiasts in Gloucestershire, you richly deserve your award, and finally, Ivor is a Vice-President of the Cheltenham

# County notes 3

(contd. from page 21)

TTA, I fully anticipate that a local radio interview will await Ivor upon his return.

Bob Attwood, Cheltenham Saracens genial and hard working secretary has just reported that BASS have kindly consented to a partial sponsorship of the Leeds Cheltenham Saracens team in the Leeds British League — Division 3 West, while on Sunday 1 November when Saracens were playing Dunlop Express Yeovil, a local businessman — Mr Mike Morgan of Case's & Keggs (beer wholesalers), presented Saracens with a cheque for £1,000 sponsorship, so altogether the Cheltenham based club would appear to be doing very well from the financial side of things.

The County Premier League, sponsored by 'The Providence Capitol Insurance Co', and run by the Countie's Vice-Chairman John Smith is running smoothly — detailed reports upon results will reach you in January's issue.

We look forward to 'The Cotswold Junior 2 Star', once again staged at the Gloucester Leisure Centre on 30 and 31 of January, and hope to receive plenty of entries, this has always created great interest, not only for the locals — but for the many that have in the past travelled quite a distance to attend it.

## HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

I WILL start my report by apologising for the absence of notes so far this season. This is due to a combination of a complete lack of information received and my late holiday.

Tony Catt, the acting team captain says in his report to me, 'Lots of brilliant ideas and ideals, but no one willing to do anything like organise or help! I got very fed up with people telling me how things should be, so I resigned my captaincy posts. Nobody else has been found, so I am still running the teams.' I am afraid Tony, that nothing changes. A willing horse is always burdened with work.

Tony is not only inter-league secretary of Hampshire and Southampton, but also runs the county senior teams. The county have not started the season well, losing their first team match to Devon 1-9, and both their second team matches 2-8 to Hertfordshire and 1-9 to Essex II.

Neil Taylor elevated to County No. 1 after his move to the county, played his first match and is now returning to Australia. This I gather, was one of the criticisms of the rankings.

In the national league, generation of Fareham got off to a good start with 3 wins out of 4, but lost heavily to Jolliffe of Poole. Tony Catt comments 'Amazing how Bournemouth never provides Hampshire with any players.' That Tony is a very long story into which I have delved in the past! Unfortunately, the Hampshire closed tournament, which may have resolved some of the arguments on ranking looks, as I write this report, like becoming a depleted affair. The generation club were played around, being swapped at the last minute from 3 (South) to 3 (West). As no re-arrangements are allowed after the start of the season they could not alter the date of their fixture against Cardiff, now scheduled for the same, 22 November date. Bookings at the Redbridge venue for the tournament have to be made almost a year in advance so no change could be made. It now transpires that the South of England Veteran Tournament has also been fixed for that date. This means the Hampshire closed will be without the generation players and the top veterans. Hardly an encouragement to the organisers. I will report on this tournament next month.

### Men

1. Neil Taylor (Ald)
2. Graham Toole (F'ham)
3. Ramish Bhalla (Ald)
4. Tony Holmes (Ald)
5. Mark Wilding (P'mth)
6. Graham Pointer (S'ton)
7. Tony Duffield (B'stoke)
8. Andrew Ely (S'ton)
9. Charlie Childs (F'ham)
10. Dave Burnham (Ald)
11. Rod McMullan (G/F)
12. Tony Catt (S'ton)

### Women

1. Cheryl Buttery (S'ton)
2. Sarah Hammond (S'ton)
3. Jill Green (Ald)
4. Kathy Rigard (W'ctr)
5. Jayne Packington (Ald)
6. Sarah Turner (S'ton)
7. Jan Turley (G/F)
8. Barbara Clark (Ald)
9. Ann Longland (S'ton)
10. Lisa Rice (P'mth)
11. Laura Savaker (G/F)

## HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

MAIN senior event of the October calendar in Hertfordshire was the Warren Springs Laboratories Invitation Table Tennis Tournament, which was held in Stevenage, where 75 of the top players from Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and surrounding counties, competed for three trophies, Singles, Handicap Singles and Doubles.

With the three events being mixed, it was expected that the men on display would take all the cups, but young Lynne Harri-

son from Hemel Hempstead, of the Hiretech Hemel School Club, surprised them all by winning the Handicapped Singles title beating many of the top players from the home counties.

Harrison's opponent in the final was junior Richard Grethe from Hertford, who had a particularly good tournament beating many senior players.

Highlight of the tournament for Hemel Hempstead's young star Glen Wilkes, was when he beat Richard Beckham, the current holder and favourite, in the quarter-final of the Singles.

Wilkes, who plays for the Adeyfield Club, played probably the best table tennis of his young life, causing a major upset when he beat the man from Kent, 30, -19, 19.

Local lads Dave Hyde and Keith Samuels from North Herts, got in on the act by winning the Doubles Trophy, beating Cheshunt's Mark Taylor and Mark Dare in the final.



Lynne Harrison

Winner of the Singles Crown was John Dennison, who beat Jonathan Proffit in the final.

Top junior event in Hertfordshire during November was the Junior Closed event held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, where Ian Black from St Albans lived up to his number one ranking by once again winning the Boys Under 17 Singles Title dismissing Barnet's Terry Boucher in the final.

Black also won two other trophies, with Maria Williams of Barnet he won the Mixed Doubles, beating Caroline Seaholme of Watford and Terry Boucher of Barnet. He also won the Boys Doubles Title with Morris Greenberg of Barnet, beating Scott Kennedy of Hertford and Boucher.

Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling came from her sick bed to conquer all opposition as she powered her way to another County Girls Under 17 title, when she beat Maria Williams in an action packed final, 22 in the third.

The girls event turned out to be the event of the tournament with both girls giving their all, playing an all-out attacking game, that would have graced any adult final.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

A MAJOR problem with possible catastrophic consequences was averted when the Leicester League altered the date of the Leicester Closed competition. Due to an unfortunate sequence of events, the Hinckley Closed and the Leicestershire Closed — which are held simultaneously at the Hinckley Leisure Centre — and the Leicester Closed were all scheduled to be played on Sunday 30 March. Naturally the damaging effect on all three competitions could not be allowed to happen with the result that the Leicester League were requested to change the date of their competition even though it might cost them some sort of monetary fine. With the aid of some frantic telephone calls the Leicester Closed, which was originally scheduled to take place at the Granby Halls, will now be staged at the Beaumont Leys Centre on Sunday 14 March.

### The Rose Johnson Bowl

Harold Clark in his second term of office has got the 1987/88 staging of the ever popular Rose Johnson Bowl handicap competition well on its way with the preliminary and first round matches scheduled to be completed by 7 November. The 26 teams entered include five from Knighton Park TTC, British Rail 2, Leicester Gas 2 and New Braunstone Goons 2. With only one result in so far the draw was as follows: Preliminary Round. Great Glen YSC v Syston Conservatives; Knighton Park 5 v AE Burgess; New Braunstone Goons bye; Loughborough Kingfishers v Leicester Gas 2; Thurnby Northwood v Knighton Park 2; British Rail 1 v C'n'E; Post Office v Ashby Parva; Hogg Robinson v Knighton Park 1; Leicester Gas 1 v Oadby URC 2; Oadby URC 1 v Knighton Park 4. First Round. British Rail 2 277 Bevans Holdings 354; Earl Shilton v Jones & Shipman; New Braunstone Goons v British Shoe.

### Senior Inter-Towns Competition

This year's competition was held at Knighton Park TTC on Sunday 8 November with two teams invited from the local leagues of Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley. After a few last minute alterations, due to illness, the Leicester I team comprised of Mike James, Alan Mould and Martin Gladders and the second team; Steve Adams, Terry Yeomanson and Matthew Briggs. Five teams were entered and the draw saw Leicester I play Loughborough I for a place in the final. Mike James lost both his games but Alan Mould with a fine win over Chris Francis won his two as did Martin Gladders over Alan Watson.

## MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

I AM sorry that I did not manage to get any notes into the November edition, but I was rather heavily involved with the 5th European Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled (report elsewhere in this edition I hope). So I will start these notes with the Middlesex ranking lists, which are as follows:

**MEN:** 1. J. Souter; 2. N. Tyler; 3. G. Sandley; 4. C. Wilson; 5. M. Mitchell; 6. D. Topiwala; 7. D. Tan; 8. D. Goode; 9. A. Stark; 10. M. Les

**WOMEN:** 1. L. Tyler; 2. A. Mitchell; 3. R. Knight; 4. G. Blanch; 5. L. Souter; 6. J. Svenson; 7. M. Sangster; 8. K. Baker; 9. H. Santon; 10. S. Man.

**VETERAN MEN:** 1. M. Adayo; 2. A. Lindsay; 3. W. Brookman; 4. J. Holland; 5. T. Campbell; 6. N. Slifkin; 7. A. Taylor; 8. J. Smith; 9. G. Muranyi; 10. E. Alleyne.

**VETERAN WOMEN:** 1. K. Nunn; 2. M. Symes; 3. E. Britton; 4. B. Blanch; 5. M. Prowen; 6. M. Cherry; 7. L. Slifkin; 8. J. Tuddenham; 9. D. Stannard; 10. M. Souter.

**JUNIOR BOYS:** 1. T. Cutler; 2. P. Szekeres; 3. N. Charles; 4. J. Roodyn; 5. N. McKoy; 6. M. Boon; 7. S. Homer; 8. S. Rockall; 9. S. Sehgal; 10. O. Mohebbi.

**JUNIOR GIRLS:** 1. R. Fisher; 2. S. Williams; 3. K. Kottasz; 4. E. Kottasz; 5. L. Jackson; 6. S. Lynes; 7. G. Matthews; 8. C. Walsh; 9. E. Blanch; 10. R. Samuels.

**CADET BOYS:** 1. D. Baker; 2. D. Abrahams; 3. M. Williams; 4. S. Henley; 5. D. Katz; 6. T. Naipaul; 7. A. Patel; 8. J. Chin; 9. T. Cull; 10. M. Sayer.

**CADET GIRLS:** 1. S. Williams; 2. E. Kottasz; 3. G. Matthews; 4. L. Greenbury; 5. S. McHale; 6. D. Chan; 7. F. Chan; 8. P. McMahon; 9. K. Coppinger.

Although most of the lists are longer, I have kept them down to this number because of space.

It looks as if we are going to be in trouble with our Closed events once again. The London Borough of Brent has decided that we must pay the full hire charge for Aylestone School, and their 'economic' charge would mean a considerable increase in entry fees or a sizeable loss to the County. Does anyone know of a cheap venue with 6-8 tables that we could use? Watch this space, and the Association Bulletin, for further news.

Entries for the Middlesex 3-Star are coming in nicely and with still a week to go before the closing date, it looks as if we will probably get our usual 300 entries.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Juniors began their second Premier League campaign with a fixture against the strong Yorkshire team. The superb St Neots venue once again provided excellent facilities and once again our thanks must be passed onto the few organisers who make the weekend the success it undoubtedly is. Yorkshire were without the injured Chris Oldfield but their strength in depth is obviously their main factor of success. The Notts team battled hard but their 9-1 defeat was rather expected as all the boys were making their debuts in the Premier League. Paul Wood was the only winner for Notts when he defeated Michael Auchterlonie but Stephen Harrison's three set match with Michael O'Driscoll was a pleasure to watch.

