

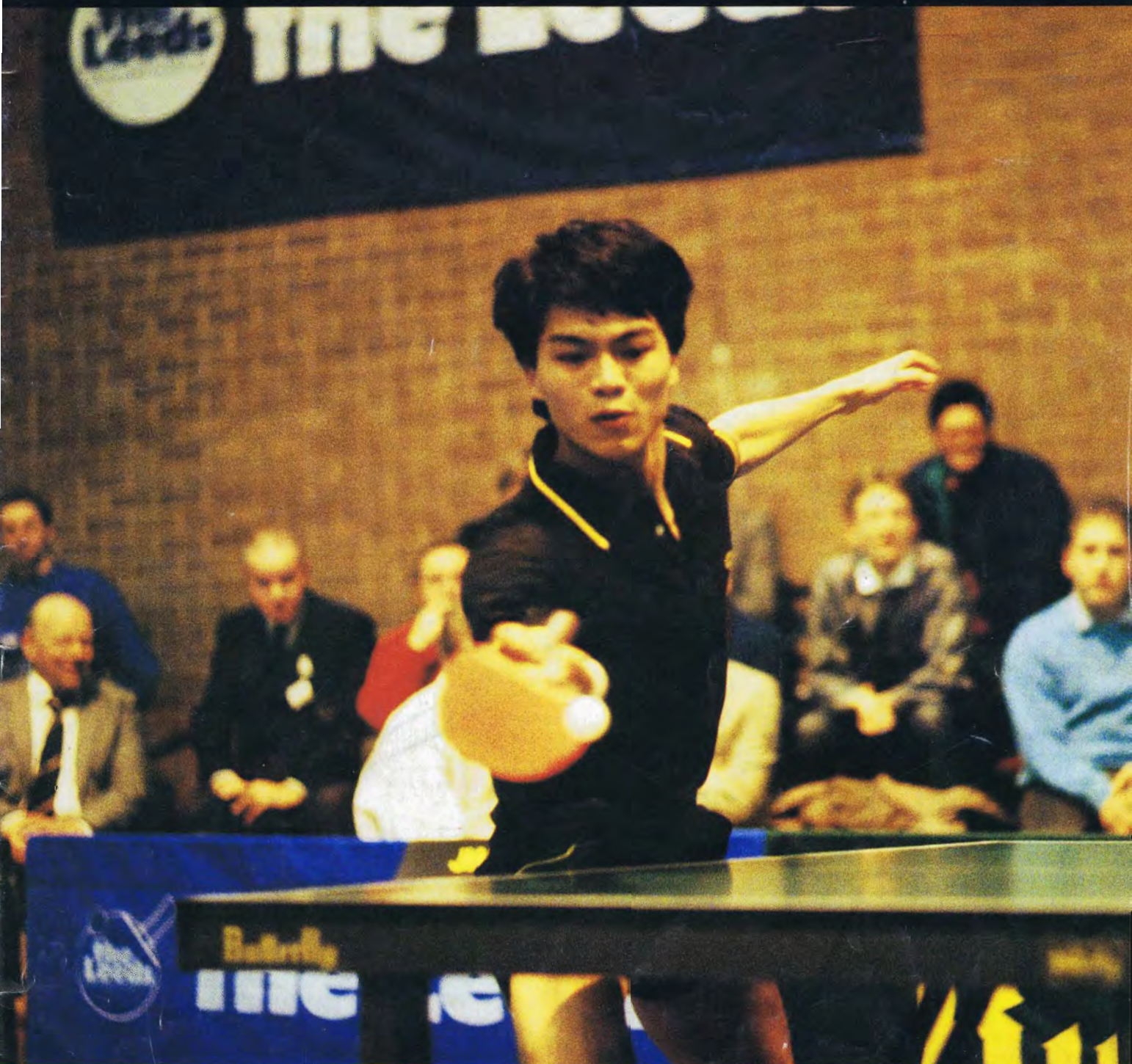


Table Tennis News

No. 172

FEBRUARY 1988

80p



WORLD CHAMPIONS —

JIANG JIALIANG

**and DOUBLE FISH
TABLE TENNIS BALLS**



**John
Jaques**

Thousands of spectators...

CROWDS exceeding a thousand and television cameras at both Middlesbrough and Brighton has demonstrated to our sponsors the Leeds Permanent Building Society that table tennis is an exciting sport, that we deserve full Olympic status and we shall do all in our power to obtain the publicity they rightly expect from their massive investment.

Middlesbrough with its capacity crowd in a smaller arena provided a far better atmosphere. The northerners crowd response was better than the southerners at the huge Brighton Centre. This is something I have noticed at the 50 or so European League matches I have attended; invariably, a full house of 500 fans respond to quality play far better than 600 in a 900-seater stadium. Even the engagement of a professional commentator at Brighton failed to whip up the crowd into the passionate cheering and even stamping that we saw in Cleveland.

Human nature being what it is, it is inevitable that, as in most sports, there are problems with players who will not toe the line. It is also inevitable that there will be problems between TV producers and sponsors who naturally, want their company names as square to the TV cameras as possible.

Reports in the national press on the two big events were in most cases as large as could be expected but there were problems with sub-editors occasionally to save vital space and sometimes for other reasons not using the sponsor's company name. Since the tournaments, some work behind the scenes has been carried out and improvements have already shown in later reports.

There seems very little chance of a happy relationship being resumed between the ETTA and Desmond Douglas. Even with a toe injury that is receiving regular specialist treatment, he sparkled against Denmark at Burton-on-Trent showing that he could be a bargain purchase for a foreign club who has the money to spend next season and there is a chance that he will be playing his last game for England within the next few weeks. That will be a sad day for English table tennis when he makes his last farewell but happily we have a great squad coming up behind and remember — all good things come to an end.

Not everyone is agreed on exactly what England have to do to win promotion to the Super Division in their last two matches having whipped five countries so far. Should we lose to Belgium away and that is quite possible as they have Tibor Klampar's cousin called 'Podpinka' playing for them, all is not lost if we beat Holland. But three countries could finish with one defeat each when games for/against could decide.

JOHN WOODFORD



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★ **THE
COVER
PICTURE**

JIANG JIALIANG, the Chinese world champion who retained his title in New Delhi a year ago was beaten five times on the recent Europe v Asia tour that included the Leeds English Open at Brighton. One of his conquerors was Carl Prean at Thornaby. Jiang, who speaks fluent English, is paid £35 a month by the Chinese Table Tennis Association but is provided with a house and a car. *Picture: PETER BARNES.*



SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD



There was a welcome-back celebration in the Press Centre at Thornaby for Caroline Searle and Rob Oldfield from all the journalists but the media representative in this shot (J. W. Pentax) was Bryan Cutress of the Exchange of Telegraph Company, spotted giving cuddly Caroline a hug in the corner.

BRITISH SPORT AND THE WORLD

H. ROY EVANS, of Wales, Honorary Life President of the International Table Tennis Federation is a member of a new Committee set up to examine Britain's position in the organisation of Sport in the World.

The Committee consists of five representatives of the Sports Council, five of the British Olympic Association, five of the CCPR, and five independent members. Mr Evans is one of the independent members, and is included because of his experience as Secretary for 16 years and President for 20 years of one of the largest world sports organisations.

During his spell at the head of the 133 member ITTF, Mr Evans has had plenty of experience of handling situations which were non-existent in the early days of sport organisation — politics and the intrusion, for better or for worse, of commercialisation.

The Committee has already had its initial meeting, identifying the areas in which British influence has waned in the past twenty years. It is accepted that to regain its position of administrative influence is going to be a long job, with hardly the likelihood of spectacular success.

The problem is that for far too long, Britain, as the inventor of so many sports, and the first organisers of others, has continued to regard itself as the only source of administrative skill, and has failed to note or be concerned about the improvement in the skill of so many other countries. Britons seem to have regarded themselves as having a God given right to govern, and it has been a sad awakening for many to note the rise of foreign administrators in sport. At one time, the British had the chief officers in most of the known sports, today they hold only very few top administrative jobs.

The newly-formed Committee — the British International Sports Committee — recognises this as one of our biggest problems in any recovery we can make. But that simple acknowledgement of the influences of others is hardly likely of itself to win back power. There is a host of other factors to study, and positive steps to be taken in what must be a very long term exercise, which should have been started years ago.

For instance one factor, very evident in table tennis, is in the installing of coaches in foreign countries. The Chinese have been doing this for years, and a very large number of Third World countries have Chinese coaches. Not only does this provide the possibility of improving the skills in those countries, but it also provides the Chinese with a foothold which can be used, not only in support for them in sporting circles, but also is even of value in politics and commerce.

We went for a Burton

CHAIRMAN John Prean reminded guests at the after-match sit-down dinner following the England and Denmark match at Burton-on-Trent that it was at Burton that he started his successful election campaign.

Many local leagues could benefit from the successful projection of table tennis in the town. As always, there is one man whose enthusiasm stands out and that man is the Regional chairman Terry Gadsby. At Burton they have the benefit of an evening newspaper who have not only a team in the local league, they have offices within a few yards of the excellent Meadows Centre and the newspaper did a four-page pull-out feature on the day of the match, as well as a huge spread on the day following England's 6-1 victory.

After a long walk from the main hall to the telephones, journalists found they could not raise the operators to get transfer charge calls, but that apart the arrangements, hospitality and the general atmosphere provided by the Burton enthusiasts was excellent.

A sin-bin record for Larkhall

MUST be a lot of sinners in South London! The Leeds British League club Larkhall from South London have just broken a new record — in the latest League report stunningly compiled by Les Wooding, there is a 'sin-bin' section devoted to clubs who do things wrong ranging from no programme for the matches to scoreboards not provided.

The two Larkhall sides have been sin-binned for a total of sixteen counts in the latest issue, apart from no programmes or scoreboards the other sins are poor nets and posts, banner not displayed, Leeds surrounds not placed correctly, Schildkrot surrounds not used, only one umpire, poor changing facilities, general hospitality very poor and seating needs to be reviewed. It looks as though the league management committee will shortly be calling for an end to skylarking at Larkhall.

Questions on the Olympics

CONTROVERSY has always surrounded the Olympic Games from the days when it started by only 'amateurs' until 1988 when many leading competitors are professionals in varying degrees, thus allowing IOC to admit sports such as table tennis, unheard of years ago.

We have beaten our rivals badminton and squash rackets into the Olympic arena, but just how the table tennis events are going to be reported from the University Stadium in Seoul is unclear. The venue is still *not* settled for the table tennis events. There is still a threat from North Korea that they want some of the sports including table tennis, or they will pull out their athletes and not go to South Korea.

If that happens then our Carl Prean and Lisa Lomas could still get wild cards. Other uncertainties concern the reporting from Seoul. Obviously, nearly every sports journalist in the world concerned with the Olympic sports would like to get to Seoul, but only 90 or so British journalists are going to be granted accreditation.

Consideration

The IOC have I understand, recognised that some acknowledgement and consideration should be given to 'specialist' writers (such as myself) who concentrate on one sport, or Richard Easton who concentrates on three — squash, badminton and table tennis in roughly that order.

But whether our applications for accreditation are approved or rejected, only the coming months will tell.

Smile at rankings!

CHINESE people sometimes have difficulty with their pronunciation of English so as we would hardly dare tackle their languages we should not laugh but only smile at a heading in a programme at a recent event in Hong Kong, concerning a badminton world ranking list — it appearing as a 'lanking list'!

Good news—

Junior/Cadet Top-12 saved

by MIKE WATTS

DUE to the generosity of the Milton Keynes Borough Council in agreeing to underwrite the Junior/Cadet Top-12 this event will now take place at the Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Purbeck, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, Bucks on Friday, 1 and Saturday, 2 April.

The event had earlier been cancelled when it was known that expenditure would far outweigh income but in stepped the Borough Council who had already supplied some financial support to save the day.

Regular support

Milton Keynes have regularly supported the Association and previous events held there include the first Senior Top-12, the English National Championships at Bletchley on two occasions and one of the England v China matches earlier this year and on 4/5 June 1988 they also play hosts to the Cadet 6 Nation involving teams from England, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, France and Federal Germany.

PARIS TEAM: CHOICE DELAY

AS this magazine went to press Donald Parker had informed the ETTA of his decisions on the England squad. If Parker wants nine players in Paris the ETTA will find the money. But there are hopes that negotiations might result in finding sponsors for two more players, who could be Andrea Holt and Nicky Mason, both of whom earned £1,000 in the Leeds Permanent Building Society special awards at the English Open. Most fans will be guessing that the men's team will be Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Carl Prean.

Qualifications

The present top three women Alison Gordon, Fiona Elliot and Lisa Bellinger all have their own qualifications behind them and all are full professionals.

RUSSIAN OPEN

Russian debut for Andrea

by JENNY HEATON

ANDREA HOLT competing in her first national major senior open, began her debut in the first round of the team competition against Belgium with a fine win over Bogaert, who had a week earlier finished fourth in the Olympic qualifying tournament.

Andrea combined fine defensive play with aggressive attacking shots off her own service to outwit her opponent.

Combined speed and spin

In the singles event Fiona Elliot had to begin her campaign against Albou (Rumania) ranked 18 in Europe (a tough draw), but Fiona combined spin and speed well to outplay her opponent, winning 3-1. Fiona then went on to beat Shtofblat (USSR) but finally succumbed to Korean Kim Yung Hui 3-0 after leading 13-6 in the first game. What a difference that could have made! Kim Yong Hui went on to beat Popova (USSR), but lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winner. The Chinese dominated all the women's events, winning the team competition and providing the two finalists in the singles. Tsai Haidong was the winner.



Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton) will be fighting extremely hard to retain her England women's singles title at Crawley on 27-28 February. No progress by Lisa Lomas and no entry from Joy Dean could make Fiona the favourite at Crawley.

Team Event

Round 1 — England beat Belgium 3-0; Holt bt Bogaert, 19, 14; Elliot bt Billen, 15, 18; Holt/Elliot bt Bogaert/Billen, 14, 14. Round 2 — Lost Hungary 3-0; Elliot lost Fazakow, 14, -18, -19; Holt lost Wirth, -15, -12. Elliot/Holt lost Fazakow/Wirth, 19, -18, -11.

Singles

Round 1 — A Holt lost Melnik (USSR); F. Elliott beat Albou (Rum). Round 2 — F. Elliott beat Shtofblat (USSR). Round 3 — F. Elliott lost Kim Yong Hui (PRK).

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NEWS OF THE WORLD . . .

THIS newspaper published a surprise item on 10 January, a 'Spot the Ball' table tennis competition with a £5,000 cash prize in conjunction with The Leeds. This is seen as a real breakthrough and no doubt the NoW table tennis correspondent Johnny Leach and Alan Pascoe Associates are behind the move. It is vital that a big entry for the competition is secured because it is also a subtle way of measuring the table tennis audience for the Johnny Leach weekly column, although many people outside the game will enter the competition.

A spectacular, unqualified triumph

by JOHN WOODFORD at Thornaby

THE two-day third leg of the Europe v Asia spectacular at the Thornaby Pavilion, Middlesbrough was the most successful table tennis event held in Britain for eleven years. The presence of the world's best players, the enthusiasm of the huge crowds — well over a thousand fans on both days — the presence of Channel 4 TV — and superb organisation throughout masterminded by the deputy chairman of the ETTA Alan Ransome — the professionalism of the sponsors the LEEDS Permanent Building Society and their PR firm Alan Pascoe Associates produced a magnificent end product.

I admit that in the past I have been sceptical even cynical, on the ability of the north-east to generate large crowds and the enthusiastic atmosphere that a fully packed 1,000 seater venue can generate. There is no doubt that Alan and Josie Ransome, the Cleveland County Council and the teams of people who helped with the spadework, did an incredibly efficient job.

Fortunately for the Cleveland beavers the teams arrived from Germany after a seven-hour delay because of fog, with Europe men having beaten Asia 5-3 in Rome and Jan-Ove Waldner unbeaten in that match having beaten the world champion Jiang Jialiang.

Jiang had also been beaten by Kucharski and Munazov on the

continent. The genial English-speaking champion who is such a credit to China was then beaten for a fourth time by England's budding superstar Carl Prean, who at the time needed a morale-booster, but could hardly believe that it had happened.

One factor has now emerged from the third series of clashes between Europe and Asia. It is now crystal clear that the odds are very heavily stacked against the visiting players. It is unfortunate that when a group of players have been jet-lagged by flying inter-continental and then have to face a gruelling further series of journeys, as Europe did last year and Asia did this time, it is virtually impossible for the visitors to find their best form.

Having said that, the standard of play was for most of the time at Cleveland extremely high,

with Jan-Ove Waldner dominating the men's event and the Korean and Chinese women having very little trouble in absorbing the skills of the European women.

Waldner beat gallant Nicky Mason in the first round of the knock-out stage. In the group play, Prean and Mason survived by the width of a coat of paint — somehow in the draw for the final stage England managed to get Prean and Mason in the same play-off group.

English successes in the women's matches were hard to find. One exception was Alison Gordon celebrating her return to the England No 1 spot by beating the European No 5 Daniela Guergueltcheva. There is no doubt that a one thousand seater venue like Thornaby, heaving with fans, produces the ideal atmosphere — the only occasion recently where I can recall a similar atmosphere was in Wurzburg, when England's promotion bid last March was crushed 6-1 by the West Germans who played well above themselves. A lot of their success was down to the enthusiasm of the crowd where the applause, cheering, stamping we witnessed at Thornaby was multiplied four times over.

Vive la difference!

'What a difference', says Caroline Searle, former TT journalist, press centre organiser and observer who returns to the sidelines of the sport after a gap of three years.

There was a kinda hush all over table tennis of the early eighties. Walk into any tournament and the must of a bygone age came to meet you — an aroma from which, it seemed, not even the players on table could escape.

China were world champions and Europe lagged pitifully behind. England had Desmond Douglas and a twilight Jill Hammersley but behind them lurked a grey group swathed in inertia.

Walk into a tournament these days — like the Leeds Europe-Asia, supported by Cleveland County Council at Thornaby Pavilion recently — and that kinda hush has gone.

All over the arena in Thornaby the tables buzzed. And in the corridors of power a clean wind whistled round the corners.

True China were still world champions but Europe was having its say, too. England might have lost Desmond Douglas through a dispute with the ETTU but behind him a new breed of player had emerged to take his place — a faster, fitter breed. One which seemed technically more proficient.

Carl Prean made the world champion Jiang Jialiang of China look silly in his first-round group match. And Nicky Mason of Sussex pulled off one of the wins of his career in beating Japanese world no 108 Takehiro Watanabe to qualify for the last 16.

Amongst the women Alison Gordon, once again England No 1, was beating Daniela Guer-

gueltcheva of Bulgaria. And Andrea Holt was rapidly assuming the mantle of young international pretender.

Was it all just imagination? Perhaps. But if not, the changes in officialdom both in England and internationally must have played a part. So, too, have changes to technical regulations which have left the combination bat twiddlers moribund amongst the museum pieces of the sport. Even the new service rule seems to have had its effect.



Caroline Searle.

And off-table in England John Prean has turned table tennis administration topsy turvy.

It is still reeling from the roller-coaster ride. Some people have felt sick and got off. Others are exhilarated. As usual there are some who have watched from the fence.

One thing is sure, however, that with TV cameras at the rinkside and better promotion in Cleveland and then at Brighton, table tennis has a chance to be heard not hushed. Vive la difference!



Every player's dream is to beat the world champion. The dream came true for Carl Prean in his opening match as he literally overpowered Jiang Jialiang 15, -18, 19.



Left handed North Korean Li Bun Hui was the surprise winner of the women's singles. In the final round she demonstrated Korean power to stop China's Dai Lilli 15, 17.

KNOCKOUT STAGES

MEN:

Round 1: Mazunov (USSR) bt Jiang Jialiang (China) 20, 11; Yoo Nam Kyu (Korea) bt L. Kucharski (Poland) -12, 18, 16; J. Persson (Sweden) bt Kim Ki Taek (Korea) -20, 20, 19; Teng Yi (China) bt C. Prean (England) 20, -9, 14; T. Klampar (Hungary) bt Chen Longcan (China) 12, -17, 12; Li Gun Sang (Korea) bt Erik Lindh (Sweden) -12, 17, 14; Kim Song Hui (Korea) bt A. Grubba (Poland) 18, 11; J. Waldner (Sweden) bt N. Mason (England) 21-12, 23-21.

Quarter-finals: Yoo bt Mazunov -8, 15, 20; Teng bt Persson 10, 14; Li bt Klampar 15, -11, 16; Waldner bt Kim 18, -17, 21.

Semi-finals: Yoo bt Teng 20, 11; Waldner bt Li 19, 18.

Final: Waldner bt Yoo 18, -17, 9.

WOMEN:

Round 1: H. Mika (Japan) bt He Zhili (China) 18, -12, 19; Lin Bun Hui (Korea) bt O. Nemes (West Germany) 18, 9; Dai Lilli (China) bt M. Hrachova (Czech) 23, 15; Yang Young Ya (Korea) bt F. Bulatova (USSR) 11, 16.

Semi-finals: Li bt Mika -12, 22, 18; Dair Bt Yang 17, 18.

Final: Li Bun Hui bt Dai Lilla 15, 17.

Magnificent success at Thornaby — Watch out for Channel 4

by ALAN RANSOME, ETTA Deputy Chairman and Organiser

TABLE TENNIS needs good television coverage to increase its popularity and status — just like all sports today. For *The Leeds Euro-Asia In Cleveland* we were fortunate to be able to persuade Channel 4 to cover the event, the first table tennis taken by 4 since it started broadcasting five years ago. Channel 4 commissioned one of their leading sports production companies, 'Cheerleader' who have amongst their personnel the top producer, Derek Brandon and commentator, Simon Reed, to cover the tournament. They also allocated two and a half hours of air time to the event to give table tennis a real chance to prove itself as a TV sport.

The tournament itself gave us a fantastic opportunity to show the world what modern table tennis is all about. More than twenty countries in Asia, Europe and North America had commissioned pictures from Cheerleader as well as Channel 4. We had all the ingredients for a great success, the top players in the world, an incentive of the best prize money ever offered, the venue of Thornaby Pavilion which has been used for several major events in the past and has a reputation of providing perfect playing conditions. In addition, the sponsorship from *The Leeds Permanent Building Society*, *Tamasu Butterfly Europa* and the solid support of *Bill Sykes* and his staff of the *Leisure Services Department of Cleveland County Council*, plus the experienced team of officials who have notched up other successes in Cleveland including the European Youth, World Student Games and the Europe Top 12. As soon as the event, sponsorship and television coverage were all confirmed in November, the organisation moved into action. We knew we had a golden opportunity... we had to make the most of it.

An appreciative audience was vital to the success of the event, not just spectators who filled the seats, but an audience who really participated in the show. Just before Christmas we embarked on a massive publicity campaign, mailing literally thousands of leaflets and posters to all known table tennis enthusiasts and a whole series of press releases to a wide news media list. We set up promotion stands at tournaments and offered a variety of spectator packages, including seminars for coaches and players organised around the tournament.

Well informed

Cheerleader too went to great lengths to be well informed. Their aim was to produce the best table tennis programme ever shown on British television. Derek Brandon invested a great deal of his time viewing coverage of previous table tennis events both at home and abroad to check

camera angles and techniques and as a result he brought six cameras to Thornaby Pavilion rather than the four usually used. A better atmosphere was to be created leaving the audience in relative darkness whilst special lighting was introduced angled from the side to highlight the players profiles.

Hours of discussions took place, talking through many ideas in order to get the whole presentation for the live audience and the television spectators just right. It was vital that the best matches should be shown on television and so it was agreed with Channel 4 that all quarter-finals, semi-finals and final in the Men's and semi-finals and final in the Women's singles would be filmed, to ensure British interest in the programme, the matches of any British players reaching the last 16 would be included at the beginning of the afternoon's television coverage.

Elec

We also wanted to keep the audience fully informed throughout so special audience information procedures were introduced in addition to the usual public results boards in the concourse. This included displaying the names of the players on the court surrounds, the current score in each match on four large screens behind each court, free updates for programme holders after each of the six sessions, plus four special electronic moving message boards operated by Les Wooding the Secretary of the Leeds British League. Not only did Les keep the spectators informed about the state of play, but encouraged them to give the players support with his 'Come On Carl', 'Come On Britain' flashing messages.

The build up at the venue started early in the week when the electricians moved in, but finally everything moved into top gear on Thursday evening when the Leeds blue special flooring was laid, backdrop hung, seating erected, etc. The colour combination of Leeds pantone 300 blue in the flooring, banners and surrounds, and the Butterfly green



Alan Ransome, leading contender for the title 'Tournament Organiser of the Season' writes a thousand words on how he saw the Cleveland spectacular.



Simon Reed of Cheerleader talks to the Men's Singles winner Jan-Ove Waldner, Sweden's world No 2 after the final.

of the tables, net/post sets and surrounds, produced an attractive visual effect to set the scene for a great event.

Asians in black

Derek Brandon insisted that all the players should be dressed in pre-selected colour-coded playing kit. The Asians wore black and gold shirts and shorts with yellow shirts as an alternative for the closing stages as they played against each other whilst the Europeans wore light and navy blue co-ordinated outfits and the British players wore red shirts and black shorts for the television coverage after wearing their national team colours in the groups.

Early on Saturday morning the scene was set. The players had finally arrived safely, the umpires were there resplendent in their blue blazers, the flower boxes were moved in and the spectators began to arrive. And play could not have been better starting as it did with Carl Prean beating the World Champion, Jiang Jialiang in the first match.

The crowd responded with clapping, cheering and stamping. And it went on from there, marvellous match after marvellous match, including incredible performances from the British players Alan Cooke, Nicky Mason and Alison Gordon, whilst the seats filled up with a great audience full of enthusiasm.

On Sunday morning the venue was filled. By lunchtime the four-table layout was broken down to just one table and the tiered seating plan re-arranged to provide the audience with excellent viewing for the final sessions. By 1.30pm when the cameras started to roll, all the seats were full, people were sitting in the aisles, standing room was full, the doors were locked and late comers without tickets were turned away.

