



# **Table Tennis News**

No.180

FEBRUARY 1989

90p

**Alan Cooke – English champion –  
English No. 1 – Stiga Top-12 champion**



**John  
Jaques**

**Jaques tables and Double Fish balls  
chosen for  
Televised England-China Match**

# The problems of communication . . .

IT WILL be a sad day for the sport if the ETTA decide to pull out of the European League should we fail yet again to win promotion to the Super Division. Should we fail this time, immediate steps should be taken to improve communications between the ETTA and the European Table Tennis Union.

My impression of the ETTU is an autocratic body full of arrogance who make far-reaching decisions with very little consultation with member countries. At least two professional national coaches including our own Donald Parker have indicated that if the ETTU continues to cause problems with altering a draw as they did at the Italian Open, then professional players would soon be forming their own circuit, as happens in other racquet sports. On that occasion in Arezzo, it took 30 hours for the ETTU to re-draw when it was discovered that the ETTU had blundered by mixing up the names of two Chinese players.

One would assume that with our own Bolton-based George Yates, former Editor of this magazine as general-secretary of the ETTU, communications between the ETTA and the ETTU would be at least as good if not better than other countries. Last year at this time we saw the ETTU banning players from the European Top-12 because they could not be forced into playing at home to Asia.

### Advertising rules – the penalty

If England are forced to look at the possibility of having to withdraw from the competition because we are forced to carry Joola advertising on court, surely behind-the-scenes talks can be arranged, instead of having to stand-up at a packed general meeting to make the points at issue. I am stunned to learn that failure to comply with the advertising rules results in matches being awarded to the away teams.

Another side of the problem is that foreign TV companies are by no means as fussy as the British TV companies on courtside advertising, in fact they encourage it, so England is out on its own. We cannot expect support but we should be able to negotiate our exclusion from the advertising burden.

### Our "Visibility" beats our rivals

On a brighter note, from the start of the Chinese tour at Aylesbury until now table tennis has received more exposure in all sections of the media, (TV and National Press in particular), than both squash rackets and badminton combined. Let us hope this continues to be the case.

**JOHN WOODFORD**

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★ **COVER  
PICTURE**

ALAN COOKE, the new No. 1. in England, the England champion and now the Stiga Top-12 champion. He has done it all in England and now it's into Europe where a higher ranking must be his next target. ★



# SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

## More check-in time in future

THE Pan-American disaster at Lockerbie suggests that when the players, officials and mediamen travel abroad by air in future, we are going to need extra check-in time.

The Heathrow-Frankfurt leg of the Frankfurt-New York run is one that we have used a number of times when travelling to the south of Germany. Not long ago, I was amazed to be at Heathrow when Mike Watts intended flying with the England team for the match at Wurzburg.



Mike Watts

He had a ticket with Carl Prean's name on it, but for security reasons Pan-Am would not budge, either by changing the name or refunding the money. Now we know why.

### PLO call

The Lockerbie tragedy also reminds me of a phone call from the foreign desk of The Daily Telegraph when in New Delhi asking for a story on the PLO contingent supporting the Palestine team! What a disgraceful world it is that we have to have armed guards at our world championships.

## CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS from the ITTF . . .

Feb 3	Feb 5	Stiga Europe Top 12	Charleroi BEL
Feb 23	Feb 26	Czechoslovak Open Championships	TCH
Mar 19	Mar 26	9th Commonwealth Championships	Cardiff WAL
<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>40TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	<b>Dortmund FRG</b>
May 13	May 14	3rd Deutschland-Cup (Int. Chs. of Trier)	Trier FRG
Jul 31	Aug 4	European Championships for the Disabled	Vienna AUT
Oct		Polish Open Championships	POL
Nov 2	Nov 5	Austrian Open Championships	Linz AUT
Nov 16	Nov 19	Hungarian Open Championships	Budapest HUN
Dec		Finnish Open Championships	Helsinki FIN



The Westfalen Halle, Dortmund, West Germany

## Dancing at Dortmund

FANS bound for the world championships in Dortmund might have noticed on BBC1 over Christmas the 1988 World Latin American Dancing Championships staged at the Westfalenhalle, the venue for the world table tennis event from March 29.

Host Angela Rippon interviewed British dancers in the fabulous gardens in the stadium grounds. Inside the main hall we saw the vast areas that will be divided into two, 32 tables in one area and 6 tables providing a centre-court atmosphere with 10,000 seats.

### Lager louts?

Dortmund by the way is 40 miles from Dusseldorf airport, it was famous for coal and steel but many of the former industrial areas have been turned into parks and woods and its most famous product now is lager.

## The trouble in Paris

THE TROUBLE that reporters had getting "courtside" in Paris at the European Championships is the subject of a report by one of Europe's leading table tennis journalists Mihaly Kozak from Hungary.

In the magazine jointly produced by the AIPS (Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive) and the European table Tennis Union he says . . .

"The French granted accreditation mainly to those members of the AIPS. We must not forget however, that our sport has a great number of part-time servants with their reports, features, radio-reports for many years. They faced big difficulties in getting their accreditation cards so badly needed for their jobs".

Kozak, speaking for all of Europe's table tennis reporters, is right. The ETTU should not have allowed what happened in Paris—photographers not allowed in the Press Centre when working with reporters is another absurdity enforced by the French in Paris.

That is of course, the syndrome of fun-poking emerging once again. I have no idea what the answer to her question was, but I suspect the thoughts were not printable.

Many interviewers, television and radio presenters and sit-com television script-writers are just not aware that table tennis is now an Olympic sport. They are genuinely amazed when they know the truth and surprised how hurt some of us are when labelled as "ping-pongers".

The newest comedy hit "You Rang, M'Lord?" on BBC1 on December 29 contained funny scenes with Sue Pollard serving "ping-pong balls" instead of sprouts!

## SCOTLAND: An Address Change

THE new offices of the Scottish Table Tennis Association are now at 2, Manor Street, Falkirk FK1 1NH. Tel: 0324, 611116.

### 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 a professional media man and offers advice on advertising and publicity for large or small businesses. His address is: JIM BECKLEY, c/o Sports PR, PO Box 8, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 7RG. Tel: 061 488 4002 business. Home number. Tel: 061 439 6001.

## "Marbles" in Seoul

IN SEOUL, the England team were interviewed by that well-known journalist Carol Thatcher, daughter of the Prime Minister.

Readers who feel strongly about our sport being referred to as "ping-pong" will be interested to hear that Miss Thatcher's opening question was—"So table tennis is now an Olympic sport, what next, marbles?"

# European League

## England stay on top

by JOHN WOODFORD in Manchester

ENGLAND completed the hat-trick of European League victories at the Armitage Centre, Manchester, winning 6-1 against Italy before a tiny crowd of around 150 in a venue set for 500.

A queue of organisers wanting to stage the Chinese tour matches is understandable - 700 at Stalybridge on the Manchester dormitory area and then an embarrassing tiny crowd in Manchester itself, for Italy who are not a bad side, suggests a review of policy is needed which could lead to "smaller" nations being accommodated in smaller centres.

### Tables turned

However, Alan Cooke was certainly most impressive. Alison Gordon - I saw her lose to Zampini at Paris. This time the tables were turned completely - 10, 14 to Alison still on her wave crest.



Alison Gordon on form

### RESULTS

C. Prean b A. Bongini 12, 9  
A. Cooke b M. Costantini 15, 13  
A. Gordon b G. Zampini 10, 14  
Prean & N. Mason b Costantini-Bongini 17, 11  
Cooke-Gordon b Costantini-Zampini 15, 15  
Prean l Costantini -15, -17  
Cooke b Bongini 11, 9

England gained a 5-0 lead so the pressure was off as Costantini turned on the power to beat Carl Prean -15, -17.

Italy were without Nannoni their powerful partner for Costantini, so it suggested they had no thoughts of winning the match.

### EUROPEAN LEAGUE

FRA 1	HOL 6	HOL 4	BUL 3	HOL 2	FRG 5
SWE 6	TCH 1	POL 2	SWE 5	TCH 5	YUG 2
FRG 5	BUL 2	YUG 6	FRA 1	FRA 3	POL 4
YUG 2	POL 5	FRG 5	TCH 2	BUL 2	SWE 5

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

### DIVISION 1

HUN 7	SUI 0	SUI 0	ENG 7	BEL 7	SUI 0
ENG 7	FIN 0	BEL 4	HUN 3	ENG 6	ITA 1
TUR 2	BEL 5	ITA 3	FIN 4	AUT 6	HUN 1
AUT 6	ITA 2	AUT 6	TUR 1	FIN 4	TUR 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	3	3	0	20	1	3
Austria	3	3	0	18	3	3
Belgium	3	3	0	16	5	3
Finland	3	2	1	8	13	2
Hungary	3	1	2	11	10	1
Turkey	3	0	3	6	15	0
Italy	3	0	3	5	16	0
Switzerland	3	0	3	0	21	0

### DIVISION 2

DEN 7	ISL 0	ISL 0	LUX 7	ISL 0	NOR 7	DEN 6	WAL 1
ESP 6	GRE 1	SCO 2	NOR 5	DEN 6	SCO 1	SCO 2	ESP 5
WAL 3	NOR 4	ESP 7	WAL 0	GRE 1	LUX 6	WAL 5	LUX 2
LUX 2	SCO 5	GRE 0	DEN 7			GRE 0	NOR 7

### AMENDED LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
DENMARK	4	4	0	26	2	4
Norway	4	4	0	23	5	4
Spain	3	3	0	18	3	3
Luxembourg	4	2	2	17	11	2
Scotland	4	1	3	10	18	1
WALES	4	1	3	9	19	1
Greece	4	0	4	2	26	0
Iceland	3	0	3	0	21	0

## Another Shock - Austria beat Hungary

by George Yates

ENGLAND'S prospects of regaining Super Division status in the European League were considerably enhanced as a result of Austria's 6-1 win over Hungary in Amstetten on Dec 15.

With just one win from three matches the Hungarians would now appear to be out of the running with England, Austria and Belgium - all unbeaten - left to fight it out.

Only Zsolt Harczy halted the progress of the Austrians in Amstetten when, in the second set, he beat Stanislaw Fraczyk. Individual scores were:- Ding Yi b Z. Kriston -15, 18, 19; Fraczyk l to Harczy -14, 19, -14; E. Maier b S. Kahn 15, 19; Ding Yi/P. Eckel b Harczy/Nemeth 22, 11; Ding Yi/Maier b Nemeth/Kahn 19, 12; Ding Yi b Harczy 18, -14, 12; Fraczyk b Kriston -14, 15, 18.



George Yates ETTU secretary who is just back from Asia after a gruelling tour during which Waldner was "mugged".

### Swiss in trouble

In the meantime Belgium brought a third successive 7-0 defeat for Switzerland who will now be hard pressed to maintain their station.

Both Sweden and Federal Germany are unbeaten in the top flight, the former's latest win being by a score of 5-2 against Bulgaria. Meantime in Huizen the Netherlands fell to their defeat in losing 5-2 to the West Germans.

Jorg Roskopf and Georg-Zsolt Böhm took the four men's singles, beating Paul Haldan and Henk van Spanje, with Olga Nemes chipping in with a win over Mirjam Kloppenburg but only at 19 in the third. In the doubles Haldan and van Spanje beat Roskopf and Steffen Fetzner, and van Spanje and Kloppenburg beat Fetzner and Nemes.

### Kucharski beaten

Prior to this Gatien had beaten Leszek Kucharski; Wang Xiao Ming had seen off Dorota Djaczynski 6 and 6 and, in combine, Gatien/Wang beat Grubba/Djaczynski.

Yugoslavia, away to Czechoslovakia in Gottwadlov, were beaten 5-2 the two coming from Zoran Primorac who beat Jindrich Pansky and Miroslav Cecava.

## See the Turks at Crook Log!

by JOHN PREAN

THE MATCH against Turkey on February 14 will be an opportunity for our readers and members in the London area to see what should prove an unusually interesting match. Our own promotion hopes remain very high, but the Turks are now formidable opponents. Yaldiz and Cimen are players of the highest class who can defeat any of our players on the right day. We have tended to be vulnerable in the Doubles, having not yet found settled pairs and this adds a further element of uncertainty.

The days are over when the so called small countries were easy meat and the likes of Belgium, Austria and Turkey now provide searching opposition. We hope that readers will turn up in great numbers to cheer on our side and such support often makes the difference between winning and losing. It means a lot to our players.

Opportunities to see top class table tennis in London and Home Counties area are not as frequent as we would like. So make the most of this one. The Leeds International match is on Tuesday, February 14, at the Crook Log Sports Centre, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent starting at 7 p.m.

# Cooke the mean machine

by THE EDITOR at Brentwood

SUPERFIT Alan Cooke, a few hours away from being named as the new England No. 1. lifted the new Macartney Classic at the Peniel Academy, Brentwood, losing to Carl Prean, beating Desmond Douglas and in the final round, defeating Nicky Mason to win the £500 first prize from a kitty of £1,650.

This was a tournament brand new in many aspects – the audience was private, restricted to parents, teachers and pupils of the academy who are table tennis fanatics, spurred on headmaster Rev Mike Reid whose enthusiasm is such that he does not always see eye-to-eye with the Essex TTA, although in general, good relations are in evidence.

## all defeated

However, the Cookey Mean Machine won the day on an evening when all six men tasted defeat – Cooke lost to Prean, Prean lost to Mason, Douglas lost to Cooke, Stokes lost to Douglas and Mason, and Souter lost to Prean and Cooke. But Stokes and Souter got £150 appearance money so they were happy along with the invited guests at the almost gastronomic feast that followed the match.

## Gas in tank

The six group matches really went to form. There was some really spectacular play but the finalists emerged as Douglas, Cooke, Prean, Mason. Alex Higgins the snooker extrovert said recently "There is plenty of gas left in the tank." This apt phrase could well apply to Des Douglas, although Cookey can now play with the knowledge that he can expect victory, as he did at the Academy 18 in the third.

The duel between Cooke and Prean was the one we had all come to see and I understand it was an enthralling encounter. With the event running late I was on the phone to Fleet Street and Wapping but my colleagues assure me that Carl deserved his victory at 20 in the third over the eventual winner.

## Major shock

Then came the Big Shock. Although he is in general playing skilfully, Carl Prean missed a bunch of match points and finally lost 18, -22, -23 to Nicky Mason whose ability to blast his way out of deep holes provides the most exciting table tennis.

The final was a little anti-climatic. The only question being was can Mason do it again? The answer was "no" although he did take the second game before the man from Chesterfield cruised home at 10 in the third with the Bexhill-based counter-hitter visibly running out of steam.



