

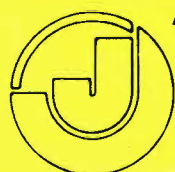


Table Tennis News

No. 169

NOVEMBER 1987

80p



**A WINNING SERVICE —
JAQUES TABLES**

**and DOUBLE FISH
TABLE TENNIS BALLS**

**John
Jaques**

Time to try something else . . .

MOST people are in favour of experiments. We have to keep searching for new ways to promote the sport. This time last year it looked as if eleven points a game was a good idea. At Soham in the English Top-12 Jill-Hammersley Parker did a spectator survey that showed 70 per cent of spectators in favour. Armed with that information the ETTA went boldly forward with plans for a repeat, well aware that there was some opposition from players for the continuation of eleven points at Farnborough. We all have our views on how reliable or unreliable opinion polls and surveys can be. My view personally and professionally is that I believe that people give answers that are not wilfully misleading but they say what they think they should say. I cannot imagine that a majority of a crowd faced with a new system would immediately condemn it. No one likes to be thought of as unwilling to be forward thinking.

Unhappily, just prior to Farnborough, the players rebelled. After many telephone calls between the top players, five men did not appear despite the fact that the prize money had been doubled to £4,000. Several of those who appeared suffered some nasty setbacks, Alan Cooke was one who said he would not attempt any eleven point events again. The best thing that could happen now is for the ETTA to reassure the players that the experiment will not be tried again and if it is there will be consultation in plenty of time.

Even better, would be to forget eleven points completely and try something else to give the sport a boost. Knowing how difficult and time-consuming it has been in the past to get changes approved by a large enough majority at IITF level, even with the advent of a new president Ochiro Ogimura, the chance of getting massive support for eleven points from the Asian nations is totally remote.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE October issue of this magazine has been acknowledged as a further step forward towards a publication that is more professional and worthy of a place on the bookstalls in the High Streets. Our new printer is one of the finest magazine colour-printers in Britain and they have given us colour on the inside pages for the first time. The response so far has been unanimous — we are moving forward both in content and presentation and also the subscriptions are increasing in number. STOP PRESS: No colour inside this issue — too expensive!

JOHN WOODFORD



DESMOND DOUGLAS was continuing his battle with the ETTA as *Table Tennis News* went to press. Following a statement by the Association announcing that he was to be stopped £883, a month's salary as a punishment for failing to appear at Farnborough, the Birmingham professional hit back with the news that he was considering an appeal to the ETTA Appeal Committee and has consulted his solicitor, opening up the possibility of legal action. — ETTA Statement (page 26).



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★ COVER
PICTURE: ★

LISA LOMAS, nee Bellinger, re-established herself as No. 1 on the English ranking list at Farnborough when in the Leeds-Stiga English Top-12 tournament defeated all eleven rivals trapping all of them in her web of defence but also attacking consistently. Picture: SYLVIO DOKOV. ★



SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

Upset umpire

UMPIRES in my view need to be reasonably tough individuals, but it takes all types to make a world and I understand that the on-court behaviour of certain players will not always be perfect.

There was a particular incident recently in a Leeds British League match at which I was present. At that moment, unfortunately, I was not courtside but in the press room working, although I heard an amused crowd clearly entertained by something.

The county umpire quite rightly faulted a young player for, in his opinion, not throwing the ball up to the specified distance, after being previously warned. His action led to an insolent leer to the umpire and then a 15ft throw into the air on the next point, to the huge amusement of the audience, some of whom I felt had not seen too many table tennis matches as they did not realise that the umpire's authority was being scorned, a situation that should not be tolerated in any sport, whether the player is young or old.

Umpires do the job because they love the game. They should not be subjected to upstarts who think they can flout the rules. The correct procedure is to report the matter to the governing body of the league, but I do not think that has been done.

Lodz coach

DEREK MARPLES the Derbyshire coach was courtside at Lodz in Poland on 22-24 October coaching the English players, instead of Don Parker on whose shoulders so many tasks fall.

From the amazing results it would seem that the North Midlands coach did a fine job with his advice and it would seem very likely that he is going to be called upon again very soon.

Relief for Don seems essential and if we have a man with exceptional ability we must use him if he is willing.

No mention for our sport in media guide

THE ETTA cannot afford a Press and publicity officer, as much as it would like to have one. The sort of penalty the game has to suffer and there are many, is failing to get the sport a mention in a range of publications. One example, is a Journalist's Handbook Publication called 'Press Briefing'. Although it is only published twice a year, its sports section, packed with future events covers 44 sports but not table tennis! Amongst those covered are gymnastics, handball, life-saving, racketball, trampolining and rugby fives for ladies! This magazine and UK Press Gazette are just two publications from which the media make their diaries of events.

THERE are three trips coming up in foreign parts that I shall be covering personally for the *Daily Telegraph* and *Table Tennis News*. They are the Olympic qualifying sessions at Karlsruhe, West Germany from 19 November, the European Top-12 in February in Ljubiana, Yugoslavia and most attractive of all the European championships themselves in Paris from 19 March.

Spectators will of course, be welcome at all three events but in reality it is the trip to France that will attract a number of enthusiasts from Britain, especially if England will be able to field in the team event — Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Carl Prean. That would be worth travelling further than Paris to watch live — a semi-final against Poland and a final against Sweden — who knows?

The Daily Telegraph

FOR the second season *The Daily Telegraph* continues its support of various sports, large and small. Table tennis enthusiasts can be reasonably sure that most table tennis events will be reported in the Telegraph as they happen and that the newspaper provides a weekly column on table tennis appearing on Tuesdays. There is no guarantee that this will appear without fail — last season it missed out once, but appeared the following day. So far this campaign, it has appeared weekly on Tuesdays since 15 September.

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.

EVENTS COMING UP . . .

14-15 Nov	South of England 2-star
4-5 Dec	Middlesex 3-star
19 Dec	English Nationals Qualifying
20 Dec	Leeds British League
1988	
2 Jan	National Junior Ranking Trials
3 Jan	Leeds British League
9 Jan	Leeds County Championships
10 Jan	Tameside Junior 2-star
16 Jan	Europe v Asia, Thornaby
17 Jan	Europe v Asia, Thornaby
20-24 Jan	LEEDS ENGLISH OPEN, Brighton

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

IN messages to the ETTA the following two clubs have expressed an interest in arranging exchange visits with English clubs. If you are interested please write direct to:

Mr R. L. Gardien
La Tour, St Jean D'Arvey
73230 St Alban Leysse
France

Mr D. Aubert
Jussecourt-Minecourt
51250 Lermaize-Les-Bains
France

THE LIMPSFIELD LIFT-OFF TEAM . . .



The Limpsfield Lawn Tennis Club at Oxted, Surrey has recently opened a table tennis centre, three tables operating twice weekly. Stiga tables with first-class lighting and conditions. At the launch evening — left to right: David Dodd, Joe Kennedy (both from Kent), club president Lady Freeman, John Latills (Chairman, Tandridge District Council), Hugh O'Neill (club chairman) and the principal creator of the new club Brian Spicer, of the ETTA PR Committee.

Carl, Lisa, weather the storms

by JOHN WOODFORD at Farnborough

IN DELHI last February, in the absence of Carl Prean, general conversation centred on the fact that he was emerging, technically at least, as the finest professional in Europe. Having duly noted those remarks it was of course disappointing in Wurzburg to see him only engaged in doubles.

But at Farnborough during the hurricane weekend of 16-18 October, the £4,000 Leeds-Stiga Top-12 provided a stepping-off point for the 20-year-old now burly, over six-foot man from Ryde, Isle of Wight, towards what appears to be new uncharted heights in his table tennis career.

Sharp, strong and mobile are three words that can describe the New Preano! He carved his way through his eleven opponents in a fashion that was quite formidable . . . a week later he thrashed world No. 6 Andrzej Grubba in Poland!

It was also a magnificent tournament for Bexhill-based Surrey player Nicky Mason who scooped £500 as runner-up, after

Prean captured the £800 first prize. Prean only faltered very slightly on one occasion against Mason, but he soon recovered the initiative.

Alan Cooke, the England No. 3 did not enjoy the 11-point tournament after losing three times and has vowed he will not do it again, but Alan came back to form in wonderful style a week later in Lodz at the Polish Open when he beat Leszek Kucharski!

Lisa Lomas got to grips with her major opponents on this occasion and beat the lot. With Joy Grundy absent, it was down to Fiona Elliot and Alison Gordon to try and beat their way through the Lomas defensive web. This they failed to do. But what a brilliant tournament for Lan-

cashire's Andrea Holt, who won nine of her matches and only lost twice — a star has been born in Lancashire!

During the hurricane that struck Southern England in the early hours of 16 October, England's top men were in the middle of a rebellion over the 11 point scoring. Desmond Douglas led a revolt that took out a bunch of five men, some with other reasons for not appearing. Gamely, the organisers and sponsors fought against the temptation to postpone the event or revert to conventional scoring. How some of the players even got there through the devastation of the 100mph hurricane is incredible.

More about happenings in and around Farnborough next month.

Final Placings

Women		W	L
1 L. Lomas		11	0
2 A. Holt		9	2
3 A. Gordon		8	3
4 F. Elliot		7	4
5 C. Potts		6	5
6 M. Sainsbury		6	5
7 J. Shaw		6	5
8 C. Giles		4	7
9 S. Collier		3	8
10 J. Harris		3	8
11 K. Hall		2	9
12 J. Houghton		1	10

Men		W	L
1 C. Prean		10	0
2 N. Mason		8	2
3 M. Syed		7	3
4 A. Cooke		7	3
5 B. Billington		6	4
6 N. Eckersley		6	4
7 G. Sandley		5	5
8 J. Hilton		3	7
9 G. Baker		2	8
10 M. Crimmins		1	9
11 A. Dixon		0	10

Allied Dunbar Milton Keynes Under-21 Star Open

STEVE AND JOANNE THE WINNERS

by KEN MUHR

JOANNE Shaw (Yorks) won the Under-21 women's singles at her first attempt while fellow left hander Steve Dorking (Essex) retained his men's singles title in the Allied Dunbar Championships held at Bletchley Leisure Centre on 12 September. Entries were up, no doubt encouraged by the increased prize fund of £770 and, for the first time, separate junior girls and junior boys singles events.

Joanne's title came fairly comfortably as she cruised through all her matches without dropping a game. She defeated surprise finalist Kristina Cox (Bedfordshire) 8, 16, who had caused a first round shock in knocking out second seed Teresa Moore (Sussex) in straight games. Junior Julie Norman (Berks) and Alison Gower (Essex) also had notable victories over seeded players Helen Lower (Staffs) and Gill Blanch (Middlesex) respectively, before being put out in the semi-finals.

A decider

Dorking's passage was much tougher, being taken to a decider by both John Hollands (Notts) and Edwin Smith (Northumberland) on route to his ultimate and earlier success over another junior giant killer Adrian Thorp (Staffs). In an event marred by the withdrawal of seeds (O'Driscoll on England duty, Oldfield injured, Syed and Dixon no notification of not turning up given), it was Thorp who came through

with a semi-final conquest of Middlesex's David Goode. The sensation of the Under-21s men's singles, though, was when 14-year-old Dunstable boy Peter Bowler overcame Sean Gibson (Lancs), the victor the previous weekend of the Lambeth Open men's singles. Bowler continued his run to the quarter-finals where Thorp prevented further progress.

Thrilling

Tom Cutler (Middlesex) fought through tough junior boys singles matches against Mark Beaumont, (Beds, round 3), Peter Bowler (quarter-finals), Thorp (semi-finals) and then Mark Ward (final) in a thrilling 20, -21, 20 three setter. Ward had beaten fellow Yorkshireman Chris Oldfield in his semi-final.

Upset form

Julie Norman dropped only one leg (against Suffolk's Alison Ambrose) in taking the junior girls singles. But it was Rebecca

Fisher of Middlesex who upset the form book, overcoming the higher seeded Karen Perkins (Suffolk) in the quarter-finals and Caroline Buckley (Beds) in the semis. Challenging hard, she found Miss Norman just a little too strong in the final. Julie took her second title, when, with Helen Lower she won the Under-21 women's doubles. Yorkshire pair John Bult and Kevin Rogerson took the men's doubles.

Sponsor thanks

My grateful thanks go out to our sponsor, Walter Mascarenhas of Allied Dunbar, who understood the vital importance of encouraging the Under-21s age group, to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and the Borough, to Bletchley Leisure Centre and to Jarvis Sports, but most of all to those many players and helpers who made yet again the Allied Dunbar Milton Keynes Under-21 Championships a great success.



ALLIED DUNBAR

RESULTS

Under-21 Men's Singles
Semi-finals: Adrian Thorp (Staffs) bt David Goode (Middlesex) 13, 21; Steve Dorking (Essex) bt Edwin Smith (Northumberland) -13, 15, 9.
Final: Dorking bt Thorp 18, 7.

Under-21 Women's Singles
Semi-finals: Joanne Shaw (Yorks) bt Julie Norman (Berks) 16, 17; Kristina Cox (Beds) bt Alison Gower (Essex) 22, -14, 18.
Final: Shaw bt Cox 8, 16.

Under-17 Boys Singles
Semi-finals: Tom Cutler (Middlesex) bt A Thorp 14, -16, 13; Mark Ward (Yorks) bt Chris Oldfield (Yorks) 10, 19.
Final: Cutler bt Ward 20, -12, 20.

Under-17 Girls Singles
Semi-finals: Julie Norman (Berks) bt Alison Ambrose (Suffolk) 17, -18, 13; Rebecca Fisher (Middlesex) bt Caroline Buckley (Beds) 19, 14.
Final: Norman bt Fisher 16, 18.

Under-21 Men's Doubles
Final: John Bult and Kevin Rogerson (Yorks) bt David and Michael Thomas (Northumberland) 18, -14, 19.

Under-21 Women's Doubles
Final: H. Lower and J. Norman bt Teresa Moore (Sussex) and J. Shaw 12, -12, 18.

Turkey and Austria defeated

by MIKE WATTS

ENGLAND began their 1987/88 European League campaign with two matches in five days during early October. On 11 October in Ankara England triumphed 5-2 against Turkey with Desmond Douglas, Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot all unbeaten in their singles encounters.

The match began in fine style for England with Desmond Douglas, Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot winning their opening singles before Turkey struck back with wins in the mens and the mixed doubles and at that stage England then had a slender 3-2 lead. However, Skylet Andrew, who has matured enormously over the past twelve months, gave England the victory with a fine three game victory over Yaldez and Desmond Douglas wrapped it up to give England a promising start to the season.

Douglas power

Five days later in Newmarket, before a crowd estimated at around 350, England met Austria. The opening game of the encounter featured Desmond Douglas and Stanislaw Fraczyk in a repeat of the quarter final of the Leeds Masters at Wembley in September. Fraczyk opened with a flourish, taking a 4-1 lead in the first game, but from then on it was all Douglas as he powered his way through to a comfortable two straight win to put England 1-0 in the lead. Next was Alan Cooke, whose opponent Ding Yi, has recently gained an Austrian qualification, having lived for two years in that country. Ding Yi, a Chinese pen-holder, bemused Cooke in the first game and won comfortably 21-14. In the second game, Cooke, using his services effectively, opened up a useful 12-6 lead, but some ferocious hitting from Ding Yi saw him pull back to actually lead 16-14. However, Cooke fought hard and took the lead at 20-18 but Ding Yi pulled back to 20 all, and from then the game went point for point until Cooke finally secured the win at 26-24. In the final game Cooke had a disastrous start going 6-1 down and at the change was 10-8 down, but continued to use his services intelligently following up with loops down both wings and took the lead at 14-13. Cooke continued to just keep his nose in front at 18-17, 19-17 and 20-18, but again Ding Yi came back to level at 20 all and took the final two points to take the match at 23-21 to level the score at one all.

Recovered

Douglas and Cooke were next to the table in the men's doubles, their opponents being Ding Yi and the Austrian captain bringing in Gottfried Baer to form a useful left and right-handed partnership. In the first game Douglas and Cooke found themselves 20-19 down but recovered to take that game at 22-20, but the

second game was lost at 21-17. In the third, the match proceeded to 11 all before the English pair managed to get on top and take 10 consecutive points to win the game and put England 3-1 up.

The mixed doubles featured Alan Cooke and Lisa Lomas against Stanislaw Fraczyk and Vera Kottak, and whilst the home pair at one stage led at 19-15 they suddenly found themselves a game point down at 20-19 before recovering to 22-20, and, as with the men's doubles, the home pair dropped the second game at 21-16 before recovering to win the third at 21-12 so giving England the match 4 games to 1.

Materials

The Ladies Singles followed featuring Lisa Lomas for England and Vera Kottak for Austria, with both girls being 'material players' the match was, as to be expected, a defensive dour struggle. In the first game the two girls went point for point throughout, the only difference being Lisa's ability to open up the attack on odd occasions, and this proved to be the difference between the two players as Lisa took the first end 21-17. Miss Kottak who was unbeaten in four European League matches last season, seemed to lose concentration after this and whilst the second game was also long and defensive, it was Lisa who triumphed 21-10 to give England a 2-1 lead.

Difficult

Then followed the two reverse singles with Desmond Douglas opposing Ding Yi and finding the quick hitting of the Chinese player difficult to combat, and it came as no surprise that Ding Yi was able to win the game 21-18, 21-18 to reduce the deficit to 4-2. It is interesting to note that if England had lost the first game of both doubles, being a game point down, the situation would then have been that Austria would have been leading at this stage by



Lisa Lomas, England No 1.



Ding Yi, from China and Vienna.

4 games to 2, so close was the situation that these two points lost by Austria were to prove crucial in the long run.

Final score

In the final game of the night Alan Cooke gained a good win over Stanislaw Fraczyk after dropping the first game 22-20 from being 19-17 up to make the final match score England 5 Austria 2.

Both Away

England's next two matches again fall within a week of each other in December 1987 when on the 2nd they travel to Italy and one week later travel again to Finland to take on that home nation immediately after the Finland Open.

Results

England v Austria
Desmond Douglas & Alan Cooke beat Stanislaw Fraczyk 21-13, 21-16
Alan Cooke lost to Ding Yi 21-14, 24-26, 21-23
Lisa Bellinger-Lomas beat Vera Kottek 21-17, 21-10
Desmond Douglas & Alan Cooke beat Ding Yi & Gottfried Baer 22-20, 17-21, 21-11
Alan Cooke & Lisa Bellinger-Lomas beat Stanislaw Fraczyk & Vera Kottek 22-20, 16-21, 21-12
Desmond Douglas lost to Ding Yi 18-21, 18-21
Alan Cooke beat Stanislaw Fraczyk 20-22, 21-12, 21-15
Final Result: England 5, Austria 2

European League Result

Turkey 2, England 5
Yaldez lost Douglas -16, -17,
Cimen lost Andrew -11, -14
K. Poyrazoglu lost Elliot -18, -13
Yaldez/Cimen b Douglas/Andrew 18, -16, 12
Yaldez/Dogan b Douglas/Elliot -16, 17, 19
Yaldez lost Andrew -9, 22, -17
Cimen lost Douglas -13, -12

STAMCO SUSSEX OPEN 2-STAR

FIRST SUSSEX WIN FOR MASON

by RON SPENCER

NICKY MASON was the toast of Sussex Table Tennis when the player from Bexhill won the Men's Singles title for the first time and collected the winner's cheque of £200.

His opponent was John Souter, the holder for the last two years and, as expected in a clash between the England Nos 5 and 6, there was a good attacking match. John took the first 14, but then Nicky got his game together to win the second set 9. In the third set, both players had a chance before Nicky edged home 18. In the semi-final, Mason beat Glen Baker who had beaten Des Charlery in three tight games, Charlery having put out seed, Steve Mills. In his semi-final, Souter beat Steve Dorking who had proceeded to that spot due to the absence of Dave Hannah and by beating Graham Sandley on the way.

Triumph

The Women's Singles final turned into yet another triumph for Alison Gordon with a comfortable victory over Mandy

Sainsbury. Alison, with this win, equalled two records: four successive victories which matched the feat of Karen Witt immediately before her run and five singles victories in all matching that of Karenza Matthews. In the semi-finals, Alison had a hard 22-20, 21-19 win over Juliet Houghton with Mandy beating an easy 21-7, 21-12 win over Carol Giles.

Replacement

In the Men's Doubles, Mason recorded his second victory of the night when, as replacement for Dave Hannah and partnered by Steve Dorking, they beat John Souter and Graham Sandley in the final. Both pairs were taken to three sets in the semi-finals with Mason and Dorking beating the Moore brothers and Sandley and Souter beating Paul Giles and Paul Whiting.



Nicky Mason, the England No. 5 justified his national ranking and his top seeding as he landed the men's singles title at the Stamco Sussex Open at Hastings on 3 October. He survived an early and late attack by John Souter in the final round.



Alison Gordon of Berkshire.

WILTSHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR WARD a surprise winner

SISTERS Kate and Alison Gower were within a point of making the Midland Bank Wiltshire Junior Two-Star tournament a real family affair. Unseeded Kate served up the biggest surprise when she won the girls' singles.

Kate started her giant-killing act when she ousted number two seed Jane Wright in a two-game blast of power.

She kept up her good form right through to the final where she inched out in another straight games win over Julie Norman.