Jan-Ove Waldner produced some of the best table tennis of his career, beating three crack Asian players in front of the television cameras to take the coveted title. The whole atmos-

continued on next page

Leeds Euro-Asia 3

(continued from page 5)

phere was incredible. The crowd roared to his brilliance and he responded to their reaction producing new heights in excellence. It was not just Waldner who was fantastic, the other Asian and European players raised their games too, producing an afternoon of pure, incredible table tennis.

And now it is all over. The films are in the can and careful editing is being carried out. The Leeds gave us their backing and encouragement. Alan Pasco Associates arranged the introduction meeting with Cheerleader and set the ball rolling, their professional experience helping to keep us right throughout the project. Cleveland County Council providing the organisational support, with many people from the table tennis world playing a vital role in the production.

A big 'Thank You' goes to John Prean and Ted Wallbuton for their assistance with the television and sponsorship negotiations, to Tony Chatwin and Stuart Sherlock as Referee and Deputy Referee for being flexible and handling awkward situations extremely well, to Bob Edon and Mary Sherlock of the Secretariat, to Les Wooding on the electronic message machine, to Jim Beckley and Rob Oldfield in

the Press room, to Dave Hutchinson, Colin Davison, Jose Ransome, Pam Richmond of the Cleveland Association and also to Ken Taylor from Durham who made major contributions. Thanks also goes to Richard Yule and Paul Day who ran the coaching courses and to all umpires, scoring machine operators, reception staff, press and secretariat staff, hospitality and transportation staff; Thornaby Pavilion and Leisure Services staff, without whose help such a resounding success would not have been possible. Thank you to George Yates and his colleagues on the ETTU management committee for offering us the chance to stage such a magnificent tournament in the first place and for agreeing to our request for extra British players, agreeing to our format of play and to the limitations of British TV advertising.

Viewing reaction

And finally, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and in television terms that comes down to the reaction and viewing figures. If the viewing figures are good and the audience reaction is favourable, then we can expect to see more table tennis on Channel 4. If it does not work, then all we can say is that we have given it our best effort.

NOW PLEASE WATCH FOR TABLE TENNIS ON . . .



Viewing times are: Sunday, 28 February and Sunday, 6 March from 6.00pm until 7.15pm. Tell your family and friends to watch it. If you like it then write to Channel 4 and let them know. They take notice of letters and general public reaction.

The Leeds Euro-Asia In Cleveland could be the turning point for table tennis . . . let's keep our fingers crossed!



MORE RESULTS EURO-ASIA ON PAGE 14

RESULTS

Men's groups, Winners:

- 1 Jiang Jialiang
- 2 Li Gun Sang
- 3 Chen Longcan
- 4 Mazunov
- 5 Yoo Nam Kyu
- 6 Kucharski

Women's groups, Winners:

- 1 He Zhili
- 2 Yang Young Ya
- 3 Dai Lili
- 4 Hoshino

Men's lucky losers:

- 1 Grubba
- 2 Prean

Men's Knockout:

Round 1: Mazunov b Jiang 20, 11; Yoo Nam Kyu b Kucharski - 12, 18, 16; Persson b Kim Ti Taek - 20, 20, 19; Teng Yi b Prean 20, -9, 14; Klampar b Chen Longcan 12, -17, 12; Li Gun Sang b Lindh -12, 17, 14; Kim Song Hui b Grubba 18, 11; Jan-Ove Waldner b Mason 12, 21.

Round 2: Yoo b Mazunov -8, 15, 20; Teng Yi b Persson 10, 14; Li b Klampar 15, -11, 16; Waldner b Kim Song 18, -17, 21.

Semi-finals: Yoo b Teng Yi 20, 11; Waldner b Li 19, 18.

FINAL: Waldner b Yoo 18, -17, 9.

Women's Knockout: Round 1:

Hoshino b He 18, -12, 19; Li b Nemes 18, 9; Dai Lili b Hrachova 23, 15; Yang b Bulatova 11, 16.

Semi-finals: Li b Hoshino -12, 22, 18; Dai Lili b Yang 17, 18.

Final: Li Bun Hui b Dai Lili 15, 17.

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JOHN WOODFORD LOOKS AT THE YUGOSLAV STAR PAIR

A young, world-class doubles pair — possible future world champions

THE Yugoslav national team under long-serving coach Dusan Osmanagic always seem to have the knack of producing new players of European and even world class with monotonous regularity. After Dragutin Surbek, Zoran Kalinic and now into world class in one go, Ilija Lupulescu and Zoran Primorac.

Thirty years ago Yugoslavia had world doubles champions and now they are keeping up the tradition with these two magnificent young players who shot to fame overnight in New Delhi when they beat a Chinese pair that included Jiang Jialiang and then a Korean pair Ahn and Yoo to reach the world final.

In the New Delhi final the two Yugoslav lads were narrowly beaten by Chen Longcan and Weil Quingguang but they had already put themselves on the path to glory after just failing to win gold medals.

Works well

Lupulescu said recently of his partner Primorac, I get on with him very well especially in doubles. 'He is right-handed and stands close to the table. I am left-handed and prefer playing away from the table. This seems to work very well bearing in mind that in doubles you have to hit every ball on the move.'

'We talk about tactics during matches, but we do not make signs about the type of services we are using, just a glimpse is enough' he said.

Impressive

The list of world-class pairs they have already defeated is most impressive, it includes Grubba-Kucharski, Appelgren-Carlsson and Orlowski-Pansky. Quote from the Swedish press at

the time this bunch of scalps were collected was 'New stars arising in the sky'.

Lupulescu is left-handed, with spins from semi-distance, an all-round-attacker who sometimes produces extra hard hits. He is cunning: his balls are placed precisely. National coach Dusan Osmanagic says about him: 'Ilija is, if in the right mood, hardly to beat. He looks a bit phlegmatic. In the past it happened several times that he surrendered even before the last rally. Lately, this has happened quite seldom. Though still very young, he ranks among the best players.'

Southern temper

Primorac is tall, with the stature of a decathlete. Full of southern temper, his play is very explosive. In game he is always 'turned on', taking the initiative in every rally. He says about his own play: 'It is the modern, hard play on the table. I make most points with my backhand and with hard forehand hits. Many call me a fighter, playing with a lot of recklessness.'

It seems certain that these two young men are poised to be central figures in world class doubles and possibly singles over the next decade.

Their list of victories so far, suggests that even the world title is not beyond them, then maybe Dortmund, if not Tokyo in 1991 or England in 1993?



Zoran Primorac



Ilija Lupulescu

VETTS CLUB ZONE SEMIS

THE Veterans' National Club Championships has reached the Zone semi-final stage and the draw is as follows:

Zone 1 (a) Sheffield v Wirral; (b) Stockport v Mid Lincs or Warrington.

Zone 2 (a) Northallerton v Wakefield; (b) Northumberland v Bishop Auckland.

Zone 3 (a) Grimsby v Northampton; (b) Nottingham v Birmingham.

Zone 4 (a) Lowestoft v Dunstable; (b) Hunts Central v St Neots.

Zone 5 (a) Wembley & Harrow v Ilford; (b) Brentwood v North Middx.

Zone 6 (a) Thames Valley v Croydon; (b) Maidenhead v Byfleet.

Zone 7 (a) Insurance Offices v Worthing; (b) Eastbourne v Crawley.

Zone 8 (a) West Wilts v Swindon; (b) Bristol.

Zone Finals — In each zone the winner of match (a) will be at home to the winner of match (b).

Quarter Finals of tournament: Zone 3 v Zone 1; Zone 7 v Zone 4; Zone 2 v Zone 5; Zone 6 v Zone 8.

Zone semi-finals to be played by 15 February 1988.

Zone finals to be played by 28 March 1988.

Quarter-final of tournament to be played by 3 May 1988.

Would the winning team ensure that the results are sent promptly to: Sylvia Coombs, Emperor Cottage, West Underwood, Olney, Bucks. 0234 711131.

EXCHANGE VISIT?

A CLUB in France has expressed interest in arranging an exchange visit with an English club. Interested parties please contact: M. P. Martin, 7, Rue du Mont Mouchet, 48200 St Chely d'Apcher, France.

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MONTHLY FROM THE ETTA OFFICE

French poised for first Super Division Championship crown

TWO matches to play and an undefeated record behind them France would appear to be the favourites to win the European League's Super Division title for the first time.

Shock result of the season occurred on 16 December in Laval where France beat Sweden 4-3 after the French had established a 3-0 lead following wins by Jean-Philippe Gatien, over Erik Lindh, by Patrick Birocheau, over Jorgen Persson, and by Wang Xiao Ming over Marie Svensson.

The Swedes took over in both doubles but back came Gatien to cement victory by taking his second singles against Persson. Scores: Gatien b Lindh, -19, 15, 17; Birocheau b Persson, -13, 17, 13; Wang Xiao Ming b Svensson, 19, 20; Gatien/Birocheau l Lindh/Persson, -14, -19; Gatien/Wang l Lindh/Svensson, 19, -17, -14; Gatien b Persson, -18, 24, 14; Birocheau l Lindh, -15, -17.

Subsequently in Toulouse on 6 February, France make it five out of five with a 5-2 win over Federal Germany. Their final two matches are away to Hungary and Bulgaria.

Surprises

Bulgaria continue to bring off surprises and away to Poland in Starogard on 15 December they beat the defending champions 4-3 to bring off yet another shock result. Both Mariano Lukov and Ivan Stoianov accounted for Leszek Kucharski while Daniela Guerguelcheva beat J. Szymanelis and partnered Lukov to a mixed doubles success. Scores: A. Grubba b Stoianov, 13, 14; Kucharski l Lukov, 17, -16, -17; Szymanelis l Guerguelcheva, -10, -18; Grubba/Kucharski b Lukov/Stoianov, 7, 16; Kucharski/Bilska l Lukov/Guerguelcheva, 19, -19, -17; Grubba b Lukov, 14, 19; Kucharski l Stoianov, -18, -8.

And, for good measure at home to Hungary on 6 January, Bulgaria brought off their third win of the season by a 5-2 margin.

The Federal Republic of Germany brought off their first win of the season away to Czechoslovakia in Havlickuv Brod on 17 December, Jorgen Rosskopf getting them off with an opening win over Petr Javurek who later succumbed to Georg Böhm following wins by Olga Nemes over Renata Kasalova and Rosskopf and Katja Nolten in the mixed. Scores: Javurek l Rosskopf, -18, -14; T. Janci b Böhm, 18, -18, 21; Kasalova l Nemes, -11, -17; Janci/Javurek b Rosskopf/Böhm 15, -10, 17; Javurek/Safarova l Rosskopf/Nolten, -16, -16; Javurek l Böhm, -17, -14; Jancu b Rosskopf, 21, -14, 20.

First win

In Pecs, on 16 December, Hungary brought off their first win in beating Yugoslavia 5-2 with Tibor Klampar accounting for both Zoran Primorac and Zoran Kalinic, the latter also losing to Zsolt Kriston. Csilla Batorfi easily beat Jasna Fazlic and partnered Somosi to a mixed win. Scores: Klampar b Primorac, 14, -21, 16; Kriston b Kalinic, 17, 19; Batorfi b Fazlic, 16, 8; Klampar/Kriston l Lupulescu/Primorac, -21, -15; Somosi/Batorfi b Lupulescu/Lazlic, -11, 19, 22; Klampar b Kalinic, 17, 11; Kriston l Primorac, -13, 19, -16.

Belgium, away to Denmark in Hillerode on 15 December, were hard pressed to win 4-3 in Division 1 newcomer Andras Podpinka, having left Hungary to qualify, doing the most damage against the Danes winning both his singles and sharing in a mixed success with Karine Bogaerts who also won her singles against Charlotte Polk: Latest scores from this division are: Finland 2 England 5; Turkey 3 Austria 4; Denmark 3 Belgium 4; Italy 0 Belgium 7; Finland 1 Italy 6.

Against Denmark in Hillerode, Belgium were without Jean-Michel Saive so that with him and Podpinka as well as Miss Bogaerts the Belgians could be a force to be reckoned with and England play them in Belgium on 24 February! Beware!

Latest results to hand from Division 2: Luxembourg 5 Wales 2; Norway 5 Scotland 2; Portugal 1 Switzerland 6; Switzerland 5 Greece 2; Wales 0 Scotland 7.

HOW THEY STAND

Up to 6 January 1988

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	5	5	0	22	13	5
Sweden	4	3	1	19	9	3
Bulgaria	5	3	2	15	20	3
Poland	4	2	2	16	12	2
Yugoslavia	5	2	3	17	18	2
Czechoslovakia	5	2	3	17	18	2
Hungary	5	1	4	14	21	1
FR Germany	5	1	4	13	22	1

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	4	4	0	21	7	4
Belgium	5	4	1	24	11	4
Netherlands	3	3	0	15	6	3
Italy	5	2	3	15	20	2
Denmark	4	1	3	14	14	1
Austria	4	1	3	11	17	1
Turkey	4	1	3	10	18	1
Finland	5	1	4	9	26	1

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	6	5	1	33	9	5
Norway	6	5	1	31	11	5
Switzerland	5	4	1	24	11	4
Scotland	5	3	2	19	16	3
Wales	4	1	3	9	19	1
Luxembourg	5	1	4	12	23	1
Greece	5	1	4	8	27	1
Portugal	4	0	4	4	24	0

Forthcoming Fixtures

Super Division
24 February: Poland v Czechoslovakia (Gorzow); Yugoslavia v Sweden; Hungary v France; Bulgaria v FR Germany.

ENGLAND IN HOME STRAIGHT



HAVING beaten Denmark 6-1 England are left with two matches, away to Belgium and at home to Holland on 2 March at Norwich. Two wins would obviously win promotion to the Super Division. Should England lose to Belgium and beat Holland, all is not lost. The issue could be decided if three teams each finish with one defeat, on games average. Two straight wins would be a massive boost for England.



Jean-Michel Saive Belgium's No 1 is now supported by the former Hungarian Podpinka. Together they will give England a lot to think about in the penultimate round of the promotion battle.



Erik Lindh (fourth from left) and Jorgen Persson (fifth) were both beaten in France when France shocked and upset Sweden 4-3 at Laval in the Super Division.

Denmark — England's fifth victory

by TERRY GADSBY, East Midlands RCC Chairman

BURTON-upon-Trent, 1988, a historic sporting occasion. Well, perhaps not nationally but it certainly was in the Burton area, as it was the first full international sporting event of any kind to come to the district.

The event was the England v Denmark, European League match, sponsored by the Leeds Permanent Building Society, in the Burton Meadows Leisure Centre. Thanks to the East Staffordshire District Council who donated the facility and gave the teams a civic reception and the *Burton Daily Mail*, whose local table tennis press coverage must be the best in the country, the event was set for a flying start.

The Danish team arrived on Sunday night and held a practice session at the local Uxbridge table tennis club, whilst the local stalwarts, Clive Oakman and the Alan Pascoe arena fitters, together with the Meadows staff, prepared for the event.

Both teams held practice sessions on the Monday, witnessed by local school children, followed by a civic reception at the town hall, hosted by the district chairman's wife, Mrs Mary Handley, due to the chairman being too ill to officiate.

Non-players

So what about the match? In a word, all the spectators, about 650 of them including a lot of non-table tennis players, thought it was great. When the England team was introduced the hall erupted with clapping and cheering, which prompted team members to remark later, that they thought they must be on the continent.

Took control

A good lift for the team to start with then the crowd kept behind them all the way, whilst still appreciating good play from the Danes.

Alan Cooke started the match against Lars Hauth, their No 1 and had difficulty in settling down, but eventually took control to give England the first hard-won game. Alan revealed later that he felt under more pressure than usual due to playing before a home crowd, where he often assisted with coaching sessions.

By contrast the widely experienced Desmond Douglas showed no qualms, powering out a two-straight win, with his brand of blocking and hitting, never letting Jan Harkamp settle. England two up, getting the great start they wanted and Alison Gordon

winning the first game to ten, it looked too good to be true. It was, Charlotte Polk stepped up her game and won the next two comfortably. Alison never gave up trying but it looked as though the hectic events over the last fortnight had taken their toll.

Onto the Men's doubles, which Douglas and Cooke took two straight, and the mixed doubles which Douglas and Gordon scrambled the first game to 20 but made no mistake with the second with a run-a-way 21-12 win and the game in the bag. Alan Cooke, back on the table against the Danish No 2, again struggled in the first game going down for -13, but then raised his game to win 11 and 14.

Crushed

Although the game was lost, the Danes never stopped trying and Lars Hauth showed Douglas no respect beating him -18 in the first game. However, having not achieved full concentration and paying the price, Douglas won the second comfortably to 14 then crushed Hauth 21-8 in the third, with a world class exhibition in the art of blocking and hitting.

The records will show that England had an easy 6-1 win. However, this was far from the case and the score did not do justice to the excellent play of the Danish team, which extended the match to 3½ hours duration.

Formal occasion

The match was followed by a formal dinner, given by the Leeds Permanent Building Society, where the many civic dignitaries, honoured guests and enthusiastic table tennis officials, were entertained to an excellent meal. The toasts for the evening were: to our 'Sponsors' proposed by Mr Malcolm Allsop and responded to by Leeds' regional manager, Mr Bryan and 'Table Tennis' proposed by Cllr Peter Haynes, responded to by Mr John Prean.

It was a night to remember and I am indebted to local enthusiasts Roy Harrison, Brian Fern, John Pope, Geoff Farmer, Keith Insley and others, together with Meadows manager Mike Thornewill and his staff for their co-operation and long hard work.



Alan Cooke, the England No 2 from Derbyshire, was on home ground for the match against Denmark. He experienced some problems against Lars Hauth but with an inspired spell of six points in a row in the third game, reached dry land.

RESULTS

Cooke b L. Hauth, 21-13, 16-21, 21-13; Douglas b J. Harkamp, 21-15, 21-6; Gordon 1 to C Polk, 21-10, 13-21, 15-21; Cook and Douglas b Hauth and Harkamp, 21-10, 21-18;

Douglas and Gordon b Hauth and Polk, 22-20, 21-12; Cooke b Harkamp, 13-21, 21-11, 21-15; Douglas b Hauth, 18-21, 21-14, 21-8.

IN FINLAND with ERIC HALL

ALAN COOKE supplied the gloss finish to maintain England's challenge in Division 1 of the European League when he won the vital fourth set in confident style on the way to a 5-2 victory over Finland.

Following the Finlandia Open England, we travelled 150km from Helsinki in the snow and ice to Loimaa. The event was tinged with sadness as the Finnish No 1 Jarmo Jokinen had been killed only one week earlier in a tragic accident. Around 200 people came to the match, of which at least 150 were under 10 years of age and the manager Don Parker quipped. 'It's like playing in a nursery school!' The noise level was high, but it certainly did not affect the team's concentration. Don gave all the players in the squad a chance to perform, and so Andrea Holt made her European League debut.

Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew were preferred in the men's singles, and both performed with credit.

Skylet stuttered a little in the opening set but came strong to win in the third against Mika Pyykko, who is no mean player with strong attack on both wings.

Alan then turned in a thoroughly professional performance to dispose of Matti Seiro including an amazing point at 20-12 in the second when both were on the floor yet keeping the rally going.

Doubles lost

Alison Gordon was never in trouble against San Suomalainen though probably could not pronounce her name.

Des Douglas came in for both doubles, and somehow both were lost. The men's doubles was a close but two-straight defeat. Andrea Holt partnered Des in the Mixed and early on showed no sign of debut nerves, winning the first 21-19. Down 2-8 in the second they came back to 20-20 only to lose 22-24. The third followed a similar pattern and was again lost at deuce.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION

CLASSIFICATION LIST — DECEMBER 1987

(Previous position in brackets)



MEN

1. WALDNER, Jan-Ove (SWE) (1)
2. LINDH, Erik (SWE) (5)
3. GRUBBA, Andrzej (POL) (2)
4. DOUGLAS, Desmond (ENG) (3)
5. PERSSON, Jörgen (SWE) (4)
6. APPELGREN, Mikael (SWE) (7)
7. KUCHARSKI, Lezek (POL) (6)
8. MAZUNOV, Andrei (URS) (8)
9. KLAMPAR, Tibor (HUN) (9)
10. CARLSSON, Ulf (SWE) (10)
11. KALINIC, Zoran (YUG) (11)
12. BOHM, Georg (FRG) (12)
13. GATIEN, Jean-Philippe (FRA) (26)
14. KRISTON, Zsolt (HUN) (14)
15. ROSSKOPF, Jörg (FRG) (25)
16. PREAN, Carl (ENG) (15)
17. LUPULESKU, Ilije (YUG) (16)
18. LOUKOV, Mariano (BUL) (18)
19. PANSKY, Jindrich (TCH) (13)
20. BENGTSOON, Ulf (SWE) (22)
21. PRIMORAC, Zoran (YUG) (23)
22. COOKE, Alan (ENG) (24)
23. BIROCHEAU, Patrick (FRA) (20)
24. HALDAN, Paul (HOL) (31)
25. WOSIK, Ralf (FRG) (18)
26. SAIVE, Jean-Michel (BEL) (30)
27. DING YI (AUT) (-)
28. HARCZI, Zsolt (HUN) (38)
29. ROSENBERG, Boris (URS) (27)
30. CECAVA, Miroslav (TCH) (21)
31. RENVERSE, Patrick (FRA) (28)

MEN (continued)

32. FEJER, Andras (ROM) (34)
33. DVORAK, Vladimir (TCH) (29)
34. STOJANOV, Ivan (BUL) (-)
35. STEFANOV, Stefan (BUL) (35)
36. JAVUREK, Jiri (TCH) (39)
37. YALDIZ, Gurham (TUR) (46)
38. MOLENDIA, Piotr (POL) (-)
39. PODNOSOV, Igor (URS) (44)
40. JANCI, Tomas (TCH) (-)
41. DRYSZEL, Stefan (POL) (41)
42. CONSTANTINI, Massimo (ITA) (48)
43. PETZNER, Steffen (FRG) (-)
44. PODPINKA, Andras (BEL) (-)
45. PALMI, Dietmar (AUT) (33)
46. CIOCA, Daniel (ROM) (-)
47. FLOREA, Vasile (ROM) (32)
48. CABRERA, Thierry (BEL) (37)
49. SHEVCHENKO, Valeri (URS) (36)
50. VAN SPANJE, Henk (HOL) (45)

WOMEN

1. BATORFI, Csilla (HUN) (1)
2. HRACHOVA, Marie (TCH) (3)
3. BULATOVA, Fliura (URS) (2)
4. VRIESEKOOOP, Bettine (HOL) (5)
5. GUERGUELTCHEVA, Daniela (BUL) (4)
6. URBAN, Edith (HUN) (6)
7. BADESCU, Otilia (ROM) (9)
8. KASALOVA, Renata (TCH) (18)
9. KOVTUN, Elena (URS) (8)
10. NEMES, Olga (FRG) (7)

WOMEN (continued)

11. POPOVA, Valentina (URS) (11)
12. FAZLIC, Jasna (YUG) (15)
13. KLOPPENBURG, Mirjam (HOL) (16)
14. SAFAROVA, Alena (TCH) (20)
15. PERKUCIN, Gordana (YUG) (17)
16. WIKTORSSON, Barbro (SWE) (24)
17. OLAH, Zsuzsa (HUN) (14)
18. THIRIET, Brigitte (FRA) (12)
19. LOMAS, Lisa (ENG) (10)
20. BATINIC, Branka (YUG) (13)
21. BOGAERTS, Karine (BEL) (35)
22. WANG, Xiaoming (FRA) (32)
23. NOLTEN, Katja (FRG) (25)
24. SVENSSON, Marie (SWE) (34)
25. GREFBERG, Sonja (FIN) (23)
26. ALBOIU, Maria (ROM) (19)
27. SZATKO-NOWAK, Jolanta (POL) (22)
28. KOCOVA, Miluse (TCH) (26)
29. GORDON, Alison (ENG) (29)
30. OJSTERSEK, Vesna (YUG) (28)
31. DAVIAUD, Nadine (FRA) (21)
32. NAGY, Krisztina (HUN) (33)
33. TIMOFEEVA, Raisa (URS) (30)
34. ELLIOT, Fiona (ENG) (38)
35. ERLMAN, Lotta (SWE) (-)
36. ZAMPINI, Giorgia (ITA) (-)
37. MAIER, Elisabeth (AUT) (-)
38. BOHNING, Ilka (FRG) (-)
39. LOHR, Kinga (ROM) (-)
40. LIPPENS, Barbara (ESP) (-)

OMITTED FROM PREVIOUS LIST (JULY 1987)

MEN: SECRETIN, Jacques (FRA) (17); GRMAN, Milan (TCH) (42); STADNICHENKO, Alexndr (URS) (43); VON SCHEELE, Thomas (SWE) (47); ANDREW, Skylet (ENG) (49); and NANNONI, Lorenzo (ITA) (50).

WOMEN: ELIASSON, Pia (SWE) (27); KAHN, Szilvia (HUN) (31); PRUSSENE, Iolanta (URS) (36); ABGRALL, Beatrice (FRA) (37); FAZEKAS, Györgyi (HUN) (39) and FREIBERG, Margit (FRG) (40).

CHINESE SWOOP IN HELSINKI

by ANDREA HOLT

ONCE again it was a case of 'sweet and sweet' pickings for the Chinese at the Finlandia Open, played in Helsinki, 11-13 December. Although not containing their best players, the Chinese portrayed their undoubted quality in depth, to make a clean sweep of all the titles.

In the first and second rounds of the men's team event, England began with two easy 3-0 victories over Israel and Finland. Then came a tough semi-final with Sweden. The first set on was Des Douglas against Appelgren, Des playing well to beat the European No 7, 2-0. Then it was 'Cookie' against Ulf Bengtsson, he seemed to have the set won, when going 20-13 up in the third before losing at deuce. The match then slipped away 1-3. The ladies team of Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt did well to reach the final against China, beating Finland and Sweden on their way. They lost the final 3-1 with Alison excelling in beating Lui Wei in the third game.

In the men's singles the first casualty was Cookie, losing to Marmurch the young player from France 3-1 in the first round. Alan was obviously feeling jaded after a strenuous programme leading up to qualifying for the Olympics.