The Finalists, Nicky Mason, Alan Cooke. Pictures: Peter Elgar



The six contestants and Bradley Billington.

## RESULTS

Group A  
D. Douglas b J. Stokes 9, 15  
N. Mason b Stokes 16, 14  
Douglas b Mason 15, 16  
Group B:  
A. Cooke b J. Souter 12, 9  
C. Prean b Souter 9, 11  
Prean b Cooke 16, -17, 20  
SF: Cooke b Douglas -18, 14, 18  
Mason b Prean 18, -22, 23  
FINAL: Cooke b Mason 18, -17, 10

## NEW CLUB AT NEW MALDEN

by Mike Loveder

SURREY has gained a superb asset with the opening of the new Graham Spicer Institute premises in New Malden. A purpose-built table tennis hall houses 6 new match tables (8 practice tables), complete with a Leeds-blue non-slip floor, court barriers around every table and a level of lighting better than that required for international matches.

Additional facilities include one badminton hall and a snooker room together with a kitchen, lounge area, toilets and showers. What more could the modern table tennis player ask for? These brand new first class facilities are ideally located – literally a stone's throw from the New Malden main line BR station.

Commenting on the new premises, Peter Corner, Spicer's senior coach said: "These excellent facilities are a far cry from the days of the old church hall which has now been demolished. The Graham Spicer Institute was established back in 1905 and has gone from strength to strength. The Club has produced numerous county and national players. However in recent years things have been flagging a little, but the new club should provide a new lease of life and a renewed incentive for those associated with it over the years.

"The table tennis hall has been well 'christened' and tested by the staging of recent County Championship matches. Even Nicky Mason who is loyally representing Surrey is delighted with the new facilities. Membership is again on the increase and we are still considering new applications. The Club caters for all standards of play and all ages of players. We currently have numerous cadets, juniors, seniors and veterans and the Club is well represented in the Thames Valley league with 8 teams, of which 3 play in the first division."

Any enquiries about the new club should be addressed to Greta Linter at: 91A Kingston Road, New Malden, Surrey or to the Club at 15 Dukes Avenue, New Malden.

SEE PAGE 25 –  
NICKY JARVIS  
TELLS US ABOUT  
THE ACADEMY  
"PARADISE" . . .



## FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Cooke conquers Appelgren

by DEREK MARPLES

Three victims  
for  
Glenn Baker

OUR party consisted of two umpires Karen Tonge and Bill Wilson, together with Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot, Desmond Douglas, Nicky Mason, Matthew Syed, Glenn Baker, Skylet Andrew and joined in France by Alan Cooke. The interest started at Heathrow with one player arriving late and another not going to appear until the following day. Eventually we arrived at our hotel after registration at the sports centre.

Some hotel bedrooms had TV sets, some were single rooms, one bed sloped, another was too short and had a foot which prevented the occupier hanging out his feet – all good preparation for the tournament.

The following day the mens' team event got under way with us beating Canada 3-1, Des 2, Alan 1, lost the doubles. Then came the big one v Sweden. Here Alan really turned it on. Playing inspired table tennis, he won both his singles two straight – Von Scheele and then Appelgren, the European champion. He was ably supported by Nicky and Des in the doubles who beat the Appelgren/Waldner combination: with this result we nearly danced in the aisles. Unfortunately, only one win was recorded against Japan in the quarter final, this was a well earned set by Des.



Jan-Ove Waldner

The womens' team beat Spain 3-0 with Alison having a convincing victory over Panaderu, but Andrea had to learn to put her game together in the first game so that she was able to take the next two. Lisa/Fiona completed the victory by winning the doubles. China in the next round were much too strong, so we lost 0-3.

### Bad luck

Des Douglas was the most successful in the singles, where, after much bad luck (16 all in the first – lost the next five points which included four net points) he lost to Waldner in the semi-final on the fourth game, after beating Lupulescu (Yug) in a thrilling five

game set in the quarter final. Waldner went on to win the event.

Alan progressed to the third round via Takahashi (Bra), Miller (Swz) where he played Appelgren again. Not having the best of luck in the first game, losing it 19, he lost the set in four.

### High ranks

Skylet, Matthew and Nicky all played very hard in the singles, but weren't able to progress beyond the first round – all opponents were of high rank.

Des and Alan played superbly in the doubles reaching the semi-final by beating Lindh/Fallby (Swe) with some very good technical play in the quarter final. Somehow yesterdays' form could not be repeated and so they fell to Lupulescu/Primorac, the tournament winners.

### Baker's effort

Must not forget Glenn Baker – what effort – he played three qualifying sets to get into the tournament proper, before losing to Primorac in the second round – well played Glenn.

In the women's singles Fiona had a very good win over Fazlic (ranked 13 in Europe) on the fifth game after being two games to love up, to reach the second round.

### Unforced errors

In the second round, Alison fought well against Kasalova (Czec) but finally lost in the fourth game. I felt that Alison did not do herself justice as she had too many unforced errors. Andrea did not manage to force Thiriet (Fra) to a fourth game but even so, she gave a very good account of herself and the experience was very useful.

Lisa had a comfortable three game win over Erlman (Swe) before losing in three against Safarova (Czec).

## RESULTS

### Mens Team

1st Round v Canada 3-1

2nd Round v Sweden 3-1

¼ Final v Japan 1-3

### Ladies Team

1st Round Bye

2nd Round v Spain 3-0

¼ Final v China 0-3



Glenn Baker, Surrey & Ashford



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## Fixtures, membership, European League

FEW areas of ETTA activity endure as much criticism as the Calendar Working Party. This committee has the impossible task of arranging a competitive programme which is so full that some clashes are inevitable. As long ago as 1956 Victor Barna commented that our Calendar was too crowded. Since then it has become even fuller. The British League alone require 14 days each season. This season the Olympics took our top players out of circulation for the best part of a month. Naturally this led to some postponements and set off a domino effect affecting even local Closed tournaments which were deprived of entries.

Criticism generally concentrates on certain events or happenings, particularly the British League, but ignores the basic fact that the season is so full that it is inevitable that at times two or more events will take place on the same day. If our members want fewer events or a longer season, then they can set the democratic wheels in motion to get things changed.

Our Rules Committee will advise them on the avenues open to them. To concentrate on single events or such slogans as "Sack the Calendar Working Party" strikes me as pointless because it does not get at the root of the problem. Indeed, as I have stated elsewhere, many of our members regard such competition between events as a good thing, because it gives them a choice.

The CWP consists, in the main, of representatives of the major national competitive activities of the Association, i.e. County Championships, British League, Tournaments, National Team Selection. If wholesale slaughter took place, it is not clear who would mind the shop or run the many things we now do.

I accept full responsibility for the work of last season's Calendar Working Party. I attended the last session and we made the best of a bad job, of fitting a quart into a pint pot, which is the job the members gave us. We would have liked each organiser to have a day (or what is required) to him or herself. We did not have sufficient days. As I see it, there are three solutions: (1) to lengthen the season (2) to reduce the number of events (3) to carry on as before, accepted the clashes (as seen by some) or competition among organisers (as seen by others).

It is pointless to tackle the problem piecemeal. It requires a total solution. The ETTA's Constitution gives me no powers in this matter. Therefore I can only state the case. The members have to decide how they wish this to be resolved. Until they do, alternative (3) will continue and the CWP will try to reduce clashes to a minimum. Where they exist, critics will continue to complain. Seen from their point of view, quite properly.

### Membership

John Woodford identified this and promotion to the Super Division of the European League as two major priorities.

Unfortunately I still have no

firm news on the membership figures. On the basis of what I have, losses are likely to be just over 3%, which is an improvement on just over 4% last season and the 6% and 8% we have experienced in some earlier seasons.

The trend is therefore encouraging, as it continued in the right direction. The figures are based on those Leagues who have sent in their forms - a few remain outstanding, as do their affiliation fees. I appeal to them to deal with both. The figures reflect Week-Day play in local leagues. Though important, it is not the only area of activity which we have to look at. There has been a gratifying increase in Week-End play. Both County Championships and British League figures are up. Regional Leagues did not exist a couple of years ago. Many hundreds of youngsters will play in the Leeds Youth Cup. At last we are getting some movement towards non-elite tournaments, the graded events which have been talked about for so long. The Veterans Society now has more than 300 members and stages 5 tournaments each year, but this activity, too, is not reflected in our overall membership statistics. These continue to concentrate on one activity only and ignore others.

### The European League . . .

This is our fourth season in the lower divisions. We have certainly found it much harder to go up than it was to go down. The latter was a piece of monumental carelessness, probably over-confidence, which caused the powers-to-be of those days to go into the matches with substandard sides. We duly lost and started a slide which led all the way to Division 2 (labelled confusingly 'Division 1').

It proved an unmitigated disaster, as for three seasons we won 6 matches only to lose the seventh and to stay down yet again.

Not all opposition is strong and sometimes our spectators, who are remarkably knowledgeable, stay away. Depressing, empty houses and unhappy financial consequences follow. Again, I acknowledge the support of the Leeds who have supported us through thick and thin, including last season's ultimately disappointing campaign. However, the match against Belgium, which may decide all issues, on February 9th, very fittingly to be played

in Leeds, should be a great occasion. I expect a large crowd and an electrifying contest.

### We quit?

If we don't make it to the Super Division, our future in this competition must be in some doubt. The question has to be asked whether the losses associated with playing in the lower divisions can be justified. We have managed very successfully to stage matches of much greater interest, having entertained both the World Champions China and



Ding Yi

the European Champions, Sweden in one season. Both of these produced good crowds and commercial profits which subsidise the European League losses. We are particularly unhappy that the European Table Tennis Union sells advertising space in respect of OUR home matches. This has lost us potential sponsors and is unfair to the existing one. I regard this as very, very wrong. It may well be that withdrawal from the European League will be the outcome. There are better matches which we can offer our members and public. The spectre of large losses, without being masters in our own house, is not an encouragement to remain in this competition. The presence of advertising (arranged by the European TT Union) makes it virtually impossible to sell these matches to British Television. Without TV they will remain smaller events than those which are televised. It is a fact of life that big occasions require both TV and Sponsorship to be viable.

**"WE COULD PULL OUT.... OF EUROPE"**



John Prean

However, I extend our team our warmest wishes for that vital tie against Belgium. I hope they win that one and that we shall eventually win the one on the conference tables, so that we can stage such matches the way we want to and in accordance with what is acceptable to both sponsors and television in this country.

### Dramatic

At the time of writing I could not know the result of the match against Austria, who have developed into strong challengers thanks to their Chinese Star Ding Yi, who is capable of carrying both doubles and his two singles - sufficient to lead his adopted country to victory. Whether our team managed to win that one or not, the match in Leeds will remain a uniquely dramatic one. I advise you not to miss it, if tickets are still available.

JOHN PREAN

## AUSTRIA BEATEN

ENGLAND took a 4-2 winning lead in Salzburg against Austria on Jan 26, with Carl Prean the hero of the night. He overwhelmed the feared Ding Yi, 16, 10 and then beat a new chopper Dietmar Palmi. It was not a happy night for Alan Cooke who was outwitted by the chopper and lost the dead rubber match at the end to Ding Yi. Alison Gordon won her womens singles despite an arm problem and we won the mens doubles. England march on to Leeds Town Hall!

## Eden strikes for Lancashire

By Mike Watts

AS EXPECTED, top seeds at the Leeds Junior National Championships held at the Sky Blue Connexion near Coventry, dominated proceedings. Of five Junior Finals played on the Saturday, the top seeds were victorious on four occasions and runners up in the fifth and on Sunday of the four Cadet Finals the top seeds triumphed on three occasions.

In the Junior Boy's Singles, Michael O'Driscoll from Yorkshire was the winner, his final victim being Jonathan Taylor the third seed from Cheshire. Earlier the second seed, Chris Oldfield, also from Yorkshire, who has been showing excellent form of late, was taken out convincingly 21-17, 21-12 by Andrew Eden the fifth seed from Lancashire in the Quarter Finals. Unfortunately for Eden he found Taylor in scintillat-

ing form and bowed out in the Semi Finals. In the Final Taylor continued his good form taking the first and although O'Driscoll then showed what he is capable of, winning the second in a canter, it was Taylor who matched him point for point in the third before O'Driscoll got home by the narrowest of margins.

Julie Billington (Derbyshire) as expected won the Junior Girl's Singles beating her great rival

Debbie Toole (Yorkshire) the second seed over two very close games. It was a tremendous performance by the Derbyshire girl as she had been up all night ill and at the beginning of the day could hardly stand. As expected, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield teamed up to win the Junior Boy's Doubles, their final opponents being the unseeded Brian Mileham (Kent) and Andrew Eden, the margin being quite close as the combination pair unsettled the favourites.

The two Finalists in the Junior Girl's Singles teamed up to win the Junior Girl's Doubles beating the all Yorkshire pairing of Ellen Meddings and Joanne Keighley, the fourth seeds who in the Semi Finals had put out the second seeds Joanne Roberts and Katie Goodall also from Yorkshire. However, Julie Billington's quest for the treble was finally blunted in the Mixed Doubles Final as partnered by Essex's Grant Solder the top seeds lost narrowly in the

third to the second seeds Damien Holland and Linda Radford from Essex.

On the Sunday, the Cadet events were played and a new innovation saw both Doubles Finals played at lunchtime rather than at the end. In these top seeds Nicky Bradfield (Berks) and Alex Perry (Devon) emerged as the Cadet Boy's Doubles champions beating Graeme Sanderson (Durham) and Andrew Nicholls (Yorkshire) and Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) and Sarah Williams (Middlesex) captured the Cadet Girl's Doubles with a third game win over Linda Radford and Nicola Meddings (Staffs).

In the two Singles Finals, it was again the top seeds to emerge as winners as first Katie Goodall (Yorkshire) completely dominated a one sided Final beating Nicola Meddings and then in a tremendous Cadet Boy's Final, Barry Forster (Northumberland) just got the better of Alex Perry (Devon) in three games with both players looking full of promise for the future.

Presentations were made by Mr. Steve Wild and Mr. Alan Brown from the Leeds Permanent Building Society and Mr. John Prean, Chairman and Mr. Alan Ransome, Deputy Chairman of the ETTA.



Michael O'Driscoll from Mirfield Yorkshire.