Sister Alison reached match point in the cadet singles final against top seed Helen Wright.

But Helen saved it and went on to beat the second seed in the decider of the most exciting final.

The boys' singles also produced a surprise winner. It was won by Mark Ward who put out the favourite, Adrian Thorp. Ward battled back after losing the first game of the final against the unseeded Grant Solder of Barking.

Brian Mileham of Margate failed in his bid to become the only player to successfully defend his title in the Wiltshire tournament when he lost in the final of the Cadet singles.

He went down to Gary Knights, the second seed, in straight games.

Presentations of the trophies were made by Peter Bucknell, senior account manager of the Midland Bank in Swindon, and his wife Pat, and by Mike Adams, administration manager, and his wife Yvonne.

Results

Boys' singles, semi-finals: Mark Ward (Sheffield) bt Leigh Jeffries (Birmingham) 15, 10; Grant Solder (Barking) bt Tommy Cutler (Willesden) -21, 21, 10. Final: Ward bt Solder -21, 10, 17.

Girls' singles, semi-finals: Kate Gower (Ingatstone) bt Rebecca Fisher (Tottenham) 18, -18, 17; Julie Norman (Newbury) bt Alison Gower 15, 13. Final: Kate Gower bt Julie Norman 19, 19.

Cadet boys' singles, final: Knights bt Mileham 20, 17.

Cadet girls' singles final: Helen Wright bt Alison Gower - 15, 20, 18.

Boys' doubles, final: Carter and Cole bt Thorp and Jeffries 14, -19, 19.

Girls' doubles, final: Helen and Jane Wright bt Karen Perkins and Andrea Ambrose 13, 14.

In a close fought Women's Doubles final, Carol Giles and Alison Gordon edged home against Mandy Sainsbury and Juliet Houghton but Mandy was able to get her name on the list of winners when, in the Mixed Doubles and partnered by Joe Kennedy, they retained the trophy won last year with a comfortable but three set win over Max Crimmins and Alison Gordon.

The Veterans Singles was again a triumph for Henry Buist winning the title for the fourth year running and the fifth time in all with a win over Derek Holman who had earlier knocked out 2nd seed Keith Horton of Sussex. This event had its usual crop of

tough matches with Gordon Chapman going to expedite in two matches.

RESULTS

Men's Singles semi-finals: N. Mason beat G. Baker 14,14; J. Souter beat S. Dorking 11,17.

Final: N. Mason beat J. Souter -14, 9,18.

Women's Singles: Miss A. Gordon beat Mrs M. Sainsbury 8, 15.

Men's Doubles: S. Dorking & N. Mason beat G. Sandley & J. Souter -18, 16, 13.

Women's Doubles: Mrs C. Giles & Miss A. Gordon beat Miss J. Houghton & Mrs M. Sainsbury -20, 14, 19.

Mixed Doubles: J. Kennedy & Mrs M. Sainsbury beat M. Crimmins & Miss A. Gordon 11, -15, 18.

Veterans Singles: H. Buist beat D. Holman 17, 19.

COLGATE NORTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN

HILTON: A first-time double

by GEORGE R. YATES

JOHN HILTON, the former European champion, brought off a unique double at Stretford Sports Centre on 26 September in winning both the men's and veterans' single titles with final victories over Nigel Eckersley and Matt Sheader respectively.

It was a retention of title for John in the men's singles and it was only in the final against his old adversary that he was extended to a third game decider. This also applied to Fiona Elliot in winning the women's event when she was taken to three by Joanne Shaw in the final.

Predictably Michael O'Driscoll took the boy's singles title with a final win over Jonathan Taylor, the No 2 seed, Chris Oldfield, being a non-starter. Kevin Beadsley came into his own in the Class 2 Mixed singles beating Benny Robertson in a three-game final.

Lost crown

In the men's doubles Hilton and Brian Johns lost their crown in going under to Beadsley and Tony Taylor in the final but little opposition was encountered by Fiona and Janet Dunning in the women's doubles event.

All in all a smoothly run tournament with Leslie Jones still at the helm and a 9pm finish.



John Hilton

Results:

Men's Singles

Quarter-finals: N. A. S. Eckersley (La) b J. Holland (Ng) 10, 14; T. Taylor (Ch) b P. Bowen (La) 14, 13; P. McQueen (Nd) b S. Slater (St) 12, 13; J. Hilton (La) b M. O'Driscoll (Y) 13, 21.

Semi-finals: Eckersley b Taylor 20, -16, 11; Hilton b McQueen 17, 17.
Final: Hilton b Eckersley 18, -14, 14.

Women's Singles

Quarter-finals: F. Elliot (St) b R. E. Bray (Y) 8, 9; S. Collier (Bk) b V. Smallwood (La) 9, 2; K. Burrows (Y) b J. Hope (Ch) 9, 12; J. Shaw (Y) b D. Schofield (Ch) 12, 13.
Semi-finals: Elliot b Collier 18, 15; Shaw b Burrows 13, 16.
Final: Elliot b Shaw 16, -18, 16.

Men's Doubles

Semi-finals: Hilton/B. Johns (Ch) b R. Bevan (Ch/M. McEnvoy (La) 7, -19, 14; K. Beadsley (Y)/Taylor b R. S. Bole/P. Collino (Sy) 12, 17.
Final: Beadsley/Taylor b Hilton/Johns -23, 18, 15.

Women's Doubles

Semi-finals: Burrows/Shaw b Collier/A. Goodwin (La) 20, 21; J. Dunning (St)/Elliot b T. Connolly/B. Smallwood (La) 14, 12.
Final: Dunning/Elliot b Burrows/Shaw 18, 15.

Boy's Singles

Quarter-finals: O'Driscoll b H. Whewell (La) 5, 8; M. Ward (Y) b J. Howarth (La) 15, 13; J. Taylor (Ch) b B. Lambert (La) 10, 9; W. Renton (La) w/o C. Oldfield (Y).
Semi-finals: O'Driscoll b Ward 17, 19; Taylor b Renton 13, 16.
Final: O'Driscoll b Taylor 17, 21.

Veteran Singles

Semi-finals: Hilton b Allison 19, 17; Sheader b Schofield 15, 14.
Final: Hilton b Sheader -17, 16, 17.

Class 2 Mixed Singles

Semi-finals: Beadsley b Davies 16, 13; Robertson b Browne 14, 18.
Final: Beadsley b Robertson 17, -16, 12.

FIRST BUDE JUNIOR 2-STAR

HELEN BLITZES TO FINALS

THE all-action style of play adopted by young Helen Wright of Plymouth proved a crowd pleaser as she blitzed her way into both the Cadet and Junior girls finals of the first Bude/Dewhurst tournament held at Budehaven Sports Hall.

In the U/14 event she met Nicola Meddings of Birmingham, but the Plymouth girl seized every chance to attack the ball and managed to overwhelm her opponent although Nicola staged a fightback in the second end this was to be Helen's day and nothing could stop her taking the U/14 title.

Young star?

Devon also provided the winner and runner-up of the boys U/12 singles with the excellent prospect Alex Perry and a vastly improved Adrian Vincent who had shown distinct signs of being a young star of the future with some good performances in both

the U/12s and U/14 boy events. Alex Perry showed good form to take the U/12 title without being put under pressure two straight. A mention here for valiant efforts by David Heath who is another name from Devon to look out for.

A jewel?

The girls U/12 competition brought to Cornwall a jewel of a player in the shape of pint size Nicola Deaton of Chesterfield who proved much too strong for Clare Pengelly and is obviously one of England's future bright lights.

The U/14 boys event featured local lad and England's No 1 cadet, Neil Bevan, who produced a no nonsense performance to beat Alex Perry who had played exceptionally well to reach the final.

Aggressive

Sunday saw Helen Wright still in an aggressive mood defeating Tina Sadler of Yeovil who had previously dispatched Helen's sister Jane Wright in a close three end game this was a very good win for a much improved Sadler who had shown an amicable attitude throughout the competition. However she could not contain nor quite match an impressive Helen Wright in an entertaining final.

The boys U/17 final had been reached by the two Neils, Pickard and Bevan, both of whom had not been put under any real

pressure, winning all their games two straight. Neil Pickard taking out Sean Gaylard and Leigh Jeffries en route to the final as Neil Bevan took David Morris out in a good to watch semi-final.

Local lad

However, Neil Pickard proved too strong on this occasion for local lad Neil Bevan and ran out the deserved winner.

RESULTS

U/17 Boys — Semi's: N Bevan (Bude) b D. Morris (Shr) 18, 18; N. Pickard b L. Jeffries 17, 12. Final: N. Pickard b N. Bevan 17, 15.

U/17 Girls — Semi's: T. Sadler (Yeo) b J. Wright 17, -20, 16; H. Wright (Plym) b S. Pengelly 19, -24, 8. Final: H. Wright b T. Sadler 16, 14.

U/14 Boys — Final: N. Bevan (Bude) b A. Perry 10, 8. U/14 Girls — Final: H. Wright b N. Meddings 7, 16.

U/12 Boys — Final: A. Perry b A. Vincent 13, 13. U/12 Girls — Final: N. Deaton (Chesterfield) b C. Pengelly 15, 9.

Four nations in Sunderland

THE QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT

Douglas boosts English revenge

by Ken Taylor

ENGLAND gave notice of their intention right from the start of the Quadrangular held at the Northumbria Centre, Washington, near Sunderland. On 11th September when they met Wales in their opening match they recorded an 8-0 win, with only Alan Griffiths showing any resistance when he took the second end from John Souter, but with Des Douglas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon and John Souter in confident form England gave a strong message to the holders Scotland that they had come to take the title back.

Meanwhile on the adjoining table, Scotland accounted for Ireland by 6-2 with only Colum Slevin gaining any reward for some excellent play when he beat both David Hannah and John Broe in straight sets but with Carol Dalrymple and Janet Smith much too strong for the Irish girls Miss Reid and Miss Leonard.

On the Saturday morning England played Mike O'Driscoll for John Souter in the singles against Ireland, and despite his defeat by Colum Slevin who was having an excellent run (before he met Des Douglas), England ran out comfortable winners by 7-1, with two singles wins each from Alison Gordon, Andrea Holt, and also a double, and two singles from Des Douglas and a Doubles with John Souter.

Scottish mood

Scotland were also in a determined mood against Wales on the other table when they recorded a 6-2 success to keep their hopes of retaining the title very much alive. With David Hannah, Carol Dalrymple and Janet Smith recording two singles each, one for John Broe together with doubles successes although Misses Dalrymple and Smith made hard work of their win over Misses Wright and Cotter 14, -25, 18. Alan Griffiths and Nigel Tyler were the only winners for Wales.

In the afternoon Wales accounted for Ireland by 5-3 mainly due to fine performances by both Miss Cotter and Miss Wright who with a singles win each and a doubles success against Leonard/Reid were responsible for three of the five games, with one each from Griffiths and Tyler, while Colum Slevin had a hand in all three of Ireland's wins with two singles against Griffiths and Tyler and a doubles with Andrew Dennison. While that tussle was going on, England were encountering the might of the holders Scotland. Donald Parker the England Captain brought back John Souter and Scotland introduced David McLroy into the doubles. England started well when Douglas beat Broe and Miss Holt beat Miss Smith but Scotland hit back

when Souter lost to Hannah and Gordon and Holt lost the ladies doubles to Dalrymple and Smith. Douglas and Souter restored England's lead with a win over Hannah and McLroy and further successes by Douglas over Hannah and Miss Gordon over Dalrymple, the match was won before Souter lost to Broe.

The proceedings were concluded when ETTA Chairman John Pecan presented the trophy to the England Captain Donald Parker.

Full marks to the Borough of Sunderland who sponsored the event and provided an excellent venue.

THE SCORES

ENGLAND 8 WALES 0

Douglas beat Griffiths 6, 10; Holt beat Scotter 14, 12; Souter beat Tyler 12, 13; Holt/Gordon beat Wright/Cotter 10, 10; Souter/O'Driscoll beat Tyler/Griffiths 6, 18; Gordon beat Wright 4, 18; Douglas beat Tyler 15, 13; Souter beat Griffiths 4, -14, 14.

SCOTLAND 6 IRELAND 2

Hannah beat Dennison 18, 17; Smith beat Leonard 13, 7; Broe lost to Slevin -12, -8; Dalrymple/Smith beat Reid/Leonard 22, 12; Hannah/Broe beat Slevin/Dennison 11, 19; Dalrymple beat Reid 4, 16; Hannah lost to Slevin -14, -15; Broe beat Dennison 11, 14.

ENGLAND 7 IRELAND 1

Douglas beat Dennison 11, 7; Holt beat Leonard 14, 4; O'Driscoll lost to Slevin 19, -15, -16; Gordon/Holt beat Leonard/Reid 14, 14; Douglas/Souter beat Slevin/Dennison 14, 15; Gordon beat Reid 15, 6; Douglas beat Slevin 9, 10; O'Driscoll beat Dennison 21, 5.

SCOTLAND 6 WALES 2

Hannah beat Griffiths 15, 17; Smith beat Cotter -20, 18, 17; Broe lost to Tyler 14, -22, -16; Dalrymple/Smith beat Wright/Cotter 14, -25, 18; Hannah/Broe beat Griffiths/Tyler 16, 19; Dalrymple beat Wright 10, 10; Hannah beat Tyler 15, 18; Broe lost to Griffiths -9, -17.

ENGLAND 5 SCOTLAND 3

Douglas beat Broe 11, 11; Holt beat Smith 17, 17; Souter lost to Hannah -21, 19, -14; Gordon/Holt lost to Dalrymple/Smith -13, -20; Douglas/Souter beat Hannah/McLroy 12, 9; Gordon beat Dalrymple 16, 18; Douglas beat Hannah 19, 14; Souter lost to Broe 13, -19, -13.

IRELAND 3 WALES 5

Slevin beat Griffiths 20, 15; Leonard lost to Cotter -11, -15; Dennison lost to Tyler -18, -19; Leonard/Reid lost to Cotter/Wright -11, -10; Slevin/Dennison beat Griffiths/Tyler 15, 20; Reid beat Wright 20, -17, -14. Slevin beat Tyler 9, -19, 19; Dennison lost to Griffiths -12, -7.

Photographs by
DENIS GEORGE

THE TEAMS
(in order)
ENGLAND
SCOTLAND
IRELAND
WALES



Chairman at courtside —

or the 'ringside'!

FOR once, I was able to watch one of our big tournaments the Leeds-Stiga Top-12 almost throughout and I thought it one of our very best. Every round produced at least one great match.

Not for the first time were spectator figures disappointing. Some blamed this on the absence of Des Douglas, others on live football on the box. Numbers were even smaller in the Home Counties Quadrangular when Des had played. We seem to get our best gates from international matches and we have to take this on board in our future planning.

Magnificent . . .

Spectators apart, it was an admirable event. The absence of some players (of which more later) in the end added rather than subtracted interest. It enabled such great performers and personalities as John Hilton (our 1980 European champion) and Nigel Eckersley to take part and they gave excellent value. Nigel had a tremendous tournament. If he had beaten Matt Syed in the last round, he would have been third! John, a veteran, did well to survive in such company.

Despite much criticism in the past, the 'wild card' system worked well. The two juniors Matthew Syed and Bradley Billington came third and fifth. How could anyone say that they should not have been there? The former was a great crowd pleaser, his retrieving recalling the immortals of another era. One noted that immense improvement of Nicky Mason (second place). 'I don't care whether it is up to 11 or 21. I just like playing table tennis . . . ' he said.

The winner had never played on blue tables or with orange balls or up to 11, but he had prepared well and he looked forward to the challenge.

Andrea Holt

There were no absentees among the girls, other than two who could not get time off from work. Joy Grundy was one and having joined the police force this problem is likely to continue. One wonders whether it is the end of a promising career which, after some setbacks, could have taken off. Andrea Holt, still a junior, has clearly entered the ranks of the 'Big Four'. Despite a generally defensive game with a combination bat she packs a big punch with her forehand when opponents try to see her off with slow loops. I was pleased to see Joanne Shaw moving up the rankings again.

Lisa

Lisa Bellinger-Lomas' success was totally deserved. Class told. She weathered her single crisis (against Fiona Elliot) and seemed in complete control. I see her biggest potential in cutting out the unforced errors rather than more big shots. She is very talented and can do everything and the bread and butter parts seem almost unworthy of attention. Each point counts only once and 21 is the target, rather than to die in beauty.

The 11-up system

As a spectator I liked the 11-up scoring system. The poor, unequal matches were over quickly. The good ones lasted longer, which is as it should be and were often highly dramatic.

There were more crisis points, more tension. I did not invent the system which was used for the first time last year when spectators liked it.

The 'Boycott'

The players' rebellion astonished me. Two had played, I am told, quite happily in the Lambeth 2 Star Team Event under a 13-up scoring system a few weeks earlier. One had suggested precisely the adopted format (11 up, best of 7), service changes every 3 points) last year. This year he was against it. Prize money had been doubled since last year. The sixth placed players got £100 and the winners more than last season's National Champions. Both sponsors, the Leeds Building Society and Stiga distributors, DSR had contributed immensely to this event and the sport. Nevertheless some players stayed at home.

The tournament went ahead and it was a great sporting success. Players can play where and when they like. It is a free country. Sponsors have equal freedom and they and all those who worked hard and well have every right to feel let down.

Progress continues

That the tournament was such a success was due to a realisation that we all needed to do a little more to banish the shadows of the idiotic 'boycott'. I cannot remember a tournament in which officials did a better job, nor one in which all players fought to hard and with so much conviction to the end.

Sport can only succeed as a partnership, as a team effort. Our absent friends can reflect whether they played their part.

Desmond Douglas

Des is a great player and he is paid £30,000 over three years under a contract arranged by my predecessors. This includes a not arduous playing programme and this event is part of this. Des is therefore in breach of his contract. I shall not pre-judge the issue which will be discussed by the ETTA's Management Committee and, at the time of going to press, the outcome of such deliberations was not known.

Foot-Shooting . . .

If the sport had been taken up by thousands of new members every year and was drawing capacity crowds and TV audiences, perhaps there would be little need for change. At least there would be some support for such a narrow view. When this is not the case, the need for change, for open minds, for experiments becomes more urgent. Chess, with world championships played over months rather than weeks, seemed happy enough to introduce half hour matches on television. Cricket was saved by the one-day game. It alone gives players a reasonable income, though purists still think the three- and five-day games are best.

Snooker guest

Ray Reardon, six times world champion of Snooker, was a welcome and delightful guest at the Leeds-Stiga Top 12 and he told me how players hated 'Pot Black' with its one frame matches and sudden death in a sport also dominated by marathon encounters. Nevertheless it was realised that the programme was creating a new public for snooker and it was the beginning of a great success story.

In short, other sports have experimented and at times succeeded. If we close our minds, we shall not get off first base and will remain stuck as a minor sport.

No one suggests that the 11-up system will revolutionise the sport and before we offer it to

television we must have events which prove the idea one way or the other. We shall be wise to be guided by the spectator rather than the player. The player must see himself as a performer who has to please his public. It is no use playing 'Hamlet' to an audience which wants to see a pop concert. Players are perfectly entitled to do their own thing in their own club rooms. If they have professional aspirations, they assume different duties and one of them is an open mind in the search for success and recognition. Despite all our financial problems one section which has made definite and substantial progress in my few months as a chairman is that of the professional player. It is the last direction from which I would expect kicks, albeit a small minority and just at a time when those from other directions have diminished.

'Old enemies'

It was good to have 'old enemies' come up to me to tell me that I now had their support as they felt that the right things were being done. I get an overwhelming feeling that our members want nothing more than unity, a sport in which members pull together. This is happening, despite minor diversions. The foot-shooting options no longer exist. It is not the path to respect or self-respect. It is not the way to the greatness the sport needs to achieve and deserves. THAT has to be our target now, especially for those who are most visible.

JOHN

ADDRESS ERROR FOR PONTEFRAC TOURNAMENT

IN THE list of tournament organisers there is an error in the address of the organiser. It should be Pontefract, WEST YORKSHIRE not West Midlands. All players and others involved in the Pontefract event please make a special note.

Poland in pole position — but England lead in Division 1

by **GEORGE R. YATES**

POLAND, in defence of their Super Division title, have again demonstrated their supremacy by opening up their 1987/88 season with two away victories against Federal Germany (5-2) and Hungary (6-1).

Against promotees FR Germany in Hannover on 22 September Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski got the Poles off to a 2-0 lead with 2-straight wins over Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner respectively. The home side pulled one back when Olga Nemes beat Jadwiga Szymanelis but it was the old firm of Grubba and Kucharski who put the visitors back on course in the men's doubles followed by success in the mixed. Scores: J. Rosskopf — A. Grubba -17, -14; J. Fetzner — L. Kucharski -18, -16; O. Nemes — J. Szymanelis 13, 14; Fetzner/Rosskopf — Grubba/Kucharski -23, -18; Fetzner/K. Nolten — P. Molenda/Bilska 14, -17, -15; Rosskopf — Kucharski 15, -11, 14; Fetzner — Grubba 21, -12, -17.

