

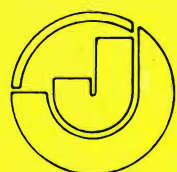
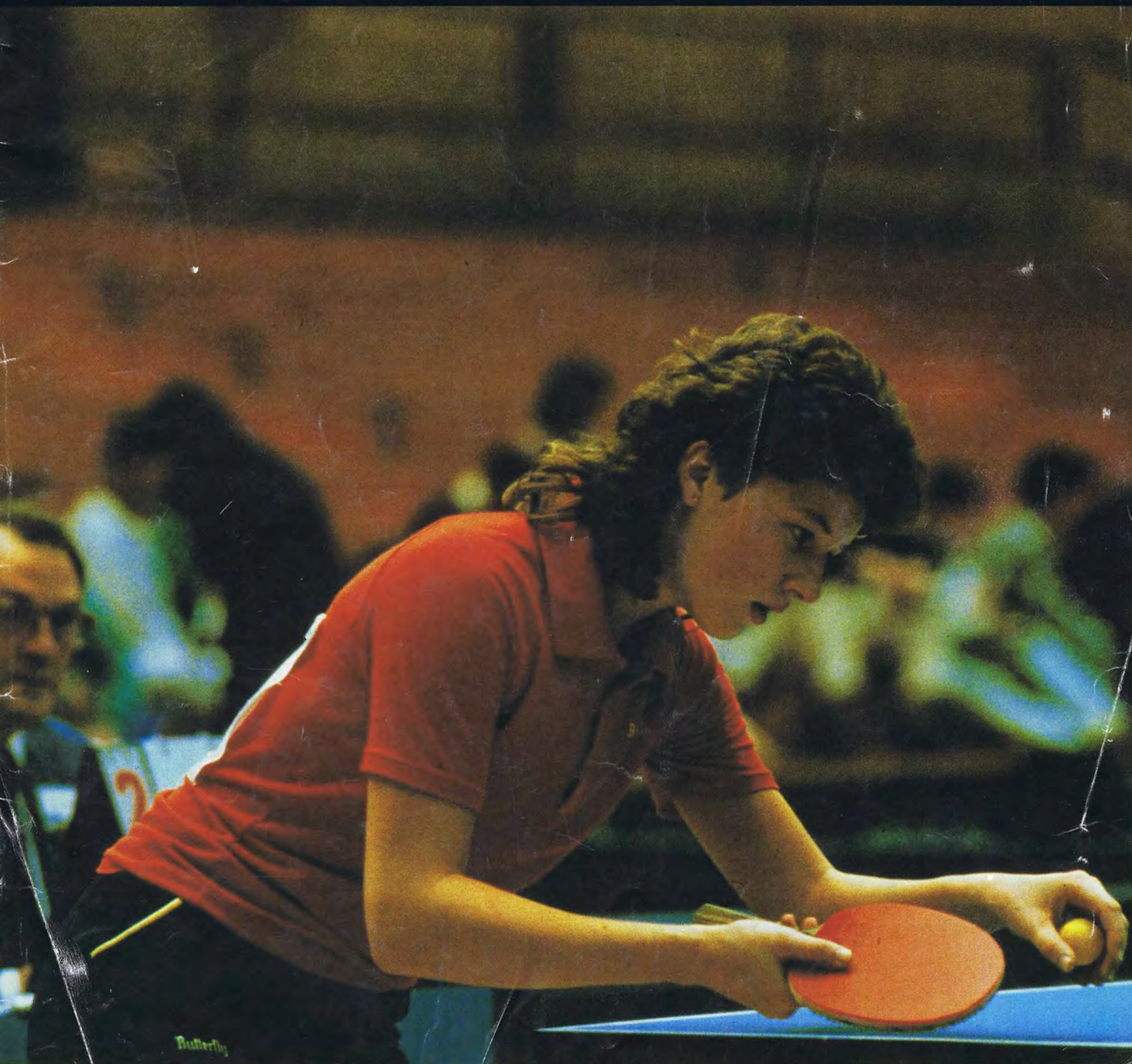


Table Tennis News

No. 171

JANUARY 1988

80p



RANKED NO. 1
JAQUES TABLES
and **DOUBLE FISH BALLS**
AND RUBBERS

John
Jaques

On the crest of the 1988 wave...

THIS time last year, English table tennis was existing only on hopes, almost living on a wing and a prayer. The new chairman John Prean had only been in office a few weeks, the financial crisis was brewing, there was no major sponsor, in fact, looking back now, it was a shambles of the first order. But, there has been a considerable change of fortune brought about by the willingness of people who organise the game in England who realised that if the game was to prosper it became necessary to work with the new administration, whether its decisions turned out to be good, bad or indifferent.

The prospect for the first portion of 1988 looks 'beautiful' to use my colleague's Richard Eaton's adjective on page 5. We have from the Leeds Permanent Building Society the best ever sponsorship, because it goes from top to bottom. Previous sponsors have only covered the big prestige events. We have two major tournaments within the next week, which by diligent negotiations have attracted the world's very best players and the Chinese world champions. We have three world class men — Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Carl Prean who have chances to enhance the situation if they can win promotion back to the Super Division of the European League and cause some havoc at the European Championships in Paris in March. We have the prospect after last year's successful Chinese tour, of another two tours of England by foreign teams and possibly, even a third tour, in May.

And on the financial side, I understand that there is a chance that the ETTA finances might come close to breaking even at the end of the campaign. And, believe it or not, England and Yugoslavia are the two countries with advance options to run the 1993 World Championships!

Finally, the three-month-long dispute with Desmond Douglas is ended. As forecast, he is now a freelance and will be paid match by match by the ETTA for the rest of this season. No more 3-star tournament appearances or other minor happenings. The big question is will he be tempted to play in the Dutch National League next season? The Dutch clubs will have to dig very deep in their pockets before he will be tempted, in any case I am confident that we shall still see a lot of him in England. We must, because, for the time being he is one of our greatest assets. And a postscript: The fact that we have beaten badminton by four years and squash rackets by eight years into the Olympic Games is an astounding feat. Badminton is an exhibition sport in Seoul, squash will be on view in Barcelona in 1992. One man has never got a sport in on his own. But a man from Cardiff has done more to get table tennis in than anyone else.

JOHN WOODFORD



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★ **THE
COVER
PICTURE**

ANDREA HOLT, ranked only at No 3 in Lancashire is 17. She came second in two senior events in the autumn, the Leeds English Top-12 at Farnborough and the Midlands Open in Birmingham. She made her senior England debut in the European League at Loimaa, Finland on 14 December, just losing a cliff-hanging mixed doubles with Desmond Douglas. *Picture: Mike Loveder.*



SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

After dinner speech fees

COLIN DEATON, not quite so well-known in table tennis as he used to be, although his daughter Nicola is reaching out for a place in the Junior England Under-12 squad being managed by Jackie Bellinger.

Colin was in the news recently down south as an entrepreneur sports promoter, multi-sport of course. A recent story in a Sussex evening newspaper the *Evening Argus* of which I am table tennis correspondent, talked about fees charged by TV personalities for speeches at sports dinners.

There are few things more enjoyable than sitting down to a slap-up dinner with your sporting friends and then listening to someone of the calibre of Emlyn Hughes, Jimmy Greaves, Ian St John or Des Lynham.

But you might be surprised to hear the cost. Emlyn Hughes is said to have asked £1,700 for a dinner speech, free transport and free overnight accommodation. But Hughes's agent, our Mr Deaton claims that he is attainable for £750.

It was Newhaven FC who were trying to book a star soccer name for their annual dinner and the *Argus* journalists got to hear about it.

To cut a longer story short, it would appear that to book sports stars as speakers at annual dinners is a very expensive business, apparently out of the range of most table tennis clubs or even associations at regional level.

Almost inside the court . . .

THREE FEET away from the action, literally 'courtside' in Karlsruhe, is the place to watch it all happen! My colleague and fellow-scribe Richard Eaton said, if we were able to get as close to the action elsewhere as in Karlsruhe he would probably come to more tournaments.

At the biggest events of course, with 200 journalists present, to allow them on the floor would create problems, but only 50 pressmen did allow this facility and it was much appreciated.

A number of times, the coaches of many of the 'teams' were warned by umpires and the

referee for 'coaching' when play was in progress.

One of my favourite exchanges was 'Your lobbing again Cookey,' from Don Parker. As I saw it, no player of Alan Cooke's standard lobs as a strategic move, it is of course, when forced back by an opponent's driving power. In truth, what Don was saying in other words was, get in first, be positive, because in this standard of play, it is usually the most successful striker of the ball that wins.

Fresh crop

There is now, a fresh crop of young players coming through in Europe, Carl Prean and Alan Cooke are two of them. Others are Roskopf, Loukov, Gatién, Saive, Primorac, Lupelcsu without mentioning a Swedish player. That makes eight names from which to choose European champions for the next eight years and at courtsides in Sweden the young man delighting the Swedish selectors at this time is of course, young Erik Lindh, winner of the recent Swedish Grand Prix tournament.

Another Problem up front for the ladies

ONLY funny anonymous contributions are allowed in this magazine. Here is one from the West Country not saying which county:

Foregathered

Our county team had foregathered, when our ladies contingent approached me on a very sensitive matter. It seems their shirts did not allow them the freedom of movement they would have liked. And therein lies the question — are our modern misses, more favourably endowed, or is it simply a case of the shirts having shrunk? Sorry, I won't spray that again. And so, armed with my tape measure (some people get all the rotten jobs), I sallied forth to solve this vexing point. So far, I have to admit I've received several steely stares, but there was also one glance full of promise. I'll keep you posted of any further developments.

Leach was a supremo?



Two former England captains Ron Crayden and Johnny Leach pictured earlier this year in New Delhi. There is a difference of opinion on whether or not Johnny held full powers of selection like Don Parker now, when he captained the England teams at the World Championships held in Munich some two decades back.

THE picture in the November issue of *TTN* of chairman John Prean and England captain Donald Parker was captioned with a statement that Parker is the only England captain to hold full powers.

In terms of running a professional England squad in the last quarter-century that is correct. Back in the days when there were no pros and all the players were true amateurs — a somewhat different ball-game you may say

— Johnny Leach captained an England squad at the World Championships in Munich with full powers of selection.

I was courtside in Munich but I cannot recall the precise situation. I doubt if my fellow-journalist from the *News of the World* picked the original squad all on his own, but I will check that out with him in future weeks when we shall be side-by-side in the Press Centres at Middlesbrough, Brighton and in Paris.

CHAIRMAN'S INTERVIEW ●

TEES Sporter, the rival magazine to *Table Tennis News* did well to secure an interview with ETTA Chairman John Prean shortly after his recent trip to Germany where he saw his son Carl play for Saarbrücken against Grenzau.

Club's 25 tables

Extracting a few facts on table tennis in West Germany Mr Prean said, in answer to the question on how the game differs from England — 'The first thing that strikes you is that their membership numbers are ten or probably more times ours. My vagueness is due to the vagueness of our own figures. Theirs are quite clear: nearly 700,000 members. It follows that everything is much bigger. You can see playing halls in respect of ONE Club with 25 tables. On match days several hundred spectators at a Bundesliga match are no more than par for the course. I saw Saarbrücken vs Grenzau, 1,200 watched the

match amidst scenes of great excitement. Here we think 100 at a British League match is pretty good, but that, too, has to be set against their greater numbers. Infinitely more public money is available to the sport.'

Loyalty

Asked if it is money that makes the difference the chairman said, 'Money talks and in the end we are governed by what we can spend — or at this time what we cannot spend! However, it is not the end of the story. There is far greater respect for the sport and its future is never doubted. You don't hear the hard luck stories about funny bats, the sport being too fast, too slow, too complicated, bad to watch, bad to play, bad on TV and similar contradictory theories. The basic point that this is a great sport is never in doubt. If it is not, what are we all doing in it? From this follows a greater loyalty to the sport and regard for it.'

The Battle of Edmonton

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brilliant Stokes halts Hannah

by IRIS MOSS

THE Middlesex 3-Star Open Table Tennis Championships took place at the Picketts Lock Centre, Edmonton, on 5-6 December. Despite having to increase the entry fees and halve the prize fund due to the reduction in Stiga's sponsorship, the event proved to be as popular as ever to the players. We accepted 311 entries and managed to fit in another 11 in place of scratchings. We still had to refuse some entries because we just could not fit them in.

We kept to our usual system of groups of 4, and with 51 Men's and 16 Women's Groups and Qualifying Men's Doubles matches, the Saturday schedule was very full. But the Referee's table of Len Pilditch (Referee), John Jermyn (Deputy Referee) and Doris Moors kept things running smoothly and we finished at a reasonable time. On the Sunday things started to get 'hotted-up' with the arrival of the seeded players. Sadly, Desmond Douglas, Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason decided not to enter and Alan Cooke, Carl Prean and Lisa Thomas were required to play in the Scandinavian Open, but virtually all the rest of the top players were there, including a contingent of Scottish players who were entered by their Association.

Not expected

In the Men's Singles, things went more or less according to ranking. Apart possibly from the few at the top, there is so little difference in standard between the top 30 or so on the ranking list that on the day it is possible for anyone to come out as the winner. So Steve Mills (ranked 8) went out to Tony Taylor (24), Nigel Tyler (a nominal 12A) lost to Desmond Charlery (38), and John Broe (a nominal 12B) to Andrew Wellman (35). By the Semi-Finals only seeded players were left — but not quite the

seeds we expected. In the Semi-Finals, Kevin Satchell went out comparatively easily to David Hannah, but Bradley Billington put up a great fight before losing to Jimmy Stokes. The Final was won by Jimmy Stokes, so once again we have a new name on our Roll of Honour.

Dour Struggle

The Women's Singles went closer to official ranking with our first 4 seeds winning through to the Semi-Finals, but with Alison Gordon (3) managing to beat Joy Dean (2) in the Final after a dour struggle.

In the Men's Doubles, the Scottish pairing of David Hannah and John Broe swept all before them, only dropping one game (to Steve Mills and Chris Rogers), and in the Women's Doubles Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury followed suit, only dropping one game in the Final.

Finally the Committee would like to thank Stiga UK Ltd for their sponsorship, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for giving us a very special rate for the hire of the hall, the staff of Picketts Lock Centre for all the help they gave us, and, most important, the umpires for all the hard work they put in over the weekend. We hope we will see you all next year but that depends on whether we can get adequate sponsorship to help us run our event.



Jimmy Stokes



Alison Gordon the new England No 1. Pictures: Mike Loveder

ABSENTEES AT PICKETTS LOCK . . .

With a group of players, Cooke, Prean, Lisa Lomas in Scandinavia, and Des Douglas in conflict with authority, the Middlesex was always bound to lose some star players, although what happened to Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason? However, it gave others a chance to enjoy the winners rostrum, especially Jimmy Stokes who needs a win or two at this time to increase his confidence. His victory over David Hannah in the final was a gem so we are informed. Going well, Hannah is certainly one of the most difficult men to conquer at this time. And its welcome back to Joy Dean (née Grundy) who made Alison Gordon fight desperately for her title. J.W.

The Results

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: David Hannah (Scotland) b Kevin Satchell (Wi) 19, 14; Jimmy Stokes (Bk) b Bradley Billington (Dy) -16, 12, 16. Final: Stokes b Hannah 20, 14.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: Joy Dean (La) b Jill Harris (St) 18, 17; Alison Gordon (Bk) b Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) 15, 15. Final: Gordon b Grundy -20, 18, 18.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: Hannah and John Broe (Scotland) b Steve Mills (Y) and Chris Rogers (Le) -23, 16, 10; John Souter and Colin Wilson (Mi) b Paul Giles and Paul Whiting (Dv) 7, 14. Final: Hannah and Broe b Souter and Wilson 19, 14.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: Gordon and Sainsbury b Sue Collier and Karen Witt (Bk) 10, 15; Andrea Holt (La) and Joanne Shaw (Y) b Dean and Jean Parker (La) 13, 10. Final: Gordon and Sainsbury b Holt and Shaw -14, 18, 19.

Veterans' Singles. Final: John Hilton (La) b Ramish Bhalla (Sy) 13, 18.



Joy Dean

HENRY

PROFILE OF A SPORTSMAN

by IVAN STEVENS

HENRY BUIST is a familiar figure and one of the most successful players on the veterans' circuit. Years ago in 1952, a young Kent player bought himself a new bat. Life for table tennis players was far less complicated then, and the choice of bats was fairly limited. All were covered in pimples, and there was no sponge underlay. Mostly one had to choose between small pimples or large pimples, the size of the blade and the shape of the handle. The bat Henry Buist bought that day was quite ordinary, with a simply shaped handle and short, fairly broad-pimpled rubber, which suited his basic attacking game.

Today, he is still using the same blade. And it still has short pimpled rubber sides, without any sponge 'filling' in the sandwich. 'I did experiment with modern rubber in the 1960s. But I was not really happy with it,' he admits. So he reverted to the tried and trusted pimples out, on his original blade.

Most players and spectators on the tournament circuit know the slenderly built, sandy-haired and bearded figure, playing the classic hard bat topspin game. The forehand arcs upwards like a sickle, cutting across the ball with the regularity of a machine; the forehand smash is formidable. The backhand, not quite producing a Barna-style 'flick', rolls the wrist and forearm over the ball, deftly directing it around his opponent's half of the table. His footwork is nimble, the action continuous, testimony to the fitness of a man now in his 54th year.

England No 12

Henry started playing 'in about 1950', and in 1951 was representing Kent juniors. He played for the Kent County team for 20 years. He won the Kent Open titles, and at one time achieved No 12 in the national rankings. Through the 1960s and into the 1970s he and fellow Kent county player Tony Piddock formed a successful doubles partnership.

Open title

But it is as a veteran that Henry has really made his mark. He won the English Open Veterans' Singles in 1976, and the English Closed Veterans 'on at least three occasions'.

At the World Veterans' Championships in Helsinki in 1984, he reached the single's final. In the World Championships in Rimini in 1986 he reached the quarter finals of the singles, and he and Peter D'Arcy of Cheshire reached the finals of the doubles. Unfortunately Peter pulled a calf muscle early in the game and they had to retire.

Hard day

Also in 1986, in what he describes as 'the hardest day's play in my life', he took both the over 40s and over 50s National Singles titles at Bracknell. Altogether he won 12 major titles that season. In the 1987 National Championships tournament he was not quite so successful, going out in the quarter-finals of the over 40s and the semis of the over 50s, beaten by Derek Schofield.

Good humour

He thinks the veteran scene is an important part of the modern game, giving a new lease of life and incentives to players who have the same enthusiasm (if a little less vigour!) for the game as when they were 20 years old. But he also thinks veterans' play is complex. 'There are so many combinations of rubbers and sponges, outward and inward pimples, and wood and carbon blades', observes Henry. The older players use these cleverly to help counter the effects of the extra years. It is interesting to see him examine an opponent's bat before each game. He accepts philosophically and with his twinkling good humour these 'high-tech' changes in the game he loves.



Henry Buist, picture: Ivan Stevens

He has broken his own blade (the one he purchased in 1952) twice. Two years ago he thought it was finished, and started using another. But he reckoned without the skills of Sussex veteran Gerry Batt-Rawden, who repaired it and put Henry on the path to his most successful season as a 'vet'.

Henry's uncomplicated and direct style of play, combined with his modesty and gentlemanly conduct, wins him admirers wherever he goes. He graces any table tennis occasion in which he participates yet, as will quickly be observed, he is not without passion in his play. He wants to win.

When watching him, one has the sense of watching a craftsman in his natural element, at ease with himself and in complete control of his particular art form. Henry brings joy to the game, enjoyment to spectators, and is a true sportsman.

With his usual caniness, he is pacing himself. 'I have had a quiet season so far, but I am looking forward to the Vets World Championships in Zagreb next June.' He is sure to be a formidable threat to his opponents. And an excellent ambassador for our sport.

HENRY'S DIET

Henry is well known for his fitness. He himself is low-key when talking about it, but nevertheless seems to take the subject quite seriously. Before his considerable successes in the 1985/86 season he followed a substantial programme of weight and circuit-training and jogging. 'I do rather less weight-training now,' he says.

And obviously diet is important. 'Lots of wholemeal bread, with cottage cheese and other low-fat fillings. Less meat, not so much because of the cholesterol, more because of what one eats with it, such as roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding!' As much fruit as he likes before 12 noon — according to an American diet. Omelettes, Muesli in the evening.

Two years ago he cut out sugar altogether. He reckons many people spoil their otherwise good diets by eating sweets and biscuits between meals. Carbohydrates are good for active people, he believes. 'It's the calories one has to look for,' warns Henry. His trim appearance seems to prove his point.

Right around the corner

by **RICHARD EATON** of *The Sunday Times*

THERE is no doubt about it now! English table tennis is making a marvellous recovery. Last month's news that two and a half hour's television is being given to the Europe v Asia match in Cleveland is the latest in a line of encouraging developments — and perhaps the most encouraging of them all.

We have had the over half-million pound Lee's Building Society sponsorship, the biggest ever. We have had two players qualified for the next year's Olympics with a good chance of a third making it as well. We are about to have the best English Open ever, that is the best in 57 years. We had good TV for the Masters at Wembley. Now we have even more TV of the best event in this country since the 1977 World Championships, one which already has guaranteed the biggest prize fund in the history of the sport.

Thus the Euro-Asia is the finest in a corner-turning sequence. But it could become even more important than that. It is not unreasonable to hope it may become a watershed. 'It is our intention to feature table tennis in new and exciting ways,' says Adrian Metcalfe, head of sport at Channel Four. Says producer Derek Brandon: 'We are planning on giving it the same treatment as we give to the American sports.'

Well, there's a thing. Cheerleaders? Majorettes? Giant Muppets? Probably not. But — character cameos, split screens, action slowmos, interview clips, artistic cutaways, and human interest stories. That's what we hope.

Beautiful badminton

Presentation will be, well, if not everthing, at least a very great deal indeed. Channel Four's record on this is good. Badminton has been done beautifully. A rapid assessment of its appeal was made possible and we have the men in table tennis who can make that possible too.

Immense potential

The rewards are potentially immense. If the Euro-Asia succeeds then there is every reason to expect that coverage of other events, perhaps international matches, would follow. Some of last year's England v China contests would have been beauties, especially the one with Alan Cooke's heroics at Gillingham.

A success at Cleveland might also mean a better chance in the nineties of a World Championship in England. A great deal needs to be worked out before an event of that magnitude can be taken on — financing, sponsorship, sufficient television etc. But it is an open secret that the ETTA has been considering the possibility of throwing in a bid that may rival another from Yugoslavia.

Des Paramount

All of which makes it even more paramount that the association and Desmond Douglas somehow settle their differences. I hope indeed that by the time this is read large strides towards this aim will have been made.

Five more years

Des has been our most marketable asset for a decade. Handled properly he might remain so for up to five more years. Handled badly, and at 32 he might fade in five months.



RICHARD EATON, freelance journalist based at Abingdon, writes on squash racquets, badminton and table tennis for *The Times*, *Guardian*, *The Independent* and the *Daily Mail*. He travels the world including Europe and the Far East. Major problems arise when the big events clash.

It seems odd that such polarisation should have occurred on an issue that surely is not of major importance. It seems lunacy in view of the tremendous progress being made in other areas. It is progress in which Douglas, perhaps more than anyone, deserves to share.

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French thrust but Sweden beaten! — Ding Yi crushes Saive in Div 1

HAVING accounted for Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, both by 4-3 margins, France really hit the jackpot when, in Wrockaw on 26 November, they beat Poland, the defending Super Division champions, by an astonishing 5-2 scoreline.

Jean-Philippe Gatien, Patrick Birocheau and Wang Xiao Ming all won their opening singles against Piotr Molenda, Andrzej Grubba and Jolanta Szatko-Nowak respectively, the guillotine finally descending on Molenda and newcomer, Wielgosinski, when beaten by Birocheau and Gatien in the men's doubles.

Exhaustion

Thereafter a mixed doubles success and victory for Molenda over Birocheau was followed by Grubba, from being 15-12 down in the first game against Gatien, conceding when suffering from exhaustion. Scores: Molenda 1, Gatien -15, -22; Grubba 1, Birocheau -18, 14, -19; Szatko-Nowak 1, Wang Xiao Ming -14, -19; Molenda/Wielgosinski 1, Birocheau/Gatien -13, 18, -11; Molenda/Szatko-Nowak b Gatien/Wang Xiao Ming 9, 18; Molenda b Birocheau 13, -14, 16; Grubba 1, Gatien 12-15 (conceded).

Prior to St Ingbert, near Saarbrücken the Federal Republic of

Germany went down to their third defeat when beaten 4-3 by Yugoslavia whose Zoran Primorac accounted for both Jorg Roskopf and George Böhm; Zoran Kalinic beat Böhm and Jasna Fazlic beat Olga Nemes.

Scores: Böhm 1, Kalinic -15, 18; Roskopf 1, Primorac -16, -13; Nemes 1, Fazlic 18, -13, -16; Roskopf/S. Fetzner b Primorac/L. Lupulescu -18, 14, 20; Roskopf/K. Nolten b Lupulescu/Fazlic -13, 13, 19; Böhm 1, Primorac -19, -16; Roskopf b Kalinic 17, 17.

Czechs sailed

And, initially, in this third series of matches, Hungary also went down to their third defeat when beaten 4-3 by Czechoslovakia in Most Jindrich Pansky opened up the proceedings by beating Zsolt Harczy in the first set which was countered by Zsolt Kriston beating Petr Javurek. But, thereafter, the Czechs sailed away by taking the next three sets to assure them of victory.

Scores: Pansky b Harczy 23, 13; Javurek 1, Kriston -15, 16, -20; M. Hrachova b E. Urban -10, 19, 19; Pansky/Javurek b Kriston/Harczy -16, 19, 19; Pansky/Hrachova b Harczy/Urban 9, 22; Pansky 1, Kriston 15, -15, -16; Javurek 1, Harczy -18, -10.

But, playing in Vimmerby on 1 December, Sweden took over the lead from Poland with a 'white-wash' victory over Bulgaria no set requiring a third game decider.

Scores: J-O. Waldner b I. Stoianov 15, 15; U. Bengtsson b M. Loukov 19, 24; L. Erlman b R. Stoinova 20, 18; Waldner/Bengtsson b Loukov/Stoianov 19, 11; Bengtsson/Erlman b Loukov/K. Viceva 16, 12; Waldner b Loukov 21, 20; Bengtsson by Stoianov 14, 15.

In Division 1 England, by virtue of their 6-1 win over Italy in Messina on 2 December, maintained their slender lead over the Netherlands who also succeeded for the third time with a big win over Finland, in Karlsruhe.