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## RESULTS

### JUNIOR BOY'S SINGLES

#### SEMI FINALS

M. O'Driscoll (Yorks) b G. Solder (Essex) 17-21, 21-16, 21-10

J. Taylor (Cheshire) b A. Eden (Lancs) 13-21, 22-20, 21-13

#### FINAL

M. O'Driscoll b J. Taylor 17-21, 21-12, 21-19

### JUNIOR GIRL'S SINGLES

#### SEMI FINALS

J. Billington (Derbys) b A. Gower (Essex) 21-17, 21-10

D. Toole (Yorks) b E. Meddings (Yorks) 21-18, 21-14

#### FINAL

J. Billington b D. Toole 21-18, 21-19

### JUNIOR BOY'S DOUBLES

#### SEMI FINALS

M. O'Driscoll (Yorks)/C. Oldfield (Yorks) b G. Knights (Staffs)/N Bevan (Cornwall) 21-14, 16-21, 21-9

B. Mileham (Kent)/A. Eden (Lancs) b P. Bowler (Beds)/S. Hanks (Derbys) 21-6, 21-14

#### FINAL

M. O'Driscoll/C. Oldfield b B. Mileham/A. Eden 22-20, 21-19

### JUNIOR GIRL'S DOUBLES

#### SEMI FINALS

J. Billington (Derbys)/D. Toole (Yorks) b C. Buckley (Beds)/A. Gower (Essex) 15-21, 21-19, 21-15

E. Meddings (Yorks)/S. Keighley (Yorks) b J. Roberts (Yorks)/K. Goodall (Yorks) 15-21, 21-17, 21-17

#### FINAL

J. Billington/D. Toole b E. Meddings/S. Keighley 15-21, 21-17, 21-17

### JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES

#### SEMI FINALS

G. Solder (Essex)/J. Billington (Derbys) b D. Sneyd (Lancs)/M. Thornley (Lancs) 21-19, 21-14

D. Holland (Essex)/L. Radford (Essex) b M. Adams (Berks)/L. Crick (Berks) 18-21, 21-11, 21-15

#### FINAL

D. Holland/L. Radford b G. Solder/J. Billington 18-21, 21-16, 21-15

### CADET BOY'S SINGLES

#### SEMI FINALS

B. Forster (Northumb) b D. Baker (M'sex) 22-20, 22-20

A. Perry (Devon) b A. Nichols (Yorks) 21-15, 21-16

#### FINAL

B. Forster b A. Perry 22-20, 14-21, 21-13

### CADET GIRL'S SINGLES

#### SEMI FINALS

K. Goodall (Yorks) b S. Williams (M'sex) 21-18, 21-6

N. Meddings (Staffs) b S. Seaholme (Herts) 13-21, 21-14, 21-19

#### FINAL

K. Goodall b N. Meddings 21-13, 21-7

### CADET BOY'S DOUBLES

#### SEMI FINALS

N. Bradfield (Bucks)/A. Perry (Devon) b J. May (Devon)/A. Vincent (Devon) 21-13, 21-14

G. Sanderson (Durham)/A. Nichols (Yorks) b D. Baker (M'sex)/M. Hewett (Kent) 21-23, 21-19, 21-14

#### FINAL

N. Bradfield/A Perry b G. Sanderson/A Nichols 23-21, 21-18

### CADET GIRL'S DOUBLES

N. Deaton (Derbs)/S. Williams (M'sex) b K. Goodall (Yorks)/Z. Buchannan (Cheshire) 21-16, 21-14

L. Radford (Essex)/N. Meddings (Staffs) b C. Watt (Cumbria)/T. Connolly (Lancs) 21-11, 17-21, 21-13

#### FINAL

N. Deaton/S. Williams b L. Radford/N. Meddings 21-18, 15-21, 21-12

# Cooke seals a hat-trick

by THE EDITOR

A FEW days after beating the 'flu virus Alan Cooke beat off all seven opponents to win the Stiga English Top-12 tournament at Clacton on January 2. It was no pushover for Cooke in the final stages – rising star Bradley Billington rose higher in the sky as he took a game from his Derbyshire team-mate in the semi-finals and the England No.1 had to fight hard to stop Carl Prean in the final 18, 19.

The prize money provided by Stiga amounted to around £3,500 with £625 going to Cooke as the winner of the men's event and £500 to Fiona Elliot who provide the shock-of-the-day beating Alison Gordon in the semi-finals and then Lisa Bellinger the holder in the women's final. The first six in both events collected prize money, a generous gesture by Stiga who are also sponsoring the European Top-12 in Belgium from February 3-5.

### Splendid Prean

Carl Prean played quite splendidly all day, enough to beat all his opponents except Cooke, who was never at his best, but good enough to win. Prean's booming attack so impressive at Brentwood in the Macartney Classic once again looked strong enough to beat all in sight. It is noticeable that he seems to spend a lot of time a pace back from the table but standing back has its disadvantages if a quick player like Nicky Mason can counter-hit angled shots to the sides of the table.

Cooke said in the press room after he had won. "I was pleased to win although I still felt weak after an attack of 'flu after Christmas".

Never rule out Fiona Elliot I said several times last season. She is a fighter prepared to gamble. She made quite sure that she will be picked for England for Cardiff and Dortmund by beating attacker, England champion and No.1 Alison Gordon in the semi-finals and then the defender Lisa Lomas in the final 17, 20.

Lisa did not give up her Top-12 crown easily, going home to Dunstable with £350 prize money. She lost to Mandy Sainsbury earlier in the day, but still qualified. Lisa beat Fiona earlier but both girls qualified and the Wolverhampton girl's raised her game higher at the end of the day.

It was a delightful day, a crowd of over 400, no bad tempers on or off court. Not so beautiful however for Skylet Andrew who lost his first two games to Jimmy Stokes and Matthew Syed.

### Forget it

Not a day to be remembered for Nicky Mason. He has just signed a contract with Stiga and has hopes of playing in Sweden. He lost a vital game in Round 4 to



**MIDLANDERS** Alan Cooke and Fiona Elliot, two of England's most dedicated professionals were the winners at Clacton in the Stiga English Top-12. Cooke had to fight a couple of times during the day whilst Fiona caught Alison Gordon off-guard in the semi-finals. Photo: John Fairweather.

Bradley Billington 21, 14.

### Still Rising

Billington is still on the ascendency as a rising star. He lost to Matthew Syed in the play-off for third and fourth places. Syed appeared to be back in contention for a place in the England world and Commonwealth squads. He qualified for the semi-finals with a batch of wins that included Skylet Andrew and Jimmy Stokes.

England's solitary selector Don Parker left Clacton en route to the Far East with his thinking cap firmly in place, clearly trying to work out how he can decide on the last two men's places for Dortmund with these firm contenders: Mason, Andrew, Syed, Billington.

ETTA Chairman John Prean said in his speech after the finish, "There was a great deal of superb table tennis and this was the most successful Top-12 tournament held so far".

The Clacton organisation was faultless, although the programme slipped roughly an hour behind schedule. The scheduling of these events is not easy, but if only organisers would bear in mind that each round almost invariably produces one longer game with a knock-on effect. However, a full team of national press writers were busy telephoning the final results before 8pm although the programme promised 7pm.

## BILLINGTONS BOTH No. 4!

It was an amazing tournament for the Billingtons. Both teenagers Julie and Bradley reached the semi-finals and finished fourth! Julie's vital win provided the match-of-the-day – a –21, 20, 20 cliff-hanger against Andrea Holt. Derbyshire players are going from strength to strength.

## KEY GROUP RESULTS

### Men:

J.Stokes b S.Andrew 19, 18  
N.Mason b J.Souter 12, –20, 14  
M.Syed b Andrew 13, –9, 10  
C.Baker b Syed 16, 15  
S.Dorking b Billington 16, –17, 19  
Billington b Mason 21, 14  
Cooke b Andrew 12, 15  
Prean b Mason 11, 17  
Billington b Souter 9, 16.

### Women:

F.Elliot b M.Sainsbury 22, 17  
H.Bardwell b Sainsbury –15, 19, 16  
A.Gordon b Holt 20, 14  
J.Billington b C.Giles 17, 19  
Sainsbury b Lomas 15, –14, 18  
Billington b Holt –21, 20, 20  
Lomas b Elliot 17, 12

### Men – SF:

Cooke b Billington 14, –17, 12  
Prean b Syed 19, 9

### FINAL:

Cooke b Prean 18, 19

### Women – SF:

Elliot b Gordon 17, –18, 8  
Lomas b Billington 8, 10

### FINAL:

Elliot b Lomas 17, 20.

## THE FINAL PLACINGS

### MEN

1. Alan Cooke
2. Carl Prean
3. Matthew Syed
4. Bradley Billington
5. Nicky Mason
6. Skylet Andrew
7. Sean Gibson
8. Kevin Satchell
9. John Souter
10. Glenn Baker
11. Jimmy Stokes
12. Steve Dorking

### WOMEN

1. Fiona Elliot
2. Lisa Lomas
3. Alison Gordon
4. Julie Billington
5. Andrea Holt
6. Mandy Sainsbury
7. Jill Harris
8. Carol Giles
9. Helen Bardwell
10. Sue Collier
11. Helen Lower

# How they stand in Europe

## EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION

### CLASSIFICATION LIST – DECEMBER 1988

(Previous positions in brackets)

#### MEN

1. Appelgren Mikael (SWE) (1)
2. Waldner Jan-Ove (SWE) (2)
3. Lindh Erik (SWE) (5)
4. Persson Jorgen (SWE) (3)
5. Grubba (Andrzej) (POL) (4)
6. Kucharski Leszek (POL) (7)
7. Mazunov Andrei (URS) (6)
8. Douglas Desmond (ENG) (8)
9. Rosskopf Jörg (FRG) (9)
10. Klampar Tibor (HUN) (14)
11. Gatien Jean-Philippe (FRA) (10)
12. Böhm Georg (FRG) (11)
13. Lupulescu Ilija (YUG) (16)
14. Ding Yi (AUT) (23)
15. Primorac Zoran (YUG) (17)
16. Carlsson Ulf (SWE) (12)
17. Prean Carl (ENG) (13)
18. Kalinic Zoran (YUG) (18)
19. Cooke Alan (ENG) (21)
20. Bengtsson Ulf (SWE) (20)
21. Panksy Jindrich (TCH) (24)
22. Saive Jean-Michel (BEL) (26)
23. Mazunov Dmitrij (URS) (36)
24. Kriston Zsolt (HUN) (15)
25. Haldan Paul (HOL) (22)
26. Loukov Mariano (BUL) (19)
27. Rozenberg Boris (URS) (25)
28. Janci Tomas (TCH) (32)
29. Podpinka Andras (BEL) (34)
30. Harczy Zsolt (HUN) (28)
31. Javurek Jiri (TCH) (31)
32. Birocheau Patrick (FRA) (27)



Carl Prean

33. Karlsson Peter (SWE) (42)
34. Wosik Ralf (FRG) (29)
35. Fetzner Steffen (FRG) (33)
36. Dvorak Vladimir (URS) (30)
37. Stojanov Ivan (BUL) (35)
38. Renverse Patrick (FRA) (39)
39. Cabrera Thierry (BEL) (45)
40. Yaldiz Gurhan (TUR) (38)
41. Andrew Skylet (ENG) (43)
42. Cecava Miroslav (TCH) (-)
43. Molenda Piotr (POL) (41)
44. Van Spanje Henk (HOL) (46)
45. Somosi Miklos (HUN) 44
46. Javurek Petr (TCH) (-)
47. Von Scheele Thomas (SWE) (-)
48. Dryszel Stefan (POL) (40)
49. Fejer Andras (ROM) (37)
50. Florea Vasile (-)

#### WOMEN

1. Bulatova Flaura (URS) (1)
2. Vriesekoop Bettine (HOL) (2)
3. Nemes Olga (FRG) (5)
4. Hrachova Marie (TCH) (7)
5. Guerugeltcheva Daniela (BUL) (3)
6. Badescu Otilia (ROM) (4)
7. Batorfi Csilla (HUN) (6)
8. Kasalova Renata (TCH) (8)
9. Popova Valentina (URS) (11)
10. Urban Edit (HUN) (10)
11. Kovtun Elena (URS) (9)
12. Safarova Alena (TCH) (12)
13. Kloppenburg Mirjam (HOL) (14)
14. Fazlic Jasna (YUG) (13)
15. Wang Xiaming (FRA) (17)
16. Perkucin Gordana (YUG) (15)
17. Wiktorsson Barbro (SWE) (16)
18. Svensson Marie (SWE) (20)
19. Nolten Katja (FRG) (21)
20. Lomas Lisa (ENG) (19)
21. Olah Zsuzsa (HUN) (18)
22. Bogaerts Karien (BEL) (22)
23. Thiriet Brigitte (FRA) (23)
24. Wirth Gabriella (HUN) (24)
25. Alboiu Maria (ROM) (27)
26. Gordon Alison (ENG) (25)
27. Cords Jin Sook (FRG) (29)
28. Zampini Giorgia (ITA) (26)
29. Grefberg Sonja (FIN) (28)
30. Ojstersek Vesna (YUG) (30)
31. Erlman Lotta (SWE) (32)



Olga Nemes, No.3 in Europe.

32. Szatko-Nowak Jolanta (POL) (31)
33. Kocova Miluse (TCH) (33)
34. Timofeeva Raisa (URS) (34)
35. Nagy Krisztina (HUN) (36)
36. Lippens Barbara (ESP) (35)
37. Elliot Fiona (ENG) (38)
38. Busnardo Alessandra (ITA) (37)
39. Szymanelis Jadwiga (POL) (40)
40. Wenzel Susanne (LUX) (39)

### 1989 Coaches

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## The man now at the top

### ALAN COOKE:



- ★ England Champion
- ★ England No 1
- ★ England Top-12 Champion
- ★ European Silver Medalist

NOT IN his wildest dreams would Alan Cooke have anticipated that at the start of 1989 he would be England champion, No. 1 and the Stiga Top-12 champion all at the same time.

"What a tremendous way to start the New Year" he said at Clacton, "all we need now is a great performance by England to retain the Commonwealth title in Cardiff next month and then a long run in the Swaythling cup in Dortmund. I think we have a team strong enough even to upset the Swedes" he said.

The man who has six wins to his credit over European champion Mikael Appelgren was also generous in his praise to the people who have helped him on his way to the top including especially his coach Derek Marples and his sponsors AVS and his county Derbyshire who have had disappointments when Alan was unable to play for them due to other major commitments.

His decision to play in Sweden, for Falkenburg at No. 2 behind Erik Lindh has paid off handsomely and is without doubt a major plank in his rise to fame and hopefully fortune, although in table tennis that is by no means, assured.

He has a great interest in all sport, plays tennis, football and golf and we are told by Channel 4 that he has a charming girlfriend, Sue Richmond and we all saw her on the Christmas programme!