Sweden, away to Hungary in their opening match in Salgotarjan on 23 September, had Erik Lindh beaten both by Zsolt Harcsi and Karoly Nemeth but Jan-Ove Waldner had their measure and Barbro Wiktorssen brought off a notable win over Csilla Batorfi to which Lindh and Waldner added the doubles. Scores:

Z. Harcsi — E. Lindh 19, 19; K. Nemeth — J-O. Waldner -17, -15; C. Batorfi — B. Wiktorssen 15, -12, -18; Harcsi/Somosi — Lindh/Waldner -13, -17; Harcsi/E. Urban — Lindh/Wiktorssen 14, 18; Harcsi — Waldner -18, -15; Nemeth — Lindh 14, -12, 18.

Three unbeaten

France, surprisingly, make up the trio of unbeaten sides after two matches their opening win, in St Pierre du Mont on 24 September, being by a 4-3 margin

against Yugoslavia with Patrick Birocheau accounting for both Zoran Primorac and Zoran Kalinic! Wang Xiao Ming added the women's singles beating Jasna Fazlic and the Chinese girl partnered Jean-Philippe Gatién to a mixed success. Scores:

P. Birocheau — Z. Primorac 16, -18, 17; J-P. Gatién — Z. Kalinic -17, 15, -16; Wang Xiao Ming — J. Fazlic 20, -22, 17; Birocheau/Gatién — I. Lupulescu/Primorac -23, -16; Gatién/Wang Xiao Ming — Lupulescu/G. Perkucin -14, 18, 9; Birocheau — Kalinic 14, -20, 16; Gatién — Primorac -18, -19.

Czechs win

Bulgaria, at home to Czechoslovakia in Sofia on 24 September, went down 5-2 the home wins being accomplished by Ivan Stoinov — he beat Miroslav Cecava — and by Mariano Lukov and Daniela Guergueltcheva in the mixed. Scores:

M. Lukov — M. Cecava 16, -19, -19; I. Stoinov — J. Pansky 16, -17, -19; D. Guergueltcheva — R. Kasalova -20, -19; Lukov/S. Stefanov — Cecava/Pansky -16, -16; Lukov/Guergueltcheva — Pansky/Kasalova -17, 22, 21; Lukov — Pansky 18, -15, -17; Stoinov — Cecava 15, 16.



October results:

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

Of more than passing interest to *England*, sitting pretty at the head of affairs in Division 1, was the result of the clash between near neighbours Netherlands and Belgium in Bergen op Zoom on 14 October. Netherlands edged home 4-3 this, after their opening 5-2 win away to Denmark in which the scores were: L. Hauth — H.v. Spanje 13, -22, -19; C. Egeholt — P. Haldan -7, -14; S. Pedersen — M. Kloppenburg -8, -4; Egeholt/Hauth — F. Boute/R. Turk 17, 16; Hauth/Pedersen — Haldan/Kloppenburg -11, -18; Hauth — Haldan -19, 19, 20; Egeholt — v. Spange -14, -11.

Conqueror

Italy, at home to Austria in Verona on 7 October, won 7-2 with Ding Yi — conqueror of Douglas and Cooke at Newmarket — beating both Lorenzo Nannoni and Massimo Costantini.

**THE TWO
TOP MEN
IN
EUROPE . . .
WALDNER,
GRUBBA**

Scores:

L. Nannoni — Ding Yi -11, -14; M. Costantini — D. Palmi 13, 17; G. Zampini — E. Maier 18, 16; Costantini/Nannoni — G. Bar/ S. Fraczyk 13, -13, 14; Nannoni/A. Arisi — Fraczyk/Maier 15, 14; Nannoni — Palmi 17, 20; Costantini — Ding Yi -13, 17, -12.

Belgium, at home to Finland in Robertville on 7 October, won 6-1 the only set to escape them being the women's singles in which Sonja Grefberg beat Karine Bogaerts. Scores: J-M. Saive — M. Seiro 18, 22; T. Cabrera — P. Valasti 9, 14; K. Bogaerts — S. Grefberg 17, -17, -21; Cabrera/Saive — Seiro/Valasti 8, 13; Saive Bogaerts — Seiro/Grefberg 18, 17; Saive — Valasti 16, 14; Cabrera — Seiro 13, 9.

Results:

Denmark	2	Netherlands	5
Turkey	2	England	5
Italy	5	Austria	2
Belgium	6	Finland	1
Finland	4	Denmark	3
England	5	Austria	2
Italy	3	Turkey	4
Netherlands	4	Belgium	3

EUROPEAN LEAGUE —

Super Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	2	2	0	11	3	2
Sweden	2	2	0	9	5	2
France	2	2	0	8	6	2
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	8	6	1
Bulgaria	2	1	1	6	8	1
Yugoslavia	2	0	2	6	8	0
FR Germany	2	0	2	4	10	0
Hungary	2	0	2	4	10	0

Division One

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	2	0	10	4	2
Netherlands	2	2	0	9	5	2
Belgium	2	1	1	9	5	1
Italy	2	1	1	8	6	1
Turkey	2	1	1	6	8	1
Finland	2	1	1	5	9	1
Denmark	2	0	2	5	9	0
Austria	2	0	2	4	10	0



British Table Tennis League

Bathwick Tyres sign Mitchell

by MIKE LOVEDER & JIM BECKLEY

LEEDS British League administrator Les Wooding tells me that he believes Mark Mitchell is signed up for the Premier Leaders. Among others Bath have registered Des Douglas, Nicky Mason and the National Top 12 'wild card' Matthew Syed. Already they look like being hot favourites for the title.

Nearest rivals Grove are chasing hard and are just one game behind with 21/24. Led by John Souter, Grove played away to Butterfly Cardiff in October. 'Sooty' swept aside Alan Griffiths and Nigel Tyler. Surely there is a hidden story here as John beat Nigel 21-5, 21-4. Bradley Billington also won his two, though not without a fair struggle.

Last season I was given the impression that Scotland's Dave Hannah would play for Ashford I — but I see that Ormesby have bagged him. Ormesby are lying third having been crushed by Bath. Kingfisher Reading I are not doing too badly in 4th place although they scraped their 6-2 win v Dunlop Express who are bottom. Sean Gibson won his two by scores of 19 and 20 against both Gary Lambert and Paul Whiting. Chan Construction are yet to register a win while Rotherham have just one to their credit. November should be a key month in this division as Bath are scheduled to meet Grove. Nicky Mason expects to be at the USSR Open Championships and even if both teams are weakened the fixture would not be quite the same.

Warwicks in the wars

Having won only two games from three matches West Warwicks are now propping up Division 1. They were convincingly beaten by divisional leaders Ashford I at the start and, more recently, by Byker Newcastle.

Promotees Ashford seem to be running away with it again having only dropped four games. With two players, Max Crimmins and Glen Baker, in the country's top 20 who can be surprised? Ashford's No 3, Kenny Jackson, will not lose many.

Trebor Dagenham are chasing but their 6-2 win over St Neots was close with David Dodd beating Stuart Palmer 24-22 in the third and John Burleton winning his third game v Mick Harper by 25-23. As Percy Collino struggles to find the form that elevated him to England No 36, TSP Larkhall look likely mid-table candidates. Surrey's Mike Hammond is recovering although his results are still suffering. Bradford IU beat them 6-2, the two being taken from John Holland who went down fighting. Horsham Dolphins have a track record similar to Larkhall, having picked up 3 points, their loss being to Ashford.

Short and sweet

Division II South looks very finely balanced with plenty of close matches in prospect. Team Ramlosa Essex and Gunnersbury Triangle both remain unbeaten but they have some tough fixtures to come. Plymouth Bulldogs look like a solid team with Gary Wilson, Mike Short and Tony Sweet. C&L Ruislip could be a force to be reckoned with. Although at No 1 Andy Barden (remember him?) isn't winning

too many yet he has the effect of pushing down other players. England No 48, Hertfordshire's John Taylor, should hack his way to numerous victories playing at No 2.

Rejects are searching for the form that won them Div 3 South (ahead of Ramlosa!) though they have had close results 3-5, 5-3, 3-5. A most impressive result was produced by Gary Spencer beating John Dennison: 21-17, 21-7 but that was not enough... Less impressive are Kingfisher Reading II who are, so far, pointless and bottom. I suspect things may change for them as they have recruited Yorkshire's Chris Oldfield as new No 1 with Mark Oakley at No 2. Chris could make quite an impact if he is not re-registered in the Premier.

Doleq Carpets, winners of Div 3 West are just off the bottom, led by Brian Jeanes, September's Player of the Month. But when they met the bubbling Ramlosa side the Welsh Champion was soundly beaten by both Stuart Gibbs and John Dennison. Fellows Cranleigh I do not look very strong on paper but could easily be underestimated. This could well be the most unpredictable division if Ramlosa run out of gas!

Div 3 North

Life is very different these days for Oldham who are going great guns. So different from last season when they found winning almost impossible. Another inspired performance from Norman Thewlis lifted the team to a 5-3 win over rivals Leicester, a result that puts Oldham in the unfamiliar position of being on level terms at the top of the table.

Div 3 South

There was no stopping Joseph Quansah who led Deptford Rams to a 5-3 win over Larkhill 2nd to help his side maintain their challenge at the top of the division.

He beat Stephan Davies and visiting skipper Gordon Chapman in two games. But a mighty effort from Brian Galloway helped Larkhill reduce the arrears in the last match of the evening.

A close match at Enfield saw visitors Alpha Warriors snatch a 5-3 win over Thorn Ellenborough after six of the matches had gone to three. Warriors No. 2 Mervyn Ward started off his mini marathon beating Dipak Topiwala 22, -22, 22, but it was the nailbiting finale won by Farhat Rusal that finally finished any hopes the home side might have had of picking up their first point of the season.

Div 3 East

After building up a 3-0 lead Fellows Cranleigh let it slide away as Crusaders caught up and then went ahead before John Tendler snatched a last gasp win to give his side a draw. Another long match in which six sets went to three with each team sharing three wins.

Div 2 North

City of Leeds kept up their title chase with an 8-0 win over Grove 2nd for whom their two female players Jill Harris and Claire Potts provided the only real opposition. Jill took Richard Whiteley and Peter McQueen to three games whilst Claire won the first game of her match against Whiteley but then went off the boil to lose the next two.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Leeds British League 2

Div 3 West

Bathwick Tyres 2nd notched up their first win of the season by beating IMI Leominster 6-2. Mike Owens started the ball rolling for Leominster with a win over Lee Neil and later against Chris Hollie. But he could not prevent an otherwise clean sweep for Bathwick who won six games in single figures.

Jason Creasey turned on the heat to help Jolliffe Poole beat Dunlop Express 6-2 at Winton and then the Man of the Match award for his efforts. Creasey beat Ron Wetherby and completed the match with a win over Paul Smith. Most impressive win of the match though was Hakan Sigrell's 12, 6 win over Ron Wetherby.



Jill Harris plays for Grove in Division 2 (North). In this shot by Mike Loveder she seems to be expressing some surprise, possibly at the speed of the return hit.

LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE

RESULTS:

Division 1:

Bradford 6, TSP Larkhall 1
Byker, Newcastle 1, West Warwick 0
Horsham Dolphins 2, Ashford 6
St Neots 2, Trebor Dagenham 1

Division 2:

EAE Waveney 8, Ormesby 0
Wolverhampton 3, March 5

Division 2 (South)

C. & L. Ruislip 6, Fellows Cranleigh 1
Doleq Carpets 1, Team Ramlosa 7
Gunnersbury 5, Rejects 1
Reading 3, Plymouth 5

Division 3 (East)

AHW Pioneer 1, Birmingham 7
Dagenham 1, Ipswich 7
Lincoln 4, Fellows Cranleigh 4
Norwich Foxwood 4, Chelmsford 4

Division 3 (North)

Kingsbro 7, Chan Construction 1
Oldham 5, Leicester 3
Newcastle UL 7, Byker Newcastle 1
Vickers 1, Ormesby 7

Division 3 (South)

Countrymen 8, Rejects 0
Deptford Rams 5, TSP Larkhall 3
Reigate, Redhill 0, Ashford 8
Ellenborough 3, Alpha Warriors 5

Division 3 (West)

Cardiff 8, Cheltenham 0
Launceston 3, Fareham 5
Jolliffe Poole 6, Dunlop Express 2

LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE— TABLES



Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bathwick Tyres — Bath I	3	3	0	0	22	2	6
Grove I	3	3	0	0	21	3	6
Ormesby I	3	2	0	1	15	9	4
Kingfisher Reading I	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
Butterfly Cardiff I	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
Rotherham TTC	3	1	0	2	7	17	2
Chan Construction I	3	0	0	3	4	20	0
Dunlop Express I	3	0	0	3	3	21	0

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford I	3	3	0	0	20	4	6
Trebor Dagenham FC I	3	2	1	0	18	6	5
Bradford Investment Unity	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
T.S.P. Larkhall I	3	1	1	1	13	11	3
Horsham Dolphins	3	1	1	1	12	12	3
Byker Newcastle I	3	1	0	2	9	15	2
St Neots	3	0	1	2	9	15	1
West Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	2	22	0

Division 2 (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EAE Waveney	3	2	0	1	18	6	4
City of Leeds	2	2	0	0	11	5	4
March	3	2	0	1	11	13	4
Ruston Marconi Lincoln	2	1	1	0	12	4	3
Grove II	2	1	1	0	9	7	3
Wolverhampton	3	0	1	2	10	14	1
Ormesby II	3	0	1	2	6	18	1
Well-Conn Wellingborough	2	0	0	2	3	13	0

Division 2 (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Team Ramlosa Essex	3	3	0	0	20	4	6
C & L Ruislip	3	2	1	0	17	7	5
Gunnersbury Triangle	2	2	0	0	10	6	4
Plymouth Bulldogs	2	1	1	0	9	7	3
Rejects I	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
Fellows Cranleigh I	3	0	1	2	9	15	1
Doleq Carpets	3	0	1	2	8	16	1
Kingfisher Reading II	3	0	0	3	4	20	0

Division 3 (East)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Britannia Ipswich	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
Chelmsford OC's	3	2	1	0	19	5	5
Birmingham Athletic Institute	3	2	0	1	14	10	4
AHW Pioneer	3	1	0	2	10	14	2
Trebor Dagenham II	3	1	0	2	8	16	2
Norwich Foxwood	2	0	1	1	7	9	1
Fellows Cranleigh II	3	0	1	2	8	16	1
Crusaders Lincoln	2	0	1	1	4	12	1

Division 3 (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinity Newcastle-U-Lyme	3	3	0	0	21	3	6
Oldham	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
Kingsbro Financial Services	3	2	0	1	15	9	4
Chan Construction II	3	2	0	1	14	10	4
Leicester TTC	3	1	0	2	10	14	2
Ormesby III	3	1	0	2	10	14	2
Byker Newcastle II	3	0	0	3	6	18	0
Vickers Sports Club	3	0	0	3	2	22	0

Division 3 (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Countrymen Tunbridge Wells	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
Ashford II	3	2	1	0	19	5	5
Deptford Rams	3	2	1	0	17	7	5
Alpha Warriors	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
TSP Larkhall II	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
Rejects II	3	1	0	2	6	18	2
Thorn Ellenborough	3	0	0	3	6	18	0
Reigate & Redhill LTTC	3	0	0	3	5	19	0

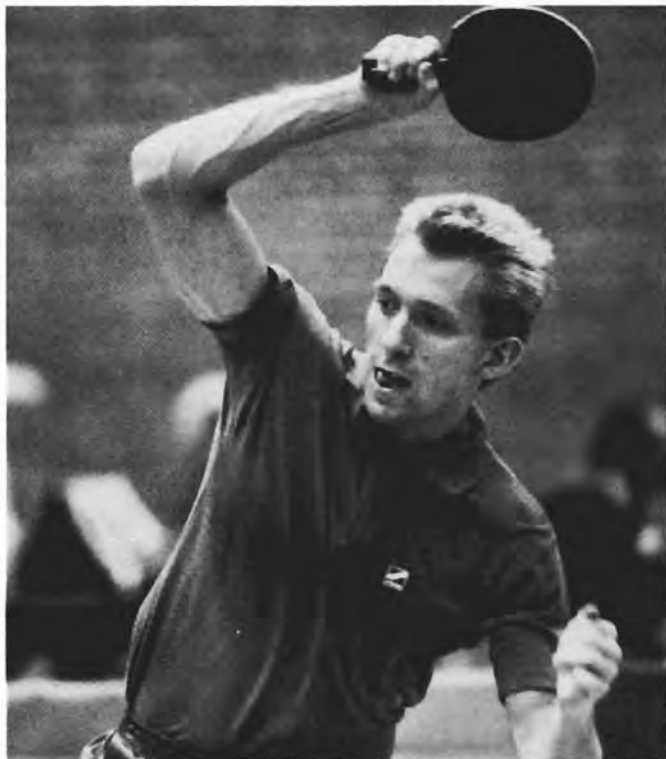
Division 3 (West)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Butterfly Cardiff II	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
Jolliffe Poole	3	2	0	1	14	10	4
Generation Fareham	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
Cheltenham Saracens SC	3	1	1	1	9	15	3
Bathwick Tyres — Bath II	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
Duchy Windows Launceston	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
Dunlop Express II	3	1	0	2	10	14	2
IMI Leominster	3	0	1	2	9	15	1

ACTION FROM FARNBOROUGH

PICTURES BY MIKE LOVEDER



Nigel Eckersley, the extrovert from the North who specialises in being called upon as a reserve. He led the tournament for three days with Carl Prean and Alan Cooke.



Equally strong if not more so in the counter-hitting at Farnborough was England No. 5 Nicky Mason, the runner-up who took home £500 to Bexhill.



Former six times world snooker champion Ray Reardon was a guest of the co-sponsors Stiga at the huge Farnborough Recreation Centre. He said the top snooker players hated Pot Black when it first showed up on your TV screen, but it led a huge boost for the sport.



On paper, Alan Cooke will appear at No. 3 or even No. 2 for England at the European Championships in Paris next March. Who would have thought a few months back that we would have a player even at No. 3 capable of up-ending such names as Leszek Kucharski?

LAMBETH 2-STAR

Sean Gibson down Lambeth Way

by D. J. MILLER

BRIXTON was the venue for three days of top class table tennis action as the town played host to the Lambeth 2-Star Table Tennis tournament promoted by Alpha Table Tennis Centre in conjunction with Lambeth Amenity Services.

The event was a great success with good attendance on all three days justifying the organisers decision to move to the larger surrounds of the Brixton Recreation Centre held on the 4, 5 and 6 September. The tournament attracted some three hundred entrants of different playing abilities. In keeping with Alpha's philosophy, opportunities were provided for all who wanted to participate and the event was opened with a competition for people with disabilities.

A thriller

The men's singles title went to Sean Gibson who defeated Colin Wilson in a thrilling three set final. Gibson received a shield donated by Charrington Breweries. The ladies' title went to Alison Gordon who beat Carol Giles (previously Buckley). Miss Gordon picked up her second title when, together with Jean Parker, she captured the doubles title over Jill Harris and Jane Barella.

The men's doubles title went to Philip Bradley and Graham Sandley with Colin Wilson and John Souter the runners up.

The veteran winner was John Hilton of Lancashire who beat Bill Brookman of Middlesex. Hilton won the European Championship eight years ago. In the Men's Class Two section Tony Stark beat Andy Cunningham. In the Men's Class Three winner was John Holland with Peter Harris as runner-up. Anthony Bostic took the Lambeth Under-21 Closed Title with Justin Wright as runner-up. The Women's Class Two winner was Hazel Kavanagh with Lesley Popkiewicz as runner-up.

Support

The competition was greatly assisted by the support of Lambeth Building Society, Marks & Spencer Plc, Currys Limited, Morleys of Brixton and Lambeth Sports Council, Boots Plc kindly



Alison Gordon

donated cameras which were presented to several of the winners by Mr Dunbar, the Manager of Boots, Brixton Branch. The weekend activities were brought to an end by a challenge match between Councillor, Brian Hodge, the Mayor of Lambeth and the Men's Singles champion, Sean Gibson, which Mr Hodge graciously conceded.

RESULTS

MS: S. Gibson (Chorley) b C. Wilson (Middlesex) -13, 19, 12.
WS: A. Gordon (Berks) b C. Giles (Devon) 10, 18
MD: P. Bradbury/G. Sandley b M. Crimmins (Surrey) and G. Baker (Surrey) 17, 19.
XD: Crimmons/Gordon b J. Souter/J. Harris, 19, 19.
VS: J. Hilton b W. Brookman 9, 20.
WD: Gordon/J. Parker b Harris/J. Barella 18, -19, 8.

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Huge programme in action

THE LEEDS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by DOUG MOSS

AS THE first round of matches coincided with the deadline for the magazine there is a limit on the number of results available on which to comment. However, our massive championships programme got well under way.

SENIOR 2A:— Worcs 5, Lancs II 5; Northumberland 7, Staffs 3.

Lancs II, on promotion, made a good start against Worcs. From 2-4 down they fought back to 5-4 thanks to two good singles wins from Graham Clarke. At 4-4 two 19 in the third events followed. Nicola McGrath, still a junior, played very well to beat Sandra Roden but then brother Mark, after losing first game at 11 beat Malcolm McEvoy to secure a draw. This was a supreme debut for Mark Roden, who won both his singles matches. Staffs, down from Premier Div suffered at hands of Northumberland with Ed Smith, Ian Robertson and Peter McQueen winning all their matches. Jill Harris and Helen Lower won their events easily for Staffs.