Sky's blue card

Skylet progressed into the last 16 to face one of the Chinese Ma Wenge, playing at his best Sky put up a tremendous fight before losing in the fifth. However during the match a humorous event occurred when Sky was given his first blue card, for incurring the wrath of the umpire. Des reached the last eight before going out to the Chinese player Yu Shentong.

In the women's singles the 'A' Team, Alison and Andrea both reached the quarter-final before losing to two Chinese players, the Chinese made up the four semi-finalists. In the other events the 'A' team reached the semi-final of the women's doubles before losing again to you know who!

Late night party

The event was held with excellent hospitality and ended with a last night party, it was here that Sky (the Bobby Davro of table tennis) came into his own, keeping the players and Eric Hall amused with his impersonations.



Andrea Holt from Bury, Lancashire made her debut for England in the European League in Finland, just losing the mixed doubles with Desmond Douglas. She makes another promising debut here as a correspondent for Table Tennis News. She came top of the poll for the £1,000 special awards at the English Open donated by the Leeds Permanent Building Society as she struck hard at Asian players.



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Dutch facing England's revenge bid

by TED VAN DER MEER — reporter Dutch Nation Radio-NRC Handelsblad

THE VERY BEST match the Dutch national table tennis team has ever played in the European League, took place on Wednesday 3 March, 1985. In the gentle little town of 's-Gravendeel (near Rotterdam) England was beaten in the super division 4-3. The 'man of the match' was the young Henk van Spanje, who won his two games against Desmond Douglas and Carl Preat in brilliant style.

Now, three years later, Holland is much stronger than in 's-Gravendeel, says national coach Jan Vlieg. 'In 1985 our team played with my brother Anne, who had no chance against the English players. Henk van Spanje was the best man at that time, nowadays Paul Haldan is much stronger.' That doesn't mean, in the opinion of Jan Vlieg, that the Dutch will start as the favourites in Norwich. 'Three years ago, when our former international Bert van der Helm was the national coach, Holland had the big advantage of playing before an enthusiastic crowd of 1,000 people. This time, this advantage is of course for the English.'

Moreover, Vlieg has big doubts especially about Haldan's

chances in the match. 'Paul is one of the best European "contra-attack players", but he has major problems with so-called "material players" like Carl Preat. And I think, that Douglas is a faster player than Haldan. And a major problem is that Henk van Spanje was, in January, not improved. Between Christmas and new year he had a knee operation. But I expect that he will play against England,' says Jan Vlieg.

On the other hand, the Dutch coach knows that Bettine Vriesekoop, who will probably play in Norwich, normally can beat the English girls and that there are chances in the men's doubles (Haldan & Van Spanje) and in the mixed doubles (Haldan & Vriesekoop).



Even the Dutch team captain Jan Vlieg is aware of the problems between Desmond Douglas and the ETTA. Photograph: Crawley News.

Jan Vlieg, who is aware of the problems between the ETTA and Desmond Douglas, hopes for his own team that Douglas will not play in Norwich. 'In that case, we have very good possibilities to win the match. But on the other hand, it is a big challenge to play against England with Des. We like to beat the very best English team, Jan Vlieg said.

THE CIS WELSH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

OVER 500 schoolboys and girls have entered the Welsh Schools Championship, which, sponsored by the Co-operative Insurance Society, is being run by The Table Tennis Association of Wales.

Appealing directly to the Education Authorities in eight Welsh Regions, with propaganda aimed at individual schools through the Principality, the Welsh Association is very happy about the support.

The Tournament is open to boys and girls 12 to 14, and 15 to 18 age groups, and the matches are arranged between the players, the home drawn player having to offer his opponent a choice of dates and venue. Those who can remember the old *Daily Mirror* competition will recognise this system as being very successful in that event.

There will be regional finals, culminating in a Grand Final in Cardiff in the Spring.

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Persson reigns supreme



AS THE vast majority of readers will know, Jorgen Persson, the Swedish European champion was the final winner in the Leeds English Open at Brighton on 23 January thus again putting an end to the domination of the sport by China and Korea that has lasted some say, twenty years. But in the women's game at the very top, Europe's girls are streets behind their rivals as was seen with two Chinese ladies in the Brighton women's final, with the victor Li Huifen (World No 12) beating the world champion He Zhili. A longer report with a number of pictures will appear in the March edition of *Table Tennis News*.

Table tennis boost for Isle of Dogs

Local sponsorship in Dockland . . .

by LAURIE LAKEN, ETTA Club Coach

WITH the assistance of the London Dockland Development Corporation the first ever Isle of Dogs Ranking Tournament has been organised and completed. Over 60 local players have been given a long term incentive to continue and develop in the sport through generous local sponsorship.

Barclays in Dockland, represented by Sue Kitts, presented perpetual trophies to the number one ranked boys Paul Runham (Junior), Nicky Carter (Cadet) and Adam Placey (Under-11). The number one ranked girls received silver cups as follows: Vicky Wood (Junior), Lisa Butcher (Cadet) and Louise Butcher (Under-11). Barclays also presented trophies to the top three ranked players in each of the Junior categories, and medals to the top ten.

Junior Boys

- 1 John Runham
- 2 Bradley Williams
- 3 Gary Luff
- 4 Justin Harris
- 5 Jason Brotherton
- 6 Jason O'Keefe
- 7 Ian Hall

Cadet Boys

- 1 Nicky Carter
- 2 Justin Harris
- 3 Chun Kwok
- 4 Son Hoang
- 5 Jason Brotherton
- 6 Gary Luff
- 7 Peter Bristow
- 8 Jason Andrews
- 9 Trang Dong
- 10 Mark King

Under-11 Boys

- 1 Adam Placey
- 2 Peter Clipson
- 3 Darren Wade
- 4 Tony Hicky
- 5 Glen Cramer
- 6 Stuart Brotherton
- 7 Ian Hall
- 8 Michael McFarlane
- 9 Chris Entende
- 10 Norman McPhee
- 11 Michael Hall

Junior Girls

- 1 Vicky Wood

Cadet Girls

- 1 Lisa Butcher
- 2 Francesca Tizzard
- 3 Emma Jane Fairman

Under-11 Girls

- 1 Louise Butcher
- 2 Gemma Placey

Sponsors

The Daily Telegraph sponsored the Men's event and presented the shield to the No 1 ranked the local Sports Centre Manager Ron Weir, and trophies to Les Naulls (No 2) and Lloyd Da Costa (No 3).

The top lady on the Island Mary King received a Superb Cup from Ducal Pine, and Jill Newman and Maureen Hyde trophies for being in the top three.

The John Lenanton Trophy went to Veteran Ron Weir, and trophies in this category to Jimmy Mills (2) and table tennis teacher John Hall (3).

Initiator of the ranking tournament and ETTA club Coach Laurie Laken welcomes this local sponsorship which offers a long term incentive for players of all categories. The opportunities for Isle of Dogs players to develop in the sport are extensive. Six local centres have tables being constantly used, and supervised training sessions are held at three of these weekly. The George Green's Club has raised money and purchased its own Robot, and the latest coaching videos are also used at its six table training sessions. Local players are currently representing three clubs in the Silvertown and District League.

Table tennis is very much alive and kicking on the Isle of Dogs!

SCHOOLS PRESS CUTTINGS COMPETITION

THE ESTTA are again organising a Press Cuttings competition.

The competition is open to all schools involved (in the Area Finals stages onwards) of the Dunlop National School Team Championships for the 1987-88 season.

Entries close on 6 April. All schools have been sent details. Entries to: David Lomas, 21 Northampton Road, Croydon CR0 7HB.

Prizes have been donated by the ESTTA's sponsors, Dunlop Slazenger International.

THE NEW BALL LICENCE

AS from 1 April 1988, the Lion brand table tennis ball is licensed for play in England. The licence is for a period of twelve months and the ball is one approved by the ITTF.



At the George Green Table Tennis Club on the Isle of Dogs, Barclays Bank, represented by Sue Kitts were the sponsors of the junior events in the first Isle of Dogs Ranking Tournament. Our picture shows five of the winners with Sue Kitts in the centre.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION 1988 SUMMER SCHOOL



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More Euro-Asia results

EUROPE v ASIA RESULTS:

ROME

MEN

EUROPE 5 ASIA 3

Lindh 1 Kim Song Hui 0-2; Waldner b Chen Longcan 2-1; Grubba 1 Jiang Jialiang 1-2; Waldner b Kim Song Hui 2-1; Lindh 1 Jiang Jialiang 0-2; Grubba b Chen Longcan 2-0; Waldner b Jiang Jialiang 2-1; Grubba b Kim Song Hui 2-0.

EUROPE 5 ASIA 0

Klampar b Li Gun Sang 2-1; Persson b Miasaki 2-0; Kucharski b Teng Yi 2-0; Persson b Li Gun Sang 2-0; Klampar b Teng Yi 2-0.

EUROPE 5 ASIA 2

Bohm b Kim Ki Taek 2-0; Mazunov b Tahiho Watanabi 2-1; Nanoni 1 Yoon Nam Kui 0-2; Mazunov b Kim Song Hui 2-0; Bohm 1 Yoon Nam Kui 0-2; Nanoni b Watanabi 2-0; Mazunov b Yoon Nam Kui 2-1.

WOMEN

EUROPE 1 ASIA 5

Guergeltcheva 1 He Zhili 0-2; Hracova 1 Dai Lili 0-2; Bulatova 1 Li Bun Hui 0-2; Hracova b Dai Lili 2-1; Guergeltcheva 1 Li Bun Hui 1-2; Bulatova 1 Dai Lili 1-2.

EUROPE 3 ASIA 5

Urban b Hui So Hung 2-1; Kloppenburg Yang Young Ja 0-2; Nemez b Mika Hoshino 2-0; Urban 1 Yang Young Ja 0-2; Nemez b Hui So Hung 2-0; Kloppenburg 1 Hoshino 1-2; Nemez 1 Yang Young Ja 1-2; Urban 1 Hoshino 1-2.

LUBECK

MEN

EUROPE 5 ASIA 1

Bohm b Teng Yi 2-0; Waldner b Miyazaki 2-0; Grubba b Li Gun Sang 2-0; Waldner b Teng Yi 2-0; Bohm 1 Li Gun Sang 1-2; Grubba b Miyazaki 2-1.

KASSEL

EUROPE 3 ASIA 5

Lindh b Kim Song Hui 2-0; Persson 1 Chen Longcan 1-2; Kucharski b Jiang Jialiang 2-1; Persson 1 Kim Song Hui 1-2; Lindh 1 Jiang Jialiang 0-2; Kucharski b Chen Longcan 2-1; Persson 1 Jiang Jialiang 1-2; Kucharski 1 Kim Song Hui 1-2.

AALEN

EUROPE 5 ASIA 2

Mazunov b Watanabe 2-0; Roskopf b Xoo Nam Kyu 2-0; Klampar b Kim Ki Taek 0-2; Mazunov 1 Xoo Nam Kyu 1-2; Klampar b Watanabe 2-0; Roskopf b Kim Ki Taek 2-1; Klampar b Xoo Nam Kyu 2-1.

WOMEN

AALEN

EUROPE 1 ASIA 5

Kloppenberg 1 He Zhili 1-2; Nemes b Li Bun Hui 2-1; Urban Dai Lili 1-2; Nemes He Zhili 0-2; Kloppenberg 1 Dai Lili 0-2; Urban 1 Li Bun Hui 0-2.

KASSEL

EUROPE 5 ASIA 1

Bulatova b Hoshino 2-0; Hracova b Hui So Hung 2-0; Guergeltcheva 1 Yang Young Ja 0-2; Hracova b Hoshino 2-0; Bulatova b Yang Young Ja 2-1; Guergeltcheva b Hui So Hung 2-0.



Alex Perry, England Under-12 champion from Crediton, Devon is not registered for Devon and stands a very good chance of being poached by another county. Coached by the former Sussex champion Malcolm Francis, the left-handed blonde youngster is expected to play in the Junior and Cadets Top-12 now at Milton Keynes on 1 and 2 April. We hear that his approach to the game on court in terms of stroke-play is not unlike Desmond Douglas, arguably the best blocker in the world.



Not enough attention is paid and acknowledge is given to the umpires. So that is why there are hopes of creating an umpires' corner next season in Table Tennis News and why this picture is reproduced of the umpires who worked at Burton-on-Trent, at the Tattersall select.

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We are back on television

CHANNEL 4 DATES 28 FEBRUARY AND 6 MARCH

Millions must watch the Channel 4 television coming . . .

by **TED WALLBUTTON**

THE Leeds Euro-Asia Championships held in Cleveland 16-17 January will be shown on Channel 4 Television over two prime weekend slots at the end of February and the beginning of March. The 6pm time slot on Sunday evenings is now almost compulsory viewing for any serious sports enthusiast. The well presented range of sports shown regularly includes American Football, Baseball, Volleyball, Badminton, Australian Rules Football and now what promises to be the next major television sport, Table Tennis.

Superb entertainment

Channel 4 are showing their faith in both the sport and the production company, Cheerleader, by scheduling an initial 2½ hours over two consecutive Sundays. The first being Sunday, 28 February and the second, Sunday, 6 March. The programme will run from 6.00 to 7.15pm on both evenings. The programmes are bound to be superb entertainment for any table tennis enthusiast and we are hoping that regular viewers to the sports programme who are not already aware of the delights of table tennis, will be rapidly converted by the high standards of play that should be apparent in Cleveland.

Please do everything you can to make sure that all of your friends and colleagues tune in to Channel 4 as there will be a close analysis of the viewing figures to determine how attractive the addition of table tennis to the schedule was to the viewing population at large.



Ted Wallbutton, Chief Executive ETTA.

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Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

British Table Tennis League

Alan Griffiths halts Scowcroft

by MIKE LOVEDER & JIM BECKLEY

VALUABLE points have been gained by Butterfly Cardiff with two recent 5-3 wins. This time their victims were Rotherham. Although Cardiff were always ahead in this match it may well have been a different result entirely if Alan Griffiths had not beaten Steven Scowcroft 22-20, 20-22, 22-20.

A Douglasless Bathwick Tyres beat Chan Construction 7-1 to maintain a healthy lead in the Premier Division. The one game was dropped by Matthew Syed who was convincingly beaten 21-11, 21-18 by Carl Morgan.

Some close matches were contested in Division 1 this period with the exception of Ashford beating Trebor Dagenham 7-1 when David Dodd beat Max Crammins to prevent the white-wash. West Warwickshire move off the bottom following their draw with Bradford IU who trailed 1-4 at one stage. Andy Rich beat Michael O'Driscoll deuce in the third of the opening game and Barry Johnson beat Martin Kinsella 21-13, 21-5 in the second. Bradford however rattled off the last three games without dropping an end.

Dolphins held

Horsham Dolphins drew at TSP Larkhall which prevented the Sussex team going into second place. Steve Holloway recorded his first victory at the expense of Rupert Bole. Dave Harding and Phil Smith both won two. St Neots scraped home 5-3 against Byker Newcastle despite Bennie Robertson winning his two games. The turning point came in the fifth game of the day as Stuart Palmer beat Eddie Smith 23-21 in the third. Byker appear to need a stronger No 4 if they are to move up at all.

Magic carpets

In Division 2 (South) Doleq Carpets seem to be finding their magic and this period saw them take a point from the divisional Leaders Plymouth Bulldogs. Doleq led 3-1 before Gary Wilson beat Brian Jeanes to start a come-

back. Team Ramlosa Essex fizzed as they beat Fellows Cranleigh (also from Essex) 7-1 although four of the games went to three. Peter Norcott beat Ian Attridge 22-20, 24-22 to avoid disgrace. Alex Abbott, a former Ramlosa player, lost 19-21 in the third to Ian and 18-21 in the third to Richard Darnell.

The brothers

C&L Ruislip beat Gunnersbury Triangle 5-3 despite two from Simon Proffitt. He and his brother Jonathan beat John Taylor. Rejects I moved into third place with their 6-2 win over Kingfisher Reading who 'christened' 13 year-old Marc Priddle. Richard Beckham demonstrated the value of experience as he beat Marc conceding only 13 points.

Division 2 North

City of Leeds dropped two valuable points when they were beaten 5-3 by EAE Waveney, a defeat that puts a different complexion on the outcome of the division. Phillip Longson's win over Mike Stead 22-20 in the third put Waveney into the lead and they hung on to the end. Lincoln now have a good chance of picking up the title — if they can keep on winning.

Grove also did themselves a power of good when they beat promotion candidates Ruston Marconi 5-3. The crucial win here was Adrian Thorpe's two straight result over Steve Yallop which gave the home side a two game lead.

An amazing scoreline at Cambridge where March were overwhelmed 8-0 by Well Connected. Some close games and four of them to three but even so a sensational collapse by March which hasn't done their sets average any good.

Another result against the run of play this time from bottom side Ormesby who beat Wolverhampton 5-3 to pick up their first points of the season. Stuart Miller's win over Trevor Washington which made the score 5-2 clinched the match for

the North East side but there were also some close wins for Ian Stokes and Dave Fewsdale.

Division 2 South

Plymouth Bulldogs roared into the lead with a resounding 7-1 win over Gunnersbury, a result that puts them clear at the top of the division. Three sets to three games, all of them in Plymouth's favour helped them on their way.

C & L Ruislip keep in touch with the leaders — but only just. Their 7-1 win over Kingfisher Reading was the sort of scoreline they had hoped for, but it is going to take a few more results like this to reach the top.

As expected Doleq Carpets beat Fellows Cranleigh, but not without a struggle. Mark Wicker was the home side's hero winning both his sets after the shock of trailing for a while before coming back to win 5-3.

Division 3 East

Britannia Ipswich move serenely on and are now four points ahead at the top of the division with a 100% record. Their latest win was over one of their challengers Birmingham Athletic and a 7-1 result suggest Britannia might well have the division already well and truly sewn up.

Challenger

Chelmsford, perhaps Britannia's only real challenger beat Trebor Dagenham 6-2 as expected. It could have been by a wider margin if Lisa Hayden had not lost her two matches, albeit by the narrowest of results.

Fellows Cranleigh remain bottom of the tables their latest downfall to AHW Pioneer 5-3. Trailing 5-0 they made their best effort at the end when Dave Solman, Grant Solder and Jason Tendler all finished with wins.

Division 3 North

No stopping Kingsboro Insurance who licked Byker Newcastle 7-1 to maintain their lead at the top of the division. Fred Short kept the Newcastle score sheet from a whitewash when he beat Stephen Cooper in three.



Carl Morgan.

Chan Construction and Leicester are both aiming for promotion but played a 4-4 draw which doesn't help their cause. Lots of close games especially between Tim Malkin and Martin Pickles which the Chan player won.

As exected Oldham beat lowly Ormesby 6-2 but a shock defeat for Oldham's veteran Norman Thewlis who lost to Mike Nesbit. But new signings in the pipeline for Oldham, I believe.

Vickers Sports got little joy from title chasing Trinity Newcastle. They managed one set thanks to a courageous three game win from Jonathan Lowes, but that was all.

Countryman Tunbridge Wells slipped up when they lost 5-3 to TSP Larkhall. It was their second loss of the season and could turn out to make all the difference between promotion and another season in the third division.

But no mistake from Deptford Rams who eased home against Thorn Ellenborough 5-3. They came back from trailing 3-2 with wins from Alex Facey, Tony Briscoe and Pandus Ademakinwa.

Division 3 West

Butterfly Cardiff are well on their way to promotion. Their latest win over nearest rivals Jolliffe Poole was an impressive 6-2 and they were playing away!

Another upset was the 6-2 win by lowly IMI Leominster against Dunlop Express. It brought them within striking distance of Bathwick Tyres and with all to play for in the second half of the season.

A similar situation for Bathwick who beat rivals Generation Fareham 6-2. Five matches to three with four of those games going to Bath was all that separated the two sides.

Leeds British League 2

LATEST LEAGUE RESULTS

RESULTS — 20 December

Premier Division

Butterfly Cardiff 5, Rotherham 3; Chan Construction 1, Bathwick Tyres 7; Crusaders Lincoln 3, Norwich Foxwood 5; Duchey Windows Launceston 2, Butterfly Cardiff 6.

Division 1

Bradford Investments 4, West Warwickshire 4; St Neots 5, Byker, Newcastle 3; Dagenham FC 1, Ashford 7; TSP Larkhall 4, Horsham Dolphins 4.

Division 2 (North)

City of Leeds 6, Wolverhampton 2; Waveney Engraving 7, March TTC 1; Grove 4, Welcon Wellingborough 4; Ormesby 0, Ruston Marconi Lincoln 8.

Division 2 (South)

C&L Ruislip 5, Gunnersbury Triangle 3; Fellows Cranleigh 1, Team Ramlosa Essex 7; Kingfisher Reading 2, Rejects 6; Plymouth Bulldogs 4, Doleq Carpets 4.

Premier Division:

Bathwick Tyres 8, Kingfisher Reading 1; Chan Construction 5, Butterfly Cardiff 1; Grove 8, Dunlop Express 0; Ormesby 5, Rotherham 3; Ormesby 6, Dunlop Express 2.

Division 1

Trebtor Dagenham FC 1, Dolphins 7; TSP Larkhall 5, Byker Newcastle 3; West Warwickshire 2, Ashford 6.

Division 2 (North)

EAE Waveney 5, City of Leeds 3; Grove 5, Marconi Lincoln 3; March TTC 0, Well-Connected Wellingborough 8; Ormesby 5, Wolverhampton 3.

Division 2 (South)

Fellows Cranleigh 3, Doleq Carpets 5; Kingfisher Reading 1, C & L Ruislip 7; Plymouth Bulldogs 7, Gunnersbury Triangle 1.

Division 3 (East)

Britannia Ipswich 7, Birmingham Athletic 1; Chelmsford 6, Trebor Dagenham 2; Fellows Cranleigh 3, AHW Pioneer 5; Norwich Foxwood 4, Crusaders Lincoln 4.

Division 3 (East)

Chelmsford 6, AHW Pioneer 2; Crusaders Lincoln 1, Trebor Dagenham FC 7; Fellows Cranleigh 3, Birmingham Athletic 5; Norwich Foxwood 3, Britannia Ipswich 5.

Division 3 (North)

Byker Newcastle 1, Chan Construction 7; Ormesby 2, Kingsboro Financial 6; Trinity Newcastle 7, Oldham 1; Vickers SC 0, Leicester 8.

Division 3 (South)

Alpha Warriors 1, Ashford 7; Deptford Rams 5, Rejects 3; Thorn Ellenborough 2, Countrymen, Tunbridge Wells 6; TSP Larkhall 6, Reigate LTC 2.

Division 3 (West)

Butterfly Cardiff 5, IMI Leominster 3; Cheltenham Saracens 7, Generation Fareham 1; Dunlop Express 2, Duchy Launceston 6; Jolliffe Poole 4, Bathwick Types 4.



Mandy Sainsbury (Ashford).

Division 3 (North)

Byker Newcastle 1 Kingsboro Financial 7; Leicester TTC 4, Chan Construction 4; Ormesby 2, Oldham 6; Vickers SC 1, Trinity Newcastle 7.

Division 3 (South)

Deptford Rams 5, Thorn Ellenborough 3; TSP Larkhall 5, Countryman Tunbridge Wells 3.

Division 3 (West)

Bathwick Tyres 6, Generation Fareham 2; Dunlop Express 2, IMI Leominster 6; Jolliffe Poole 2, Butterfly Cardiff 6.



NEIL BEVAN, Duchy Windows, Launceston has a League average of 77.7 per cent.

the LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE — TABLES



(as at 3rd January)

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bathwick Tyres — Bath I	7	7	0	0	14
Grove I	6	5	1	0	11
Ormesby I	8	5	1	2	11
Rotherham TTC	8	4	0	4	8
Butterfly Cardiff I	7	2	1	4	5
Kingfisher Reading I	6	2	0	4	4
Chan Construction I	8	2	0	6	4
Dunlop Express I	8	0	1	7	1

Division 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ashford I	8	8	0	0	16
Horsham Dolphins	8	4	3	1	11
Bradford Investment Unity	7	4	1	2	9
TSP Larkhall I	8	3	3	2	9
St Neots	7	2	2	3	6
Trebtor Dagenham FC I	8	2	2	4	6
West Warwickshire	8	1	1	6	3
Byker Newcastle I	8	1	0	7	2

Division 2 (North)	P	W	D	L	Pts
City of Leeds	8	6	0	2	12
Ruston Marconi Lincoln	8	5	1	2	11
Grove II	7	4	2	1	10
EAE Waveney	8	4	0	4	8
Wolverhampton	8	3	1	4	7
March TTC	7	3	0	4	6
Well-Conn Wellingborough	8	2	1	5	5
Ormesby II	8	1	1	6	3

Division 2 (South)	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth Bulldogs	8	6	2	0	14
Team Ramlosa Essex	7	5	1	1	11
C & L Ruislip	8	4	2	2	10
Doleq Carpets	8	4	2	2	10
Rejects I	7	4	0	3	8
Gunnersbury Triangle	8	3	0	5	6
Fellows Cranleigh I	8	0	2	6	2
Kingfisher Reading II	8	0	1	7	1

Division 3 (East)	P	W	D	L	Pts
Britannia Ipswich	8	8	0	0	16
Chelmsford OC's	8	5	2	1	12
Birmingham Athletic Institute	8	5	1	2	11
Norwich Foxwood	8	4	2	2	10
AHW Pioneer	8	3	0	5	6
Trebtor Dagenham II	8	3	0	5	6
Crusaders Lincoln	8	0	2	6	2
Fellows Cranleigh II	8	0	1	7	1

Division 3 (North)	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kingsbro Financial Services	8	6	1	1	13
Trinity Newcastle-U-Lyme	8	6	0	2	12
Leicester TTC	8	5	1	2	11
Chan Construction II	8	5	1	2	11
Oldham	8	5	1	2	11
Byker Newcastle II	8	2	0	6	4
Ormesby III	8	1	0	7	2
Vickers Sports Club	8	0	0	8	0

Division 3 (South)	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ashford II	7	5	2	0	12
Countrymen Tunbridge Wells	8	6	0	2	12
Deptford Rams	8	5	2	1	12
Alpha Warriors	7	4	1	2	9
TSP Larkhall II	8	3	2	3	8
Rejects II	7	1	2	4	4
Thorn Ellenborough	8	0	2	6	2
Reigate & Redhill	7	0	1	6	1

Division 3 (West)	P	W	D	L	Pts
Butterfly Cardiff II	8	8	0	0	16
Jolliffe Poole	8	5	1	2	11
Cheltenham Saracens	7	4	1	2	9
Duchy Windows Launceston	7	3	0	4	6
Generation Fareham	8	3	0	5	6
Dunlop Express II	8	3	0	5	6
Bathwick Tyres — Bath II	8	2	1	5	5
IMI Leominster	8	1	1	6	3

These are stirring times . . .