Scores: M. Pyykko 1, H. van Spanje -15, -12; J. Jokinen 1, P. Haldan -12, -16; S. Grefberg 1, B. Vriesekoop -12, -12; Jokinen/Valasti b Haldan/v. Spanje -11, 16, 19; Jokinen/Kaimio 1, v. Spanje/M. Kloppenburg -13, -18; Pyykko 1, Haldan -8, -19; Jokinen 1, v. Spanje -13, -16.



Jean-Michel Saive, the young Belgian No 1 is their best player for many years. The Belgians have high hopes that he could be a future European champion. He impressed early in the season at Wembley but he was not at his best in Karlsruhe, and lost -7, -18 to the Chinese Austrian Ding Yi as Belgium beat Austria 4-3.

Belgium maintained their third place by beating Austria 4-3 in Klagenfurt but it was the final set that decided the issue when Thierry Cabrera beat Gottfried Bär. Ding Yi maintained his unbeaten record for the Austrians and note that the Chinese player swept Saive aside.

Scores: Ding Yi b Cabrera 14, 17; Bär 1, J-M. Saive -7, -18; E. Maier 1, K. Bogaerts -19, -20; Ding/Bär b Saive/Cabrera 17, 20; Ding/Maier 1, Saive/Bogaerts -18, 16, -18; Ding b Saive 12, 15; Bär 1, Cabrera -20, -16.

Denmark picked up their first point with a convincing 6-1 win over Turkey in Brøndby, only the men's doubles being won by the Turks.

Scores: L. Hauth b G. Yaldiz 13, 17; J. Harkamp b D. Cimen 16, -17, 13; C. Polk b S. Dogan 16, 4; Hauth/Harkamp 1, Cimen/Yaldiz 15, -13, -14; Hauth/Polk b Cimen/Dogan 9, 18; Hauth b Cimen 17, 15; Harkamp b Yaldiz 18, 15.

SWEDISH SHOCK!

STOP PRESS: Full details of the major shock result of the European League season — France 4, Sweden 3 were not available as *Table Tennis News* went to press, but it is known that Jean-Philippe Gatien was undefeated in his singles matches and it is known that the crucial result was in the women's singles when Wang Xiaoming beat Marie Svensson. Sweden have fielded 'cynical' teams in the European League, so the names of the Gatien victims are eagerly awaited. STOP PRESS! Gatien beat Lindh and Persson.

Division 2: Luxembourg 3, Greece 4; Luxembourg 3, Norway 4; Switzerland 4, Spain 3; Scotland 4, Portugal 3; Spain 4, Norway 3; Greece 0, Spain 7; Norway 7, Greece 0; Spain 6, Luxembourg 1.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE —

Super Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	16	5	3
France	3	3	0	13	8	3
Poland	3	2	1	13	8	2
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	12	9	2
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	10	11	1
Bulgaria	3	1	2	6	15	1
FR Germany	3	0	3	7	14	0
Hungary	3	0	3	7	14	0

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	16	5	3
Netherlands	3	3	0	15	6	3
Belgium	3	2	1	13	8	2
Denmark	3	1	2	11	10	1
Italy	3	1	2	9	12	1
Turkey	3	1	2	7	14	1
Finland	3	1	2	6	15	1
Austria	3	0	3	7	14	0

Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	1	33	9	5
Norway	5	4	1	26	9	4
Switzerland	3	2	1	13	8	2
Scotland	3	2	1	10	11	2
Wales	2	1	1	7	7	1
Greece	4	1	3	6	22	1
Luxembourg	4	0	4	7	21	0
Portugal	3	0	3	3	18	0

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THE ITALIAN JOB

by JILL PARKER

AS WE had a 7.55am flight to catch, Des, Skylet, Alison and I booked into the Heathrow Park Hotel the night before. Up at 5.30am and off we went to Terminal 1 to catch our plane to Rome. Through security and passport control we noticed our plane on the board was the first to leave at this unearthly hour — we were still half asleep!

We were met at Rome Airport by an official from the Italian Table Tennis Federation. The ETTA had informed them of our team along with the captain Jill Hammersley-Parker. It was the responsibility of the Italians to transport us to Messina, Sicily and they bought the necessary air tickets for us. The only snag was they were expecting two captains, Hammersley and Parker and had bought five air tickets instead of four! We arrived at our hotel in Sicily at 6pm. It had taken us 11½ hours from hotel to hotel.

Cool Sicily

The weather in Sicily you would expect to be quite warm, but unfortunately this was *not* the case at the hotel and playing hall. Irrespective of the temperature, the heating was not turned on until a specific day in December and unfortunately this did not coincide with our trip.

The usual practices were performed the following day in the venue for the evening 6pm match. The 500 spectators huddled together in the cold basketball stadium, but despite some

very good table tennis, there wasn't a great deal of atmosphere. Having changed our order, Des went on to play Constantini, their No 1 and won very convincingly. Skylet then played Manneschi and virtually served him off.

A funny incident happened when a local umpire faulted Skylet because he threw the ball into the lights. I immediately stepped into the arena but unfortunately I could not converse in Italian and the umpire could not speak a word of English. The Swiss referee came to the rescue to inform the Italian umpire the service rules. He was quick to point out that blinding the umpire was not one of them! Alison had an exciting match against Zampini which got the crowd going. Having beaten her fairly easily in the Olympic Trials in Karlsruhe, I felt Ali was not at her best. Winning the two doubles both two straight and having won the match 4-1, the crowd dwindled down quite considerably and only a faithful few watched the remaining two singles which were won by Skylet and Des, giving us a match score of 6-1.



Skylet Andrew (East London), although busy in the Dutch National League, has done a splendid job so far this season in the European League. He was unbeaten in England's two December matches against Italy in Sicily and against Finland in Liomaa.

A never ending meal followed back at the hotel which had six courses and both teams were presented with Messina 'souvenirs'.

We were up again the next morning quite early for yet another mammoth journey home. But, a very interesting and happy time was had by all.

THE DETAILS

ITALY 1, ENGLAND 6

D. Douglas b Constantini 13, 8; S. Andrew b Manneschi 17, 11; Gordon l Zampini 17, 14, -19; Douglas-Andrew b Constantini-Dinapoli 9, 19; Douglas-Gordon b Constantini-Zampini 18, 16; Andrew b Constantini 18, 11, 20; Douglas b Manneschi 8, 11.

England take it easy

— Andrea in mixed debut

by JOHN WOODFORD

PLAYING Desmond Douglas only in the doubles was a sure signal that England supremo Donald Parker intended to keep the England squad in a relaxed mood as they overpowered Finland 5-2 at Loimaa on 14 December. Parker had the luxury of having five players on the spot, whereas for most away matches in the European League for economy reasons, three is the maximum.

England's fourth win in a row — they are undefeated since the start of the season — saw Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew in charge in all four of the singles games, giving England a solid start and a confident final flourish.

No illusions

The Finns it appeared had no illusions that they would win the match as they played their No 2 Sari Suomalainen instead of the European No 23 Sonja Grefberg. But Alison Gordon was in great form on the tour — she whipped

the Finnish girl 15, 16 to put England 3-0 up.

Vital warning

England lost both doubles, reminding fans of a warning spelt out recently how vital these doubles game are in the European league. Des and Sky lost -19, -18, — the sort of blow that England cannot afford to take in their remaining three matches.

Andrea Holt, just 17, did extremely well in the mixed doubles in her European debut with Desmond Douglas. After losing a couple of match points they lost 19, -22, -20, a gallant but predict-

able result that at least gave Andrea her baptism of fire.

The sweepers

Cooke and Andrew acted as sweepers in the last two singles with Pykko and Siero outclassed.

England now have to beat in this order — Denmark, Belgium and Holland to return to the Super Division. Those on the crest of a wave now — Cooke, Prean, Andrew, Alison Gordon — if they can maintain that initiative, England will win promotion at St Andrews Hall, Norwich on 6 March.



Andrea Holt made her debut for the England team in the European League in Finland. She just lost the mixed doubles with Desmond Douglas.

Finland 2, England 5

S. Andrew b M. Pykko 16, 18, A. Cooke b J. Seiro 16, 13. A. Gordon b S. Suomalainen 16, 15. D. Douglas and Andrew l Seiro, Valasti -19, -18. Douglas and A. Holt l Pykko-Grefberg 19, -22, -20. Cooke b Pykko 12, 15. Andrew b Seiro 14, 15.

Bradley's special in 13 minutes — Syed's defence shredded

By JIM BECKLEY



FROM the moment Bradley Billington pinned the number one to his shirt at The Leeds National Junior Championships at Hinckley he was a winner. It was as though the Chesterfield player had been handed some special powers as he swept past opponents, eventually to lift the singles title against the No 2 seed Matthew Syed to prove once and for all that he was indeed the No 1.

The result of that match 16, 8, took just 13 minutes and was one of the quickest finals on record. Billington's forehand simply swept aside Syed's usually reliable defence and any hopes that the Berkshire player might have had of retaining the title he won so impressively last year at Macclesfield against Billington were never raised.

It was full revenge for the Derbyshire player who has come a long way in the past twelve months and looks to have a fine future.

Claire Potts from Chester is also a girl with a future. Last year she was defeated in the semi-finals by Kerry Hall who went on to beat another northern girl Andrea Holt.

Full flow

This time Miss Potts, who finished a creditable sixth in the Top 12 at Farnborough, was in full flow from the start and had the double satisfaction of beating unseeded Caroline Buckley who earlier had ousted Claire's sister Helen.

Claire eased through to win the first game 6, slipped up in the second but came back strongly to win the final game, 7.

Bradley Billington retained his doubles title and collected his second gold of the weekend with a new partner — Matthew Syed. The two lads were head and shoulders above the rest of the entry and had a 13, 13 win over third seeds Ward and Thorpe in the final. Neil Bevan made progress in the Cadet singles by going a step further than last year and picking up the title. Twelve months ago he lost a game thriller, this time he moved smoothly through to the final where he beat Brian Mileham 19, 17.

The Billington family also got their name on the mixed event. This time it was Julie who linked up with Andy Thorpe to beat Yorkshire pair Ward and Toole in two straight games.

There was also a family celebration in the Wright household when Helen and Jane came from behind to win the final of the girls' doubles in a thrilling three game affair against Ellent Med-

dings and Joanne Keighley.

Macclesfield referee Stuart Sherlock breathed a huge sigh of relief when the final game was completed following one of the most complex events in a table tennis calendar.

Two hundred and eighty-three players entered the competition of which two-thirds were boys. Each match was timed to take 20 minutes and at the end of two full days it all worked out perfectly (or so it seemed).

There were 539 matches and thirty umpires took part. Each were involved in about seventeen matches, which, with the average lasting 20 minutes meant they were involved for 340 minutes or 5½ hours over the two days.

These were the 7th national junior championships to be held at Hinckley and with the excellent facilities available, it wouldn't surprise me if they went back again.

Utter silence

Only one thing was missing, atmosphere. The finals were played in almost utter silence, maybe in respect of the players, but a few more cheers between points would not have gone amiss!

Results

Junior Boys' Singles: B. Billington (Dy) b M. Syed (Bk) 16, 8. Junior Girls' Singles: C. Potts (Ch) b C. Buckley (Beds) 6, -14, 7. Junior Boys' Doubles: Billington/Syed b M. Ward (Y)/A. Thorpe (St) 13, 13. Junior Girls' Doubles: H. Wright/J. Wright (Dv) b J. Keighley/E. Meddings (Y) 20-13, 17. Junior Mixed Doubles: A. Thorpe (St)/J. Billington (Dy) b Ward/Toole (Y) 17, 14. Cadet Boys' Singles: N. Bevan (Cor) b B. Mileham (K) 19, 17. Cadet Girls' Singles: E. Meddings (Y) b M. Thornley (L) 13, 21. Cadet Boys' Doubles: N. Bevan/G. Knights (St) b Adams/A. Patterson (Nk) 11, 21. Cadet Girls' Doubles: Meddings/Potts b K. Goodall (Y)/H. Wright 17, 15.



England No 1 Junior, Bradley Billington of Chesterfield, Derbyshire confirmed his position at Hinckley in December when he overpowered the defensive skills of Matthew Syed in the final of the Leeds National Junior Championships.



Claire Potts, always the busiest bundle of attacking power around the tournament is the new Leeds English national junior champion. In the absence of Andrea Holt, she beat Carol Buckley of Bedfordshire in the Hinckley final.

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The man who only plays once a week . . .

WHEN I travel the country and meet our members, the question I am asked most frequently is 'What do we get for our money?'. The reference is to ETTA Affiliation Fees. These are collected annually, based on team places. The sum is still less than £3 each year per member and that includes 15% VAT which goes to the taxman. When multiplied by a hundred or more members it seems, indeed is a large sum.

Poacher turned gamekeeper . . .

I used to ask that question myself when I was an active member of my local committee. The poacher has turned gamekeeper and now I have to answer that question. I hope you will be finding the answer reasonably satisfactory. I hope you will feel you are getting value for money for your £2 to £3 each year.

If there were no ETTA . . .

Who would speak for the sport? Without the national effort the sport would sink slowly out of public knowledge. It would be played on a small scale only in isolated pockets. It was that danger more than any other that persuaded me to stand as chairman. I felt that it was not merely a question of pride but survival that the game should feature more frequently in the national newspapers, that it should be seen again on television. In my time, we shall, with luck, have been seen 5 times and each time by millions. It is still not enough, but it is an advance. It is a new start. I hope we shall attract some of the interest which the World Championships brought in 1977. For the year or two that followed membership was actually going up. The link between popularity and television needs little comment.

Snooker . . .

The example of snooker is often cited. I remember a time when our Table Tennis English Open was seen by thousands at Wembley and

the World Championship of Snooker attracted a few dozen. That is how things can change. Change does not come about by itself. We must help it happen.

To make news, to keep the sport on the sports pages and before the public we must stage major events. In today's conditions this is virtually impossible without a sponsor. He will underwrite the event and help in a thousand other ways. His reward will include a good event which will enhance his image and an association with a good sport that enjoys public respect. The ETTA brings together this partnership.

If we do not appear on the great stage of world sport, we shall not attract the young and without them the sport will gradually wither away and continue only in a small way, if at all. Even the man who plays only once a week will fade away if the sport looks insignificant and small and if his colleagues and opponents disappear season after season in ever increasing numbers.

'Only once a week?'

Whether this character exists I am not too sure. The last one who told me that he only plays once a week and that he was not interested in anything else did not quite live up to his expressed philosophy. One night I met him on the Isle of Wight Car Ferry at 4 in the morning after a 'trip to the mainland' to see an Isle of Wight lad play for England. I worked out that the trip had cost him all of £40.

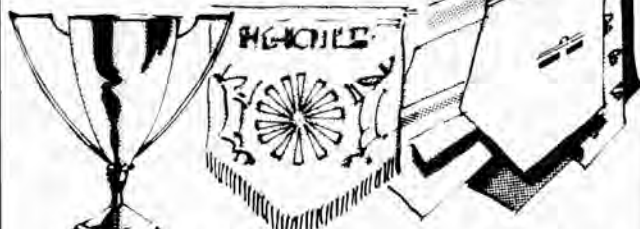
I don't think the members at the grass roots are as selfish as is sometimes made out. I think they want the sport to progress, to look good. They want to see new faces, new ideas. Table tennis is part of their lives too. They want England teams to do well. Thousands came to watch us play China.

There is immense enthusiasm and goodwill within the sport and plenty to build on. Let us make every season better than the last.

JOHN

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The Leeds Youth Cup

by MIKE WATTS

WHEN the Leeds Permanent Building Society approved the sponsorship package offer by the Association, it was on the understanding that this would cover all forms of competition, not only the top televised events at prestigious venues like the Wembley Conference Centre and the Brighton Centre, but also 'grass roots' events including youth and the schools. Negotiations with the English Schools Table Tennis Association soon established sponsorship of the Leeds Schools International which will take place in Birmingham from 1/3 July 1988. To meet the youth objective the new appointed marketing department has come up with a new competition 'The Leeds Youth Cup' which will commence with nine regional events culminating in a national final during the Easter holiday which it is hoped, will be shown on television.

The details of the Leeds Youth Cup are as follows:

1. Promoters

The promoters are the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) and the English Schools Table Tennis Association (ESTTA).

2. Organisers

Are the ETTA with regional events being organised by the Regional Co-ordinating Committees (RUC's).

3. The events

Local RCC's will organise the Leeds Regional Youth Cup with a minimum of four events, namely: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

4. Other events

Local RCC's will have autonomy to add other events such as doubles or Class 2 events, but only the top four events qualify for the finals.

5. Age qualification

Juniors and Cadets must conform to the ETTA qualifying dates ie Under-17 or Under-14 at 1 July 1987.

6. Entry fees

The entry fee for the Junior Singles will be £2 and for the Cadets £1.50. Doubles events are £1. Class 2 events will be the same as for the Singles events. RCC's will keep the entry fees to cover expenses.

7. Format

Initially play in singles should be in groups preferably of three players which gives a minimum of two games to each player.

8. Dates

The RCC Tournaments will mostly be held on Saturday, 20 February 1988 although three regions have already indicated different dates. The winners of the four main events will then be invited to attend the finals at a venue probably in London together with parent or coach.

9. Officials

Each RCC is responsible for providing an organiser of the Regional event and also a referee; the ETTA will provide the officials for the finals.

10. Tournament regulations

RCC's have a responsibility to ensure that the tournament conforms with ETTA Tournament Regulations applicable to a 2-Star Tournament.

11. Entry form

An entry form is included with this article and for prospective entrants a list of officials appointed to collate entries in each RCC together with venue details, events included and closing dates is also included:

12. Class 2

Class 2 events are restricted to Junior players ranked below No 50 on the Lentec Computer Ranking listed issued in December 1987 and to Cadet players ranked below No 30 on the same list.

Region 1: North West

Venue: Copley Recreation Centre, Huddersfield Road, Staleybridge, Tameside, Lancs.

Date of event: 20 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr S. Clarke, 16 Kingswood Avenue, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 4RL.

Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Class 2 Junior Boy' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Girls' Doubles.

Region 2: Yorkshire/Humberside

Venue: Scatcherd Sports Centre, Queensway, Morley, Leeds, Yorkshire LS27.

Date of event: 20 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr R. Balmford, 30 Glebe Road, Wawne, Hull HU7 5XR.

Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.

Evenings being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Class 2 Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles.

Region 3: East Midlands

Venue: Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts.

Date of event: 21 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr. T. Bull, 22/24 Westend Arcade, Nottingham.

Closing date for entries: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

Region 4: Eastern

Venue: Long Stratton Leisure Centre, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norfolk.

Date of event: 20 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr M. Watts, c/o ETTA, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex.

Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

Region 5: West Midlands

Venue: The Grove Table Tennis Club of Market Drayton, The Grove School, Stafford Street, Market Drayton Shropshire.

Date of event: 20 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr B. Pigram, 'Fieldhouse', 56 Chestnut Road, Loggerheads, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Class 2 Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

Region 6: Southern

Venue: Redbridge Sports Hall, Redbridge Community School, Cuckmere Lane, Southampton, Hants.

Date of event: 20 March 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr M. Strode, 9 Hart Close Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 9HQ.

Closing date for entries: 20 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

Region 7: London & South East

Venue: Walnuts Leisure Centre, Lych Gate Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0TJ.

Date of event: 20 March 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Miss D. L. Moors, 12 Bishops Close, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey.

Closing date for entries: 20 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

Region 8: South West

Venue: Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Strood, Gloucestershire.

Date of event: 20 February 1988.

Entries to be sent to: Mr T. Harris, 142 Muller Road, Bristol, Avon BS7 9RE.

Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.

Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles.

The new Competition 2

Region 9: Northern

Venue: Thornaby Pavilion, Thornaby, Cleveland.
 Date of event: 20 February 1988.
 Entries to be sent to: Brenda Stephenson, 10 Weaverthorpe, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.
 Closing date for entries: 5 February 1988.
 Events being included: Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Girls' Singles, Cadet Boys' Singles, Cadet Girls' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles.

If you wish to enter please complete the attached entry form printed alongside this article. Entry fees for the additional events are included in paragraph 6 above.

The competition promises to be the biggest junior participating event in the calendar and I would suggest that you don't delay and enter today.

COMPUTERPOINTS

The events in the Leeds Youth Cup will qualify for computer points applicable to a 'Select' tournament ie x4 at both Regional level and the Finals except Class 2.

JILL PARKER'S SUMMER SCHOOL DATE CHANGED . . .

To avoid clashing with the ETTA Summer School at Crystal Palace, the date of the Jill Hammersley-Parker Summer School at Soham Sports Centre, Cambridgeshire has been changed to 8-13 August. The coaches will be Jill and Donald Parker, Paul Day with visits from leading English players.

Burning the midnight oil

FEW people aspire to the job of editing this magazine. To those who do, semi-retirement is essential. This weekend (12-13 Dec) I should be courtside at Hinckley at the Leeds National Junior Championships. Due to the Christmas rush to the printers with this material, I sub-edited, headlined, assessed copy-length and corrected spelling for 51 pieces of copy, but I agreed to do the job single-handed and that meant a 14-hour stint in one day!

In between, telephone calls from Hinckley — George Yates, who edited the magazine for 19 years, knows the feeling.



THE LEEDS YOUTH CUP

Region Entry Form

THIS FORM TO BE COMPLETED IN BLOCK CAPITALS USING A BALL-POINT PEN

A separate entry form must be completed by each player and delivered to the ENTRIES SECRETARY by the closing date for entries.

All entrants should ensure that they have the Regulations which apply to this tournament.

Competitor's Surname (Mr/Miss) _____

First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

If not a member of ETTA name of National Association _____

If member of ETTA state local league which affiliated (if no name 'Directly Affiliated Club' or if applicable 'Directly Affiliated Individual').

County of Affiliation _____

Please enter me for:

Event	Partner	Fee	Fee encl
1 Junior Boys' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£2.00	
2 Junior Girls' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£2.00	
3 Cadet Boys Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£1.50	
4 Cadet Girls' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£1.50	
OTHER EVENTS			
5 Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£2.00	
6 Class 2 Junior Girls' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£2.00	
7 Class 2 Cadet Boys' Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£1.50	
8 Class 2 Cadet Girl's Singles	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	£1.50	
9 Junior Boys' Doubles		£1.00	
10 Junior Girls' Doubles		£1.00	
	ETTA Tournament Levy	£0.50	£0.50
	TOTAL		£

NO ENTRY WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE FOLLOWING UNDERTAKING IS SIGNED:

- I UNDERTAKE—
1. To observe the regulations of the tournament.
 2. To abide by the decisions of the Referee.
 3. To fulfil the schedule of play arranged for me unless prevented by circumstances beyond my control and accepted as such by the Referee.

Signed: _____

Please ensure that your REMITTANCE AND SAE are enclosed.

European League — Division II Scotland v Portugal, Aberdeen
 With Portugal having lost their first two matches 0-7, it was decided to rest David Hannah and bring in younger players to gain experience. The gamble paid off — but only just! John Broe and David McIlroy won their opening singles over three ends and Carole Dalrymple was much too severe for Margarida Lopes for Scotland to lead 3-0. The Men's Doubles proved to be the vital match with Broe and Clancey just scraping home 22-20 in the 3rd. With the match won Gordon Clancey and Sarah Hurry played the Mixed Doubles and lost narrowly 21-23 in the 3rd. The last two singles were also lost for the endline Scotland 4, Portugal 3.

John Broe b Diamantino Pinto 13, -19, 17; David McIlroy b Paulo Fernandes -17, 19, 10; Carole Dalrymple b Margarida Lopes 9, 14; Broe/Clancey b Pinto/Fernandes 18, -10, 20; Clancey/Hurry l Fernandes/Lopes 17, -19, -21; John Broe l Paulo Fernandes -11, -18; David McIlroy l Diamantino Pinto -19, -18.

Scotland v Northern Ireland, Glasgow

The annual friendly matches with N. Ireland on the eve of the West of Scotland Open once again provided an enjoyable evenings play in an atmosphere of good comradeship. The trend in recent years has been for Scotland's juniors to be too strong for their counterparts from across the water and so it was again this year with Junior Boys and Junior Girls matches being won 8-0 in each case. However, the match between senior select teams was much closer with Andrew Dennison beating Callum Gerrard but losing to Ian McLean. Jennifer Reid and Nora McEvoy both beat Valerie Thomson.

World champions will be North and South

by ALAN RANSOME, Deputy Chairman, ETTA

DETERMINED to retain their reputation as the top table tennis nation, China have selected both their World Champions, Jiang Jialiang and He Zhili, to compete in the Leeds Euro-Asia tournament in Cleveland and in the Leeds English Open in Brighton.

Two years ago the Chinese led the Asian team for the Euro-Asia tournament in Paris and received a major setback as Andrezj Grubba of Poland won the Men's Singles and all the Chinese players were eliminated before the final.

Devastated

The Chinese were so devastated by these defeats that they called a special 'inquest' conference in Beijing for all the top players and coaches to investigate why they had been defeated.

For the Leeds Euro-Asia tournament at Thornaby Pavilion in Cleveland on 16 and 17 January, not only have they selected their World Champions, Jiang Jialiang and He Zhili, but have included their other top stars, Chen Longcan, World No 3, Teng Yi, World No 4 and World No 3 Lady, Dai Lili.

13 in the party

To ensure that their star performers play to their maximum potential this time, their leading coaches, Xu Shafa, Zhang Xielin and Xi Enting, former World title holders themselves, will accompany the team. The 13 strong party will also include a special doctor, an interpreter and two journalists.

This Chinese party is certainly the strongest to visit England since the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham and probably the best of all time.

It is not just the \$50,000 prize money of the Leeds Euro-Asia

tournament, the largest amount ever given for the sport, that is their main incentive; it is their chance to settle the score from Paris two years ago and restore their pride that is their main attraction.

The Chinese party is: Men: Jiang Jialiang — World No 1, Chen Longcan — World No 3 & Teng Yi — World No 4. Women: He Zhili — World No 1 and Dai Lili — World No 3. Team leader: Li Furong. Coaches: Xu Shafa, Zhang Xielin and Xi Enting. Interpreter: Ms Liu Beijian. Doctor: Liu Tianlu. Journalists: Lin Zunding and Li Kenei.

DONALD PARKER SAID: I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to the Leeds Euro/Asia tournament, to have most of the top 20 players in the World playing in a very important event in this country is fantastic and to have ten places in the tournament for our players is excellent.

I hope that all coaches who work with our up and coming players participate in the Euro/Asia coaches course and that as many England ranked youngsters as possible enroll for the players course.



Euro-Asia in Cleveland



World Champion Jiang Jialiang retained his crown in New Delhi on 2 March when at 24-22 in the fourth game he overpowered the gallant Jan-Ove Waldner in the final. It is hoped that over 1,000 fans will be watching Jiang and his Chinese team-mates at both Thornaby and Brighton. They will be watching closely the Chinese tactics. Their success as I saw it in India was achieved with fast services, snap-attack and close to the table fast attack. Jiang maintains that he is confident of his technical strength and that he often plays close to the table, thus reducing looping opportunities for European players especially. J.W.