SENIOR 2B:— Somerset 6, Middlesex II 4; Devon 7, Sussex 3.

Somerset, on promotion, would have been well pleased with their win over Middlesex. Ron Weatherby (Somerset) won both his singles and Melonie Carey and Tina Sadler were unbeaten. Sussex, another Premier Div demotee, also lost — at the hands of the strong Devon team. Carol Giles and Elaine Short (Devon) made a good contribution with three wins and Paul Whiting won both his singles.

SENIOR 3A:— Leics II 5, Lincs 5; Cumbria 2, Warwicks II 8.

Promotees Leics got a point in a hard fought match in which fortunes swayed. Julie Revill and Joanne Pickles (Leics) won three events and Stuart Worrell and Dave Skerratt took four singles for Lincs. The two wins for Cumbria came from Julie McLean, who was partnered by Karen Backhouse. Lester Bertie, Peter Machin and Peter Waite won all their matches.

SENIOR 3B:— Glos 8, Dorset II 2; Cornwall I 8, Cornwall II 2; Dorset 10, Avon II 0; Cornwall II 1, Devon II 9; Cornwall I 4, Devon II 6.

Dorset, who postponed their junior match because no girls were available, played without ladies in the senior match v Glos.

Dave Harvey had a successful return for Glos. The Cornwall teams played four matches — Devon II were visitors playing both 1st and 2nd teams and gaining wins. Mike Short and Gary Wilson (Devon) had a 'clean sheet' in singles and doubles. Dorset I won all events two straight against Avon II.

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

Beds II put up a good fight against their 1st team — the score stood at 4-4. The 1st team ladies — Julie Dimmock and Lisa Robins — were a deciding factor winning their three events. The two events for Herts were singles wins by Lynn Harrison and Maggie Pavitt — but they lost the doubles! But Cambs started their fight back after demotion with a convincing win and Keith Richardson and Mick Harper were dominant.

JUNIOR 2A:— Lincs 8, Lancs II 2; Yorks II 8, Cheshire 2.

Lincs and Lancs, both promoted from 3A, met in their first Div 2 match. Despite Lancs getting off to a 2-0 lead Lincs had a very convincing win. Only one event went to three games in the Yorks/Cheshire clash. This was the girls' doubles won by Zoe Buchanan and Kim Newman-Mills, who both lost their singles two straight.

JUNIOR 2B:— Sussex 7, Herts 3; Somerset 6, Glamorgan 4.

Scott Greenbrook and Alan Cole performed well for Sussex with five wins. Emma Hurling was involved in two of the Herts wins. The Somerset/Glamorgan match was an interesting clash with Glamorgan down from Premier Div and Somerset up from Div 3 — and Somerset got the win! Tina Sadler (Somerset) unbeaten in Division 3 last season, lost in the doubles and, at -17 in third, to Sian Evans. Paul Smith (Somerset No 1) won both his singles in convincing style.

JUNIOR 3A:— Cheshire II 5, Lancs III 5; Northumberland 4, Derbys II 6.

Newcomers Lancs III did well to get a draw against Cheshire II. M. Hill and R. Khurana (Lancs) won their four singles but lost in the doubles event. Derby II went to Newcastle and got a good win. The Derby girls — Julie Forster and Sally Dawson won their events rather easily.

JUNIOR 3B:— Cambs II 3, Hunts II 7; Warwicks II 4, Berks 6; Ox-fords 7, Norfolk II 3; Norfolk I 5, Northants 5.

Hunts II got off to a good start with a win at Soham. Jason Adams and Paul Richards took five events for Hunts. Berks, on relegation from Div 2, would have been pleased to get a win at Coventry. Three of Warwicks wins were at 19 in third game. Mark Banks (Berks) in good form with three wins and Rebecca Ledwith (Warks), still a Cadet, got two wins beating Lisa Crick -20, 20, 17. Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett were prominent in Oxford's win and each of the Norfolk boys — Jonathan Cockburn, Carl Mattewson and Julian Whiting — got a singles win apiece.

JUNIOR 3C:— Wilts 2, Hants 8; Wilts 1, Avon 9.

JUNIOR 3D:— Middlesex II 7, Surrey II 3; Kent II 9, Essex III 1; Herts II 8, Sussex II 2; Berks II 3, Bucks 7.

Surrey II led Middlesex II by one point in League Table at end of last season so Middlesex were no doubt pleased with a 7-3 win. Simon Rockall (Middx) got three wins — partnered in doubles by David Baker. In the Kent/Essex match all events were two straight. D. Holland (Essex team No 1 girl) got their one win.

VETS 2A:— Warwicks 4, Leics 5. Warwicks got promotion in their first season but were narrowly defeated by Leics in their first Div 2 match. Terry Bache (Warks), unbeaten last season, made a good start winning his two singles and the doubles with Brian Belcher. In his first event he beat Steve White -16, 11, 25! John Iliffe (Leics) in good form with his three wins, his partner in mixed doubles being Eileen Shaler.



Doug Moss

VETS 3A:— Cheshire III 6, Clywd 3; Northumberland 1, Yorks II 8; Lincs II 0, Lancs 9.

Newcomers Clywd visited Hyde to play the strong Cheshire team in their first match. They went into a 2-0 lead but Cheshire came back strongly to win 6-3. Peter Williams (Clywd No 1) played well to win his two singles. Each of the Cheshire men got a win, Tricia Brookes won her singles and the home team got two doubles wins. Northumberland, down from Div 2, must have got a shock to lose so heavily to Yorks II. Maurice Cheek got their one win.

Interesting

VETS 2B:— Sussex II 6, Hants 3; Herts II 5, Middlesex II 4.

An interesting clash with Hants down from Premier Div and Sussex II up from Div 3. The score stood at 3-3 but Sussex forged ahead to win the next three events! Christine Davies won her singles for Hants and the mixed with Ken Giles. Gerry Batt-Rawden and Ted Cramer won four singles for Sussex.

VETS 3B:— Northants 8, Berks IV 1; Bedfords 3, Hunts II 6; Herts III 4, Essex III 5.

Northants, also on demotion, fared much better than Northumberland getting a convincing win. Berks took the first event, thanks to P. Bradley, and lost two others at deuce in third games.

VETS 3C:— Oxfordshire 6, Glos 3; Bucks II 8, Herefords 1; Herts IV 5, Wilts II 4.

Newcomers Glos visited Oxford for their first encounter, but the experienced Oxford team were in control with a 6-3 win. Frank Jones (Glos) did well to win his two singles and, in the mixed, Lorna Bell and Peter Wood won 21 and 18.

Victory for Keith Horton

by MIKE WATTS

THE first Vetts event took place at Grimsby over the weekend of the 9-10 October, when the Eastern Masters was staged.

Winner of the Over 40 Men's Single was Keith Horton (Sussex) who overcame Henry Buist (Kent) in the final. Earlier top seed Derek Schofield had been beaten by Brian Allison (Lincs) who in turn lost to Horton. In the other half both seeds reached their allocated places where Buist put out local man Matt Sheader.

In the Over 50 Singles Derek Schofield the top seed again failed to reach the final losing in the 2nd round to Brian Edlington (Lincs) who then lost to Fred Lockwood (Essex) the eventual winner. In the bottom half Matt Sheader got his revenge with a semi-final win over Henry Buist but Lockwood gained a good win in the final. The Over 60 Men's Final was won by George Tsow (Warwick) with a final win over Stan Taylor (Essex).

Connie top seed

In the Women's events Doreen Schofield made up for husband Derek's failure winning the Over 40 Women's Singles from second seed Carol Judson whilst in the Over 50 Women's Singles local star Connie Moran as top seed was the winner. Her final oppo-

nent being Gill White (Herts). There were surprise winners of the Over 40 Men's Doubles when scratch pairing Brian Allison and Andy Meads (Sussex) combined to stop Robin Stace (Sussex) and Keith Horton in the final. Derek



Schofield finally got his name on the winners' rostrum when partnering Matt Sheader to victory in the Over 50 Men's Doubles their final victims being Fred Lockwood and Stan Battrick (Essex). John Mansi and John Mulley were the Over 60 Men's Doubles winners beating George Tsow and Steve Nunn.

In the Mixed Doubles husband and wife partnership of Clive and Carol Judson carried off the title beating Brian Allison who had a superb tournament and Pat Bassano.

In the Women's Doubles the Over 40 winners were Carol Judson and Pat Bassano and in the Over 50s Connie Moran and Pam Butcher continued their run of doubles titles.

The tournament was superbly organised by Susan Allison and the entry was increased on last year by nearly 25%.

Disappointment for Vetts with the news that the entry for the Alec Brook National Vetts Team Championship is considerably down on last season. Last year,



Mike Watts

the inaugural year of the competition, saw 81 leagues enter but despite the fact that the deadline was extended by three weeks only 56 men's teams and 13 women's teams have entered.



Mrs Cristel Brooks wife of the late Alec Brooks presents the Alec Brooks Memorial trophy to Stockport captain Roger Hampson whilst team mates Brian Keen and Derek Schofield look on.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION — RANKING LISTS — OCTOBER 1987

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 Coica, Daniel (Rom) (x)
- 2 Saive, Jean-Michel (Bel)
- 3 Grman, Milan (Tch)
- 4 Mazunov, Dmitrij, (URS) (x)
- 5 Vardanian, Samvel (URS) (x)
- 6 Torsell, Patrick (Swe) (x)
- 7 Creanga, Calin (Rom) (x)
- 8 SYED, MATHEW (ENG) (x)
- 9 Marmurek, Olivier (Fra)
- 10 Nemeth, Karoly (Hun) (x)
- 11 Fanzel, Christlan (FRG)
- 12 Murzov, Aleksei (URS)
- 13 Eloi, Damien (Fra)
- 14 Korbel, Petr (Tch) (x)
- 15 Mihocko, Vladimir (Tch) (x)
- 16 Andersson, Peter (Swe)
- 17 Chila, Patrick (Fra)
- 18 Franz, Peter (FRG) (x)
- 19 Kadiri, Kayodi (Swe) (x)
- 20 Van Haren, Bert (Hol) (x)
- 21 Jaksic, Zlatko (Yug)
- 22 O'DRISCOLL, MICHAEL (ENG) (x)
- 23 Toth, Istvan (Hun)
- 24 Dooley, Ralf (FRG)
- 25 Smrekar, Robert (Yug) (x)
- 26 Saive, Philippe (Bel) (x)
- 27 BILLINGTON, BRADLEY, (ENG) (x)
- 28 Furman, Andrzej (Pol)
- 29 Gusev, Dmitrij (URS) (x)
- 30 Kallberg, Mats (Swe)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 Palina, Irina (URS)
- 2 Badescu, Otilia (Rom) (x)
- 3 Fazlic, Jasna (Yug)
- 4 Nolten, Katja (FRG)
- 5 Kahn, Szilvia (Hun)
- 6 Davidkova, Daniela (Tch)
- 7 Lohr, Kinga (Rom)
- 8 Nagy, Krisztina (Hun)
- 9 Isanovic, Fatima (Yug)
- 10 Wirth, Gabriella (Hun) (x)
- 11 Melnik, Galina (URS)
- 12 Chvatalova, Renata (Tch) (x)
- 13 Freljh, Polona (Yug) (x)
- 14 Keen, Gerdie (Hol)
- 15 Ciosu, Emilia (Rom) (x)
- 16 Thirion, Sophie (Bel)
- 17 De Groot, Patricia (Hol)
- 18 Svensson, Asa (Swe) (x)
- 19 Kujundzic, Nada (Yug)
- 20 Vitcheva, Katalina (Bul) (x)
- 21 Mihockova, Jaroslava (Tch) (x)
- 22 Medvedeeva, Tatiana (URS) (x)
- 23 HOLT, ANDREA (ENG) (x)
- 24 Struse, Nicole (FRG) (x)
- 25 Coubat, Emmenuella (Fra)
- 26 Billen, Els (Bel) (x)
- 27 Cheler, Anca (Rom) (x)
- 28 Hegedus, Agnes (Hun) (x)
- 29 Arisi, Alessia (Ita) (x)
- 30 Fouquet, Carole (Fra)

CADET BOYS

- 1 Grujic, Slobodan (Yug) (x)
- 2 Noskov, Sergei (URS)
- 3 Wosik, Torben (FRG) (x)
- 4 Tran, Thierry (Fra) (x)
- 5 Samsonov, Vladimir (URS) (x)
- 6 Janasek, Tomas (Tch)
- 7 Schlager, Werner (Aut)
- 8 Olejnik, Martin (Tch)
- 9 Dolk, Benny (Swe)
- 10 Ivaniuk, Grzegorz (Pol)
- 11 Ricci, Luca (Ita)
- 12 Olsson, Christian (Swe)
- 13 Kriuschkin, Dmitrij (USR) (x)
- 14 Hantzis, George (Gre)
- 15 Janci, Vladimir (Tch)
- 16 Uhl, Timo (FRG)
- 17 Jindrak, Karl (Aut)
- 18 Averkin, Alexei (URS) (x)
- 19 Blomquist, Peter (Swe)
- 20 Cano Jose-Maria (Esp)

CADET GIRLS

- 1 Wirth, Vera (Hun)
- 2 Nastase, Adriana (Rom)
- 3 Lichter, Olga (URS)
- 4 Kravchenko, Marina (URS)
- 5 Elio, Vivan (Hun) (x)
- 6 Riscanu, Iulia (Rom)
- 7 Tauschkanova, Ecateri (URS) (x)
- 8 Mladkova, Lubica (Tch)
- 9 Negrisoli, Laura (Ita) (x)
- 10 Fichtinger, Petra (Aut) (x)
- 11 Nienhaus, Sandra (FRG)
- 12 Holen, Maria (Swe) (x)
- 13 Oth, Nathalie (Lux)
- 14 Lelanic, Agnes (Fra)
- 15 Bilichova, Petronela (Tch)
- 16 Lendvai, Lidija (Yug)
- 17 Dandoula, Despina (Gre)
- 18 Panadero, Glora (Esp)
- 19 Lazaridou, Christina (Gre)
- 20 Thill, Marie-France (Fra)

Players noted (x) are still Juniors for 1987/88

Players noted (x) are still Cadets for 1987/88

ORDER YOUR TABLE TENNIS NEWS MONTHLY FROM THE ETTA OFFICE

SOUTH OR NORTH KOREA?

by RICHARD EATON of *The Sunday Times*

AFTER a lengthy pow-wow and, so we understand, a fair amount of argy-bargy as well, it is to be four English players that will get the chance this month (November) to battle their way through the European qualifying zone in Karlsruhe for the right to play at next year's Olympic Games. They are Alan Cooke, Carl Prean, Lisa Lomas (Bellinger), and Fiona Elliot. You might think that seems a fairly straightforward selection. The procedure by which they came to be selected was anything but.

I hope then, for the sake of the Scots, Welsh and Irish who will not be getting the chance to represent their countries, that the English/British Quartet justify themselves and their selectors, and do well. Cooke and Prean should. Lomas and Elliot will find it more difficult. Male chauvinism is pretty prevalent in a selection process whereby twice as many men as women are allocated Olympic places.

Already there

Desmond Douglas is one of the twenty men already there — wherever there for table tennis turns out to be — by virtue of being ranked 12 in the world. It would be wonderful to think that our Des could peak for this famous event as superbly as he did for the European Top Twelve. If he does, an Olympic medal is not outside his capability, and that would have the

effect of lighting up the sport like a neon strip.

I am not one of those who believe that the Olympics, blighted by boycotts though it be, is going to be completely superseded by the World Championships concept. That is not impossible for a well-televised activity like athletics. But for a supposedly minor sport like table tennis, a World Championship means very little indeed in the general consciousness. But plug in the word 'Olympics' and it turns a switch in people's minds.

Original choice

This is also why I believe that where Douglas eventually gets to play is of paramount importance. Seoul was the original and still is the most likely choice. But at the time of writing there is a lucky dog's chance that it might yet be Pyongyang.

Lucky dog because the North Korean capital might hold great

advantages. Those players who had to suffer the cramped sleeping conditions, the alien food, and the obsessive authoritarianism of the World Championships eight years ago will probably want to throttle me for saying that. But if table tennis were to go to Pyongyang again, it might also advance its reputation as a potent means of building bridges between communism and capitalism.

Bamboo curtain

Remember Ping-pong diplomacy? Table tennis profited enormously from being centre stage because of its role as a political barrier-breaker with the so-called 'Bamboo Curtain'. Something not totally dissimilar to that could conceivably occur again.

If table tennis and a handful of other sports are to go North then so too must spectators and officials from the South. And free access has not existed between

the two for well over 30 years. It would then be a piece of history-making. And for table tennis a nice piece of attention seeking.



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 in all three sports clash. This has already happened once this season. This picture was taken by John Woodford in Moscow.

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Junior Tournament Scene

THE GROVE SCHOOL 2-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

SPEEDY CLAIRE WINS AT HOME

by IAN MARSHALL

NEIL PICKARD and the all-action Claire Potts were the main event winners at the Grove School 2-star Junior Open, sponsored by H. & E. Scaffolding.

It was the quick hitting of home club player Claire Potts which was to be the telling factor in the final against the splendid Joanna Roberts of Yorkshire after Miss Potts had faced two matches she must have dreaded. The return to the tournament scene of the talented Chesterfield girl Julie Billington was the first hurdle to be negotiated with the Grove girl more match fit whilst the semi-final stage saw younger sister Helen Potts the adversary and the only player to extend the champion elect by a third game decider.

The name of Potts has been recorded on Grove trophies on many occasions but it was to be a new name that graced the boys cup as Neil Pickard overcame the determined Lancastrian Andrew Eden by the narrowest of margins with the eventual winner having been extended to a third set by the surprise package of the day Spencer Harris of Wrexham

in the semi-finals whilst Grove's top juniors David Morris and Adrian Thorp had been Eden's victims in the quarters and semis respectively in three game thrillers.

The cadet boys and under twelve boys singles events saw success for the talented Croydon based brothers of Jason and Darren Blake with the former accounting for a spirited North Eastern Stephen Coverdale in the cadet final and the latter successful against Southend's Christopher Sladden in a hard fought under twelve boys final.

If the Wakefield Centre of Excellence players could not gain gold in the junior girls events the improving Kate Goodall put matters right in the cadet singles event by ousting number one seed Helen Potts in the semis and beating the splendid Alison Gower in the final whilst Prestatyn's Welsh international



Claire Potts
Picture: Mike Loveder

Natasha Williams gained the verdict over Chesterfield's Nicola Deaton in a final where neither girl asked or gave an inch.

RESULTS

JBS SF: Neil Pickard (Norfolk) bt Spencer Harris (Wrexham) -16, 18, 8; Andrew Eden (Preston) bt Adrian Thorp (Grove) -17, 20, 20.
F: Pickard bt Eden -12, 6, 22.
JGS SF: Claire Potts (Grove) bt Helen Potts (Grove) -23, 17, 11; Joanna Roberts (Leeds) bt Helen Wright (Plymouth) 9, -16, 14.
F: Claire Potts bt Joanna Roberts 18, 14.

JBD SF: Leigh Jeffries (Birmingham) & Neil Pickard (Norwich) bt Darryl Sneyd (Oldham) & Wayne Renton (Oldham) 14, 14; Peter Bowles (Dunstable) & Grant Solder (Dagenham) bt Andrew Eden (Preston) & John McIver (Barnsley) -18, 18, 17.
F: Bowles & Solder bt Jeffries & Pickard 15, -19, 12.

JGD SF: Julie Billington (Chesterfield) & Kate Goodall (Leeds) bt Helen Potts (Grove) & Claire Potts (Grove) -16, 15, 12; Helen Wright (Plymouth) & Jane Wright (Plymouth) bt Alison Gower (Ingatstone) & Kate Gower (Ingatstone) 17, -17, 15.
F: Billington & Goodall bt Wright & Wright 15, 19.

CBS SF: Stephen Coverdale (Gateshead) bt Darren Blake (Croydon) 13, 18; Jason Blake (Croydon) bt David Howarth (Hyde) 13, -19, 13.
F: Blake bt Coverdale 14, 20.

CGS SF: Kate Goodall (Leeds) bt Helen Potts (Grove) 13, 21; Alison Gower (Ingatstone) bt Nicola Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) 18, 15.
F: Goodall bt Gower -15, 13, 16.

CBD F: Adams & Bradfield bt Sanderson & Collier 19, 20.

CGD F: Gower & Potts bt Wright & Goodall 19, 18.

Under 12 boys singles, F: Darren Blake (Croydon) bt Christopher Sladden (Southend) 19, -17, 10.

Under 12 girls singles, F: Natasha Williams (Prestatyn) bt Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield) 19, -18, 12.

KIRKLEES JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

Michael and Debbie win

TITLES went with rankings in the four major events at the Kirklees 2-star Junior Open Championships held in the Huddersfield Sports Centre on 5/6 September, as the top seeds comfortably achieved their anticipated victories and provided Yorkshire with honours in the Junior Boys' Singles (Michael O'Driscoll) and Junior Girls' Singles (Debbie Toole), and for Ellen Meddings (Cadet Girls' Singles).