Staffordshire were the next opponents for Notts and the classy skills of Adrian Thorpe proved to be the difference between the two teams. Thorpe has certainly improved during the past two seasons and has the potential to go even higher. Paul Wood was again a winner for Notts after he defeated Robert Till (at one stage Paul was 19-12 down but he pulled back to win 21-19). Richard Grant was also involved in a thrilling match with Till before he registered a 22-20, 18-19, 21-19 victory to gain his first ever Premier League win. Staffordshire eventually ran out 8-2 winners.

### The opportunity

Devon provided Notts with the opportunity of being optimistic about the end result but this didn't prove to be the case in reality as they also recorded an 8-2 victory. Richard Grant showed marked improvement throughout the weekend and his -10, 12, 15 win over Chris White showed he is a player not to be taken lightly. Grant registered a further victory when he also defeated Greg Bridgett in straight sets to complete a highly satisfying debut for the county. Paul Wood almost added to the Notts scoreline when he narrowly lost to Sean Gaylard 18 in the third. Claire Oldman and Tracey Wass surprised even themselves when they took the opening set of the two ranked Devon girls Jane and Ellen Wright, but a win wasn't really on the cards and they lost the remaining two sets.

So Notts ended the first weekend with three defeats but the squad were far from being disheartened and look forward to the next Premier weekend when their opponents will be Lancashire, Warwickshire and Essex.

The Nottingham league table has a familiar look about it, as last years top three teams again battle for honours. Sycamore Racket Sense, Rolls-Royce and Mapperley Sports are already among the leading pack with only Keyworth separating them. Mapperley with Tim Sheppard leading the way have started particularly well losing only four rubbers from their opening four games. Tim is yet to be beaten and he is well supported by Junior Stoddart and new signing Gordon Fearn and with Phil Logsdon yet to play Mapperley could well have the final say in the title race. However the current champions Sycamore Racket Sense may well have other ideas and will not relinquish their title easily.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE senior, junior and veterans' County teams have each won one match and lost one in the two fixtures each team played during October. The seniors, after opening with a home win against Staffordshire, disappointingly lost 4-6 away to Suffolk, with only Ian Robertson (2) and Thomas Blackman (1) and Caron Guthrie (1) showing any sort of form.

The juniors lost at home to Derbyshire II, but achieved a great victory 6-4 away to Lancashire III, with Michael Curry, Stephen Coverdale and Barry Forster winning all their singles matches. The veterans were well beaten in their opening match against Yorkshire II, but returned from Clwyd with an 8-2 win, Fred Short, John Donnelly (on debut), and Pauline Long all being undefeated.

Byker Newcastle II gained their first points in the British League when they beat Ormesby III 5-3 (Malcolm Lusk 2, Fred Short 1, Peter Whiteman 1 and Michael Curry 1 in his first match).

Eddie Smith, Clare Mouzon, Fred Short and Michael Curry currently lead the County men's, women's, veterans' and junior ranking lists. Provisional dates for the Northumberland Junior and Senior Closed Tournaments have been agreed as 13 February and 12 March 1988 respectively.

It was only on receiving the October edition of the magazine, which was after the 12 October deadline for the November issue, that I realised the monthly space allocation was now around 300 words and not 450 or 350 plus a photograph as indicated in Fiona Brown's letter of 8 September 1986 for the 1986/87 season! As I have brought up this subject before, I do not propose to go into it again at great length, save to apologise to my readers for the omission of information concern-

ing the County and League which they might have been expecting to see.

*Editor's Note: I try, not always successfully, to give each county 400 words. In this case Pauline sacrifices 100 words to tell us about her confusion over the word count, so keep writing Pauline in your superb handwriting — one of the few county correspondents who is not using a keyboard.*

## NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

ALTHOUGH it still seems to be early days, the new season is already a quarter spent, with little emerging that wasn't apparent before activities began.

Well Connected may be finding the going difficult in the Leeds British League, in which they currently occupy bottom place, but with Mark Randle, Alison Boxall and Rafe Miller added to last year's squad to offset the loss of college-bound Andy Trott, they are again making the winning of all three of the county's major leagues little more than a formality.

Some of Well Connected's success has however overflowed into the Leeds County Championships, with both senior sides remaining unbeaten, and Rafe Miller and David Gallo making impressive contributions, as an improvement in general team spirit becomes obvious.

At junior level, Ian Bird, Kieron Dabbs and Colin Campbell have all been in scintillating form, with Bird and Dabbs carrying their form into local league matches where Bird has again got the better of Graeme McKim, who has also fallen victim to the power of Steve Kendall.

Much interest is now being shown in the newly devised 'County Performance List', although present placings are still inconclusive. Unfortunately its aim of encouraging bigger and better entries for local tournaments has done little for the County Closed Tournament which is again sparsely patronised.

Tim Chamberlain, whose erratic brilliance flickered and then faded two years ago is back in action. Playing with his brother Jamie and Keith Fellowes in the Northampton Premier Division he is turning Electricity into a formidable side, and says that he is enjoying his table tennis more than ever.

Finally overdue congratulations to Chris Handshaw and his new bride Cassie who were married during the summer, and whose guest list read like the 'Who's Who' of Northamptonshire Table Tennis.

# County notes 5

## NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

THREE of us — all county umpires — went to Newmarket for England/Austria and to pass the time before kick-off read the latest epic from the NURC regarding the new law on service. Couldn't help wondering whether Des Douglas had not read it but the match umpires did not query any of his services so it must have been where we were sitting. . . . At that match we were asked to stage the crunch match for this season ie v Netherlands in Norwich. Bill Todd called a quick meeting of the combined Norfolk/Norwich/British League committee and a unanimous decision was reached to stage the match on Wednesday 2 March at St Andrews Hall, Norwich. All the expertise and errors that we learned from in staging Japan, Finland and China in the last year will be put into operation and hope that the players of Norfolk will support the event. Congratulations to Dennis Calver on being accepted for training as a National Umpire initially at the Leeds Open in January — will be the first in Norfolk to my knowledge — incidentally I have received the first promotional material for this event and am wondering what the nationality of the player depicted thereon is and where do you now get blue rubber?

Congratulations also to veteran Les Rayment on obtaining two star status in coaching. [Both he and Dennis could be of great value to the County in the future as coaches and qualified umpires are a rarity by the scarcity.]

## SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

JOHN EDGE of Market Drayton's Grove Table Tennis Club became the first recipient of the Bill Harris Memorial Award for services to Shropshire table tennis during the past 12 months; the Grove man being responsible for the computerisation of the county ranking list and tournament scene.

The award is made in memory of Shrewsbury and Shropshire stalwart Bill Harris who sadly died 18 months ago, a man of great principle and integrity who supported the county splendidly setting an example for all to follow. Therefore it was only just that these attributes were reflected in the award and there can be no better recipient than the ever willing John Edge who has organised sponsorship for the county in the provision of a computer which he has program-

med to organise tournaments, produce match sheets, randomly make the draw, detail a ranking list and create interest among the competitors in the monthly county league matches and graded Singles tournaments whilst being present at all events to perform the thankless task of tidying and clearing away.

It was to the Pontesbury duo of Ian Baker and Darrell Corfield who progressed up the NMW Computer Ranking List by virtue of winning the first stage of the Shropshire Star Newspapers Ltd. First Division ahead of Grove (Mark Turner and Keith Sillitoe) whilst there was further joy for the Shropshire village as the Division Two title went to Paul Corfield and Chris Day beating the splendid Longville Arms duo from South Shropshire in the guise of Martin Pain and Ian Pennington.

The ever popular graded Singles tournament saw a large entry for November's event with the H&E Scaffolding Elite Grade won in style as Grove's British League player Paul Barnett showed his class to speed to conquest whilst younger sister Jane Barnett lost a thrilling Grade A final to Grove clubmate Tracey Nigh. The girls were in form once again in Grade B as Caroline Ashcroft (Grove) beat Jonathan Day (Pontesbury) whilst Newcastle-under-Lyme's Graham Pickford proved too strong for the hard working Luke Cutler in the Grade C final. In a similarly hard fought event Potteries youngster Craig Tempest ousted Grove's steady Mark Bishton to win Grade D whilst Grove duo Adam Twiss and Richard Sutton contested a splendid Grade E final with the former successful as the attacker beat the defender.

In the Shropshire Schools Team Championships the only event to avoid the clutches of school teams from Market Drayton was the Under-16 boys event won predictably by Mary Webb School but pleasing to see Charlton School, Wellington competing and North Shropshire Junior School, Woore gaining in stature; watch out for the latter's promising eight-year-old Martin Twiss who epitomises the interest shown in the sport at Woore Junior School.

At senior level Grove found Butterfly Cardiff and Ormesby tough opponents in the British League Premier Division with the latter maintaining tradition as a draw was the result for the third consecutive season at Market Drayton whilst Grove II delighted through the incredible talents of Maurice Billington who stole the show as the second team beat Ormesby II 6-2 to progress in Division Two North.

## SURREY

Lucinda Stockwell

JASON BLAKE won the cadets singles and his brother Darren Blake the Under-12's at the Gloucester 2-star junior tournament. Surrey scored again when John Blasco and Darren Blake landed the cadet doubles title at Gloucester.

At the Stiga top twelve tournament at Farnborough in October, Surry had three representatives Max Crimmins, Glen Baker and Nicky Mason, who was runner up. In October in the Carter Cup, Thames Valley beat Reading 6-0. For the South of England junior 2-Star tournament (14 & 15 November) 350 entries have been received. Michelle Hans, who is studying at Sheffield University, has been picked to represent Great Britain Students at Sofia, Bulgaria. Surrey have awarded a £50 expenses grant from the Harry Swetman Fund. Terry Carpenter has passed the National Umpires Examination. Sussex Open results (4 October) of Surrey interest are as follows: Nicky Mason won the men's singles and also helped win the men's doubles. Derek Holman was runner-up in the Veterans singles. Max Crimmins was runner-up in the mixed doubles. In the Surrey Junior 1st against Middlesex, Surrey won 6-4. Paul Carter won two, Hannah Webber won her singles only two seconds away from expedite in the third game. In the Surrey Senior 2nd against Sussex 2nds, Surrey won 7-3. Sue Adamson was a last minute replacement. In the Surrey Junior 2nd against Middlesex 2nd (away) Surrey lost 7-3. Everybody played well. There were five novices (average age 12), Jason Blake (won one), Kiera Coady, John Blasco (won one), Miranda Markham (won one) and David Thomson.

The first coaching weekend with London ranking points, had an attendance figure of 30 people.

The Centre of Excellence at Chessington opens its doors from 7.30-9.30 on Thursdays under Gayle McCalloch. All coaches are welcome.

Final trial qualifiers for Surrey are Jeremy Krystynak, Paul Carter, Graeme Connolly, John Blasco and Robin Shah.

At the 5th European TT Championships for the disabled Debbie Jackman will be representing the British Amputees Association from Surrey. She has gained bronze in European and World championships on previous occasions.

Edmond Coady, father of Kiara, played and won medals in the World Transplant Table Tennis Championships.

## SUSSEX

John Woodford

THE FIRST Sussex Towns Veterans tournament was staged at Southwick Sports Centre on 25 October and was voted an instant success, certain to be on next season's calendar and packed with shocks.

Well aware of the awesome reputation the main of the former England No. 6 Ron Penfold, the committee seeded him No. 2. The result was a cliff-hanging final round containing attacking and counter-hitting worthy of a 3-star final. Horton, winner of the Eastern Vets Masters at Grimsby was defeated but with gallantry 20, -18, 19.