PLAYERS COURSE

A technical course is being organised around the championships, primarily for England ranked Senior, Junior and Cadet players led by England Junior captains Paul Day and Jackie Bellinger.

THE SPONSORS . . .

WITH the largest prize pool in the history of table tennis totalling \$50,000 the Leeds Euro-Asia in Cleveland will be the highest quality tournament staged anywhere in the world before the Seoul Olympic Games.

The top nine men and six women from both Europe and Asia will compete together with six wild card men and four wild card women from the UK in the most prestigious tournament to be staged in England since the 1977 World Championships.

Sponsored by the Leeds and hosted by Cleveland County Council, the total budget for the event will be £100,000.

Alan Ransome, deputy chairman of the English Table Tennis Association and the tournament organiser, said: 'The Leeds sponsorship of table tennis in this country has put us back on the world map and helped us to stage this major tournament at the beginning of table tennis Olympic year.'

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

TELEVISION



Channel Four have agreed to give the event extensive television coverage. It is planned that the tournament will be shown well after the event for two one-hour programmes.

The Daily Telegraph

READERS of *The Daily Telegraph* will I hope, be pleased with the amount of table tennis news in that newspaper during the late autumn period. For the record the *Telegraph* carried 16 table tennis items between 15 November and 9 December, a period of 24 days. Between 15-27 November, there were 10 items in 12 days and in the opening nine days of December, six table tennis pieces.

Fellow-scribe Johnny Leach has not been so lucky with the *News of The World*. My edition has failed to carry table tennis for four weeks in a row during December.

I am as keen as the chairman to carry a page in *TTN* on 'What the Papers Say', but there are difficulties in getting copies of stories in some papers. A full press-cutting service is a luxury that the ETTA cannot afford. — J.W.

ORDER YOUR TABLE TENNIS NEWS MONTHLY FROM THE ETTA OFFICE

Hundreds at Monks Hill

SOUTH OF ENGLAND TWO STAR JUNIOR OPEN

ANOTHER HUGE JUNIOR ENTRY

'A TABLE TENNIS success story.' This was Surrey County captain Mike Kercher's comment on the South of England 2 Star Junior Open held at Monks Hill Sports Centre 14 and 15 November. The facilities offered by the centre, not least of which are the excellent catering facilities provided by the adjoining school canteen, with the co-operation of its manager and staff plus the backing of Croydon Corporation, all these combine to provide a tailor-made setting for a table tennis tournament.

The survival of any major sporting event requires cash input from a sponsor. The organising committee has again been fortunate in once again securing the support of the Lambeth Building Society and Lankfords the Builders.

Tremendous

Everything seemed to fall nicely into place. An accepted entry of nearly 350 youngsters over the 10 events was a tremendous boost to start with. Particularly pleasing was the much improved interest in the Girls' events.

The scheduling and referring of 'firm but fair' Phil Goacher was perfect. Do juniors ever go to

expedite... This enabled us to meet the Press Association deadline of 8 o'clock which is an improvement we hope to maintain.

No tantrums

The whole atmosphere was competitive but friendly. There were no tantrums at all and even Damien Holland who might well have expected to retain his title took his defeat by Ian Bird (Np) in good spirit.

It seems certain that the players enjoy the event if the minimal number of scratchings are anything to go by. Admittedly top seed Adrian Thorp didn't make it but almost everybody else did.

The only unfortunate incident concerned the non-arrival of the Northants mini-bus which got lost. When it did arrive, it was, regrettably, too late to re-insert some of the scratched players into the tournament.

Saturation

The 'Final Sessions' were fairly well attended with local civic dignitaries presenting the trophies. Saturation local press coverage helped to swell the attendance. Comperes at the finals were David 'Smooth Talk-

ing' Lomas and Don 'Who is Mike Kercher?' Beesley.

A most pleasing aspect was the correctness of serving on the part of the majority of the players. My impressions were confirmed by the umpires who were a little thin on the ground. May we ask for better support for Terry Vance next time...

Results: Under-17 Boys: J. Taylor (Lancs) b S. Greenbrook (Sussex) 12, 14. Under-17 Girls: C. Buckley (Beds) b T. Scott-Pawson (Dorset) 16, -17, 12.

★ UMPIRES ★

NOTHING new in the idea of an umpires' corner. I would like to start one in this magazine next season, we might even give it a start in the last two issues of the season. Perhaps a half page could be found for both serious material, dates (of events), and even the odd picture. I have asked Alan Shepherd for some help, any other offers would be considered. — J.W.

SEE EUROPE'S No. 1 JAN OVE WALDNER IN THE the Leeds Euro-Asia in Cleveland

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THE ALBERT SHIPLEY STORY

ON 6 December 1987, the ETTA General Secretary, Albert Shipley, completed 20 years service as an employee of the association, and here he reminisces on some of the highlights of his career in table tennis.

'Early in 1965 I was asked by the organiser of the 1966 European Championship, Conrad Jaschke, to act as his personal assistant in the build up to the event held at Wembley. This brought me my first contact at national level after years of secretarial work at club and league level. For the 1966/67 season I acted as minute secretary to the National Council and was appointed secretary of the National Selection Committee.

'In December 1967 came the opportunity to make my hobby my job when the post of administrative secretary at the ETTA was created. For the next eight years I worked with Derek Tremayne, the general secretary plus a small secretarial staff and the ever-faithful Harry Walker. In late 1972, the office moved to Hastings and Derek, Harry and I all moved house.

'1975 saw Derek leave to become the director at Lilleshall and for one year Roy Taylor was general secretary. By early 1976 preparations for the 1977 World Championships were in full

swing, and when Roy Taylor left in the February, Mike Lawless took on the organisation of the World Championships and I became general secretary.

Broad horizons

'After years of providing the administrative background chances to broaden my horizons came along quite by chance. In the early hours of one morning in 1978 the president of the Mexican Table Tennis Federation invited me to Mexico to conduct an umpires' seminar and I found it one of the most interesting experiences of my table tennis life. Working through an interpreter, the seminar became almost a language class and led to the discovery of several important errors in translation into the Spanish, a discovery that was to be repeated in the years to come. The international umpire qualifications was gaining popularity and my experience in Mexico led to other invitations to conduct seminars for umpires, including Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Venezuela, Morocco and Greece. On each

occasion a major contribution of my visit was an explanation of the true meaning of certain words in the laws such as "undue", "let" and "volley".

'From 1978 onwards I acted as team manager/delegate at the various World and European Championships and these occasions have given rise to some interesting visits including Japan and the never-to-be-forgotten journey to Pyongyang.

'John Prean is the fifth chairman under whom I have served, the others being Ivor Eyles, Conrad Jaschke, Charles Wyles and Tom Blunn. It was a privilege to get to know Ivor Montagu, a fascinating character and for a table tennis enthusiast the chance to meet the greats of the game like Barna, Bergmann, Leach plus continental stars like Sido, Dolinar, Hagenauer, etc, was the icing on the cake.

So for 20 years now, table tennis has been my working life and golf my relaxation. Memories there are a-plenty and like any other job there have been peaks and troughs but if I have learned one thing throughout the years it is that there are two sides to every story. The foregoing is my side, someone else can no doubt tell the other.'



Albert Shipley

'During my time with the ETTA I somehow landed the job of MC at matches and championships and this in turn led to the Mark McCormack group, who were the sponsorship agents for the ITTF World Cup, inviting me to be MC and TV commentator at the World Cups held in Barbados, Kuala Lumpur, China and Trinidad. It was not until I did the TV commentary for Screensport on some European League and China matches that I had the chastening experience of hearing my own comments which made me very sympathetic to people like Murray Walker!



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COLLINO HALTS JACKSON, CRIMMINS

— but Ashford still racing ahead

by MIKE LOVEDER & JIM BECKLEY

THERE has been plenty of action in Division I with some very impressive results. Perhaps the best individual result occurred in the Ashford I v TSP Larkhall I match in which Percy Collino had two straight wins over both Kenny Jackson and Max Crimmins. Unbeaten Ashford managed to win this match 5-3 with Max beating Mike Hammond 21-19, 21-19. Dave Harding beat David Goode in the last set of the day.

Possibly the best team performance came from West Warwicks/Birmingham who chalked up their first win of the season at the expense of Trebor Dagenham for whom only Henry Buist could clinch two. Horsham Dolphins were held to a draw by St Neots and this match proved to be a tough re-introduction for Steve Holloway who, along with Ritchie Venner, lost to Keith Richardson quite comfortably. Bradford IU flexed their muscles v Byker Newcastle with Martin Kinsella continuing his winning ways.

Postponement

Meanwhile, in the Premier Division, there was a tremendous tussle in the drawn Dunlop Express v Butterfly Cardiff match during which 10 games finished at either 19 or deuce. Rotherham beat Chan Construction 5-3 with veteran John Hilton beating Phil Gunn 22-20 in the third in the seventh set of the day to lead 4-3. Tony Taylor finished off with a three-game victory over Chu Van Que.

The top of the table remains unchanged with the Bath v Grove match being postponed until the end of January due to international duties. Locked in mid-table positions are currently Ormesby and Kingfisher Reading. The latter did not make much impact overall on their northern visitors when they met at the end of November. It

looked fairly close at the halfway stage as the match score stood at 2-2, but John Broe had conceded to Mark Oakley. Adrian Dixon had beaten Nigel Eckersley but Ormesby ran away with the last four games of the day despite three of them going to a third end.

Bulldozers!

Considerable activity has been taking place in Division II South. Plymouth Bulldogs inflicted the first loss of Team Ramlosa Essex with Gary Wilson continuing to plough through his opponents. It has been a lean patch for former lead contenders C&L Ruislip who seem to have had trouble establishing and fielding their strongest squad. C&L recruited Tony Stark from Gunnersbury Triangle and it therefore appeared perhaps a little ironic that C&L lost to the improving Doleq Carpets while Gunnersbury Triangle chalked up a 7-1 win! In this it was Tony Duffield of Kingfisher Reading who beat Babs Adedayo to prevent the whitewash treatment. The Ruislip side may have taken some consolation from Andy Cunningham being in form when they met and drew at home to Team Ramlosa.

Rejects I continue to win only their home fixtures as they crushed Fellows Cranleigh 7-1 with Alex Abbott preventing a whitewash in the last set of the

day against Peter Harry with a deuce in the third victory. Peter has recently been coming unstuck in close situations but he managed to beat Alain Choo-Choy from Mauritius. The Rejects team will have been looking to record their first away win of the season against the bottom side Kingfisher Reading, in December. The inclusion of Chris Oldfield and Mark Oakley, who have recently made the most of their appearances in the Premier Division, could cause some problems. Reading will need to act quickly if they are to clear the relegation zone as some teams will no doubt start to strengthen their squads.

Division 2 South

Plymouth Bulldogs showed their teeth by beating Team Ramlosa in a top of the table clash 5-3. The result puts Plymouth clear at the top of the division in a match that Tony Sweet and Gary Wilson both finished unbeaten.

Division 3 East

As expected Pioneer beat lowly Crusaders 5-3 but the Lincoln side provided a few shocks before going down. Paul Moore and Jim Brewster grabbed a couple of sets before Pioneer woke up and from then on it was all one way with Colin Luscombe and Peter Bowler finishing unbeaten.

Birmingham Athletic failed to make the top of the division after being held 4-4 by Chelmsford OCs. Six matches went to three games, it was that close, so a draw was a fair result.

Britannia Ipswich took advantage of that draw to beat Fellows Cranleigh 2nd 7-1 and go top of the table. Some close games here, none more so than between Grant Solder who just hung on to beat Richard Hutchinson to sal-

vage some price for a well beaten Cranleigh team.

Norwich Foxwood had an easier than expected 7-1 win over Trebor Dagenham with six matches only lasting two games. The longest was Richard Stevenson's 28-26 win over Tony West and except for the opening match when Damien Holland beat Martyn Stevenson, it was all one way.

Division 3 North

Oldham needing every set they can get, went to town with an 8-0 win over Vickers SC and moved into second place. Every match was two straight several ended in single figures.

Division 3 North

Other one-way wins included Chan Construction's 7-1 result against Ormesby 3rd, although three matches went to three games; and Leicester's win by the same score over Byker Newcastle. But it is Kingsbro Insurance who go to the top of this division thanks to a 6-2 win over Trinity.

Division 3 South

Ashford 2nd were held to a 4-4 draw by TSP Larkhall, a point lost that they may well regret later on. Alison Gordon had little trouble in winning her two matches by Mandy Sainsbury, Juliet Houghton and Andy Sheppard all struggled.

Countryman Tunbridge Wells eased their way to the top of the division after beating Deptford Rams 5-3. They were just enough sets to give them top place although they are still only level on points with Ashford.

Reigate grabbed their first point of the season when they held Thorn Ellenborough to a draw. But they had to come from behind in a match where five games ended in single figures.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Leeds British League 2

Division 3 West

Jolliffe Poole boosted their chances of promotion when they beat IMI Leominster 7-1. Leominster's only win coming from Mark Owen mid-way through the match when he beat Hakan Sigrell.

And a late win from William Dawe won Cheltenham Saracens two points against Bathwick Tyres 2nd. Dawe finally clinched the match by beating Gary Baldwin 21, 16 in the final game to give his side a 5-3 win.

Division 2 North

Ruston Marconi upset runaway leaders City of Leeds with a late burst which saw Stephen Yallop and David Skerratt come from behind and help their side take both points. Trailing by two sets the home side inched their way back with Skerratt winning the final game of the afternoon to clinch the match 5-3 for Ruston.

At the other end of the table Wellingborough came away with an 8-0 win over Ormesby 2nd. It was one of those games when nothing went right for the North

East side and it also means they have a mountain to climb if they are to avoid relegation.

A last gasp win for Wolverhampton in their match against Waveney saw Steve Dunning the hero beating Sean Molloy 19, 19 to give his side a 5-3 win.

Division 2 South

Doleq Carpets collected two valuable points by beating Ruislip 5-3 in a match where every set was keenly fought. Two wins for Player of the Month Brian Jeanes helped his side move into third place.

No luck for Kingfisher Reading who stay bottom of the division after a 7-1 defeat from Gunnersbury Triangle. A closer match than the score suggests, it puts Kingfisher in a precarious position.

Rejects finally came out winners against Fellows Cranleigh but five matches went to deuce and three to three games. Alex Abbott got Fellows only win of the match when he beat Peter Harry in three to salvage something for the Essex side.

the LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE — TABLES



Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bathwick Tyres — Bath I	6	6	0	0	44	4	12
Grove I	5	4	1	0	30	10	9
Rotherham TTC	7	4	0	3	27	29	8
Ormesby I	6	3	1	2	25	23	7
Butterfly Cardiff I	6	2	1	3	20	28	5
Kingfisher Reading I	5	2	0	3	17	23	4
Chan Construction I	7	1	0	6	18	38	2
Dunlop Express I	6	0	1	5	11	37	1

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford I	7	7	0	0	44	12	14
Bradford Investment Unity	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Horsham Dolphins	7	3	3	1	30	26	9
T.S.P. Larkhall I	7	2	3	2	29	27	7
Trebtor Dagenham FC I	7	2	2	3	29	27	6
St Neots	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
West Warwickshire	7	1	1	5	16	40	3
Byker Newcastle I	7	1	0	6	17	39	2

Division 2 (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
City of Leeds	7	6	0	1	39	17	12
Ruston Marconi Lincoln	7	5	1	1	39	17	11
Grove II	6	3	2	1	26	22	8
Wolverhampton	7	3	1	3	27	29	7
EAE Waveney	7	3	0	4	34	22	6
March	6	3	0	3	20	28	6
Well-Conn Wellingborough	7	1	1	5	22	34	3
Ormesby II	7	0	1	6	9	47	1

Division 2 (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth Bulldogs	7	6	1	0	35	21	12
Team Ramlosa Essex	7	5	1	1	40	16	11
Rejects I	7	4	0	3	32	24	8
C & L Ruislip	7	3	2	2	31	25	8
Doleq Carpets	7	3	2	2	31	25	8
Gunnersbury Triangle	7	3	0	4	26	30	6
Fellows Cranleigh I	7	0	2	5	17	39	2
Kingfisher Reading II	7	0	1	6	12	44	1

Division 3 (East)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Britannia Ipswich	7	7	0	0	43	13	14
Birmingham Athletic Institute	7	5	1	1	34	22	11
Chelmsford OC's	7	4	2	1	37	19	10
Norwich Foxwood	7	4	1	2	34	22	9
Trebtor Dagenham II	7	3	0	4	24	32	6
AHW Pioneer	7	2	0	5	23	33	4
Fellows Cranleigh II	7	0	1	6	16	40	1
Crusaders Lincoln	7	0	1	6	13	43	1

Division 3 (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingsbro Financial Services	7	5	1	1	39	17	11
Chan Construction II	7	5	0	2	38	18	10
Leicester TTC	7	5	0	2	38	18	10
Trinity Newcastle-U-Lyme	7	5	0	2	38	18	10
Oldham	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Byker Newcastle II	7	2	0	5	18	38	4
Ormesby III	7	1	0	6	16	40	2
Vickers Sports Club	7	0	0	7	5	51	0

Division 3 (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Countrymen Tunbridge Wells	7	6	0	1	41	15	12
Ashford II	7	5	2	0	40	16	12
Deptford Rams	7	4	2	1	34	22	10
Alpha Warriors	7	4	1	2	29	27	9
TSP Larkhall II	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
Rejects II	7	1	2	4	20	36	4
Thorn Ellenborough	7	0	2	5	19	37	2
Reigate & Redhill LTTC	7	0	1	6	14	42	1

Division 3 (West)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Butterfly Cardiff II	7	7	0	0	40	16	14
Jolliffe Poole	7	5	1	1	35	21	11
Cheltenham Saracens SC	7	4	1	2	30	26	9
Duchy Windows Launceston	7	3	0	4	27	29	6
Generation Fareham	7	3	0	4	26	30	6
Dunlop Express II	7	3	0	4	24	32	6
Bathwick Tyres — Bath II	7	1	1	5	24	32	3
IMI Leominster	7	0	1	6	18	38	1

LATEST LEAGUE RESULTS

Premier Division:

Butterfly Cardiff I 5, Rotherham T.T.C. 3; Chan Construction I 1, Bathwick Tyres — Bath I 7

Division 1:

Bradford Investments Unity 4, West Warwickshire 4; Trebor Dagenham F.C. I 1, Ashford I 7; St. Neots 5, Byker Newcastle I 3; T.S.P. Larkhall I 4, Horsham Dolphins 4

Division 2 (North):

City of Leeds 6, Wolverhampton 2; E.A.E. Waveney 7, March 1; Grove II 4, Well-Conn. Wellingborough 4; Ormesby II 0, Ruston Marconi Lincoln 8

Division 2 (South):

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

Division 3 (East):

Crusaders Lincoln 3, Norwich Foxwood 5; Chelmsford OC's 6, A. H. W. Pioneer 2; Fellows Cranleigh II 3; Birmingham Ath. Inst. 5; Crusaders Lincoln 1, Trebor Dagenham F.C. II 7; Norwich Foxwood 3, Britannia Ipswich 5

Division 3 (North):

Byker Newcastle II 1; Chan Construction II 7; Ormesby III 2, Kingsbro Financial Serv. 6; Trinity Newcastle-U-Lyme 7, Oldham 1; Vickers Sports Club 0, Leicester T.T.C. 8

Division 3 (South)

Alpha Warriors 1, Ashford II 7; Deptford Rams 5, Rejects II 3; Thorn Ellenborough 2, Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 6; T.S.P. Larkhall II 6; Reigate & Redhill LTTC 2

Division 3 (West)

Duchy Windows Launceston 2, Butterfly Cardiff II 6; Butterfly Cardiff II 5, I.M.I. Leominster 3; Cheltenham Saracens S.C. 7, Generation Fareham 1; Dunlop Express II 2, Duchy Windows Launceston 6; Jolliffe Poole 4, Bathwick Tyres — Bath II 4



Trevor Campbell is the captain of Rejects II in the Leeds British League. Picture: Mike Loveder.

Leeds County Championships 1

Middlesex stranglehold tightens

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION — The first series of matches have been played at St Neots TTC and Middlesex continue their success. They registered 3 wins and head the League Table. With 20 events for and only 7 against it would hardly be fair to say the team looked a trifle vulnerable! But it was a near scrape against Berks with a 5-4 win and Graham Sandley beating Andy Wellman 17, -6, 17 in the deciding event. Jimmy Stokes (Bk) had wins over Nigel Tyler and John Souter. Mandy Sainsbury won her singles and combined with Jimmy Stokes to beat Nigel and Lesley Tyler 22 and 23 in the mixed!

Derbyshire, with 3 wins and only 1 event down on Middlesex, had a more decisive 6-3 win over Berks. A vital event was a win for Bradley Billington (Dy) over Jimmy Stokes -18, 11, 23! A valuable contribution for Derby was made by John Holland, who got 5 singles wins in the 3 matches. Leics did very well to achieve 2 wins — Chris Rogers lost only to John Souter. But fellow promotees Essex, who did not have the services of Skylet Andrew, suffered 3 losses and may have an early return to Div 2. Yorks, who dominate the junior scene, prop up the League Table. They will have a desperate need for points in the second series when they meet both the promoted teams (Essex and Leics) but also have to meet Middlesex.

Middlesex meet Derby in the final series and Lancs will also have a say in the destiny of the championship.

Bradley Billington and Mandy Sainsbury had 100% performances in singles and doubles — Mandy was unbeaten in singles in last season's programme. Bradley's partner was John Holland and Mandy partnered Jimmy Stokes. Middlesex was especially well served by Graham Sandley, who won all 6 singles including the important 9th event v Berks, and John Souter/Colin Wilson unbeaten in doubles. The closest event of the series was the Steve Dorking (E)/John Souter match won by Steve at 21, -20, 20!

RESULTS

Derby	5	Essex	4
Lancs	4	Berks	5
Middlesex	8	Leics	1
Surrey	6	Yorks	3
Berks	3	Derby	6
Essex	2	Middlesex	7
Leics	7	Surrey	2
Yorks	3	Lancs	6
Lancs	6	Surrey	3
Middlesex	5	Berks	4
Leics	5	Essex	4
Derby	8	Yorks	1

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	3	3	0	20	7	6
Derby	3	3	0	19	8	6
Lancs	3	2	1	16	11	4
Leics	3	2	1	13	14	4
Berks	3	1	2	12	15	2
Surrey	3	1	2	11	16	2
Essex	3	0	3	10	17	0
Yorks	3	0	3	7	20	0

SENIOR 2A:— Cheshire 4, Staffs 6; Warwick 9, Lancs II 1; Worcs 5, N'berland 5.

Staffs, without a point, brought in Adrian Dixon and it certainly paid off. He won his 2 singles, including a -17, 18, 19 defeat of Tony Taylor. Warwick had a resounding win over Lancs II the only Lancs success being Nicola McGrath's win over Sandra Peakman.

SENIOR 2B:— Devon 7, Wilts 3; Kent 8, Avon 2; Middlesex II 1, Sussex 9; Somerset 8, Hants 2.

The Somerset men — Lee Sadler, Ron Weatherby and Brian Reeves — won their 7 events against Hants. Kevin Satchell (Wi) had a hard match against Devon. He beat Paul Giles 20 and 23 but lost to Paul Whiting 14, -19, -19.

SENIOR 3A:— Leics II 8, Cheshire II 2; Norfolk 6, Cumbria 4; Lincs 7, Worcs II 3.

Norfolk had their consecutive 6-4 match. Julie McLean and Karen Backhouse got their 3 events for Cumbria. David Honor (Nk) beat Stephen Temple (Cu) 21 and 17 in the last event to secure the win for Norfolk.

SENIOR 3B:— Cornwall I 7, Herefords 3; Cornwall II 6, Herefords 4; Dorset II 2, Avon II 8; Dorset I 9, Devon II 1.

Herefords visited Camborne to play 2 matches and were unfortunate to lose both. Against Cornwall II Mark Owen and Mike Owens won their 4 singles but lost the doubles at 20, -16, 17.

SENIOR 3C:— Cambs 10, Beds 0; Herts II 8, Hunts I 2; Northants I 5, Cambs II 5; Northants II 2, Cambs II 8; Beds II 7, Suffolk II 3.

Cambs II had quite a successful trip to Wellingborough. They drew with Northants I, a vital factor being Geoff Davies' 14, -9, 21 win over Graeme McKim.

SENIOR 3D:— Herts I 7, Berks II 3; Surrey II 6, Essex II 4; Bucks/Hants II — postponed.

Keith Samuels and John Taylor did well to win 5 events for Herts in their win over Berks.

JUNIOR 2A:— Cambs I, Lancs II 9; Lincs 4, Beds 6; Hunts 6, Cheshire 4; Yorks II/Suffolk — postponed.

Lincs/Beds was a very close match. The home team won 2 singles at deuce in 3rd. With the

score at 4-5. Beaumont (Bed) beat L. Robinson -17, 16, 18 to give Beds the 2 points.

JUNIOR 2B:— Essex II 3, Herts I 7; Middlesex 6, Kent 4; Somerset 5, Sussex 5; Surrey 7, Glamorgan 3.

Tina Sadler and Joanne Webber got 3 valuable wins for Somerset. The home team came from 2-4 down to get a draw.

JUNIOR 3A:— N'berland 2, Durham 8; Derby II 7, Lancs III 3.

A good win for Durham. Ian Collier and Michael Roughley won all their singles events. The boys doubles was close with Collier and Steven Riggins beating Michael Curry and Stephen Coverdale -21, 15, 19.

JUNIOR 3B:— Norfolk I 10, Hants II 0; Oxfords 9, Cambs II 1.

The Battle of the Blues resulted in a resounding win for Oxford. A 'whitewash' was saved in the last event, and by a narrow margin, when Stuart Mason beat Philip Mead 18, -14, 21.

JUNIOR 3C:— Cornwall I 9, Hants I; Cornwall II 2, Hants 8. Hants journeyed to Camborne for 2 matches and gained 1 win.

Against Cornwall I the 1-9 score did not really do Hants justice. 3 events were lost at 18, 19 and 20 in the deciders. Their 1 win — Edward Connell beat Mark Bowden 19, -14, 19. Altogether a hard fought match for a 1-9 defeat!

JUNIOR 3D:— Berks II 6, Surrey II 4; Essex III 8, Herts II 2; Kent II 4, Middlesex II 6.

Berks took the last 2 events to get the win over Surrey. Nicola Cracknell (Bk) beat Kiara Coady 15 and 21 and Marc Priddle sealed the win with a 16 and 14 win over David Thompson.