Coasting

Having taken the first game 21-15, O'Driscoll appeared to be coasting home at 19-11 in the second, using his greater ability and experience to contain Michael Auchterlonie's more impetuous approach shots. Auchterlonie suddenly steadied his game, and improved control deservedly won him the second game but the No 2 England Junior turned on the style in the decider.

Gary Knights (Staffs) took the Cadet Boys' Singles title and combined with Martin Vickers (Yorkshire) for success in the doubles.

Both favourites in the U/12 events, Darren Blake of Surrey and Sally Marling of Yorkshire were beaten by Andrew Nicholls (Yorks) and Nicola Deaton (Derby) respectively.

RESULTS

JBS — Semi: M. Auchterlonie (Y) b G. Solder (Ex) 19, -8, 20; M. O'Driscoll (Y) b J. Taylor (LA) -17, 15, 10. Final: O'Driscoll b M. Auchterlonie (Halifax) 15, -20, 12.

JGS — Semi: E. Meddings (Y) b J. Keighley (Y) -18, 18, 10; D. Toole (Y) b J. Roberts (Y) 15, 15. Final: Toole b E. Meddings (Harrogate) 14, 15.

JBD — Final: Holland/Solder b Thorp/Till 14, -18, 18. **JGD — Final:** Perkins/Ambrose b Meddings/Hood 13, 18.

CBS — Final: Knights b Horsefield 11, 12. **CGS — Final:** Meddings b N. Deaton (Chesterfield) 13, 11. **CBD — Final:** Knights/Vickers b Blake/Blake 19, 19. **CGD — Final:** N. Meddings/Hook b Radford/E. Meddings 21, 19.

U/12 BS — Final: Nicholls b Blake (Croydon) -10, 18, 20. **U/12 GS — Final:** Deaton b Marling 18, -16, 11.

Restricted JB — Final: Grant b Pike -18, 18, 17. **Restricted JG — Final:** Pashley b Keighley -17, 20, 10.

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BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

AFTER the close of last season Maidenhead have announced their trophy winners. The Wilkinson Sword for the player with best average in the premier division went to Alec Watson with Martin Bartholomew as runner-up. The Sweetzer and Bartholomew trophies for the most improved junior boy and girl went respectively to Mark Banks and Nicola Eaglestone. Maidenhead also put up all conquering performances in both the Berks and the Bucks inter-town competitions, with wins in five events in the Berks and no less than seven in the Bucks where Maidenhead have been a 'guest town' for more than twenty years. With a record like that, one wonders whether they will be asked again!

Proud

Maidenhead, as has been mentioned before on these pages, are justly proud of their junior strength. In the first regional inter-county cadet tournament they provided three of Berkshire's four boys, Mark Priddle being joined by Martin Adams of Bracknell and Reading Leagues to form the A duo, with Nicky Bradfield and Jonathan Stewart making up the B team. In a tournament which included four Counties, Berkshire showed their clear supremacy by having both their teams eliminate all others to reach the final which the A squad duly won.

Permutation

A different permutation brought a further triumph at the Grove ETTA 2 star open tournament at Market Drayton when Martin and Nicky, teaming up for the first time ever, proceeded to carry off the cadet doubles title by beating Collier and Sanderson of Sunderland in the final. This success somewhat sweetened the pill of Martin's early singles defeat by the unseeded Darren Howarthg, No. 1 cadet in Cheshire. This up and coming player (who went on to further wins only losing to the eventual winner) gets an entry in Berkshire notes since it was also he who disposed of Berkshire's Nicky Bradfield (and because I gather Cheshire players don't get much of a mention in TT News — Cheshire please take note — my committee will probably sack me for using up 'their' value space on another county!)

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

JOHN Bassett, 47 years young joined that rare breed of table tennis players to make 100 senior appearances for his county when at St Ives on 3 October he turned out for Cornwall I against Cornwall II. The latest in an endless list of achievements by Bassett was marked in a special celebration in his home town of St Ives with more than 60 spectators, including the Mayor and Mayoress attending the division 3B fixture. The match score 8-2 in favour of Cornwall I was incidental but Bassett was undefeated, although a little nervous. John Bassett first played for Cornwall away to Wiltshire in March 1959 and the following year won the first of 12 Cornish singles titles. He has retired several times during that 29 year period otherwise his tally of county appearances and individual titles would have been far greater. During the 1965-66 season, Cornwall won division 2 West and in that season, Bassett did not lose to anyone, anywhere. In 1976, Cornwall played a friendly against England to mark the 25th anniversary of the Cornwall Association with Bassett winning a set in Cornwall's 8-1 defeat. A few snippets from the career of John Bassett which began in the fifties and looks set to continue into the nineties.

The Cornish domestic season is now getting into full swing following a re-shuffle amongst the county's hierarchy during the close season. All enquiries should now be addressed to the new county secretary Roger Jacobs of 6 Parkvedras Terrace, Truro.

On the playing side, a few established players have been lost but a useful squad of keen players remains. Thirteen years old Neil Bevan of Bude certainly seems to be the player to beat this season and the new county number one starts the season ranked one in England at cadet level. Bevan heads both the county rankings and the Cornwall computer print out. The much changed Cornwall rankings for season 1987-88 are as follows:

Senior Women

- 1 C. Rowe (Holsworthy)
- 2 E. Stevenson (Bude)
- 3 S. Rapsey (Truro)
- 4 A. Clemens (Camborne)
- 5 G. Davey (Truro)
- 6 B. Rapsey (Truro)
- 7 J. Menzel (Camborne)
- 8 R. Plummer (St Ives)
- 9 T. Logg (Launceston)
- 10 J. Chinn (Falmouth)

Senior Men

- 1 N. Bevan (Bude)
- 2 J. Williams (Falmouth)
- 3 J. Bassett (St Ives)
- 4 I. James (Hayle)
- 5 G. Reed (Falmouth)
- 6 M. Peters (Falmouth)
- 7 A. Bevan (Bude)
- 8 R. Jacobs (Truro)
- 9 M. Bawden (Launceston)
- 10 K. Stevenson (Bude)
- 11 M. Rowe (Holsworthy)
- 12 L. Jose (Camborne)
- 13 N. Reed (Falmouth)
- 14 G. Marquard (Launceston)
- 15 J. Menzel jnr (Camborne)

Junior Boys

- 1 N. Bevan (Bude)
- 2 A. Bevan (Bude)
- 3 M. Bawden (Launceston)
- 4 J. Menzel jnr (Camborne)
- 5 N. Martin (St Austell)
- 6 J. Maggs (Bude)
- 7 M. Rushton (Camborne)
- 8 S. Barrett (Bude)

Junior Girls

- 1 R. Plummer (St Ives)
- 2 T. Logg (Launceston)
- 3 L. Clarke (Falmouth)
- 4 R. Boon (Camborne)
- 5 A. Tucker (Tavistock)
- 6 A. Cahill (Camborne)

DURHAM

Ken Taylor

THE 1987/8 season in Durham got underway when the Selectors held Junior trials at Lowhills Sports Centre, Peterlee on the 13th September commencing at 10 a.m. and following the trials the selectors have issued the first rankings which are as follows:

Junior Boys

1. Ian Collier (Sunderland)
2. Michael Roughley (Washington)
3. Steven Riggins (Washington)
4. Dermot Ledwith (Sunderland)
5. Neil Lucas (Washington)
6. David Howell (Gateshead)
7. Craig Fryer (Stanley)
8. Andrew Wildish (Washington)
9. Mark Hudson (Washington)
10. Paul Whittaker (Peterlee)

Junior Girls

1. Clare Martindale (Peterlee)
2. Ingrid Naisby (Seaham)
3. Anna Cowan (Washington)
4. Clare Flynn (Washington)

The team selected for the first fixture in the Leeds County Championship (Junior Div 3A) at Leicester on the 18th October 1987 is Ian Collier, Michael Roughley, Steven Riggins, Clare Martindale and Ingrid Naisby. The first home match is on the 31st October at home to Cheshire

2nds and will be played at the Glebe Centre, Washington.

The new Registrar for this season is Ron Douglas (Peterlee) and he is at the moment in the process of preparing the fixtures for the Durham County Leagues, once again the support is good but more leagues could participate and we would hope to have another successful season. The league taking part are as follows: **Senior Division:** Peterlee, Darlington, Sunderland, Sunderland Ladies and Philadelphia 'A' & 'B'. **Junior Division:** Peterlee, Darlington, Sunderland and Philadelphia 'A' & 'B'. **Veterans Division:** Peterlee, Darlington, Bishop Auckland, Sunderland & Philadelphia.

International events in the County are once again to the fore and following the Quadrangular International recently held at Washington which was promoted by the Sunderland Borough.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

WOMEN were Cumbria's strength when they lost 8-2 to Warwickshire in the opening 'Leeds' County Championship Division 3a game at Whitehaven.

Skipper Julie McLean, of Carlisle, had the side's only singles success when she beat her opposite number one Fiona Sutton (Birmingham) 21-11, 16-21, 21-15.

But by that stage of the match, Warwickshire's up and coming second string had already ensured success. The home team's only other success was when Julie partnered Karen Backhouse (Barrow-in-Furness) in the doubles.

Details (Cumbria names first): Stephen Temple lost to Lester Bertie 15-21, 17-21; lost to Peter Waite 18-21, 21-15, 15-21. Nicholas Thompson lost to Waite 12-21, 10-21; lost to Peter Machin 21-18, 15-21, 10-21. John Backhouse lost to Machin 18-21, 16-21; lost to Bertie 21-18, 11-21, 15-21. Julie McLean beat Fiona Sutton 21-11, 16-21, 21-15. Karen Backhouse lost to Fiona Bromley 17-21, 21-17, 15-21. Backhouse and Temple lost to Bertie and Machin 11-21, 13-21. McLean & Backhouse beat Sutton and Bromley 22-20, 21-19.

Temple has helped his club, Carlisle Sports Centre Freetraders to set the early pace in the Carlisle League with a 100 per cent record from two matches.

In Whitehaven, champions for three years, YMCA Aquarians dropped out with the season only two weeks old. They say it is only a temporary withdrawal until they get a settled side and are able to make up their fixtures.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

CHAOS has reigned supreme within the Writer's immediate family over a period of the past few weeks.

We have after some 30 years moved house and to a minor extent territory as well, I write these notes surrounded by several unpacked cases and a general feeling of apprehension all around — 'Will life as I've known it, ever be the same again?'

Pull yourself together Peppard, not all the above is doom and despondency although I must admit in this rural county of ours — table tennis regards Players Membership is this year still failing to show immediate signs of recovery, Cheltenham in fact appear to be the main sufferers, with Gloucester and Stroud just about holding their own.

Sadly, the non-affiliated Cirencester League still choose to go their own way and hopefully at their 1988 A.G.M. perhaps will decide to become fully affiliated members, let's sincerely hope that they do — I personally have the feeling that for them in question — 'it will have to be 1988 or perhaps never'.

The annual County Closed Championships are once more being staged at Cheltenham. Will Darren Griffin yet again rise to the occasion in defence of his crown? Predicting results in advance of them being played has never been my particular forte, but this I will say, there will be no shortage of challengers around willing themselves to win.

The Cheltenham Saracens club under the astute management of Bob Attwood have this year entered a team in the 'Leeds British 3rd Division West League', and are indeed to be congratulated upon their efforts to further establish T.T. continuity within the County.

To current date it is only inevitable that the top County Players in Gloucestershire have played in this League, and are likely to continue, they are — Darren Griffin, Dave Harvey, Steve Moreman and Graham Slack, Harvey made a very welcome return to T.T. late last season, won the Cheltenham (Closed) last Spring and is now currently ranked No. 2 in the County.

Another very welcome return to County play is — Cheltenham's Cathy Robb, a former Lady County Champion, Cathy has been out of the sport County wise for at least a couple of years, this season she comes back into the fold and is ranked No. 1 Lady in the County, nice to see you back Cathy.

County trials were staged for Juniors U17 Boys/Girls, these took place in Cheltenham at the end of September, we were not short of willing entrants — and I give the following rankings below.

Key: G = Gloucester, S = Stroud, C = Cheltenham.

Boys

1. Dale Saunders (G).
2. Andrew Stratford (S).
3. Adrian Stalley (C).
4. Alex Tomczyk (S).
5. Raymond Powell (G).
6. Jeremy Hyett (G).
7. Lynden Bubbs (C).
8. Lawrence Simpson (G).
9. John Pobjoy (S).
10. Timothy Dewick (G).

Girls

1. Cheryl Fannin (G).
2. Wendy Nicholls (S).
3. Penny Wyatt (S).
4. Heather Fannin (G).
5. Lesley Dewick (G).
6. Caroline Thompson (S).

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

DURING the month of September all sporting eyes are turned towards the Hertfordshire Games, and this year's was exciting and tense right up to the final event, which was Table Tennis, which was won by the favourites North Herts, but by achieving the 3rd spot Dacorum did just enough to gain the points for overall victory.

This annual event was held this year in Hemel Hempstead, the main town of Dacorum Borough Council, and the day long Table Tennis Tournament was held at Hemel Hempstead School, which has recently become a coaching centre.

Riding high in this competition was the highly talented trio from North Herts, Mick Harper and his wife Sandra, and the Hertfordshire No. 1 player Keith Samuels, who between them overcame all challenges from the other competitors.

Bold Broxbourne who were worthy runners-up, fielded the exciting team of Mark Taylor and Mark Dare, and the talented sisters, Alison and Caroline Boxall.

Whilst the home team of Dacorum, had on display the rapidly improving youthful threesome of Rob Liquorish, Glen Wilkes and Emma Hurling.

At long last the final of the Alpha Herts and Beds Cup has been played between Phoenix of Barnet and Motorola of Stotfold, by far the two most powerful teams in the competition, which after an epic battle was won by Phoenix decisively 5-2, at the Warren Springs Table Tennis Club in Stevenage, in late September.



Keith Samuels
Sandra Warder
Mick Harper

This victory by Phoenix was extra sweet, as they were the losing finalists to Motorola last year.

The opening game proved crucial to Phoenix when John Lennon recorded an upset victory over Motorola's Keith Samuels, whilst Nigel Tyler proved too powerful for Helen Bardwell to give Phoenix a 2-0 lead. But Mick Harper pulled one back for Motorola, beating Tony Stark.

KENT

Hazel Etherington

BOTH Kent Junior 1st and 2nd teams got off to a cracking start in their pursuit of county championship honours. The 1st team travelled to Brentwood and beat Essex II 7-3, in a closely contested match played in a good spirit. Whilst at Bromley, Kent II gained a convincing victory over Essex III 9-1.

Henry Buist successfully defended the Sussex 2 Star Veterans title with a hard fought win over Derek Holman in the final. Joey Kennedy partnered Mandy Sainsbury to take the mixed doubles title.

Brian Mileham could have used some of Henry's experience whilst trying to retain his Wiltshire 2 Star Cadet title in which he was narrowly defeated by Gary Knights in the final.

Ben Kellard continued his journey from representing Kent at Brentwood to Bridlington for the East Yorkshire 2 Star and he won his way through to the final at the restricted singles where he was beaten by Darren Howarth of Yorkshire.

Just under way is the change to the constitution of Medway's table tennis league. To reflect the top-heavy strength of the current Premier and 1st divisions there will be a separate 10-team section for the 1988/89 campaign.

The Junior regional trials were held at Sedgemoor School with Mark Green and Brian Mileham going through in the under 17s, to join Andrew Houghton, Martin Hewett and Spencer Thompson in the cadets.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

EARLY days but an opportunity to let you know that we were not blown away by the October gales.

New faces (or 'old' ones returning) on the committee this season include Pete Urry (League Secretary); John Long (Treasurer); Chris Angus (Coaching) and Ian Wright (Island 'team' Secretary); Mark Chiverton and Mike Platt continue in the 'engine room' positions of Chairman and General Secretary respectively.

The season opened with a tournament for juniors with no more than one season's league experience and organiser Mike Platt and his helpers were well pleased that their efforts attracted 34 entries; also more than pleased was the one girl competitor Michelle Angus (Rookley) who together with Mathew Roberts (Wroxall) and the Cowes High School pair of Alan Westhorpe and Darren Blow reached the semi finals; Roberts the eventual winner with a 21-8; 21-16 final victory over Blow.

Early indications are that Sandown will be hot favourites to win the Island first division, their closest rivals for many seasons, Shanklin, being reduced to one team. Jill Fothergill's return to competitive table tennis with St. Lawrence gives that team a head start in the race for promotion from Division 2.

The Island have opted out of the County Championship this season in favour of the new regional league in which both men's and ladies' teams have been entered.

Southern Region (I.O.W.; Hants; Berks; Bucks and Oxon) chairman Ray Yates was grinning like a Cheshire cat when the announcement was made that the Leeds sponsorship included the setting up of regional leagues — Ray and his competitions secretary, Mick Stode already had the formation of such a league underway and eight men's teams — Isle of Wight, Jaques Generation (Fareham); Hursley (Winchester) Kingfisher (2); Cippenhams (2) and Burnham will commence battle on November 14th.

An administrative seminar will be held by the Southern Co-ordination Committee at Winchester on Sunday November 29th; all leagues will be advised but any administrator, or potential administrator who does not get an official invitation and is interested in attending should contact Ray Yates (Southampton 555175).

County notes 3

LANCASHIRE

George R. Yates.

MEETING in Bolton on 15 September the Red Rose selection committee, under the chairmanship of David Wolstencroft, taking into account the results of trials and those players exempted by virtue of their national rankings submitted the following ranking lists to Les Smith the Leeds County Championships administrator.

Men

- 1 S. Scowcroft (Bolton)
- 2 N. A. S. Eckersley
- 3 J. Hilton
- 4 S. Gibson
- 5 D. Carse (Bolton)
- 6 G. Clarke (Blackburn)
- 7 M. McEvoy (Liverpool)
- 8 C. Ford (Liverpool)
- 9 P. Blake (Blackburn)
- 10 H. Leigh (Bury)
- 11 B. Pickles (Burnley)
- 12 D. Sneyd (Oldham)

Women

- 1 J. Grundy
- 2 J. Parker
- 3 A. Holt (Bolton)
- 4 N. McGrath (Preston)
- 5 P. French (Liverpool)
- 6 B. Buoy (Liverpool)
- 7 S. Graham (Southport)
- 8 B. Smallwood (Southport)
- 9 M. Neary (Southport)

Boys

- 1 Sneyd
- 2 W. Renton (Oldham)
- 3 A. Eden (Southport)
- 4 H. Whewell (Burnley)
- 5 K. Hill (Oldham)
- 6 R. Faulkner (Bury)
- 7 J. Bradbury (Oldham)
- 8 M. Hill (Oldham)
- 9 R. Khurana (Oldham)
- 10 K. Lewis (Southport)
- 11 M. Preston (Burnley)
- 12 S. Khurana (Oldham)

Girls

- 1 Holt
- 2 McGrath
- 3 M. Thornley (Preston)
- 4 K. Richardson (Oldham)
- 5 D. Fletcher (Oldham)
- 6 Smallwood
- 7 V. Fletcher (Oldham)
- 8 L. Holt (Preston)
- 9 T. Connolly (Blackpool)

Cadet Boys

- 1 C. Campbell (Oldham)
- 2 D. Pilling (Burnley)
- 3 R. Manwaring (Preston)
- 4 M. Coombe (Oldham)
- 5 B. Aitkin (Southport)
- 6 G. Faulkner (Bury)
- 7 G. Jennings (Liverpool)
- 8 D. Meredith (Oldham)
- 9 M. Williams (Oldham)

Cadet Girls

- 1 Richardson
- 2 Thornley
- 3 Connolly
- 4 J. Abbott (Preston)
- 5 T. Abbott (Preston)
- 6 C. Rigby (Preston)
- 7 D. Fletcher (Oldham)

Veteran Men

- 1 B. Lowden (Farnworth)
- 2 N. Thewlis (Oldham)
- 3 R. Ashley (Preston)
- 4 D. Whatmough (Bolton)
- 5 P. Taylor (Liverpool)
- 6 Allan Lord (Bolton)
- 7 B. Crook (Blackpool)

Veteran Women

- 1 Neary
- 2 A. Birrough (Blackpool)

Messrs Eckersley, Hilton and Gibson, together with Joy Grundy and Jean Parker — the latter three all being employed outside Lancashire — are not credited with league affiliation in the Lancs and Cheshire League as registered players although Grundy and Parker could well be on Preston's books.

Bolton defence

Bolton, in defence of their first division title in the Lancs & Cheshire League, opened up their campaign with a 10-0 win over Macclesfield the promotees from Division 2 (South). Warrington, third placed last season, were beaten 7-3 by Trafford.

Editor's note: Lancashire will be celebrating the advance of Andrea Holt towards the top end of the English senior rankings (at least in theory) after only losing two games at the Leeds-Stiga Top-12 at Farnborough. Especially satisfying for the county because it looks as though Joy Dean (née Grundy) is more into becoming a WPC than 'beating' her way into the England squad!

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

HAVING to go to Grimsby for the Vets Eastern Masters along with eight other Norfolk vets, I am throwing this together hastily. In Norwich CEYMS seem to be in their usual position of being champions even before the season really gets under way by signing on anyone who could be a threat to this ambition. We seem to have a new lady player arrived on the scene from Kent who goes straight into the county team and No. 3 in the rankings. Name of Mrs. G. Hancock is a bit formal but if she lives up to the reputation that preceded her it

will be a welcome boost for the County. Also very glad to see the return of Jeanne Reynolds who as Jeanne Brown graced the scene many years ago when she was based in Lowestoft. Both the Junior teams are in action with several new faces representing the County and I will be most interested to hear of their progress both on and off the table. Andrew Hawes for England is the cry.