Barbara Bayford (Worthing) lifted the women's singles trophy after surviving a major shock defeat in the early group play. Winners and runners-up went through so one defeat was not critical. Mrs Bayford lost her first match of the day to the Haywards Heath league secretary Muriel Brewer, a player totally without experience outside her own league — something that happens very rarely in table tennis.

The mighty (in physical stature) Horton was also a losing finalist in the men's doubles. Mike Watts and Colin Monson, both from Hailsham and members of the Polegate club surprise even themselves when they won the final so easily —10, 15 against Horton and Keith Jackson.



Two of the best known names in Sussex table tennis. Phil Smith (Crawley) and Hastings champion Sheila King.

After losing on the long journey to Devon, Sussex swept back to form to lash Somerset 9-1 in the Leeds County Championships with Phil Smith, Stephen Moore and Sussex champion Ritchie Venner undefeated.

Sussex women's champion Sally Weston, although she missed the match in Devon is showing her determination to succeed by taking the only road to better things — the open tournament circuit. She played in both the opening 3-stars in Humber-side and Birmingham. At Birmingham she reached the last 16 before losing to Lisa Lomas.

# County notes 6

## WARWICKSHIRE

Neil Wheatley

THE early season County matches have brought the usual mixed bag of results. The Senior B team (Div 3A) have the best record with wins against Cumbria (8-2) and Norfolk (6-4). Before the latter the team suffered two late withdrawals, requiring Karen Groves, without any match practice this season, to be drafted in at the last minute and the inclusion of Dhuru Parmar, who came to the match as a spectator!

The Senior A team (Div 2A) lost their only match to date to Yorkshire B, skipper veteran Barry Johnson recording the only singles win.

The Veterans' team, last year's Div 3B winners, are finding the going tougher in Div 2A. Their mainly defensive styles contrasted well with Leicester's attackers to produce an attractive opening match which Warwicks were unlucky to lose 4-6. The highlight was an exciting three-setter between Terry Bache and Leicester's Steve White, won by Bache 27-25 when White was faulted on the last point to become one of the first victims of the amended service rule. A better result in the next match though with Notts defeated 6-4, Bache, Bob Brown and Ann Lloyd winning the vital singles.

The two Junior teams have played much better than their results suggest. The Premier Div weekend at St Neots brought the A team only one point — against Derbyshire — but notable individual performances were Leigh Jeffries' four wins and Nicola Meddings' defeat of Joanna Roberts to record the team's only success against the powerful Yorkshire side.

It is the Selection Committee's policy to choose under-15s for the Junior B team (Div 3B). Stewart Taylor, Paul Ellison and Angela Stych made promising debuts in a nail biting match in which seven games went to three sets before visitors Berkshire clinched a lucky 6-4 win. Taylor's recovery from 16-19 in the third set to beat the older and more experienced Keith Langley was this match's highlight.

The girls showed up the boys in the second match, Angela Stych and Rebecca Ledwitch winning their games in the 3-7 defeat by Northants. Another young debutant in this match too — Stephen Meddings, aged 8. Well done girls and boys!

### Warwickshire Championships

This season's 'Closed' will be held in the new hall at The Midlands Centre for the Disabled at Tile Hill, Coventry on Sunday 6 March.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

WORCS will have two players in the National Junior & Cadet Ranking Trials in January, following the Regional Trials held on the weekend of 24/25 October at Lilleshall.

Sarah Stone, Worcs No 3 ranked junior, and Lee Horton, No 1 Cadet from Dudley, both had an excellent day, Sarah finishing runner-up to Warwicks' Alison Ledwitch in the Junior Girls, and Lee winning the Cadet Boys. Sarah lost 25-27 in the third to Alison when the girls met!

Nicola Jones, Worcs No 1 Junior this year, had a somewhat disappointing day, finishing sixth, while Jason Thompson and David Pendry finished 5th and 6th respectively in the Junior Boys event.

The first round of matches in the County Championships saw Worcs 1st's draw with visitors Lancs 2nds in an excellent match, played at Worths Carpets, Stourport.

### Roden debut

Mark Roden, making his debut for the County 1st team, was Worcs hero, beating Malcolm McEvoy 19 in the third in the final set of the afternoon to force a draw.

The County 2nd's match was called off at short notice due to opponents Notts apparently withdrawing their team from the division; the Junior match was cancelled at even shorter notice due to their opponents Dorset having no girls available! The Vets match was postponed due to a clash with the VETTS Eastern Tournament at Grimsby.

Thankfully, all our teams were able to play their scheduled matches on the 2nd County Championships, Saturday 31 October.

### Good afternoon

The Senior 1st's played Staffs at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton, and won 7-3, Murray Jukes, Malcolm Green and Trevor Washington won all their singles and men's doubles; Sandra Roden and Mandy Mytton contributed to a good afternoon's table tennis, Sandra losing -20 and -18 to Fiona Elliot, and Mandy losing -12 and -19 to Helen Lower.

The Senior 2nd's entertained Leics 2nd's and drew, Ken Walton and Paul Garner winning one each and combining to win the Men's Doubles. Sue Meredith won her singles, and the Ladies Doubles with Helen Pogmore.

Fifth member of the team was debutante Kwak Chan.

### Another debut

The Juniors travelled to Cornwall and beat Cornwall 1st's 6-4 and Cornwall 2nd's 10-0. Jason Thompson played very well on his debut, being unbeaten in singles and doubles in both matches; Richard Pratley lost one Singles narrowly, while the girls, Nicola Jones and Jane McLean were both unbeaten in their singles.

### The fight back

The Veterans, unfortunate to be relegated from the Premier Division last year, started their fight to regain top status with a narrow 5-4 victory over visitors Norfolk, Mervyn Wood and Janet Hunt both unbeaten in singles.

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THE first ranking lists of the season, issued recently, contains few surprises, with Kent based Steve Mills leading the Men's section from top junior Michael O'Driscoll, and Joanne Shaw topping the Ladies.

### Halifax signing

New 'signing' Michael Auchterlonie, now resident in Halifax, comes in at No. 4 in the Juniors.

Since the selections were announced, however, Bob and Sally Shutt and Melody Hill have all indicated that they would prefer not to be considered for County duty.

Their names will be withdrawn when the lists are next revised, but the thanks of the County go to all three for valuable service over many seasons.

Top positions are:

**MEN:** 1. Steve Mills; 2. Michael O'Driscoll (Dewsbury); 3. Kevin Beadsley (Bradford); 4. Steve Sharp (Wakefield); 5. Chris Oldfield (Sheffield); 6. Mick Stead (Bradford); 7. Richard Whiteley (Harrogate); 8. Mark Ward (Sheffield); 9. Derek Hunt (Hull); 10. Clive Guest (Sheffield).

**LADIES:** 1. Joanne Shaw (Castleford/Pontefract); 2. Debbie Toole (Castleford/Pontefract); 3. Karen Burrows (Castleford/Pontefract); 4. Melody Hill (Bradford); 5. Sally Shutt (Bradford); 6. Josette Ryalls (Sheffield); 7. Lesley Longstone (Sheffield); 8. Kathy Johnson (Leeds); 9. Ruth Bray (Hull); 10. Helen Broomhead (Sheffield).

**VETERAN (MEN):** 1. Cleeve Judson (Wakefield); 2. Mick Farnill (Hull); 3. Geoff Brook (Hud-

dersfield); 4. Ian Walmsley (Harrogate); 5. Doug Bartle (York); 6. Barry Pearson (Northallerton); 7. Keith Burgess (Huddersfield); 8. Vic Smith (Harrogate).

**VETERAN (LADIES):** 1. Carol Judson (Wakefield); 2. Pat Bassano (Wakefield); 3. Gloria Stocks (Rotherham); 4. Lou Smith (Harrogate).

**JUNIOR BOYS:** 1. O'Driscoll; 2. Oldfield; 3. Ward; 4. Michael Auchterlonie (Halifax); 5. Mark Stephenson (Halifax); 6. Tim Pike (Wakefield); 7. Craig Smith (Selby); 8. Stephen Horsfield (Sheffield).

**JUNIOR GIRLS:** 1. Toole; 2. Joanna Roberts (Leeds); 3. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate); 4. Katy Goodall (Leeds); 5. Sally Marling (Hull).

**CADET BOYS:** 1. Karl Horsfield (Selby); 2. Andy Nicholls (Selby); 3. Martin Vickers (Bradford); 4. Gareth Jones (Selby); 5. Martin Dawson (Sheffield); 6. Philip Chapman (Bradford); 7. Nick Cattell (Sheffield); 8. Simon Beaumont (Halifax).

**CADET GIRLS:** 1. Meddings; 2. Goodall; 3. Sally Marling; 4. Debbie Newman (Selby); 5. Jane Johnson (Hull).

After three successive visits to France, the DONCASTER League hosted a three team, ten player tournament involving Avion (France) and the Fleur de Lys club from Tournai (Belgium).

On home ground and able to call upon all their top players, Doncaster ended the unbeaten run of Fleur de Lys in the team event, while individual honours went to Mick Scott (senior), Andrew Firth (junior) and Alain Desmet (consolation).

Knaresborough Social Club in the HARROGATE League have increased their number of teams from six to nine, and are attracting members from not only all corners of the country, but from the far ends of the globe.

Ray Aker from California, stationed at the US base at Menwith Hill and Derek Chan from Hong Kong are the widest travelled players. Robin Hermes (Nottingham) has been in the club for several seasons and has been joined by Eric Ferguson (Liverpool), Geoff Turner (Newark), with the latest recruits being Les Rayner (Northumberland) and Brian Graham (Penrith). Truly a cosmopolitan club!

The sparks are likely to fly in a born again HULL Premier Division, which is now back at full strength with 13 clubs competing. Ace defender and former Yorkshire captain Dave Bartlett is back in the game after an absence of six years, while Richard Kilyngton has returned from a stint of work in Scotland and Joe Naser, four times Hull champion, is also back in action again.

# Picture Parade 1



At the European Youth Championships in Athens with 100 degrees temperature outside the hall, ETTU secretary George Yates (Bolton) congratulates the winner of the Cadet Boys Singles Slobodan Grujic (Yugoslavia). Photo: Denis George.



Irish colleen Caroline Anderson won four titles at the Connacht Open in Galway.



Superb venues are now being used abroad making Britain (with few exceptions) looking like the poor relation. This was the hall used in Athens for the European Youth event. Picture: Denis George.



Andy Wellman



John Souter

Two well-known faces on the tournament circuit.

## ALL OUR SURREY YESTERDAYS . . . 1956!

## Who was absent? — when this photograph was taken in 1956?



READERS will wonder why this photograph has again been dusted off and reproduced again — the answer is that believe it or not, according to the photographer Michael Maclaren who now lives in Edinburgh, one member of this team was NOT present when it was taken!

### Camera lied

Even 30 years ago photographers skills were advanced enough for another photograph to be taken and then reimposed for the special reason in this case, of getting the complete team. So the camera CAN lie . . . those Surrey buffs still around like Ron Crayden the former England captain and intrepid traveller supplied the photo. Any eagle-eyes amongst our readers who can spot the 'intruder' cleverly inserted by Mike is invited to drop us a line. Can't guarantee any prizes . . . Answer next month.

# The Leeds Euro/Asia in Cleveland

THE Leeds Euro/Asia tournament in Cleveland, the highest standard table tennis event to be held in the world between now and the Seoul Olympics in September 1988 and the most prestigious tournament staged in this country since the 1977 World's, is to be played at Thornaby Pavilion on 16 & 17 January.

The Euro/Asia will bring together into one event, the top nine men and top six women from both Europe and Asia plus six wild card men and four wild card women from the United Kingdom to play for the highest prize money ever given in the world of table tennis, a staggering US\$50,000, six times larger than any table tennis tournament in the UK to date.