English table tennis will be looking to Alan Cooke in 1989 and beyond for great things. His professionalism, fitness, dedication and determination means we have a man who could win the European title 15 months from now in Sweden.

## BOA CALLS ON COACHES

THE British Olympic Association today took the first step towards gold medals for Britain at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and Albertville when it called on top coaches to form an Olympic Advisory Panel.

"Coaches work closely with their elite competitors", explained BOA General Secretary, Dick Palmer. "and we want to open a dialogue with them on preparations for the Games over the complete 4-year cycle. They can help us provide the correct conditions and services for British success".

Part of that winning strategy will involve use of the physiological testing facilities at the British Olympic Medical Centre, Northwick Park Hospital, London, to



monitor competitors' fitness and provide medical back-up. The BOA will be approaching its member Olympic governing bodies to nominate coaches for the Panel.

Meanwhile Kevin Hickey, Chairman of the British Association of National Coaches welcomed the initiative. "It is an exciting development which recognises the contribution and important role that coaching has in producing good performances at Olympic level", he said.

## Jim West sees Cornwall coaching

EAST Sussex diploma coach Jim West is just back from a visit to the Falmouth Club in Cornwall where he found the standard of coaching and play very high.

The players were under the "dedicated eyes" of county coach Dennis Williams. Their premier side of Jeremy Williams, Graham Reed and Matthew Ruston is "a force that could be a danger to county players" said Jim.

### Impressive

"I was also impressed by the club atmosphere and the number of juniors regularly attending the club coaching sessions. One player who impressed was Alan Craig" said Jim.

Cornwall, considering its extremely difficult geographical



Jim West

position has a good administration and of course, it has already produced in recent times one outstanding player England No.5 Neil Bevan of Bude who also have Stephen Barratt, the No.14 England cadet.

## ENGLAND MEN ON THE WAY TO THE TOP?



*Steve Dorking of Surrey*

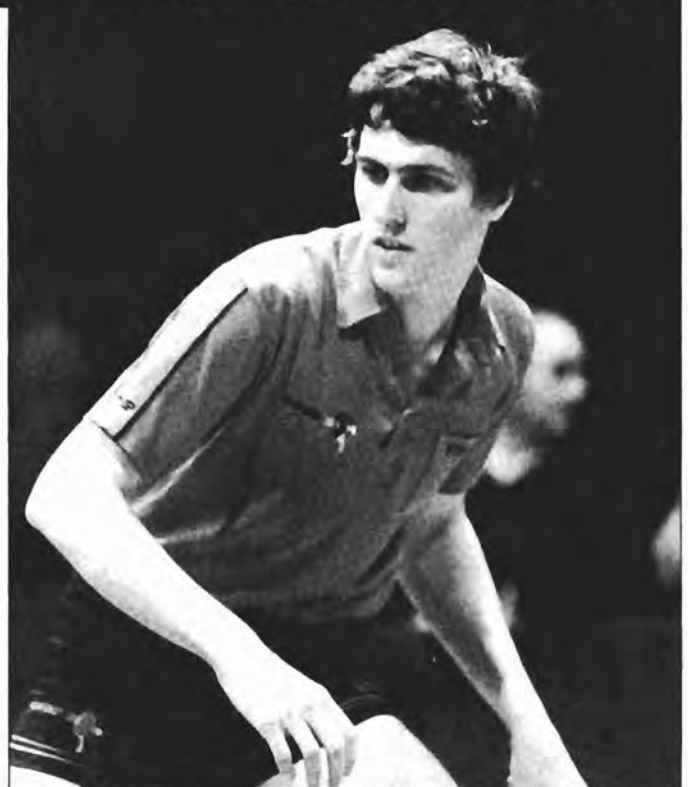


*Glenn Baker also of Surrey*

## TWO MEN WHO HAVE REACHED THE TOP



*Horatio Pintea, No. 1 in Canada*



*Peter Jackson No. 1 in New Zealand*

★ *THESE four men will share an increasing amount of limelight in 1989. Dorking and Baker play for Ashford in the Leeds British League along with Jackson, whilst Pintea will partner Ormesby's Chen Xinhua in their bid for the premier division title. All four could appear in the Butterfly Commonwealth Championships in Cardiff.* ★

# The Leeds County Championships 1

## The position near half-way

THE MAGAZINE deadline precluded comment on 7 Jan matches. I give a summary on the situation in Divisions – other than the Premier divisions, which have had up-to-date reports.

**SENR 1A:** Cambs and Essex lead the way with 5 points and the same games average. They have met and made a draw. With Helen Bardwell and Yvette Hooks, Cambs have the advantage in the ladies' department. Overall Essex have the ascendancy with the men – Steve Dorking, Desmond Charley and David Newman. Northumberland seem most likely to cause an upset and they have to meet both these teams. Among the men the most successful are Keith Richardson (Ca), Steve Dorking (E) and Phil Logsdon (Nk), each having lost only 1 singles. Richardson has beaten the other 2 players. Phil Logsdon has returned to Norfolk after University – he was a British University Champion. Phil's loss to Keith Richardson came after a hard fought match – -26, 18, -19! The ladies' leaders are Helen Bardwell, Yvette Hooks and Clair Mouzon (Nd).



Jane Barella

**SENR 1B:** Surrey are the clear leaders having Nicky Mason, Glen Baker and Jane Barella – all unbeaten. Dorset are struggling at this level and Somerset also in difficulties this season. Kent performing well having dropped only 1 point. John Burleton is their most successful player. Unbeaten ladies are Helen Perrott (Av), Sue Butler (Dv), Gillian Blanch (Mi) – and of course Jane Barella.

**SENR 2A:** Lancs have another successful team and top this section. Chester 1 are nearest rivals and they meet in the last series. Both teams well served by the ladies. Lancashire have 100% success – with Marjorie Riddle an ever present. Chester lost only 1 event and have Ann Greenhough unbeaten. Newcomers Clwyd are struggling. Spencer Harris is

their most successful player – he inflicted the only defeat of Wayne Renton (La).

**SENR 2B:** Cornwall 1 have played only 2 matches but have looked good with Neil Bevan, Jeremy Williams and Graham Reed. Esme Stevenson and Cara Rowe have given good support. Hants also unbeaten with their ladies' – Cheryl Buttery, Sarah Hammond and Sarah Turner getting 100% wins. These 2 teams meet in the last series of matches. Darren Griffin (Gs) has been playing well having lost only 1 singles – to Jeremy Williams (Co) and at deuce in 3rd game.



Brian Mileham

**SENR 2C:** Lincs and Northants are unbeaten but have played just 2 matches. Beds have 5 points dropping a point to Herts 2. Beds probably have the edge with the ladies' as Julie Eames (nee Dimmock), Lisa Robins and Mary Jarrett have won all their singles and doubles events. Andy Withers (Ca2) is the top man having won 100% in singles and doubles.

**SENR 2D:** No team has full points. Berks 2 lead with 5 but the Essex 2 and 3 teams will be "in with a shout". Essex 3 particularly got off to a good start but were, somewhat surprisingly, beaten 7-3 by Surrey 2. Ladies' events could be crucial and so far Berks and Mary Allan, Claire Plumridge and Taryn Napier-Vallis have been the most successful. Berks also have David Reeves unbeaten in singles.

**JUNR 1A:** Inevitably Yorks 2 look invincible – 3 wins dropping only 3 events! Warwicks have played and won 2 matches. Over 3 matches there is only 1 boy unbeaten – Peter Furneaux (Ng). Debbie Newman (Y2) is the only girl in this category. Jason Lee has played well for Lancs – he had a win over Graham Cook (Y. No. 1). Jason's only loss was to Rajinder Singh (Wa).

**JUNR 1B:** There have been some close matches – a third have been drawn. No team has gained full points. Berks and Kent have 5

points. Berks seem to have the advantage in girl's events with Nicola Cracknell and Lisa Crick. But Kent are very well served by Brian Mileham, Spencer Thompson and Matthew King.



Richard Darnell

**JUNR 2A:** Leics and Northants both have 3 wins. Leics boy's – Andrew Clark, John Gayton and Darren Bramhall have not dropped a singles but Leics have not won a single girl's event. The team is therefore vulnerable whereas Northants seem a well balanced team, having dropped only 8 events. Kieron Dabbs and Sally Russell (Np) have 100% in singles.

**JUNR 2B:** An up-to-date report on this section given in Jan. edition.

**JUNR 2C:** Cornwall 1 have played and won 2 matches. But the Welsh teams, Glam. and Gwent, look strong. Gwent got a 6-4 win over Glam., have 5 points from 3 matches, and could well take the title. Their No. 1 is Lee Thomas, who has lost only to Chris Kelly (Gn), and Sian Evans unbeaten as No.1 girl.

**JUNR 2D:** Essex 2 lead the way with 4 wins for the loss of only 6 events! The team has Tayo Fasanya and Allan Radford with 100% in singles and doubles. Essex 3 and Surrey 2 teams have lost only 1 point each – as a result of a draw when the teams met. Essex 2 have to play the Surrey team in February and it will be a vital clash. Other unbeaten players are Alison Taylor (Nk) and Janet Scoulding (Sk).

**VETS 1A:** Essex look well set for return to Premier Division having dropped just 5 events over 3 matches. With players of the quality of Stuart Gibbs, Fred Lockwood and Peter and Lesley Radford – and good reserves – it is most unlikely they will be beaten. Ches. 2 are also unbeaten but have played just 2 matches. Promotees Yorks. 2 have coped well with 2 wins but Northants look in danger of an early return to Div 2.



by DOUG MOSS

**VETS 1B:** Herts are also on course for re-instatement to Premier Division. The team has won 3 matches and their No.1 – Dave Seaholme – is unbeaten. The remainder of the teams look fairly even – each team has at least 1 win, including promotees Oxon and Surrey 2. Mike Watts (Sx) has played 2 matches and won all his singles and doubles matches – so he is managing his own events well as he does for E.T.T.A!

**VETS 2A:** Ches. 3 and Lancs, each with 3 wins, look rivals for promotion. Over 3 matches only Mabel Neary (La 1) is unbeaten. Clwyd are finding it hard going. N'berland also have not won a match but 2 losses have been at 4-5. They have Fred Short who has been beaten only once and has won all his doubles with Maurice Cheek.

**VETS 2B:** Essex 2 were demoted but look too good at this level – 4 wins and dropped only 1 event! Jim Holey, Derek Wood, Dave Solman and Shirley Carroll look invincible. Main rivals appear to be Essex 3, who topped this Section last season. Herts 3 won their first 3 matches, with Brian Gale unbeaten in singles and doubles. But Herts were beaten to the tune of 8-1 by Essex 2, which signifies their strength.

### Sylvia impresses

**VETS 2C:** Bucks 2 have 4 wins and dropped only 7 events. They have a good all-round team with John Cooper, Len Pratt, Brian Savage and Sylvia Coombs. But Glos are there with 3 convincing wins and their 3 men – Frank Jones, Alan Giles and John Fannin all have 100% in singles events. The Glos/Bucks 2 match in Feb. will obviously be vital.

**VETS 2D:** The Berks 2 and Herts 2 teams lead the way each having 3 wins. Both teams have played 5 men over their 3 matches and team selection, or availability of players, may have an influence on the championship. The 2 teams meet in the last series. Hants 2 is another good team and have lost only 1 match – to Herts 2 with a 4-5 score. There are no players with 100% over 3 matches. Top performers have been Maurice Shave (Ha2) and Terry Wilson (He2).

# The Leeds County Championships 2

## THE COUNTY TABLES at Feb 1st, 1989

Compiled by Les Smith

### SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	P
Lancashire	3	3	0	19	8	6
Middlesex	3	2	1	18	9	4
Leicestershire	3	2	1	13	14	4
Devonshire	3	2	1	12	15	4
Yorkshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Derbyshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Berkshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Suffolk	3	0	3	8	19	0

Division 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Yorkshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Cambridgeshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Warwickshire	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Northumberland	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Worcestershire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Hertfordshire	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Division 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Kent	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Avon	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Middlesex 2nd	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Sussex	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Devonshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Somerset	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire 2nd	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Leicestershire 2nd	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Cheshire 1st	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Cheshire 2nd	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Cumbria	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Warwickshire 2nd	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Clwyd	5	0	0	5	6	44	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cornwall 1st	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Hampshire	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Herefordshire	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Gloucestershire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Wiltshire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Worcestershire 2nd	5	0	2	3	15	35	2
Avon 2nd	6	1	0	5	18	42	2
Cornwall 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Dorset 2nd	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Division 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Northamptonshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Bedfordshire 1st	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Cambridgeshire 2nd	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Suffolk 2nd	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Surrey 2nd	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Essex 3rd	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Sussex 2nd	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Buckinghamshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Kent	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

### JUNIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Devonshire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Staffordshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Division 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Yorkshire 2nd	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Nottinghamshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Lancashire 2nd	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Durham	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

Division 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Berkshire	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Surrey	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Sussex	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Hertfordshire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Avon	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Buckinghamshire	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Somerset	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northamptonshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Leicestershire	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Derbyshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Lancashire 3rd	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Cumbria	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Warwickshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Northumberland	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Cheshire 2nd	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Clwyd	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Oxfordshire	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Hertfordshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Hampshire	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Gloucestershire	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Middlesex 2nd	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Cambridgeshire	4	1	1	2	13	27	3
Berkshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	1	29	0

Division 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Glamorgan	7	5	1	1	52	18	11
Cornwall 1st	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Dorset	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Gwent	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Avon 2nd	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Devonshire 2nd	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Devonshire 3rd	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Cornwall 2nd	4	0	1	3	7	33	1
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Division 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Surrey 2nd	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Essex 3rd	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Norfolk 1st	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Suffolk 1st	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Norfolk 2nd	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Kent 2nd	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Sussex 2nd	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Suffolk 2nd	5	0	0	5	7	43	0

### VETERANS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	3	3	0	20	7	6
Sussex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Kent	3	2	1	16	11	4
Surrey	3	2	1	15	12	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Lincolnshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Yorkshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Middlesex	3	0	3	3	24	0



Joanna Roberts, Yorkshire

Division 1A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Essex	4	4	0	30	6	8
Norfolk	4	3	1	22	14	6
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	19	17	6
Cheshire 2nd	3	2	1	15	12	4
Worcestershire	4	2	2	20	16	4
Northamptonshire	4	1	3	13	23	2
Leicestershire	3	0	3	7	20	0
Warwickshire	4	0	4	9	27	0

Division 1B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire	4	4	0	28	8	8
Middlesex 2nd	4	2	2	19	17	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	19	17	4
Dorset	4	2	2	18	18	4
Surrey 2nd	4	2	2	17	19	4
Sussex 2nd	4	2	2	17	19	4
Hampshire	4	1	3	13	23	2
Kent 2nd	4	1	3	13	23	2

Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Lancashire 1st	4	4	0	28	8	8
Cheshire 3rd	4	3	1	21	15	6
Yorkshire 3rd	4	3	1	20	16	6
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	19	17	4
Lancashire 2nd	4	2	2	16	20	4
Lincolnshire 2nd	4	1	3	16	20	2
Northumberland	4	1	3	16	20	2
Clwyd	4	0	4	8	28	0

Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	5	5	0	43	2	10
Hertfordshire 3rd	5	4	1	28	17	8
Essex 3rd	4	3	1	21	15	6
Northamptonshire 2nd	5	3	2	20	25	6
Norfolk 2nd	4	2	2	21	15	4
Huntingdonshire 1st	5	2	3	20	25	4
Huntingdonshire 2nd	3	1	2	7	20	2
Berkshire 4th	5	0	5	12	33	0
Bedfordshire	4	0	4	8	28	0

Division 2C	P	W	L	F	A	P
Buckinghamshire 2nd	5	5	0	37	8	10
Berkshire 1st	5	4	1	34	11	8
Gloucestershire	4	4	0	28	8	8
Surrey 3rd	4	2	2	23	13	4
Hertfordshire 4th	5	2	3	16	29	4
Berkshire 3rd	5	1	4	20	25	2
Wiltshire 2nd	4	1	3	11	25	2
Wiltshire 3rd	5	1	4	10	35	2
Herefordshire	5	1	4	10	35	2

Division 2D	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	4	0	24	12	8
Hampshire 2nd	4	3	1	24	12	6
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	1	22	14	6
Wiltshire 1st	4	2	2	20	16	4
Sussex 4th	4	2	2	17	19	4
Dorset 2nd	4	2	2	16	20	4
Somerset	4	0	4	11	25	0
Sussex 3rd	4	0	4	10	26	0

## Giants are closing in

by MIKE LOVEDER

FOUR TEAMS remain unbeaten in the Premier as Ashford pinched a point from Ormesby despite trailing 1-4. A rare duck from Nicky Mason was partly offset by Peter Jackson who kept Ashford in the hunt with devastating form. Jackson beat Horatio Pintea and Nigel Eckersley in single figures conceding only 32 pts on the day. Chen Xinhua was untroubled as expected and Pintea, his interpreter, beat Mason deuce in the third. Glenn Baker narrowly beat John Broe.

Ashford had impressively whitewashed Butterfly Cardiff with Mason beating Tony Taylor 10, 2! With Des Douglas representing Europe, Bath have postponed both of their matches against Ashford. Before he left, Bath had a predictable draw with Grove. Kevin Satchell beat Jimmy Stokes and lost to Bradley Billington. Bath beat Armada 6-2 as Alison Gordon beat Satchell and Chris Rogers. Grove beat Cardiff by the same score as Carl Morgan beat Stokes AND Billington!

Bayer Bradford's Michael O'Driscoll fired some early warning shots at leading English players as he beat Ashford's Glenn Baker 14, 11 and only lost to Mason at 18 in the third. Against Ormesby, O'Driscoll took Pintea to a third game and he took 33 points from Chen. Denis Neale lost the third to Pintea 22-24 in this match. Cardiff beat Armada 6-2 and the clash of the giant killers saw Ali Gordon lose to Carl Morgan despite winning the first game 31-29.

### KETTLE BOILING

City of Leeds lost 3-5 to Grove II but not without Bennie Robertson beating Graham Sandley 11, 10. Grove lost 3-5 to Kettler Sport with John Hilton on form and Sandley on Premier duty - losing to Alison Gordon! Stuart Palmer won St Neots only two v Kettler - firstly against Adrian Moore - 17, 20, 25 and then Hilton - 19, 13, 23.

Burslem move up a place with their 6-2 win over Ruston Marconi Lincoln as Brian Johns and Craig Bakewell took two each. W Warwicks scraped a win over St Neots with Barry Johnson beating Mick Harper and Keith Richardson. When Ipswich drew with Leeds John Kitchener took two and Phil Logsdon beat Eddie Smith. Kettler beat Leeds to go top while Grove drew with W Warwicks. Fiona Elliott beat Barry Johnson but lost 19 in the third to Andy Rich.

### NINE DRAWS

Horsham Dolphins became the only team to take a point from C & L Ruislip. Andy Wellman beat Phil Smith but lost 7-21 in the



Andy Dodd

third to Ritchie Venner. Subsequently Dolphins drew at Rejects as Percy Collino beat Phil Smith and Andy Dodd. Plymouth Bulldogs drew with Dagenham with Richard Jermyn taking one from Gary Wilson but losing to Tony Sweet. Doleq drew with Larkhall as John Payne lost his two. Team Ramlosa Essex led Rejects 3-2 only to lose 3-5 as Mike O'Leary beat John Dennison and Richard Darnell. Collino led Dennison 20-16 in the third only to lose 20-22! Larkhall move up with 5-3 wins over Ramlosa and Dolphins. Darnell beat Dave Harding 14, 10 but the 7 other games went to 3 with Ramlosa missing out. Two from Mark Oakley and John Payne helped secure the win against Horsham. Ramlosa held Dagenham to a draw as Damien Holland beat Tony West in the last game. Doleq beat Plymouth with Steve Ward beating Gary Wilson 12, 17 and narrowly beating Tony Sweet. Ruislip hammered Rejects 7-1 but it was Nigel Tyler who lost 11, -19, -12 to Gary Spencer.

### INFRONT

In contrast there have been no draws in Div 2 N. Well Connected Wellingbro stay ahead with an 8-0 over Ormesby although 5 games went to three. They also made light work of Chan Construction. Vymura are chasing but their 5-3 over Royal Mail Leicester was not easy. 3 of the first four sets were won with a 22-20, with Derek Schofield doing most damage. March suffered a surprise 2-6 loss

to Oldham with Howard Whewell leading. Ormesby fell to Grove III's 3 ladies aided by David Morris. However they were 'out of order' at Leicester and consequently lost 1-7 with Jill Harris beating Martin Pickles as a consolation.

### BRADBURY BEATEN

Ashford II dealt a severe blow to Chelmsford OC's even though Grant Solder and Dave Newman beat Kenny Jackson. New Zealand's Peter Jackson took few chances as he beat Des Charlery 7, 11. Joey Kennedy won two important games too. Dave Barr had little trouble winning two this time. VS Tonbridge led Cardiff 4-2 before sharing the points with Chris Kelly winning the last game against Neil Harris. VST beat Fellows Cranleigh to move up a place.

Deptford Rams slip down to 4th place following their 2-6 loss to Cheltenham Saracens. Dave Harvey beat Phil Bradbury 16, 25 for a 4-1 lead. Chelmsford stay on top with convincing wins over Jolliffe Poole and Cranleigh. Terry Glennon beat Grant Solder for Poole's sole win. In contrast Cranleigh's Mark Wicker battled valiantly against Dave Newman, only losing 17 in the third. But Grant Solder won 0, 8 in a merciless display against Wicker.

Comets beat Dunstable 6-2 with Bryn Tyler beating Colin Luscombe. Ipswich drew with Cranleigh as Ritchie Nelhams secured a surprise 10, 15 win over Dave Solman. CMK drew with Levi's as Martin Les beat Rafe Miller and Kieron Dabbs. Ellenborough players won one each for a draw at Norwich. Richard Stevenson did most damage with wins over Jon Proffitt and Dipak Topiwala. However Ellenborough are top with wins over AHW Comets and CMK. In the latter Martin Les beat his old friend and rival Simon Proffitt -12, 18, 26. Norwich Foxwood dropped a valuable point to Cranleigh despite two comfortable wins from Richard Stevenson. Levi's Westfield beat Britannia Ipswich 6-2 to leave all 3 bottom teams with 3



Mike Loveder

points each. Kieron Dabbs beat Andrea Ambrose 19, 27 in this match.

### SAFE SEAT

Seat Peterborough bounced back from an 8-0 defeat by Liverpool (despite 5 deciding ends) to beat Ormesby 7-1. Brian Allison is reported to have beaten Jimmy Nicholson 15, -21, 2. Birmingham SC drew with Vymura with 7 games going to three. In the 8th however Steve Dobbins beat Brendan Dunne 8, 12 for a quick finish! Bribar Byker drew with Birmingham as Malcolm Lusk beat Peter Waite in the last game. Byker should be more of a force now that they have recruited Mark Oakley who won 9/10 in Div IS. Hartlepool beat Liverpool 6-2 and are now just one game from the top of the table.



Phil Bradbury

# Leeds British League 2

## BATTLER BARTRAM

Horsham Dolphins led 3-1 against Lambeth 4 Tops and then won 4 deuce games to lead 6-1. Pillinger beat Ashford 7-1 but only two games were won two-straight. The introduction of Emil Emecz seems to be turning matches in favour of the Pillinger squad. Rejects escaped with 7-1 wins over Marley Ashford and Gunnersbury Triangle. TSP Larkhall move up with two wins from the old boys network. They beat the previously unbeaten leaders Horsham despite strong resistance from Peter Bartram who took his two comfortably from Frank Hams and Gordon Chapman.



Denis Neale

## TIRELESS BATH

Specsavers Barry fell 3-5 to Bath despite two wins from Tony Healan over Chris Holley and Paul Hooper. Bath made short work of Leckie and Grove to take the top spot with a match in hand. Andy Creed is improving every match and should not now lose many. Reading continue to challenge with a win over Barry as Terry Haley and Paul Savins won two each. Grove took their first point from Doleq and Groves Harris and Mark Turner beat Lee Thomas narrowly. Amity Generation Fareham drew with Barry as George Evans found useful form for the latter. The previous week AG Fareham drew with White Hart Launceston with Ramesh Bhalla winning 11, 12 against Neil Bevan for the main 'upset'.



Jill Harris



John Broe, Ormesby and Scotland.



Player of the month Stuart Richards, Grove.



Jean-Michel Saive - The latest signing by ambitious Ashford, Middlesex.

## the LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE - TABLES



Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove I	7	5	2	0	45	11	12
Ashford I	6	4	2	0	37	11	10
Ormesby I	5	4	1	0	32	8	9
Bathwick Tyres I	5	4	1	0	28	12	9
Butterfly Cardiff I	7	3	0	4	26	30	6
Armada 400	8	1	1	6	19	45	3
Chan Construction I	8	1	1	6	14	50	3
Bayer Bradford Unity	6	0	0	6	7	41	0

Division I (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettler Sport	8	6	1	1	41	23	13
Grove II	8	5	2	1	38	26	12
Britannia Ipswich I	8	4	3	1	39	25	11
West Warwickshire	8	4	2	2	35	29	10
City of Leeds	8	3	2	3	37	27	8
M.B.S. St. Neots TTC	8	2	2	4	33	31	6
Burslem A.N.C.	8	1	0	7	19	45	2
Ruston Marc. Lincoln	8	1	0	7	14	50	2

Division I (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C. & L. Ruislip	8	7	1	0	47	17	15
Horsham Dolphins I	8	4	2	2	36	28	10
Dagenham F.C.	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
Team Ramlosa Essex	8	3	2	3	32	32	8
Doleq Carpets I	8	1	4	3	29	35	6
Rejects I	8	2	2	4	28	36	6
T.P.S. Larkhall I	8	2	2	4	24	40	6
Plymouth Bulldogs	8	1	3	4	27	37	5

Division II (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Well-Conn Well'bro	7	7	0	0	49	7	14
Vymura Intern. I	7	6	0	1	38	18	12
March T.T.C.	8	5	0	3	37	27	10
Ormesby II	8	4	0	4	27	37	8
Royal Mail Leicester	8	3	0	5	32	32	6
Grove III	7	3	0	4	24	32	6
Oldham	8	2	0	6	25	39	4
Chan Construction II	7	0	0	7	8	48	0

Division II (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford O'C's	8	7	0	1	49	15	14
Ashford II	8	6	1	1	46	18	13
Cheltenham Saracens	8	5	2	1	37	27	12
Deptford Rams	8	5	1	2	37	27	11
Jolliffe Poole	8	3	0	5	25	39	6
Victory Sports Ton.	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Butterfly Cardiff II	8	1	1	6	23	41	3
Fellows Cranleigh I	8	0	0	8	15	49	0

Division III (East)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thorn Ellenborough	8	7	1	0	47	17	15
Norwich Foxwood	8	6	2	0	48	16	14
Fellows Cranleigh II	8	3	3	2	33	31	9
A.H.W. Comets	8	4	1	3	31	33	9
Dunstable Pioneer	8	4	0	4	33	31	8
Britannia Ipswich II	8	1	1	6	23	41	3
City of M. Keynes	8	1	1	6	22	42	3
Levi's Westfield	8	1	1	6	19	45	3

Division III (North)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	8	7	0	1	48	16	14
Hartlepool P.C.	8	7	0	1	47	17	14
Birmingham SC R.S.	8	5	2	1	40	24	12
Vymura Intern. II	8	3	1	4	33	31	7
Bri-Bar Byker T.T.C.	8	2	2	4	31	33	6
Crusaders Lincoln	8	3	0	5	26	38	6
Seat Peterborough	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Ormesby III	8	0	0	8	7	57	0

Division III (South)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Horsham Dolphins II	8	6	1	1	44	20	13
Rejects II	8	4	3	1	39	25	11
Lambeth 4 Tops	8	5	1	2	38	26	11
Pillinger Air (Croy)	8	2	3	3	32	32	7
Gunnersbury Trinagle7	2	2	3	25	31	6	
T.S.P. Larkhall II	6	3	0	3	21	27	6
Marley Ashford	7	1	2	4	22	34	4
Ashford III	8	1	0	7	19	45	2

Division III (West)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bathwick Tyres II	6	5	1	0	33	15	11
Kingfisher Reading	7	5	1	1	33	15	11
Specsavers Barry	8	5	1	2	40	24	11
White Hart Launceston8	3	3	2	37	27	9	
Amity Generation	7	2	4	1	31	25	8
Doleq Carpets II	7	1	3	3	23	33	5
Leckie T.T.C.	8	1	0	7	20	44	2
Grove IV	7	0	1	6	12	44	1

## THE T.S.B. GROVE SCHOOL YOUTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Clinical Andrea Holt wins twice

ANDREA HOLT and Adrian Dixon emerged as the winners of the principal events in the T.S.B. Grove School Youth Open Championships on December 17th winning the Under-21 Ladies and Men's Singles Events respectively whilst Chris Oldfield joined Miss Holt as a winner of two events as the smiling Yorkshireman captured the Under-17 and Under-19 Boys Singles titles.