VETS 2A:— Yorks 7, Notts 2; Worcs 5, Leics 4; Essex II 4, Norfolk 5; Warwick 5, Cheshire II 4.

Norfolk won the last 2 events to get a win over Essex. Tony Hipperson (Nk) got the vital win over J. Hobley 12, -21, 18 having previously beaten Ron Murray -15, 16, 20.

VETS 2B:— Berks 5, Hants 4; Dorset 4, Sussex II 5, Herts II 2, Kent II 7; Middlesex II 2, Surrey I 7.

Connie Warren was involved in 3 wins over Middlesex players. The toughest match was the



by DOUG MOSS

men's doubles when Connie and Frank Hams beat Tony Taylor/John Holland (Mi) 16, -20, 22.

VETS 3A:— Clwyd 2, Lancs 7; Lancs 7, Cheshire III 2; Yorks II 9, Lincs II 0; Hunts 7, N'berland 2.

Lancs got off to an impressive 4-0 start against Clwyd. Bernard Carter was involved in the 2 Clwyd wins, teaming up with Peter Williams in the doubles.

VETS 3B:— Essex III 7, Bedford 2; Northants 6, Herts III 3; Hunts II 3, Norfolk II 6.

With the match score 3-2 looked in with a chance. But Essex won the next 3 events in straight games. D. Binns then beat Lynn Jones 14, -19, 17 to register a 7-2 win.

VETS 3C:— Herefords III, Surrey III 6; Bucks II 7, Glos 2, Oxon 7, Herts IV 2; Wilts II 2, Berks III 7.

Margaret Newcombe (Hr) won her singles against Surrey and partnered Neville Meredith to beat Jean West/Ron Wilde 19 and 15 in the mixed.

VETS 3D:— Hants II 5, Berks II 4; Surrey II 5, Sussex III 4.

Two good matches in this section. In both the match scores went from 1 all to 4 all to build up for the vital 9th event. Maurice Shave had the responsibility for Hants, lost the first game at 10 to Brian Halliday but came back to win 16 and 12. Ron Langheim clinched the Surrey win by beating David Sinden 13 and 14.



Nigel Tyler lost to Jimmy Stokes. Picture: John F. A. Wood.

Leeds County Championships 2

Tables including all results received to 7 December 1987



Joy Dean (née Grundy) is now a WPC in training at Ashford, Kent. She is ranked No 1 in Lancashire.

SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	3	3	0	20	7	6
Derbyshire	3	3	0	19	8	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Leicestershire	3	2	1	13	14	4
Berkshire	3	1	2	12	15	2
Surrey	3	1	2	11	16	2
Essex	3	0	3	7	20	0
Yorkshire	3	0	3	7	20	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Worcester	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Suffolk	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Northumberland	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Staffordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Yorkshire II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Lancashire II	3	0	1	2	7	23	1

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Sussex	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Somerset	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Avon	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Kent	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Wiltshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Middlesex II	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Warwickshire II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Leicestershire II	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Norfolk	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Worcestershire II	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Cumbria	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Cheshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dorset I	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Cornwall I	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Devonshire II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Avon II	3	2	0	1	12	18	4
Somerset II	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Cornwall II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Herefordshire	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Dorset II	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

Division 3C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cambridgeshire II	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Cambridgeshire I	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Northants I	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Hertfordshire II	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Northants II	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Bedfordshire I	4	1	1	2	14	16	3
Suffolk II	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Bedfordshire II	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire I	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Surrey II	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Essex II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Sussex II	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Berkshire II	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Oxfordshire	3	0	1	2	7	23	1
Buckinghamshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Hampshire II	3	0	0	3	3	27	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	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Lancashire II	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Huntingdonshire	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Yorkshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cambridgeshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cheshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Sussex	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Kent	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Somerset	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Glamorgan	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Essex II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Derbyshire II	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Durham	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Leicestershire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cheshire II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Lancashire III	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Clwyd	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Norfolk I	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Oxfordshire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Berkshire I	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Northants	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Huntingdonshire II	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Warwickshire II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Norfolk II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cambridgeshire II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Division 3C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Avon	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Cornwall I	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Dorset	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Cornwall II	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Middlesex II	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Buckinghamshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Kent II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Essex III	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Hertfordshire II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Berkshire II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Surrey II	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Sussex II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

VETERANS

Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	2	2	0	14	4	4
Worcester	2	2	0	10	8	4
Warwickshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Norfolk	3	2	1	15	12	4
Essex II	2	1	1	9	9	2
Leicestershire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Cheshire II	3	0	3	11	16	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	2	5	13	0

Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Surrey	3	3	0	22	5	6
Kent II	3	3	0	20	7	6
Sussex II	3	2	1	13	14	4
Middlesex II	3	1	2	13	14	2
Berkshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Dorset	3	1	2	11	16	2
Hertfordshire II	3	1	2	7	20	2
Hampshire	3	0	3	11	16	0

Division 3A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	24	3	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	23	4	6
Huntingdonshire I	2	1	1	9	9	2
Cheshire III	2	1	1	8	10	2
Northumberland	3	1	2	10	17	2
Clwyd	3	0	3	7	20	0
Lincolnshire II	2	0	2	0	18	0

Division 3B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Essex III	3	3	0	19	8	6
Norfolk II	2	2	0	11	7	4
Northamptonshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Huntingdonshire II	2	1	1	9	9	2
Berkshire IV	2	1	1	6	12	2
Hertfordshire III	3	0	3	11	16	0
Bedfordshire	3	0	3	9	18	0

Division 3C	P	W	L	F	A	P
Buckinghamshire II	3	3	0	20	7	6
Oxfordshire	3	3	0	18	9	6
Berkshire III	3	2	1	16	11	4
Hertfordshire IV	3	2	1	16	11	4
Surrey III	3	2	1	15	12	4
Wiltshire II	3	0	3	10	17	0
Gloucestershire	3	0	3	9	18	0
Herefordshire	3	0	3	4	23	0

Division 3D	P	W	L	F	A	P
Wiltshire I	2	2	0	13	5	4
Surrey II	2	2	0	11	7	4
Hampshire II	2	2	0			

Mailbox, seven selected letters

An answer for Steve Mills

STEVE Mills letter is quite reasonable — *IT News* November. Perhaps the background would be helpful. When first staged three years ago, this was a 'Selection Committee' event and the specification included the top 10 players on the 'LENTEC' ranking computer plus two wild cards.

This method was questioned in National Council (the Senate of English table tennis), but the assembly was persuaded by Paul Day, then chairman of the selectors that this was the sort of experience he wanted to give his younger players at times. His point, too, was not unreasonable. There always have been two points of view on this and the latter has prevailed via our democratic process.

It is not a decision I have to make, but members do not wish to see me sitting on the fence. Therefore I have to say that I incline toward the 'selection' view. I felt the event was enriched by the inclusion of Matthew Syed and Bradley Billington this time and Michael O'Driscoll previously and indeed by the accident of the players' boycott (such as it was), which brought in John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley.

I am not sure whether the title 'Top 12' should be retained. Perhaps it should, as Steve says, be an Invitation Event. Whether it survives at all, or with such excellent prize money, after recent actions, remains to be seen.

JOHN PREAN

No criticism of the umpire intended

MY REPORT (Surrey notes May/June issue) about an incident in the Cleveland international tournament seems to have gained an extra meaning in the translation. I can assure Mr Tyler (Mailbox 2 Oct issue) that any criticism of the umpire was not intended. Of course, the VETTS Society expect the game to be taken seriously and that umpires are respected but they would not have wanted any 'young players' to have witnessed the incident reported. Nor would they want good sportsmanship to be eliminated from any tournament — International or otherwise, particularly in veteran events.

FRANK HAMS
104 Wandle Road,
Morden, Surrey SM4 6AE

A subscriber we nearly lost . . .

I DID not enjoy reading *Table Tennis News* over the last few years, to me, it had got rather boring and dry, mainly results, with no real interest.

I am glad to report that I find the articles now very readable and would like to thank you for your efforts. They are most appreciated. I look forward now to the next issues with anticipation — a change from three years ago when I almost decided to cancel my order for *Table Tennis News*!

P TAYLOR
2 Millfields,
Castor, Lincs

Editor's note: A prominent ETTA professional at Hastings said not long ago that he found Table Tennis News to be a very acceptable reference magazine. I am trying to change the policy gradually, less results, more words, more pictures and more interesting articles. Mr Taylor's words confirm my views.

Why not pay the officials

TABLE TENNIS all over the country is woefully in need of promoting administrators out of excellence, and not necessarily out of seniority, the latter often elevates men and women of the most modest intellect to positions of high authority even though many are woefully ill-equipped to make major decisions — for example, you have the person or persons who have been in the game for many years and have become very set in their ways, hopelessly unable to move with current times and still (mind wise) back some 20 years ago, any positive mention of say — 'The 11 up system', and they look at you in a total bemused manner, just not even knowing what one is talking about.

Sadly, in today's game any person who kindly volunteers his/her services to serve on this or that committee is almost invariably snapped up without question.

Isn't it time to start thinking about the ultimate future of our sport more seriously? This suggestion is not going to be popular, but why not pay or least recompense leading administrators for the services they render?

If this were done, the individual associations (assuming that they were large enough) then would have a very high degree of priority to see that slip

shod methods were not employed.

Ah — I hear someone saying — and where's the money coming from for all these fancy ideas? 'Simple that one,' an increase in affiliation fees, throughout the country — in comparison with other sports table tennis is by far too cheap already, and if we are to move ahead and get away from the church hall image, then what we are going into has to be paid for.

Having said all this I am only advocating increased fees for Senior players, the Junior field should not be touched.

ALF PEPPERD
Gloucestershire

A long but worthwhile journey

RECENTLY I attended the Cleveland Junior Tournament with my two young sons and would be grateful if through the mailbox I could congratulate the organisers on an extremely efficiently run event. Although problems occurred with a faulty light which required work on scaffolding to take place during play, normality soon resumed and time was made up so the whole day ran smoothly. The atmosphere was pleasant and my nine and 10 year olds felt themselves really part of the proceedings.

Many thanks too go to the umpires who 'put up with' my youngest son trying out all the difficult shots and serves he's seen. As the majority of them didn't reach the other side of the net an irritating situation could have arisen but the umpires realising how keen he was, gritted their teeth and smiled through.

Our eight hour journey up from Devon was very worthwhile.

VAL HEATH
11 New Hayes, Ipplepen,
Newton Abbot, South Devon

Will travel, not chosen

I WOULD like to comment on the subject of umpiring. As many readers will be aware I have, in my capacity as an international umpire, done regular duty at the various national events, including the World Championships at Birmingham.

I last worked at the English Junior Open at Portsmouth in 1985. Since then I have been asked each year to indicate for which events I am available and have so signified. Then, lo and behold, when the selected squads have been announced,

not only have I not been included therein, but I have not been nominated among the 'reserves'.

All my old friends and fellow umpires are there, but not me. So I just wonder who have I offended? I have always been on the very best of terms with Tony Chatwin (who seems to be in charge of affairs). I have not spoken to Colin Clement (the vice-chairman having responsibility for umpiring activities) for years, and I voted for John Prean. Have we so many people in table tennis prepared to volunteer to travel hundreds of miles and give up their time for the love of the game and the petrol money that a chap such as myself can be discarded? I really would be interested if somebody official could explain this to me?

The strange thing is that, whilst continuing to be *persona non grata* at Hinckley, I am constantly being enjoined by Tony Chatwin to umpire at places like Zagreb and Brest-litovsk.

ALAN SHEPHERD
Essex

Rule changes and the ITTF

I was interested to read in Mr Ogimura's article the following admissions. 'In the past there has been insufficient discussion between ITTF and key associations before rule changes are proposed,' and 'It often happens that a quick decision without discussion may have failed to take some important factor into account'.

It reminds me of the decision by ITTF to change their rules and ban the use of wooden bats. As I had not heard of any problems arising from the use of wooden bats I was interested to learn the reasons for the ban. At the AGM of ETTA, therefore, I requested an explanation. To my astonishment I was unable to obtain one as it was stated that there had been no discussion. The country which had put down the motion was not even present and nobody else had the ability or the courtesy to justify the proposal. At the time it seemed to me to be an extraordinary procedure to adopt when such an eminent body seeks to change rules. In my view no motion, let alone a change of rule, should be allowed to proceed if nobody is prepared to present a case to justify the proposal. Let us hope that Mr Ogimura's move toward wider and more open consideration of policies will ensure that changes are better understood and are made after proper consideration.

KEITH WATTS
6 Windsor Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Counties 1

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

AN unusual situation presents itself in League Table Tennis in Berkshire — the same team, Kingfisher A, comprising the youthful trio of Keith Hodder, Graham Kemp and Paul Savins, tops both the Bracknell and Reading Leagues. Although apparently sailing away to their 99th successive season at the top of Bracknell, this Woodley/Omega amalgamation will do well to snatch the Reading title from the likes of YMCA A, who boast Jimmy Stokes among their squad (nice to see you back in local league Jimmy). Also both the veterans of Sonning Common and the Dave Reeves inspired Polish A have matches in hand and are breathing down Kingfisher's neck.



Mandy Sainsbury

Newbury have obliged me with a copy of their newsletter (as have Reading — thanks both — I get round to most of the junior happenings but otherwise I have to be told what's going on) and I am rather intrigued with what Dave Fairholm is getting up to. Apparently he is running an 'Adults Only' session every Thursday night and we should phone or write to him for details. (Replies in plain wrapper I trust.)

The Berkshire Junior Inter-Town took place at Bulmershe under the iron control of John Freeman and Robin Lockwood and the somewhat more gentle but none the less effective assistance of Mary Allen. Maidenhead youth flourished by winning all sections with the sole exception of the Division 3 Junior Boys which went to Reading D. Not that all the categories were easy. Against Reading in the Cadet event the teams were level on Inter-Town Matches (won 2, drawn 1), level on both individual matches (15 for 3 against) and games (31 for 3 against), so the organisers had to resort to their calculators to decide that the ratio of points won to lost by the Maidenhead squad of Mark Dozell (100%), Stephen Powell

and Ben Day exceeded that of Reading by 0.301. Congratulations to the Maidenhead team their leader Hugh Bartholomew who also reports to me that their girls are through to the next round of the Bromfield Trophy and that the boys (after some strange goings on in their match against Oxford) are through to play Newbury in the Carter Cup. It will be interesting to see if the County selection committee revise their ranking list after this tournament — the boys of the first team each performed as expected, but the second team places all look up for grabs. Nicky Bradfield, currently only included when someone else is unavailable, had a good win over regular James Ettridge.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

AFTER three matches in the 'Leeds' County Table Tennis Championship, Cumbria are still searching for their first win.

But they came close to snatching at least a point in their 6-4 defeat by Norfolk at the Norman Centre, Norwich.

It was an improvement on earlier results with Stephen Temple (Carlisle) working hard to beat Norfolk's number one, Simon Steward and women Karen Backhouse (Barrow) and Julie McLean (captain, Carlisle) each winning a singles. Julie and Karen won their doubles in two straight games.

Temple was unlucky to lose his other singles against David Honor, who treated the crowd to some remarkable returns away from the table.

Temple's brother Mark was thrown in at the deep end for his county debut. He and Stephen went close to snatching a three-game doubles, but Mark lost both his singles in two straights.

Norfolk names first: Steven Howlett beat John Backhouse 22-20, 21-11; beat Mark Temple 21-9, 21-13. David Honor beat Mark Temple 21-14, 21-13; beat Stephen Temple 23-21, 21-17. Simon Steward lost to Stephen Temple 21-13, 20-22, 18-21; beat John Backhouse 21-18, 21-12. Simon Steward and Steven Howlett beat Stephen and Mark Temple 21-14, 15-21, 21-15. Gillian Hancock lost to Karen Backhouse 21-19, 9-21, 18-21. Jean Reynolds lost to Julie McLean 18-21, 12-21. Jean Reynolds and Gillian Hancock lost to Julie McLean and Karen Backhouse 12-21, 15-21.

Cumbria's next match is at home to Nottingham on Saturday January 9, provisionally at Queen Katherine School, Kendal.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

AS the half-way stage of the Cornish season approaches it is time to assess the happenings of the three Cornish local leagues. In the much weakened West Cornwall League under the new sponsorship of Helston Garages, Falmouth Docks A look set for a fifth consecutive title. With Graham Reed, the new West Cornwall league champion being one of the sharpest players in Cornwall at the moment, there are only token challenges from the other teams. Injuries, job transfers and retirements are responsible for the loss of many of the leagues most dour players. Loss of membership is a nationwide illness and the recent drop in standard of the highly respected West Cornwall League is becoming alarming.

Meanwhile in Mid Cornwall, St Austell Slades continue as the dominant club. Their leading player Barry Cornelius, the old Cornwall favourite, has not lost for several seasons. However, with young Neil Martin coming through fast the 27-year old Cornelius will have to keep on his toes.

The Launceston and District League presents a more youthful picture and Bude A look to be in the healthiest position in their premier division. Their leading player Neil Bevan has consolidated his position as England's leading cadet. To reach a number one placing in England is a fine achievement for any player but to achieve it from Cornwall makes it all the more commendable. The Premier Divisions of each league are as follows:

West Cornwall

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Falmouth Docks A	7	7	0	0	65
Dereham (Truro) A	9	6	1	2	59
Redruth Highway A	8	7	0	1	51
St Ives A	7	4	1	2	47
Camborne A	6	4	0	2	26
Dereham (Truro) B	6	2	0	4	22
Falmouth Docks B	6	1	0	5	21
Truro TTC A	5	1	0	4	13
Camborne B	7	0	0	7	13
Swanvale (Falmouth) A	7	1	0	6	13

Averages: G. Reed (Fal Docks A) 100.00%; J. Williams (Fal Docks A) 100.00%; J. Bassett (St Ives) 90.48%; S. Lobb (Redruth A) 83.33%; M. Peters (Fal Docks A) 83.33%; R. Jacobs (Truro A) 72.22%.

Mid Cornwall

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St Austell-Slades A	8	5	3	0	55
Roche A	7	4	2	1	47
St Austell-Slades B	7	4	3	0	44
Sibleyback A	6	3	2	1	39
Bodmin B	8	2	0	6	28
Newquay A	7	0	0	7	12
Bodmin A	5	1	0	4	9

Averages: B. Cornelius (Slades) 100.00%; D. Greaney (Roche A) 88.90%; M. Noel-Johnson (Sibleyback A) 86.70%; R. Bartlett

(Slades) 80.90%; T. Wiltshire (Slades) 80.90%; N. Martin (Slades) 71.40%.

Launceston and District

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Launceston White Hart A	7	5	1	1	50
Holsworthy SC A	6	5	0	1	48
Bude A	5	5	0	0	39
Launceston Liberal A	7	4	0	3	37
Metherell	7	2	2	3	33
Holsworthy SC B	5	2	0	3	25
Flexbury (Bude) A	7	1	2	4	25
Bude B	4	0	1	3	9
Polyphant	6	0	0	6	4

Averages: N. Bevan (Bude A) 100.00%; K. Stevenson (Holsworthy SC A) 100.00%; G Marquard (White Hart A) 94.44%; A. Bevan (Bude A) 86.67%; M. Rowe (Holsworthy SC A) 83.33%; M. Bawden (Liberal A) 77.78%.

The handful of players dominating each league is further evidence for continuation of the troubled Cornish Inter-Town League.

Other domestic news concerns County matches. On 28 November four county matches took place at Camborne with the senior first team and second team beating Herefordshire 7-3 and 6-4 respectively. A creditable performance from both teams although Hereford's resistance was largely restricted to the crack pairing of Mark Owen and Michael Owens. An undefeated John Bassett who boasts a 75% average was the most successful Cornish player. The Juniors breaking in new players gradually, recorded a first team win over Hampshire 9-1 although a very young second team went down to the same team by 2-8.

Congratulations at this match must be handed to Barbara Rapsey, Bob Bevan and Peter Hancock for passing their umpire's test papers, joining Roger Jacobs and Roger Bunt as official umpires. It was Cornwall's first success at umpiring for a few years and we thank National Councillor Pat Archdale for making the 450 mile round trip to pass these three officials.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

THE Dorset Super League has been completed for the first half of the season with Tony Clayton again securing the title.

He was only seriously challenged by Hakan Sigrell, losing once to him, and swept all other challengers aside.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Tony Clayton	16	15	1	31	3	15
Hakan Sigrell	16	15	1	30	8	15
John Robinson	16	9	7	22	14	9
Martin Abbott	16	8	8	19	18	8
Terry Glennon	16	7	9	17	19	7
Martin Hughes	16	5	11	14	24	5
Chris Budden	16	4	12	10	23	4
Eric Buckley	16	4	12	8	18	4
Mike Hughes	16	2	14	7	23	2

(Continued from Page 21)

At the conclusion of play, Tony Clayton took on Eric Buckley in a hard bat game (ie a blade without any rubbers at all), and the match was a very close affair. Buckley took the first end with some inspired hitting, but Clayton came back in a very long second game.

In the decider it was nip and tuck all the way, but Buckley eventually came out the winner by 21-17.

A return match will no doubt be quickly arranged.

County Championships

After being relegated on games difference from Division 2 last season, Dorset seniors kept up their challenge for the Division 3B title, and a quick return to Division 2, with a convincing win 9-1 victory over Devon II.

Devon were unable to field their usual team for this match, due I understand to the players being in dispute with their selection committee; but it is a credit to the depth of talent they have in the south west, that they were still able to bring in players who would be capable of getting a result against the majority of teams in this division.

The Dorset team of Tony Clayton, Hakan Sigrell, John Robinson, Cheryl Skevington and Joyce Coop however were too strong, and they all played their part, with John Robinson losing the only game.

The senior seconds lost 8-2 against Avon seconds, but the games were a lot closer than the match score suggests.

Tracey Scott-Pawson was the only player to have any success in the singles, and together with Dot Robins won the ladies' doubles for Dorset's only two games.

The following scores tell their own story:

Terry Glennon lost to Gary Baldwin -22, -18; lost to Mike Childs -22, -18. Martin Hughes lost to Gary Baldwin -20, 15, -19; lost to Bob Murray -13, 15, -11. Chris Budden lost to Bob Murray 15, -21, -18; lost to Mike Childs -22, 17, -25. Glennon/Hughes lost to Baldwin/Murray -13, 19, -22.

The Leeds National Team Championships

In the local derby match between Poole and Bournemouth in the Wilmott Cup, Poole were well in command and won 6-0.

All the games went easily in favour of Poole, whose team of Tony Clayton, John Robinson and Martin Hughes played confidently throughout the match with only one game going to a deciding end.

Poole will now play the winners of Southampton v Launces-

ton in the next round, and will be looking to continue their success in Zone 8.

Scores: Tony Clayton beat Dave Sharples 8,12; beat Mike Hughes 8, 9. John Robinson beat Martin Tate 8, 19; beat Dave Sharples 15, 16. Martin Hughes beat Mike Hughes 15, 14; beat Martin Tate 10, -17, 13.

DURHAM

Ken Taylor

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Collier from Sunderland who represented England Cadets in the recent Junior International against Holland at the Dunston Activity Centre, Gateshead, and reported elsewhere. Ian won one match and lost the other but gave a good account of himself at this level and argues well for his table tennis future.

The early results in the Durham County Inter-League fixtures indicate that the defending champions in their respective divisions will again do well, with opening victories for Philadelphia (Senior), Sunderland (Junior) and Philadelphia (Veterans), full results as follows:

Senior
Sunderland Ladies 3, Philadelphia A 7
Peterlee 6, Darlington 4.

Junior
Philadelphia A 3, Sunderland 7
Peterlee 6, Philadelphia B 6

Veterans
Philadelphia 8, Darlington 2
Bishop Auckland A 10, Peterlee 0
Sunderland 10, Bishop Auckland B 0.

The County Junior Team travelled to Byker C.A. to play Northumberland in the hope of retaining their unbeaten record with a win and draw in their previous outings. Durham started well taking an early lead in the match and from then on never looked likely to relinquish it, going into a five games to nil lead before Northumberland replied, but it was short-lived and Durham ran out winners by eight games to two and retain their unbeaten record so far this season.

Results
S. Coverdale lost to I. Collier -16, 18, -17. B. Foster lost to S. Riggins -18, 13. M. Curry lost to M. Roughley -16, -15. J. Grady/J. Bellwood lost to I. Naisby/A. Cowan -18, -14. M. Curry/S. Coverdale lost to I. Collier/S. Riggins 21, -15, -19. S. Coverdale beat S. Riggins -17, 7, 15. Miss J. Bellwood lost to Miss A. Cowan -13, -13. M. Curry lost to I. Collier -13, -19. Miss J. Grady beat Miss I. Naisby 14, 17. B. Foster lost to M. Roughley -11, -9.

Northumberland Juniors 2,
Durham Juniors 8.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd
(in hospital)

THIS month's notes are made more difficult by the fact that your scribe is currently recovering from major surgery in a North London Hospital, namely a hip replacement. The late Ted Pritchard once bet me £5 that I would never beat Stan 'The Bat' Battrick, and it now looks as if I will never be able to win that bet even posthumously. Still, you never know!

I have discovered that our Essex Senior squad, lacking Sky-let Andrew on Club duty in Holland, Kenny Jackson, who unfortunately has decided against a return to County table tennis, and Elaine Sayer, injured. As regards Kenny, it does seem to me to be a bit pointless having this much vaunted Building Society sponsorship if money cannot be made available to provide an incentive for players such as him to take part. In the event our actual team of Stevie Larking, Desmond Charlery, Dave Newman, Paul Sayer and Kim Mudge performed most valiantly but were unable to snatch a victory. Two defeats by 4-5 suggest that a little luck might have left us with at least one win, whilst to lose 2-7 to Middlesex is no disgrace. I must single out Steven Dorking as the star turn, with four wins out of six, and no less victims among those he defeated than John Souter and Nigel Tyler.

Daft

I am sure that the hierarchy of the ETTA and the County Championships Committee will not take it amiss if I say that I still think that it is absolutely daft that each County taking part in a weekend is obliged to bring one umpire. Considering how hard pressed they are to look after the home matches falling on the same day and that they need to bring two or three other officials, this really is an imposition. For the life of me I cannot understand why the County or League staging the event cannot get together a suitable squad of umpires, or failing that the appropriate Committee of the ETTA, which, after all, manages to get together a huge squad of willing workers for all the National events. Presumably Mr Leeds has been led to believe that the County Championships are also a National event?

On a lighter note — our Essex juniors had two matches in November at our brand new venue, the Peniel Academy at Brentwood. Our second team is in a division where every other County is fielding its first team, which is fine when we are in a

good year (as we were in 1986/7) but this season we are struggling a bit and Herts, led by that great prospect Ian Black, were too good for us. Steven Rand, Bradley Clutton and Matthew Reid each won a singles, but that was the extent of our success, and Herts deserved their 7-3 win.