## The Players

The expected line up is likely to include:

### European Men

1. Jan Ove Waldner (Sweden); 2. Andrzej Grubba (Poland); 3. Desmond Douglas (England); 4. Jorgen Persson (Sweden); 5. Erik Lindh (Sweden); 6. Leszek Kucharski (Poland); 7. Andrej Mazunov (USSR); 8. Tibor Klampar (Hungary); 9. Zoran Kalinic (Yugoslavia).

### European Women

1. Csilla Batorfi (Hungary); 2. Fliura Bulatova (USSR); 3. Maria Hrachova (Czechoslovakia); 4. Daniela Guergelceva (Bulgaria); 5. Bettine Vriesekoop (Holland); 6. Edit Urban (Hungary).

### Asian Men

1. Jialiang Jiang (China); 2. Chen Longcan (China); 3. Teng Yi (China); 4. Kim Kitaek (Korea); 5. Yashihito Miyazaki (Japan); 6. Lochuen Tsung (Hong Kong); 7. Kim Wan (Korea); 8. Chujong Chol (PRK); 9. Kimsong Hui (PRK).

### Asian Women

1. He Zhili (China); 2. Yang Youngga (Korea); 3. Dai Lili (China); 4. Jiao Zhimin (China); 5. Libun Hui (PRK); 6. Hyung Jung Hwa (Korea).

### Wild Card Men

1. Carl Prean; 2. Alan Cooke; 3. Skylet Andrew.

### Wild Card Women

1. Lisa Lomas; 2. Fiona Elliot; 3. Alison Gordon.

### Schedule to suit spectators

The tournament will be played in two stages. On Saturday, 16 January, four tables will be used for the group matches eliminating 24 men down to 16 and the 16 women down to eight. There will be three separate sessions and each player will compete once in each session. On Sunday, 17 January the knockout stage will be played with the last 16 of the men's singles and the last eight of the women's, on four tables in the morning.

All matches from the quarter final stage of the men's singles and the semi-final stage of the women's singles will be played on one table for the benefit of the spectators and for television. In fact, throughout both days the matches will be specially arranged to give the spectators the best possible viewing access.

### Special accommodation packages

To encourage table tennis supporters to attend the championship from all parts of the country, special accommodation packages are being arranged by Tees Sport taking advantage of low cost rates in high quality hotels in Cleveland linked together with rover tickets. The main package includes all weekend rover ticket programmes, advance information and two nights in a 3-4 star hotel (twin room) including English breakfast for less than £40 or one nights' accommodation only £25.

### Seminar link for coaches

A special course is being organised around the championship for coaches with Scottish Coaching director Richard Yule in charge with regular input from England captains, Donald & Jill Parker. Coaches attending the course will be asked to watch all the sessions and attend seminars beforehand, during the breaks and afterwards to discuss technical aspects of the play. The total cost of the course including two nights accommodation in a 3-4 star hotel (twin room) including English breakfast is £45 or to attend on a non-residential basis £12.50.

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# Stoke Mandeville Disabled European Event

## 5th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE DISABLED

# West Germans win 31 medals

by TED INGE

SOME 250 competitors from 18 countries took part in the 5th European Table Tennis Championships for the disabled staged at the Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium at Aylesbury, Bucks. Play was spread over four days culminating on the Saturday afternoon with the finals session of the 'Open Class' events, and Johnny Leach, our patron for the championships performing the honours at the closing ceremony.

Competition was divided into two basic categories, for those who play from a wheelchair, and those who play standing. Within these two categories there is a classification system for the various degrees of disability to ensure fairness in playing ability. For example an arm amputee would have far greater freedom of movement than a leg amputee. Team and individual singles events in the classification system were played on the first three days and on the Saturday the 'Open' events — all classes together — for men and women, standing and wheelchair.

Some 1200 matches were played over the four days on Butterfly tables kindly supplied by Butterfly Table Tennis UK Ltd. It was quite the largest tournament of its kind since the staging of the first European Championships were staged here in 1979.

### Efficient workers

The referee for the tournament was Len Pilditch, NR, IU, assisted by Bob Walton, with Iris Moss and some 18 ETTA umpires. Every match was scheduled from 9.00am on Wednesday through to the Saturday, and it was due to these efficient band of workers that the tournament ran so smoothly over the four days. All the competitors and officials were housed in the Olympic Village adjacent to this fine stadium built purposely for organised sport for the disabled.

Germany, with a very strong team, dominated the standing events, taking every men's standing team gold medal. Great Britain grabbed a silver in the L4 team with David Hope and Bob Churchill. In the wheelchair team events, two bronze medals came Great Britain's way when Neil Robinson (Bridgend) and Arnie Chan (Mansfield) took the class 3 third place play off with Spain by a close margin of 3-2. Our girls in Gill Matthews (Dorset) and Ann Peskey (Hartlepool) pipped Ireland for the bronze, also by the same margin in class 2.

### Bronze medal

In the singles events Neil Robinson was our sole wheelchair medallist taking the bronze medal. He lost a close semi-final match against Smarrazzo of Austria (-20,-19), but beat Simon (Germany) 13, 13 in the play off for third place. In the standing events two silver medals was our tally. David Hope lost 17 in the third set in the final of the L4 class to the No. 1 seed Muller of Germany. This was a good performance by David as he had beaten the No. 2 seed in an earlier round. Ann Smith was our other medallist when she lost

in the final of the L5 class to a dour defender in Borre (Belgium).

Came Saturday and the 'Open' events. From a draw of 98 wheelchair competitors, Neil Robinson was again our star performer in reaching the last 16 before losing in three to Sutter (Austria). This event was won by Thomas Kreidl of Germany beating Altendorfer of Austria in straight sets in the final. Thomas was a German youth international before his accident put him in a wheelchair. His experience certainly showed as he only lost one game throughout the entire championships. In the ladies wheelchair our best performers were Val Beck (Consett) and Caz Walton (Sydenham) who both reached the third round (last 16). In the standing open events David Hope lost in the second round to Havaleschka of Denmark. Ann Smith reached the third round only to come up against Borre of Belgium again where she lost in straights. Borre went on to win the event.

### Germans on top

Great Britain did not fare too well with a total tally of 3 silver and 3 bronze medals. Germany was by far the strongest country, walking, or wheeling, away with 20 gold medals out of a possible 41. The final medal table was as follows:

## MEDALS TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Position
Germany	20	5	6	1st
Switzerland	6	1	1	2nd
France	4	4	5	3rd
Austria	4	3	5	4th
Netherlands	2	3	5	5th
Belgium	2	2	2	6th
Hungary	2	1	2	7th
Sweden	1	3	—	8th
Finland	—	5	1	9th
Denmark	—	4	4	10th
Great Britain	—	3	3	11th
Norway	—	3	—	12th
Ireland	—	1	1	13th
Yugoslavia	—	1	—	14th

Italy, Spain, Israel, and Liechtenstein failed to win any medals.

Great Britain's position at 11th in the medal table tells its own story. We, obviously would like to strengthen the team and we sorely need some new talent into the movement. If there are any players out there in the leagues who would like to try their hand, please contact me, Ted Inge, c/o of the Ludwig Guttman Sports

Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8PP, stating your disability (Amputee, Paraplegic, Les Autres, which is all other disabilities) I will put you in touch with the group in which you would be eligible to play. All groups run training/coaching sessions on a regular basis throughout the country. The team is off to Seoul (Korea) for the Olympics (Worlds) Championships in October 1988 and the 6th European Championships are in Vienna (Austria) in August 1989. The third World Championships are scheduled for 1990 and at the moment we have three bids to stage them from Holland (Assen), USA (New York) and Hungary (Budapest). The standard is high but there is a lot to play for.

## THE SPORTING SPIRIT

By IRIS MOSS

THE spirit of sportsmanship had to be seen to be believed; they cheered on their own teams vociferously, but still applauded good shots from their opponents, and gathered round to encourage other teams when theirs had been eliminated. Although there were no 'known' names from the world of table tennis, the standard of play was remarkably high, but the spirit in which the matches were played was even higher.

With the team events (on the lines of the Corbillon Cup) played in groups of not less than 3, the Singles according to degree of disability played in groups of not less than 4, and only the Open Singles played as a straight knockout, some 1,200 individual matches were played in the four days on 16 tables, supplied by Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) Ltd, and with only 16-17 umpires, the pressure to get through the programme was intense. But the two-minute standing ovation from the players that the umpires got at the Closing Ceremony made it all worthwhile.

### Referee cheered

Even the referee was cheered, something I have not witnessed at any other event.

The Organising Committee was headed by Ted Inge of Kent and included representatives from all the disability classes competing. Len Pilditch was the referee with Bob Walton as his assistant, and myself as the general 'dogsbody'. Bob has been associated with paraplegic table tennis for many

years but has recently been recruited to the Kent Tournaments Committee, and you will be hearing more of him in the future. All the liaison with the centre was carried by Jean Stone of the British Paraplegic Sports Society, who was a tower of strength.

Our Patron, Johnny Leach, attended both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, accompanied by his wife, Daisy, and we were very pleased to have them. Johnny, too, was impressed with the standard of play and the spirit in which the matches were played.

### Clowning

John Souter and Jimmy Stokes played an exhibition match after the opening ceremony which was enjoyed by all the assembled teams. Their little bits of clowning in between periods of serious competitive play made the match amusing as well as showing their high standards of play.

Forgive me for boasting, but between us Jean and I ensured that every team went away on the Sunday morning with the complete results of all the matches. Finally I would like to thank Alan Ransome of Butterfly for supplying the equipment, Clive Oakman for helping to set it all up and supplying a great need with his stall of 'goodies', the European Economic Community, the Sports Council, and all the people who advertised in the programme for their financial support, and particularly the umpires.

## East Midlands Tattersall Select 16 Tournament

# COOKE WINS REGIONAL EVENT

by TERRY GADSBY, East Midlands RCC Chairman

THE Tattersall Select 16 Tournament at Burton's Meadowside Leisure Centre, was a great success and should be repeated.

That was the view of the players, officials, workers and most importantly our main sponsors, Tattersall Investment Management Ltd who immediately offered to sponsor the event again.

The event was organised by the Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the following aims:

1. To promote our sport.
2. To help the 'Region's' top players earn money and provide funds for the 'Region'.
3. To give the 'Region's' top players good competition in top class conditions.

Nothing would have been possible without the £1,000 'Tattersall' sponsorship, the providing of the Leisure Centre by the East Staffordshire District Council and the great publicity given by the *Burton Daily Mail*. Apart from regular build-up articles, the *Mail* provided a four-page pull-out supplement in the evening paper and also in the free Advertiser, which is distributed to all houses in the East Staffordshire district. Tables and other equipment was provided by Jarvis Sports Ltd and the co-operation of the Meadowside Staff, which was first rate, completes the picture of the help table tennis received from outside bodies.

### Cooke the star

On the playing side, those who took part entered into the spirit of the occasion and never forgot that the first aim of the tournament was to promote their sport. Some excellent games were played and it's significant that to a lot of the guests the best games were those involving Maurice Billington, who was not winning games but gave our guests an exhibition of defensive play which they could fully appreciate.

The undoubted star was Alan Cooke and his rallying with Martin Kinsella was much appreciated. Comments were passed that they were surprised at the speed of movement around the table. Alan will probably be embarrassed to learn that the ladies voted his legs as the best on show!