It was to be the defensive skills of Miss Holt combined with clinical quick hitting that gave the Lancastrian international a brace of titles with Yorkshire's Kate Goodall the victim at the final stage in both roses finals as the white was felled by the red. The Under-21 event saw both girls reach the final without the loss of a set with an impressive Lisa Crick ousting Grove's Sarah Creasey in the quarter finals by the narrowest of margins whilst the latter had accounted for the never-say-die Leeds girl and number three seed Joanna Roberts in the group matches, however it was to be Miss Holt who ended the progress of Lisa Crick in the semi-finals whilst Kate Goodall accounted for Bridgnorth's Louise Davis in the other semi final with the latter making a welcome return to the tournament scene. Meanwhile the Under-19 girls event went to Andrea Holt in similar fashion with Welsh rising star Natasha Williams the semi-final victim and runner up Kate Goodall beating colleague Joanna Roberts at the penultimate stage in the tightest of struggles.

### Superb form

Adrian Dixon made the journey from Reading most worthwhile hitting superb form to win the Under-21 Men's Singles recovering from an opening set deficit to beat Nottingham's John Holland with Grove's Chris Oldfield the vanquished semi-finalist and Lancashire's Howard Whewell the victim of Holland having beaten fourth seed and North West colleague Jonathan Taylor in the quarter finals Dixon gave a fine display using good technique and balanced footwork to reap success with his closest call being in Round Two where Yorkshire's Mark Stephenson extended Dixon to a close third set with a typical hardworking effort.

The defeated semi finalist in the Under 21 event was to be the lot of Oldfield but not so in the other singles events where at Under 19 level Grove's faithful John Ellis proved the final victim as did Lancashire's Andrew Eden in the Under 17 Boys' Singles. It was to be Ellis who upset the seeding in the Under 19 event winning the match of the day against Nottingham's John Holland and top seed at the semi-final

### Report by IAN MARSHALL

stage with the Welshman presenting a renowned calm and sporting approach to matters. Meanwhile in the same event Oldfield ousted the impressive Derbyshire lad Jason Bamford in the semi finals and Welshman Spencer Harris in the quarters with the latter duo upsetting the seeding as Bamford beat Jonathan Taylor in round three and Harris beat Howard Whewell in the quarter finals.

### Oldfield's revenge

It was to be revenge for the defeat inflicted by Andrew Eden one week earlier in the English Junior Nationals as Oldfield beat the splendid Lancastrian in a straight sets final with Yorkshire's Mark Stephenson and Lancashire's Howard Whewell the losing semi finalist, whilst on the female side Kate Goodall gained just rewards for her efforts winning the Under 17 Girls title beating Claire Marshall of Grove in the semi finals and Natasha Williams of Wales in the final, the latter having beaten luckless Joanna Roberts at the penultimate stage.



Chris Oldfield



Andrea Holt

### RESULTS

#### Under 17 Boys' Singles:

S.F. Chris Oldfield (Yks) bt Mark Stephenson (Yks) 15,19  
S.F. Andrew Eden (Lancs) bt Howard Whewell (Lancs) 15,6  
F. Oldfield bt Eden 19,12.

#### Under 19 Men's Singles:

S.F. John Ellis (Clwyd) bt John Holland (Derbys) -9,18,18  
S.F. Chris Oldfield (Yks) bt Jason Bamford (Derbys) 10,17  
F. Oldfield bt Ellis 11,6.

#### Under 21 Men's Singles:

S.F. Adrian Dixon (Staffs) bt Chris Oldfield (Yks) 13,11  
S.F. John Holland (Derbys) bt Howard Whewell (Lancs) 20,16  
F. Dixon bt Holland -22,12,15.

#### Under 21 Men's Doubles:

S.F. John Ellis (Clwyd)/David Morris (Shrops) bt Chris Oldfield (Yks)/Jonathan Taylor (Ches) 16,-17,14  
S.F. John Holland (Derbys)/Michael Auchtenlome (Yks) bt Paul Wood (Notts)/Robert Young (Notts) 20,-15,15  
F. Holland/Auchtenlome bt Morris/Ellis -18,21,14.

#### Under 17 Girls' Singles:

S.F. Natasha Williams (Clwyd) bt Joanna Roberts (Yks) 19,12  
S.F. Kate Goodall (Yks) bt Claire Marshall (Shrops) 15,11  
F. Goodall bt Williams 16,-19,12.

#### Under 19 Ladies' Singles:

S.F. Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Natasha Williams (Clwyd) 12,9  
S.F. Kate Goodall (Yks) bt Joanna Roberts (Yks) 18,-21,19  
F. Holt bt Goodall 13,10.

#### Under 21 Ladies' Singles:

S.F. Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Lisa Crick (Berks) 16,11  
S.F. Kate Goodall (Yks) bt Louise Davis (Staffs) 14,17  
F. Holt bt Goodall 14,12.

#### Under 21 Ladies' Doubles:

S.F. Louise Davis (Staffs)/Andrea Holt (Lancs) bt Jill Schofield (Ches)/Natasha Williams (Clwyd) 17,14  
S.F. Kate Goodall (Yks)/Joanna Roberts (Yks) bt Sarah Greasey (Shrops)/Liz Creasey (Shrops) 11,15  
F. Goodall/Roberts bt Davis/Holt -19,8,18.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

JOY DEAN, the England No.4 caused havoc amongst the seedings by not appearing at Clacton for the Stiga Top-12 tournament without any explanation.

The ETIA have written to WPC Dean asking for the reason for her absence and are awaiting a reply.

DESMOND BENJAMIN is the name of England's No.1 supporter. For years, Desmond has saved up all his spare cash on travelling to support England. He has appeared all over Europe. One of his surprise visits was to Wurzburg in Southern Germany when we lost the crucial match two years ago. He also attends the smaller events and plays in open tournaments.

DORTMUND looks like being a world championships sell-out. Supporters who are still thinking about making the journey should make definite arrangements, car ferries, accommodation etc. Seventy per cent of the tickets have been sold - the sport is certainly booming in Germany.

## STOP PRESS

ASHFORD are making their bid for the premier title by signing Jean-Michel Saive the champion of Belgium. He appeared on his debut against Grove at Ashford on Jan 15 and was unbeaten.

## KOREAN DANGER?



South Korea will have two dangers in Dortmund - this one - Kim Ki Taek and Yoo Nam Kyu.

# Counties 1

## AVON

G. Baldwin

TAKE away or pop in, that's what was on the menu for our County Juniors as our touring Chinese friends took time off from playing our National Team to coach and serve up some Hot Tips with Chop Serves thanks to the Sponsorship of The Sun Life.

The coaching along with Kevin Satchell lasted some 3 hours with the main emphasis on service, return of service and keep fit exercises.

We all tried with difficulty, seniors as well, to return the Chinese serve while two of the Eastern Stars enthralled us with an exhibition of looping the loop. It was then down to pairing off and practising the exercises.

A good time was had by all and everyone who attended thanked the Chinese for that special opportunity!

### WESTON-S-MARE TTA

The Weston-Super-Mare and district TTA are well into the season now and are very pleased to announce that their League has increased by 5 new teams (mostly to the influx of new juniors).

A Monday evening club with 11 tables open to all ages with free coaching (if requested) attracts 40-50 members of the Community and this could be increased if the venue could accommodate more tables, (size wise). Thus the increased activity at grass root level in the Weston Area for our sport.

Also the Weston Association was proud to stage the England v China match at the Weston Hutton Moor Leisure Centre which was a sell out of over 900 seats. For the locals it was a first opportunity to see an International without having to travel out of Weston. Publicity wise TT was the Big Winner. Our Association's thanks to Mike Lewis and the ETTA for their part in the weeks up to the actual night.

### BRIAN REEVES IS BACK

The Sun Life Bristol Closed Championships held at Soundwell Technical College saw the return of Brian Reeves to take the Men's Singles Title, a title he held some 16 years ago. Brian a regular Somerset County Player, having played approx 120 times, disposed of Avons Mike Childs in the final.

The ever improving juniors saw Steve Bettison (No.1) defeat David Hadley (No.2) in the Junior Boy's final while the pair of them teamed up to take the Junior Boy's Doubles over Matthew Bush and Hywell Gleen.

Other results as follows:-

Men's Singles  
B.Reeves b M.Childs  
Men's Doubles  
R.Murray b C.Ellison  
K.Philips b M.Cohen  
Ladies' Singles  
M.Carey b M.Cohen  
Ladies' Doubles  
M.Carey b M.Cohen  
D.Sandford b S.Hewitt  
Veteran Singles  
R.Sewell b L.Upward  
Junior Boys  
S.Bettison b D.Hadley  
Junior Girls  
J.Westall b T.McCourt  
Div 1-2  
K.Philips b P.Butterworth  
Div 3.4  
P.Bennett b M.Bush  
Div 5-7  
D.Minnett b M.Hawkins

## BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

AS THE halfway stage of the league season approaches I am informed that, in the Reading and Bracknell Leagues at least, the pre-season favourites are living up to their reputations and occupying the leading sports in their respective premier divisions. In Reading, the competition is fierce, with Sonning Common in a close tussle with Polish (they come from Poland - not to be confused with polish as in Johnsons Wax who play in the Aldershot league), YMCA 'A' and Kingfisher 'A'. Dave Reeves and Richard Kozlowski lead the Reading averages with Graham Kemp close behind. In Bracknell Kingfisher look like running away with the title once again although they have suffered one defeat when playing young Gemma Schwartz as a reserve. Graham Kemp features high in the individual averages in Bracknell also, but does not top them, having recently lost his 100% record for the first time in two seasons. Clean sheets are currently held only by Keith Hodder (Kingfisher) and Paul Hudliss (SSV), the latter perhaps being perhaps somewhat flattered as he has so far avoided (unintentionally I hasten to add!) playing the 3 or 4 players who might have taken this record from him.

Kingfisher feature prominently in other competitions having beaten Lytchett (Dorset) in the Wilmott Cup and currently leading the Southern Section of the Leeds Regional League.

Two Inter-town competitions have taken place within a short space of time with the Reading cadets and juniors taking nearly all the honours in both the Berkshire and Maidenhead events. Maidenhead, who seem to have been the most successful of the four Berkshire Leagues in recent times, could perhaps have

argued that the absence of their No. 1 junior, Nicky Bradfield, through injury in both events could have helped the Reading boy's to achieve a clean sweep against all-comers. However, in the subsequent 2nd round of the Carter cup, with Maidenhead at full strength, Reading, without No. 2 Marc Priddle, showed that they fully merited their earlier victories, by sweeping to a convincing 5-1 result, thanks largely to a tremendous performance by last minute substitute Martin O'Donovan.

## CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

IT has been another successful couple of months for Cornish table tennis at County and British League levels where it is pleasing to be able to report victories all round. The senior first team now competing in division 2B of the Leeds County Championships have stormed to the top of the division. A 9-1 win over Worcestershire II was a good result but the 8-2 defeat of Gloucestershire was far from expected and has put Cornwall in a very healthy position. It is the first time in the county's thirty eight year history that a win against Gloucestershire has been recorded and underlines the progress made by Cornwall in recent years.

The junior team has also started well in division 2C beating the Cornwall second team 10-0 and Dorset 7-3; they are well placed and will be candidates for promotion. With the progression of Andrew Bevan into the senior ranks, Neil Bevan into the senior team and Mark Bowden on to the cricket pitch, Cornwall have a changed junior first team this year. John Menzel Jnr, Matthew Rushton, Neil Martin, Johnny Maggs, Rachel Boon and Anna Cahill from the basis of the team. All six are doing well in the England rankings and are hungry to win the division.



Neil Bevan

White Hart Launceston have now moved back into the top three in division 3 West of the Leeds British League following two further wins. A 5-3 win at Leckie (Walsall) followed by an 8-0 rout against Grove IV has helped to soothe the two early 5-3

defeats by Bathwick Tyres II and Specsavers Barry. However, Launceston must maintain good form through the remainder of the season to have a serious chance of promotion.

Cornwall's three local leagues, the Launceston and District, Mid Cornwall and West Cornwall are now well under way and the premier divisions of each league are as follows. Unfortunately, the Mid Cornwall League table has not yet been received.

### Launceston and District Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Holsworthy A	4	4	0	0	38
Bude A	3	3	0	0	29
Metherell	4	3	1	0	27
Dunheved A	3	2	0	1	21
Bude B	5	1	1	3	17
Bridestowe A	4	0	2	2	14
Bude C	4	0	0	4	7
Holsworthy B	5	0	0	5	7

Leading Averages: N.Bevan (Bude) 100.00%; A.Bevan (Bude) 100.00%; J.Maggs (Bude) 100.00%; M.Rowe (Holsworthy) 100.00%; G.Sussex (Holsworthy) 91.33%; E.Stevenson (Holsworthy) 91.33%

### West Cornwall Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fal Docks B	6	6	0	0	47
Fal Docks A	5	4	0	1	41
Redruth A	5	3	0	2	34
St Austell A	5	4	0	1	32
Devoran A	5	2	0	3	26
Truro A	5	2	1	2	24
Devoran B	5	1	0	4	18
Camborne A	4	1	1	2	17
St Ives A	3	2	0	1	16
Peo Pal (Truro) A	6	0	0	6	12
Hel Godolphin A	5	0	0	5	3

Leading Averages: J.Williams (Fal.Docks B) 100.00%; G.Reed (Fal.Docks A) 93.33%; J.Menzel Jnr (Camborne A) 91.67%; J.Bassett (St Ives A) 88.89%; B.Cornelius (St Austell A) 86.67%; N.Reed (Fal.Docks B) 83.33%; S.Lobb (Redruth) 80.00%; M.Peters (Fal.Docks A) 80.00%; M.Rushton (Fal.Docks A) 73.33%; R.Jacobs (Truro A) 73.33%

In the Launceston and District League the Premier Division title looks set to be contested by Bude A and Holsworthy A. Bude look to be the strongest side on paper. Their number one player Neil Bevan recently won the Radio Cornwall Young Sportsman of the Year Award to add to his never ending list of titles.

The West Cornwall League Premier Division B is more keenly contested with the two Falmouth Docks teams setting the early pace. Redruth and St Austell are leading the chase. In a recent top of the table clash Falmouth Docks B beat their own A team by a 7-3 scoreline. For the A team only Graham Reed the new West Cornwall champion won any singles at all, and he had to work hard to beat Neville Reed and Veteran Dennis Williams.