I HAD hoped that the month of January would be one to 'shake the Table Tennis World'. As I write these notes, the 'Leeds Open' has not yet taken place. I have returned from Cleveland, scene of the 'Leeds Euro-Asia'.

A magnificent event

It was by any standards a glittering occasion and for me a touching one, as member after member came up to me to say that everything was really coming right for English Table Tennis.

I remembered the days when I offered myself for election and find it hard to believe that little over a year had passed. I remember the despondency that was about, how many felt the sport had no future. It was said that technical innovations had made it bad to play and bad to watch, that it looked poor on television, that the recent recession had closed many clubrooms and that we were heading for the rocks. Masses of paper were floating around advancing theories why the sport was going downhill. The management of the day regarded itself as blameless.

Thus far, no further . . .

I wrote endless articles in the hope of moving the sport in new directions — in the end to little avail. Little emerged from Establishment Circles but pompous platitudes and crocodile tears. I had retired. I had worked for 40 years. I wanted to do some of the things I never seemed to have time for whilst still young enough. I have had a lot of fun from table tennis. I wanted to put more back. The plight of the sport broke my heart, so I ran for the office of chairman. It seemed to me, when I was elected, that the decline had to be halted and that the only way was to say: We have gone down as far as we shall, from now on we shall only go up. There are few in my team who think otherwise. From then on we began to move forward. It was as simple as that.

Grass Roots . . .

The sport had to be tackled from two directions — from the grass roots and from the top. Elite events are required to generate interest via the media and TV. This would help us to 'sell' the sport, to create interest to bring new members and keep existing ones stimulated. In our first season numerous leagues have increased their membership. Nearly all of them have active youth schemes. We intend to help. We are at last getting together a network of coaches, so that coaching becomes available to all. This is being done by bringing in part-time coaches on a larger scale. Coaching alone is not enough. The first message has to be that table tennis is a great sport.

Not easy . . .

It was at times a hard journey. I was astonished at the bitterness with which I was attacked so soon after being elected. It was smooth sailing for only a few days. The national press gave me a good welcome fastening on to the story of the 'Cosmetics Tycoon' who had come out of retirement to help the sport. It did not last long. My opponents rushed to the press on every possible occasion. People who had walked out on me, proclaimed that they had been 'sacked'. Tittle tattle was elevated to an art form. As a demonstration of what a few people can do it was quite impressive, but it did nothing for the sport. I did not reply in kind. It did not seem to be what our members wanted. There was work to be done.

The Leeds

Things were coming together. Progress was obvious. The sport was on the agenda again in national newspapers. We were getting a little TV. However, our biggest break came when the Leeds Permanent Building Society decided to sponsor the sport. It is impossible today to

put on a big event without the financial support of a sponsor. However, in the LEEDS we found far more. We found a staunch supporter and firm friend, who saw things as we did — a magnificent sport which they wanted to help grow, to introduce to the young and to become in time one of the great participation sports of England. We share the same hopes and ideals. We were brought together by Alan Pascoe Associates who have remained by our side in a triple alliance which has brought immense benefits to the sport. I firmly believe this is only the beginning.

The Leeds Euro-Asia

I return where I began — with this fabulous tournament in Thornaby, made possible by the vision and support of the Cleveland County Council and earlier still by one man, Alan Ransome, who single-mindedly steered this great concept through many troubled and confused waters to the most astonishing success. The support of the Leeds and Channel 4 clinched and ensured a quite unbelievable tournament. It was the greatest single day's table tennis I have seen in my entire life as one epic encounter after another was unveiled and fought out on a single superb show court before a capacity audience of 1,200 amidst scenes of often frenzied excitement. There was standing room only and spectators had to be turned away. Despite the thrill of an English lad beating the reigning World Champion and the magnificent play of Jan Ove Waldner and all those Asian ladies, the real winner was table tennis.

Afterwards I saw Wendy Cunningham, our guardian angel from the Leeds who is bringing so much to table tennis. The 'hard man' of the ETTA found it hard to suppress a tear after everything had come so triumphantly right.

Above all, I want to thank all others, too numerous to mention, who worked so hard and with such dedication for this super occasion.

For all of us who love the sport those were days which we shall remember for the rest of our lives.

JOHN

LISA AND JACKIE BELLINGER SUMMER SCHOOL

DATES:

Tuesday evening, 9 August-Sunday, 14 August 1988

VENUE:

Luton Sports Centre, Stopsley, Luton
(Venue of the Essex senior 3 Star 1987 and also used as a Centre of Excellence)

ACCOMMODATION:

At nearby Crest Hotel, Luton with rooms with private bath and shower, TV and coffee making facilities.

COACHES:

Jackie Bellinger (England international and England Junior Girls Captain)
Lisa Lomas (née Bellinger) (England No 1, and Europe No 10)
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Sunday, 28 February and 6 March 18.00 till 19.15. Edited highlights of Euro-Asia.

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If you are at the English National (Crawley) on 28 February, make sure a video is on, so that you can watch it later.

More support for Desmond Douglas

DESPITE persistent provocative jibes, I will keep my promise and make no further comment on issues now regarded by you as history. However, I feel that I must lend support to Sylvia Coombs regarding Desmond Douglas.

It is ironic that it was his non-appearance at the 'Top-12' that has brought about a severance of a contractual agreement between Des and the ETTA when without him there would not have been such an event. But for Des' support in 1985 when most, but not all of the top players turned up at Milton Keynes, there would have been no event to attract Stiga to sponsor the Top-12 in the two subsequent years at Soham and Farnborough. The prize money on offer at Milton Keynes did not compare with that at Farnborough so his motivation then was his belief in the event that the then Selection Committee was trying to introduce. At Soham, Des and other top players who took part supported a degree of experimentation in order to hopefully attract television on the understanding that it was a 'one off'.

On that occasion the players who took part were involved in the planning of scoring experiments. After the Soham Top-12, having tried it, the vast majority of the players made it clear that they did not like it. This showed up in a survey conducted by Jill Parker on behalf of the Selection Committee.

At Soham, the points to be won for outright victory were similar to conventional scoring; at Farnborough the points were drastically reduced. That, plus the double deuce situation (at 10-8, if 10-10 was reached one player had had two more serves than the other) and the three service change was very likely to affect the final order.

There was justification for the players objections which were first voiced 12 months beforehand. With proper discussion and consultation with the players the problems could have been avoided.

As the official who negotiated the ETTA contract with Des, I am disappointed to hear that as a result of the Top-12 dispute it has now been discontinued. I doubt if the size of the fine (£833) was a major problem for Desmond but he has earned respect and dignity within our sport at home and most definitely abroad not only by his play but by his attitude, integrity and professionalism.

He is a credit to table tennis and this status has been recognised by advisors to the Queen but not apparently by the ETTA Management Committee. He has been the most faithful and loyal of players in the cause of English table tennis, turning up and giving 100% for the team at times and in places that he would have preferred to have avoided.

The new relationship of Des with officialdom forged by Donald Parker along with some ex-officials is now shattered. I hope that the ETTA Management Committee will build the necessary bridges to keep Desmond Douglas in England, where I know he would prefer to be.

PETER CHARTERS
57 Burghfield Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

From the chairman:

Peter Charters' version of yesterday's news differs substantially from mine. I have no strong views on the 11-up system. The audience on the previous occasion had declared overwhelmingly for the idea which my team inherited from an earlier era. Professional sportsmen should consider such matters. Three out of 24 did not. They, too, left their decisions rather late, but that was their choice.

One of them, Desmond Douglas, had a contract with the ETTA which required his presence. We expected this to be honoured.

That is the only issue: not who is a nice guy, but whether contracts are honoured. That contract has now been terminated by mutual consent. I do not want to add to this debate as I regard it as concluded.

A call for coaches

IN recent times you have been kind enough to publish a number of letters concerning Disabled Table Tennis with the result that a number of players in The British Les Autres Squad have been found, and they form the nucleus of our squad for the Seoul Olympics. I'm sure that there must be more players of good standard in the country, particularly with disabilities to the arms, and we continue to search them out.

However, we feel that in order to safeguard our future it is essential that a change of emphasis is adopted. We have therefore decided to set up regional training sessions for young disabled people with little or no playing experience in the hope that they might feed through to the full squad in due course.

If there are any coaches who feel that they could be interested I would be very glad to hear from them. They would be invited to

one of our training sessions at Sutton Coldfield and if considered suitable would be asked to set up sessions in their area. No previous experience of coaching physically handicapped players is needed.

TONY TEFF
Coach, British Les Autres Table Tennis Team.
37 Sherwood House, Harlow

Problems in Oxfordshire

JILL PARKER'S article in the December magazine has prompted me to make some comments about our own local problems. Apparently it seems that Jill's efforts in contacting 40 leagues in the North West, to offer a free visit and junior coaching has not been very successful.

Perhaps this is one case in which the North/South divide works in reverse.

In the Oxfordshire area the Didcot and District League with support from the local council have endeavoured to launch a new junior training scheme for 40 youngsters. Within the league structure we have the co-operation of many player-coaches, but alas what we really lack is support from the ETTA.

I have in the past requested that maybe an experienced coach would attend one of our sessions and give us some guidance, in fact the best offer we have had to date has been the offer of a private coach to visit for a set fee.

Please inform me as to why such differences exist, and what are we in the South getting in return for our affiliation fees?

K J WALTON

Reply from Jill Parker:

As part of the new coaching structure, each league in the country has or will have shortly a 'Regional Coach' allocated. Should any league require any advice or assistance they should contact their Regional Coaching Chairman who will arrange for the necessary help.

The whole coaching structure has been re-organised with the leagues as the fundamental basis. Regional coaches are available, advanced training centres are available for promising young players and league players and coaches will be invited to attend rallies.

And from the Chairman:

Each league is entitled to a free visit from a qualified ETTA Coach. Such visits are arranged by the Director of Coaching, not the Editor of Table Tennis News. I am delighted to hear of your initiative and have asked that it should have all possible support. There is no North/South divide in Table Tennis.

John Prean

Centres visits awaited

THE official documented reason for the sacking of Dave Fairholm, as Director of Coaching after nine months, was his 'failure to visit the Cleveland Centre of Excellence'.

Since his successor has now been in the job for over 13 months but has not visited the Centres of Excellence in Chesham, Reading and Harrow (and possibly others), is he also to be sacked?

I ask the question not as an advocacy of further job losses, but merely to highlight the ridiculous situation that now exists. There is no way that one man (or woman) can combine the jobs of Director of Coaching and National Team Trainer, and as a result the Coaching Scheme is not being directed.

For Mr Woodford (December Mailbox) to suggest that Ken Muhr has very little support in his fight to reinstate the two sacked full time National Coaches, is untrue. We may not all be as literate or vocal as Ken, but his sentiments are felt equally as deeply by those of us who care about coaching.

GAIL McCULLOCH

2* Coach, Chessington C of E,

The Dave Fairholm/Director of Coaching matter was dealt with by an Industrial Tribunal which found in favour of the ETTA. You are correct in stating that Dave had failed to visit one Centre of Excellence, during the nine months he was Director of Coaching. According to my records, the Chessington Centre recently received two visits from ETTA Staff Coach Nicky Jarvis, the former England International to whom this duty had been delegated. The Coaching Scheme, a problem area in some parts of the country, is making good progress — faster in some parts than in others. Similarly, there is a great deal more enthusiasm in the successful areas. There may be a lesson there.

JOHN PREAN

Jean Head tipped in. . .

I bet you get more readers' replies to your 1956 question than the average attendance at a 1987 county match! The photo tipped into the Surrey county team by Michael MacLaren is Jean Head, making the complete squad.

KEITH MARTIN

London N12

Editor's Note: Keith Martin was one of 26 readers who spotted that Jean Head was the player inserted by ace photographer Michael McLaren.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

FOR many in Berkshire, the main event in January will have been the grand opening of the headquarters of Kingfisher Reading by former World Champion Johnny Leach in the company of MP John Redwood. This is a true purpose built building, the purpose being Table Tennis, no more, no less. Constructed virtually entirely by club members, under the direction of one of them, professional builder Jim Hodder, the building offers excellent facilities for Kingfisher teams playing in three local leagues, the new Leeds Regional League, and the Leeds British League.

County matches have already been staged, and Bracknell League will be holding their February tournament within its walls. Especially encouraging, the club will be open at appropriate times to the young students of Bulmershe School, in whose grounds the Clubhouse stands. There is hope that in finding table tennis on their doorstep, these youngsters will notice that there is more to life than snooker and darts, and will be able to start with facilities that would be the envy of most of the top clubs and players in the country. If we want table tennis for all, then Kingfisher are certainly showing the way.



Jimmy Stokes.

On the playing front, the senior and veteran sections of the Berkshire Inter-Town followed on from the junior last month, but this time most of the honours went to Reading, who managed to win in all but one of the six events — the exception being due to the ladies of Maidenhead who scraped home by a whisker over — yes you've guessed it — Reading. However, with most of the top players in Berkshire playing in at least two of the four Town leagues, an observer would have been hard put to distinguish between one team and another, with the exception of Bracknell, who had kitted their squad out with new shirts, so they would have taken the trophy for sartorial elegance!

Berkshire junior talent was much in evidence at the recent National Ranking Trial at Lilleshall. Lisa Crick gave top England Clare Potts her hardest game of her group — in the cadets Nicky Bradfield was unlucky not to reach the knockout stage after a countback, Marc Priddle came fourth out of eight in his group, after being the only one therein to beat group winner Martin Adams — who also managed a creditable fourth place in his junior group. Once again however top Berkshire spot undoubtedly goes to Julie Norman of Newbury, who concluded her day's play as the losing finalist in the junior girls event.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

WITH little domestic table tennis activity over the Christmas, Cornish news again focuses on the never-ending achievements of Bude's Neil Bevan who in December won Cornwall's first ever National title at the English Junior Closed. Bevan clinched the Cadet Boys' singles in convincing fashion and a few weeks later won the National trials (cadets) to firmly establish himself as the nation's leading under 14 whilst maintaining a European ranking of 9. Coming from Cornwall, one of Britain's remotest outposts, makes Neil Bevan's titles all the more commendable.

There is certainly cause of optimism in Cornwall at the moment. After an early defeat at the hands of Devon II, the senior first team have now stormed to four wins to move into second place in the division 3B county championship table just behind Dorset. Victories over Gloucestershire and Dorset, although a formidable task, would clinch division two status for what must be the strongest Cornwall team ever. John Basset, 48 years old in May and Esme Stevenson (Bude) top the batting averages with 80.00% and 100.00% respectively. Meanwhile Falmouth's Graham Reed heads the second team and is enjoying a most successful season and is keeping the first team players on their toes with some blistering performances.

The two junior teams are breaking in some new youngsters now that Neil and Andrew Bevan have moved up to the senior teams. John Menzel (Camborne) and Neil Martin (St Austell) are now coming through strongly to provide good support for the England ranked Mark Bowden (Launceston).

The main problem facing the Cornwall Association at the moment is the nationwide problem of falling membership. Television coverage must be a remedy.

TAKE A BOW COUNTY WRITERS . . .

PROGRESS continues to be made in the organisation of the county notes pages. More contributors are submitting typewritten copy, which is an enormous help with the sub-editing process. A slight increase in space allowed overall is leading to less heavy cutting of the material I receive and the whole thing is enhanced with the use of pictures most of which come from TTN picture files, but some of the pictures can be ancient ones, so any small head-and-shoulders pictures of players or administrators will help to make the pages look crisp instead of dull, which is the policy of the entire magazine. JW

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

EXCITING news for the small Whitehaven League (16 teams from seven clubs) is the emergence of Lynn Hadfield as the county's number three woman.

She impressed at recent county trials in Kendal and now falls in line behind the team skipper, Julie McLean, and Karen Backhouse, from Carlisle and Barrow respectively.

A round-robin among the men at the trials resulted in the following rankings: 1, Roger Stewart (Carlisle); 2, John Backhouse (Barrow); 3, Tim Pachul (Barrow); 4, Stephen Temple (Carlisle); 5, Neil Yardley (Barrow); 6, Nicholas Thompson (Carlisle); 7, Mark Temple (Carlisle).

Cumbria's open junior tournament resulted in some matches at Carlisle's Sands Centre. Underdog Mark Nanson (Carlisle) won the boys' singles, beating Mark Temple in a great final.

But the two were on the same side in the boys' doubles, collecting the title at the expense of Newton Stewart pair Mark Cantlie and David Niven.

Scotland, however, won the day in the girls' singles final when sisters Paula and Emma Sloan went to the table. Paula, ranked as a cadet over the Border, took the crown, and also the Under-14s competition. Here she beat a boy from Dumfries, Graham Anderson.

RESULTS

Junior boys' singles: M. Nanson (Carlisle) beat M. Temple (Carlisle) 21-19, 9-21, 21-17; semi-finals: Nanson beat D. Wade (Barrow) 21-14, 21-14, Temple beat C. Urquhart (Dumfries) 21-14, 21-9; quarter-finals: Nanson beat N. Cantlie (Newton Stewart), Temple beat S. Milligan (Newton Stewart), Urquhart beat M. Harrison (Carlisle), Wade beat M. Greenop (Carlisle).

Junior doubles: M. Temple and M. Nanson (Carlisle) beat M. Cantlie and D. Niven (Newton Stewart) 21-15, 18-21, 21-17. Semi-finals: Temple and Nanson beat P. Sloan and K. Fairgrave (Dumfries) 21-7, 21-16; Cantlie and Niven beat C. Urquhart and C. Campbell (Dumfries) 21-9, 21-14.

Girls' singles: P. Sloan (Dumfries) beat E. Sloan (Dumfries) 21-8, 21-7; semi-finals: P. Sloan beat S. Wilson (Dumfries) 21-11, 21-4; E. Sloan beat J. Davidson (Dumfries) 18-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Under-14s singles: P. Sloan beat G. Anderson (Dumfries) 13-21, 21-18, 22-20; semi-finals: Sloan beat J. Thompson (Carlisle) 21-13, 21-15; G. Anderson beat S. Baillie (Dumfries) 21-10, 21-18.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

DORSET Senior first team kept up their challenge for a quick return to Division 2 after they demolished Somerset seconds by eight games to two. Dorset, relegated on games difference last season, are proving too strong for the Third Division with Tony Clayton, Hakan Sigrell, John Robinson and Mae Allan all winning their games with ease, only John Robinson having to play a third end. The only games to escape them were the Ladies Doubles and the other Ladies Singles involving Pat Baldwin.

The second team meanwhile are languishing at the opposite end of Division 3B after losing their latest match 8-2 at the hands of Devon seconds. Martin Hughes had a useful victory over Gary Lambert, and Terry Glenon combined with Chris Budden to overpower Lambert and Gary Wilson in the Men's Doubles for Dorset's only successes.

Dorset Juniors kept on the winning trail with a narrow 6-4 victory over Gloucestershire in Division 3C.

A real team effort saw each player record one victory each, with Paul Bickell winning the last game when the score stood at 5-4, coming back from a game and 11-1 down.

Kevin Smith, Mark Butler, Tracey Scott-Pawson and Samantha Dench made up the successful team as they kept up their 100% record this season.

Jolliffe Poole were dramatically held to a 4-4 draw in the Leeds British League by Bathwick Tyres-Bath TTC II on Sunday 20 December 1987.

The match started well for promotion hopefuls Jolliffe Poole, and it was perhaps not unexpected that they took the early initiative and a commanding 3-0 lead through Tony Clayton, John Robinson and Jason Creasey. Martin Hughes then lost to Paul Hooper 19-21, 21-23, in a close match before Clayton returned to the table to play Bath's No 1 Chris Holley. Holley was in fighting form and took a 10-2 lead in the deciding end. Clayton then staged a terrific comeback with some quick hitting and accurate blocking to level the score at 14-14, and then kept in form to win by 21-17. This put Jolliffe Poole into an unbeatable 4-1 lead, but Bath were determined not to crumble, and they gallantly fought back to win the next three games to force a draw.

The two top teams in the Third Division West met on Sunday 3 January, when Jolliffe Poole played host to unbeaten league leaders Butterfly Cardiff II. After a promising start in front of their biggest home crowd this season Jolliffe Poole were finally defeated 6-2 to put an end to their promotion hopes. Tony Clayton had set Jolliffe Poole on their way in a close first game against Jeff Morgan.

The next two games were very tight, but Cardiff held on to take them both. Jason Creasey could so easily have levelled the match at 2-2, but he lost to Paul Lewis in a very tense fourth game, 21-23, 21-19, 19-21, to leave Poole 3-1 down. Tony Clayton then renewed his challenge against Trevor Manning who is the only player to beat him this season in the British League. Clayton has played table tennis at the highest level, representing England on many occasions in the 70s, but his weakness has always been against defensive opponents, of which Manning is an excellent opponent. After losing the first end 21-11, Clayton was looking totally bewildered as he trained at 8-18 in the second. A remarkable turnaround then occurred as he bravely fought back during some pulsating rallies to level the score at 19-19. Manning added some attacking shots to his repertoire, and the game reached 26-25 when expedite was called. Manning ecstatic when he took the next point as Clayton put the ball into the net going for a forehand drive, and Jolliffe Poole were aware that their chances of winning had slipped away. Hakan Sigrell and John Robinson then both lost before Jason Creasey salvaged some respectability for Jolliffe Poole to end a very entertaining match at 6-2.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

AT long last I have received our Senior Ranking Lists, which are as follows:

Men

1. Skylet Andrew
2. Steve Dorking
3. Des Charlery
4. David Newman
5. Tony Penny
6. Paul Sayer
7. Kevin Caldon
8. John Dennison
9. Alex Abbott
10. Ian Attridge
11. Stuart Gibbs
12. Richard Darnell
13. Paul Stephens
14. David Window
15. Mark Wicker

Women

1. Kim Mudge
2. Elaine Sayer
3. Lisa Hayden
4. Kim Hayden
5. Tanya Holland
6. Sue Harness
7. Gillian Bowman
8. Marjorie Dawson
9. Jenny Harrison
10. Carol Nelson
11. Kate Gower
12. Alison Gower
13. Linda Radford



Skylet Andrew

The inaugural Veterans' Closed Championships were held over the weekend of 9/10 January at Tiptree, and the full set of results was as follows: Men's Over 40 Singles: S. Battrick beat P. Ballard 18, 4. Men's Over 50 Singles: R. Murray beat S. Battrick 16, 17. Women's Over 40 Singles: S. Carroll beat J. Finch 10, 15. Women's Over 50 Singles: E. Harvey beat P. Anker 16, 19. Over 40 Mixed Doubles: R. Murray/S. Carroll beat J. Anker/P. Anker -18, 14, 14. Over 40 Men's Doubles: P. Radford/G. Pavitt beat S. Battrick/J. Tandler 16, -17, 17. Over 60 Men's Singles: J. Mulley won group. Women's Over 40 Doubles: E. Harvey/S. Carroll won group.

During the same weekend the Junior Closed Championships were also played, resulting as follows: Under 17 Boys' Singles: Damian Holland beat Grant Solder 21, -15, 13. Under 17 Girls' Singles: Kate Gower Beat Alison Gower -16, 12, 13. Under 17

Boys' Doubles: Grant Solder/Damian Holland beat Allan Radford/Stephen Rand 9, 13. Under 17 Girls' Doubles: Kate Gower/Alison Gower beat Linda Radford/Delia Holland 4, 17. Under 17 Mixed Doubles: Grant Solder/Alison Gower beat Jason Tandler/Kate Gower -20, 11, 20. Under 17 Boys' Restricted: Gavin West beat Jason Gibbs 19, 15. Under 17 Girls' Restricted: Nadine Barthee beat Alison Smith 18, 17. Under 14 Boys' Singles: Jonathan West beat Ben Ware 15, 18. Under 14 Girls' Singles: Alison Gower beat Linda Radford 8, 20. Under 14 Boys' Doubles: Mark Shayer/Jon West beat Trevor Blackall/Richard Gilbert 9, 11. Under 14 Girls' Doubles: Delia Holland/Alison Gower beat Tracy Pincombe/Linda Radford 16, 16. Under 12 Boys' Singles: Andrew Taylor beat Paul Hudson 22, 11. Under 12 Girls' Singles: Jennifer Coleman beat Helen Cambridge 7, 8.

I was able to get to our Junior Third team game against Bucks I at Brentwood, resulting in a 6-4 win. Man of the match award must surely go to Bradley Clutton, who won both his singles, including a fine victory over England No 24 Stephen Baggaley, and with Matthew Reid the boys' doubles -19 in the third! The final set saw Gary Tandler completing the double by beating Richard Giblin -19 in the third! I would like to congratulate the Bucks team of their outstanding sportsmanship when on the losing end of a desperately close match.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

ONCE more County Officials have been dashing around Helter-Skelter of late to ensure that the 'Cotswold Junior Select Tournament' which is being held at the Gloucester Leisure Centre on 30 and 31 of January will, as it has in the past - prove a great success. Hopefully (unless anyone else wants the job) I shall be reporting upon this National Junior event in the March issue of TTN as well as live broadcasts from the Leisure Centre on the first day in question, I further understand that just over 300 entries have been received, and the entire event is being staged on sixteen tables.