One of the most improved players in the East Midlands must be John Holland, who had an excellent day, giving Alan Cooke something to talk about before going down 2 games to 1 in the semi-finals, then beating Dave Gannon in the play-off for 3rd place.

Leicester's Chris Rogers played well to reach the final but could not suppress the ebullient Alan Cooke who took the title.

A word of praise should be given to Susan Aire who took on the men and emerged with great credit, again our guests were surprised that a woman could compete against the men with such skill.

With prize money of £200, £100, £75, £50 and £20 for the quarter-finalists, together with £20 expenses and sit down meal, the players were well rewarded for their endeavours.

Tony Chatwin, the referee and master of ceremonies, did an excellent job and must be one of the best in the county for this duty; he ensured that everything flowed smoothly through to end, with that touch of class, which is essential for this type of event.

A quality team of umpires and workers completed their essential work almost without notice. It is impossible to name all the team but Roy Harrison made sure the team worked smoothly, Geoff Farmer worked hard setting up the hall in the morning, Tony Saltinstall taking photographs and John Parker with the video recorder.

The Meadowside proved to be an excellent quality venue and could have coped with 1,000 spectators.

Only a select band of 150 spectators attended and most of these were guests from outside of our sport. All the regions, counties and leagues were sent tickets to sell and were allowed to keep 50p for each ticket sold, to help their finances. Selling to 10 families could have raised £20 but not 1 ticket was sold by any league or county. It was hoped to generate some money for the region, to help finance table tennis development and regional coaching, but this was not to be and some other means will be required. However, if our counties and leagues won't back an event such as this, what chance have we got?

I also record my thanks to Terry Bull, regional competitions panel chairman, for his preparatory work but who was stranded in Blackpool and could not be in attendance. From the organisers point of view the most rewarding part of the event was the backing given by the civic dignitaries from Burton, East Staffordshire and Derbyshire and all the other guests.



Alan Cooke and Chris Rogers with a handshake before the final at Burton's Meadowside Leisure Centre the venue for the England v Denmark match on Monday 25 January.

### COMING UP . . .

19 Dec	English Nationals Qualifying
20 Dec	Leeds British League
	1988
2 Jan	National Junior Ranking Trials
3 Jan	Leeds British League
9 Jan	Leeds County Championships
10 Jan	Tameside Junior 2-star
16 Jan	Europe v Asia, Thornaby
17 Jan	Europe v Asia, Thornaby
20-24 Jan	LEEDS ENGLISH OPEN, Brighton
30 Jan	Yorkshire 2-star, Leeds
30 Jan	Vetts Midlands, Hinckley
6 Feb	Leeds County Championships
7 Feb	Leeds British League
13-14 Feb	Essex 3-star Harlow
12-14 Feb	European Top-12, Ljubljana
20 Feb	Kent 2-star, Gillingham
26 Feb	Leeds English National Championships, Crawley

### DURHAM OPEN IS OFF . . .

THE Durham County Open due to take place next March has been cancelled, say the SU Durham County TTA. They also say that Mr H. Black is no longer tournament organiser for the Association and a successor will be advised as soon as possible.

Any correspondence on the Durham Open should be addressed to the Durham secretary Mr D. Carney, 10 Waveney Road, Peterlee, Co Durham.

### ANOTHER EDITING POINTER . . .

A QUERY from one TTN correspondent leads me to another important fact: The 'deadline' date does NOT mean that everything not libellous or defamatory will appear in the next magazine. A number of articles and other items have to be put forward, depending on their priority which I alone have to judge. Obviously, for example, reports from coaching schools cannot hold the highest priority as the material will read just as well in one edition as the next. Tournament reports, naturally get a higher priority. — J.W.

### MEET YOUR MANAGER!

Wherever you live and play you won't be far from a branch of the Leeds Permanent. Your local manager will be a valuable source of business advice and is just the man to invite to present the prizes at that special final. We will circulate a branch list to you in October — so why not arrange to meet your manager and involve him in the local table tennis scene.

# North Wales, Ireland, Midland League

## NORTH WALES COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by C. T. Baylis

### WREXHAM & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

#### Welsh League at Abersychan — 3 October 1987 Junior Division I

Eastern Valley	5	Wrexham	2
Barry	1	Wrexham	6
Cardiff A	3	Wrexham	4

THE young Wrexham team of Spencer Harris, Gary Jones and Andrew Jones were all making their debuts in the Welsh League Division I and can feel well pleased with their performance.

The first match against a very strong Eastern Valley team resulted in defeat by 5-2 with Spencer Harris winning his two singles.

The match against Barry resulted in a comfortable win by 6-1 and then a close match against Cardiff A ended with a Wrexham victory by 4-3.

The Wrexham players gained in a singles win each and then the match was decided by a narrow win in the doubles.

The Wrexham Division I situation is still very close with the position at the top now held by Caergwrle BB/A who have 40 points closely followed by Llay RBL/A and McAlpine Quarries/A both on 39 with Malpas in fourth place with 38 points.

In Division II Caergwrle BB/B are top with 36 and second are the Llay RBL/B team with 30 followed by Wrexham OB/C and fourth the Wrexham Old Boys/B.

The position in Division III is very interesting with Wrexham OB/D leaders with 44 points closely followed by Wrexham Lager with 42 and third placed are Wrexham OB/E.

### EAST FLINTSHIRE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE News Round-up

Hawarden's senior team moved into second place in Division II with a hard fought 6-4 victory over fellow promotion contenders Caergwrle Boys Brigade A team. Ian Barlow and Les Morris won two singles each and also the doubles. Harry Madison collected the sixth point.

Brian Bradley won all his singles for the Brigade. Hawarden now have 34 points, five fewer than BSC Shotton B.

A 9-1 win over previously unbeaten Cambrian District has taken Caergwrle BB senior side into second place in Division I with the current leaders SSC Shotton who are the reigning champions now looking at the new challengers with much concern.

Clwyd Veteran County side opened its season of matches with an away fixture at Hyde (Cheshire) on 10 October in Veteran Division III/a against Cheshire III.

Cheshire were the winners by six sets to three sets. For Clwyd their team was Peter Williams, Barry Robertson and John Bowen and Christine Watkins, with Clwyds wins coming from Peter Williams who won his two singles and Barry Robertson winning the other set.

#### Clwyd Veterans 2 Northumberland 7 Played at Wrexham on 31 October in Veteran Division III/a

Teams:  
Peter Williams Fred Short  
Karl Harrison John Donnelly  
Bernard Carter Larry Cartmell  
Cris Watkins Paulene Long

Clwyd's winners were Bernard Carter who beat Larry Cartmell and Karl Harrison who also beat the same player.

For the visitors Fred Short and John Donnelly both won their two singles and Short teamed with Cartmell to take the men's doubles.

Paulene Long won her singles against Christine Watkins and with John Donnelly won the Mixed Doubles against Watkins and Harrison.

A very good match which Northumberland deserved to win although with a bit more good fortune the Clwyd side could have won more sets.

In the Junior County side's match away at Burton-on-Trent on 31 October Clwyd's side of Spencer Harris, Gary Jones and Andrew Jones lost this match which was their first one of the season by 6-4.

Spencer Harris playing at number one after losing the first game at 15, came back to strongly take the second and then won the third 7 against Michael Davies.

Darren Pacey was Andrew Jones' first opponent and although Andrew played well in patches he went down 14-21, 16-21.

Gary then took on the Derbyshire's No. 1. Williams-Hollingsworth who took the first 21-14.

### THE LINCOLN LOTTERY RIDES AGAIN

Last year the ETTA Lincoln Lottery raised over £5,000 for grass roots table tennis. This year the 10p tickets are made up into books of five and should make it very easy to wrench 50p from willing victims (sorry contributors).

The first prize is £500 with a second of £250 third of £100 and fourth of £50. In addition every ticket holder drawing a horse with receive £10 — even if it doesn't run on the day.

Ring Roy Stevens at Hastings to find out how you can raise valuable funds for your league with absolutely no risk of personal financial disaster.

## Ireland's Eye



by FRANCIS KENNEDY

PETER McCABE surprised everyone with his brilliant performance in reaching the Final of the Men's Singles at the South County Open at Terenure, Dublin. On his way he beat Mervyn Kelly in the last 16, Aidan Walsh in the quarter-final and Sean Spelman in the semi-final before losing to Andrew Dennison in the final. Sean Spelman had a fine win over Tom Heasley in the quarter-final and Grainne Redmond beat No. 3 seed, Caroline Leonard

Caroline Anderson captured four titles at the Connacht Open in Galway, including her first ever provincial Open Ladies Singles. Caroline teamed up with Sean Spelman to take the Mixed Doubles and with Grainne Redmond to win the Ladies Doubles. She also won the 17-21 Ladies Singles. Jim Dill defeated Andrew Dennison in the Men's Singles final, semi-finalists were Sean Spelman and Aidan Walsh.

Claddagh TTC (Galway) league team had a very enjoyable trip to Luxembourg during August where they represented Ireland at the 1st European Table Tennis Cup for teams (2 male, 1 female) confined to EEC countries. While there, the team of Sean Spelman, Martin O'Flaherty and Caroline Anderson were entertained at the Irish Embassy by Irish Ambassador, Mr Aidan Mulloy. An interested visitor to the event which was won by a German Bundesliga team, TT Steinhagen, was Irish No. 1 Colum Slevin, who reached the semi-final of a big tournament a few kilometres down the road, beating Jurgen Rebel (Germany) but losing to Carl Prean in the semi-final.

Athlone's Kieran Burke deserves great credit for his dedication to the game. Kieran, who only took up table tennis when he was 25, travels a round trip of almost 100 miles once a week to play in the Connacht Senior League with his Athlone team. He recently reached his first Open final when he partnered Andrew Dennison in the Men's Doubles at the Connacht Open. He is currently ranked No. 4 in Connacht and if he maintains that position, he will represent Connacht again this season in the inter-provincial series.

## MIDLAND LEAGUE

IN Men's Div 1 Andy Rich took all 3 against Notts A but this did not prevent Notts from gaining a convincing win — a fine start in defence of their championship.

In Div 2 Dudley have notched two fine victories to go clear at the top. Trailing 1-3 against Chesterfield they looked outclassed but a win in the doubles inspired them to take all remaining sets. This followed a good win at Loughborough who also conceded 9 at Nuneaton.

In Div 3 Banbury A fell behind in the ninth set against Leamington A but drew level in the final set which went to the third. Pontesbury were 4 down to Leicester but their fight back came too late to save a point. In another competitive match they went down at Lincoln. Stafford gained 2 close wins to head the section. Returning to the Men's Section after a lapse of 10 years Bromsgrove gained an exciting win at Banbury B.

In the Junior Section newly promoted Leamington A were elated with their 9-1 win over Birmingham, a hard earned success with seven sets going to the third, but their B side were no match for Oxford. A very young Pontesbury side (2 cadets) went close against W Brom. Matthew Taylor took three for Hinckley in a narrow win over Rugby. Bromsgrove tried hard at Birmingham but without success.

In the Intermediate Section, Nuneaton's young team were in action twice in one weekend but their opponents, Leamington and Walsall had comfortable wins. In a match where seven sets went to the third, Dudley were led to an impressive victory over Leamington by a convincing treble from Mark Brookes.

In the Women's Section Derby were held by Leicester to a draw but lost heavily to Birmingham.

In the Veterans' Section, Div 1, Birmingham, defending the title, won well against their B team, with Mervyn Wood playing his normal marathon sets and Bob Brown emulating at least once. However Birmingham got off the mark against Walsall B with seven sets going to the third. The other three were won convincingly by Ray Barton. Walsall A were holding Oxford A 3-3 but the visitors edged home winning four very close sets including an expedite between the two captains, David Marse of Oxford and Eddie Birch.