The third team, with Neal Brooks (Harlow) and Ann Faber (Clacton) making their debuts, and Paul Stone, Gary Tendler and Tracy French being the old hands, evened matters up by beating Herts II by 8-2.

By the time these notes are being read the inaugural Essex Veterans Closed will have taken place, making a third event alongside our traditional Senior and Junior Closed Tournaments. Tiptree is the venue and the Juniors will be in action at the same weekend (9/10 January). Report next month.

Editor's note: We all wish Alan a speedy return to full mobility. His copy for these notes, pages placed end to end measured 8ft long, about 1,200 words!

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

ONE of the most important factors concerning TT in Gloucestershire is without doubt the return to active competitive play after a five year absence of Dave Harvey, I do not propose going into Dave's TT history of past years, rather to concentrate on his present-day achievements which in the relatively short period of time that he has returned to competitive play has indeed produced some rather amazing results.

It all came to fruition for Dave at last year's Cheltenham closed singles — when he captured that title, and more recently he won 'The Gloucestershire County Closed' beating Steve Moreman in the final; Harvey has also been supreme in helping Cheltenham Saracens to well acclaimed victories in the 'Leeds British League Division 3 West'. Summing up Dave Harvey, I would say there are few to match him for sheer enthusiasm and devotion to our sport.

At the time of writing our County No. 1 Darren Griffin is still inoperative owing to a badly fractured finger, unfortunately on his playing hand.

The County (Closed) Championships

The Championships took place at 'The Cheltenham indoor Cricket Club's premises' opposite 'The Prince of Wales Stadium' at Cheltenham.

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Counties 3

(Continued from Page 22)

Below is a summary of all the events that took place, the Juniors started the day off at 9am, and the Seniors play began around 11am.

The main event of the day was the Men's Singles, Darren Griffin last year's champion was indisposed and unable to partake in any event owing to an injured playing hand — so the field was wide open for a new champion to emerge.

Dave Harvey, who plays 1st Division in both the Gloucester & Cheltenham League's, rose to the occasion by beating the County No. 2 Steve Moreman 21-18, 21-15 in the final, this was a great triumph for Harvey a former champion, who has been out of the sport for a number of years and only returned to serious play a little under a year ago.

There were only 12 entries for the Ladies' Singles, the final was contested by Judy Morley who beat Julie Hogarth 21-18, 21-14, both ladies play in the City League.

The Veteran's Singles was won by Rudford's Frank Jones who beat Stroud's Alan Giles 21-10, 21-9, in the final, this was Jones 1st year as a Veteran.

Other Events

Men's Doubles: G. Slack/S. Moreman beat D. Harvey/D. Sweeney, 21-17, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: J. Morley/J. Hogarth beat L. Probert/J. Taylor, 21-11, 21-15.

Under-17 Boys' Singles: Dale Saunders beat Raymond Powell, 21-5, 21-9.

Under-17 Girls' Singles: Cheryl Fannin beat her County No 2 Colleague to take this title.

Under-17 Doubles: D. Saunders/L. Dewick beat W. Nicholls/P. Wyatt, 21-16, 21-12.

Under-14 Doubles: A. Johnstone/R. Powell beat R. Moore/R. Beckett, 21-10, 21-14.

Under-14 Boys' Singles: R. Powell beat T. Dewick, 21-6, 21-2.

Under-14 Girls' Singles: H. Fannin beat E. Bassett.

Under-12 Boys' Singles: P. Morley beat P. Hayward.

Under-12 Girls' Singles: B. Walker beat M. Hogarth.

Minors' Singles: R. Powell beat J. Smith 21-14, 21-9.

Future for Powell

It is pleasing and interesting to note that Gloucester's 12-year-old Raymond Powell was in *four* finals and managed to win *three* of them, Powell indeed could well be the player of the future.

The County TT Association wish to thank — Peter Cruwys and Peter Collings for the smooth running of the entire tournament.

Gloucestershire Rankings Senior Men

1. Darren Griffin (G).
2. Steve Moreman (G).
3. Graham Slack (C).
4. Dave Harvey (G).
5. William Dawe (C).
6. Sylvester Callum (G).
7. Dale Saunders (G).
8. David Smith (G).
9. Martin Lane (G).
10. Alan Giles (S).

Senior Women

1. Cathy Robb (C).
2. Heather Colwill (G).
3. Jenny Ellery (G).
4. Judy Morley (G).
5. Julie Hogarth (G).
6. Cheryl Fannin (G).
7. Wendy Nicholls (S).
8. Penny Wyatt (S).
9. Linda Probert (C).

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

Leeds Hampshire Closed

WITH only five of the top ten ranked players amongst the 32 entries for the Men's Singles, there was sure to be a new champion. Top seed Tony Holmes had a 16 and 13 quarter final win over Ray Lush, then beat Tony Duffield 19 and 17 in the semi. Duffield had earlier beaten Tony Catt at 27/25 in the third. No. 2 seed Graham Pointer stood 1/1 in the third game against Graham Outtrim in the quarters, when he knee gave in and he was forced to concede the match. Andy Ely won his quarter final against Tony Palaczky 20 and 17. Unseeded Outtrim eased out No. 4 Ely in the semi at 10, -14, 20. Tony Holmes, stationed in the army at Aldershot, had a comfortable final win 15 and 16 over Outtrim, to gain his first county title. After winning all his matches in the trials, this championship gives him a strong hand to contest the No. 1 ranking spot. No doubt the absent 'stars' would dispute this viewpoint, but when loyalties are divided there can be no winners.

No such problem with the top 7 ranked players entering the women's singles and the top 4, all former champions, reaching the semis. Sarah Hammond had an easy 10 and 3 win over Kathy Ridgard, but no easy passage for top seed Cheryl Buttery who scraped through 12, -16, 19 against Jill Green. Cheryl retained her title with a 16 and 21 final win over Sarah. Cheryl, troubled by a back injury, was advised not to play by her doctor and was relieved to win two straight, after trailing 17-20 in the second.

Tony Holmes gained his second title when he joined his Aldershot singles opponent Graham Outtrim to win the Men's Doubles, against the winners for the last two years, Basingstoke's Tony Duffield and Tony Palaczky by 12 and 19.

Cheryl Buttery performed the same feat when she joined her Southampton singles opponent, Sarah Hammond to beat Jill Green and Jayne Packington 20 and 18 in the Women's Doubles final.

Tony Duffield and Jill Green won the Mixed with a -19, 14 and 17 win over Tony Catt and Sarah Hammond. Ray Lush won a remarkable tenth Veteran Singles title with a 5 and 8 win over County Chairman Terry Duffield. Terry's wife Beryl fared better in the Veterans Women's event beating Marjorie Massey 10 and 13.

Alan Charles won the Intermediate Singles (under 23) with a 15, -16, 18 victory over Sean Picken.

Sponsored by the Leeds Permanent Building Society for the first time, this tournament, at the excellent Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton was ably organised by referee Mike Strode and county secretary Harold Albery.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

FLYING the flag for Hertfordshire in the Ladbroke Hotels Veterans Southern Masters' Table Tennis Tournament, at Bricket Wood Sports Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire, was Sylvia Tyler from Cheshunt and Gill White of St Albans, who fought their way through to face each other in the final of the Over 50 Women's Doubles.

Tyler tasted triumph, when she partnered Mary Symes of Middlesex, beating the joint talents of White and Joyce Coop from Dorset.

The only other player to reach the later stages was Barnet's Derek Somers, who long pimped his way through to the quarter finals of the Men's Over 50 Singles.



At the Ladbroke Hotels Southern Masters Veterans Championships John F. A. Wood, Hemel Hempstead journalist and photographer captured this shot of a happy Hertfordshire trio, left to right, Gill White, well-known tournament referee John Jermyn and Sylvia Tyler.

Meanwhile, Hertfordshire's first Sunday of the Inter-League Veterans' competition got under way on Sunday 6 December at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Hemel Hempstead, represented by Dave Wackrill, Mick Chandler and John Wood, have taken an early lead winning their three opening games, beating Watford 4-3, Welwyn and Hatfield 4-3, and St Albans 5-2.

Frank Sharpe, Mick Harber, Peter Bart and George Henderson, of St Albans are holding on to the number two spot, having beaten Hemel Hempstead 2nd's 6-1 and Barnet 2nd's also 6-1.

At this early stage the competition is still wide open, with Barnet, Watford and Welwyn & Hatfield still in the running.

The Senior Inter-League Competition is well under way with two of the three Sundays already completed, with Hemel Hempstead 1st team with their noses just in front of Watford.

Rob Liguorish, Glen Wilkes and Lynne Harrison of Hemel Hempstead carried on their winning ways on 29 November at Barnet, until they met the might of Cheshunt, Mark Dare, Mark Taylor and Alison Boxall, who beat the Hemel side 4-3.

Cheshunt themselves slipped-up in the morning's match, losing 3-4 to Hemel Hempstead 2nd's, mainly due to fielding a team without a lady.

But Hemel 2nd's, Ian Black, Mark York and Emma Hurling, still had to do the business though, and junior star Black's win over Taylor decided the match.

On Wednesday 18 November the Hertfordshire section of the National Schools Team Championships, took place at Barnet, where the Leventhorpe School from Sawbridgeworth, almost scooped the lot, till they met the Richard Hayle School from Hertford in the Under-16 Boys' Team event.

Richard Grethe, David O'Connor, Ben Neal and Clive Lewis of Richard Hayle School proved far too strong in the end for the boys of Leventhorpe, as the Hertford team won 6-2.

Counties 4

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

OUR entry into the Southern Regional Leagues have given us the opportunity to entertain new friends and so far we have been the perfect hosts — Kingfisher, Cippenham and the Ladies of Generation 11 have all returned to the mainland with the full points.

To be honest we have found the standard of these leagues higher than expected and compares very favourably with the lower reaches of the County Championships to which we are used.

Keith Taylor saved the white-wash against Cippenham; Mike Turner, Chris Angus and Steve Harris all took a set off Kingfisher but after two matches the girls have yet to break their duck.

Retirement

Surprisingly, for various reasons neither Taylor nor Harris are performing regularly in the Island league this season whilst another who has been a non-regular in recent seasons, Ian Smith, dramatically emerged from retirement to spearhead Sandown's 9 sets to 1 league defeat of leaders Rookley. Sandown are the current champions but this season's affair looks like being the closest for many seasons — coincident with the arrival of Smith I hear that team mate Roger Hookey is about to be hospitalised for a period.

Leading positions:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Rookley 'A'	7	5	1	1	21
Sandown	6	5	0	1	19
Shanklin	6	4	1	1	19
Newp't Vics 'A'	7	4	1	2	17
Rookley 'B'	7	4	1	2	17
Wroxall 'A'	7	2	3	2	14

Love

We love our tournaments in the Island and are a regular feature of our season; 46 players entered the handicap event organised jointly by Newport Vics and Wroxall and the handicapper was well satisfied when in the final Vics Rob Warren gave 8 points start to Kevin Smith of Haven Street and a beating in two straight games but both at 'deuce'. Commiserations to Carl who we hear is having a great season in Europe but whose form deserted him at the Olympic Qualifiers so that he just dipped out, we hear however, that he has been given a reserve berth and also has a chance to qualify in the doubles. As Carl travels the continent father (chairman!) John continues his tour of England; table tennis leaves little time for either of them to sit at home in the Island.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

ROSE JOHNSON BOWL. — Harold Clark, who plays for British Rail in the Leicester League, is currently enjoying his second year of organising the Rose Johnson Bowl team handicap competition and his latest report reveals many close matches. The preliminary rounds were dominated by Knighton Park with all five teams entered going through to the next round despite two encounters of the close kind. The 4th team won 330-322 against Oadby URC I, this was despite great efforts by Paul South winning 21-8 in the 14th game and Steph Burley winning 21-9 in the final game and although Philip Highton won against Malcolm Bassett 21-18 the margin of winning the necessary 21-10 proved too much. Much closer was the Knighton Park III match against A. E. Burgess, a real gnat's whisker job at 320-319 to the Park. Mike Nunan comments 'Behind till the end of the last game, we won by the skin of our teeth!' The last game was won for Knighton Park by Alex Howard with a 21-15 result over Ian Weatherby. Karen Smith gathered 56pts for Park but this did not eliminate the Handicap of 84. The match was full of close games. In the 15th Mike Nunan won on deuce against Terry Wale and lost 21-23 to Ian Weatherby. Hinckley League stalwarts Ashby Parva had a good run last year, and started no doubt with similar intentions this year but Post Office with a handicap of 100pts came within 3pts of victory. A really fine win by M. K. Mistry of 21-10 over Harvey Wood of Ashby was just short of the 21-7 he needed to make the match a draw. Derek Butt and Richard Rimington pulled the points in with 21-3 and 21-2 wins but in the end this was balanced by the handicaps. It is very rewarding to see these close and enjoyable matches, interest in this fascinating handicap team tournament is sure to improve.

Results

N.B. Goons I 358, BSC 265; Thurnby Northwood 251, Knighton Park II 345; N.B. Goons II 296, Knighton Park V 330; Great Glen 299, Syston Cons 282; Leicester Gas I 275, Oadby URC II 292; Earl Shilton 401, Jones & Shipman 299; Post Office 324, Ashby Magna 326; Oadby URC I 322, Knighton Park IV 330; Knighton Park III 320, A.E. Burgess 319; Loughborough Kingfishers 308, Leicester Gas II 380; British Rail II 277, Bevans SSC 354; British Rail I 294, C'n'E 338; Hogg Robinson 277 Knighton Park I 300.

County Rankings

Men: 1. Chris Rogers; 2. Dave Gannon; 3. Phil Smith; 4. Martin Pickles; 5. Keith Fellows; 6. Maurice Newman; 7. Tony Kinsey; 8. Steve Day; 9. Paul Bumpus; 10. John Iliffe; 11. Steve White; 12. Graham Hughes; 13. Alan Philpott; 14. Dave Grundy; 15. Graham Hibberd; 16. Mike James; 17. Ian Brown; 18. Chris Kinsey; 19. John Ball.



Karen Smith

Ladies: 1. Karen Smith; 2. Julie Revill; 3. Yvonne Hall; 4. Joanne Pickles; 5. Jane Heath; 6. Tracey Clark; 7. Liz Bryant; 8. Eileen Shaler; 9. Glenys Odams; 10. Shirley Pickering; 11. Barbara Holt; 12. Christine Dawson; 13. Pat Kilsby; 14. Jane Freer; 15. Pat Pickles.

Veteran Men: 1. Tony Kinsey; 2. John Iliffe; 3. Graham Hughes; 4. Steve White; 5. Bob Craven-Griffiths; 6. John Davies; 7. John Ball; 8. Terry Yeomanson; 9. Brian Hagger; 10. John Lenton.

Veteran Ladies: 1. Eileen Shaler; 2. Glenys Odams; 3. Shirley Pickering; 4. Barbara Holt; 5. Pat Kilsby; 6. Pat Pickles.

Junior Boys: 1. Chris Kinsey; 2. Richard Grimley; 3. Andrew Clark; 4. Stuart Burwood; 5. John Gayton; 6. Darren Bramhall; 7. Matthew Taylor; 8. David Hodgkinson; 9. Martin Brunning; 10. Paul Green.

Junior Girls: 1. Liz Bryant; 2. Jayne Freer; 3. Donna Allen; 4. Lisa Hobday.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

PRIDE of place this month must go to the Northumberland League team of Michael Curry, Stephen Coverdale and Barry Forster, who in the Carter Cup scored a most unexpected 5-3 victory against their older and more experienced Sunderland League opponents — Jan Collier, Michael Roughley and Steven Riggins. All three players were successful against Riggins, while Coverdale also beat Roughley and Forster gave the outstanding

performance of the day in beating Collier, recently capped by England at cadet level.

The Wilmott Cup team advanced to the third round of this competition by beating the Hull League 5-3, Eddie Smith gaining a maximum and 'Benny' Robertson two. In the Rose Bowl, the women's team got through against Ormesby by a similar score, with Caron Guthrie winning all three sets, and Clare Mouzon and Christine Burke one each.

Unbeaten

In the latest round of County matches on 28 November, only the seniors met with any success when they gained a 5-5 draw away to Worcestershire. Robertson, unbeaten this season, again won both singles as well as the doubles with Eddie Smith, who also won one set. Caron Guthrie won her singles, but both Margaret Morley and Mark Christie, on debut, were without success.

Unbelievable

The juniors unbelievably lost 2-8 at home to Durham only a short time after that great victory over the same team in the Carter Cup. Only Coverdale showed anything like his true form when he again beat Riggins, and Joanne Grady at last ended the long run of failures in the girls' singles with success against Ingrid Naisby.

The veterans, without both Fred Short and Larry Cartmell, were beaten 2-7 by Hunts I at St Neots. Pauline Long won the women's singles and John Donnelly was successful in the final mens' singles set of the day.

Northumberland players were recently successful in both Irish and Scottish tournaments on successive days. In the Ulster Open, Caron Guthrie won the women's singles, while Northumberland were the losing finalists in the team event. The players then travelled to Meadowbank for the East of Scotland Open, and on this occasion Robertson and Peter McQueen took the mens' doubles title and Curry was successful in the junior boys' singles.

Dutch visit

There was some excellent table tennis played at Dunston Activities Centre when England Juniors and Cadets entertained the Netherlands in a match sponsored by Gateshead Council. Local interest of course centred on Ian Collier of Durham making his England debut at cadet level, and he helped his team to a 3-3 draw. The cadet girls managed to win 3-2, but both junior matches were lost 1-4.

KENT

Hazel Etherington

KENT staged a very successful Junior Open Two Star held at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham on the 17 and 18 October. A 30% increase in the entries from last year was very encouraging and from it the standard of play was high. A number of Kent players excelled themselves, with Brian Milcham taking the cadet double, a fine win over Martin Adams in the singles and partnering Alex Perry won the doubles in style playing in their first tournament together. Ben Kellard overcome some nervous moments to take the class two event with a win over Jason Tendler in the final. In the Junior event Andrew Houghton reached the semi-final but went down to Tom Cutler in an exciting game.

The Junior title was won by Adrian Thorpe.



Andy Dodd

The junior county first team fought hard in a very tense match against Surrey 1 at the West Malling Golf Club. Surrey got off to a flying start winning the first four matches, but were gradually pegged back to a five-all draw. The hospitality shown by the manager Mr Mick Ellis and his staff was greatly appreciated, and our thanks go to him for his efforts. The 2nd team produced a very good result by beating Essex 2nd's 6-4 at Sedgemoor School, Catford. Brian Etherington as junior coach, with his drive and enthusiasm is steadily installing pride and dedication into our young players.

At the Hastings Tigers one star Andy Cunningham produced some stylish cool play to take the men's title, his first senior tournament win. He also partnered Michael Bullock in the doubles and narrowly lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winners. Sandra Collins had an exciting if somewhat tight win over Joan Beadle. They partnered one another to reach the semi-final of the ladies' doubles. Hazel Etherington and Tracey Cole still a cadet, fought hard to reach the final but were outclassed by the strength of Janet Smith and Mrs Wales. Janet took the ladies' title by beating Sheila King in the final.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

TO REPORT the death of two Norwich personalities namely Fred Hornsby aged 69 a real character and gentleman whose expertise in the building industry was greatly appreciated by all connected with the design, building and maintenance of the Norwich headquarters. His popularity can be assessed by the standing room only at his funeral.

Jack Penny was probably only known to a few as he was a very retiring man who wrote these notes for many years. He was always — when health permitted — around at championships noting winners for his column in the magazine.

The Norfolk Closed Championships were attended by approximately 75 players each of two days — Seniors on Sunday and Junior on the Saturday. All ranked juniors attended which could not be said of the seniors or vets.

Results: Men's Singles, Neil Pickard. Ladies' Singles, Jeanne Reynolds. Veterans' Singles, Mick Broughton. Men's Doubles, Pickard/Trevor Bunn. Ladies' Doubles, Jeanne Reynolds/Edna Fletcher. Mixed Doubles, Neil Pickard/Helen Hewitt. Victor Ludorum Neil Pickard. Boy's Singles Under-17, Neil Pickard. Under-15, James Patterson. Under-13, Gary Hewitt. Girl's Under-17, Alison Taylor. Under-15, Nicky Savage. Under-13, Melanie Chaplin. Boy's Doubles, Andrew Hawes/Stephen White. Girl's Doubles, Nicky Savage/Alison Taylor. Mixed Doubles, Andrew Hawes/Alison Taylor.

The overall view of the championships seems to be another successful weekend with no real problems apart from the odd tantrum from the odd player. All parts of the county were represented apart from Thetford — wonder why? Kings Lynn seem to be sending more each year on their annual outing and judging by the enthusiasm shown by their players we shall be hearing more of them in the future as they have some very useful veterans and near veterans.

Norwich lost the Bromfield Trophy match to Brentwood 7-2 in a match in which no one seemed to smile while in the next room Norwich Carter Cup team just beat Lowestoft 5-4 on the last game with Adam Cole outstanding for Lowestoft. Following dad?

A comment in the Norwich 'minutes of last meeting' notes just circulated says 'Stan Honor has commenced sessions with 14 retired people'. No wonder he has lost form!

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

GRAEME McKIM cruised to the County singles title for a record sixth successive time — winning without ever being in danger of defeat.

The only hint of an upset for the irrepressible McKim came when he dropped the opening end of his quarter-final against Adrian Roper, but he went on to take the decider 21-4 with a typical flourish and was never in danger of dropping another game as his speed, accuracy and flair proved too much for semi-final rival Chris Handshaw, and then the talented Andy Trott in the final.

The rest of the event went very much to form, with Chris Handshaw confirming and Keith Jones boosting their positions in the newly instituted County Performance List which is beginning to attract considerable interest from most Premier Division players in the county leagues.

Only two seeds were ousted at the group stage, Richard Ambrose losing to the fast improving Keiron Dabbs and Brian D'Hooghe falling at deuce in the third to veteran Greg Dobrowski.

The men's doubles threatened to produce the bizarre outcome of a pairing eliminated in the third round, going on to take the title. Second seeds Steve Brown and Mark Nannery, convincingly beaten by Trott and Dave Burrows, were reinstated when the latter departed for a prior engagement, and battled through to the final where they couldn't cope with the combined experience of McKim and Handshaw. It was the winners third success and McKim's fifth in the last six seasons.

Nannery and Brown were also involved in an intriguing mixed doubles semi-final, when they were partnered by Muriel Cox and her daughter Kristina. Brown and Kristina took the first, the opposition levelled in a marathon second and then went on to reach the final where they comfortably accounted for Mick and Maggie Edwards.

With her mother missing and Mandy Brown and Margaret Maltby also notable absentees, Kristina was in a class of her own in the singles. Her final victim was Sue Armstrong, but the former Miss Whitehall gained consolation by taking the double in partnership with Mrs Edwards.

Keith Jones captured his fifth veterans title with Dennis Millman once again the losing finalist, while Keiron Dabbs underlined his considerable improvement with victories in the restricted singles.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

ENGLAND ranked junior David Morris in harness with Keith Sillitoe and Mark Turner saw Grove lead the second series of matches in the Shropshire Star First Division of the county league but the men from Market Drayton will have to be at their best with Pontesbury's top squad of Ian Baker, Darrell Corfield and Martin Williams breathing down their necks in second place with both teams unbeaten and sets difference the deciding factor.

The close first division battle is being mirrored in division two where Grove's Anthony Harrison and Ian Hand lead Pontesbury's Colin Sayce and Peter Worrall in Section A whilst the irrepressible twins Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey head Section B an impressive two points ahead of Grove clubmates Tracey Garratt and Sasha Talbot.

The December graded singles saw the usual superb entry at Grove School with Oldham's James Bradbury accounting for Wrexham's Spencer Harris to capture the H&E Scaffolding Elite Grade title whilst Pontesbury's ever reliable Darrell Corfield ousted Grove's Mark Turner to take the Grade A title with a typical display of quick hitting and topspin defence. There was success at the first attempt for Wrexham's Martin Furber winning the Talbot Hotel Grade B event at the expense of Grove's Clare Hand whilst the much improved Luke Cutler of Telford overcame Wrexham's Nicola Harris to win the Rainbow Flowers Grade C event. Adam Twiss was undoubtedly the most improved player on duty with the twelve year-old Grove boy winning the Roofrite Grade D event at the expense of schoolmate James Rowlett who one month earlier won the Coverwell Grade E singles which on this occasion went to Grove's Tim Shannon over Wrexham's Danny Harris.

Progress

Nationally, Grove's players continue to progress well in open tournaments keeping the county flag flying whilst both Grove teams are contesting for honours in their respective divisions of the Leeds British League. However Grove I made life tough at Chan Construction in the Premier Division emerging 5-3 winners thanks to Graham Sandley and Jimmy Stokes both being unbeaten whilst in East Anglia Grove II recorded a splendid win by the same margin with a rejuvenated Paul Barnett unbeaten and deservedly man of the match.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

THE inclusion of Adrian Dixon in the County team for the first time this season enabled Staffordshire to gain their first win in the county championship over a strong and previously unbeaten Cheshire side.

Our earlier matches against Northumberland and Worcestershire both ended in 7-3 defeats, with all the winning matches coming from our women — Jill Harris, Helen Lower and Fiona Elliot — replacing Jill in the second match. Away to Cheshire, Adrian took No 1 position and won both his singles — including a tremendous effort against an in-form Tony Taylor — and played the leading role in a 6-4 victory. Craig Bakewell and Andy Rich both had wins against Wayne Percival, but our girls failed to maintain their 100% record, Jill Harris going down yet again to Janet Deakin. Janet for my money is one of the most under-rated players on the computer ranking list and despite being taken to three sets by Jill she always seemed to have the upper hand in a well-fought match. Those with good memories will recall previous occasions when Janet has been a thorn in the Staffordshire side.

Results: — Brian John lost to Adrian Dixon -14, -16; bt Andy Rich 7, 11; Wayne Percival lost to Craig Bakewell -18, -14; lost to Rich -17, -11; Tony Taylor bt Bakewell 14, 15; lost to Dixon 17, -18, -19; Taylor and Johns bt Dixon and Bakewell 15, 17; Janet Deakin bt Jill Harris 16, -20, 16; Anne Williamson lost to Helen Lower -12, -8; Deakin and Williamson lost to Harris and Lower -15, 15, -19.