Dennis Whitham of Wymondham keep in the news firstly by organising a handbook for the Wymondham League financed by the 20 or so advertisers and being minute secretary for the County committee whereby he does not miss a single comment and his rendering of the item 'minutes of the last meeting' is like reading a book. The local leagues and County should have settled down by the end of this month then I can give a more accurate report of happenings.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

THESE are early days on the local table tennis scene, with the interest engendered by the Leeds Permanent Building Society sponsorship having yet to make its impact at grass roots level.

So far it is the two Steves who make the early headlines. Steve West for a faultless double hat-trick at the St. Neots Invitation League's opening day, and Steve Brown for nine wins out of nine in Kettering League competitions, with West among his victims.

Well Connected, who carried all before them last season, have added Mark Randle, Rafe Miller and Alison Boxall to their talented squad, and should again take the honours in all three major leagues — Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough.

Enthusiasm

Their quest for more titles could be helped by the new County Performance List devised by County Match Secretary Gwil Evans, in an effort to stimulate interest and added enthusiasm throughout the county.

The trial run based on last season's Premier Division results, threw up several strange anomalies, but they didn't prevent Graeme McKim from finishing in his rightful place at No. 1, and once the initial teething troubles are sorted out, the idea could provide an accurate computer ranking list for the information of county and league selectors alike.

The County Veterans team for the opening encounter against Berkshire 1V, sees two familiar faces returning to the line-up. Ann Lenton, many times winner of county singles and doubles titles, and John Palmer, whose business interests make him a rare participant at this level. Let up hope that they, together with Keith Jones and Geoff Atkinson, swiftly celebrate the sponsorship so generously provided by Barclaycard of Northampton.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE Northumberland league season commenced on 28th September, and 87 teams will contest seven divisions. The league has been restructured this season, with the pyramid system scrapped and the new divisions being renumbered from Premier to 6. The teams come from 44 clubs, with North Shields YMCA fielding eight teams and Blaydon Youth Club turning out seven.

Northumberland will again have three County teams this season, and all were due to play their opening matches at home on 10th October. The seniors and juniors were due to entertain Staffordshire and Derbyshire II respectively at Byker CC, while the veterans met Yorkshire II at Blaydon Youth Club.

Not encouraging

The County championships are being sponsored by the Leeds Building Society this season, as is the British League, in which Byker Newcastle have again entered two teams. Early results to date, however, have not been particularly encouraging, with the first team losing their opening match at home to TSP Larkhall I by 1-7 — Eddie Smith gained an impressive victory over Percy Collino to win the only set. The second team lost 3-5 away to Kingsborough Insurance Services (Malcolm Lusk, Fred Short and Peter Whiteman 1 each) and 2-6 at home to Oldham (Short and Whiteman 1 each).

Winners

The winners and runners-up in the Tyneside Summer League were:

	Winners	Runnersup
Premier	Gateshead	North Shields YMCA 'A'
Division 1	Lemington CC 'A'	Ouston CC 'A'
Division 2	Byker CC 'C'	St. Charles 'A'
Division 3a	Ashington YMCA	DHSS 'A'
Division 3b	Mortimer Trams	North Shields YMCA 'C'
Division 4	Electric	St. Charles 'B'
Division 5	Washington 'C'	Blaydon Jokers

SUSSEX

John Woodford

ANDY WALKER, ranked No. 6 in Sussex is under-rated. The young man from Lancing in West Sussex possesses a neat all-round game that often fools his opponents whilst his fellow Sussex hard-hitters fall by the wayside.

He was the only Sussex man to reach the third round of the Stamco Sussex Open at Hastings last month, whilst the Big Guns of the county were silenced in the two preceding rounds.

Sussex managed to field all three members of the Moore family for the dreaded long trek to play Devon at Plymouth. How any team can be expected to play well after a journey that long is a mystery. The old argument is that Devon have to face 400-mile round journeys every other match.

It is understandable that Devon want to play in the slightly stronger south-eastern set-up instead of the West, but how much longer the other counties allow this to happen remains to be seen.

Devon cream

The result of the match was that Devon beat Sussex and once again become favourites to win promotion.

The first Sussex Towns Veterans event scheduled for October 25 at Southwick attracted 47 entries with Keith Horton as the No. 1 seed. Notable absentees included Robin Stace, the Sussex No. 1 and one of the most successful school coaches Andy Meads of Crawley.

Horton is to become chairman of the Sussex selectors in preparation for the impending retirement of Dennis Read. The job of match secretary for the county championships will become vacant at the end of the season.

STOP PRESS

Sussex Town Veterans Tournament Results:

Over 40 MS: R. Penfold bt K. Horton 20, -18, 19. WS B. Bayford bt P. Steel 12, -18, 14. Over 50 MS: J. Hughes bt D. Mammone 19, 12. Over 60 MS: D. Rhodes bt J. West 19, -23, 14. Over 40 MD: M. Watts and C. Monson bt Horton and K. Jackson 10, 15.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

PRIDE of place must go to the girls with the name of six players from Shropshire ranked in the August national lists at either cadet or junior level, take a bow the Grove sextet of Gail Ottolini, Sarah Creasey, Liz Creasey, Clare Hand, Sasha Talbot and Clair Marshall. Meanwhile David Morris dominates the county junior scene on the boys side and merits the high national ranking he has gained, the ever reliable Grove player has reached the latter stages of every tournament entered this season and has been a tower of strength for Grove's second team in the British league. *(contd in next column)*

Grove veteran Maurice Alcock continues to be the scourge of Grove's monthly graded singles tournaments emerging yet again with pimped rubber bat it had to win the H & E Scaffolding Elite Grade event in September. The monthly tournament proves to be outstandingly successful and possibly there are lessons to be learned for the national scene, revolutionary perhaps that there are no age groups and all can play from junior and senior internationals to absolute novices of all ages. In outline there are six grades, elite followed by A to E in each grade players are drawn into groups of five, the top two qualify for the knock out whilst third and fourth play in the consolation with the fifth eliminated; points are awarded as followed, one point for each place in the group (i.e. 1st 5pts, 2nd 4pts etc) plus ten points for a semi finalist loser, thirty points for runner-up and sixty points for the grade winner with the consolation winner awarded ten points. The tournament is run by computer which miraculously produces the draw, match sheets, scorecards and promotes players to the next highest grade on gaining sixty points; the only relegation is from the Elite to Grade A where in elite the top ten players who enter on the grading scheme are eligible. The success is seen in the continual monthly entry of ninety players plus on sixteen to eighteen tables with the seven year olds battling as hard as the start of the elite for a coveted trophy to take proudly to the headmaster for presentation on Monday morning. The aim is table tennis for all and many matches in an afternoon, if you want to play phone Sue Marshall on Market Drayton 3602.

tor. — Bill and Penny Pigram on their splendid organisation of the H & E Scaffolding Grove School Junior Open. — Pontesbury Table Tennis Club on increasing the interest in the sport with their extremely popular weekly event on a Friday night. — Grove's John Edge the master of the N.M.W. Computer and the production of monthly ranking lists which create more interest.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

WORCESTERSHIRE'S two top junior girls, Nicola Jones & Jane McLean, started the season well in their first open tournament, winning the Girls Doubles in the Coventry Junior One Star, defeating Kate Ryan & Clare Pritchard of Warwickshire in the final. Jane also reached the singles final, losing narrowly in the third game.

In the Woodfield One Star Open at Wolverhampton, County No. 3 Mandy Mytton had a good tournament, winning the Ladies Doubles with Warks Sandra Peakman, and losing the Singles final to Staffs Helen Lower, having earlier beaten County No. 1 Sandra Roden in the semi-final.

Evergreen veteran Mervyn Wood won the Veterans Singles, beating Eddie Griffiths in the final and Trevor Washington and Steve Dunning won the Mens Doubles final from Phil Gunn and Matt Harvey.

County No. 1 Cadet Lee Horton completed a successful weekend for Worcs players by winning the Cadet Boys Title to record his first ever victory in an open tournament.

Nice to see

A good entry has been received for the County League, with Bromsgrove, Evesham, Dudley, Malvern, and Worcester all entering one team each, and Kidderminster two. Nice to see all the leagues within the County supporting this event. First round of matches are due to be played by 16th November.

The County Selection Committee have issued the following senior ranking lists prior to the first County Championship matches:

Veteran Women

1. J. Hunt
2. L. Reid
3. B. Jukes
4. S. Hembury
5. B. Shannon
6. V. Royal

(contd on page 25)



Sally Weston



Phil Smith

Hotbed

Although there are still no county teams from Shropshire, table tennis continues to flourish especially in the hotbed of Market Drayton but congratulations to all for their efforts especially to: Telford's ever faithful Holding family challenging at the top of the Shropshire Star 1st Division of the County League alongside Pontesbury's duo of Ian Baker and Darrell Carfield. — Welshman Phil Jones victor in September's H & E Scaffolding Grade A singles. — Grove's irrepressible Sarah Greasey the winner of the Talbot Hotel Grade B event. — Grove's never say die Tracey Ganatt the Rainbow Flowers Grade C winner. — Telford's enthusiastic Steve Gill the Roofrite Grade D champion. — Young Grove boy James Rowlett the Coverwell Insurance Grade E vic-

County notes 5

(contd from page 24)

Men

1. M. Jukes
2. M. Green
3. T. Washington
4. J. Duffield
5. M. Roden
6. K. Walton
7. S. Claxton
8. P. Garner
9. K. Chan
10. W. Ahearn
11. M. Brookes
12. R. Pratley
13. L. Siket
14. M. Fiddian
15. P. Baker

Women

1. S. Roden
2. L. Davis
3. M. Mytton
4. L. Reid
5. J. Hunt
6. H. Pogmore
7. A. Westwood
8. S. Meredith
9. W. Baggott
10. B. Jukes
11. L. Davies

Veteran Men

1. R. Norton
2. M. Wood
3. R. Dixon
4. J. Stafford
5. B. Thompson
6. M. Dicks
7. K. Firkins

SAD NEWS from Hull where the Premier Division lost one of its most popular and respected competitors with the sudden and untimely death of Ron Jackson.

Regular since 11

A regular player in the Hull League since the age of eleven, Ron won a Junior International 'cap' against Wales in 1953/4, and has since represented the County at both Senior and Veteran level.

The real memory of Ron that will live on, however, both in the city and throughout the county, is that of a true sportsman and a real gentleman who had no enemies, only good friends.

Press man

The Bradford A.G.M. showed their appreciation of the long and dedicated service to table tennis of press man Malcolm Hartley who, towards the close of last season, had to lay down his pen as he cut down his many commitments in the interests of his health.

Malcolm was presented with a silver salver and elected as a Life Member of the Association.

Dewsbury, at their A.G.M., said goodbye to long service

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

General Secretary Bevan Walker who, in his 15 years in the office, has maintained the town's status in Yorkshire table tennis despite the counter-attractions of the big city leagues of Leeds and Bradford a bus ride down the road.

His other major contribution was in the field of coaching and progression of junior talent, and his outstanding ability has been amply demonstrated at national level in the success of the Yorkshire junior sides, of which he was non-playing captain, in recent years.

His retirement was marked by the presentation of a portrait by the E.C. of the League, a further honour to add to the League President's Award which he received in 1985.

Third of the close season honours went to Doncaster Treasurer Geoff Godfrey, recipient of the E.T.T.A. Merit parchment from Chairman Ken Ford.

A player in the Oldham, Mansfield and Doncaster Leagues, the ambidextrous Geoff puzzled many an opponent by a quick switch from left to right hand

until failing health led to retirement, but he maintained his 55 year association with the sport on the admin. side. By profession a banker, he served first Mansfield and then Doncaster for over forty years as a Treasurer.

Back at Bradford, long service General Secretary Arthur Bowers tells me that the close season Youth Tournament staged at the Hermits Club is growing ever more popular. Born some 13 years ago as a 'competitive practice' event for the young enthusiasts in the club, it has expanded rapidly and is now open to youngsters in other clubs and in the schools.

With a number of events barred to established players and intended for those in the schools, the Youth Clubs and the lowest divisions of the league, Arthur will need expanding walls to cope with an ever increasing entry.

This year over 40 players competed for trophies valued at over £700 — a far cry from the modest £10 at stake thirteen years ago! — and so well did the youngsters organise themselves on the four tables in continuous use, that finals were able to get under way half an hour early.

This is real grass roots table tennis. Well done, Arthur.

Sweden prepares for Paris — the new national squad's first picture



☆

This is a new photograph of the 1988 Swedish national squad, sponsored by Stiga and Sparbanken. These are the seven young men who will it is expected be the Swedish team for the European Championships in Paris from 19-26 March. Left to right: Ulf Carlsson, Thomas von Scheele, Jan-Ove Waldner, Erik Lindh, Jorgen Persson, Mikael Appelgren, Ulf Bengtsson.

☆

Shropshire Star Shield

by DARRELL CORFIELD

WITH the new season upon us, the 1986-87 season came to a conclusion in Shropshire, when Pontesbury held their annual Under 12 and Cadet team Tournament, which took place at the Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on 5 and 6 June.

Dagenham made it a weekend to remember by becoming the first team to record a double victory by virtue of superb performances in both classes.

Pride of place must also go to 11-year-old Andrew Nicholls (Selby) who completed a 4th unbeaten visit to Pontesbury, a great achievement in such a high class tournament.

The Under-12 tournament saw holders Selby, going for a unique treble, struggle in their group before going down to Shropshire side Grove by 5-3, to leave them with little hope of retaining the title. Dagenham qualified for the final stages with convincing wins in their group. Also qualifying for the final stages were home side Pontesbury going for a first win in their local tournament.

The final stages saw Dagenham beat Selby 6-2, Nicholls winning his two for Selby, and then demolish Grove by 8-0 to record a fine tournament victory. Finishing a good second were Pontesbury who defeated local rivals Grove 5-3, and then beat a despondent Selby. Grove made it a good day for Shropshire by finishing third.

Sunday saw 12 teams lining up for the Cadet tournament including newcomers Maidenhead.

The two top seeded teams Selby with Craig Smith and Ellen Meddings at 1 and 2, and Dagenham led by top England Cadet Grant Solder progressing to the final stages with no problems.

But the third spot in the final was much more closely fought with a very impressive St. Ives finally going through after hard fought matches with Wrexham and Maidenhead.

But St. Ives found it difficult in the final stages and were comprehensively beaten 8-0 by both Selby and Dagenham.

This left Dagenham and Selby to battle it out to decide the winners. A very close and exciting final took place with Solder and Tanya Fasanya winning two games each for Dagenham and Nicholls doing likewise for Selby, this left the match to be decided on the doubles, which saw the Solder/Fasanya combination score a close 2 set win from Smith/Meddings to give Dagenham their first cadet win at Pontesbury in five attempts.

Before the awards were presented by Shropshire County Coach Ian Marshall, the organiser John Morris paid a special tribute to all the players and coaches who combined together to bring such an enjoyable tournament to its conclusion exactly at the scheduled time.

PREAN BLASTS GRUBBA AT POLISH OPEN . . .



CARL PREAN and Alan Cooke lifted England's morale sky-high in Lodz at the Polish Open on 23 and 24 October and when they reached the men's team final after crushing Czechoslovakia 3-1, Poland 3-0 and West Germany 3-0. This astounding result over Poland's seeded team of Grubba and Kucharski included a 21-19, 21-19 win by Prean over Grubba and a 21-15, 21-17 knockout blow by Cooke over Kucharski and then England took the doubles, in the second round clash. This is the first time I can immediately recall that such an amazing result has been achieved by England without Desmond Douglas and it is against the European League Super division champions, Poland, who would have been seeded No. 2 on this occasion and it is expected will be seeded second in Paris to Sweden who beat England 3-0 in the Lodz final round. What might happen is that England will be seeded third or fourth in Paris — with Desmond Douglas in the side and with Prean and Cooke showing this form, what else can happen? — J.W.

ETTA STATEMENT

DESMOND DOUGLAS has been fined for a breach of contract. The ETTA has imposed a fine of £833 for failing to play in an event which formed part of his contract with the Association. Under the terms of his three-year contract Douglas should have played in the Leeds-Stiga Top-12 held at Farnborough from 16-18 October.

As a protest against the experimental 11-up scoring system being used for the event Douglas announced that he would not play.

ETTA Chief Executive Ted Wallbutton said 'Table Tennis is in the process of becoming much more professional. The past few months have seen the entry of major sponsors, increased TV coverage and higher prize money for players. The management committee were particularly concerned that this action by our leading player could well impact badly on this hard-won progress. We believe that a player of Douglas's experience should be setting an example of professionalism and discipline to younger players rather than committing a serious breach of his contractual obligations.'

'We will be having immediate discussions with Douglas to ensure that any further problems regarding his contract be ironed-out immediately so that the maximum benefit may result for the player, the Association and the sport.'

The sum of £833 represents his monthly fee for November.

FESTIVE SEASON REMINDER



PUBLISHING on time for the next two issues of this magazine is obviously threatened by the Christmas and New Year holidays. But, it is possible that the printers can keep any delays to a minimum providing that our contributors send copy as quickly as possible. So, copy please before the normal deadlines when possible over the next two issues.

North Wales, European invitations

NORTH WALES COUNTIES TTA

by C. T. BAYLISS

Wrexham & District Table Tennis League:

The Round One ties in the Godfrey Parry Cup saw some shock results with the exit of Telecoms/A and also Griflex both being the finalists in last season's competition. Griflex could only field two players in their match with Caergwrlle BB/A who ran out winners on the night thanks to two wins from Peter Williams and one win from Bernie Carter.

Telecoms failed to turn up for their match with Llay RBL/A and so forfeited the match.

In an all second division clash McAlpine Quarries/C gained a narrow 5-4 victory over Telecoms/C, Bob Williams and Geoff Connor were the men in form for the Quarrymen winning three and two games respectively while Graham Jones tried hard to rally the Telecom side to no avail.

McAlpine Quarry/A must be one of the favourites after their easy 7-3 win over their Junior B side.

Wrexham-Victoria/B defeated Wrexham Old Boys/C thanks to a 5-4 win with wins from Karen Buckle and Nicky Crump. For the losers Natasha Williams won her three singles.

Brian Hall stood out for Gresford/B in their 6-3 win away to the Wrexham OB/D with Hall winning his three and well supported by Jim Pepper (two wins).

First Division McAlpine Quarries/B scraped home 5-4 over a two man Llay RBL/B for whom Gwilym Jones won all his games, one win each from Meirion Jones and Dennis Pryde was enough for the Quarrymen.

Wrexham Old Boys/A team were much too strong and experienced for the McAlpine Juniors/A side with hat tricks from Roy Williams, Jack Loynes and Les Morris in their 9-0 away win. It was nice to see Jack Loynes back playing after his lay off due to illness.

In the League programme in Division One, Metal Box/A (Gresford) are in the leadership position, leading Llay Royal British Legion/A by just one point having however played a match more than the Legion side. Malpas are also tied on the same number of points with Llay RBL.

Old Boys

In Division Two Caergwrlle BB/B are on top with Metal Box/B second and in third place just two points behind are Wrexham Old Boys/C.

In the Division Three Wrexham Old Boys/D are leading by three points their fellow club side Wrexham Old Boys/E with a much improved Wrexham Lager side in third place also on the same number of points with Old Boys 'E' team.

East Flintshire Table Tennis League:

Sealand Youth Club/A side have won only their second league match in three seasons, and they did it with a player short.

Their rare victims were the C team of Castell Alun whose young players Lesley Clutton, Nicola Guise and Clare Watkins the products of the League's coaching clinics found Sealand's Sylvia Heath and Tracy McKeown too experienced. Losing every game played in Sealand's 7-3 win, their last win was during the 1985-86 season.

BSC Shotton/B so far unbeaten in Div 2 maintained their 100% record when they beat Caergwrlle BB's second team 6-4 in the D. R. Ledgard Challenge Cup Round One. Their star player was Ivor Griffiths who won his three singles and also took the Doubles with Jeff Jones.

League newcomers RAF Sealand who are also unbeaten so far in Div 3 progressed into Round Two with a 6-4 win over Harwarden/C with Tim Duffy winning all his singles.

Chester & District Table Tennis League:

With the withdrawal of British Aerospace and North West District, the Chester League are now down to a reduced 18 teams.

So for the 1987/88 season which recently started the League has been divided into three divisions of six teams in each who will play each other four times.

The League are still anxious to encourage young players and will start coaching sessions if interest is shown.

Oswestry & District Table Tennis League:

The 52nd season of the Oswestry Table Tennis League which this season consists of 22 teams is now under way.

In Division One, which has ten teams, Division Two runners-up Halex 2-stars had an excellent start with a shock win 6-4 over Welsh Frankton/A Richard Morrey won two singles for the Halex side.

Ellesmere got away to a 10-0 win against a weakened Wrexham/A with Ricky Harris, Allan Roberts and Brian Wilson

winning their singles.