In Div 2, W Brom A won well at Notts B having lost heavily at Telford. At Cheltenham, Leicester won the last two sets to force a draw. For Stroud, Alan Giles and Ray Poole both scored maximums to ensure a win over Notts B but without these players they lost at Leicester.

In Div 3 newcomers Aylesbury drew with Leamington. The other newcomers, Stafford found Birmingham C rather too strong.

# Paris in the Spring 1

## THE 16th EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS PARIS — 19-27 March 1988

### 1. AUTHORITY

The 16th European Table Tennis Championships will be organised by the French Table Tennis Association under the authority granted by the 1984 ETTU General Meeting in Moscow.

### 2. DATE AND VENUE

The Championships will be held from 19 to 27 March 1988 at the POPB, Sports Palace of Paris-Bercy (POPB)  
8, Boulevard de Bercy  
75012 PARIS  
Tel: 1 43 41 72 04

The Bercy Sports Palace is able to welcome 13,000 spectators.

### 3. EVENTS

The following events will be played in three championships:

- Events 1: Men's Team Championship.  
Holder: Sweden
- Events 2: Women's Team Championship.  
Holder: Hungary
- Events 3: Men's Singles Championship.  
Holder: Jörgen Persson (Sweden)
- Events 4: Women's Singles Championship.  
Holder: Csilla Batorfi (Hungary)
- Events 5: Men's Doubles Championship.  
Holder: Waldner-Lindh (Sweden)
- Events 6: Women's Doubles Championship.  
Holder: Bulatova-Kovtun (USSR)
- Events 7: Mixed Doubles Championship.  
Holder: Pansky-Hrachova (Czechoslovakia)

Matches shall be determined by the best of three games in all events except individual singles proper, where they shall be determined by the best of five games.

There won't be any consolation tournament.

### 4. SCHEDULE

Opening Ceremony: 19 March.  
Team Events: 19-22 March.  
Free day: 23 March.  
Individual Events: 24-27 March.

### 5. ELIGIBILITY

The Championships will be open for entry to all associations in membership with the ETTU. Associations who are in arrears with subscription shall not be allowed to participate until these are paid.

### 6. RULES

The Championships will be conducted in accordance with the current Laws of Table Tennis, the Regulations for International Competitions and the Regulations for the European Championships.

### 7. EQUIPMENT

The following equipment will be used:  
Tables: STIGA Expert VM  
Nets: STIGA Clipper VM  
Balls: NITTAKU 3 stars white.

All racket coverings must be of a type currently authorised by the ITTF.



Many of the bigger indoor arenas on the continent have running tracks on the perimeters. In Karlsruhe the superb Europahalle boasted a running track. In this picture of the stadium at Bercy in south-east Paris, the venue for the 1988 European championships, there seems to be a cycling track between the spectators and the space that will be occupied by the table tennis tables.

# PARIS BECKONS

by **GEORGE YATES**



## ONE OF THE FINEST STADIUMS IN FRANCE

The stadium has a seating capacity in excess of 14,000 with a wood floor (64m x 32m), situated on the skating-rink, providing for 16 tables in areas 14m x 7m. There will also be 14 tables in the training hall. Journalists will be welcome either at Hotel PLM or Novotel Bercy.

The schedule:

## EQUIPMENT, THE DRAW, UMPIRES, REFEREES

Equipment comprises Stiga tables and nets and Nittaku balls.

The draw will take place in Paris on 20 February, 1988 (subject to confirmation). Accreditation forms for journalists will be despatched in due time from Federation Francaise de Tennis de Table, Europaris 88, BB 67, 4 Rue Guillot, 92120 Montrouge, France (Phone: (1) 47, 46, 97, 97. Telegrams: Tabltennis Paris. Telefax: (1) 42, 53, 85, 96.)

Umpires are to be invited from England, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, FR Germany, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, USSR and Yugoslavia. The reserve list comprises Scotland, Greece and Wales.

Referees appointed are Alain Poilve of France and Andre Damman of Belgium.

- Opening ceremony — 19 March
- Team events — 19/22 March
- Free day — 23 March
- Individual events — 24/27 March
- ETTU BGM — 24 March, at Hotel Sofitel, Paris

TWENTY years after the European Championships were last staged in France — in Lyons in 1968 — the 16th in line will take place, over the period 19-26 March, at the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, 8 Boulevard de Bercy, 75012 Paris.

Delegations will be welcomed at the airports Roissy Charles de Gaulle and Orly-Sud and at Paris railway stations Nord, Est Austerlitz and Paris-Lyon.

Officials and teams will be lodged in a luxury 4-Star hotel — le PLM St Jacques Pullman. Transfer between hotel and the Palais Omnisports will be accomplished by underground (direct line: 10 to 15 minutes), the fastest means of transport in the French capital.

Umpires and members of the organising committee will be at hotels Ibis and Novotel Bercy situated 50m from the POPB. A self-service restaurant will be set up in the Sports Palace at Bercy. Constructed in 1983, the POPB is situated near the Seine, close to Lyon station.

## ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### Maximum entries coming up?

ACCORDING to the forms returned to Dunlop National School Team Championships Competition Secretary Geoff Gardiner, there is every chance that the total number of teams being sent forward by counties to the Area Finals of the Championships will compare favourably with last season's total of 233.

Maximum entries (eight teams) are anticipated from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and West Yorkshire (North Region); Devon, Northants, Staffordshire and West Midlands (Midlands & West Region) and

Bedfordshire, Essex County and Kent County (South & East Region). But on the debit side NIL entries from schools in Durham, East Sussex, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Northumberland and Wiltshire.

It is pleasing to report successful efforts to resuscitate County Schools' Associations in Dorset, Essex County and Middlesex.

Barring possible postal strikes and bad weather, all seems set for the staging of the twelve Area Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships. Dates are Saturday/Sunday, 16/17 January 1988. Details:

North Region	Area 1	Amy Johnson High School, Hull (Cleveland, Humberside, Tyne & Wear)	Sunday
	Area 2	Farnley High School, Leeds (Greater Manchester, North Yorks, South, Yorks, West Yorks)	Sunday
	Area 3	Clayton Green Sports Centre, Chorley (Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancs)	Saturday
	Area 4	College of FE, Grantham (Derbyshire, Lincs, Notts)	Sunday
Midlands & West Region	Area 5	The Grove School, Market Drayton (Hereford & Worcs, Shrops, Staffs)	Saturday
	Area 6	Kingsthorpe School, Northampton (Gloucs, Northants, Warwicks, West Midlands)	Sunday
	Area 7	Eggbuckland School, Plymouth (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset)	Sunday
	Area 8	Redbridge Community School, Southampton (Avon, Dorset, Hants)	Sunday
South & East Region	Area 9	St Neots Table Tennis Centre (Beds, Cambs, Norfolk, Suffolk)	Saturday
	Area 10	Kennet School, Thatcham (Berks, Bucks, Herts, Oxfordshire)	Sunday
	Area 11	Aylestone School, Brent (Essex County, Essex Met, Inner London, Middx)	Sunday
	Area 12	Monks Hill Sports Centre, Croydon (Kent County, Kent Met, Surrey County, Surrey Met, W. Sussex)	Sunday

Further details can be obtained from: Geoff Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN (02572 64873).

Winners from each Area Final go forward to one of three Regional Finals due to take place on Sunday, 21 February 1988 at: The King's High School, Pontefract (North), Stroud Leisure Centre (Midlands/West), Monks Hill Sports Centre, Croydon (South & East).

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all readers of this column.

# Psychology and Science England squads annual tests

by NEIL HOUGHTON

THIS year was the first visit by the England team to Chichester for the summer fitness training camp. Chichester, in West Sussex, is well known as a historic Roman town and the Bishop Otter College of Higher Education is also distinguished as an old-established seat of learning, but there is nothing ancient about their sports psychology and sports science. In these fields it could be said that the College is coming into the forefront of research and academic excellence.

The sports psychology dimension has been introduced following the appointment of Dr Tony Morris as Honorary Psychologist to the England table tennis squad and it was his initiative which brought the team to Chichester for some psychological work and organised their activities. Tony is a resident lecturer in psychology and sports psychology at Chichester and the sports science department, headed by Dr Tudor Hale provided the players with physical activities during the week. Although the emphasis on the summer training camp is on fitness and this year also psychological work, there is always some table tennis practice every day and the accent for this week was on pre-season practice.

A typical day's timetable:

9.15 - 10.30 Practice

Players A and B psychology work.

10.30 - 11.00 Break.

11.00 - 12 noon Practice.

Players C and D fitness tests.

2.00 - 3.30 Practice

Players C and D psychology work.

3.30 - 4.00 Break.

4.00 - 5.50 Practice.

Players A and B fitness tests.

### The pattern

It was not possible to organise the fitness tests every day and two players would not be occupied for the psychology or fitness for the whole of a session, but the above represents the pattern. The type of practice on the table very much depends on the player and their partner. Generally in the earlier part of the day the practice should be more formal, for example practicing strokes and footwork. Nevertheless, the trainer would discuss requirements with the players as he decided on the arrangements. Especially later in the day, the practice arrangements would be even more consultative and related to the wishes and needs of the players. Leading up to the break there would often be free matchplay with 'winner moves up'.

Another element to the playing part of a training camp is the 'public relations' organised by

Donald Parker with the local league. Whenever it can be arranged, an evening demonstration session and exhibition of play for the public is put on — a golden opportunity to see the England players in action.

### Parker philosophy

Donald Parker's philosophy from his takeover as England trainer was to ensure the fitness of the players. It is not possible to play top table tennis without a high level of fitness but his aim was to move from a sure base of fitness training that would guarantee the staying power required at major events. It is possible that even some close followers of the sport may not fully realise the performance required at a major international tournament in which a player may play intense matches several times a day for around a fortnight.

The ideal is for fitness to cease to be a limiting factor but in our high speed sport a moment's lack of speed or increase in tension can be exploited by world class opponents. Therefore, Donald has thought carefully about training and, using his expertise as a physical education graduate, has encouraged the players to put in personal commitment to this ideal as well as ensuring relevant fitness training.

### Debate

The debate as to how fitness equates with health may never be resolved and there is also a problem in deciding just what is meant by fitness. From a player's viewpoint it is noticeable if they actually slow up at any time or show any fatigue in movement. However, other signs of lack of fitness may be less obvious such as tension or confused thinking. Is it possible to be a capable athlete and yet be unfit in other ways? Whatever the argument, the players need whatever it takes to win and speed and agility are vital.

As far as the physiologist is concerned, fitness is measurable in terms of the amount of oxygen used up per minute compared with the body weight of the athlete. The higher the  $VO_2$  max, the greater the capabilities of the subject during exercise. Measured in ml of oxygen per kg per minute, maximum oxygen uptake can be determined by exercise under the laboratory conditions. A popular method for this includes the use of an exercise bike but there is also the treadmill method.

At Chichester the laboratory uses a motorised treadmill for its tests and the exhaled air from the

subject is collected in a series of bags for analysis. It is logical that, in order to record the amount of oxygen taken up, the amount of oxygen in the exhaled air needs to be analysed and recorded in comparison to that breathed in.