I was delighted to receive my first copy of the Gloucester League Newsletter - 'Bat-Chat', Andy Browett (The Editor) has been a long time into some form of hibernation, I believe that I'm correct in saying that prior to this very last edition, 'Bat-Chat' made its last public appearance on the Cities Final's Night 1986?, meanwhile Stroud's 'Pointmaker' edited by Chairman (Stroud) John

Bunn has made one appearance and Gill Smith's Cheltenham rag - 'Net & Edge' goes from strength to strength, well done all of you, keep up the good work.

The Providence Capital County Premier League

At the start of the season it was decided to alter the format of this highly popular event. For starters the venue this season is different, now being played at 'The Sports Complex' at Chalton-Kings nr Cheltenham and all the players hopefully somewhat graded (as best as possible) into more evenly suited teams.

We got rid of those rascally Rudford Players who combined for two years to utterly dominate this Championship and accordingly slotted the Griffins, Slacks, Moremans and Harveys into more appropriate directions.

Here are the half season's results:

TEAMS

Zombies:-

S. Moreman, M. Manish, D. Smith.

Super Squealers:-

G. Slack, H. Williams, S. Moysey.

Foxys Lot:-

R. Fowler, P. Wood, S. Cox.

Chancers:-

D. Griffin, P. Slack, R. Wilshire.

Sabres:-

S. Callum, A. Giles, A. Stratford.

Tricksters:-

D. Harvey, F. Jones, A. Stalley.

	P	W	Pts
Zombies	5	5	34
Super Squealers	5	3	22
Foxys Lot	5	2	21
Chancers	5	1	20
Sabres	5	1	20
Tricksters	5	3	18

Top six singles %

	P	W	%
Steve Moreman	15	15	100
Graham Slack	15	14	93
Dave Harvey	8	6	75
Frank Jones	8	6	75
Alan Giles	15	11	73
Dave Smith	15	11	73

For want of a better wording - I shall now refer to the following information as 'The Matson Project'.

Matson is a sizeable suburb of Gloucester City and a thriving community in its own right, ambitious plans to completely redevelop and expand the existing dilapidated Community centre have recently almost come to fruition.

Three-parts

Representatives of the Centre have agreed on outline proposals for the first phase of the planned three-part project.

If the final drawings are approved the initial step will be to build a sports hall and a set of activity rooms.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

THE main items of interest since my previous notes relate to the Juniors. In the trials held just before Christmas, Bryant Gonsalves and Jeff Giles each won four out of five in the final group of the Juniors. Edward Hatley won all five sets in the top group of the cadets followed by Daniel Hacker who lost to both Edward and his brother Richard. Claire Woodham, still a cadet, won her five sets in the Junior girls with Lisa Rice losing one and Elizabeth Shubrook two sets.

In the Junior Closed tournament, held just after Christmas, a completely different set of results — it just shows how quickly junior form can change. A good entry, well up on last season gave tournament organiser Mike Strode and county secretary Harold Albrey few problems but must have encouraged them after the poorly supported senior event. The standard of play must too be a good omen for the future. The main influx of players is clearly from the Aldershot area, which gives cause for some concern. Being on the border between Hampshire and Surrey, good players are soon influenced into the larger higher-rated county to the detriment of Hampshire.

In the Under-17 Boys' event, 16-year-old Edward Connell avenged his trial defeat to beat Jeff Giles in the semi. At the same stage Richard Hatley still only 14, beat Bryant Gonsalves. Edwards all-action gutsy play came through in the final. He never gave up, despite losing the first and trailing 17-20 in the third. He was however fortunate to win at deuce on an edge!

Cadet Claire Woodham showed her trials success over Lisa Rice was no fluke by repeating her win by seven and nine in the girls Under-17 semi. However, 15-year-old Elizabeth Shubrook reversed her defeat by Claire in the trials by winning the final. In the doubles, cadets Edward Hatley and Daniel Hacker won the Under-14 event and reached the final of the Under-17 where they lost to Jeff Giles and Lisa Rice.

RESULTS

Under-17 Boys' Semi-final: Edward Connell (ALD) b Jeff Giles (SOU) 19, -20, 15; Richard Hatley (ALD) b Bryant Gonsalves -12, 19, 11. Final: Connell b Hatley -17, 11, 20.

Under-17 Girls' Semi-final: Claire Woodham (ALD) b Lisa Rice (POR) 7, 9; Elizabeth Shubrook (ALD) b Tina Caws (SOU) 11, 15. Final: Shubrook b Woodham 15, -9, 15.

Under-14 Boys Final: Edward Hatley b Richard Hatley -10, 18, 16.

Under-14 Girls' Final: Claire Woodham b Joanne Winsor (POR) 8, 6.

Under-12 Boys' Final: Edward Hatley b Kevin Macken (BAS) 11, 14.

Under-12 Girls' Final: Heidi Wheaton (POR) b Wanda Hutchinson (ALD) 12, 5.

Under-17 Doubles Final: Jeff Giles (SOU) and Lisa Rice (POR) b Edward Hatley and Daniel Hacker 13, -18, 18.

Under-14 Doubles Final: Edward Hatley and Daniel Hacker b Carl Hutchinson (ALD) and Mark Shuttler (G/F) 19, -13, 16.

In the inter-county league another defeat for the Senior A team by 4/6 to Sussex with Sarah Hammond and Cheryl Buttery each winning a singles and combining for the doubles. Rhamish Bhalla contributed the only Men's singles success. The Veteran A team beat Hertfordshire seconds by 6/3. Ray Lush and Ken Giles each won their two singles. Christine Davies won her singles and combined with Ken Giles to win the mixed.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

ST ALBANS' Junior Inter-League Table Tennis team are leading the race for the coveted County Trophy, following the first round of the tournament, which was held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday the 10 January.

This exciting trio of Kevin Harber, Andrew Rose and Martin Livesey from St Albans have opened their account with three wins out of three, beating the current holders Hemel Hempstead 4-3, who were without their star player Ian Black due to illness, plus St Albans also took the scalps of Hertford and North Herts, beating them both 4-3.

Star player for St Albans was Kevin Harber, who won five of his six singles.

Close on the heels of St Albans is the rising talent of Watford who won their two opening games, beating both Barnet and Hertford 4-3.

These three young Watford hopefuls, Robert Barrasso, Caroline Seaholme and Amit Patel, will be challenging St Albans in the next round of the tournament.

Shock leap

Watford's surprise leap forward was led by Barrasso who won all his singles.

Hertfordshire's Terry Boucher was in action at the Barnet Tigers Invitation Tournament, held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday, 3 January.



Hertfordshire players from St Albans, Martin Livesey, Kevin Harber and Andrew Rose.

Super slick Boucher was on top form when he beat Hertfordshire's Kevin Harber in the Mixed Singles Final.

The Junior Singles title was won by Jonathan West of Essex, who beat Middlesex's Dave Katz in the final.

Hiretech-Adeyfield have caused a surprise upset in the opening rounds of the Alpha Herts-Beds Cup, by beating the No. 2 seeds Motorola 5-2.

Hiretech-Adeyfield's trio of Rob Liguorish, Glen Wilkes and Tommy Cutler played superbly beating Motorola's mighty Mick Harper, Keith Samuels and Helen Bardwell.

Star players for Hiretech-Adeyfield were Liguorish and Cutler finishing the match winning maximum games.

Favourites to regain the Alpha Herts-Beds Cup are Phoenix who are led by the scintillating Nigel Tyler, with the new second seeds being AHW Comets who are led by Phillip Aspinall.

LANCASHIRE

George R. Yates

THE task of administering Lancashire's six teams in the Leeds County Championships has proved too much for Blackburn's Norman Pearson whose resignation as County Match Secretary was accepted with regret at a meeting of the County Executive on 12 January.

Dennis Smith, the Hon Sec of the Lancs and Cheshire League, together with his personal company's secretary, will see the season through, the position being open to offers at the May AGM.

The struggles

Doug Moss's tables reveal the relevant positions revealing also the struggles of both the senior seconds and the junior thirds with the former returning from Suffolk with their tails between their legs after a 10-0 drubbing.

Lancs & Cheshire League

Bolton's prospects of retaining their first division title in the Lancs and Cheshire League suffered a severe setback on 19 January when, at home to Liverpool, they were beaten 6-4.

This was despite a treble from Stephen Scowcroft to which only David Carse could add one. Keith Williams and Paul Hutchings shared four of Liverpool's sets with Lawrence Kenwright obtaining the other as well as sharing a doubles success with Williams whose non-involvement in county play is sorely missed. Top of the table positions are:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Stockport	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Liverpool	3	2	1	0	18	12	5

Bolton A head Div 2 (North) with three wins and one draw followed by Burnley and Blackpool who have both lost once. Div 2 (South) is headed by Liverpool A from Ellesmere Port and Burnley A.

Barrow are the undefeated leaders of Junior Div 1 but also on 8pts from four matches are Oldham being just one set in arrears. In the women's first division no team can claim to be 100% with Stockport leading Oldham by one set with six points each from four engagements, both having drawn twice. There is all to play for in this division.

But all credit to the Oldham League's junior A, B and C teams who all lead their respective divisions.

Undefeated in the veteran divisions are Warrington and Farnworth (A), Wirral and Bolton (B) and Stockport, Burnley and Crewe (C). Warrington's Jack Evans, Bob Bagot and Norman Deakin boast the best record with 27 sets for against just 3. Derek Schofield spearheads the Stockport team along with Vin Mole and Barrie Morgan while Wirral have Alan Timewell, Gordon Exell and Val Franco to further their cause as do Bolton with Derek Watmough, Wilton Holt — father of Andrea — and Allan Lord.



Lancashire resident Don Parker carries the heaviest burden in English table tennis. His hats include England captain, sole selector and Director of coaching.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

THE third staging of the Philip Reid Memorial Handicap Trophy took place in December with the reigning champion, Darren Bramhall, just hanging on to his title. Twenty qualifiers from ten groups proceeded to the finals held at Knighton Park TTC.

From the Loughborough groups, Malcolm White and Ray Lambert went through from group 'A' whilst Julie Forster and Andrew White qualified from group 'B'. Bevans Holdings, of the Leicester League, hosted groups C, D, E which saw Peter Cruse of County Hall go through and was joined by Bevan's Terry Bown after a play-off with Tower's Roy Smith. Group 'D' was won by the impressive Klaus Huermann of New Braunstone Goons and he was joined in the final by Knighton Park's Darren Bramhall. Belgrave Liberal's Richard Green came out tops in group 'E' on sets difference over Stuart Jones of Bevans. The Knighton Park duo of Michael Nunan and Keith Bramhall qualified from group 'F' at the Electricity Sports Club whilst nobody could separate Bevan's Mark Smith and Gas's John O'Connor who nevertheless went through from group 'H' held at the home of County Hall TTC. The three evenings at Belgrave Liberals TTC saw Bob Smith of Belgrave go through from group 'G' in tandem with John Gayton of Knighton Park. The qualifiers from group 'I' were New Braunstone Goons' Roger Aspinall and Steve Want of Belgrave Liberals whilst group 'J' was dominated by Belgrave's Geoff Hancock and County Hall's John Paull.

On his way to the final, Darren Bramhall had little trouble in accounting for, Steve Want 10, 10; Mark Smith 16, 14; Julie Forster 14, 17; and Bob Smith 18, 14. Klaus Huermann, the other finalist, had a tougher ride to the final beating Geoff Hancock -18, 18, 16; Andrew White 16, 13; and John O'Connor -12, 19, 16.

The final, which saw Darren receive 6pts per game, was an exciting match. Darren won in two straight games after Klaus had clawed himself into a winning position in both games, it was a pity that this entertaining final did not stretch to a third and deciding game.

Final result. Darren Bramhall (+6) beat Klaus Huermann 21, 19.

TANKARD FINAL

The final of the Leicester Leagues' Elbow Tankard Handicap Competition between Bangers (New Braunstone Goons) and Ironmen (A E Burgess) was

played at Knighton Park and an exciting match it proved to be. At 4-4 Ironmen's Barry Reeves had a good win over Brian Philpott after being 10-15 down and Barry Robinson (Bangers) beat Ian Weatherley in a super game of counter hitting. Honours were shared in the doubles to make the score 6-6. Terry Wale then put the Ironmen in front with a good win over Brian Philpott and the most crucial game saw Barry Robinson beat Barry Reeves to take the first game but was then 3-16 down in the second but came back to win 23-21. Paul Jarrett (Bangers) then had a super game with Terry each taking a game and the score still level at 9-9. In the final set Brian won the first over Ian 21-19 which gave him the confidence to play all his shots in the second to win the set and the match to make the Bangers 11-9 winners. A fine match in the best sporting manner with congratulations to both teams.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

THE NORWICH league seem to be doing something about the new service rule. A copy of this rule together with an explanatory note for those who cannot understand the official language has gone to all clubs in the league with a demand (not request) that it be implemented forthwith by the majority of players. Overseers have been appointed for each of the 12 divisions to report back at the next league meeting.

Playing in the lower regions of the Norwich league I have already witnessed some improvement as before each match commences players are reminded of the requirement and knowing that myself and Margaret Calver are watching their every move most of our opponents at least try and if only till they forget. Watching the Foxwood British league team twice over the holiday period I was quite perturbed to see the variety of clothes worn by members of a team.

I was under the impression that this British league was to be the show piece of inter-city TT. A team wearing three different types of shirt and shorts between four of them although roughly of the same colour and to crown it all shoes with the toe poking through from what originally was a white colour shoe. I feel the standards expected by both the ETTA and the Leeds are being tarnished by this. There is I believe a form in existence whereby the away team reports on the home team — why not the other way as well? Just a thought, could this form of report be extended to county matches.

Jim Defty of Kings Lynn tells me that his team British Sugar are representing Norfolk in the Leeds club tournament at St Neots. Jim together with Dave Ashmore and Dave Shaw are the kind of players who will enter anything anywhere and it is with great pleasure that I publicise this as I have not heard of anyone else in Norfolk even talk of it. Norwich Rose Bowl team had an exciting match versus Dunstable although losing 4-5. Jeanne Reynolds, new Norfolk champion, continued her comeback by taking all three of her games and Maureen Wilson one.

Our Norfolk Veterans' first team continues to surprise me as when seeing the fixtures of Division 2A I would not expect them to do much other than to survive. So far they have won 6-3, 5-4, 5-4 and lost 4-5 with all matches played in a very sporting manner. Tony Hipperson deserves a mention as being the first player to beat (just) Terry Bache of Warwickshire for two seasons.

The Veterans' second team had a good start with two wins and Edna Fletcher taking out Gill White who was unbeaten last season. One thing about this second team is that all players are from outside Norfolk which in itself must be a record.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

THE sight of nine very junior girls battling away at the recent County Assessment, accurately reflects an upsurge in the fortunes of Northamptonshire Table Tennis.

Wins for the seniors, juniors and veterans in the most recent series of Leeds County Championship matches provides further evidence that all is well within the county boundaries, whilst the County Performance List, if not necessarily a true reflection of ability, not only creates an interest not previously engendered, but also accurately determines the enthusiasm of the county's leading players.

It was most pleasing to see Andy Trott making the most of his recent break from college life, with five appearances for Higham Band. He was unable to quell either Graeme McKim or Mark Randle, but did manage to halt Ian Hawes' winning run. After more than eighteen months on the sidelines, Ian returned to the fray with Kettering's Team Electric 'A', and so well did he play, that when Andy Edmonds suffered a five-a-side football injury, Ian was brought into the County Senior Firsts, where he celebrated with two excellent wins.

Northampton was the only side to enter the Veterans Club Championship, and began with an away fixture at the well-appointed Phoenix Club at Coventry.

It was a pleasure to return to play in the city where I had played much of my earlier table tennis and my day was made even more enjoyable when I got the better of both Barry Tayton and Roy Thomas, doughty opponents of 30 years ago. For the record, Greg Dobrowski also won twice, and with Keith Jones undefeated, Northampton won seven two to move into the next round despite stern opposition from Alan Stockham who gained both home successes.

Now returning to those earlier mentioned assessments the main ranking lists resulted as follows:

JUNIOR BOYS: 1. Ian Bird; 2. Keiron Dabbs; 3. Colin Campbell; 4. David Evans; 5. Scott McKim; 6. Mark Brimley; 7. Toby Clark; 8. Neil Atkinson; 9. Andrew Lingley; 10. Julian Marshall; 11. Matthew Rowe; 12. Michael Cross; 13. Ian Campbell; 14. Simon Russell; 15. Jason Smith; 16. Stephen Hobbs; 17. Steven Rouse; 18. Alistair Brudenell; 19. Keith Parrott.

JUNIOR GIRLS: 1. Caroline Perkins; 2. Tracey Marriott; 3. Sally Russell; 4. Julia Piercey; 5. Helen Watts; 6. Clare Waples; 7. Kerry McQuire; 8. Clare Hickman.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

EVERYTHING all quiet on the County front during December, I have taken the opportunity to summarise the latest available Northumberland League information up to the Christmas and New Year break, which I hope all players and officials alike have enjoyed.

Gateshead A head the Premier Division, but only on set difference from North Shields YMCA A. In their clash at the YMCA, Gateshead were ahead by 4-3 when the fire alarm went off and the building was cleared. The teams were unable to resume later and the match was abandoned. North Shields may yet have been saved by the bell, as the management committee will now have to rule on whether the match should be replayed. Wansbeck and Ouston CC A are the two teams currently adrift at the foot of the table.

The same two clubs B teams are currently first and second in Div 1, but if Glebe, who have three games in hand, continue to field their strongest possible team, they will certainly press

them very hard. Div 2 is becoming very tight, with North Shields YMCA D, Sunderland Echo, Newton and Boldon CA all in contention, each side having lost twice, although Boldon have two games in hand.

Ouston CC B and Lemington Riverside D are both unbeaten at the top of Div 3, but Ouston are ahead on sets average, although they have played one game more. Ashington YMCA B are still holding top spot in Div 4 ahead of Jarrow CC A, even though they recently lost to third-placed Woodlands Park, who are just ahead of North Shields YMCA E on set difference.

Div 5 is also developing into a very close fight, with Electrics B, Dunston A and DHSS D all level on points, although Electrics have played one game more. These three teams have opened up a five point gap in their division. The clash between the only unbeaten teams in Div 6, Berger B and Graphex B, ended in a 5-5 draw after Berger held a 4-3 lead, although Washington B are actually in second place at present by virtue of having played one game more.

The league management committee have decided that a two-up and two-down system shall operate in each division, regardless of the number of byes, so an interesting second half appears to be in store for several teams.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

THE irrepressible Grove twins Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey continue their remarkable progress in only their second season of tournament play as they record a host of impressive performances.

The Grove School pupils whose positive attitude and attacking play has seen a successful month as Sarah reached the quarter final stages of the National Ranking Tournament at Lilleshall followed by success in the Shropshire Schools Individual Championships at Pontesbury one week later, when she captured the Under 19 Girls' singles title at the expense of sister Elizabeth in the closest of finals. However sister Elizabeth is most certainly not going to be outdone as she won the Under 16 county schools individual title over club-mate Gail Ottolini whilst the following day all expectations were excelled as the talented twin reached the final of the Cadet Girls' Singles event at the Tameside Junior Open before losing an excellent three set final to the consistent Yorkshire girl Kate Goodall. The Tameside tournament may well prove to be an

event to remember for the Creaseys as it was to be the day when their first open tournament success was recorded as unseeded the dazzling duo captured the girls' doubles title in a thrilling final where the excellent Yorkshire pair of Kate Goodall and Joanna Roberts were beaten by the narrowest of margins.

Every county is proud of its star players but it is the reliable and consistent who provide the basis from which a platform can be built and there can be no more deserving a winner in the Shropshire Schools Individual Championships than Mary Webb schoolboy Chris Day, the victor at Under 16 level and the runner up at Under 19 level to former schoolmate David Morris. Meanwhile there was to be more success for the Pontesbury boys as young Robert Rowson won the Under 11 title and Matthew Alexander overcame David Marshall of Grove School in the Under 13 event.

Unfortunately, the competition in Shropshire is dominated by members of Grove Table Tennis Club and this was clearly seen at female level where for the eighth consecutive season all girls' events returned to Market Drayton as Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey were joined by Clare Hand at Under 13 level and Ruth Barnett in the Under 11 event, yet again the only female entrants came from Grove Table Tennis Club — a sad state of affairs.

In the British League Grove I continue to press for honours as Dunlop Express were beaten 8-0 in convincing style whilst Grove II confounded expectations beating Lincoln 5-3 and then losing to March 6-2, the margin for success is so small. However win or lose top class table tennis is seen in the county and is presented well for all to enjoy. The main concern is at committee level where the few work very hard to promote Shropshire Table Tennis and numbers at meetings appear to dwindle even though clubs, schools and players from the county achieve great success.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

FROM a 2-1 deficit against Warwickshire to gain a win by eight matches to two gave Staffs their best victory of the season. Warwickshire took the lead with wins by Phil Gunn over Craig Bakewell and Barry Johnson, who created the surprise of the afternoon with a straight sets defeat of Adrian Dixon. Despite later wins in the doubles and against Phil Gunn, Dixon did not have a

happy match. He was tense and nervous and his play was erratic and he lacked his normal good judgement. Johnson worked hard for his win, unsettling and out-maneuvring Dixon to gain a well-deserved victory. Under the circumstances, Dixon did well to recover some of his form to support Bakewell in a good doubles win and to go on to a creditable victory over Gunn. Fiona Elliot and Helen Lower collected their expected three wins over Sandra Peakman and Sue Culbertson and Andy Rich chipped in with well-merited victories over Mike Brown and, in a splendid last match of the day, Barry Johnson.

Results:

Bakewell lost to Gunn -15, -17; bt Brown 11, 21; Rich bt Brown -23, 16, 13; bt Johnson 14, 15; Dixon lost to Johnson -17, -19; bt Gunn 15, 18; Dixon & Bakewell bt Gunn & Johnson 12, -22, 18; Lower bt Culbertson 17, 13; Elliot bt Peakman 11, 16; Elliot & Lower bt Peakman & Culbertson 8, 20.

The fight for the Division 2A Championship could be a close race, with three or four counties in the chase, one of which could be Staffordshire. They will need to win all their remaining matches — against Yorks II, Lancs II and Suffolk — to have a chance, but on current form that is certainly a possibility.

At the half-season stage in the Potteries League, Burslem A head the Premier Division with a 100% record with the trio of Craig Bakewell (also 100%), Mark Evans and Eddie Wilkes returning impressive individual performances. In second place are Trinity A with just the one defeat. They have five players to call on — Colin Braxton, Stan and Joe Deakin, Stephen Slater and Adrian Moore — and are the only team likely to upset the present leaders. In third and fourth place are Burslem B (J. Hancock, M. Riley, S. Vine and J. Mason) and Bradwell A (P. Barnett, G. Hallam, P. Anderson and I. Wain) and these four teams are well ahead of the rest of the division.

Reasonable return

Three other teams have 100% records, ICL B (Div 2), Fenns A (Div 3), and DHSS in the ridiculously small bottom Division 7, comprising just four teams. To play three other teams each six times in a season is not my idea of a reasonable return for my match fees. There is no other 100% record in the league, but P. Hignett (ICL B, Div 2), B. Crump (Fenns A, Div 3), A. Greenwood (Boalloy, Div 5), and S. Philpott (DHSS, Div 7) were nearly there with only one defeat.

Lilleshall Ford Hall has now been booked for the County Hard Bat Tournament on Sunday, 8 May.

SURREY

Terry Vance

IT IS with great regret that we learned of John Somerville's death. He was cremated at Croydon on 30 December 1987. Surrey have decided to set up a memorial fund in his honour, details of which can be found in a separate article in this month's magazine.

Taking over John's duties as Surrey tournaments' organiser is Don Beesley, 6 Stanley Square, Carshalton Beeches, Sutton, Surrey SM5 4LX, phone 01-669 3755. Please contact him if you have any problems with entry forms etc.

The Surrey coaching team have started to issue a regular News Letter, edited by John Mowat, to keep leagues and players informed of the coaching facilities, to both young and old, available in Surrey.

Derek Holman reached the mixed doubles final of a recent VETTS tournament. He also gave John Hilton a fright in the Middlesex 3-Star Veterans' tournament.



Nicky Mason

The county Junior 2nd team were all under 13 when they beat Herts 2nd team to record their first points of the season. This should give us tremendous hope for the future strength of Surrey table tennis. There are apparently even younger players waiting in the wings.

About 30 youngsters attended the coaching day at Sutton Sports Centre run by Gayle McCulloch and Jane Barella. The next dates for their scheme are 13 March and 24 April.

The first Round Robin matches in the Sutton Trophy for Juniors has been played. In Division A Byfleet A are leading Croydon Business Houses and Division B are led by Guildford A followed by Croydon District. The final round of matches are on 27 February at Tweeddale.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

JANET Smith, 22, the Scottish No 2, has moved house from Croydon to Woodingdean, Brighton. Within days of the move, Janet was beating prominent names in Sussex table tennis, mainly in East Sussex but her act promises more fireworks at the TSB all-Sussex championships on 6 March at Southwick Sports Centre, when a fresh infusion of interest will be apparent in the fight for the women all-Sussex crown at present held by Sally Weston of Horsham.

I have watched Janet playing for Scotland in such distant places as Tokyo and New Delhi. Her experience playing world-class opposition is now paying off as I noticed when observing the final of the East Sussex mixed singles championships at Bexhill. Janet took two paces back from the table to defeat with some tremendously exciting counter-hitting

Barry and Janet Smith's fiance Malcolm Francis who openly said he was going to win the Sussex East Sussex title, but managed to coach his fiance Janet to victory instead.

Shortly after the Bexhill shocks Janet set about the players in the powerful premier division of the Brighton League. After a shaky start, in her second match she overpowered Sussex county player David Jammett and then top-spinner Peter Bartram.

Her latest success was in the J M Rose Bowl, when her triple that included Sheila King, took Brighton through 5-4 against Hastings in the zone final.

So, the all-Sussex women's championships is sure to be an exciting affair, a forecast of the four seeds — Teresa Moore, Sally Weston, Janet Smith and Sheila King.