Uphill task

In the first Junior Premier Weekend, Staffordshire had an 8-2 win over Notts but went down 8-2 to Essex and 6-4 to Derbyshire. This leaves them with an uphill task in the second weekend if they are to avoid relegation, bearing in mind they still have to play the strong Yorkshire and Lancashire sides. Adrian Thorp and Garry Knights both justified their top rankings, with five and four wins out of six respectively and two doubles wins out of three. Natalie Riley and Joanne Foxall had victories against Notts but Robert Till had an unhappy time failing to pick up a single win. The selectors will have a difficult job selecting the team for the second weekend which is at the end of the season (9/10 April), although the County Closed Tournament on 20 March should be of help in deciding some of the critical problems.

The County Closed will again be held at Lilleshall — make a note of the date, 20 March — and entry forms will shortly be circulated. I gather that discussions are going round the County on alternative ideas for the Hard Bat Tournament. There would seem to be sufficient interest to enlarge the event and it will be interesting to see what ideas emerge.

SUSSEX

Paul Elphick

RITCHIE VENNER completed the treble of all three major domestic honours in Sussex after capturing the West Sussex title at Burgess Hill. This adds to the Sussex Top 8 and the Sussex men's crown which he won last season.

Venner's consistent play was too much for his opponents all day. In the quarters he hammered fellow Crawley player Chris Mundy and in the semi-final defeated the third seed from Haywards Heath, Paul Elphick 21-12, 23-21. Venner's vastly improved backhand was the feature of this victory, forcing Elphick into rushed errors on that flank.



Ritchie Venner

Top seeded Phil Smith progressed shakily to the final. Smith was clearly hampered by a back injury throughout the tournament. It was evident in the quarter-finals when he tackled the up and coming Horsham lad Tony Murrell in what turned out to be the game of the day. Smith led 15-10 in the first only to lose the next 11 points, and trailed 10-6 in the second but fought back to level, the game score. The third was a tense affair and once again Smith battled to take it 21-18.

Smith ended the reign of Andy Walker, last year's champion, in the semi-final 21-13, 22-20, wearing down his opponent and often forcing him away from the table to open up the angles for his winning shots.

Once again, Crawley proved that they have the hotbed of talent in West Sussex when the great rivals from Crawley, Horsham Dolphins and of course Sussex met in the final. Usually it is Smith who dictates the pace but Venner forced the greater pace and took the first game 21-

18. Smith led for a while in the second but Venner showed good composure and consistency to snatch it 21-19 and with it the title. Venner commented afterwards: 'I've been playing well enough and believed I could win this for the past two or three weeks.'

Certainly, these are by far the best two players in West Sussex at the present time, and maybe Sussex as a whole. It is left to Walker, Elphick and probably Murrell to try and break the stranglehold that the Crawley duo have in the West Sussex area.

Horsham captured the ladies title with Sally Weston easily beating all before her. Only six ladies entered with Worthing's Pauline Steel, fast becoming a top ranked England veteran, being the runner up.

SURREY

Terry Vance

CONGRATULATIONS to David Hannah on becoming the first Surrey player to beat Desmond Douglas in many years.

Despite being without their top three men and No. 1 lady Surrey won one match, against Yorks, at the Premier weekend. The team had to be juggled so Surrey could provide a formidable 2nd team. Even so we lost the services of Glenn Baker, Mike Hammond and Linda Clemmett because they played in all three matches. The same occurred last season and could explain the relegation of the 2nd team.

At the World Student games Michelle Hams was the only member of the squad to win her first round match. Unfortunately she became ill with toothache, and flu and contact lens problems.

The Vets 1st team has won three out of three with both Derek Holman and Gordon Chapman being unbeaten. Barbara Winn has played well particularly in the mixed with Derek Holman where they are unbeaten.

The Vets 2nd team have won two out of two and the 3rd team two out of three.



Max Crimmins

The closing date for the Croydon Closed is 19 January — entry form is in the handbook.

Thomas More look set to win the Croydon League again.

The inter-league fixtures have been circulated with entries in the three competitions being run up on last season.

Finally, has Max Crimmins become an establishment figure by taking up coaching?

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

MAIN event within the County during November was the Worcs Junior Closed, held on Sunday 29 November at the Christopher Whitehead School in Worcester. The main titles, the girls' and boys' singles, were successfully defended by Jane McLean and Richard Pratley.

Top seed Pratley (Worcester), beat cadet Lee Horton (Dudley) in one semi-final, while Andrew Kelly (Kidderminster) put out No 2 seed Jason Thomson (D) in the other semi-final.

The Girls event saw Miss McLean (Evesham) beat Joanne Hill (D) in the first semi-final, and Nicola Jones (W) beat Sarah Stone (W) in the second semi-final; Jane easily defeating Nicola in the final 5 and 12.

The Cadet Boys' Final was won by Lee Horton from Neil Green (E), with the Cadet Girls' title going to Katherine Drage (K), who defeated Carrie Hunt (W) in the final.

Main surprise of the day was the defeat of the No 1 seeds and defending champions Richard Pratley and David Pendry in the Boys' Doubles Final, by the Dudley pairing of Jason Thompson and Lee Horton.

The Girls' Doubles title was retained by Jane McLean and Nicola Jones, who beat Sarah Stone and Paula Hughes in the final.

The boys entry was good, with 28 Cadets and 35 Juniors, but the girls entry was rather poor, with just 3 Cadets and 7 Juniors taking part.

First matches in the County League saw Kidderminster A beat Bromsgrove 5-4, with a treble from Kidders' Andy Barlow.

Kidderminster B defeated a weak Dudley 6-3, despite 3 wins from Steve Horton.

Malvern thrashed Bromsgrove 8-1, Mark Fiddian preventing a whitewash, and Worcester conceded their match with Evesham 9-0.

November 28 saw our four County teams all in action. In Div 2A, the Senior 1sts entertained Northumberland and were held to a draw, despite going 5-3 ahead thanks to Murray Jukes'

Counties 7, Southern Region

(Continued from Page 26)

superb win over Eddie Smith 21-14, 21-17 in the 8th set. All Worcestershire players had at least one victory to their credit, with Mandy Mytton winning her singles and doubles.

The Senior 2nds in Div 3A travelled to Grantham to play Lincolnshire and lost 7-3, Ken Walton winning one singles, with both doubles going Worcester's way.

The Veterans' team in Vets Div 2A scored a narrow 5-4 victory over Leicestershire. Again, everyone contributing towards the win, with Roy Norton, Mervyn Wood and Janet Hunt winning one singles each, Ray Dixon and Wood won the Men's Doubles, and Mrs Hunt and Norton won the Mixed Doubles.

The Juniors entertained Gloucestershire and recorded their third win in three matches with a 7-3 victory, despite Dale Saunders three wins for the visitors; Sarah Stone coming into the Worcester team for this match.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

COUNTY and RCC Coaching Secretary Peter Deyes has been very busy among the coaches setting up a network to try to involve all the promising youngsters throughout the length and breadth of the County.

Hans Soova will continue in charge of the Leeds Centre of Excellence, while Alan Lowe (Sheffield), Peter Taylor (Hull) and Mick Wilcockson (York) are already 'en poste' in the ATCs with a coach to be named at Leeds.

These coaches are pencilled into the proposed area coaching blueprint, where they will be responsible to the RDC for development over a league or group of leagues.

Also coming into this set up are Sylvia Broadbent, who will look after Bradford, Peter Gibson (Halifax/Huddersfield), Pete Garvey (Hull) and Gordon Sigsworth (Harrogate/Northallerton), while feelers are out to strengthen the representation in the South Yorkshire area.

Good to see Clive Guest, winner of five championships at the Sheffield Closed two years ago, back in the big time.

Clive, who turned his back on the sport when he felt that there was no challenge, has signed for City of Leeds in the Leeds British League and has already made his first appearance at Lincoln.

Problems in Sheffield over fictitious scorecards — don't we all have them? Last season a similar incident cost St Albion the Super Division title, and this time the match between Castle and British

Rail was declared void. BR, leading the table, have threatened to withdraw, but an appeal is pending and will have been heard before these notes appear in print.

ETTA, still sitting on an appeal lodged by Hull against a decision of the County Association in July 1986, please take note!

In the Yorkshire League promoted Northallerton are taking Division 1 by storm and, with a three match undefeated record to date, could well be fighting to make the step up into the Premier Division at the end of the term.

With the Division 2 and Veteran teams also topping their sections with identical records to that of the seniors, table tennis is obviously flourishing in the far north of the county.

The Junior/Cadet Closed Championships at Selby saw 11 year-old Sally Marling from Hull run riot as she claimed all five titles open to her — Under-12 Singles plus Singles and Doubles at both Cadet and Junior level — not a bad haul for a youngster with another season to go in the Under-12 age group.

The Cadet events were, in fact, dominated by Hull and Selby with another Under-12, Andy Nicholls, already a winner of the Under-12 titles at the Kirklees and East Yorkshire Opens and undefeated star in his age group at the St Ives Championships, setting the pace on the Boys side.

He clocked up a hat-trick with two singles wins and a share in the doubles with Karl Horsfield, and only Martin Vickers (Bradford) and the Halifax pair of Simon Beaumont and John Snowden kept the west of the County in the picture.

Full results were:

Junior Boys' Singles: Mark Stephenson (Halifax) b Craig Smith (Selby) 17, 19.

Junior Boys' Doubles: Stephenson/Graham Cook (Wakefield) b Tim Pike (Wakefield)/Steve Horsfield (Sheffield) 20, -17, 11.

Junior Girls' Singles: Sally Marling (Hull) b Joanne Keighley (Bradford) 15, -17, 19.

Junior Girls' Doubles: Sally/Samantha Marling (Hull) b Debbie Newman (Selby)/ Keighley 14, 14.

Cadet Boys' Singles: Andy Nicholls (Selby) b Martin Vickers (Bradford) 11, -15, 20.

Cadet Boys' Doubles: Nicholls/Karl Horsfield (Selby) b Simon Beaumont/John Snowden (Halifax) 20, -20, 14.

Cadet Girls' Singles: Sally Marling b Newman 17, -16, 10.

Cadet Girls' Doubles: Sally Marling/Newman b Jane Johnson/Cara Whitfield 13, 10.

Under-12 Boys' Singles: Nicholls b Philip Neal (Hull) 4, 9.

Under-12 Girls' Singles: Sally Marling b Angela Johnson (Hull) 5, 10.

SOUTHERN REGION LEAGUE OPENING

by

BRIAN LAMERTON

NOVEMBER 15 was the big day on the calendar of the Southern Region Co-ordinating Committee when the first matches were played in the Leeds Southern Region League — months of planning by chairman Ray Yates and competition secretary Mick Strode unexpectedly given added status by the Leeds sponsorship all became worthwhile. Early leaders were the Cippenham A side of Steve Brindle, Frank Earis and Alec Watson who unperurbed by the Solent crossing thrashed the Isle of Wight by eight sets to one with Keith Taylor's 21-17, 21-14 defeat of Brindle the lone home winner.

The other two matches on the opening day both went all the way with Colin Dyke's hat-trick seeing Kingfisher B home by five sets to four in a five hour marathon with Cippenham B and the Hampshire derby producing a 5-4 win for Hursley over Generation 11 — Alan Charles and Daniel Ghany for Hursley and John Dubber and Keith 'Charlie' Childs all winning two.

In the second series another Frank Earis hat-trick as Kingfisher B were beaten 6-3 by Cippenham A gave the latter club a clear lead after two matches; just behind are Hursley who also secured their second win with an emphatic eights sets to one drubbing of Cippenham B. A Brian Halliday hat-trick saw Kingfisher A home by six sets to three in a surprisingly close tussle with the Isle of Wight.

Two matches only have been played to date in the ladies league and in both the Isle of Wight have been on the wrong end of a five sets to love drubbing — Cippenham and Generation 11 being the victors.

Another event which took off after much planning was the regional seminar at Winchester on 29 November attended by representatives of most of the 27 member leagues when the panel of speakers included the national chairman, treasurer and general secretary. During the day Mick Strode announced plans for future events throughout the season including a cadet team tournament, Veterans (all age groups Southampton 20 April), and a Class 4 tournament (Class 4 being for those who have not played county or national league table tennis in the previous two seasons).

The following junior players

have won their way through from the Regional trials to the national trials in January: Cadets Esther Baggeley and Martin Greenwood (Bu); Dawn Barrett (Ox); Mark Priddle and Nicky Bradfield (Bk); Juniors: Lisa Crick and Martin Adams (Bk), Sally Hughes and Paul Poulter (Ox), Anna Watton, Gary Cline and Richard Giblin (Bu).

OBITUARY DENIS BARRETT

DENIS BARRETT was a member of the Eastern Area Coaching Panel in the early years of that body until about 1979.

He somehow found time to be National Councillor for Suffolk from about 1966 until 1981, when Joyce Love was elected. Only missed about three meetings during that time due to other County commitments.

He was a county selector for at least 20 years and travelled all over the country with Junior and Senior teams until 1982 when the driving became too much. Was also non-playing captain of both teams. In the days before County umpires and referees etc, ran home County matches almost single-handed only recruiting someone to help with umpiring and making the tea!

Took the post of vice-chairman of Suffolk at the 1970 Annual General Meeting and became chairman in 1972 holding this post until 1984 — the longest serving chairman.

He played an active part as the instigator of the idea to run separate closed championships for the Juniors with three age groups. Prior to this their championships had been run in conjunction with the senior championships with an Under-17 girls, and Under-17 boys only.

Secured and assisted in the organisation at Felixstowe of the first European League match to be played in Suffolk. Two were played at the Spa Pavilion with Czechoslovakia and Sweden being the visitors.

Until his retirement at the 1984 AGM he had spent many hours in re-wording the County Laws to comply with ETTA requirements.

A man who had served the county in all possible ways, about to enjoy retirement with his wife, Edna, who herself has had her own interests in table tennis, being County match secretary for many years, and joint organiser of the Suffolk Championships.

Edna Barrett had decided to continue office for a further year, which was greatly appreciated by the present committee and both will be sadly missed.

Out and about



A superb shot from the camera of professional photographer Sylvio Dokov (Cambridge) shows the athletic style used by England No 2 Alan Cooke, the young man trying to catch Carl Preat on the European ranking list.



Tony Chatwin England's leading referee and umpire, will reply to Alan Shepherd's plea that he is 'cold-shouldered' when it comes to choosing umpires for tournaments. He proved to be the principal contender against the winner Alan Ransome in the election for the new deputy chairman of the ETTA. Perhaps Tony was not as well-known as he might have been — proving a theory that the best known people usually win elections.

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A nostalgic reminder of the power of the former European champion Jill Parker. With a young family to look after and coaching commitments at home and abroad with the England teams, Jill must be one of the busiest housewives in England.



Denis Neale, six times the England champion is said to be taking some beating in the Leeds National League but will he not become a veteran before much longer, joining John Hilton and (soon) Nigel Eckersley.

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SCOTLAND

BY DENIS GEORGE

THE three major league open tournaments held in November attracted large entries and provided the chance for younger stars to shine.

East of Scotland 2-Star Open, Edinburgh

Peter McQueen (Gateshead) defeated David McLroy in 'the last 16' and seemed set to regain the title he won ten years ago but he came up against 'in form' Gordon Clancey (Glasgow) in the semis and lost 19 and 19. Clancey then beat Brian Wright in the Final. Carol Dalrymple won the Ladies' Singles from Sarah Hurry who took the Junior Girls' title. Andrew Bruce (Helensburgh) achieved a first ever win over Andrew Eden (Lancs) in the Junior Boys' quarters, then beat Paul Clark but lost the Final to English boy M. Curry (N. Shields).

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: G. Clancey b P. McQueen 19, 19; B. Wright b I. McLean 18, 14.
Final: G. Clancey b B. Wright 19, -19, 16.

The Tournament Scene

Women's Singles

Final: C. Dalrymple b S. Hurry - 19, 14, 10.

Junior Boys' Singles

Final: M. Curry b A. Bruce 17, 14.

Junior Girls' Singles

Final: S. Hurry b L. Anderson 10, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles

Final: I. Collier b B. Forster 8, 12.

North of Scotland 1-Star Open, Aberdeen

The Portuguese European League squad competed but their only successes being Margarida Lopes sharing the Women's Doubles title with Eleanor McLroy and coach Fernando Gomes taking the Veterans' Singles. Gordon Clancey and Brian Wright continued in the good form of the previous weekend to contest the Men's Singles final with Clancey retaining the title he won in 1986. The two Portuguese men Diamantino Pinto and Paulo Fernandes lost to Ian McLean and Callum Gerrard respectively in the quarter-finals. Sarah Hurry defeated Margarida Lopes in the Junior Girls' final and also in the Ladies' Singles semi-finals.

Carole Dalrymple beat Sarah in the senior final Kevin McKellar (W. Dunbarton) won both the Junior and Cadet Boys' titles.

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: G. Clancey b I. McLean -15, 19, 19; B. Wright b C. Gerrard 9, 18.

Final: G. Clancey b B. Wright 17, -21, 13.

Women's Singles

Final: C. Dalrymple b S. Hurry 14, -17, 13.

Junior Boy's Singles

Final: K. McKellar b C. McDonald

Junior Girls' Singles

Final: S. Hurry b M. Lopes 14, 20.

Open Cadet Singles

Final: K. McKellar b Jennifer Hook -14, 17, 18.

Men's Doubles

D. McLroy and I. McLean b D. Pinto and P. Fernandes 20, 17.

West of Scotland 2-Star Open, Bishopbriggs

Gordon Clancey looked set to make it 'three in a row' when he took the first end against John Broe in the Men's Singles semi-final, but Broe recovered to go

through to the final where he defeated David McLroy, who had beaten Andrew Dennison in the semis, 2-0.

Carole Dalrymple won the Ladies' Singles from Sarah Hurry, who in turn had beaten Lorraine Anderson in the Junior Girls. Euan Walker, playing in his first tournament of the season after recovery from an injured knee, won the Junior Boys' Singles from Fife's Stuart Grassick (late of Edmonton) and the Class 2 Singles from Derek Lundie. Kevin McKellar took the Cadet Boys' title from Neil Strong (N. Ireland).

Men's Singles

Semi-finals: J. Broe b G. Clancey -13, 11, 16; D. McLroy b A. Dennison -19, 16, 17.

Final: J. Broe b D. McLroy 13, 16.

Women's Singles

Final: C. Dalrymple b S. Hurry 7, 11.

Junior Boys' Singles

Final: E. Walker b S. Grassick 11, -21, 17.

Junior Girls' Singles

Final: S. Hurry b L. Anderson 12, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles

Final: K. McKellar b N. Strong 9, 9.

SELECTED AGAIN



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Netherlands north-east victory

GATESHEAD JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

Dutch juniors triumph — but cadets draw and win

by KEN TAYLOR

FOR THE second year running Dunston Activity Centre in Gateshead was the scene for the Junior International between England and Netherlands sponsored by the Gateshead Borough Council's Parks and Recreation Department. With four tables in use simultaneously the spectators found plenty to occupy their attention with a galaxy of young talent on view from both Countries.

Junior Boys

Michael O'Driscoll met Geert Verheagh in the opening singles and gave England an excellent start winning 21-14, 21-8 only for Trinco Keen to level the match with a comfortable win over Adrian Thorp 21-17, 21-9. In the doubles the England boys started in fine style to take the first end 21-15, only to lose the second 13-21 and the final end 19-21 to put the Netherlands ahead, Verheagh put the Netherlands in a winning position with a twin over Thorp and Trinco Keen increased the lead when he beat O'Driscoll in three ends.

Junior Girls

England were on the wrong end of some very close results, Clair Potts lost the first game against Ursula Bakker 21-15, 21-16 to give the Netherlands an early lead which was further increased when Emily Noor won a thrilling encounter with Debbie Toole 21-19, 24-22, the third game saw the Netherlands take a winning lead with a double success which could have gone to either side in a tense struggle. Debbie Toole gave England their only success in this event with a comfortable win over Ursula Bakker 21-15, 21-11, followed by a thrilling game in which Claire Potts was edged out in the third end.

Cadet Boys

This event proved very exciting indeed with Gert Kobes giving an outstanding performance with three successive wins for the Netherlands. Neil Bevans got England off to a good start with an easy win over Robert Van Ossenbrugge only for Kobes to level the score line when he defeated Gary Knight in a close match 22-20, 21-18. Ian Collier, who comes from Sunderland, added local interest to the event and in his first match against Ossenbrugge had a comfortable win to put England back in front, only for Kobes again to bring the Netherlands level again, defeating Bevans in comfortable style in the third and after the two previous ends had been evenly contested. Knight then beat Ossenbrugge who had had a disappointing evening without any success in the singles but Kobes levelled the match at three games all when he defeated Collier in two straight ends.

Cadet Girls

This match produced the only win for England of the evening with both England girls playing their part. Helen Wright gave England a fine start when she beat Maroesja Bensen in straight ends only for Ellen Meddings to lose in similar fashion to Melissa Muller to level the score, the doubles produced some fine table tennis from the four girls in a three end thriller which resulted in a win for England 24-22, Ellen Meddings followed this up with a fine win over Bensen to give England a winning led, however, this did not in any way spoil the final match as both Helen Wright (who impressed me as a player for the future) and Melissa Muller battled out a thriller, Wright took the first end 21, lost the second -15, and also the third -20.

The players and officials were introduced to the Mayor of Gateshead and the Lady Mayoress.



YORKSHIRE county player Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield) is currently ranked No 38 on the England men's list and No 2 on the England junior list. He comes from Mirfield, Yorkshire and plays in the Huddersfield league. His style is attacking block and forehand topspin.

RESULTS

Junior Boys

M. O'Driscoll b G. Verheagh 13, 8
A. Thorp l T. Keen -17, -9
O'Driscoll/Thorp l Keen/Verheagh 15, -13, -19
A. Thorp l G. Verheagh -21, -15
M. O'Driscoll l T. Keen -20, 16, -18
ENGLAND 1 NETHERLANDS 4

Junior Girls

C. Potts l U. Bakker -16, -18
D. Toole l E. Noor -19, -22
Potts/Toole l Bakker/Noor -22, -22
D. Toole b U. Bakker 15, 11
C. Potts l E. Noor -13, 15, -18
ENGLAND 1 NETHERLANDS 4

Cadet Boys

N. Bevans b R. Van Ossenbrugge 9, 14
G. Knight l G. Kobes -20, -18
I. Collier b R. Van Ossenbrugge 13, 15
N. Bevans l G. Kobes 19, -18, -10
G. Knight b R. Van Ossenbrugge 14, 16
I. Collier l G. Kobes -18, -13
ENGLAND 3 NETHERLANDS 3

Cadet Girls

H. Wright b M. Bensen 14, 18
E. Meddings l M. Muller -19, -13
Wright/Meddings b Bensen/Muller -17, 18, 22
E. Meddings b M. Bensen 16, 6
H. Wright l M. Muller 21, -15, -20
ENGLAND 3 NETHERLANDS 2

JIM BECKLEY

Vice-chairman of the ETTA 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, Cheshire SK8 7RG. Tel: 061-439 6001, business and home number.

THE WALDNER INTERVIEW

by STIG HAGBERG, Swedish journalist

JAN-OVE WALDNER, the young Swede who lost to Jiang Jialiang in the men's singles final at the World Championships, is back in Sweden. He no longer plays for Saarbrücken, West Germany, and returns to his former home club Sparvagen to play in the first division of the Swedish Leagues.

After his arrival in Stockholm I asked him some questions about his staying in Saarbrücken, the World Championships final and his future.

How do you assess the years spent in Saarbrücken?

I played there for three years and I think it was very useful for me. There is a fierce rivalry in the Bundesliga, and I had to play the top players of Europe. Due to this fact, I think I have become a better player.

Did your staying with Saarbrücken have any negative aspects?

To shuttle between Germany and Sweden was really very tiresome. I was 'living in a bag' without a real home in either country. Of course I had been aware of these circumstances when I made up my mind to join a Bundesliga team.

Not disappointed

Several months have passed since your losing to Jiang Jialiang in the final of the men's singles in Delhi. How do you see that match today?

I am not disappointed. I played as good as I could. When the men's singles got underway my health was not quite OK and it was not clear at all if I would be able to play matches day after day. Regarding these facts I must be satisfied with reaching the final. For sure I am not going to shed tears over losing to Jiang. I think of our future encounters instead.

What do you think is necessary to have a 'revenge' in 1989?

First of all I must be fit throughout the world tournament. Second, I must find the right way of preparation. I must be in top form if I should stand a chance to reach the singles' final. Do not forget it is a long way to get there! And there are many top rivals who can jeopardise my way to the final.

Are there any technical elements you think you need improvement in?

Some time ago my backhand used to be my weak point — it was not strong enough. In Delhi, my backhand was suddenly OK. Therefore I think I have to practice every component of my play and specially to try to speed it up. I do not think there are many

players in the world who could shock the rivals with genuine elements in 1989. Instead, everyone is going to bring more power and confidence in the game.

Taiwan tip

Do you think China is going to stay number one forever, or...?

We, of course, will give them a fight, but you must also see that there are so many of them. China has always the chance to find new players who have been practising especially to beat us.

Do you see any other country with a chance to become top nation in table tennis?

I think, if any, it would emerge in Asia. I would tip Taiwan to produce some new talented players. Globally I think Asian nations stand bigger chances to vault into the top field.

Back in Sweden, what about next season?

It is a thrill to be home in the Swedish league again. All national players will be there and I think our league is going to remain the best one in Europe for a long, long time.

Important

Do you have any special plans?

No, I will have workouts two times a day, as usual. It comes to five hours a day. Then, I am going to start at tournaments in Sweden, for instance SOC, at league matches of my club, at tournaments abroad, European League ties, etc. Of course, the European Championships at the end of the season will be a very important event.

Olympics

What do you think about table tennis in the Olympic programme?

I think this move was a very useful one, perhaps the best in many years. Table tennis in the Olympics will be a formidable propaganda for our sport — and this is very important for our incessant fight in order to make table tennis more popular all over the world.



World championships men's singles finalist Jan-Ove Waldner and World No 2 is not so far having the best of seasons. He and Andrzej Grubba are the two men capable of easing the Asian stranglehold at Middlesbrough and Brighton.

Do you think there could be introduced any new rules at rendering the game more attractive?

I do not know. Certainly I have heard rumours about increasing the height of the net.

What do you think of this move?

It is a must to attract more people to table tennis events and make sure that they find the game spectacular. If a higher net can be the way of reaching this goal, so let it be! I mean a number of tournaments could be arranged with the higher net installed on the tables — and we will see the effects...

What about the future of European table tennis?

I can see no reason why Sweden should lose their top position

in the continent. Of course there can emerge some top players from other countries, too — but Sweden has a lot of athletes in the top field, and that is the big difference. We have our traditional training camps in China, having the players work very hard there. The weeks spent over there have their benefit — our play keeps on improving year after year.

... and it also contributes to the development of Chinese table tennis...

You know, the only opportunity for us to catch up with the Chinese is to play them often — as often as we can. Otherwise you will be shocked for sure, for instance at World Championships.