### The treadmill

The method for the tests is that the player firstly warms up on the treadmill and also gets used to walking on it. Then the test starts with the treadmill at a running speed suitable for the individual and is then raised in stages, after certain time periods, to provide extra work by simulating uphill running. What happens if the person can't keep up? They go zonking into the wall at about 10mph or more! This is the reason for the rubber mat and the catcher. There is also a panic button for the athlete to hit as soon as they feel unwell or tired.

This is especially necessary since the work rate is increased until the person is exhausted and, although the operator will encourage them to keep going in order to achieve their best, they are fully briefed that when they are reaching their limit they signal one minute left and to stop as soon as they have to or at the end of the minute. Naturally, before they do the test they have to fill in a questionnaire on their medical history so that anyone who was a smoker, had a bad cold, heart problem or other medical problem would not be allowed to continue.

Continued on page 35



Alan Cooke and Nicky Mason in a looping demonstration at Chichester.

## England squad at Chichester 2

### PSYCHOLOGY AND SCIENCE

(Contd. from previous page)

After the end of the test, the athlete warms down at walking pace and then *carefully* gets off and rests. Walking on a treadmill is not easy, running is worse and trying to get off when the world suddenly starts moving and you try to stay still is very interesting. The author found this out first hand, a most peculiar feeling in the legs and brain, but this was only after a very short walk. The effect after running for a while is quite staggering.

#### Professionals

Examples of  $VO_2$  max can be given for top international athletes, such as a famous English runner who has been measured at oxygen use of 85ml/kg/min. A well known professional cyclist has been measured at more than this. The notional average for a healthy and fit person is about 50ml/kg/min. English table tennis players did these tests as shown in the pictures and recorded very high levels for athletes. Even the teenage male and female players were using more oxygen than the average college PE student — a very creditable indication of their fitness and the effectiveness of their training. The men showed up even better, Nicky Mason recording results as high as the fittest international runners. Also a certain very fit Derbyshire player, whose coach has always put greater emphasis on fitness, recorded a level of oxygen uptake higher than all but one of the top athletes Chichester has tested over the years.

Other tests carried out during the week were breaking new ground for table tennis players, these being blood lactate (OBLA) measurements and an adaptation of established repeated sprint endurance tests related to table tennis. The OBLA test is more useful when linked to the  $VO_2$  max measurements since it is a measure of the amount of lactate (produced during exercise from carbohydrate by the muscles) in the blood. Figures can be calculated for the percentage of the oxygen taken in which is actually used effectively. This has to be done by an analysis of small blood samples taken from the thumb, so the players suffered in a number of different ways during the week! Once again, the figures obtained were very creditable for top athletes.

The sprint test was a simple attempt at measuring the endurance of the players during repeated short sprints. An exercise bicycle is wired up to a computer taking in the speed of the fly-wheel and entering the figures

into a program for analysis. The series of 21 sprints of 4 seconds, with a fifteen second rest in between, was intended to simulate the effects of a game. There was a fairly heavy loading on the bike so the players had to work hard to sustain their effort. The power generated and any fall off in activity could be plotted easily since the computer produced a continuous series of graphs. The usefulness of this is as an adjunct to training, once the initial checks have been made on how it is best set up.

The last word on the exercise tests came from Tudor Hale, in saying, 'You table tennis players have a very professional approach. You are one of the most professional groups we've had. It is evident that any thoughts about table tennis players not being so fit as necessary for other sports can be *dismissed*. You all have levels of fitness which put you in the *elite athlete class* of sportsmen and sports-women.'

What of the mysteries of psychology? The only mystery about this is in the mind. There needn't be a mystery. Psychology should be a precise science and involves the application of knowledge and observation of the way humans react to certain situations and stimulations. One of the main objects of sports psychology is to discover the best way for athletes to approach their training and competition: to optimise their chances of feeling 'right' mentally. To organise their mind for useful work and experiences rather than to have their mind working against them.



Nicky Mason.

Especially in a sport like table tennis, close to the opponent, requiring relaxed skill and performance in front of an audience, it is the player who does this best who may have the edge even over a slightly better skilled opponent. Certainly where equal or lesser capability is concerned the player must be up to the mental experience of a big event or s/he is lost.

#### The problem

For those not familiar with the subject there is no shortage of big words and academic language in psychology but at least most of the terminology has precise meaning and can often be related to simple everyday language and experience. The problem with a commonsense approach to psychology is the likelihood of generalisations, which are no substitute for experience and knowledge. It is no use simply saying to a player 'pull yourself together' when they are upset at some mannerism by their opponent or are convinced that they are doomed to lose the second game as well. Different individuals respond differently in ways that are not easily observed or worked out. The systematic approach is to develop a long term strategy for handling all eventualities and to understand the player's reaction and feelings in certain situations. Above all the player must be part of the exercise and the detail of the approach must be as suggested by them.

The approach to the psychology of a team is interesting from the group aspects. However, the main aims followed by Tony Morris are centred on individual motivation and achievement in the long term. One of the key

words in this area is 'goal setting'. Everyone has probably had a go at this in some limited way but the real approach is to be very systematic and to use methods researched and proven in trials and in practical situations. The initial interview, which was the main item on the agenda for this week, follows a pattern of questions by the psychologist and dialogue and discussion of the player's response. The general purpose is to establish the player's goals at various levels, the short term goals and the long term goals. There are often intermediate goals to bring about a stage-by-stage approach to an achievement. One of the most prevalent features of an untrained attempt at goal setting is that the person sets a vague future achievement and/or sets a goal with no decision as to how the result will be measured. The correct approach is that when the aims are decided it must also be planned as to how the player can be satisfied that s/he has reached the time to take stock and how s/he will decide if the aim has been successful. As Tony Morris emphasises, while discussion may take place with the coach and the psychologist, the aims and wishes must be initiated by the player for there to be reasonable chance of success.

#### The goal

The player must be *committed* to *achieve* the goal and it should be *challenging but attainable*.



Andrea Holt.

## A memory jog for Fred Perry . . .

IN THE current issue of the *News* I note that Fred Perry stated that having won the world title he put away his bat and never took it up again. Wrong Fred — you actually played in the English Open at Buxton in 1933 and went out in either the first or second round to Don Foster of Liverpool. I remember it well I was 15 years old at the time and won the Junior English Open — this being the first time it was held. One of the highlights for me was having a knock-up with you before you went on.

I was sorry to see that Bunny Casofsky had passed away although many years since I saw him we were good friends. I played with him and George Goodman against Scotland in 1946 and we had lots of laughs throughout the three days we were together. I am sure he will long be remembered — in Manchester particularly.

I am still playing and enjoying the game at 70 plus.

CHARLES DAVIS  
5 Eastcombe Gardens  
Weston-Super-Mare  
Avon BS23 2TH

## And Another . . .

KNOWING that your magazine does its best to check all the facts you quote, there is one that I do not think correct.

Two months ago, and again last month it is stated that after Fred Perry won the world championship he never played table tennis again. A good story but — surely, in the 1932-33 championships Fred lost in the second round to a player called Cecil Allanson or something similar? It created quite a sensation at the tournament because he lost so easily.

I realise it's a long time ago but surely there are some other players around who can verify my memories?

PAT ARCHDALE (Mrs)  
26 West View Road,  
Keynsham, Avon.

*Editor's note: It is not always possible to check every statement in any publication. If someone as eminent as Fred Perry says he did not play again after winning the world title, I am prepared to accept it as true. I cannot see how such a statement about something that happened 50 years ago could be checked before publication, although it now looks as though Fred's memory is not what it was, but then that applies to us all as we grow older!*

## A further attack on the redundancies

I WISH to comment on several items in the October issue.

Firstly, in response to my letter, 'Redundancies Unnecessary?' the Chairman replies 'The loss revealed by the new Treasurer was not £15,000 as stated by Ken, but £49,000, some attributable to previous years.' The *Revenue Loss* (the excess of expenditure over income) was £15,544 as stated by me. It was the change in accounting policies by which items previously shown as assets were written off, that produced a £49,000 annual deficit. These adjustments effected an even direr situation that year, but will assist a 'remarkable turnaround' next.

In 'The Chairman Reports' Mr Prean asserts 'Nobody wanted this' (ie the redundancies) 'but equally no-one came up with proposals how similar sums could be saved'. Not true! I suggested various measures for increasing income and reducing expenditure (including cutting the budget on centres of excellence, now agreed to make more funds available for the national team), a package of which would easily have covered the net cost of the coaches. Regrettably Management demanded an instant decision on the proposal for redundancies announced at the fateful 25 July Council meeting, allowing no time for other suggestions. The decision should have been postponed.

The Editor's statement that the redundancies saved the ETTA £40,000 is also incorrect. £40,000 is a gross sum, from which should be deducted income generated by the coaches and grant aid from The Sports Council (plus redundancies and pay offs).

In his editorial, John Woodford says that the decision for redundancies 'has proved to be an essential move'. Untrue! There were alternatives. The debate should have been over which package of measures to approve.

The Chairman's Report quotes me (but not in name) quite out of context, giving a misleading impression. Although I did say, in an open letter to AGM delegates, that Don Parker 'has proved to be largely ineffectual as the new Director of Coaching', I explained that this was not because he was incapable, but because his other tasks were 'too onerous to give enough time for directing', (now he has Northern National Coach responsibilities as well!) and he has been frightened to act decisively. Far from doubting

Don's qualifications, I noted that he is so well qualified that there is a danger of his successfully seeking employment elsewhere. Though Mr Prean considers me unfit to lace Don's boots, I am entitled to express opinions.

And whereas in my *unprinted* letter submitted for the May/June edition of *Table Tennis News*, I described the new members of the management team (Peter Hillier, Jim Beckley, Chris Wright and Stuart Sneyd) as 'light-weight', my sentence continued 'in terms of national experience and reputation'.

Further, nobody, let alone Peter Charters, has deliberately undermined his son Carl. The Chairman should substantiate his very serious allegation that this critic had spent hours on the phone, 'In order to — ruin my son's career'. And quoting insults such as, 'biggest/turbulent bore', gratuitously are unbecoming. Do the Management Committee support the tone of his remarks?

KEN MUHR  
23 York Road,  
Stony Stratford,  
Milton Keynes.

*Chairman's reply: I HAVE no intention of discussing with Ken the efforts which were made during the last election to 'get' at me via my son, nor those which followed via the national press. Both were thoroughly unsuccessful and deserve no further comment. I am sorry Ken raises yet again the financial topics on which I had tried so hard to put him right. The accounts were approved by the General Meeting of the Association, including the loss of £49,000. It was hardly of my making, but with my team I am trying to put right the mess I inherited. Cash flow had deteriorated by £35,000 and we still face a bill of up to £25,000 in respect of our offices, including dry rot eradication.*

*Neither Ken nor anyone else produced anything of substance by way of an alternative to redundancies. What we got at the AGM was what the editor described as a 'barrage of abuse'. Ken and his friends may have enjoyed this, but it did not produce a single solution of our problems, nor save a single job.*

*The necessary decisions were made by a large majority within our democratic process and I stand by them. A sum of £6,000 (transferred from one budget to another), general platitudes and assessments, usually incorrect, contribute nothing to a solution of the problems and I shall not deal with that part of Ken's letter. Similarly, he has not grasped that Sports Council grants are now subject to certain objectives being*

*attained. They are no longer given on the basis of wages and salaries paid. This confers on the Association both greater freedom and responsibilities. The basic fact, that overspending has to stop some time, remains. Equally clear has been the message that the members do not want to pay any more. I have to respect their wishes so frequently expressed.*

*Editor's note: The time has arrived when this line of correspondence is going to cease. I have been very patient with Mr Muhr, who persists (with very little support) to make the same points over again. I am not concerned whether he thinks my view on the £40,000 'saving' is incorrect or not. Most people in general terms, have accepted that a large and immediate cost-cutting operation was needed. Trying to raise members subscriptions and other suggested solutions would be vastly time-consuming and probably almost impossible to implement with speed. Finally, the title of this magazine is 'Table Tennis News' and not 'History'.*

## The fine on Desmond Douglas

I FEEL I must express my feelings, as an ordinary player, regarding the imposition of a fine of one month's pay on Desmond Douglas for not appearing in the National Top Twelve.