In Div 2 BG&G drew 5-5 with a much strengthened Park Hall side, Graham Evans was in good form winning two singles also Brian Roberts also winning two for the BG&G side. The Park sides new signing Cris Kilert won his three singles for Park Hall and with Ken Salisbury won the Doubles to level the match.

Bell Y team recorded their first win in Div 2, with a 6-4 win over Wrexham/B, Bob Wilson won his three and Bill Jones two, for the Bell Arthur Walker was unlucky to not win more than his one for Wrexham.

Rhuddlan Table Tennis Club

The Rhuddlan Table Tennis Club has commenced its playing season with eight teams in Section 'A' and also eight teams in Section 'B' and seven teams in the School section.

Teams will once again be two-a-side played in the Davis Cup system with each player being given a handicap.

The first tournament of the season was played in the School section at Ysgol-Y-Castell, Rhuddlan with the following players being the winners.

Boys Singles — Mark Billington winner, with Mark Russell runner-up.

Girls Singles — Joanne Bastin winner, with Lyndsey Mellor runner-up.

Swansea Open Tournament

Natasha Williams from Prestatyn was the only girl in the U/12 Plus Singles winning this event with a finals win over Rhys Morgan.

Natasha also won the Girls Cadet Singles beating Susan Lees from Rossett in Clwyd, Susan reached the Junior Girls final, losing however to Sian Evans.

Grove 2-Star Junior Open

Spencer Harris from Wrexham reached the semi-final of the Junior Boys singles.

Natasha Williams won the under 12 girls singles with a hard earned victory against Nicola Deaton.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS ...

CONSTRUCTING this magazine almost single-handed, the one thing I have not got the time to do is typing out results from photostats of draw sheets. Would all tournament organisers or press officers please assist by sending in typewritten reports, not too lengthy accompanied by results of finals in the usual style, eg, Cooke b Douglas, 19, -18, 20. Please note — down Lambeth Way! J.W.

WORLD CHAMPION NOW THE ITTF PRESIDENT

IT IS possible that to have a former world champion as president of the International Table Tennis Federation could lead to an improvement in relationships between players and officials.

Ichiro Ogimura was born in 1932, and before he graduated from Nihon University he started to play table tennis at the age of sixteen. In 1954 he became World Champion and subsequently gained twelve world titles.

He has coached in over twenty countries and has been a member of the ITTF Council since the 1970s and deputy president of the ITTF since 1979. He has been a member of the Japan Olympic Committee since 1984 and is on the Board of Directors of Japan Sports Federation.

THE INVITATION LIST FOR EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOP-12

CONTANTZA, RUMANIA, 9/10 APRIL 1988

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 Cioca, Daniel (Rum)
- 2 Mazunov, Dmitrij (URS)
- 3 Vardanian, Samvel (URS)
- 4 Torsell, Patrick (Swe)
- 5 Creanga, Calin (Rom)
- 6 SYED, MATHEW (ENG)
- 7 Nemeth, Karoly (Hun)
- 8 Korbel, Petr (Hun)
- 9 Mihocko, Vladimir (Tch)
- 10 Franz, Peter (FRG)

CADETS

- 11 Grujoc, Slobodan (Yug)
- 12 Noskov (URS)

RESERVES

- 13 Kadiri, Kayodi (Swe)
- 14 Van Haren, Bert (Hol)
- 15 O'DRISCOLL, MICHAEL (ENG)
- 16 Smrekar, Robert (Yug)
- 17 Saive, Philippe (Bel)
- 18 BILLINGTON, BRADLEY (ENG)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 Badescu (Rum)
- 2 Fazlic, Jasna (Yug)
- 3 Wirth, Gabriella (Hun)
- 4 Chvatalova, Renata (Tch)
- 5 Frelih, Polona (Yug)
- 6 Ciosu, Emilia (Rum)
- 7 Svensson, Asa (Swe)
- 8 Vitcheva, Katalina (Bul)
- 9 Mihockova, Jaroslava (Tch)
- 10 Medvedeva, Tatiana (URS)

CADETS

- 11 Wirth, Veronika (Hun)
- 12 Nastase, Adriana (Rum)

RESERVES

- 13 HOLT, ANDREA (ENG)
- 14 Struse, Nicole (FRG)
- 15 Billens, Ela (Bel)
- 16 Cheler, Anca (Rum)
- 17 Hegedus, Agnes (Hun)
- 18 Arisi, Alessia (Ita)

WILTSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Satchell halts Souter and Hannah — the shocks at Swindon!

WILTSHIRE'S top table tennis player Kevin Satchell saved up the best performance of his life for his home crowd. Satchell blazed his way through a galaxy of star players to reach the final of the Bath Road Garage Wiltshire Two-Star Open tournament at Swindon.

Kevin produced a brilliant display to oust top seed David Hannah, the Scottish number one, in the quarter final.

Next on Kevin's hit list was John Souter, the England number six and holder of the title. Again Kevin found the power and accuracy for victory.

'Best ever'

'That was the best I have ever played in my life', said the modest Satchell after blitzing Souter in straight games.

But the England number 12 could not keep his high going for three matches in a row and in the final found himself on the end of a tousing from Jimmy Stokes. Kevin's super form earned him the £100 runners-up prize — the winner pcketed £200 — and valuable ranking points. It also won him the Bath Road Garage Shield for the best performance by a Wiltshire player.

Wooding seeded

Another great performance from a Wiltshire player came from Brian Powell of Swindon in the veterans' singles. In his first match he knocked out Graham Chapman but Brian saved up his best performance to knock out number four seed Les Wooding.

Lost in final

Brian was put out in the semi-finals by Derek Schofield of Stockport. Schofield lost in the final against former European champion John Hilton of Manchester.

Number two seed Mandy Sainsbury took full advantage when the favourite, Alison Gor-

don of Reading, pulled out of the singles because of an arm injury.

Mandy pierced the strong defence of Carol Giles of Plymouth to win the final in straight games.

The only players to retain their titles were Souter and Colin Wilson of Cuffley who won the men's doubles final against Tony Taylor of Manchester and Glen Baker of Guildford.

Consolation

Alison Gordon gained some consolation after having to pull out of the singles when she and Jean Parker of Preston scraped home against Jill Harris (Walsall) and Jane Barella (Surbiton) in the final of the women's doubles.

Trophies were presented by Jeffrey Groombridge, senior partner of Bath Road Garage, and Percy Gerrish, the general manager.

THE RESULTS

Men's singles, semi-finals: Jimmy Stokes (Reading) beat Paul Whiting (Plymouth) 12, 15; Kevin Satchell beat John Souter (Neasden) 16, 14. Final: Stokes beat Satchell 10, 12.

Women's singles, semi-finals: Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury) beat Jill Harris (Walsall) 20, 24; Carol Giles (Plymouth) beat Helen Lower (Wolverhampton) 16, 19. Final: Miss Sainsbury beat Miss Giles 18, 16.

Veterans' singles, final: Hilton beat Schofield 8, 14.

Men's doubles, final: Souter and Wilson beat Taylor and Baker -12, 16, 13.

Women's doubles, final: Miss Gordon and Miss Parker beat Miss Harris and Miss Barella 20, 19.



Alan Cooke, the England 2 in action.

10,000 STUDENTS

THE number of student coaches registered since the start of the National Coaching Scheme has reached the high 9,900s and a free registration awaits the 10,000th student. So, if you are contemplating taking up coaching now is the time to

register and you may have the pleasant surprise of a returned cheque.

Student Coach registration forms can be obtained from the Coaching Administrator at the ETTA office at Hastings.



Alf Peppard TTN Correspondent for Gloucester is moving house!

A purpose-built project in Sussex

A PERMANENT TT HALL AT HORSHAM

by IVAN STEVENS

IN MARCH the Horsham Table Tennis Club moved into a brand new hall, specially designed for table tennis. This was the culmination of months of planning and close co-operation with the local authority, Horsham District Council. The move also represented the achievement of the table tennis club's aspirations, to have a permanent 'home' in purpose-built premises.

The Eddie Miller Table Tennis Hall (named after a former district councillor who was the club's president when he died at the age of 61 in 1985) is a superb 17 x 12 metre building with a semi-sprung maple floor and the latest halogen lighting. The playing conditions are excellent.

The hall is part of a larger sports complex, the Broadbridge Heath Sports Centre, just a mile to the west of Horsham. There are good communications in all directions, to Crawley, Gatwick Airport and London to the north; to Guildford and the west; and the south coast, which is about 20 miles away.

How did the Eddie Miller Hall come to be built? The answer lies in working with the local council, keeping in touch, and reminding them whenever possible of your existence. It can take a long time — but persevere!

At first, only the remaining clubs in huts on the site were included in the plans for the new centre. But a timely reminder from the Horsham club meant that a table tennis hall would be provided as well.

British League

The Leeds British League side, Dolphins, now playing as Horsham Dolphins, and in association with Horsham TTC, have made the Broadbridge Heath centre their home.

As discussions with the Council on taking a full lease of the Hall proceeded, David Richardson, club chairman, gave this view: "Keep in contact with your local council, and make sure you feature in their plans. Don't let them forget you!"

And he added, that whilst finance was always a problem, opportunities had to be grasped. "We really need a sponsor, or direct support from the ETTA, so that we can develop".

Consultation

Then there were problems of consultation between the club and the Council over design of the new hall. But again the Council responded positively when the club made representations.

After that there was the closest possible liaison between the Council and Horsham TTC. The new hall was built to English Table Tennis specifications, and is even painted in one of the recommended ETTA colours — British standard blue!

Huge crowd

Thousands of people visited the club on 12 April this year, when Olympic athlete David Moorcroft opened the new sports complex, which contains an athletics track, badminton hall, sports pitches and all-weather multi-sports areas, plus fitness training area and an indoor synthetic track. As well as being 'home' for Horsham TTC the Eddie Miller Hall is being used as an ETTA Advanced Training Centre, with local coach Dave Berriman working closely with Nicky Jarvis, the ETTA National Coach. There is the possibility that a Centre of Excellence can be established.



Five tables in action at the new Horsham Table Tennis Club in Sussex. The club has a permanent hall, part of a new sports complex at Broadbridge Heath, built in collaboration with an adjacent new Tesco superstore.

350 JUNIORS AT TEAM EVENT

by DAVID DELLER

The third St Ives Inter Club Tournament took place over the weekend of 26-27 September at St Ivo Recreation Centre, Cambridgeshire. The three events for teams of under-12, cadets and juniors lasted over 20 hours, had 72 club sides from 20 counties, and over 350 youngsters registering for the weekends tournament which was played on 16 tables.

The Sharp sponsored Cadet team event had 32 teams and some fine matches. Sturges of Selby represented by Ellen Meddings, Karl Horsfield and Andrew Nicholls won the final, with a 2-1 victory over last years under-12 winners Blydon of Northumberland. Ellen Meddings defeated Steven Coverdale 21-11, 21-16, before Barry Forster brought the scores level by ousting Karl Horsfield in two. Andrew Nicholls made certain of a Yorkshire victory by overhauling Philip Robson in the final match. In the play off for 3rd and 4th place Fellows-Cranleigh well-aid by Linda Radford defeated the home club 2-1, for whom Paul Richards defeated John West. Final positions in the Sharp Cadet team event, which also had sponsorship support from St Ives TV and Video Centre were: 1st Sturges; 2nd Blydon; 3rd Fellows-Cranleigh; 4th St Ives; 5th Lowestoft; 6th Edison (Hornsey); 7th York; 8th Bedford; 9th Wrexham; 10th St Ives; 11th Chelmsford; 12th March; 13th Chelmsford 2; 14th Woburn Sands; 15th Grantham; 16th Leamington; 17th Brentwood; 18th St Neots; 19th Woodford; 20th St Ivo; 21st

Newport Pagnell; 22nd March; 23rd Central Y (Middx); 24th Woburn; 25th Bloxham; 26th Woodford Wells; 27th St Neots; 28th Woodford Wells 2; 29th Bow; 30th Peterborough; 31st Huntingdon; 32nd Maidenhead.

Fine match

The Hillson & Twigden Junior event saw Fellows-Cranleigh taking the title for the second year running beating Edison in a fine match, in which Tommy Cutler's three set win over Grant Solder was outstanding. The Essex team won 2-1. In the play off for 3rd and 4th place Sheffield beat Sturges. Final positions in the junior competition were 1st Fellows-Cranleigh; 2nd Edison; 3rd Sheffield; 4th Sturges (Selby); 5th Chelmsford; 6th Taverham; 7th Foxwood Norwich; 8th St Neots; 9th St Ives; 10th Bedford; 11th Woburn Sands; 12th Grantham; 13th SC Oxstall (Gloucester); 14th Lowestoft; 15th Brentwood; 16th March; 17th St Ives 2; 18th Woodford Wells; 19th Chelmsford; 20th Queen Mothers TTC; 21st York; 22nd Edison 2; 23rd City of London; 24th Norman Centre (Norfolk).

Pub demolished

Horsham Table Tennis Club is in its 49th year. It started playing in 1938 in a room of a former public house, now demolished. Later it played in an old community hall in Horsham. But in the late 1960s that too became due for demolition.

After that, the club became gypsies, wandering from one venue to another.

In 1979 came another blow. The District Council was demolishing huts to make way for a planned sports complex on the site. Horsham TTC had to move yet again — this time to use a school dining hall, four evenings per week, with coaching periods at weekends. But there was hope of moving back to Broadbridge Heath when the sports development took place.

The years passed. The club held a public meeting to see whether it should go it alone, and look for its own premises. But cash was a problem.

Then, in 1985, came news of a deal between the District Council and Tesco Stores. Tesco's wanted to build a superstore on part of the old army camp site, and would provide the District Council with a sports centre.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY AT LEEDS CENTRE

'CARRY on the good work.' That is the message being given to the outstanding youngsters now attending the Yorkshire and Humberside Centre for Table Tennis Excellence based in Leeds.

The Centre, which celebrated its tenth anniversary at the start of this year, has been the 'grooming' base for several of England's leading boys and girls.

A total of 21 gold, 13 silver and four bronze medals have been carried off by Centre players in National Competitions plus a further 34 medals at international level.

Head coach Hans Soova and his assistant, Sylvia Broadbent, have been at the Centre since it was established in 1977 at Moor Grange School.

Switched

The headquarters have recently switched to Farnley Park High School (formerly Harrington HS) where Hans and Sylvia are now twice a week preparing youngsters for another season of major events.

Hans says: 'We organise the Centre to be on stage from England training camps. After warm-up sessions, we continue with coaching leading to match practice and physical training. When

our players progress to an England training camp, they are not strangers to the routine.'

Players are sent to the Leeds Centre from feeder squads in Leeds, Hull, Sheffield and North Yorkshire.

'Pilot' Scheme

Hans is grateful for the equipment and sponsorship received by Butterfly UK and is warm in his praise of Cyril Villiers, a long-time table tennis player and support who, as the regional director of the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, was a key figure in starting the Centre as a 'pilot' scheme. Other such centres have since been formed.

One of the proudest moments for the Leeds Centre came last July when Michael O'Driscoll, of Mirfield, and Sheffield's Chris Oldfield won the European cadet team event gold medal in the European Championships in Belgium.

Michael is a cadet, junior and senior international while Chris is a junior international.

In the early days of the Leeds Centre, Melody Hill Ludi struck gold at the Commonwealth Championships and Sally Midgeley Shutt won a gold medal at the Schools' World Championships in Turkey. Both gained junior and senior international honours.

Twelve England internationals have been produced by the Centre at cadet, junior and senior

level and ten players have reached the top of the National rankings list.

Yorkshire has also benefited from the Centre, with four county junior premier championship titles and one runner-up spot in five years.

Almost all the players in these sides have been connected with or are still members of the Leeds Centre.

Bradford reaping reward

The Bradford Investments team in the Leeds British Table Tennis League are reaping rewards for winning the 2nd Division North Championships.

This season 1987-88 the sponsor 'Bradford Investments Plc' Mr Henry Hall from his Bradford head office agreed to continue sponsoring the team for the second season. He was very happy with the team's performance. Mr Hall likes to support sport and youth. The Bradford Investments Plc, has branches in many major cities in England. As the team manager, this is marvellous news, I am delighted I am going to continue with our youth and experience policy, as last season.

Without Bradford Investments' support last season we would not

have won promotion. The new sponsorship will give us a good chance to compete with the best in the 1st Division next season. In three seasons we have won Division 3 and Division 2 championships.

The Key to Bradford Investments two championship wins in three seasons is loyalty. Despite numerous offers to our key players, Steven Sharpe, Michael O'Driscoll, Mark Ward, Steven Worsman, they stayed to play with Bradford Investments.



Eleven bright young table tennis players line-up in our picture above with their coaches — Hans Soova and Sylvia Broadbent. They attend the Yorkshire and Humberside Centre for Table Tennis Excellence, based in Leeds. Next to Hans on the back row (left to right) are: Michael O'Driscoll, aged 15, of Mirfield; Mark Stephenson, 14, of Halifax; Andrew Boothroyd, 14, of Huddersfield; Mark Vickers, 13, of Bradford; Andrew Horsfield, 12, of Sheffield; and Mark Ward, 16, of Sheffield. In front are (left to right): Craig Smith, 15, of Selby; Andrew Nicholls, 11, of Selby; Debbie Toole, 15, of Normanton; Joanne Keighly, 13, of Bradford; and Martin Dawson, 12, of Sheffield. Another member of the Centre training group is Ellen Meddings, 13, of Harrogate.

Ogimura — a quick change man?

by JOHN WOODFORD and RICHARD EATON

CHANGE is an inevitable part of the pattern of life. That has become apparent in the past 18 months in table tennis — the rise to power of John Prean in England and a similar ascendancy at the ITTF for Ichiro Ogimura, the new president.

Mr Ogimura said recently, 'Change can be brought about more quickly and effectively in the future'. He makes it clear that the sport is ready for changes, although whether that goes as far as changing the scoring system is a matter for a huge question mark.

In the past there has been insufficient discussion between ITTF and key Associations or Continental Federations before rule changes are proposed', he says. 'What should happen is that for a year or two we must investigate in which direction we must develop, and then consult to see if agreement can be reached on what rule changes should be brought forward to the Biennial General Meeting. Then, at the meeting itself, the argument may be more constructive since everyone will have thought about the factors involved and will be prepared to come and

debate the matter rather than just coming to vote.

'For example, the interests of penholder players were forgotten when the rule about rubber colours was changed. As they use only one side of the bat, why must the colour of the other rubber be restricted? This argument was raised after the very quick decision without much discussion at the BGM in Sweden in 1985. It often happens that a quick decision without discussion may have failed to take some important factor into account.'

The most important meeting before the next BGM is the Council Meeting in Riyadh next March. Before that there is a meeting of the Management Committee in Seoul at the end of November when the development plans will be first considered.

And even before this, members of ITTF sub-committees — Equipment,

Rules, Technical, Press and Publicity — will be discussing all these problems between themselves. In addition, Mr Ogimura has set up three working groups all of whom have a wide spread of members who will correspond with each other on their

allotted topics. One of these groups in particular, the working group on development, is especially concerned with the kind of consultation Mr Ogimura has talked about collecting the opinions of member-Associations on all aspects of future ITTF policy.



Ichiro Ogimura

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Coaching, here and in Germany

Aston Clinton School of Sport

by MIKE PRIOR

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE held its most successful School of Sport recently when 27 youngsters spent the week at the Green Park centre at Aston Clinton.

Fiona Elliot and John Souter assisted David Fairholm in his last official duty.

This event is proving very popular and extremely enjoyable and reflects the growing strength and depth of talent emerging in the county.

The Green Park centre is ideal for the event and our thanks go to the staff who made us all so welcome. Although the days were spent on the top class tables, supplied by Jarvis Sports, the swimming pool, tennis courts and putting course also proved very popular in the relaxation periods. I'm sure John will be remembered for his early morning runs through the woods — not enjoyed quite so much by all the lads!

During the evenings videos and presentations by the coaches kept everyone busy. Local coaches, Ken Muhr, Neil Riddy, Roger Clark and Mike Prior assisted the professionals and joined in the fun.

With such a good spirit built up with the group, it is hoped to get them all back together for a follow-up event over the Christmas break.



The Saarbrücken Coach



A NEW CENTRE FOR COACHING

ENGLAND's squad have visited the Chelsea College of Human Movement at Eastbourne on two occasions for pre-season mental and physical tune-ups in 1985 and 1986.

They went to Chichester in 1987 but the new principal of the newly opened National Coaching Centre at Eastbourne Mr Roger Neuss said recently, 'We would like the England table tennis team back here in 1988.'

The new Coaching Centre coaches coaches from beginners to experts in all sports. The facilities are enormous and costs are not high.

Some 500 people attended the opening day on 1 October, with several table tennis people present including myself and Adrian Gudrum from the Hastings Sports Council. Some 50 sports were represented.

Amongst the guests at the launch was the British Olympic hurdling medallist David Hemery.

Amongst the advantages enjoyed by Carl Prean in West Germany is that Stellan Bengtsson the former world champion from Sweden is the club coach for Saarbrücken. Bengtsson is of course, still a player of considerable strength. The advantages of being coached by such a respected figure and such a player as Bengtsson are crystal clear.

Irish Table Tennis for Sebastian Coe!