An explanation of the system

Lentec-ETTA Computer Ranking Scheme SEASON 1987-1988

by **STUART SNEYD, Vice-Chairman, Selection-Coaching**

AFTER much deliberation one or two problems have now been resolved and the scheme will continue for 1987/88, its seventh season. It should be noted that whilst this article was delayed during a negotiation phase, the season's results to date have all been computed on the lines indicated below.

For the start of the season, all points gained at the end of the 1986-87 season have been divided by two.

The system will continue to be on a wins only basis with the calculation of points as follows:

Expected win table		The Weighting Factor
Points difference	Points Gain	
1 to 10	8	×
11 to 30	7	
31 to 60	6	
61 to 100	5	
101 to 150	4	
151 to 210	3	
211 to 280	2	
281 and over	1	

Unexpected win table		The Weighting Factor
Points difference	Points gain	
1 to 10	9	×
11 to 30	10	
31 to 60	11	
61 to 100	12	
101 to 150	13	
151 to 210	14	
211 to 280	15	
281 and over	16	

When players are level on points at the time of playing a match, one point will be awarded to the winner to make the result an expected win.

Weighting Factors

These are as follows:

Senior	
2 Star Open tournaments	×1
All County Championship and British League matches	
European Club Cup	×2
International Events—Class III	
3 Star Open tournaments	
International Events—Class II	×4
English National Championships	
European League	
International Events—Class I	×5
European Top 12	
European Championships	×6
Note: The qualifying rounds of the English Open will be ×3 whilst the main event will be ×5. Any team 'Plate' event will be ×3.	
Juniors and Cadets	
2 Star Open tournaments	×1
All County Championship matches	×2
International events—Class III	×3
Select Open tournaments	
National Ranking Trials—knock out stage	×4
International events—Class II	
English National Championships	
International events—Class I	×5
European Youth Championships	×6
Note: The qualifying rounds in the English Junior Open will be ×3 whilst the main event will be ×5. Any team 'Plate' event will be ×3.	
Veterans	
2 Star Open tournaments	×1
All County Championship matches	×2
Regional Open tournaments	×3

3 Star Open tournaments	
National 'Age Group' Championships	×4
English National Championships	×5

Group events

Groups of three and four will be computed in the normal way, otherwise points per win will be awarded as follows:

- Final Regional Junior and Cadet Ranking Trials — 3 points/win.
- National Junior and Cadet Ranking Trials — 10 points/win.
- National Top 12 (Senior, Junior and Cadet) — 30 points/win.

Note: 1. Players exempt from Regional Junior and Cadet Ranking Trials will each receive a differential bonus of 21 points.

2. National Senior Top 12 excluded from computer ranking scheme this season.

Bonus points

World Championships

Winner — 1,000 pts, runner-up — 700 pts, losing semi-finalist — 350 pts, losing quarter-finalist — 250 pts, last 16 — 125 pts, last 32 — 50 pts.

European Top 12's

1st — 400 pts, 2nds — 300 pts, 3rd — 250 pts, 4th — 200 pts, 5th — 160 pts, 6th — 140 pts, 7th — 120 pts, 8th — 100 pts, 9th — 80 pts, 10th — 60pts, 11th — 40 pts, 12th — 20 pts.

International events Class 1

Winner — 300 pts, runner-up — 150 pts, losing semi-finalist — 100 pts, losing quarter-finalist — 50 pts, last 16 — 25 pts.

English National Championships

Winner — 200 pts, runner-up — 100 pts, losing semi-finalist — 50pts, losing quarter-finalist — 25pts.

3 Star Tournaments, 'Select' tournaments, National Junior and Cadet Ranking Trials, (KO stages), International Events Class II, Veterans at 3 stars.

Winner — 80 pts, runner-up — 40 pts, losing semi-finalist — 20 pts, losing quarter-finalist — 10 pts.

International Events Class III, Veteran's Regional Opens

Winner — 50 pts, runner-up — 30pts, losing semi-finalist — 15pts.

2 Star tournaments, Veterans at 2 Stars

Winner — 10pts.

Equality

Where two or more players are level on points, ranking will be relative to their previous positions.

Foreign players (including those from Home Countries)

Dummy positions, as determined by Donald Parker, will be allocated on the computer lists as appropriate.

Responsibility

The Ranking Committee (part of the selection/coaching department) is and will continue to be responsible for the mechanics and applications of the computer ranking scheme. The issue of published ranking lists and the method of issue is now the responsibility of the Competitions Department under vice-chairman, Chris Wright.

Complaints, queries, etc

These should be made in writing and sent direct to: Ron Etheridge, 163a Eden Park Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3JW.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are owing to Lenton (Holdings) Ltd and to Stan Lenton in particular for the continued support of the 'Lentec'-ETTA Computer Ranking Scheme.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

New venue, new sponsor

by

DAVID LOMAS

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society has stepped in to sponsor the Schools' International Championships which will be held at Stockland Green Leisure Centre, Erdington, Birmingham from 1-3 July 1988.

This season's event will be the 14th in the history of the event. England have dominated the team events of the championships, winning on each occasion. Several England international players have figured prominently in past championships including Nicky Mason, Carl Prean, Graham Sandley, John Souter, Lisa Lomas, Alison Gordon, Joy Grundy and Fiona Elliot.

John Arnold, English Schools' Table Tennis Association chairman, said: 'We are grateful to the Leeds Permanent Building Society for their sponsorship which has enabled the series to continue. We should also like to thank Birmingham City Council for making these championships the first major event at the new centre which opens in the spring of 1988.'

Ted Germaine, general manager of Leeds Permanent Building Society, replied: 'This will be our first venture into schools' sponsorship and this completes the full spectrum of junior, senior, national and international events covered in our table tennis calendar.'

Invitations to take part have been extended to Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man and Jersey. The ESTTA are hoping that it will be possible for Wales to accept an invitation thus ending an absence of several years.

Dunlop Slazenger equipment

Equipment will be provided by Dunlop Slazenger International, major sponsors of the ESTTA.

At the time of writing entries were still pouring in for the Dunlop National School Team Championships. Competitions secretary, Geoff Gardiner told me: 'Many of the teams involved in last year's National Finals, having tasted the sweet scent of victory, are defending their titles. Of the eight events — which range from Under-11 to Under-19 — no fewer than seven are being defended. In several instances teams show little change from last season.'

Bedford Modern School bid for a third successive win in the Boys' Under-19 category but there could be a tight match in the South & East Regional Finals on 21 February if Ifield Community College, Crawley, emerge unscathed from the Area 12 finals on 17 January. The West Sussex boys expect to have the same quartet that saw them through to win the Boys' Under-16 national title last season (for the Leach-Carrington Trophy) with juniors Alan Cole and Scott Greenbrook leading them.

Familiar names

It's also 'as you were' in the Girls' Under-19 section where all three of last season's finalists could return including winners Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School (Lincs) who have the same line-up.

In the younger age events there are also familiar names involved in the shape of Cumnor House School, Croydon (Surrey Met), The Grove School, Market Drayton, Parkview School and Yarside School — both from Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria).

Closing date 22 March

On the county scene attention switches to the staging of Individual Championships in many counties. Entries are due in by 22 March with the Dunlop English Schools' Individual Championships scheduled for Saturday, 30 April at Mansfield Leisure Centre. It will be interesting to see what response there will be, compared to previous entry totals. If the barometer for such a forecast was the response in Kent County the outlook would be bright. Kent County Schools' secretary, Jean Felton, told me that entries for their championships have never been better with, for example, over 50 entries in the Under-11 Boys' event alone. But there are many 'dead areas' throughout the country and this is a cause for some concern.

* * * * *

The ESTTA's annual coaching course takes place from 5-8 April 1988 at Lea Green, Matlock. Details and application forms can be obtained from County Schools' TTA secretaries or from the organiser: Phil Burwell, 58 Oaklands, Curdworth, Sutton Coldfield B76 9HD (sae please).

Men's section

Division 1: Wolves A 7, Notts B 3; Glos 10, Notts A 0 (walk over); Notts B 10, Coventry A 0; Notts A 4, Birmingham A 6.

Division 2: Bath 7, Nuneaton 3.

Division 3: Stafford 5, Banbury 5.

Division 4: Leamington B 7, Cheltenham 3; Cheltenham 1, Coventry B 9, Banbury B 0, Coventry B 10.

John Holland took all three for Nottingham A against Birmingham, but this did not deter the latter from gaining a fine win. Bath who finished second in Division 2 but not promoted, made a good start to the new campaign against Nuneaton. Paul Rimans treble for Leamington B helped to steer his side to victory against Cheltenham. Coventry B have notched two big wins.

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stafford	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Lincoln	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Banbury A	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Leicester	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Leamington B	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Pontesbury	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

Juniors section

Division 1: Coventry A 5, Leicester A 2; Notts A 10, Stroud 0; Eastwood 7, Wolves 3.

Division 2: Worcester 4, Dudley 6; Dudley 6, Leamington 4.

Division 3: Coventry B 10, Leamington B 0; Banbury 4, Pontesbury 6; Pontesbury 3, Walsall 7; Oxford 10, Banbury 0.

Division 4: Hinkley 8, Bromsgrove 2; Coventry 1, Birmingham N9; Bromsgrove 0, Glos 10; Cheltenham 8, Rugby 2; Birmingham B 9, Kidderminster 1.

Nottingham A have made a strong start in defence of their title by taking a maximum against Stroud. In Division 2 Dudley's young team have made a convincing start with Cadet Lee Horting winning all three against Leamington.

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Coventry B	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Walsall	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
West Brom	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Pontesbury	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Banbury	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Leamington B	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Intermediates

Eastwood 8, Walsall 2; Eastwood 9, Leamington 1; Walsall 4,

Dudley 6; Dudley 10, Nuneaton 0; Nuneaton 0, Eastwood 10.

Walsall won the first three sets against Dudley who then found form and ran out worthy winners. They had already shown their strength against Nuneaton. Eastwood have also made an emphatic start with three great wins although Walsall did extend them by taking six sets to the third.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastwood	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Dudley	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Walsall	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Leamington	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Nuneaton	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

Women's section

Derby 7, Notts 3; Wolves 8, Derby 2; Notts 4, Birmingham 6.

Birmingham have made a promising start with two wins while champions Leicester are, at the moment, at the other end of the table.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Derby	4	1	1	2	16	14	3
Wolves	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Notts	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Leicester	2	0	1	1	9	11	1

Veterans' section

Division 1: Walsall A 7, Walsall B 3; Walsall A 5, Oxford B 5; Coventry 2, Notts 8; Leamington A 1, Birmingham B 9.

Division 2: Stroud 8, West Brom B 2; West Brom A 8, Nuneaton 2; Cheltenham 2, Telford 8.

Division 3: Coventry B 1, Birmingham 9; Rugby 3, Kidderminster 7; Stafford 8, Coventry B 2; Leamington B 8, Rugby 2; Stafford 9, Aylesbury 1; Pontesbury 4, Stratford B 6.

Pontesbury won four early sets but Stratford fought back to snatch victory by taking the last four sets. Leamington B kept their unbeaten record with a good win over Rugby. Walsall A & Oxford B were engaged in a tight match, the latter taking the doubles which proved decisive in gaining them a point.

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telford	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Stroud	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
West Brom A	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Leicester	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
West Brom B	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cheltenham	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Stratford	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Notts B	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Nuneaton	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

ORDER YOUR TABLE TENNIS NEWS MONTHLY FROM THE ETTA OFFICE

Disabled? — The Way Forward

by PETER TAYLOR of Lincolnshire

MY INVOLVEMENT in disabled table tennis began when I answered a letter published in the November 1985 *Table Tennis News*. The aim was to find disabled players able to compete at the high level shown in the 1985 European Championships.

Both Don McIver, from Sunderland, and myself answered the letter and were invited to the BLASA training session held over a March weekend at St George's Army Barracks, Sutton Coldfield.

BLASA (British Les Autres' Sports Association) is one of the seven main disability groups — paraplegics, cerebral palsied, visually handicapped, deaf, mentally handicapped, amputees and Les Autres (the others). In table tennis, the 'amps' and 'Les Autres' compete together in seven different classes. Classes 1 and 2 are for wheelchairs, 3 and 4 arm, 5 and 6 leg and 7 are non-playing arm disabilities. From March to November the squad trained one weekend a month at Sutton Coldfield in preparation for international competition.

Full marks

The European Championships proved very successful and was by far the best run of the three I have played in so far. Full marks must go to Len Pilditch and his 'blue coat' umpires. The players showed their appreciation with a lengthy ovation and each umpire was given a medal to help thank them for their magnificent efforts over the four days. Once again the standard was high and as the paraplegic games were held at the same time it gave both groups a chance to see the others in action. In all, four of the seven main disability groups competed at these championships, the

paras in the ISMGF event while the Les Autres, amputees and CPs in the ISOD event. A total of 18 countries competed and produced some memorable moments.

First taste

The 1986 World Championships at Dijon, France provided my first taste of international competition. Tony Teff, BLASA coach, had told us repeatedly how high the standard was. Unfortunately for us, it had improved even more. To win in the higher categories, Classes 6 and 7, players have to be at least minor county standard in able-bodied play. Several players compete in the German National League and several others are ranked in their own countries. The squad returned home with five medals. In the two-man team event, Great Britain won a silver in Class 1 and bronze in Class 6 while Ann Smith, an amputee, won a silver in the individual Class 5 ladies' singles.

Courage

The next international event was the 1987 French Games in July based in Paris. It lasted a week and was used to help prepare us for the European Championships to be held at Stoke Mandeville in October.

For me, I will always remember the courage of Pehrsson, the Danish World Champion, who when 20-17 down in the third to the Frenchman Garofalo did two



The Class 4 European champions from Germany and Great Britain silver medallists Dave Hope and Bob Churchill on the right of Peter Taylor's photograph.

backhand smashes and then a forehand smash — all off Garofalo's service to level the score at 20 all. The skill of the German short arm players who both beat British player Dave Hope in the Class 4 event despite having no elbow or upper arm. The humility and pride shown by Erdoz, the popular Hungarian player who unexpectedly won the Open Singles; the power of the German who took most of the team event gold medals.

What of the future? If Britain is to be a force in disabled table tennis, there is an urgent need to develop players. Perhaps the Dutch policy of finding disabled youngsters who are then trained to be table tennis players is the way forward.

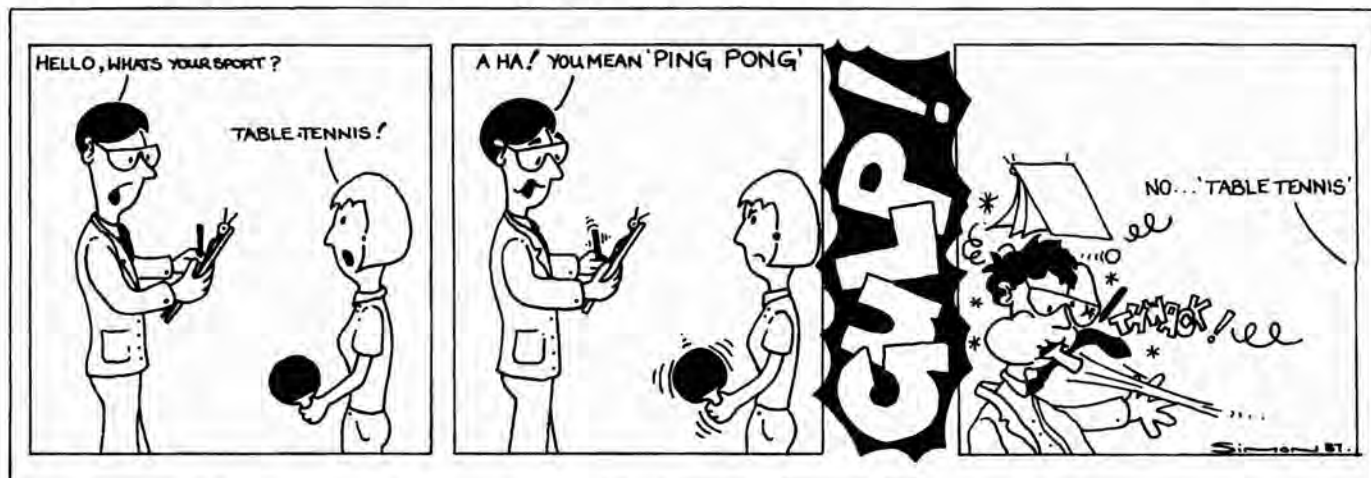
Tony Teff, the BLASA coach, would like to see set up regional squads with a coach in charge of each squad with the better players progressing to the national squads. This will require coaches and budding players. If you are interested in helping or in playing please contact either Tony Teff (0279 38775) or Bob Churchill (01-301 0595).

The incentive for the player is a chance to represent your country in an international event, the next main event is the Disabled Olympics in Seoul during October.

Entry to the BLASA squad is via the National Games only and anyone who thinks that he or she is worth considering should contact either Tony or Bob.

CARTOON

This cartoon is by Simon Golding, a TTN reader and a student at West Sussex Institute of Higher Education at Chichester. He is a player at tournament, county and student levels and is a regular spectator. He also seems to have a future in the world of graphic art.





THE LENTEC NATIONAL RANKING LIST

SENIORS

— in conjunction with the ETTA, as at 1 January 1988

MEN		
1. Desmond Douglas (Birmingham)	2154	
2. Alan Cooke (Chesterfield)	1643	
3. Carl Preen (Ryde)	1378	
4. Skylet Andrew (London E15)	1157	
5. Jimmy Stokes (Reading)	889	
6. John Souter (Neasden)	839	
7. Nicky Mason (Bexhill)	817	
8. Kevin Satchell (Frome)	753	
9. Bradley Billington (Chesterfield)	699	
10. Matthew Syed (Reading)	646	
11. Graham Sandley (Potters Bar)	620	
12. Philip Bradbury (Aylesbury)	617	
13. Tony Taylor (Manchester)	611	
14. Chris Rogers (Leicester)	572	
15. Sean Gibson (Chorley)	567	
16. Nigel Eckersley (Warrington)	558	
17. Glen Baker (Guildford)	555	
18. John Hilton (Manchester)	543	
19. Steve Mills (Sheffield)	538	
20. Steven Scowcroft (Bolton)	528	
21. Paul Whiting (Plymouth)	524	
22. Adrian Dixon (Wolverhampton)	522	
23. Edward Smith (Newcastle)	487	
24. Colin Wilson (Cuffley)	479	
25. Andrew Wellman (Reading)	474	
26. Phil Smith (Horley)	470	
27. Adrian Moore (Bexhill)	464	
28. Max Crimmins (Wimbledon)	462	
29. Carl Morgan (Birmingham)	461	
30. David Gannon (Leicester)	459	
31. Paul Giles (Plymouth)	446	
32. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield)	445	
33. Desmond Charlery (London E13)	441	
34. John Holland (Nottingham)	437	
35. Brian Johns (Northwich)	432	
36. John Taylor (Golders Green)	432	
37. Ritchie Venner (Crawley)	430	
38. Michael Hammond (Surbiton)	428	
39. Stephen Moore (Bexhill)	418	
40. Tony Stark (New Barnet)	418	
41. John Denison (Hackney)	417	
42. Phillip Vickers (Derby)	412	
43. Barry Johnson (Birmingham)	410	
44. Steven Dorking (Hornchurch)	407	
45. Andrew Dodd (London SE7)	406	
46. Ian Robertson (Newcastle)	402	
47. Murray Jukes (Kidderminster)	401	
48. John Burleton (London SE15)	399	
49. Rupert Bole (Esher)	395	
50. David Harding (Carshalton)	389	
51. Stuart Palmer (Lakenheath)	377	
52. David Dodd (London SE7)	376	
53. John Kitchener (Ipswich)	371	
54. Gary Wilson (Plymouth)	364	
55. Keith Richardson (Soham)	364	
56. Steven Sharpe (Wakefield)	362	
57. Tony Clayton (Poole)	361	
58. Denis Neale (Redcar)	359	
59. Michael Short (Plymouth)	356	
60. Philip Gunn (Birmingham)	355	
61. Percy Collino (London SW5)	355	
62. Michael Stead (Bradford)	352	
63. Kenny Jackson (Ashford)	351	
64. Stephen Slater (Stoke)	348	
65. Craig Bakewell (Stoke-on-Trent)	346	
66. Alexander Abbott (Essex)	346	
67. Lee Neil (Dunkirk)	340	
68. Graeme McKim (Northampton)	336	
69. David Newman (Maldon)	333	
70. Michael Harper (Biggleswade)	326	
71. Graham Toole (Fareham)	325	
72. Geoff Davies (Waterbeach)	322	
73. Paul Sayer (London E12)	321	
74. Graham Slack (Cheltenham)	317	
75. Michael Brown (Birmingham)	314	
76. Paul Elphick (Haywards Heath)	314	
77. Ramesh Bhalla (Guildford)	313	
78. Andrew Rich (Wolverhampton)	312	
79. Stephen Yallop (Derby)	309	
80. Richard Stevenson (Norwich)	309	
81. Peter Machin (Birmingham)	305	
82. Chris Oldfield (Sheffield)	305	
83. Richard Tanner (Birmingham)	305	
84. Phil Smith (Leicester)	303	
85. Ian Attridge (London E13)	301	
86. Kevin Beadsley (Bradford)	300	
87. Tony Sweet (Plymouth)	299	
88. Andy Creed (Bristol)	295	
89. Joe Kennedy (London SE15)	294	
90. Michael O'Leary (Willesden)	294	
91. Gary Lambert (Exmouth)	290	
92. Dipak Topiwala (London N17)	290	
93. Russell King (Lowestoft)	287	
94. Trevor Washington (Wolverhampton)	284	
95. Peter Norcott (London E16)	283	
96. Richard Beckham (London SE22)	281	
97. Stanley Deakin (Stoke)	281	
98. David Harvey (Cheltenham)	281	
99. Philip Logsdon (Norwich)	280	
100. Steven Moreman (Gloucester)	280	
101. Stuart Worrell (Lincoln)	280	
102. Mark Owen (Manchester)	277	
103. Walter Allanson (Shillingford)	277	
104. David Barr (Newbury)	274	
105. Neil Bevan (Bude)	274	
106. David Goode (Hayes)	272	
107. Hakem Sigrell (Bournemouth)	271	
108. Trevor Campbell (Clapton)	271	
109. Steven Brunskill (Middlesbrough)	271	
110. Darren Griffin (Gloucester)	266	
111. Diru Parmar (Birmingham)	266	
112. Lee Sadler (Yeovil)	259	
113. Gordon Chapman (Worcester Park)	258	
114. Andy Withers (Haverhill)	257	
115. John Green (Nuneaton)	254	
116. Paul Lewis (Nailesea)	253	
117. Gary Jordan (March)	253	
118. Lester Bertie (Birmingham)	252	
119. Jonathan Proffitt (Barnet)	251	
120. Mark Randle (Rugby)	251	
121. Andy Cunningham (Beckenham)	250	
122. Stuart Gibbs (Dagenham)	248	
123. Richard Whiteley (Harrogate)	248	
124. Christopher Holley (Bath)	247	
125. Keith Samuels (St Neots)	246	
126. Henry Buist (Orpington)	245	
127. Malcolm Corking (Stockton)	242	
128. Ronald Vose (Stockport)	241	
129. Babs Adedayo (London SE19)	240	
130. Mark Wilding (Denmead)	236	
131. Gary Spencer (London SE23)	234	
132. Martin Stevenson (Norwich)	234	
133. Paul Gooding (Ipswich)	231	
134. Neil Pickard (Reepham)	230	
135. Phillip Cox (Kent)	230	
136. Malcolm Green (Telford)	230	
5. Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury)	595	
6. Andrea Holt (Ramsbottom)	517	
7. Jill Harris (Walsall)	446	
8. Joanne Shaw (Normanton)	380	
9. Carol Giles (Plymouth)	358	
10. Claire Potts (Chester)	335	
11. Susan Collier (Maidenhead)	302	
12. Jean Parker (Preston)	301	
13. Debbie Toole (Normanton)	297	
14. Helen Bardwell (Ware)	270	
15. Karen Smith (Leicester)	269	
16. Helen Lower (Wolverhampton)	263	
17. Elaine Short (Plymouth)	257	
18. Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge)	255	
19. Melonie Carey (Puriton)	253	
20. Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln)	245	
21. Teresa Moore (Bexhill)	244	
22. Jackie Bellinger (Dunstable)	234	
23. Kerry Hall (Chesterfield)	232	
24. Jane Barrella (Surbiton)	220	
25. Karen Burrows (Castleford)	203	
26. Elaine Sayer (London E12)	196	
27. Sally Weston (Horsham)	195	
28. Claire Maisey (Swindon)	190	
29. Suzanne Airey (Grantham)	177	
30. Helen Perrott (Bristol)	173	
31. Alison Boxall (Cheshunt)	169	
32. Sandra Roden (Dudley)	153	
33. Nicola McGrath (Preston)	148	
34. Linda Clemett (Raynes Park)	138	
35. Kim Mudge (London E13)	138	
36. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	137	
37. Rachel Knight (Twickenham)	132	
38. Sheila King (St Leonards)	128	
39. Julie Bimmock (Dunstable)	117	
40. Debbie Soothill (Carnforth)	116	
41. Lisa Haydon (Brentwood)	110	
42. Gillian Blanch (Acton)	108	
43. Lesley Popkiewicz (Purley)	104	
44. Connie Moran (Grimsby)	104	
45. Caroline Buckley (Beds)	101	
46. Janet Deakin (Warrington)	95	
47. Susan Radley (Lincoln)	93	
48. Kristina Cox (Rushden)	93	
49. Debbie Simmonds (Virginia Water)	86	
50. Hazel Kavanagh (Hull)	85	
51. B. Buoev (Liverpool)	84	
52. Claire Plumridge (High Wycombe)	83	
53. Claire Mouzon (Ashingill)	83	
54. Michelle Cohen (Bristol)	79	
55. Angela Mitchell (Edmonton)	73	
56. Sandra Peakman (Birmingham)	70	
57. Janet Hunt (Worcester)	66	
58. Caron Guthrie (Northumberland)	65	
59. Julie Revill (Oadby)	63	
60. Diane St Ledger (Birmingham)	60	
61. Linda Walters (Southgate)	57	
62. Susan Culbertson (Birmingham)	56	
63. Louise Davies (Bridgenorth)	55	
64. Jane Vickers (Derby)	55	
65. Sarah Turner (Southampton)	55	
66. Sarah Hammond (Southampton)	53	
67. Linda Radford (Upminster)	53	
68. Julie Lawrence (Bexhill)	49	
69. Joanne Pettit (Newmarket)	49	
70. Heather Payce-Drury (Surrey)	49	
71. Alison Gower (Essex)	49	
72. Susan Butler (Plymouth)	48	
73. Esme Stevenson (Bude)	46	
74. Katherine Goodall (Yorks)	45	
75. Melody Hill (Bradford)	43	