If a holiday camp had had a tournament playing up to 11 the ETTA would have expected league players to boycott it, as not keeping to the rules — but Douglas gets fined!

He warned the organisers in advance of his feelings — he could have left it to the day and claimed ill-health! The ETTA could then have done nothing.

I have admired Desmond Douglas for many years for his ability, behaviour on and off the table, smartness of appearance and, for his honesty. I wish I could say the same for one of the other 'rising stars'.

If this is the behaviour that the ETTA wishes to penalise then the sooner Douglas leaves for pastures cleaner the better. Perhaps then we can get back to a game played for fun, exercise and enjoyment, with the most able player winning, within the rules and not bending them. (Perhaps this is why the VETTS association and tournaments are so popular.)

Am I crying in the wilderness or is there anyone else out there?  
SYLVIA COOMBS  
Emperor Cottage, Weston Underwood, Olney, Bucks.

## Picture Parade 2



*Claire Potts, a spectacular counter-hitter lives in Chester is aged 17. She made her senior debut for England at the Polish Open in 1985 and is coached by her father.*

*Picture: Mike Loveder.*



*Skylet Andrew will be 26 next March. He is a regular member of the England squad and plays for Essex and in Holland and is a true professional. He has represented England at several world championships and is almost sure to be selected for the European championships coming up in Paris.*



*Gary Spencer is Rejects No. 1 in the Leeds British League.*

*John Hilton the former European champion is the newest recruit to the veterans ranks. At least now the vets who lose to him will be able to go home and say 'I lost to the former European champion'. John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley rate themselves the best reserves in the country, turning up as they did at Farnborough, when others stayed at home.*

*Picture: Tony Edenden.*

# FIRST UNDER-12 ENGLAND TRAINING CAMP

by JACKIE BELLINGER

ON 23-25 October the first ever Crest Under-12 England Training Camp took place. The players both boys and girls stayed at the Crest Hotel, Luton and trained at Luton Regional Sports Centre. Approximately 5 camps for Under-12s will be run each year.

It is an intense weekend. They train for 4+ hours a day, with a little physical work also. The emphasis on this first weekend was purely on technique. It is very important that young players develop the correct techniques and that they are playing a positive game. By positive I do not mean trying to 'blast' every ball no matter what. It simply means playing a positive stroke whether its a loop, deep push, or block with the aim to actually winning the point and not just waiting for your opponents to make the mistakes. Against the top European junior players, a player who does not play positive simply will not win.

The training facility for juniors in countries like Germany are very advanced, for example, they have a Table Tennis school where all the best players live getting their table-tennis and education at one location. It is hoped that the start of the National Crest Under-12 squad is a big step in the right direction.

#### Self-financing

The squad is self financed and since the initial setting up of it in July, money has been raised in various ways including: (1) World speed hitting record attempt by Jackie & Lisa; (2)

Raffles; (3) Raffle and sponsored run by Grant Solder; (4) Sponsored run by Peter and Colin Bowler; (5) 24 hour marathon in Dunstable.

#### Any ideas?

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in any way, whether collecting sponsors, organising or actually running something themselves. I would welcome any ideas that any one has in fund raising.

At present the situation with the Under-12 squad members is girls: Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton.



Jackie Bellinger, sister of England No. 1 Lisa Lomas is the manager of the England Under-12 squad. She is ranked No. 13 on the English women's ranking list.

With regards to the boys, I shall be choosing four or five boys after the Cleveland Open. Therefore we will have a squad of 6/7 players. Ideally after the National Under-12 tournament the squad numbers shall be up to 12, six boys and six girls.



England's Under-12 players at their first training camp run by Jackie Bellinger. Top row, left to right Alex Perry, Andrew Nicolls, Philip Neal, Darren Blake. Bottom row, left to right Stephen Meddings, Nicola Deaton, Sally Marling.



Alex Perry



Sally Marling

# The bi-monthly Crossword

FOUR TIMES A SEASON —

Crossword Compiler  
Eric Hall invites you  
to have a go —

**1st Prize** —

**Blade** of your choice

Supplied by DSR Leisure,

distributor of the complete Stiga

range of table tennis equipment

plus three consolation prizes of professional mini bats supplied by

**CLIVE OAKMAN**  
**Table Tennis**

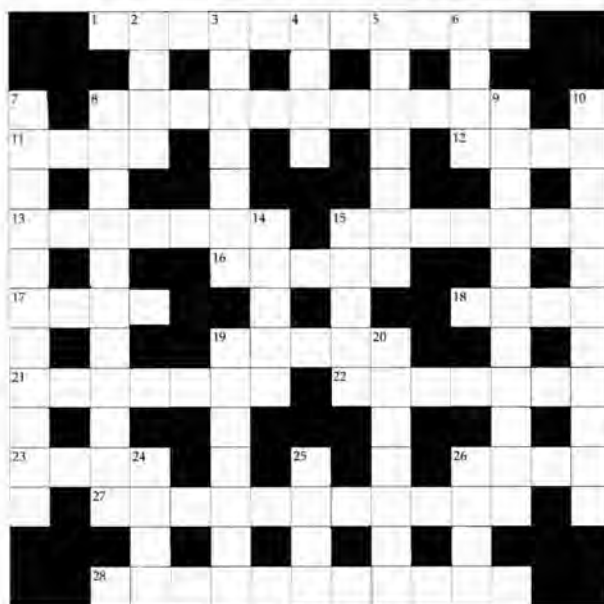
## RESULTS OF CROSSWORD No 8 October issue

**First Prize (Stiga Blade):** Bradley Billington, 63 Norwood Avenue, Hasland, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

**Runners-Up (Mini-Bats):** Gillian Blanch, 7 Canada Road, Acton, London W3 0NP; Mrs L. A. Johnson, 64 Willow Drive, Cheswick Green, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4HW; Mrs Jose Rogers, 53 Highway Road, Leicester LE5 5RE.

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## CROSSWORD NO. 9



Name .....

Address .....

## CLUES

### ACROSS

1. I bring wrath on former England player (5, 6)
8. Coach Hal takes detour around two points (5, 6)
11. First person hastened to troubled land (4)
12. Caroline's first words? (4)
13. Dustin's disposed to sun-seekers . . . Naturally! (7)
15. Weston and Marling made runs into the field (7)
16. Errant dog found in Harrogate? (5)
17. Make mark with violet chalk (4)
18. Mostly ravaged by the passing of time (4)
19. United Nations competent to run the world? 5 Down! (5)
21. Upper House cricket team Christmas activity? (7)
22. Choked on alternative to draught? (7)
23. What young bucks and farmers hope to sow (4)
26. Ex-player takes Bed and Breakfast in East Yorkshire? More likely in FRG (4)
27. BA trusts big-hearted player from Essex (6, 5)
28. Contrary girl and Irish banker got joined as one (4, 7)

### DOWN

2. Try and find Ali's true love (4)
3. A Rolls-Royce sets off and the heart stops beating (7)
4. Final gesture on the beach and in the sports stadium? (4)
5. Look for pub before ring-road? Never! (2, 2, 3)
6. Pay attention to Scottish brain-box (4)
7. No toil, a life associated with this player? 5 down! (5, 6)
8. Useful vessels for pastimes (11)
9. Groups of sprint drivers (or irons) (6, 5)
10. A sad boy bade us find a mature twiddler (4, 7)
14. Con-trick performed by Policeman? (5)
15. Gentleman soliders are here in Bombay initially (5)
19. Nude Ray caught unawares, like Ethelred (7)
20. Twist Sir onto roundabout (7)
24. Table tennis in South Africa run from Edinburgh base? (1, 1, 1, 1)
25. Septennial temptation for husbands (4)
26. Severn-like bore developing on Spanish river? (4)

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.  
Closing Date: 12 JANUARY. Answers published: FEBRUARY.

# WATCH THESE EVENTS:

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 16 & 17 JANUARY

## ★ EUROPE v ASIA ★

at the THORNABY PAVILION, CLEVELAND

SATURDAY (Group play) — SUNDAY Knock-out play and finals)

★ David Hutchinson, c/o Teesport, Zetland Place, Middlesbrough.

Tel: 0642 217844

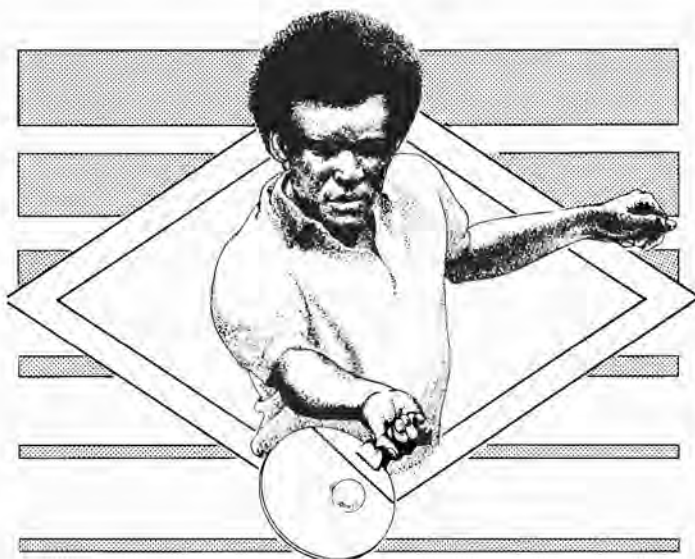
For information on package tours including accommodation and Rover tickets. Tickets available by post. ★



# the Leeds English Open

## TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

(OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY THE I. T. T. F. 57th ENGLISH OPEN)



## WED 20th—SAT 23rd JANUARY

## BRIGHTON CONFERENCE CENTRE

3pm Wednesday, 20 January — Team Events, Rounds 1 & 2  
Thursday, 21 January

Qualifying rounds for all events and team events to finals.

### Friday, 22 January

0900-1100 Mixed Doubles, rounds 1, 2, 3

1115-1315 Women's Singles, round 1

Men's Doubles, rounds 1, 2

1400-1830 Women's Singles, rounds 2, 3

Men's Singles, rounds 1, 2

Men's Doubles quarter finals

Women's Doubles round 1

1900-2200 Men's Singles, round 3 and quarter finals

Women's Singles, quarter finals and semi finals

Mixed Doubles, semi finals and final Women's Doubles round 2

### Saturday, 23 January

0900-1130 Men's Doubles, quarter finals and semi finals

Women's Doubles, quarter finals and semi finals

Men's Singles, semi finals

1330-1600 All finals (except Mixed Doubles)

TICKET PRICES — SEE PAGE 27

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: BRIGHTON CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
BOX OFFICE 0273 202881  
(CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS AVAILABLE)



OR E.T.T.A.  
0424 433121



THE LEEDS INTERNATIONAL — EUROPEAN LEAGUE, DIV I

## ENGLAND v DENMARK

7pm, MONDAY, 25th JANUARY at Meadowside Leisure Centre, High Street,  
Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

Booking office 0283 32055 Enquiries 0283 40254

£3.50 each including programme

£2.00 each children and OAPs