## Counties 2

### BEDFORDSHIRE

Michael Jarrett

LIKE everywhere else the local leagues within Bedfordshire have arrived at their seasonal break for Christmas and New Year. This usually denotes the half way stage in the fixture list but this year the Luton league and the Dunstable league started late and had problems organising the fixture rota. Whilst the Leighton Buzzard league and Bedford league are only slightly more advanced.

The fixture secretary of Dunstable and District league David Bradshaw had the most problems. Dunstable have three divisions with the top labelled a Premier division, it was this division that caused all Daves headaches.

#### Fixture rota

Originally it was to be included in the global fixture rota for all three divisions and was thus printed in the handbook. The subsequent withdrawal of Pioneer meant the division was reduced to just five, so a re-think was needed. A new, totally independent rota was written with teams playing each other four times! After the revised fixture list was distributed it was agreed that teams should only play each other three times and the last round of matches should be scrapped.

The fixture secretary's diligence has resulted in an excellent competition throughout. The leaders of the troublesome Premier Division are the team from Milton Keynes AHW Comets who boast an exceptionally strong and large squad. The second placed team Delco Products have played less than their rivals and have notched one victory over AHW but do not look likely to over-haul the leaders.

#### Many draws

It is in the first division where the greatest competition is to be had. Only five points separate the top five teams and over a quarter of the matches played have resulted in draws. Delco Products B are the leaders not having lost a game. Also without a defeat are second placed Vauxhall Luton in which Mark Blackburn is the star, having dropped just two games. Good season are also being had by Delcos George Henderson and Ian Marquis and Caddingtons Clive Tilcock.

In the Division 2 Johansson lead but it is difficult to see a potential winner as teams have played differing numbers of games. However Johanssons Captain Ken Bearton is probably having his best season and is hoping to mastermind a successful championship campaign.

### CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

MAKING a come-back to the county fold after a season's absence, Cumbria's juniors have, at the time of writing, won one, drawn one and lost one, in the Leeds County Championships Junior Division 2A.

Following a 5-5 draw in Cheshire and a 7-3 home defeat by Leicester at Millom, the juniors beat Clwyd 8-2 at Castell Alyn Hose.

Rich in young players, Barrow-in-Furness provided four of the Cumbria team in the county's number one boy, Kevin Hodgson and Andy Michie and second and third county girls Fiona Harris and Carrie Lowes.

Hodgeson and Millom's Tony Dawson each won two sets and Michie one. Carrie won her singles and both doubles were won.

Clwyd names first: Andrew Jones lost to Tony Dawson 10-21, 16-21; lost to Kevin Hodgson 23-21, 19-21, 15-21. Martin Furber lost to Hodgson 12-21, 11-21; beat Andy Michie, 13-21, 22-20, 21-14. David Howarth lost to Michie 14-21, 12-21; lost to Dawson 21-16, 15-21, 18-21. Forber and Jones lost to Hodgson and Michie 16-21, 15-21. Natasha Williams beat Fiona Harris 21-13, 21-10. Meinir Davies lost to Carrie Lowes 15-21, 7-21. Williams and Davies lost to Harris and Jones 21-15, 12-21, 17-21.

Cumbria Juniors have obtained a generous sponsor in Copeland Fluid Power of Frizington.

Despite a leg injury, Cumbria table tennis captain Julie McLean was part of a fine women's doubles victory in the Leeds County Championship Division 2A match at Cleator Moor Civic Hall on Saturday November 26.

Julie damaged ankle tendons when a leg went down a hole in the field while she was umpiring a hockey match at St Aidan's School, Carlisle, where she is a teacher.

The triumph in three sets by Julie and her partner, Lynne Hadfield, a UKAEA police inspector at Sellafield who lives at Egremont and plays for Whitehaven YMCA Cobras, was Cumbria's only set win in a 9-1 defeat by Leicestershire 2nd.

Although a second team, the visitors fielded a strong side with all the three men in the top 200 of the England rankings and number one woman Julie Revill ranked England's 69th and at one time in the top 50.

Needless to say, the unranked McLean lost her season's unbeaten county record to Revill, but in spite of a lack of her usual mobility, got in some good strokes, as did men's number two,

the Carlisle Sands Centre coach Roger Stewart in his two singles.

All the county's men play for Sports Centre Free-traders in the Carlisle League, in which the Penrith-based McLean plays for Taylor Made Windows.

Cumbria names first: Stephen Temple lost to Maurice Newman 8-21, 17-21; lost to Martin Pickles 19-21, 11-21. Roger Stewart lost to Pickles 17-21, 21-23; lost to Keith Fellows 21-16, 18-21, 13-21. Mark Temple lost to Fellows 12-21, 21-18, 15-21; lost to Newman 19-21, 13-21. Stephen Temple and Stewart lost to Newman and Fellows 14-21, 13-21. Julie McLean lost to Julie Revill 13-21, 13-21. Lynne Hadfield lost to Joanne Pickles 19-21, 5-21. McLean and Hadfield beat Revill and Pickles 21-17, 12-21, 21-16.

CARLISLE Sands Centre coach Roger Stewart is teaching everyone a lesson in the Carlisle League this season.

The county number two entered the New Year with a 100 per cent league record. His form has helped Sports Centre Free-traders to top spot in Division One.

But he was hard pressed in the key match against second placed Taylor Made Windows by county captain Julie McLean. She took him to four match points before he finally got the verdict, and inflicted on Julie only her second league set-back of the term.

The Penrith physical education teacher was second in the averages to Stewart at the turn of the year with her team colleague S.O'Neil third.

Telesport led division two at the half-way stage with Ferguson B division three.

Whitehaven League have lost Windscale B, who have had to resign through unavailability of players. They were helping to set the pace in the second division and narrowly missed promotion last season.

First Division champions, Whitehaven News went off for Christmas level at the top with YMCA A.

### ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

LATEST results from the County Championships show that our first team is the joint leader (with Cams) of Division 1A, having beaten Worcs 6-4. The usual squad of Steve Dorking, Des Charlery, Dave Newman, Elaine Sayer and Kate Gower was on duty. Now Bobby Stevens must ensure that there are no mistakes made in the last four matches if we are to return to the Premier Division.

Division 2D contains our Second and Third teams, both of

which have lost only once, so the possibility of promotion exists. The problem is that the Thirds have already beaten the Seconds, so the selectors are struggling! Our Second and Third junior teams are both unbeaten and the Seconds look reasonably certain of promotion if regular players Allan Radford, Steven Rand, Tayo Fasanya, Tracy French and Rachel Reid can keep it up. Our three Veterans teams are unbeaten and lead two of the Divisions. Their latest ranking list shows:-

MEN: 1. S.Gibbs 2. P.Radford 3. S.Batrick 4. F.Lockwood 5. J.Hobley 6. D.Wood 7. D.Solman 8. R.Murray 9. P.Ballard 10. C.Jacob.  
WOMEN: 1. L.Radford 2. S.Carroll 3. A.Gilliam 4. P.Anker 5. J.Hand 6. P.Rogers.

The last Junior Tournament I attended was the "South of England" at Croydon, where Damian Holland was in pole position against Brian Mileham in the Final of the Under 17 Singles - 15/10 up in the third - but faded against a determined fight back by the Kent boy. This disappointment was forgotten when Alison Gower ran out the Winner of a wonderful Under 17 Girl's Final against Caroline Buckley (Beds). Damian had the misfortune to be on the losing side in a second final, the Boy's Doubles, where he and his partner Geoff Giles (Hants) were sunk by Simon Rockall (Middlesex) and Matthew Greenwood (Bucks). Our other finalist was Linda Radford in the Cadet Girls, but she was beaten by Sara Williams (Middlesex).



Skylet Andrew

I was very fortunate to have been asked to be one of the umpires at the recent England v China match at the Brentwood Centre. The venue is brand new and boasts a magnificent Sports Hall which provided comfortable seating for the 1000 spectators. It was great to see Cookey, Sky and Preano competing with the Chinese supremos, who were not all that unscrutable in the hospitality room - in fact they seemed to be very nice guys. I can report that Chairman John and I exchanged words of friendship and it seems as if glasnost has been re-established!

## DERBYSHIRE

Martin Kinsella

FIGHTING a rearguard action, the depleted Derbyshire side battled bravely to come away from the first Premier Weekend at Burton on Trent with a priceless two points in the bag.

In short, Derbyshire gained a magnificent victory over Berkshire 6-3, lost narrowly to Devon 5-4 (with Kinsella losing to Giles -19, 13, -19) and fell to Leicestershire 6-3. The Derbyshire trio of John Holland, Martin Kinsella and Stephen Yallop all recorded 3 wins out of 6, Julie Billington had a good win against Carol Giles and Ivor Warner made a valuable contribution in the men's doubles as did Derrick Marples as NPC.

So as recorded in last month's magazine, thanks to the England selection "policy" and the ETTA Calendar Committee Derbyshire are fighting to avoid relegation instead of sitting at the top of the division where we obviously belong.

However, it was a different story at the first Junior Premier Weekend at St. Neots where Derbyshire kept a 100% record - Played 3 won 3. With a magnificent all round team performance we defeated Staffordshire, Middlesex and Essex. The Derbyshire team responsible for this great achievement was Jason Banford, Stephen Hanks, Michael Davies and Andrew Clarke with Julie Billington and Nicola Deaton doing their bit for "Women in Sport". NPC was Mummy Billington.

Finally, as an example to all table tennis publicists throughout the land, I would like to highlight the achievements of Bryan Holmes, the Burton League Press Officer who every week manages to claim half of the sports page of the Burton Mail with his table tennis round-up. Bryan contrives to be interesting, entertaining and informative even managing to get the full scorecard of every match played in every division printed.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

FLYING the flag for Hertfordshire at the National Junior Championships held in Coventry on Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th of December, were Sarah Seaholme, Emma Hurling and Ian Black.

Watford's Sarah Seaholme really did the county proud by reaching the semi-finals of the Cadet Girls Singles, where she was only narrowly just beaten -19 in the 3rd, by the England No.3 Nicola Meddings from Staffordshire.



Lynne Robertson

Sarah also reached two quarter-final stages, when she partnered Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling in the Junior Girls Doubles, losing to Helen Reddings from Harrowgate and Joanne Keighley of Shipley, whilst in the Cadet Girls Doubles she teamed-up with Cornwall's Rachel Boon, where they lost to Essex's Linda Radford and Nicola Meddings -18 in the 3rd.

This fine achievement by Sarah is the first time for a long time, that anyone from Hertfordshire has reached the semi-final stage.

The county's only successful boy was St. Alban's Ian Black, who reached the quarter-finals of the Junior Boys Singles event, where he lost to Essex's Grant Solder, after beating the highly talented Neal Bevan from Cornwall in the quarter-finals.

Ian's victory over Neal Bevan, was to date, the highlight of his season.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

THE ETTA plus Channel 4 provided marvellous T.T. coverage of the recent Chinese tour just after Christmas, for all T.T. enthusiasts it was an excellent way to round off December 25th and greatly helped to herald in the new year.

A lot of people that I know, and not really connected with our sport admitted that they sat through all three of the one hourly programmes and thoroughly enjoyed it, "some even thought it was live", lets all hope that more T.T. coverage will be possible in 1989.

### Judy out

Mrs Judy Morley last seasons County Lady No 1 has I understand decided to withdraw from competitive table tennis on health grounds, playing at Bath last April she sustained injuries which apparently have as yet not really healed, Judy has always been a stalwart County Player and extremely reliable and will without doubt be greatly missed.

As most ardent fans are fully aware - our County has one team in the "Leeds British League", namely the Cheltenham based club "Saracens", I do not mention this League's activities too much because Mike Loveder covers all the reports, however one piece of news well worth a mention concerning Saracens in Div 2 (South) has just come my way - in their first match of the second half of the season playing Deptford Rams away, Saracens No 1 Dave Harvey took Phil Bradbury's 100% singles record away by beating the England No 16, 16 and 25, a very good result from the 39 year old man of the team, No offence Dave?

I am pleased to see that coaching for Intermediates in Gloucestershire is not being neglected once out of the Junior age group 18's and upwards often are left to their own devices and some even drift away from the game, Roy Morley regularly takes courses at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, Peter Cruwys in Cheltenham has for years NEVER GIVEN UP, whilst in Stroud coaching sessions for the over 18's are to commence in early January - under the astute and watchful eyes of Alan Giles.

Four Stroud Juniors namely - Peter Hayward, Andrew Ind, Peter Gibbs and Elaine Bassett, recently attended a coaching course at Swindon promoted and run by Val Clack the South West Regional ETTA Coaching Officer.

### SENIOR MEN

1. Dave Harvey (C).
2. Darren Griffin (G).
3. Graham Slack (C).
4. Will Daw (G).
5. Steve Moreman (G).
6. Dale Saunders (G).
7. Frank Jones (G).
8. Guy Greening (C).
9. Sylvester Callum (G).
10. Dave Smith (G).

### VETERANS

1. Frank Jones (G).
2. Alan Giles (S).
3. John Fannin (G).
4. Peter Wood (G).
5. Roy Fowler (G).
6. Roy Morley (G).
7. Ray Poole (G).
8. Dave Shill (C).
9. Ken Smith (C).
10. Mike Grey (C).

### SENIOR WOMEN

1. Heather Colwill (G).
2. Julie Hogarth (G).
3. Jaqui Carver (G).
4. Julie Taylor (C).
5. Sheila Matthews (C).
6. Karen Harvey (C).
7. Alison Cox (C).
8. Heather Fannin (G).
9. Linda Probert (C).
10. Caroline Stainer (S).

### JUNIOR GIRLS

1. Alison Cox (C).
2. Heather Fannin (G).
3. Caroline Stainer (S).
4. Wendy Nicholls (S).
5. Penny Wyatt (S).
6. Ellaine Bassett (S).
7. Lesley Dewick (G).
8. Caroline Thompson (S).
9. Helen Arnold (C).

### JUNIOR BOYS

1. Raymond Powell (G).
2. Jeremy Hyatt (G).
3. Neil Henry (G).
4. Richard Moore (G).
5. David Fannin (G).
6. Paul Morley (G).
7. Tim Dewick (G).
8. Lawrence Simpson (G).
9. John Gaulton (G).
10. David Malvern (C).

KEY CODE: S=STROUD.  
G=GLOUCESTER.  
C=CHELTENHAM.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillicrapp

LEEDS County Championship Senior Division 2A: Cumbria again proved to be a fruitful hunting ground for Leicestershire as the Senior Second team beat the home side at the Cleator Moor Civic Hall by a convincing 9-1 scoreline.

The Leicestershire squad of Martin Pickles, Keith Fellows, Maurice Newman, Julie Revill and Joanne Pickles were all unbeaten in singles games with Cumbria's only success coming when the ladies doubles pairing of Julie McClean and Lyne Hadfield beat Revill and Pickles in the fourth game of the afternoon.