WOMEN

1. Alison Gordon (Reading)	1244
2. Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton)	1181
3. Lisa Lomas (Dunstable)	1150
4. Joy Dean (Preston)	1028

How the juniors stand



THE LENTEC NATIONAL RANKING LIST

JUNIORS & CADETS

— in conjunction with the ETTA

AS AT 1 DECEMBER 1987

JUNIOR BOYS

1. Bradley Billington (Chesterfield)	952	73. Richard Jones (Morden)	102	43. Caroline Perkins (Wellingborough)	66
2. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield)	897	74. Richard Pratley (Worcester)	98	44. Samantha Marling (Hull)	64
3. Matthew Syed (Reading)	851	75. Chris Nicholls (Ipswich)	95	45. Deborah Applin (Bournemouth)	62
4. Chris Oldfield (Sheffield)	467	76. Michael Curry (Newcastle)	91	46. Hannah Webber (Guildford)	57
5. Adrian Thorpe (Wolverhampton)	435	77. Stephen Horsfield (Sheffield)	88	47. Alison Ledwitch (Birmingham)	57
6. Thomas Cutler (Neasden)	433	78. Allan Radford (Romford)	86	48. Joanne Webber (Bridgwater)	57
7. Mark Ward (Sheffield)	422	79. Colin Bowler (Dunstable)	83	49. Elizabeth Connell (Leeds)	56
8. Damien Holland (Billericay)	417	80. Paul Poulter (Oxford)	82	50. Sally Marling (Hull)	56
9. Jonathan Taylor (Manchester)	411	81. Mark Bawden (Launceston)	78		
10. Grant Solder (Barking)	356	82. Neil Charles (Middx)	76		
11. Neil Pickard (Reepham)	352	83. John Backhouse (Barrow-in-Furness)	75	CADET GIRLS	
12. Matthew Pernet (Esher)	350	84. Bryant Gonsalves (Camberley)	72	1. Helen Potts (Chester)	553
13. Leigh Jeffries (Birmingham)	330	85. Michael Nesbett (Cleveland)	71	2. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	539
14. Andrew Eden (Preston)	315	86. Steven Riggins (Washingtton)	71	3. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	467
15. Michael Aucterlonie (Salisbury)	304	87. Jason Thompson (Brierley Hill)	70	4. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	358
16. Neil Bevan (Bude)	298	88. David Thomas (Rugby)	67	5. Alison Gower (Ingatstone)	277
17. Andrew Houghton (Tonbridge)	278	89. Mark Wilson (Taverham)	67	6. Nicola Meddings (S. Coldfield)	268
18. Gary Knights (Burton-on-Trent)	276	90. Jonathan Cockburn (Norfolk)	67	7. Linda Radford (Upminster)	224
19. Mark Stephenson (Halifax)	269	91. Paul Bickell (Branscore)	66	8. Sarah Williams (Hillingdon)	181
20. David Morris (Pontesbury)	259	92. Stephen Harrison (Worksop)	63	9. Tracy Cole (Crawley)	179
21. Scott Greenbrook (Crawley)	256	93. Simon Rockall (Crouch End)	62	10. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	132
22. Alan Cole (Crawley)	252	94. Paul Madden (Macclesfield)	62	11. Karen Richardson (Oldham)	129
23. Wayne Renton (Oldham)	248	95. Christopher Kinsey (Leicester)	62	12. Sally Marling (Hull)	128
24. Stephen Baggaley (Milton Keynes)	244	96. Paul Swift (Washingtton)	61	13. Gail Ottolini (Market Drayton)	111
25. Jason Tendler (Ilford)	241	97. Paul Fowler (Bridgwater)	61	14. Rebecca Ledwitch (Birmingham)	106
26. Darryl Sneyd (Oldham)	236	98. Sean Homer (Middx)	60	15. Sally Hughes (Banbury)	106
27. Christopher White (Ippelpen)	235	99. John Menzel (Camborne)	60	16. Karen Ashley (London SW20)	102
28. Peter Bowler (Dunstable)	235	100. Richard Hollingworth (Allestree)	59	17. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	100
29. Stephen Hanks (Burton-on-Trent)	227			18. Nicola Cracknell (Reading)	88
30. Philip Szekeeres (Enfield)	223			19. Dawn Barnett (Banbury)	83
31. Howard Whewell (Rossendale)	211	JUNIOR GIRLS		20. Deborah Newman (Selby)	76
32. Ian Black (St Albans)	210	1. Andrea Holt (Ramsbottom)	1109	21. Esther Baggaley (Milton Keynes)	75
33. Mark Beaumont (L. Buzzard)	203	2. Kerry Hall (Chesterfield)	777	22. Catherine Challis (Grantham)	63
34. Sean Gaylard (Plymouth)	197	3. Claire Potts (Chester)	732	23. Clare Hand (Market Drayton)	59
35. Jeremy Krzystiniak (Croydon)	194	4. Debbie Toole (Normanton)	652	24. Elizabeth Creasey (Market Drayton)	59
36. Graeme Connelly (Camberley)	193	5. Julie Norman (Newbury)	436	25. Abigail Durrands (Grantham)	54
37. Stuart Miller (Stockton)	190	6. Nicola McGrath (Preston)	375	26. Claire Marshall (Market Drayton)	51
38. Micheal Parker (Stockport)	185	7. Joanna Roberts (Leeds)	287	27. Miranda Markham (New Malden)	48
39. Robert Till (Walsall)	184	8. Caroline Buckley (Luton)	272	28. Tamar Connolly (Blackpool)	46
40. Ian Bird (Rushden)	182	9. Kate Gower (Ingatstone)	261	29. Rachel Boon (Launceston)	40
41. James MacIver (Barnsley)	179	10. Jane Wright (Plymouth)	260	30. Lesley Hologworth (Sittingbourne)	40
42. Benjamin Kellard (Bromley)	178	11. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	255		
43. Rajinder Singh (Birmingham)	174	12. Karen Perkins (Ipswich)	234	CADET BOYS	
44. Paul Carter (Couslods)	163	13. Andrea Ambrose (Ipswich)	228	1. Neil Bevan (Bude)	835
45. Brian Mileham (Margate)	159	14. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	216	2. Brian Mileham (Margate)	430
46. Stephen Bettison (Nailsea)	159	15. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	208	3. Gary Knights (Burton)	409
47. Richard Grant (Nottingham)	159	16. Alison Gower (Ingatstone)	204	4. James Patterson (North Walsham)	218
48. Paul Wood (Southwell)	158	17. Sarah Pengelly (Paignton)	200	5. Jason Blake (S. Croydon)	216
49. Paul Smith (Bridgwater)	155	18. Julie Forster (Loughborough)	194	6. Martin Adams (Ascot)	168
50. Craig Smith (Selby)	148	19. Tina Sadler (Yeovil)	172	7. Ian Collier (Sunderland)	166
51. Ian Collier (Durham)	148	20. Tracy Scott-Pawson (Bournemouth)	172	8. Paul Davison (Worksop)	161
52. Andrew Bevan (Bude)	146	21. Helen Potts (Chester)	167	9. Perry Alexander (Exeter)	153
53. Neil Simms (Pontefract)	141	22. Linda Radford (Upminster)	166	10. Karl Horsfield (Selby)	148
54. Timothy Pike (Wakefield)	135	23. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	166	11. Gavin Yates (Thame)	146
55. Graham Cook (Pontefract)	135	24. Rebecca Fisher (Tottenham)	156	12. Stephen Coverdale (Greenside)	130
56. James Nicholson (Stockton)	132	25. Julie Brion (Aylesbury)	153	13. Barry Forster (Whickham)	121
57. Simon Holmes (Sheffield)	130	26. Helen Stevens (Grantham)	148	14. Andrew Nicolls (Selby)	119
58. Anthony Lansdown (Margate)	129	27. Susan Lawton (Ormesby)	140	15. Darren Howarth (Droylson)	116
59. Dale Saunders (Cinderford)	129	28. Emma Hurling (Berkhamsted)	137	16. Darren Blake (S. Croydon)	111
60. Ian Windle (St Ives)	126	29. Joanne Keighley (Shipley)	134	17. Gareth Jones (Selby)	95
61. Keiron Dabbs (Daventry)	123	30. Anne Pashley (Guisborough)	129	18. Jonathan Maggs (Bude)	92
62. Matthew Boon (Ashford)	121	31. Tracey Cole (Crawley)	126	19. Martin Vickers (Bradford)	88
63. David Stedman (Arundel)	119	32. Maria Williams (London N3)	110	20. Marc Priddle (Maidenhead)	81
64. Robert Scott-Birchall (Allestree)	119	33. Caroline Seaholme (Watford)	105	21. Jonathan West (Essex)	77
65. Jonathan Collins (Wisbech)	118	34. Sarah Williams (Hillingdon)	101	22. Spencer Thompson (Rainham)	72
66. Jason Williams (Boston)	118	35. Nicola Meddings (Birmingham)	96	23. David Baker (Heston)	71
67. Gregory Bridgett (Plymouth)	114	36. Barbara Smallwood (Formby)	84	24. Robert Sharpe (Northallerton)	65
68. James Patterson (North Walsham)	112	37. Sharon Norman (Birkenhead)	79	25. Steven Barrett (Bude)	59
69. Barry Forster (Whickham)	110	38. Lisa Jackson (Southgate)	78	26. Martin Hewitt (Maidstone)	53
70. Jason Bamford (Nottingham)	108	39. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	74	27. Matthew Greenwood (Amersham)	52
71. Martin Adams (Ascot)	106	40. Karen Richardson (Oldham)	73	28. Ewan Finlayson (Nailsea)	46
72. Joel Roodyn (Finchley)	105	41. Natalie Riley (Stoke-on-Trent)	72	29. Phillip Chapman (Bradford)	44
		42. Nicola Jones (Worcester)	70	30. Raymond Powell (Gloucester)	41

NORTH WALES COUNTIES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by C. T. Baylis

LLANDUDNO & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE:

Lansdowne A have taken over the leadership of Div 1 following their 9-1 win against Junction YC/A. The present position in Div 1 is . . . Lansdowne A 33 points (first) with UCNW B second with 31 points and in third place ARC Sports tied with Cricket Club A, both on 27 points.

In Div 2 Lansdowne B are the current leaders with 33 points and in second position Hotpoint A 32 and Cricket Club B third with 28 points.

In Div 3 J. K. Smit are 10 points clear ahead of Colwyn Bay TTC C and in third place Quinton Hazel. The Leaders have 41 and the Bay 31 while the Hazel are 27.

Friendship YC are top of Div 4 with 34 and second Llandudno Youth Club B with 29 and Glan Conwy YC third with 27.

Table Tennis Coaching sessions will commence on Monday, 30 November at the Four Oaks, Eirias Park starting at 7.30pm when the newly purchased ball robot will be in use for the first time.

EAST FLINTSHIRE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE:

The present positions in the First Division show that in first place are BSC Shotton with 58 points and second are Caergwrle BB also 58, in third position are Castell Alun with 49, also with the same points are Cambrian District.

In Div 2 BSC Shotton B have 62 with Hawarden and Castle Cement both with the same number of points 45, in second and third.

Newcomers RAF Sealand are the Div 3 leaders with 61 and second are Hawarden C 57 and third the same club's B team 56.

WREXHAM & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE:

McAlpine Quarries A Team are present leaders in Div 1 with 56. Also on the same points are Malpas and third Metal Box A, 48 points. In Div 2 Llay RBL A are current leaders with 46 and second are Caergwrle

BB B with 43 and third Wrexham OB C with 37. The position in Div 3 for the most of the season has shown that Wrexham OB D are still in first place with 60 points with Wrexham Lager second with 54 and third Wrexham OB E with 49.

Godfrey Parry Cup Semi Finals

Malpas v Llay Royal British Legion A

McAlpine Quarries A v Caergwrle Boys Brigade A

WELSH LEAGUE Division 1 Junior Section

Wrexham 3 Newport 4

The Wrexham team of Spencer Harris, Gary Jones and Andrew Jones acquitted themselves well against a strong Newport side winning one singles a piece, with the doubles to decide the match the Wrexham pair Spencer Harris and Gary Jones lost narrowly in the third game of the set.

Wrexham 4 Swansea 3

Another fine performance by the Wrexham youngsters with Spencer Harris winning his two singles and supported well by Gary Jones and Andrew Jones winning one single each.

At the halfway stage of their first season in Div 1 of the Welsh League the Wrexham Team are lying in a very creditable third place. (Report by Graham Jones)

Rhuddlan Table Tennis Club

Prestatyn's Natasha Williams and Janet Manning are equal top with Tigers Russell and Raymond Howland in Section A of the club team championship. Royal Naval A look to be the team who could work their way up the table with Dave & Tim Hammans.

In Section B Steve and Lynsey Mellor lead followed by Alf and Beverley Roberts in the Ruthin side.

Clwyd led by Darren Bagnall tops the nine team School Section followed by Gwindy whose star is David Howarth.

CHESTER & DISTRICT LEAGUE:

Manweb (Mold) are leaders in Div 1 with 59, second YMCA 46. Div 2 Barrow with 43 and second YMCA C with 32. Div 3 College are on top position with 48 and County Off A 45.

GREAT BRITAIN LADIES' OLYMPIC TRIAL



ENGLAND's top three players, left to right: Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton); Lisa Lomas (Bedfordshire) and Reading's Alison Gordon pictured at the Olympic Trial in Karlsruhe, West Germany. An attractive sight in their Great Britain tracksuits but although they fought hard it was not good enough to win tickets for Seoul come September.

Denis George tried to get a picture of the British trio in Karlsruhe in their Great Britain tracksuits — this was the only way we could think of as the GB sign was on the backs of the smart navy blue and light blue outfits.

Vetts Clinch Big Sponsorship

by MIKE WATTS

AFTER three years of operation the Veterans English Table Tennis Society signed their first major sponsorship deal with the Ladbroke Hotels group recently. The company have agreed to sponsor four tournaments per year for the next three years, a deal worth £6,300 to the Society. Commenting on the sponsorship honorary general secretary Mike Watts said:

'Ladbroke's have been very good to our Society since its inception providing excellent accommodation with generous discounts on room rates and sponsorship of our National championships. It therefore followed that Ladbroke's, having been impressed by the organisation and enthusiasm of the membership, have agreed to extend their financial support to VETTS.'

The additional events covered from this season are the Southern, Midlands and Northern Masters and sponsorship continues for the National Masters.

At the first of these tournaments the Southern Masters held over the weekend of 21-22 November 1987, a record entry of 195 players contested the 16 events. The two main singles the Over 40 Men's Singles and Over 40 Women's Singles provided contrasting fortunes. In the Women's Over 40 it was the favourite Doreen Schofield (Cheshire) who claimed the title defeating Pat Bassano (Yorkshire) two straight in the final whilst in the Men's Singles Over 40 it was the fourth seed Cleve Judson (Yorkshire) who triumphed beating Henry Buist (Kent) in the final over three very close games. Buist gained success however capturing the Over 50 Men's Singles defeating Babs Adedayo (Middlesex) whilst Connie Moran (Lincs) was the Over 50 Women's Singles champion overcoming a first game deficit from Joyce Coop (Dorset) to take the next two games. In his first Veterans' tournament, Surrey vet Derek Holman partnered Margaret Dignum (Kent) to success over the Judson husband and wife team of Clive and Carol in the Mixed.

Entry forms are now out for the next Ladbroke's sponsored tournament the Midlands Masters which takes place over the weekend of 30-31 January 1988 at Hinckley Leisure Centre with accommodation reserved at the Ladbroke's Hotel in Leicester.



SOUTH WEST REGION NEWS

by ALF PEPPERD

THE Cotswold Junior Select once again will be taking place at The Gloucester Leisure Centre on 30-31 January, usually played on 16 or 18 tables this prestigious tournament often attracts over 300 entries, and is sure to attract a similar amount again.

The new one

The ETTA has introduced a new competition for Juniors this season, called 'The Youth Cup'. This competition requires each Region to hold a tournament from which winners will proceed to a National Final in April 1988.

We in the SW are hopeful of staging our own competition at 'The Stroud Leisure Centre' on Saturday 20 February.

Busy weekend

The following day Sunday 21 February the ESTTA Regional Team Finals will take place also at The Stroud Leisure Centre. A very busy TT weekend indeed for that area in question. Ambitious plans to completely redevelop and expand the existing dilapidated — Matson Community Centre in Gloucester, took a very important step towards becoming a reality at a meeting held in Gloucester in early December.

Representatives of the centre agreed on outline proposals for the first phase of the planned three part project.

A sports hall

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

Once it is completed the greatly expanded and improved facilities will mean that the centre can lay on a far greater range of activities than it can cater for in its one, rather cramped meeting area at the moment.

Exciting venture

I understand that Matson has approached the Sports Council for appropriate grants etc, and John Williams and myself propose visiting them, well prior to Christmas.

Table tennis is bound to be on their list of sports, and it would be extremely nice to see a nice new modern club flourishing in Gloucester City.

More on this venture next month.



OBITUARY

GORDON HAYDEN

by ALAN SHEPHERD

LATE in November one of our best loved table tennis personalities passed away. I speak of Gordon Hayden, whose children Kim, Peter and Lisa have all represented Essex many times, and whose spirited play and perfect manners were always a credit to their father. Their brother Ian is almost of County standard and similarly a great sportsman. Followers of the junior tournament circuit will, I am sure, remember Gordon as a kindly and considerate person, and, above all, a gentleman. I personally will never forget a trip with him in his Dormobile, which pursued its stately way to the Cleveland Junior a few seasons ago, rattling along at a good 35mph, with a good load of Essex juniors aboard.

All of us in Essex, and the Brentwood League in particular, will find Gordon hard to replace, and will mourn his passing. He was, apart from his league work, a most conscientious member of my Junior sub-committee, and a good friend and colleague.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Sheila, Gordon's widow, who shared in all his activities, and who was regarded by all as the perfect mum — and how many of those are in table tennis? — together of course with Ian and the three kids who were part of my family of Essex juniors — Peter, Kim and Lisa. May Gordon's dear soul rest in peace.



Cleve Judson of Yorkshire.



Henry Buist of Kent.

WATCH FOR TABLE TENNIS ON . . .



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GAMES — new concept for 1989 . . .

LORD PLUMB, President of the European Parliament, announced that the first European Community Games will take place in 1989, under the patronage of the European Community.

The European Community Games are the result of a feasibility study, funded by Diners Club International, which was carried out in 1986 by a group of European sports executives. Its aim was to find a way in which a multi-sport Games could be held in the European Community at reasonable cost and without having to draw on any Community funding. They will be financed by sponsorship from a limited number of European companies.

The Games will differ from any other multi-sports event as there will not be a single 'host city', thus avoiding the high costs usually associated with an event of this nature. The Games will instead be shared throughout the Community with 24 cities hosting one sport each and with television being the unifying factor.

Parliament's wish

The staging of the Games realises the wish of the European Parliament which, in 1982, called for a multi-sport Games for the European Community as an excellent way of promoting a 'Citizens' Europe'. The European Community Games will be a truly 'sharing Games' — shared countries, shared costs, shared venues, shared television and shared by every citizen of the Community; a very real demonstration of a 'Citizens' Europe'.

The first European Community Games will take place from 21 April to 1 May 1989 and will be repeated every two years. This date has been selected for two reasons; firstly it is at a time which enables the greatest number of sports to fit the Games into a busy sporting calendar. Secondly the Games will take place only a few weeks before the next direct elections to the European Parliament when there will be a strong awareness regarding Community affairs throughout Europe.

Team performance base

The European Community Games will enable each member country, large or small, to become equally involved by being responsible for hosting two sports. It will provide an opportunity for many host federations, who do not normally have the chance, to organise a major event. The Games will be based on team rather than individual performance with both men and women contributing equally to the overall result.

The concept of a 'sharing Games' will extend far beyond the first celebration in 1989. Any surplus funds generated by the Games will be used to establish a Charitable Trust aimed at promoting sporting competition between schoolchildren of the Community, thus enabling the future citizens of the Community to also share in the benefits of the European Community Games.

TABLE TENNIS FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

by PETER SHIMMAN

IN MY experience, table tennis, whilst being a top class sport of skill, speed and aggression, also translates very well to work with less able people. Over the last couple of years I have enjoyed teaching table tennis to adults with learning difficulties and have seen valuable and rewarding results. I would like to explain why our sport suits these students so well.

There are general guidelines to follow when teaching anything to people with learning difficulties (or mentally handicapped people, as they used to be called). You must carefully analyse the skill to be taught, break it down into small steps and teach these one at a time. These steps must be small enough for the students to be able to taste some degree of success at every stage. Each step is repeated and reinforced so the skill is gradually built up over time. Perhaps you can see, already, how well table tennis fits this pattern.

When I first attended the ETTA Table Tennis Teachers Certificate course, I was very impressed, as a psychologist and teacher, with the analysis and teaching strategy outlined in the ETTA coaching manual. This is a very good example of breaking a complex skill into its constituent sub-skills and teaching these in a progressive manner to facilitate build-up of performance over time. So the pattern of teaching is already virtually tailor-made for people with learning difficulties.

When you first start to learn table tennis a taste of success is offered almost immediately and it is quite possible for beginners, using a bounce serve and just a backhand push, still play something that resembles a game of table tennis. I can't stress enough how important this sense of achievement is to students of this type; throughout their lives they will have become used to not being able to do the things their mainstream peers do. They become accustomed to failure. To introduce them to an activity where they can experience success not only motivates them to continue working at this, but is also crucial in building up their own confidence and self-image.

In the early stages table tennis makes no great demands on athleticism and mobility, so students who are not particularly fit can still find the game accessible. In play, the ball remains mostly within the direct line of vision and it is therefore reasonably easy for the player to maintain awareness of its position and concentrate on the game. This last point is particularly important when you consider that many people with learning difficulties are of small stature (especially people with Down's syndrome). Lack of height does not present the student with a marked disadvantage as it does in, say, badminton or tennis. When you are 4ft 6in tall it doesn't take much of a lob to fly clear over your head!

The scoring system in table tennis is simple and logical. When you win a point you score a point and you take turns to have five serves

each. Compare that with badminton and tennis! Also the judging is straightforward — a ball either bounces on your side of the table or it doesn't. No John McEnroe problems of questioning the line calls!

The Dunlop Awards scheme is very useful and tests are attainable to many students with learning difficulties, great for incentive and building up a sense of achievement. Also table tennis competitions and events for handicapped people are becoming increasingly popular. For instance the Lambeth 2-Star Tournament (see *Table Tennis News*, November 1987) began with a one-day tournament for people with disabilities, and the United Kingdom Sports Association for People with a Mental Handicap (UKSAPMH) run an annual tournament which is now in its sixth year. This is held at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, and includes a coaching clinic arranged this year by Nick Jarvis, ETTA national coach.

On to logistic considerations — table tennis puts very reasonable demands on cost and space. You don't need a sports hall or purpose built court, just a room big enough for a table with a bit of playing space around it. The equipment is not prohibitively expensive; an adequate table, bats and balls could all be priced up for around £200 or less. Not a bad investment when you consider that this is your total outlay; no court fees, no fares to pay or time wasted travelling to the sports centre. What is more, table tennis can be played all year round, regardless of weather. The equipment can be stored away with a minimum demand on space but can still be put up again quickly and easily, often by the students themselves to practice at lunchtime or tea-break.

I hope the message I'm trying to put across is clear; that table tennis as a sport is ideal for people with learning difficulties and working with these students can be a very rewarding experience. So if you are involved in teaching or coaching our sport why not think about the idea a little, or even look into giving it a try. The students I have worked with, both in my job and in voluntary projects, have been very keen, have worked hard and practised of their own accord and have made good progress. Nothing is more exciting than to suddenly find yourself under pressure from one of your own students and have to fall back from the table and play defensively just to keep the rally going!

If you want to find out more about the possibility of this kind of involvement in your area contact the UKSAPMH at 30 Philip Lane, Tottenham, London N15 4JB (01-885 1177). Learning to play table tennis will not only provide a great deal of fun for people with learning difficulties but will help them to develop agility, fitness, body awareness, co-ordination and above all a sense of confidence and achievement.

Coming events

THE CALENDAR of WORLD EVENTS

From the International Table Tennis Federation

1988

Jan 12-Jan 17

3rd European/Asia Tournament
Team Events — 12th Rome, 14th Germany FR
Individual Events 16th/17th Thornaby

Jan 20-Jan 23

The Leeds English Open Championships

Jan 28-Jan 30

Irish Open Championships

Feb 1-Feb 11

6th Iran International Tournament

Feb 4-Feb 7

Federal Germany Open Championships

Feb 12-Feb 14

European Top 12 Ljubljana

Mar 1-Mar 3

8th Israel Open Championships

Mar 19-Mar 27

16th European Championships Paris

April 9-

Bermuda Open Championships

April 10-April 11

4th European Junior Top 12

May 20-May 22

Czech Junior Open Championships

June 6-June 11

4th Veterans World Championships

June 17-June 19

Hungarian Junior Open Championships

July 30-Aug 7

31st European Youth Championships

Sept 23-Oct 1

TABLE TENNIS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Oct 28-Oct 30

Italian Open Championships

Nov 17-Nov 20

Yugoslav Open Championships

Nov 25-Nov 27

Dutch Open Championships

Dec 1-Dec 4

French Open Championships

Dec

4th Oceania Championships

COMING UP . . .

16 Jan Europe v Asia, Thornaby
17 Jan Europe v Asia, Thornaby
20-24 Jan THE LEEDS ENGLISH OPEN,
Brighton
30 Jan Yorkshire 2-star, Leeds
30 Jan Vets Midlands, Hinckley
6 Feb Leeds County Championships
7 Feb Leeds British League
13-14 Feb Essex 3-star Harlow
12-14 Feb European Top-12, Ljubljana
20 Feb Kent 2-star, Gillingham
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



Kevin Keane, the leading Irish player, winner of the Dublin Championships and the Munster Open.

SURREY IN 1956 — INTRUDER SPOTTED!

SCORES of readers spotted the 1956 Surrey county player whose image was superimposed on a photograph by Mike Maclaren 30 years ago and reproduced recently in *Table Tennis News*. The answer was of course Jean Head, who was not present when the photo was taken. The neckline is the biggest clue, as she is obviously not wearing a table tennis shirt. Sorry, no prizes, not even Clive Oakman mini-bats!

JOHN WATERHOUSE MOVING ON

JOHN JAQUES & Son representative John Waterhouse has moved to Thring House, Salisbury Road, Steeple Langford, Wiltshire, tel: 0722 790351. This address is for enquiries for table tennis equipment, advertising and new sponsored players.

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