Meanwhile it is Crawley who

star for the first time. Robert beat Rajinda Singh in the Boys' Under-17 final and then teamed up with him to win the Boys' Doubles, Matthew Leake and Stewart Taylor being their victims in the final. Matthew and Stewart contested the Boys' Under-14 final with Stewart the victor.

Nicola Meddings went one better this year winning both the Under-14 and Under-17 Girls' titles. Angela Stych was her opponent in the Under-17 final.

With everyone now preaching the value of good publicity, the Nuneaton and Leamington District Leagues continue to show the way with multi-column match reports in their local newspapers. Leamington are also pressing ahead with plans to open a headquarters for playing and coaching and have an application for funds before the Sports Council. We wish them well.

Obituaries

We are sad to report the deaths of Dick Griffin, President and long-time supporter of the Birmingham and District TTA and Margaret Osborne, who was Birmingham's leading lady player in the 1930s and represented Warwickshire and England on many occasions, including five World Championships. We shall miss them both.

next round of the VETS National Team Championship following their 7-2 win at Grimsby. Janet Hunt 3, Barbara Jukes 2 and Linda Reid 2 saw Worcester safely through.

Shock result?

The latest matches in the County Championships saw the Senior First Team lose their unbeaten record in Division 2A on 12 December. As expected, visitors Suffolk provided stiff opposition. With County No 2 Malcolm Green unavailable, Worcester-shire's task was made more difficult, but after four sets, the home team led 3-1. Trevor Washington beat Stuart Palmer, Murray Jukes defeated John Kitchener, and the ladies won a close doubles set. The possibility of a shock result seemed possible, but it was not to be as Suffolk recovered to win 7-3.

First defeat

The Vets team suffered their first defeat also, 7-2 away to Yorks 2nds. Roy Norton won one singles, and Mervyn Wood and Ray Dixon won the Men's Doubles.

On 9 January the County Seconds travelled to Runcorn to play Cheshire 2nds and lost 6-4. Wins from Mark Roden and Ken Walton, plus the two doubles sets, saw Worcs take a 4-1 lead at the half-way stage, but Cheshire fought back strongly such that Worcs only managed to win a single end in the second half of the match!

The Juniors however, maintained their 100% record after four matches in Division 3C, with a resounding 10-0 defeat of visitors Wiltshire, only two sets needing a third game. Take a bow — Richard Pratley, Jason Thompson, David Pendry, Jane McLean and Nicola Jones! The crunch match in this division looks like being Worcs visit to Avon on 5 March.

The Vets suffered a further defeat at the hands of Essex 2nds. Forced to make a late change following an injury to Roy Norton, they lost 6-3. Janet Hunt won her singles; Mervyn Wood won one singles and combined with Ray Dixon to win the Men's Doubles. Completing the team was debutante John Stafford.



Janet Smith the Scottish No 2 is now No 3 in Sussex.

the former Sussex champion Graham Gillett 19, 23 and Gillett was as sharp as ever!

In the previous round the Sussex razor-man had beaten Hastings doubles champion Paul

are setting the pace with the juniors of the future. Scott Greenbrook, Alan Cole and Tracey Cole are the three names currently on the England junior and cadet lists with Greenbrook as high as No 21 on the boys lists.

WARWICKSHIRE

Neil Wheatley

LESTER Bertie and Sandra Peakman were the stars of this year's Birmingham Closed Championships winning all of the major titles.

Lester beat Mike Browne in a rather disappointing Men's Singles final, especially after the fireworks in the earlier rounds. Most of these came from Peter Waite who defied the rankings by disposing of Dhiru Parmar and top seed Phil Gunn before losing narrowly to Lester in the semi-final. Lester had previously beaten Ian Gunn. In the other semi, No 2 seed Barry Johnson was a little unlucky to lose an exciting 3-setter to Mike Browne.

Lester teamed up with brother Steve to defeat Ian and Phil Gunn in the Men's Doubles final and with Sandra Peakman easily beat Ann Lloyd and Barry Johnson to claim the 'Mixed' title.

With last year's winner Diane St Ledger now retired, the way seemed clear for Sandra Peakman to win the Ladies' title, but after losing the first set of the final to Fiona Sutton's determined defending she managed to do so only by steadying her usually aggressive game. Sandra completed her hat-trick when she and Mandy Mytton defeated Sue Culbertson and Wendy Spindlow in the Ladies' Doubles final.

The Veterans' Singles went to Neil Wheatley, but his opponent in the final, John Phillips, pushed him all the way losing a second set marathon 27-29. John knocked out two other seeds, Frank Norton and Ray Barton in the earlier rounds.

There were several top players missing from the Junior events and this gave Robert Till and Nicola Meddings the chance to

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

I WOULD like to open my report this month by offering congratulations to Doug Young on being selected as Referee of the Leeds English Open at Brighton in January. Hope the tournament ran smoothly without too many hiccups Doug!

News of the Worcester & Dudley Leagues' individual tournaments. Worcester will be holding their senior event at the Nunnery Wood Sports Centre at Saturday 20 February, while the Dudley League stage their tournament at Pensnett School on Sunday 6 March.

Back again

Two weeks later, on Sunday 27 March, the Senior County Closed Tournament is to be held once again at the Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank.

Malvern have recorded their second win in the County League to head the table. In their latest victory they defeated Kidderminster A 5-4, despite an unbeaten return from Andy Barlow.

Worcester's Veteran Ladies Team have progressed to the

TEES SPORT PARIS TOUR

Late bookings are now being accepted on 0642 217844 for the European Championships in Paris from March 18-28. The price includes flights, transfers, 3-star hotel five minutes from the stadium, season ticket, insurance and technical analysis sessions by Tees Sport staff.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

AS the Yorkshire League programme moves into the the New Year, reigning champions Harrogate have shrugged off the loss of Mike Emmerson, presently in New Zealand, and are sharing the Premier Division leadership with Bradford. Both team are still unbeaten and the destination of honours could well depend on the final match of the season when the teams meet in the Spa town.

Three promoted Northallerton teams are still at full throttle and head Divisions 1, 2 and Veteran 1, and all are still undefeated, although the Division 1 team have conceded a point in a drawn match.

County man Barry Pearson, obviously being worked hard, is thriving on the pressure with an 8-1 'sets for' record in Division 2 and 12-0 in the Vets section.

Sheffield Ladies' have no intention of passing up the title which they prized away from Bradford last term and Janet Deakin, Josette Ryalls and Helen Broomhead have all still to drop their first set!!

Fiercest competition could be among the Vets where two points separates the top four sides — champions Wakefield,

100% outfits Northallerton and Huddersfield, and Sheffield who have added former Derbyshire man Tony Hunt to an already powerful line-up.

All should be there or thereabouts at the end of the campaign with Hull, with Dave Bartlett back in harness, ready to take advantage of any slip-up and join the pack.

With four sides in the Junior section still to lose, Sheffield will have to defend their title against Selby, with strength-in-depth, Bradford, who are in the middle of rebuilding, and unfashionable Halifax.

And it is the lads from the Lancashire border, with Michael Auchterlonie joining Mark Stephenson and Giles Wilson who could prove the surprise, despite the lack of an experienced girl player.

There should be few worries for the future in South Yorkshire with Sheffield's Cadets rivalling their Ladies. Martin Dawson, the two Nickys — Cattell and Hayman — and Lindsay Blizard have yet to concede their first set!

The Leeds League obviously has no intention of being overshadowed by nearby Bradford which has been the power base

over recent years.

Division 1, where four teams, including current champions Yorkshire Bank A, are jousting for position at the top, is attracting players from a wide area.

Leaders Yeadon Constitutional, with Mick Stead (Bradford) still to be beaten and Stuart Milnes (Huddersfield) and the Bottomley brothers, Tony and Dave (Halifax) all playing well, have not yet called upon Kevin Beadsley (Bradford); Middleton PA A, with a relatively home grown squad are second, followed by Yorkshire Bank — Bob and Sally Shutt (Bradford) and Keith Bell (Harrogate) supporting Paul Sanderson, and Harrogate based Waddingtons A who, although obviously missing Emmerson, are still very much in contention.

JIM BECKLEY



Vice-chairman of the ETFA Public Relations Committee is in charge of the advertising for this magazine. He is interested in hearing from anyone who has information that could lead to new advertisers. Jim is professional media man and offers advice on advertising and publicity for large or small businesses. His address is: JIM BECKLEY, c/o Sports PR, PO Box 8, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 7RG. Tel: 061-439 6001, business and home number.



Rea Balmford

Sturge A, as ever, lead Division 1 of the Selby League, but they recently suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Goole A.



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Area finals time for the schools

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

233 Schools teams

by DAVID LOMAS



THERE were few hitches as the twelve Area Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships were completed on the weekend 16-17 January. Many of the established schools such as The Grove, Market Drayton, and Bedford Modern came through unscathed to face the Regional Finals on 21 February at Pontefract (North), Stroud (Midlands & West) and Croydon (South East). There were some welcome new faces amongst the original entry total of 233 teams — exactly the same number of teams involved last season.

The following teams have qualified for the regional events:

North Region

Area 1 (Hull): B19 St Mary's Sixth Form College Middlesbrough (Cv); G19 St Mary's Sixth Form College, Middlesbrough (Cv); B16 Sydnev Smith, Hull (Humberside); B13 Gosforth Central Middle, Newcastle (T&W); G13 Coulbly Newham, Middlesbrough (Cv); B11 Oxbridge Primary, Stockton (Cv); G11 Gosforth Central Middle, Newcastle (T&W).

Organiser Graeme Brook doesn't hold out much hope for teams from this area which involved schools from Cleveland, Humberside and Tyne & Wear. The St Mary's teams were unopposed and are an unknown quantity. Gosforth Central's four teams were reduced to two.

Area 2 (Leeds): B19 Hulme Grammar, Oldham (GM); G19 Fulneck Girls, Leeds (WY); B16 Selby (NY); G16 Silver Royd, Leeds (WY); B13 Hulme Grammar, Oldham (GM); G13 Bredbury, Stockport (GM); B11 Woodley Junior, Stockport (GM); G11 Archbishop Cranmer Middle, Leeds (WY).

A good day for teams from Greater Manchester. 'Match of the Day' was the encounter between Hulme GS and Temple Moor, Leeds, in the Under-19 B. A 4-4 draw meant a 'sudden death' doubles which went to three games and meant a 'first' in the regional finals for Hulme GS. ESTTA chairman and organiser, John Arnold, says that Selby (North Yorkshire) look strong in the Under-16 B. In the Under-13 G event Bredbury disposed of local hopes Archbishop Cranmer, 5-3, even though England Cadet No 4, Katherine Goodall was unbeaten. But Cranmer's Under-11 Girls' team notched a decisive 8-0 win over Clarksfield Junior, Oldham.

Area 3 (Chorley): B19 Queen Katherine, Kendal (Cu); G19 Runshaw Tertiary College, Leyland (La); B16 Parkview, Barrow (Cu); G16 Parkview, Barrow (Cu); B13 Parkview, Barrow (Cu); G13 Parkview, Barrow (Cu); B11 Yarleside, Barrow (Cu); G11 Yarleside, Barrow (Cu).

The Barrow teams dominated the proceedings at Chorley. Cheshire's eight teams were put to flight whilst Lancashire's sole winners were locals from nearby Leyland. ESTTA treasurer and organiser, Bob Wood, told me of the strength of the Cumbrians but also mentioned that Queen Katherine, Kendal, were taken to 5-3 by Arnold, Blackpool, and Tulkeith took Parkview to a similar margin in the G16.

Area 4 (Grantham): B19 Caistor Grammar (Li); G19 Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Li); B16 Aldercar, Heanor (Es); G16 Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Li); B13 Gosforth, Dronfield (Dv); G13 Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Li); B11 Dronfield Junior (Dv); G11 Great Gonerby CE, Grantham (Li).

Gwen Bray of Kesteven & Grantham Girls stepped in at short notice to act as organiser following the death of Frank Whittle who had been organiser for many years and was also secretary of the Lincolnshire Schools Association. Her Girls teams all won in convincing style, and have strength in depth, often the key to success. Gosforth School, Dronfield, are back on the trail of defending their national crown (B13) but another Dronfield team — Under-11 Girls from Dronfield Junior School had an unusual excuse for their exit at the hands of Great Gonerby. 'The tables are not long enough' was their serious claim!

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

Area 5 (Market Drayton): B19 King Edward VI, Stafford (St); G19 Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College (St); B16 Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Sp); G16 The Grove, Market Drayton (Sp); B13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Sp); G13 Brookhouse, Bucknall (St); B11 Market Drayton Junior (Sp); G11 Marychurch Primary, Bucknall (St).

A comprehensive report received from organiser and seasoned campaigner, Ian Marshall. Five teams involved from Ian's school, The Grove, but only two teams through. Some close results with doubles prescribed in three events. Karen Rogers and Natalie Riley teamed up to win the doubles for Stoke Sixth Form College (G19). Richard Brown and Christopher Day saw Mary Webb through (B16) and Joanne Foxall and Julie Bickerton put out national holders, The Grove, in the Girls' Under-13 category. But The Grove look strong in the Under 16 G with with four England-ranked juniors in their line-up. A quick look at the record books suggests that this season will be the first (since the event began in 1980) that Market Drayton Junior School will be absent from the national finals of the Girls' Under-11 event. They bowed out to Staffordshire hopefuls, Marychurch Primary but the Boys' Under-11's gained revenge by reversing the verdict. A bleak day for Hereford & Worcester.

Area 6 (Northampton): B19 Prince William Upper, Oundle (Np); G19 Highfields, Wolverhampton (WM); B16 Prince William Upper, Oundle (Np); G16 Kineton High, Warwick (Wa); B13 Crypt Boys' Grammar, Gloucester (G1); G13 Smestow, Wolverhampton (WM); B11 Warstones Junior, Wolverhampton (WM); G11 Oundle Middle (Np).

Honours spread fairly evenly amongst schools from Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands. Three wins out of five for teams from Wolverhampton, double success for Prince William whilst Kineton (Warwickshire) and Crypt Boys' GS (Gloucestershire) keep their counties' hopes alive. Organiser Phil Slade remarks upon Robert Loj — Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby's No 1 — being unbeaten. That astute Gloucestershire scribe, Alfred Peppard, knew straight away about the jewel in Crypt Boys' Grammar's Under-

13 crown — Raymond Powell — their unbeaten No 1. Other unbeaten players were Matthew White (Warstones Junior) and Kineton's Victoria Clark and Kerry Moran.

Area 7 (Plymouth): B19 Budehaven, Bude (Co); G19 Bridgwater College (So); B16 Camborne (Co); G16 Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater (So); B13 Budehaven, Bude (Co); G13 Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater (So); B11 Ipplepen, Newton Abbot (Dv); G11 Ipplepen, Newton Abbot (Dv).

Teams from Bridgwater and Bude took most of the honours. Appearances in the National Finals from teams from Cornwall are few and far between. Could this be one of them this year? Budehaven look lively candidates in the Under-19 event with brothers Neil and Andrew Bevan at Nos 1 and 2. Organiser Graham Pearson tips Bridgwater College to do well (G19). They have Melonie Carey at No 1. Other players to catch the eye were Steven Barrett (Budehaven Under-13's No 1) and David Heath (at No 1 for Devon's only winners, Ipplepen).

Area 8 (Southampton): b19 Richard Taunton College, Southampton (Ha); G19 Richard Taunton College, Southampton (Ha); B16 Brislington, Bristol (Av); G16 Talbot Heath, Bournemouth (Do); B13 Salesian College, Farnborough (Ha); G13 Brislington, Bristol (Av); B11 Holymead Junior, Bristol (Av); G11 Holymead Junior, Bristol (Av).

Harold Albery reports that the Boys' Under-13 team from Salesian College, Farnborough could do well at Stroud, even though the margin of their win over Swanage Middle (Dorset) was a 21-7, 21-14 doubles win by Daniel Hacker and David Coulston. A good day for teams from Bristol.

Area 9 (St Neots): B19 Bedford Modern (Bd); B16 Bedford Modern (Bd); G16 Longsands, St Neots (Ca); B13 Bedford Modern (Bd); G13 Ipswich High (Sk); B11 Orwell Park, Ipswich (Sk); G11 Halifax Primary, Ipswich (Sk).

'A higher standard of play this year,' says Cliff Oliver. He was no doubt pleased with a win for locals, Longsands, in the Girls' Under-16 event. In a closely-fought contest they outpointed former national finalists Stopsley (Beds) and Thurlston (Suffolk). Newcomers Hellesdon (Norwich) acquitted themselves well but were victims of Bedford Modern's triple success. New faces from Ipswich, Halifax Primary, ousted Richard Teague's hopefuls, Ramridge Junior, Luton.

Area 10 (Newbury): B19 Windsor Boys' (Bk); B16 Warriner, Bloxham (Ox); B13 Banbury (Ox); B11 Emmer Green Primary, Reading (Bk); G11 South Lake Junior, Reading (Bk).

No joy for teams from Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Highlight of the day's proceedings was the match between England cadet-ranked players, Martin Adams (No 6) and Gavin Yates (No 11) in the Boys' Under-19 event. Adams' won 21-18 in the third and helped to put Windsor Boys' through against Lord William's School, Thame. A closely-fought scrap in Boys' Under-16 with Warriner School beating St Bartholomew's (Newbury), Richard Hale, Hertford and Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. Banbury (Under-13 B) convincing winners and Harriers Primary School, Banbury, No 1 Simon Hicks winning both his matches — one of them 29-27 in the third (B11). South Lake Junior, Reading, are a good all-round quartet, says Newbury-based organiser, Ian Langleigh.

Area 11 (Brent): B19 Peniel Academy, Brentwood (EC); B16 Mayflower, Billericay (EC); G16 Peniel Academy, Brentwood (EC); B13 Plume, Maldon (EC); G13 Peniel Academy, Brentwood (EC); B11 Buttsbury Junior, Billericay (EC); G11 Buttsbury Junior, Billericay (EC).

Things aren't what they used to be,' bemoans organiser, Alan Shepherd, I know what he means. Teams from this area (Essex county, Essex Metropolitan, Inner London and Middlesex) used to dominate the formative years of the championships. But all the qualifiers this time are from Essex county. Damian Holland at No 1 for Mayflower (B16) but not candidates to make further progress. Both Under-11 events involved Buttsbury and St Joseph's Rotherhithe (Inner London). The Boys' margin was 8-0 and the Girls' 5-3.

Area 12 (Croydon): B19 Ifield Community College (WSx); B16 Sir Joseph Williams', Rochester (KC); B13 Cumnor House, Croydon (SM); G13 Hillcross Middle, Morden (SM); B11 Cumnor House, Croydon (SM); G11 Hillcross Middle, Morden (SM).

Some talented players on view. National Under-16 holders, Ifield Community College (West Sussex) eased through to victory in the Under-19 category, with 8-0 wins over St John's, Leatherhead and Harvey GS, Folkestone, plus a 7-1 win against Purley Boys. Should be quite a battle in the South and East Regional Under-19 event when Ifield take on national holders, Bedford Modern School. Good wins for Cumnor House, Croydon, in the Boys' Under-13 and Under-11 events. Darren Blake (ETTA National Under-11 champion) outstanding for Cumnor Under-11's but brother Jason and team-mate Robin Shah lost in a 'tie-breaker' doubles to Samuel Taylor and Ian Felton of St Joseph William's Mathematical School, Rochester, thus ending Whitgift's hopes. A blank day for teams from Surrey county and Kent metropolitan.

The regional final of the Girls' Under-19 event took place at Monks Hill Sports Centre, Croydon on 17 January. Teams involved were Brentwood, Dartford GS, Leventhorpe and Luton Sixth Form College. Luton squeezed through on superior sets ratio but the others hope to be back next year to have another go.

Schools, Southern Region

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The young ones

by DAVID LOMAS

IN recent years one of the more encouraging aspects of schools table tennis has been the interest and support from the youngest of the ESTTA's age categories — the Under-11s.

ESTTA Team Championships Secretary, Geoff Gardiner from Chorley, Lancs, has sent me the following.

Since its formation in 1974, the Chorley and District Primary Schools League has provided regular competition for some 15 schools in the area. Teams consist of four players under 11 — boys, girls or mixed. Several schools have entered two and occasionally three teams. In the 14 seasons since its formation the league has produced 16 Lancs Schools' TTA Under-11 winners (3 mixed, 7 boys and 6 girls).

Three players who began their competitive careers in the league now figure in county and national ranking lists in their respective age groups and have gained selection for the ESTTA's Schools' International teams — Sean Gibson, Andrew Eden and Maria Thornley.

But the peak of the league's achievement came in 1985 when Highfield County Primary School, Chorley, were the Girls' Under-11 champions in the Dunlop National School Team Championships. It was on that occasion that the doubles pairing of Maria Thornley and Joanne Locke were jointly awarded the Girls 'Best Performance' Trophy when the duo recovered from seven points down in the deciding game to snatch the title. Maria has continued to make good progress. In May she became ESTTA national champion at Under-13 level and in December she reached the final of the ETTA's national cadet (Under-14) championships.

Although the league has suffered from the national trend of falling numbers there are signs this season of a resurgence of interest.

Footnote: All three Chorley teams were defeated by schools from Barrow-in-Furness when they met in the Area 3 Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships at Chorley on 16 January.

ENGLAND No 14 FROM LEICESTER



Leicester stalwart Chris Roger although No 14 in the England rankings seldom steps into the limelight. This photo was taken at Burton-on-Trent, Meadowside Centre.

DON STEPS IN

THE new organiser for the South of England 3 Star on 16-17 April is Don Beesley, 6 Stanley Square, Carshalton Beeches, Sutton, Surrey SM5 4LX, phone: 01-669 3755.

SOUTHERN REGION

Cippenham the leaders by BRIAN LAMERTON

LEEDS Southern Regional League

AFTER the first two months of the league's existence it is proving to be a keenly contested event with matches eagerly awaited and is hopefully providing the pattern for bigger things to come. It is fast looking like a Kingfisher/Cippenham battle for the first prize of £170.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cippenham A	5	5	0	35	10	15
Kingfisher A	3	3	0	22	5	9
Hursley	4	3	1	24	12	8
Generation 2	4	1	3	14	22	4
Kingfisher B	4	1	3	12	24	3
Isle of Wight	4	1	3	10	26	2
Cippenham B	4	0	4	9	27	1

The mini ladies league being run alongside the Men's event also promises to provide the right encouragement for those looking on from outside to 'come on in' next season. Generation 2, with both Sarah Hammond and Sarah Turner maintaining 100% records, are running away with the title at a time which sees Miss Turner enter the computer rankings for the first time.



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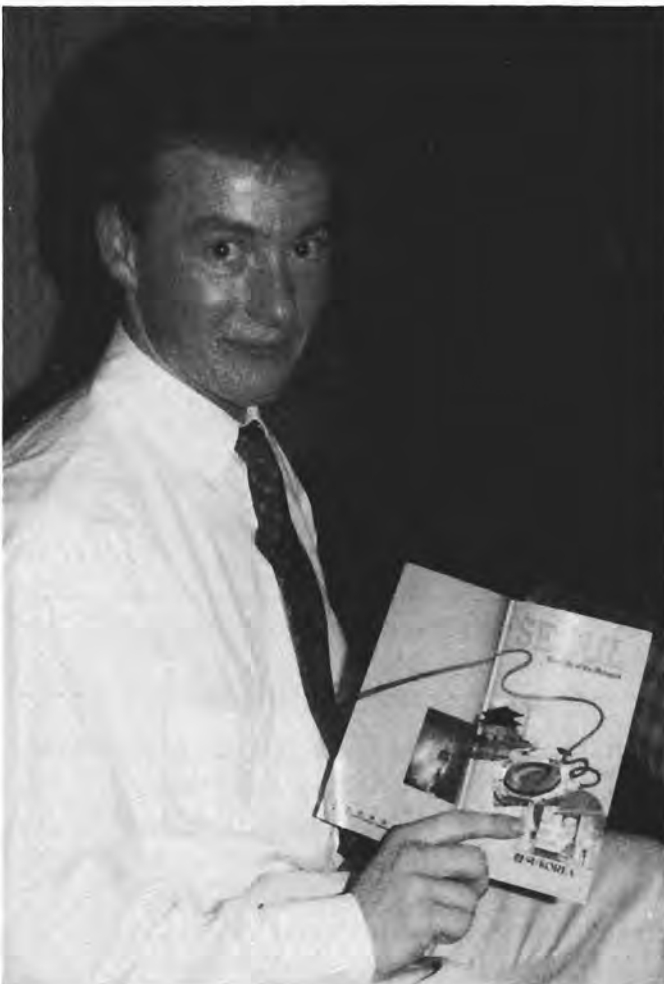


The Great Britain squad in Karlsruhe, left to right, Jill Parker, Carl Prean, Fiona Elliot, Don Parker, Lisa Lomas, Alan Cooke, Alison Gordon and manager Roy Evans. Picture Denis George.

Mason bids for second half success



Nicky Mason, Surrey, started the season with a flourish at Farnborough, finishing second in The Leeds-Stiga Top-12 to Carl Prean. He was given a wild card to the Europe v Asia match at Thornaby and played well. He now seeks a strong finish to the season and a place in the English squad for Paris at the European Championships.



Alan Cooke, the England No 2, assured of a place in the European team for Seoul, caught by Denis George's camera perusing the Korean travel guides.

THE CHAIRMAN 19 YEARS



Bill Booker (right) bids farewell to the Eastbourne Table Tennis League after sitting in the hot seat of chairman for 19 years. At a presentation at the Fairlands Hotel, Eastbourne he was presented with parting gifts by the long-serving president Mr Ted Dobell (left), who said, 'You did a wonderful job with dedication and ingenuity.' The new chairman is Miss Pat Watson. Picture Eastbourne Gazette & Herald.

DUTCH RANKINGS

SKYLET IS RANKED No 3 IN HOLLAND

A DUTCH ranking list has arrived at the *Table Tennis News* office. It is not entirely clear whether it is THE ranking list or a 'wintercircuit' affair, however with four English names not far from the top it makes it worth publishing.