Soon after returning from the world championships in New Delhi, Don Parker joined his wife Jill in Ulster for a coaching course at Old Bushmills in Ulster. One of the visitors to the course was the British Olympic athlete Sebastian Coe seen here receiving advice from the England captain. Old Bushmills is an International Sports Academy by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland.



Shortly after the British runner was scorching round the table returning shots from Jill Parker. Arrangements for the course were in the hands of the Irish TTA's Director of coaching Alan Strong who reported that the course was much appreciated. He said 'Please convey the message that all is not bad in Northern Ireland and that further courses will benefit table tennis.'

Success needs a good 'foundation'

by BARRY JOHNSON

FLYING for the first time and competing in a foreign open event for the first time were among the new experiences during the summer when the Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation competed in the 4th Luxembourg International Junior Open.

The team of Kathy Goodall, Helen Potts, Joanne Roberts, Barry Forster, Garry Knights and John Holland, with captains Sylvia Broadbent and myself, plus Barry's mentor Brian Thompson, assembled at Heathrow Airport on the morning of Friday, 19 June. Apprehension was in the air, not only due to thoughts of playing in a foreign Open, but because it was also the first experience of flying for some of the team!

Fortunately the take-off, flight and landing all went smoothly. We were met at Luxembourg Airport by Patrick Goetzinger, a former Luxembourg International and son of the tournament organiser, and Jeannot Schmit, our courier throughout the tournament. The party was driven to the 'Institut National des Sports' that was to be our HQ during the stay, as well as the Tournament venue. The INS is a large sporting complex with accommodation, not unlike our Lilleshall. We were shown our rooms, which were sparse but adequate, and then it was back to the mini-bus to be taken for a meal. No worries about foreign cooking — we were taken to Quick's, a fast food hamburger establishment just like McDonald's.

Rigours

We returned to the INS for a rest, to enable everyone to settle in and recover from the rigours of travel. Practice took place a little later that evening, when the players worked hard to adjust to the slow conditions of the tournament venue. This was followed by the team meeting, at which the format of the tournament was explained, plus what was expected from the players and what the players themselves could expect at an International Open.

Format excellent

The format of the Tournament for players of limited international experience was excellent. There were three age groups: Under-12, Under-14 and Under-17. Each age category was a round-robin competition with nine games on the Saturday and six games on the Sunday. The overall team championship was calculated by adding the finishing positions of each representative in the six sections.

The playing conditions were not as good as at last season's Sports Centre, although the convenience of having accommodation at the venue far outweighed any problems — early morning calls certainly were not too early!

Nine games in one day was an extremely strenuous schedule with very little opportunity to relax between games, eat or rest, but the players stuck to their tasks well and results were good. Kathy had a fabulous day, losing only one game to Natascha Streif of Austria and inflicting the only defeat on the eventual winner Katell Rolandt of France. Helen's results were mixed, with three wins and six defeats. With a little more luck a number of those defeats could have gone the other way. Although Joanne was still a cadet, she played in the Under-17 category where the standard was very high — one victory was scant reward for some fine play. Barry had a very satisfactory day with four wins. The better the opponent, the better Barry played, with the help of some vociferous support from his travelling fan club from the Blaydon Youth Club. Garry could be pleased with the five victories he achieved. It could have been more, but the long day took its toll and Garry lost his last three matches. John did very well with five wins from the first six games, when an horrific nose bleed put him on his back and delayed the competition. Although John played on, he lost his next two games.

Silver medal

On Sunday the players had a further six games to decide the final positions. Kathy continued where she left off, with a further five wins for a 13-2 average and a silver medal — a great achievement for one so young in her first foreign tournament. Helen played well on the second day, with four victories for a 7-8 average and a ninth position overall. Joanne continued to fight hard against very strong opposition to finish in thirteenth position. Barry had a great second day with four wins and two very narrow defeats for a 8-7 average and a creditable eighth position overall. Garry had a fabulous day with five victories, including a defeat of Daniel Torngren, the Swede, who had won the Under-12 event the previous year. Garry finished with an excellent 10-5

average and a final position of sixth. John also had a superb second day, with five wins for an 11-4 average and a fifth position overall. John only missed a medal on sets average. But for the nose bleed who knows what could have been!

Popular event

A silver medal, sixth place overall in the team event, together with many excellent results, was a good team performance. The Luxembourg International Junior Table Tennis Tournament is becoming a very popular event, the general strength of this season's competition being far greater than last season's. The players' barbecue which followed the presentation was enjoyed by the very tired, but highly satisfied, Foundation side.

Sunday evening was spent in a local 'hostelry' with the Danish team and Jeannot Schmit, who acted as courier for both sides. Many friends were made and, in particular, John did his best to promote the 'entente cordiale' with the Danish girls!

The Monday early morning call was not popular, but the players soon appreciated its worth, allowing a few hours' sightseeing trip to the City before the flight home. Travel arrangements went smoothly and we were soon going our separate ways from Heathrow.

The schedule had been extremely tiring, but the benefit gained from playing so many games provided the players with experience that should prove invaluable for future International Opens. If England is to continue to be a force within European table tennis, the Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation must prosper and continue to give future Internationals that all-important stepping stone.

Thanks

May I take this occasion to thank the players for their impeccable behaviour and excellent performances, Sylvia Broadbent for all the invaluable work she undertook, and the Foundation for providing this opportunity.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Team information wanted now

THERE is little news to report this month so no danger of incurring the wrath of the editor for 'using a thousand words when two hundred would suffice'.

Preliminary information re the entries for the Dunlop National School Team Championships is required by 14 November with firm entries due in by 10 December. The twelve area finals are scheduled for 16/17 January 1988, three regional finals on Sunday 21 February and national finals on Saturday 19 March. Details from: Geoff Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN (02572 64873).

It is hoped to make an announcement next month re plans for the annual Schools' International Championships which usually take place in June/July.

'Chuck' unwell

Best wishes to our general secretary, 'Chuck' Henry, who has been under the weather and had a short spell in hospital.



by DAVID LOMAS

A satisfied league coach

LAST April I attended a Junior Squad Training week at Lilleshall as an observer coach.

I am writing to express my thanks through your columns to Don Parker and Dave Fairholm who made me feel very much part of the week. They were only too willing to pass on their advice and share their wealth of experience.

I would also like to thank the players. Their dedication and hard work impressed me very much indeed. They were very professional in their approach to training and their self-discipline was excellent. I also had the bonus of seeing the Senior squad as well who stayed several days and who often came to these sessions.

One disappointment though! I was the only coach there to watch this festival of talent. COACHES!!! you cannot afford to miss valuable opportunities like this! Attend these squad weeks — gain valuable knowledge and experience — get to know the top players in the country. Ask questions, exchange views, learn the latest techniques — you can only benefit from the experience — you have nothing to lose! I thoroughly recommend it.

Once again many thanks Don, Dave and to everybody who I had the pleasure to meet up there.

DAVE WARD
League Diploma Coach
2 Beech Cottage,
Tottingworth Park, Broad Oak,
Heathfield, East Sussex.

Top twelve Steve Mills explains

THIS is the first time I raise a question in my fourteen years of playing table tennis, nine of which I have played professionally. But I have to write on this occasion to ask this question — 'When is a National Top 12 not a top 12?'

To answer this question myself I would say it is when you invite the top ten plus two others. I think it is totally unfair to those players ranked 11 and 12 who have practised and trained for years to get to the very high standard they have and who then are just totally forgotten about.

Outrage?

I just cannot see how you can run a Top 12 without having the top 12 players invited. Of course, if one of the players can't attend then the No 13, 14 and so on should be invited.

One other point I would like to raise is can you imagine the outrage if the same thing happened in the European Top 12?

The reason I pulled out of this tournament is that I object to this tournament being a 'selection tournament' rather than a National Top 12.

STEVE MILLS
(Yorkshire No. 1
England No. 8)
110 Pemberton Road
Ashford, Kent TN24 8BU.



Sue Collier of Reading, Berkshire finished in ninth position with three wins at the Leeds-Stiga English Top-12 at Farnborough. A forehand top-spin hitter of considerable strength, in 1984 she was the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix winner and made her senior England debut in 1980. The records said last season that she had no coach and no sponsor.

Picture: Mike Loveder.



SLEVIN in GERMANY . . .

Colum Slevin, Ireland's No. 1 player, winner of the Irish Championships also plays in the West German Bundesliga.



Picture Parade 2

CONCENTRATION OVER 11 POINTS . . .



Matthew Syed, England's No. 1 junior was coached by Peter Charters at Farnborough. He finished high up the list and included amongst his victims was Alan Cooke, the England No. 2. Happily, Matthew attacked regularly over the three days although most of his basic shots were defensive and in many cases successfully tempted his opponents into errors.

Picture: Mike Loveder.



Scotland: Euan Walker from the West of Scotland throws up for service. Picture: Denis George.

Picture: Denis George.

SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS . . .



At the Dunlop National Schools Championships at Lea Green — Boys' Under-16 winners, Ifield Community College, Crawley (West Sussex) received their trophy and awards from Johnny Leach, MBE. Left to right: Mayur Majithia, Scott Greenbrook, Alan Cole, Keith Newell (picture: Michael McLaren).

Picture: Michael McLaren.

England squad members at Chichester

WOODFIELD SENIOR 1-STAR

Gun wins Woodfield title

WITH four seeds reaching the semi-finals of the men's singles there were few surprises and only in the semi-finals were the No 1 and No 2 seeds extended with both No 1 seed Phil Gunn and No 2 seed Andy Rich being taken to the deciding game. In the final Phil Gunn overcame Andy Rich's solid defence to win two straight.

No Janet

In the women's singles with the No 1 seed Janet Smith not turning up the organising committee had to re-seed the draw and the only surprise was that No 3 seed Janet Dunning went out in the first round to Mandy Mytton — a thrilling game 24-22, 21-23, 19-21. Mandy had a very good tournament beating the No 1 seed Sandra Roden in a close semi-final before running out of steam against Helen Lower who in her first senior season won the final comfortably.

Men's Doubles

The scratch pairing of Matthew Harvey and Phil Gunn combined well to defeat No 3 seeds Andy Hare and Mike Brown in the first round and did even better to beat the No 1 seeds Mark Evans and John Hancock in the semi-final. However their good run came to an end when they went down — three games to the experienced pairing of Steve Dunning and Trevor Washington playing at their home venue.

Men's Singles

Semis: Phil Gunn bt Keith Fellows 9, -20, 10.
Andy Rich bt Trevor Washington 16, -15, 13.
Final: Gunn bt Rich 15, 15.

Women's Singles

Semis: Mandy Mytton bt Sandra Roden 21, -18, 17. Helen Lower bt Sandra Peakman -14, 13, 15.
Final: Lower bt Mytton 7, 13.

Men's Doubles

Semis: Phil Gunn/Matthew Harvey bt Mark Evans/John Hancock 18, -10, 14.
Steve Dunning/Trevor Washington bt P. Waite/Eddie Wilkes 10, 18.
Final: Dunning/Washington bt Gunn/Harvey 4, 18, 16.

Women's Doubles

Semis: Helen Lower/Sandra Roden bt Lynda Reid/Janet Hunt 14, 14. Mandy Mytton/Sandra Peakman bt Janet Dunning/Tracey Nigh 9, 9.
Final: Mytton/Peakman bt Lower/Roden 16, 20.

Veterans

Semis: Mervyn Wood bt Tomlinson 14, 14. Eddie Griffiths bt Janet Hunt 15, 29.
Final: Wood bt Griffiths -10, 8, 19.

LISA & JACKIE AFTER A WORLD RECORD

LISA Lomas and Jackie Bellinger have recently recorded for the BBC TV cameras an attempt to break their own world record for counter-hitting on 'Record Breakers'. The result will be shown we are told on 8 December, so watch out for our two glamorous sisters with umpires Fred Groom and George Tyler acting as 'judges.'

WOODFIELD JUNIOR 1-STAR

THORPE EARNS RANKING

THE No 1 seed Adrian Thorpe confirmed his high England ranking by reaching the boys' singles final without dropping a game. The major surprise was the performance of unranked and unseeded Ian Barsted from the Potteries who disposed of the No 2 and 4 seeds on the way to the final where he eventually ran out of steam losing two straight to Adrian Thorpe.

Girls' Singles

Again the non-appearance of a top seed meant extra work for the organisers but the new No 1 seed Helen Stephens had a comfortable passage to the final where she met Kate Ryan who had defeated No 2 seed, the fast-improving cadet Nicola Meddings, in the third round. The final proved to be an excellent match played in a very sporting manner but Helen Stephens confirmed her superiority after losing the first game.

Results:

Boys' Singles

Final: A. Thorpe bt I. Barsted 8, 7.

Girls' Singles

Final: H. Stephens bt K. Ryan -22, 13, 15.

Boys' Doubles

Final: T. Thorpe/R. Till bt K. Dabbs/I. Bird 14, 15.

Girls' Doubles

Final: C. Woodward/N. Meddings bt A. Ledwitch/R. Ledwitch 10, 15.

Cadet Boys

Final: L. Horton bt S. Meddings 19, -18, 17.

Cadet Girls

Final: N. Meddings bt S. Hughes 15, 11.

England squad on test

 by IVAN STEVENS

THE Bishop Otter College at Chichester put the English national table tennis squad through its paces. Over a five-day period leading players, including national champion Desmond Douglas, the women's title holder Fiona Elliot, and Nicky Mason from Bexhill, the English No. 5, were subjected to various physiological tests.



Women's national table tennis champion Fiona Elliot tests her stamina on the exercise bicycle.

An exercise bicycle and a treadmill were two of the pieces of equipment used, and the results were analysed by computer. Dr Tony Morris, of the Department of Human Movement Studies at the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education, of which the Bishop Otter College is a part, led the players through these sessions. A sports psychologist, Dr Morris discussed with the players the mental pressures on players, and how they cope with them.

At the top of any sport it is the ability of sportsmen and women to deal with those stresses which often is the difference between the good player, who is physically fit, and an exceptional one, who has both physical stamina and the right mental attitude.

Donald Parker, the National Director of Coaching for the English Table Tennis Association, was in charge of the squad. The

sessions at Chichester were the result of a meeting at a sports seminar between Donald Parker and Dr Morris at the University of Warwick two years ago.

During a public demonstration of practice routines and exhibition play on Wednesday evening, 26 August, Donald Parker expressed his delight with the facilities at the college. 'Obviously we are very interested in the players' physical and psychological condition,' he said. 'We are very much indebted to the West Sussex Institute, and we are sure these sessions will be of benefit to the players in the coming season.'

The Institute are interested in assessing performance at all levels of sport. Local teams and players in West Sussex should call Dr Morris on Chichester 787911 if they would like to participate in this programme.

Table Tennis promoted in Style

by David Marsh, Northants

THE Lilford Show has been established in the county for many years and set in acres of beautiful, scenic parkland has been a focal point for the exhibiting of a wide range of arts and crafts and other fascinating events. This year the Lilford Organisers felt that with sport playing a major part in people's lives the theme of the show for 1987 should be concentrated on 'Leisure' and activities associated with that title.

The Northants County Table Tennis Association were pleased that table tennis figured highly on the Lilford committee's list of sports and following a telephone call to county secretary, Barbara Gibbs, the Association started to make plans for a major presentation of the sport.

Led by county coach, Dave Marsh, the first thing was to

establish what facilities were available at Lilford and to organise a programme for the two day show having been informed that approximately 35,000 people would be visiting the show!

Having set the foundations a meeting was arranged with Sports Development Officer, Adrian Lole from the Northants Leisure and Libraries Depart-

ment to discuss ways and means of how his department could help in the promotion of table tennis. The input that was to come from this meeting and others paved the way for what was to be an excellent advert for table tennis and a public relations exercise for which all involved can feel justly pleased.

The programme of events over the two days involved a 'What's Your Sport' stand run by the Leisure and Libraries Department using their Norview computer to provide information on table tennis activities in Northamptonshire. A continuous programme of table tennis videos was run in a small anti-room off the main table tennis area and as an added attraction a sales table for table tennis equipment was provided by Jarvis Sports.

Chandeliers

The main activities took place in the adjoining ballroom of Lilford House against the backdrop of chandeliers, full length gilt mirrors and elegant wall mouldings — not quite the usual sort of surroundings for a table tennis promotion!

Activities over the two days provided exhibitions by Northants top juniors, Ian Bird and Kieron Dabbs, Andrew Lingley and Ian Campbell and Julian Marshall and Colin Campbell. On the Monday top senior players, Graeme McKim and Andy Edmonds were the star attractions when they absorbed the attention of a large crowd with an excellent demonstration match. The culmination of their efforts was an attempt on the World Speed Hitting Record and considering the condition their 148 shots in one minute was certainly a very creditable performance.

Chairman

County chairman, Michael Morris, turned his hand to operating the video camera and secretary, Barbara Gibbs handed out information sheets providing names of table tennis contacts across the county for the public's interest.

The biggest attraction of the weekend was, undoubtedly, the Robot. County coaches, Dave Marsh, John Dabbs, Dick Hickman and Glennis Hooper, employed a rota system to give the many youngsters and their parents instruction on the machine.

The verdict of people at the show? 'An excellent presentation and a credit to the Association.'

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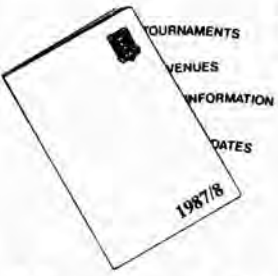
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WORLD CLASSIFICATION

The following notes describe the system currently used for World Classification, as agreed between the ITTF President and the Chairman of the ITTF Classification Committee.

- Ten members of the Committee were appointed at the New Delhi BGM.
- The following twenty official international tournaments shall be used to compile the list. These tournaments were played since the issue of the last Classification List.
 - US Open; 2. Tunisian Open; 3. Oceania Championships; 4. New Zealand Open; 5. World Cup 7; 6. Pyongyang Championships; 7. Asian Games; 8. Asian Championships; 9. Rumanian Open; 10. USSR International; 11. Italian Open; 12. Yugoslav Open; 13. French Open; 14. 2nd Asia-Europe Tournament; 15. Asian Cup; 16. Europe Top 12; 17. Czechoslovak Open; 18. European Ladies Grand Prix; 19. European League (Super and First Divisions); 20. 39th World Championships.
- There is no official rating by the committee between the above tournaments, and it is left to the committee to evaluate the wins and losses in each tournament. However, the Chairman states that his members will give the highest priority to the WTTCC, then to those international tournaments where strong Associations were involved.
- At the second meeting of the committee after the BGM in New Delhi, all members were asked to send their proposals to the Chairman and Secretary of the committee by 10 June 1987. This request was confirmed in a letter issued by the Chairman early in May. Committee members each submit their proposals for placings (best player No 1, next best No 2, and so on).
- The members are requested to prepare a list of at least 100 players.
- When the list of each committee member is received by the Chairman and Secretary, the Chairman will make the grand total calculation. No conference is needed between Chairman and Secretary to make this final list because it is a purely mechanical operation and no judgement is involved.
- If nine or 10 lists are submitted, only players with at least four nominations shall be taken into consideration.

If less than nine lists are submitted, only players with at least three nominations shall be taken into consideration.
- If nine or 10 lists are submitted, the two lowest and the two highest placings among the recommendations received will then be omitted from the calculation.

If eight or less lists are submitted then only the lowest ranking and the highest ranking will be omitted from the calculation.
- The remaining placings shall be added together to decide the final placings.
- Players with a same total of placings**
 - When two or more players have the same total placings, the second highest and second lowest placings shall be re-included to make a new total to decide the relative positions for those players.
 - If there is still no difference between two or more players, the lowest and highest values shall also be re-included for comparison of their totals.
 - If there is still no difference between two or more players, precedence shall be given to the one with a better position on the previous World Classification List.
- If more than two members did not list a player (more than one member if less than eight members sent lists), this player will be given for each of those members an arbitrary placing equal to the total number of players listed by the member concerned plus 10.
- If one Classification Committee member lists 100 players, but does not list a player whose ranking is to be decided, the player will be considered as being placed at 110 by that member.
- In some very special cases where players with a high placing (but not the best three ranked players of their Association) have for one reason or another received only a few placings, it might be decided, after agreement between the Chairman and Secretary, to adjust his placing, but he may not be placed higher than the other players of his Association.
- When a player has been listed by a member twice, then the average placing will be used in the calculation.

Ranking of the other players is adjusted accordingly.

CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS from the ITTF

1987

Nov 19-Nov 22	Olympic Qualifying Tournament (Singles)
Nov 15-Nov 27	USSR Open Championships
Nov 28-Dec 6	World University Table Tennis Championships
Dec 1-	Pondus Cup Int Invitation Tournament
Dec 3-Dec 6	Swedish Open Championships
Dec 7-Dec 12	Uganda Open Championships
Dec 11-Dec 13	Finlandia Open Championships
Dec 19-Dec 20	Olympic Qualifying Tournament (Doubles)

1988

Jan 12-Jan 17	3rd European/Asia Tournament Team Events — 12th Rome, 14th Germany FR Individual Events 16th/17th Basle
Jan 20-Jan 23	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
Mar 1-Mar 3	8th Israel Open Championships
Mar 19-Mar 27	16th European Championships
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

THE LINCOLN LOTTERY RIDES AGAIN

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

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

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