Fascinating to see that Skylet Andrew is ranked No 3 under Paul Haldan and Henk van Spanje, whilst Bob Potton is at No 8 with Dave Wells down at No 15. On the women's list, it seems that Mirjam Kloppenburg has caught up with her illustrious team-mate Bettine Vriesekoop — they are ranked equal top and Dutch resident for some ten or more years now — July Williams (formerly of Sussex) is still hanging in at No 8 and no doubt, still chopping them off around the dykes.



Skylet Andrew.

We also have results of a tournament which could be the Dutch championships as most of the big guns except Skylet Andrew played. The winner was the top-seeded former Rumanian Paul Haldan who defeated the second-seeded Henk von Spanje 17, 12, 18 in the final. Kloppenburg clobbered the opposition in the women's singles in which Vriesekoop apparently did not show. Patricia de Grott was the runner-up.

MEN

- 1 Paul Haldan
- 2 Henk van Spanje
- 3 Skylet Andrew
- 4 Ron van Spanje
- Tibor Kreisz
- 6 Bart van Haren
- 7 Frank Boute
- 8 Bob Potton
- 9 Danny Heister
- Geert Verhaegh
- 11 Rob Turk
- 12 Peter de Vrind
- 13 Patrick Swier
- Trinko Keen
- Dave Wells

WOMEN

- 1 Bettine Vriesekoop
- Mirjam Kloppenburg
- 3 Patricia de Grott
- 4 Emily Noor
- Ellen Bakker
- 6 Gerdie Keen
- 7 Judy Williams
- 9 Ingrid van Osselaer
- 10 Heleen Hop

The Parker progress report

by DIRECTOR OF COACHING, DONALD PARKER

TWELVE months into the job I can say I have thoroughly enjoyed the year and as in most management positions have found delegation to be one of the key roles.

With the necessary re-organisation the whole situation had to be examined. As far as each Centre of Excellence is concerned we have a monitoring system including attendance reports. Three centres have all been visited at least twice by Nicky Jarvis who of course reports back to myself.

Major changes

In the last twelve months there have been major changes within the coaching structure. Firstly a Nationwide Network of Regional Coaches have been appointed in an attempt to improve the service to leagues. More responsibility has been given to the Regional Chairmen and to the coaches and the future success of the coaching scheme is very much in their hands. We have ten Centre of Excellence schemes constantly under review with each Centre having Advanced Training Centres feeding into it. We have almost reached a situation where each league in the country is allocated an ATC to which it will have the opportunity to send young promising players.

In launching the new ETTA Coaching Videos I met over 500 working coaches around the country and as a result of the discussions we are re-organising the whole Coach Education Structure. The major difference will be the inclusion of National



Don Parker.

Coaching Foundation Courses which I believe will improve the standard of coaching in this country.

There is little doubt that this progress could not have been possible without the unrewarded tireless efforts of many people but in particular Stuart Sneyd, the vice-chairman of coaching and selection. Stuart will shortly be presenting much greater detail of the above mentioned developments once the loose ends have been tidied up.



£5,000 CASH INCENTIVES: LEEDS HELP US AGAIN



IN AN unprecedented incentive scheme the Leeds Permanent Building Society awarded five English players with cash prizes of £1,000 for the best performances at Brighton. The winners were Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Skylet Andrew, Andrea Holt and Nicky Mason. In a comment from Mason after hearing of his prize said, 'I am very pleased to win, I did not think I had done enough to win it'. His five victims included in Round 2 the Irish surprise packet Colum Slevin who lives in Switzerland and plays in Germany. Miss Holt knocked out the world No 27 Hui So Hung (Hong Kong) and only lost over five gruelling games to the world No 4 from China Jiao Zhimin, that was probably the best performance by an English player this season, even though she lost.

The Sixth World Student Table Tennis Championships

EASTERN BLOC STUDENTS VERY STRONG



By Teresa Moore.

THE Sixth World Student Table Tennis Championships took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, 28 November to 6 December. It was an experience that all the British squad will remember. (Men's team: Adrian Moore, David Dodd, Brian Wright, Philip Logsdon. Women's team: Teresa Moore, Michelle Hams, Lynn Johnston, Claire Hunter.)

The opposition were very tough with many of the smaller countries not turning up, leaving the Orientals and Eastern Bloc countries. In the women's team event the British team were faced with Bulgaria and Russia in their group, losing 3-1 to Bulgaria and 3-0 to Russia against very strong opposition such as Guergueltcheva of Bulgaria. In the cross over match against Austria, Britain lost and so had to play Canada for 11/12 place. Unfortunately our women's team lost, although earlier Michelle and Teresa had beaten the No 2 in a friendly match.

In the men's event Korea, Brazil, and Poland proved too strong opposition for the British team, but they had a fine win 5-0 against Vietnam in the cross over. However they fell at the next hurdle against France and so were faced with Austria for 11/12 place. They had a strong tussle with them, Adrian taking 2 matches, but they had to settle for 12 place.

China were the overall men's and women's team event winners and also took all the individual events.

In the individual singles Adrian, Dave and Michelle were the only ones to win their first matches. Adrian and Dave eventually losing to J. Boehm of Germany and P. Miroslaw of Poland, respectively, with Michelle recording a good win against V. Toleva of Bulgaria. In the mixed doubles event Adrian and Teresa, and Dave and Michelle both won their first round matches, while in the men's doubles Adrian and Dave had a brilliant win against Solopov and Svetlichni of Russia.

Picture Parade 2



Dancing the night away at the Southern Veterans Championships at St Albans, Dave Perry, international umpire for Middlesex and Val Roffe, tournament referee from Essex. Picture: Fred Groom.



★
Caroline Searle and Rob Oldfield enjoyed their return to the table tennis scene where at the invitation of Alan Ransome, helped to run the media centre. Caroline is PR and Press Officer for the British Olympic Association. Rob is a previous editor of Table Tennis News. Picture: J.W.



★
Ted Wallbuton (left), chief executive ETTA was delighted with the exciting table tennis he saw at Cleveland. Former world champion Johnny Leach (right) is preparing an article for the next issue of this magazine, although at the moment he is giving priority to losing some weight! Picture: J.W.



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NATIONAL RANKING TRIALS AT LILLESHALL

No doubts on Bradley and Andrea at Lilleshall junior ranking event

by MIKE WATTS

BRADLEY Billington (Derbyshire) and Andrea Holt (Lancashire) were, as expected, the overall winners of the National Ranking trials held at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall over the weekend of 2-3 January. In the Cadet events, Neil Bevan (Cornwall) and Ellen Meddings (Yorkshire) emerged victorious

On Saturday, it was the Junior Boys and Cadet Girls that started with the Junior Boys in eight groups of eight players and the Cadet Girls in four groups of eight players with the top two going through to the knockout stages. As expected almost all of the eight seeds finished top of their group, the exception being Damien Holland (Essex) who, seeded in his group, lost all his matches with the exception of his last trip to the table when he took out the overall winner, Leigh Jeffries (Birmingham) two straight. Lilleshall seems to be a bogey venue for Holland who on an earlier visit in the Junior Top 12 in April, failed to win a game. In the knockout stages, all matches went according to plan pitching Billington against the fourth seed Adrian Thorpe (Wolverhampton) and Chris Oldfield (Yorkshire) the third seed against his team-mate and rival Michael O'Driscoll also of Yorkshire. Oldfield who earlier this season has been plagued by injury and illness showed he is right back to form by winning two straight against O'Driscoll and also taking the second game from Billington in the final.

Shock defeat

The Cadet Girls followed the same pattern with the top four seeds coming through although the eventual winner, Ellen Meddings, suffered a shock defeat in the group by Maria Thornley (Lancashire). Meddings eventually qualifying as runner-up. The knockout then paired the top seed Helen Potts (Cheshire) against Meddings with the latter winning comfortably and Maria Thornley beating the promising Yorkshire lass Kate Goodall who had a great weekend. In the final, Meddings gained revenge for the group defeat winning fairly easily in the end after a struggle in the first game.

Vice-chairman

Saturday's play finished over one hour ahead of schedule and presentations of medallions were made by Stuart Sneyd, ETTA Vice-Chairman for Selection and Coaching.

Sunday came all too soon as the Junior Girls and Cadet Boys took over with six groups of eight players in each section. For some it was a continuation of where they left off on the Saturday evening, notably Neil Bevan, Gary Knight, Brian Mileham, Sally Marling, Ellen Meddings, Kate Goodall, Helen Potts and Helen Wright. The Junior Girls ran to form with all six seeds winning their groups with only Nicola McGrath (Lancashire) losing to Alison Ledwith (Warwickshire) in a thrilling counter-hitting match 21-19, 20-22, 21-18. In the quarter finals, second seed Claire Potts (Cheshire) crashed to Yorkshire's Joanne Roberts in the third and Julie Billington, now back to something like her old form after a wrist injury, beat Debbie Toole (Yorkshire) 21-17 in the third. The semi-finals saw Andrea Holt beat Billington and fourth seed Julie Norman (Berkshire) beat Roberts and Andrea Holt duly wrapped up the title two straight. Twelve year-old Kate Goodall did exceptionally well to qualify for the final stages with six wins out of seven and reached the quarter-finals before losing to the eventual winner.

Last time Brian Mileham (Kent) came to Lilleshall he, like Damian Holland, lost all his games in the Junior Top-12, not this time however. Having gained a creditable fifth place in his Junior Boys Singles group on Saturday, as second seed he made no mistake in Group 2 winning all his seven games. The other three top seeds all qualified as winners even though James Patterson (Herts) did lose to Alex Perry in his group. All four seeds then proceeded to the semi-finals although Gary Knights nearly threw away a winning lead being 20-15 up in the third over Jason Blake (Surrey) only to be hauled back to 20 all. Neil Bevan (Cornwall) the top seed comfortably reached the final beating Patterson but Knights and Mileham had a 'battle royal' in the other semi before Mileham pulled away to win 21-14 in the third. The final was equally as good with Bevan finally taking the title 21-16 in the third.



Bradley Billington — picture Brian Webster, Dundee.

THE 15-MINUTE BREAKDOWN

Footnote: How many times has an Organiser turned round at the end of a tournament to find only himself left to handle all the breakdown of equipment? I know from bitter experience, more times than he likes to remember. So how refreshing it was at the end on Sunday night to see so many persons willing to help clear up. So take a bow Lancashire and in particular Wilton and Andrea Holt, Maria Thornley and 'Mum' Mrs Thornley, Debbie Fletcher, Darryl Sneyd and of course 'Dad' plus Donald and Jill Parker together with Deputy Referee Geoff Taylor in clearing the whole hall within 15 minutes.

Results:

Junior Boys Q/F

- B. Billington (Dy) bt M. Pernet (Sy), 21, 17
- L. Jeffries (Wa) bt N. Bevan (Co), -11, 10, 11
- C. Oldfield (Y) bt T. Cutler (Mi), 10, 14
- M. O'Driscoll (Y) bt J. Taylor (Ch), -15, 12, 18

Semi-Finals

- B. Billington bt L. Jeffries, 10, 15
- C. Oldfield bt M. O'Driscoll, 19, 13

Final

- B. Billington bt C. Oldfield, 11, -19, 9

Junior Girls Q/F

- A. Holt (La) bt K. Goodall (Y), 16, 14
- J. Billington (D) bt D. Toole (Y), -16, 14, 17
- J. Norman (Bk) bt N. McGrath (La), 16, -15, 17
- J. Roberts (Y) bt C. Potts (Ch), 16, -13, 13

Semi-Finals

- A. Holt bt J. Billington, 12, -21, 11
- J. Norman bt J. Roberts, 17, 14

Final

- A. Holt bt J. Norman, 9, 11

Cadet Boys Semi-Finals

- N. Bevan bt J. Patterson, 15, 10
- B. Mileham bt G. Knights, -17, 18, 14

Final

- N. Bevan bt B. Mileham, 19, -14, 16

Cadet Girls Semi-Finals

- E. Meddings bt H. Potts, 13, 14
- M. Thornley bt K. Goodall, 12, 18

Final

- E. Meddings bt M. Thornley, 18, 8

Irish, Welsh, Scots and English players

by ALAN STRONG

THE News Letter Ulster Open Table Tennis Championships held in Belfast on 6-7 November had two venues: Loughside Recreation Centre hosted the Team Event on Friday, and included over a dozen cross-channel players. After a late arrival due to traffic control problems at Heathrow Airport Nigel Thomas of Wales lead an Anglo-Welsh side of Thomas, Malcolm Green (Shropshire) and Mary McMullan (Ulster) to a winning lead in the Team Event. The Anglo-Welsh team defeated Ulster 3-4-3, despite Thomas losing to Andrew Dennison (Ireland), and then defeated Northumberland A of Peter McQueen, Ian Robertson and Karen Guthrie by a similar 4-3 scoreline.

The Individual Championships moved to Avoniel Leisure Centre on Saturday. In a tournament which could have produced any one of a dozen winners in the Men's Singles, Nigel Thomas after a disappointing performance on Friday seemed determined to take the title and indeed cruised through to the final after a quarter-final victory over Jim Dill (Ireland) and semi-final victory over Ian Robertson (Northumberland). Robertson had defeated Ulster star Derek Weir after the Ulster defender had accounted for 3rd seed Ian Stokes in a last 16 round.

Scottish star Ian McClean, never short of an extrovert performance, was equally impressive defeating Malcolm Green from Shropshire in the quarter-finals and accounting for Anglo-Welsh star Martin Kinsella (Derbyshire) in the semi-final. Kinsella in pursuit of more Irish caps had an interesting victory over Andrew Dennison (Ireland) 21/19 in the third set in the last 16 round.

McClean set about Thomas in the Men's Singles final with great gusto but after some heated arguments ran out a close victor by a scoreline of 21-15, 21-19.



Scotland were the winners of the team event at the Ulster Open in Belfast. In the final they beat Northumberland 4-3. Our picture depicts (left to right) Northumberland's Peter McQueen, Mrs K. Guthrie, Ulster Branch President Eric McDowell and Ian Robertson.

Karen Guthrie the much improved Northumberland star took out Ulster girl Nora McEvoy in the semi-final and accounted for Eleanor McLroy (Scotland) in a close Ladies' Singles final. The Scottish players continued to impress with McClean and McLroy coming through to the Mixed Doubles final before losing to local heroes Derek Weir and Liz Cheevers. McClean was in controversy again when he and Stokes opted to miss the Men's Doubles final conceding it to Thomas and Malcolm Green in a desire to catch a late evening ferry back to Scotland for a Sunday tournament. They arrived at the ferry on time but the boat decided to travel early!

The Ulster Open was sponsored by the News Letter, Ulster's leading morning newspaper, as part of their 250th anniversary celebrations. Mr Eddie Limberg Branch Chairman expressed his appreciation to Hugh McWilliams, Century Newspapers Marketing Director at the close of the evening play.

Men's Singles: Semi-final — N. Thomas bt I. Robertson, 16, 19; I McClean bt M. Kinsella, 10, 17. Final — I. McClean bt N. Thomas, 15, 19.
Ladies' Singles: Final — K. Guthrie bt E. McLroy, 20, 23.
Under-21 Mens': Final — I. Stokes bt A. Dennison, 20, 10.
Under-21 Ladies': Final N. McEvoy (Ulster) bt G. Redmond (Dublin).
Veteran Singles: Final — R. Copes (Ulster) bt R. Dodds (Northumberland).
Ladies' Doubles: Final — J. Reid/L. Cheevers (Ulster) bt N. McEvoy/McMullan (Ulster).
Mixed Doubles: Final — D. Weir/L. Cheevers (Ulster) bt I. McClean/E. McLroy (Scotland).
Junior Boy's: Final — D. Strong (Ulster) bt S. Loughridge (Ulster).
Junior Girl's: Final — G. Redmond (Dublin) bt C. McMillan (Ulster).

MIDLAND LEAGUE

John Barber

Men's Section

Division 1 — Notts B 1 Gloucester A 9; Birmingham 7 Wolves 3. Division 2 — Nuneaton 6 Dudley 4; Glos B 6 Bath 4. Bath moved easily into a 3-1 lead but Gloucester fought back to take five of the last six. Bill Dawe taking a treble and the doubles with S. Callum. Division 4 — Coventry B 8 Stratford A 2.

Juniors Section

Division 1 — Coventry 5 Stroud 5; Leicester 1 Notts A 9; Notts B 1 Leicester 9; Coventry A 3 Notts A 7. Stroud did well in gaining their first point, at Coventry, while Nottingham A retain their 100% record. Division 2 — Leamington A 9 Wolves 1. Although wolves went close in most games, they lost all six sets which went to the third which made it a good win for Leamington. Birmingham A 5 Dudley 5. Dudley's brilliant young team were well held by Birmingham for whom Dave Ameghino scored a fine treble. Birmingham 2 Eastwood 8. Another good win for Eastwood who seem in good contention for promotion. Division 3 — Coventry B 6 Banbury 4; Oxford 6 Coventry B 4; Leamington B 3 Walsall 7. Steve Atherton's im-

pressive treble helped Walsall to a fine victory. Division 4 — Kidderminster 10 Cheltenham 0 (by default); Bromsgrove 3 Rugby 7. Craig Ward scored a fine treble for Bromsgrove. Coventry C 8 Bromsgrove 2 (Craig Ward again).

Intermediates Section

Dudley 4 Eastwood 6. Dudley's first defeat. Eastwood retain 100% record, by narrowly clinching the last two sets. An excellent competition.

Women's Section

Nottingham 2 Wolverhampton 8. Wolves continue their winning sequence.

Veterans' Section

Division 1 — Birmingham B 3 Oxford A 7. Although Ray Barton put up some resistance, Oxford thoroughly deserved their win. Walsall B 7 Coventry 3. Although Walsall had the edge this was an excellent match played in very good spirit (a typical remark in most match reports). Oxford 8 Walsall B 2; Notts A 8 Walsall A 2; Leamington 5 Coventry A 5. Notts A have won all their matches in fine style. Division 2 — Leicester 7 West Bromwich B 3. Telford 9 Stratford 1;

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



COACHING COURSE FOR PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT

Date: Monday 30 May-Thursday 2 June 1988. (These dates coincide with the majority of school half-terms).

Venue: Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Nr Newport, Salop.

Coaches: D. Parker, ETTA Director of Coaching and England Team Manager; N. Jarvis, ETTA National Coach and former England No 1 Senior Player.

Cost: £110 inclusive of VAT.

The course is ideal for any players looking to improve whatever age or standard. Arrival will be for lunch at 13.00 on the Monday and departure after lunch on the Thursday. There are only 10 places available so book early by sending the full amount (payable to 'ETTA') to:

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
21 CLAREMONT, HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX TN34 1HF

Please reserve me a place on the Coaching Course at Lilleshall on 30 May-2 June 1988.

My cheque for £110 is enclosed.

NAME

ADDRESS

Leeds County Championships 1

Clive Morris unbeaten for Kent

by DOUG MOSS

VETS PREMIER: The eight teams met at Ashford TTC just prior to Christmas and each played four matches. Cheshire, the current champions, were unbeaten but Kent, in the lower half of the Table last season, also won all their matches. Kent head the League having dropped only six events! A big factor must have been the form of Clive Morris (K), who won just over 50% of his singles events last season. This time he achieved 100% in singles with wins over such players as David Seaholme, Matt Sheader and Alec Watson. Margaret Dignum (K) also won all her singles and, with Clive Morris, got a 'clean sheet' in the mixed events.

Cheshire's closest match was against Bucks, who lie at the bottom of the table. Bucks actually led 3-2, with Alex Watson being involved in two of the wins. At this stage Cheshire came back strongly taking the next three events. In the final singles Paul Shirley (Bu) beat Derek Schofield 13, -15, 17. Essex had two hard matches — from 3-0 down they came back to 4-4 against Middlesex, when Stan Batrick (E) beat Babs Adedayo (Mi) 19, -3, 20. Alan Lindsay clinched the match for Middlesex with a win over John Tendler. Essex stood at 3-3 with Sussex. At 3-4 Stan Batrick was involved in another close match but, on this occasion lost to Keith Horton (Sx) -18, 15, -19. An important addition to the Essex team was Lesley Radford, who won all her singles with little difficulty and the mixed with partners John Tendler and Derek Wood.

There were two other unbeaten players over the series namely Roger Hampson and Doreen Schofield (Ch), who both topped the averages last season.

The championship certainly seems to lie with either Cheshire or Kent. They meet in the second series, which should be a very interesting match!

RESULTS

Ch 6	Sx 3	E 4	Mi 5
Mi 7	He 2	Sx 7	Bu 2
K 9	Bu 0	K 8	He 1
Li 6	E 3	Li 2	Ch 7
Bu 4	Ch 5	Mi 2	K 7
Li 3	K 6	He 2	Ch 7
He 4	E 5	Li 6	Bu 3
Sx 5	Mi 4	E 3	Sx 6

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kent	4	4	0	30	6	8
Cheshire	4	4	0	25	11	8
Sussex	4	3	1	21	15	6
Middlesex	4	2	2	18	18	4
Lincs	4	2	2	17	19	4
Essex	4	1	3	15	21	2
Bucks	4	0	4	9	27	0
Herts	4	0	4	9	27	0

SENIOR 2A:— Warwicks 4, Suffolk 6; Worcs 3, Suffolk 7; Lancs II 3; Yorks 7; Staffs 8, Warwicks 2; N'berland 6, Cheshire 4.

Suffolk had a profitable visit to the Midlands getting two wins. After winning Div 3 last season they seem favourites for Div 2A title and quick promotion to Premier Div. Staffs' fortunes are improving. Against Warwicks

they again fielded Fiona Elliott and Adrian Dixon. Barry Johnson (Wa) beat Adrian but lost to Andy Rich, who won his two singles for Staffs.

SENIOR 2B:— Kent 5, Middlesex II 5; Wilts 4, Somerset 6; Hants 4, Sussex 6; Avon 2, Devon 8.

Middlesex were 3-5 down but took the last two singles to force a draw. The Middlesex ladies (R. Knight and G. Blanch) made a valuable contribution with three wins. Devon's win make them likely Premier Div contenders next season.

SENIOR 3A:— Warwicks II 8, Leics II 2; Cheshire II 6, Worcs II 4.

Warwicks continue their unbeaten run. Julie Revill and Joanne Pickles won their singles for Leics but lost the doubles to Fiona Sutton and Alison Ledwith. Cheshire/Worcs were 4-4 when Maureen Green and Andrew Wright won their singles to give Cheshire the win.

SENIOR 3B:— Somerset II 3, Dorset I 7; Cornwall II 3, Avon II 7; Cornwall I 10; Avon II 0; Devon II 8, Dorset II 2.

Dorset had a comfortable win to put them in a strong position for the champs. The have lost only four events in four matches. Avon II visited Launceston and started with a win against Cornwall II but later in the day were given a 'whitewash' by the first team.

SENIOR 3C:— Beds II 1, Herts II 9; Cambs II 2, Cambs I 8; Beds 5, Hants 5; Suffolk II 2, Northants I 8; Suffolk II 6, Northants II 4.

Cambs I win over their second team indicates they will make an immediate return to Div 2. The second team wins came from Geoff Davies and Yvette Hooks. There were some close events in the Beds/Herts clash. Mark Taylor (He) beat Keith McConnell (Bd) -8, 10, 20. The ladies' doubles went to Herts when Lynne Harrison/Karen Morton beat Dawn Campbell/Mary Jarrett 17, -19, 18.

SENIOR 3D:— Hants II 3, Berks II 7.

Score sheets for 9 Jan rather late in this Div!

JUNIOR 2A:— Beds 1, Hunts 4; Cambs 1, Yorks II 9.

Beds strengthened their position at the top of this Div with their win over Hunts. The Bowlers (Peter and Colin) won their four singles. Peter Bowler retains his 100% singles record. Yorks II have a strong team as demonstrated by their comprehensive defeat of Cambs.

JUNIOR 2B:— Somerset 4, Middlesex 6; Glam 2, Kent 8; Sussex 8, Essex II 2.

T. Cutler and M. Boon won five events for Middlesex to set up their win. N. McKoy applied the coup de grace with a 11, 11 win against A. Gallop in the final event.

JUNIOR 3A:— Leics 6, Derby II 4; Durham 7, Lancs III 3.

Leics' good win over Derby II, previously unbeaten, opens up this Div. Durham, who drew in a previous match with Leics, are also in the running. Chris Kinsey and Richard Grimley made a valuable contribution with five wins for Leics. Andrew Clark (Le) got the other win when he beat Darren Pacey 10, -5, 7!

JUNIOR 3B:— Cambs II 0, Norfolk I 10; Hunts II 6, Warwick II 4; Oxfords 2, Berks 8; Norfolk II 3, Northants 7.

Norfolk I and Berks both had very good wins. Berks head the table but their match with Norfolk in March will probably decide the champs of this Div. Martin Adams (Bk No 1) maintained his unbeaten singles record. Mark Banks also won two singles but he and Martin lost the doubles to Paul Poulter/Gavin Yates 17, -17, -14. Warwick II made a good recovery against Hants. From 1-5 down they came back to 4-5 for an exciting vital finale when Andrew Hover (Hu) beat Stuart Taylor -17, 19, 19!

JUNIOR 3C:— Glos 7, Cornwall I 3; Glos 6, Cornwall II 4; Worcs 10, Wilts 0; Cornwall II 1, Avon 9; Cornwall I 6, Avon 4; Glos 4, Dorset 6.

Both Cornish teams visited Nailsworth (Glos) — suffering two defeats. Three Cornish players played for both the first and second teams and three sets were repeated with the same players. Interesting that in two of these the results in the matches differed!



Doug Moss

JUNIOR 3D: Surrey II 6, Herts II 4; Essex III 6, Bucks II 4; Middlesex II 8, Berks II 2; Kent II 9, Sussex II 1.

VETS 2A:— Yorks 7, Worcs 2; Norfolk 5, Warwick 4; Essex II 6, Worcs 3; Notts v Leics — postponed.

Yorks defeat of Worcs makes them favourites for the championship of this Div. Norfolk won three very close matches to get the 5-4 win over Warwicks. Tony Hipperson beat Terry Bache at 19 in third game, Maureen Wilson beat Ann Lloyd at 20 in third; Mick Broughton/Tony Hipperson beat Terry Bache/Ray Barton 12, -17, 22!

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

Surrey ended Kent's unbeaten run and must now be favourites to win this Div. Connie Warren and Derek Holman won all their singles — continuing Derek's unbeaten run.

VETS 3A:— Yorks II 8, Cheshire III 1; Hunts I 9, Clwyd 0; N'berland 6, Lincs II 3.

A good win for Yorks — unbeaten in four matches. Lancs are also unbeaten and the 'Battle of the Roses' on 6 February should decide the championship of this Div. The one event for Ches was a doubles win by Vince Mole/Ron Buckley.

VETS 3B:— Berks IV 7, Hunts II 0; Northants 7, Norfolk II 2.

Dave Horth came into the Berks team and was involved in three wins. In the ladies singles event won by Jeanne Gloster (Bk) over Christine Albon 18 and 16, expedite was called at 18-16 in the first game.

VETS 3C:— Wilts II 3, Bucks II 6; Glos 6, Surrey III 3; Oxfords 9, Hertfords 0.

Bucks had a good win and still lead the field. The match v Oxfords in March will probably decide the champs of this section. Glos got their first points with Frank Jones winning his singles and the doubles with Roy Fowler.

Leeds County Championships 2

Tables including all results received to 15 January 1988

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Northumberland	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Cheshire	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Staffordshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Worcestershire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Yorkshire II	4	1	0	2	19	21	4
Warwickshire	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Lancashire II	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devonshire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Sussex	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Somerset	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Kent	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Avon	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Wiltshire	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Middlesex II	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Hampshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Norfolk	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Leicestershire II	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Cheshire II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Worcestershire II	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Cumbria	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset I	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Cornwall I	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Devonshire II	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Gloucestershire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Avon II	5	3	0	2	19	31	6
Cornwall II	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Somerset II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Herefordshire	4	0	0	4	13	27	0
Dorset II	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

Division 3C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambridgeshire I	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Northamptonshire I	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Cambridgeshire II	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Hertfordshire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Bedfordshire I	5	1	2	2	19	31	4
Northamptonshire II	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Suffolk II	5	1	1	3	19	31	1
Huntingdonshire	5	0	1	4	16	34	1
Bedfordshire II	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire I	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Essex II	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Sussex II	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Berkshire II	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3	9	31	1
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Hampshire II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

JUNIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Derbyshire	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Essex	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Staffordshire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Devonshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Warwickshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Nottinghamshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bedfordshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Lancashire II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Lincolnshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Yorkshire II	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Huntingdonshire	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Cambridgeshire	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Sussex	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Kent	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Middlesex	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Somerset	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Essex II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Durham	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Derbyshire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Leicestershire	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Clwyd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cheshire II	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Lancashire III	4	0	1	3	13	27	1

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire I	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Norfolk I	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Oxfordshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Northamptonshire	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Huntingdonshire II	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
Warwickshire II	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Norfolk II	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Cambridgeshire II	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

Division 3C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Avon	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Dorset	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Cornwall I	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Gloucestershire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Cornwall II	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Wiltshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Kent II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Buckinghamshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Essex III	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Hertfordshire II	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Surrey II	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Berkshire II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Sussex II	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

VETERANS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	4	4	0	0	30	6	8
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	25	11	8
Sussex	4	3	1	0	21	15	6
Middlesex	4	2	2	0	18	18	4
Lincolnshire	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Essex	4	1	3	0	15	21	2
Buckinghamshire	4	0	4	0	9	27	0
Hertfordshire	4	0	4	0	9	27	0



Nigel Tyler plays for Middlesex and for Wales. His performances last season for Middlesex helped to give them the premier division crown. (Picture: Denis George.)

Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	P	
Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	25	11	8
Norfolk	4	3	1	0	20	16	6
Essex II	3	2	1	0	15	12	4
Warwickshire	4	2	2	0	19	17	4
Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	15	21	4
Leicestershire	3	1	2	0	11	16	2
Cheshire II	4	0	4	0	15	21	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	2	0	5	13	0

Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	P	
Surrey	4	4	0	0	28	8	8
Kent II	4	3	1	0	23	13	6
Sussex II	4	3	1	0	20	16	6
Dorset	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Hampshire	4	1	3	0	17	19	2
Middlesex II	4	1	3	0	16	20	2
Berkshire	4	1	3	0	13	23	2
Hertfordshire II	4	1	3	0	10	26	2

Division 3A	P	W	L	F	A	P	
Yorkshire II	4	4	0	0	32	4	8
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	23	4	6
Huntingdonshire I	3	2	1	0	18	9	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	0	16	20	4
Cheshire III	3	1	2	0	9	18	2
Ciwyd	4	0	4	0	7	29	0
Lincolnshire II	3	0	3	0	3	24	0

Division 3B	P	W	L	F	A	P	
Essex III	3	3	0	0	19	8	6
Northamptonshire	4	3	1	0	23	13	6
Norfolk II	3	2	1	0	13	14	4
Berkshire IV	3	2	1	0	13	14	4
Hertfordshire III	4	1	3	0	17	19	2
Huntingdonshire II	3	1	2	0	11	26	2
Bedfordshire	4	0	4	0	12	24	0

Division 3C	P	W	L	F	A	P	
Oxfordshire	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Buckinghamshire II	4	4	0	0	26	10	8
Berkshire III	4	3	1	0	23	13	6
Surrey III	4	2	2	0	18	18	4
Hertfordshire IV	4	2	2	0	18	18	4
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	15	21	2
Wiltshire II	4	0	4	0	13	23	0

NORTH WALES COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by C. T. Baylis

East Flintshire Table Tennis League

THE Div 1 leaders are BSC Shotton with 95 points, in second place are Caerwrlle Boys' Brigade who are on 85 points just ten points behind the leaders, in third position with 77 are Cambrian District. In Div 2 BSC Shotton 'B' team are on top with 81, followed by in second place Hawarden with 74 and third place Castle Cement and also the Boys' Brigade A both on 61 points.

In Div 3 RAF Sealand are the leaders with 76 and second are Hawarden B team with 74 with Cambrian District third on 65 points.

Julie Richards (Ralphs) who now is back in the area and playing for Castell Alun is a most welcome lady player to see again, Julie who was playing some years ago for Wales moved to the London area and played for Buckinghamshire during those years away from North Wales.

Wrexham & District Table Tennis League

At the end of the year the leaders in Div 1 are Llay RBL A with 89, followed in second place by McAlpine Quarries A who have 83. They have played two matches less than Llay. Metal Box A are third with 70.

In Div 2 Llay RBL/B are the leaders with 64, followed in second position by Wrexham Old Boys C with 50. They have a game in hand over the Llay Legion side.

The Div 3 position still shows Wrexham OB D top with 87, followed with 75 Wrexham Lager and Old Boys E in third with 62. They however have played one game less than the other two top sides.

It is nice to see Wrexham well represented in the Clwyd County teams with Peter Williams, Bernard Carter and Barry Robertson all playing for the Clwyd Veterans side. Also playing for this team is Christine Watkins.

In the Clwyd Juniors Spencer Harris, Gary Jones and Martin Furber and Andrew Jones. Also playing is Natasha Williams from the Prestatyn area.

On Sunday, 17 January, at the Castell Alun Sports Complex the North Wales Closed Tournament will be held starting with Juniors, Cadets and Novices and Veterans Events at 10 am. Senior events start at 12.30pm. A full report will be given in a later number of the *TT News*.

Rhuddlan TTC

Tigers Ray Howland and Russell Howland and Roger Dunster top Section A of the team Handicap with Prestatyn's Natasha Williams and Janet Manning in hot pursuit in this eight-team event.

Pauline Dubie and son Andrew are Section 'B' leaders followed by Steve and Lyndsey Mellor. The Abergelge duo with Ruthin in third place. The schools section played at Ysgol-Y-Castell, Rhuddlan with Gwindy, Clwyd and Castell being the main contenders.

David Howarth, Darren Bagnall and Joanne Bastin and Beverley Roberts the top players.

Welsh League North

Veteran Division One

Llandudno 4, Rhuddlan Borough 1; Llandudno 4, East Flintshire 1; Llandudno 3, Wrexham 2; East Flints 3, Rhuddlan Borough, 2; East Flints 4, Wrexham 1; Rhuddlan Borough 3, Wrexham 2.

Ken Jones and Karl Harrison won every match for Llandudno to win the Veteran First Division title. Karl lost one set and Ken losing two, for the runners-up East Flintshire John Bowen was only beaten on one occasion.

Ladies Division

Llandudno 3, Rhuddlan Borough 2; Llandudno 4, Wrexham 1; Llandudno 4, East Flintshire 1; Rhuddlan Borough 4, Wrexham 1; Rhuddlan Borough 4, East Flints 1; Wrexham 3, East Flints 2.

Llandudno won the Ladies Division for the first time in their history with Natasha Williams and Kath Wilkinson. Natasha won five out of six singles with Kath winning three.

They won all three doubles played.

Susan Lees, Barbara Williams and Pru Oakes each won four singles.

Final Tables

Veteran Division 1

	P	W	L	Pts
Llandudno	3	3	0	6
East Flints	3	2	1	4
Rhuddlan Bor	3	1	2	2
Wrexham	3	0	0	0

Ladies Division

	P	W	L	Pts
Llandudno	3	3	0	6
Rhuddlan Bor	3	2	1	4
Wrexham	3	1	2	2
East Flints	3	0	3	0



North Wales continued in next column

THIRTY TWO TEACHERS PLAY AT GROVE SCHOOL

THERE are some schools where unbounded enthusiasm exists for table tennis. The best example that *Table Tennis News* has heard about recently is the Grove School at Market Drayton. Everything depends usually, on the zeal shown by the teachers — 32 in the tournament for the teachers must be a record?

Last Received — First Out

Last received first out, a maximum of 32 players accepted for the tournament and for number 33 bad luck! Mathematics teacher Huw Hughes applied the rule strictly for the Grove School Staff Table Tennis Tournament and made sure he had a full entry for the most popular and enjoyable of tournaments, but where was the entry of Grove's coach Ian Marshall, was he late? or was the pressure simply too great! It seems there are now very few left at Grove School who do not play table tennis, well done staff (who avoid playing the pupils like the plague).

Nice One David!

Grove's 12-year-old David Marshall, well known locally for his ability to sell raffle tickets by pestering the living daylight out of everybody, really excelled himself on the sponsorship scene.

David asked permission to leave school one lunchtime to go to Williams Garage of Market Drayton; permission granted David asked managing director Michael Williams if his business would sponsor Grove Table Tennis Club. In typical salesman-like

style David detailed the success and activities of the Club, Mr Williams asked for more details which David supplied the next day. David assured the club members that he would be successful in gaining sponsorship from the garage and any doubt was erased when Michael Williams phoned to donate a mini bus for the club's use, even better, the name of the club and sponsor were sign written on the side in impressive style.



Chris Wright, vice-chairman Competitions for the ETTA is having a busier season than he anticipated a year or so ago and proving to be a tower of strength in the first year of the new-look the ETTA Management Committee, *The Prean Team*.

Leeds County Championship Division 3A Junior

Played at Castell Alun Sports Complex, Hope, nr Wrexham on Saturday, 9 January 1988.

Clwyd Juniors 6, Cheshire II Juniors 4		
Gary Jones	Paul Madden	-12, -11 0-1
Martin Furber	Michael Watson	-19, -9 0-2
Spencer Harris	Chris Hayler	17, 15 1-2
Natasha Williams	Jill Schofield	7, 21 2-2
Susan Lees	Alison Jones	
Spencer Harris	Paul Madden	-17, -20 2-3
Gary Jones	Chris Hayler	
Gary Jones	Michael Watson	19, -20, 17 3-3
Susan Lees	Alison Jones	14, 15 4-3
Spencer Harris	Paul Madden	-18, 19, 17 5-3
Natasha Williams	Jill Schofield	5, 10 6-3
Martin Furber	Chris Hayler	20, -19, -17 6-4

Clwyd Juniors gained their first win of the season when they beat Cheshire II in their Leeds County Championship match at the Castell Alun Sports Complex at Hope near Wrexham.

A fine display by Spencer Harris in winning both his singles and supported by Gary Jones who won one set, Clwyd's girls Natasha Williams and Susan Lees both winning their singles and then combined to win their doubles against Jill Schofield and Alison Jones.

Clwyd's newcomer Martin Furber making his debut played quite well and should with more experience prove a good prospect.

For Cheshire Chris Hayler with two singles wins and Michael Watson and Paul Madden one each played very well, also Madden and Hayler taking their doubles.

Obituary, South-West Region, Cadet League

OBITUARY

JOHNNY SOMERVILLE

by RON CRAYDEN

JUST before Christmas table tennis lost yet another of its dedicated workers when Johnny Somerville died suddenly at his home in Warlingham, Surrey on 14 December, aged 64. He had been suffering from Emphysema for some time and although never looking particularly robust, his passing came as a great shock to all who knew him.

The name of Johnny Somerville perhaps means little to the average TT fan as he was one of those special people involved in the politics of administration without expecting any financial reward. He was an invaluable behind-the-scenes worker. I first met him during the war years when he was a serving member in the RAF with an insatiable appetite for playing table tennis; although it must be said his playing ability never quite matched his enthusiasm. After the war he became a proud team member of Jack Carrington's exclusive Albion Club.

Many years later we met again when we both worked for the CHUBB organisation, although in different divisions of the com-

pany. I found then that his enthusiasm for the sport had not waned, the difference being that he had put away his bat and was engrossed in administrative work.

His many notable contributions included the following: Hon Secretary of the Croydon League for several years. Organiser of Surrey tournaments and member of its Management Committee. Member of the organising committee of the 1984/85 National Schools Championships. Organiser of South of England 3 Star Open Championships. Organiser of South of England 2 Star Junior Open Championships. Father figure to junior players whom he nurtured and encouraged with the devotion of a professional manager.

Johnny virtually lived and breathed for table tennis and no job was too small or large for him to undertake. He was never blessed with great physical health but his mind was clear and analytical and he had a generous and helpful nature. He will be remembered for his tireless work on behalf of the sport he loved.

JOHN SOMERVILLE MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY of John Somerville's services to Surrey Table Tennis and to table tennis in general the Surrey County Table Tennis Association have decided to set up the above Fund. The purpose of the Fund will be to foster, encourage and financially help the deserving youth of table tennis which John himself did so much to promote.

If you should wish to donate some money towards this Fund please send your cheques, made payable to: STTA/John Somerville, to:

Jimmy Cartwright,
Treasurer Surrey STTA, 102 Hare Lane, Claygate, Surrey.

CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS from the ITTF . . .

1988

Feb 12-Feb 14
Mar 1-Mar 3
Mar 19-Mar 27
April 9-
April 10-April 11
May 20-May 22
June 6-June 11
June 17-June 19
July 30-Aug 7
Sept 23-Oct 1
Oct 28-Oct 30
Nov 17-Nov 20
Nov 25-Nov 27
Dec 1-Dec 4
Dec

European Top 12 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia
8th Israel Open Championships
16th European Championships Paris
Bermuda Open Championships
4th European Junior Top 12
Czech Junior Open Championships
4th Veterans World Championships
Hungarian Junior Open Championships
31st European Youth Championships
TABLE TENNIS AT THE OLYMPIC GAME
Italian Open Championships
Yugoslav Open Championships
Dutch Open Championships
French Open Championships
4th Oceania Championships

SOUTH WEST REGION NEWS

by ALF PEPPARD

AS recently appointed S.W.R. — Co-ordinating Press Officer I fear that just upon this one occasion I am very likely to evoke criticism for what I am about to say, but throwing caution to the winds and following the words of a very well known national newspaper, I put pen to paper with the following thoughts in mind — print — publish and be *****.

I find it very disappointing that in this particular neck of the woods respective Counties (according to the ETTA address book) seemingly have County Press Officers of whom we seldom see doing County reports.

Having gone so far, I might as well proceed a little further — Devonshire with five listed Leagues, have not even got a Press Officer — Avon slightly different, they have one, but its ages since I have seen an Avon County Report in TTN, the same applies to Somerset, a listed P.O. but no report forthcoming at least this season.

Now having got that off my chest — a few well deserved bouquets for those County Press Officers in this specific region, 'who are really doing a great job'.

I think that I will start with possibly the smallest County in the S.W. area which must be Dorset, with just Poole & Wimbourne to cover Martin Hughes is doing a magnificent job of work, Cornwall likewise is indeed lucky to have that very well known and established player come Press Officer Jerry Williams I have long been an admirer of his reporting.

To date of writing (7/1/88) I haven't seen a Wiltshire County report from Laurie Selby as yet, but what he has written in previous issues of this magazine has always contained excellent material, it is hoped that 'ere long he will once again grace his name upon the Wilts reports.

Under the auspices of the National Coaching Scheme, a coaches rally and training session was held at St George's Hall, Exeter on 10 January.

Full marks for organisation must go to Valerie Clack, S.W. Regional Coaching Officer both in setting this venture up and in conjunction with Nicky Jarvis seeing it through on the day.

There were just over 30 present, and just about everything having a relevant bearing on coaching was discussed.

I would like to thank Nicky Jarvis, ETTA Staff Coach for giving me a seven minute Radio interview on the days' proceedings, this interview.

EVENTS COMING UP . . .

13-14 Feb	Essex 3-star Harlow
12-14 Feb	European Top-12, Ljubljana
20 Feb	Kent 2-star, Gillingham
24 Feb	Belgium v England
26 Feb	Leeds English National Championships, Crawley
2 Mar	England v Holland, Norwich
5-6 Mar	Senior Premier Weekend
13 Mar	Leeds British League
19 Mar	ESITA National Team Finals, Leo Green
19-27 Mar	European Championships, Paris
3 Apr	The Leeds British League
14 Apr	Essex Junior 2-Star, Harlow
8-10 Apr	European Junior Top-12, Rumania
9-10 Apr	Junior Premier Week-end
9 Apr	Cornish Junior 2-Star, Camborne
9-10 Apr	Vets Northern, Manchester

Heart of England Cadet TT League

by BRIAN ASTON

AFTER the 2nd session of the league played at Kenilworth in December Leamington 'A' lead the table by virtue of playing more games than Banbury 'A'.

Banbury who were last year's winners have only dropped two games this season, Matthew Sims losing one against Walsall's David Hassall and also his 100% record.

Coventry are performing well with a new team of Adam McCreary, Stephen Glasgow, Leighton Matthews and Stephen Arkell. Their crunch match against Banbury 'A' will probably decide winners and possibly runners-up positions.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington 'A'	7	6	1	52	18	12
Banbury 'A'	5	5	0	48	2	10
Coventry	5	5	0	41	9	10
Nuneaton	6	5	1	42	18	10
Walsall	7	5	2	40	30	10
Banbury 'B'	6	3	3	33	27	6
Swadlincote	6	3	3	28	32	6
Worcester	6	2	4	26	34	4
Leamington 'B'	6	2	4	24	36	4
Rugby	6	1	5	26	34	2
Evesham	5	1	4	21	29	2
Bromsgrove 'A'	6	0	6	1	59	0
Bromsgrove 'B'	5	0	5	0	50	0

Results

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

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

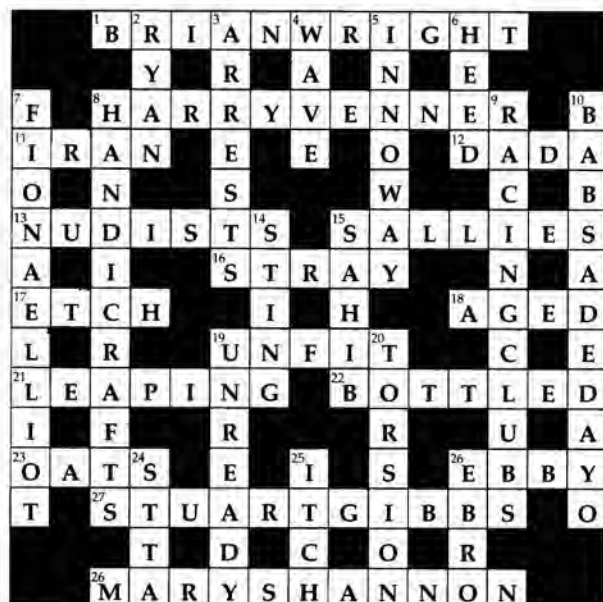
CLIVE OAKMAN
Table Tennis

RESULTS OF CROSSWORD No. 9

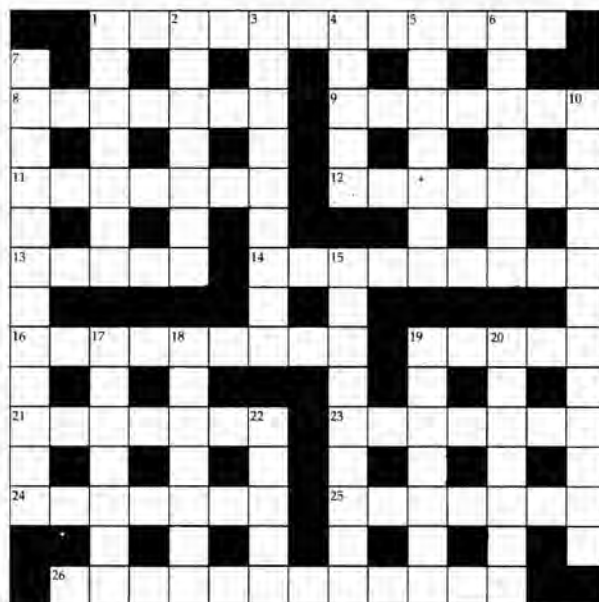
December issue

First prize (Stiga Blade): Steven Rose, 18 Crest Court, The Crest, Hendon, London NW4 2HL.

Runners up (Mini-Bats): G. R. Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN; Leo Black, 112 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DH; Peter Hillier, 40 Hungerford Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7UT.



CROSSWORD NO. 10



Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

CLUES

ACROSS

- Does he take pictures of Hilton? Enough of Cookie, for sure! (4, 8)
- Rushden player takes Al back North and gets porridge (3, 4)
- Impose levy on a single carriage? (4, 3)
- Low Country residents of Nottingham and Billericay (7)
- Pointed, and called round and about University of Los Angeles (7)
- Complicated ruses employed by well-known Coach (5)
- Former ancient Chinese family having left soap opera? (2-7)
- Obstruct French way to travel in town with little Melvyn (9)
- Hide in tube another comic (5)
- Assemble there at this venue for play (7)
- Back end of mediaeval vessel, or so the described the day before! (7)
- Soft and easy (3, 4)
- Topic at issue for long serving TT stalwart (7)
- Let! Beers tire this Birmingham player? Unlikely! (6, 6)

DOWN

- Baffle French no longer (7)
- I am, in short, first person to stand in front of gallery ape (7)
- Dad went into a mixed harem, or rather fantasised over it! (3, 1, 5)
- Far out Halex ball! (5)
- Six-sided Snooker venue (7)
- Two hundred louts involved in strange goings on? (7)
- Hard creation made by Sports journalist (7, 5)
- Player who might stop train in which Mr Prean is travelling? (5, 7)
- Woodford has rally with MP and Scottish Champion (9)
- Settler is uprooted, but remains supportive (7)
- Give incentive to Motoring Organisation to be present in IoM on race-day (7)
- George sliced off piece of prime beef (4, 3)
- Neat wee devices required for driver to achieve maximum distance? (1, 3, 3)
- Wider fieldsmen change point and get a duck! (5)

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

WATCH THESE EVENTS:

FRIDAY/SATURDAY/SUNDAY 26th/28th FEBRUARY 1988



National Championships

at

CRAWLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Haslett Avenue, Crawley, West Sussex

(Tel: 0293 37431)

PLAYING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 26th FEBRUARY 1988
 From 6.00 pm Veterans (Mixed) Singles (including FINAL)
 Qualifying Competition for all events.

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 1988
 From 9.00 am Rounds of Men's & Women's Singles, Men's &
 Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles (including FINAL)

SUNDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 1988
 From 9.00 am Men's Singles, 3rd Round Quarter & Semi Finals
 Women's Singles, Quarter & Semi Finals
 Men's Doubles, Semi Finals
 Women's Doubles, Semi Finals

From 2.30 pm FINALS

ENTRANCE FEE FOR SPECTATORS:

Friday (26th) £1 (one price only)
 Saturday (27th) £1 per session (one price only)
 £2.50 for the day (half price OAP & children)
 Sunday (28th) £1 morning session (one price only)
 £3.50 for the day (half price OAP & children)
 Rover Ticket: £5 for both days (half price OAP & children)

TICKETS: FROM CRAWLEY LEISURE CENTRE

EUROPEAN LEAGUE:



International

★ ENGLAND ★
 v
 ★ HOLLAND ★
 THE MATCH
 THAT COULD
 MEAN PROMOTION FOR
 THE WINNERS

at ST. ANDREWS HALL, NORWICH at 7 pm — WEDNESDAY, 2nd MARCH
 ADMISSION: £5 — (ONE PRICE TICKET)

Tickets from G. Whitwood, 48 Magpie Road, Norwich. Tel: 0603 622092

SAT. 5 MARCH/SUN 6 MARCH
LEEDS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
YORK RAILWAY INSTITUTE, YORK

SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Sat. 2.00 pm MIDDLESEX · DERBYSHIRE · LANCASHIRE
 Sun 9.30 am LEICESTERSHIRE · BERKSHIRE · SURREY
 Sun 2.00 pm ESSEX · YORKSHIRE

NATWEST DERBY JUNIOR SELECT TOURNAMENT
SAT 12 MARCH/SUN 13 MARCH
DERBY SPORTS CENTRE

SATURDAY, 12th MARCH	SUNDAY, 13th MARCH
08.30 Cadet Boy's singles	08.30 Junior Boy's singles
10.00 Cadet Girl's singles	11.00 Junior Girl's singles
12.30 Under 12 Boy's singles	13.00 Junior Boy's doubles
13.00 Under 12 Girl's singles	14.00 Junior Girl's doubles
14.00 Cadet Boy's doubles	18.30 STAGED FINALS
14.00 Cadet Girl's doubles	
18.30 STAGED FINALS	