Leeds County Championships Junior Division 2A: Leicestershire entertained Cheshire II at Knighton Park T.T.C. in their most recent fixture and once again the home men's trio of John Cayton, Darren Bramhall and Andrew Clark emerged unbeaten in singles games as Leicestershire just managed to squeeze home by the narrowest of scorelines.

The visiting ladies' Suzy Sorrentina and Cerie Tierney were however, much too strong for the home ladies pairing of Lisa Hobday and Helen Griffiths with all but one of the games won by Cheshire coming from the singles and doubles clashes between the ladies', the other one being the men's doubles when somewhat surprisingly Cayton and Bramhall were beaten by Peter Lau and Neil Allen 21-12 in the third.

Coming up to the halfway point of the season in the Loughborough League, Sawley 'A' lead Princes Sports Ltd. Division One

(Cont. on page 22)

*Leicestershire – Cont. from page 21*  
by four points from Cavaliers 'A' with the rest trailing a long way behind in what has become a two horse race. Cavaliers, however, look favourites for the title at this stage having dropped only one set to date with two games in hand over Sawley.

Switland 'A' seem to be heading for a fixture crisis rooted at the bottom of the division with only one point from one match played.

Sawley 'B' lead the Loughborough Echo Division Two with 100% record so far but hot on their heels are Unicorn 'B' also unbeaten from three games and only one point behind. Both D. Green for Unicorn and T. Jenkins for Sawley are currently unbeaten.

Students 'B' and Kegworth are languishing at the foot of this division neither having yet won a match.

Arthur Prince Garages Ltd. Division Three is a much closer affair with Barrow 'D' currently heading the chart but closely pursued by Knightthorpe 'C' and Kenner Parker 'A'. Leading player in this division is Barrow's A. Jones with 14 wins from 15 games.

### Perched on top

When Christmas called a halt to the first half of the season in the Leicester League, Loughborough Kingfishers I were to be found perched at the top of the pile in Division I some four points ahead of last year's runners up Knighton Park. Maurice Newman leads the individual averages in this division playing for Great Glen I with a 100% record from 18 games. Great Glen II and Rolls Royce I are currently at the foot of this division neither having yet found the secret of success.

## MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

OUR County teams are doing reasonably well in the County Championships although not brilliantly. With the promotion of our Junior 1st team, we are represented in all 3 Premier Divisions and all play over weekends. The Senior team went to Burton-on-Trent over the weekend of 29-30 October where they beat Leicestershire 8-1 and Devonshire 7-2, but lost to Lancashire 3-6. However despite the final score, the last match was by no means the resounding loss it sounds, with 4 of the 6 matches we lost going the full length and only being lost in the third. Our team was John Souter, Nigel Tyler, Graham Sandley, Colin Wilson and Lesley Keast (nee Tyler).

The Junior 1st team played at St. Neots on 26 and 27 November. Here our rather inexperienced

Juniors lost all 3 matches, against Essex 3-7; Derbyshire 4-6; and Yorkshire 2-8. But there were some individual triumphs and all players showed great team spirit. We hope for better results in the second weekend when they will not be playing against the strongest teams in the Division. Our team was Simon Rockall, Mark Williams, David Baker, Rebecca Fisher and Sara Williams. The Veterans 1st team also played over the weekend of 26 and 27 November at Hyde, Cheshire. Here again all 3 matches were lost, but once more against the strongest opponents. The scores were 2-7 against Lincolnshire; 1-8 against Bucks; and 0-9 against Cheshire. Our team was Babs Adedayo, Bill Brookman, John Holland and Mary Sawyer.



ONE of the great Middlesex stalwarts Graham Sandley reached the mens doubles final at Picketts Lock. Picture: Mike Loveder.

Our Senior 2nd team have played 2 matches in Division 1B where they beat both Devonshire II and Dorset by the same margin, 8 to 2, and made a bright start to the season. In the first match our team was David Goode, Tom Cutler, Tony Stark, Rachel Knight and Gill Blanch and Dipak Topiwala replaced Tony in the second match.

Our Junior 2nd team have also played 2 matches in Junior Division 2B, and having drawn 5 all with Oxfordshire (which was the first representative match for all but one of the players), then saw Worcestershire off 7-3. Once again the team captain commented on the fine team spirit among our players. The team was Dov Katz, Richard Hycinth, Bradley Matthews, Emise Kottasz and Liz Blanch, with Georgina Matthews replacing Emise in the second match.

For fuller results make sure you see the Association's Bulletin; a copy is sent to every Club Secretary either direct or through the League. The Selection Sub-Committee met on 29 December and decided that no amendments to the Ranking Lists were required in the light of these results and other events.

My report on the Middlesex 3-Star Open appeared in the January edition but for those of you who like to know how Middlesex players performed, here is a short report. 52 of the 316 competitors were Middlesex players. Three Middlesex men won their Groups to join our seeded players. Laz Brown (North Middlesex) went out in the first round to Adrian Moore (Sussex). Colin Wilson was unlucky to be drawn against Bradley Billington (Derbyshire). Tony Stark did well until he came unstuck against John Broe (Scotland); Nigel Tyler lost to the eventual runner-up, Michael O'Driscoll (Yorks); Graham Sandley tripped over Sean Gibson (Lancs) and John Souter lost to Billington in the Semi-Finals.

None of our Women won their Groups so Lesley Keast was our only representative in the knockout, but she lost to Sue Roden (Leicestershire). In the Men's Doubles, Graham Sandley (playing with Philip Bradbury of Bucks) did well to reach the Semi-Final, but John Souter and Colin Wilson did better, finishing as runners-up. Jill Champion stepped in to partner Mandy Sainsbury (Berks) in the absence of Joanne Shaw and did well until they came up against Joy Grundy and Jean Parker of Lancs, who also eliminated Gill Blanch and Rachel Knight. In the Veterans Singles, both Babs Adedayo and John Holland lasted out until the third round, but the others went out earlier.

## NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

GRAEME MCKIM'S six year reign as County Champion came to an end at Wellingborough's Weavers Sports Complex when Andy Trott unveiled the full range of his attacking skills to pierce, and finally destroy, Keith Jones' defensive barrier to become the new No. 1.

However McKim was not defeated, an alternative engagement in the Surrey 3-Star Tournament taking precedence, but not preventing him from returning to umpire the final that determined his successor.

Trott claimed his crown in fine style and never looked extended as he used his Leeds British League experience to clear every hurdle in straight games. It was an exhilarating performance after the unseeded Jones had battled splendidly to reach the final – even his first group match against much improved Steve Brown had to be settled at expedite.

In addition to Brown, other seeds to make an early departure were Kieron Dabbs and Richard

Elliott, ousted by Northampton's versatile newcomer Melvyn Starke, and Corby's rejuvenated Terry Cardwell respectively.

Trott collected a predictable second title when he teamed up for the first time with doubles specialist Chris Handshaw – their only problem provided by another new combination Dabbs and Elliott, who made an enterprising attempt to make up for their singles disappointment.

Kristina Cox retained her ladies title after beating mother Muriel in a poignant semi-final before encountering another opponent rich in experience in the shape of former title-holder Margaret Maltby. A superb contest ensued but in the end Kristina's youthful exuberance clinched a third end deuce decider.

Mother and daughter Cox then combined to take the doubles, taming many times winners Maltby and Joyce Porter and then to cap a fine day's work, Kristina joined Steve Brown to deny the formidable Jones-Maltby team in an exciting mixed doubles showdown.

The most successful player on the day, however, was one of the youngest – Sally Russell, underlining her obvious potential by landing the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 17 singles, plus the doubles in tandem with Clare Waples, to compile a unique collection of titles.

### Confirmed

Kieron Dabbs confirmed his ranking as the County's No. 1 Junior by winning the Under 17 Boy's event despite stiff resistance from David Evans, who promptly teamed up with Neil Atkinson to win the doubles, while other promising performances came from the Rowe brothers, Matthew and Tommy, the Hickman sisters, Clare and Ruth and Julian Marshall.

Dennis Millman's unenviable record of Veterans near-misses, reaching back almost twenty years, was extended, when having accounted for second seed Mick Edwards and then negotiated another expedite semi-final against Gerald Finney, he fell to the inevitable Keith Jones.

One of the interested spectators was County Coaching Secretary Dave Marsh who was convalescing after an operation. Since that time he has intimated that he intends to relinquish his post at the end of the season, after three successful years at the helm.

An integral element of the County Schools Association and instrumental in establishing the Westfield Club on the national map, Marsh still plays regularly himself and feels that he must now shed some of his responsibilities. He will not be easily replaced.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

*Aubrey Drapkin*

AT LONG last Northumberland have had a National Champion. Congratulations to Barry Forster who took the cadet title at the Leeds Junior National Championships at Coventry with a win over Alexander Perry of Devon in the final.

Barry has played well all season, reaching the finals of five tournaments and also making his debut for England Cadets.



*Barry Forster*

Everyone in the county is delighted at his success and it gives great encouragement for the future.

The Northumberland League cadet division which is sponsored by Barclays Mercantile Credit is now under way and twenty teams are taking part. Matches are being played at a central venue and having played in groups over the first two sessions, the teams have now been placed into three divisions.

Another new competition to start in the New Year will be the Northern Region Ladies and Girls League. This will be played in two halves with the first session being hosted by Northumberland. It will take place at Dunston Activities Centre on 29 January and the second session will be held in Cleveland in March.

Blaydon Youth Club are going great guns in the Northern Region Mens League having completed the first half of the season by winning every single match.

On the county front our seniors lost a marathon match with Warwickshire. Clare Mouzon and Caron Guthrie won all of the women's matches and Eddie Smith got one singles but we went down 4-6 in a match that lasted four hours. The juniors won 8-2 away to Clwyd whilst the veterans went down 3-6 at home to Cheshire thirds.

There are no major changes in the county rankings with Ian Robertson retaining top spot from Eddie Smith and Clare Mouzon and Caron Guthrie still at the top of the ladies list. The only major change is in the cadet girls where Debbie Scholfield is number one ahead of Susie Atherton and Diane Cartmell.

## OXFORDSHIRE

*Steve Joyner*

THE ENTRY in this years city tournament was disappointing due to the absence of players such as ageing star Arthur Chilvers and Sugar Daddy Alf Davies. However under the watchful eye of Butlins Blue Coat Barry Yates the tournament yielded some fine table tennis.

Upsets occurred immediately with the No. 4 seed Stan Hahn crashing to a non-seed, the other matches seemed to go to form up until the semi-finals where the non-seed then beat the battling Carl Bushell, Pete Jones beat team mate Clive Morris to reach yet another final.

The final was a fast and furious encounter with the non-seed stealing the first game 21-19, and then opening a four point advantage in the second only to see the pretty boy claw his way back to win 21-18. The final game saw Jones steaming with the non-seed now dreaming of a well deserved point, this left Jones 19-10 ahead, at this point the heart throb himself - developed a thirst and the non seed got back to 19-18 down only to see Jones wake up and win 21-19.

The veterans final proved to be the highlight of the day with a two hour epic that made Ghandi look like a commercial brake. Eventually Stan Hahn's clever use of the disguised slower ball broke the flamboyant and erratic style of Dave Harse. I feel at this stage that some credit must go to the umpire Clive Morris who at times struggled to keep a breast with the furious pace of the game, however, Clive pulled through to steer the game to an amicable solution.

### Wobble

Eleanor Harrison used her effective wobble technique on the backhand to beat Dawn Barnett in the Ladies Singles as toy boy Gavin Yates collected the Junior Singles as expected. December saw Oxford's top juniors in action in the English Junior Close Fashion Parade at Coventry. Gavin Yates had a good opportunity to improve on his excellent new ranking (56), unfortunately for him he met junior No. 1 Michael O'Driscoll in the second round.

Gavin still high from the morning solvent session snatched a game from the laid back O'Driscoll but eventually class showed and Gavin sank without trace. Popular Dawn Barnett still recovering from injury disappointed her growing male fan club as she made an early exit, but both Sally Hughes and Matthew Sims gained useful ranking points with two wins each.

## SOMERSET

*Tony Carey*

MANY moons ago I was predicting a great future for Somerset Table Tennis. All the signs were there to support this vision. A good squad of seniors supported by a wide base of keen and enthusiastic juniors eager to challenge them for a senior team place.

We also had a training and coaching set-up interlinked with other counties in the South West Region which provided the opportunity for players to continue their advancement towards achieving full potential, and in some cases excellence. Backing all this up, we had a National Coach whose credentials were second to none and who placed the greatest emphasis on teaching the real skills of table tennis to all he had connections with, be they novices or experienced players. This was also taken up by the majority of the coaches that he taught or communicated with. A perfect base some may say from which this county can launch itself into the orbit of success that neighbouring counties were enjoying.

But readers, that was a long time ago, and as we all know people change with time. Our problems began when some of our best juniors started to lose their enthusiasm for the sport when careers, courting and other sports took up more of the time and effort that they had previously given to table tennis.

We then had a fall-off in the commitment of some of the seniors. We also lost some of these to Colleges and marriages which took them away from the root of their table tennis, consequently our structure collapsed.

But fellow table tennis lovers, all is not doom and gloom as under the scorched earth some roots survive.

There are also some stalwarts amongst our senior players that continue to show the way forward and make people proud of Somerset Table Tennis. I will not mention them here but suffice to say that they have been mentioned in many of my past reports, a notable member being our captain Brian Reeves. I hope that their example will inspire some of our other team members to return to full commitment to the team.

The junior scene is very much in the melting pot at the moment, but there is hope that soon they will be cast in the same mould as those I used to write about in my previous reports. This will depend on various factors such as enthusiasm, dedication and parental support.

In my next report I will bring to your notice these players.

## SUSSEX

*John Woodford*

THE West Sussex championships were held at Burgess Hill without any womens' event, due to a clash with a major veterans' event, another sign of the times.

Ritchie Venner (Crawley) won the mens' singles title, beating, after an impressive challenge, the occasional writer of this column, Paul Elphick, 16-21, 21-17, 21-12.

Both finalists beat Crawley players in the semi-finals - Venner stopped Scott Greenbrook 11, 14 whilst Elphick removed Chris Mundy 20, 17. Elphick is probably the hardest hitter of a table tennis ball in Sussex, although Adrian Moore cannot be far behind.

Like most hitters reaching for the top however, Elphick needs to be more consistent.

I think that the No.4 players in the Leeds British League frequently have very difficult tasks playing at the end of the match with everything at stake. This situation happens in nearly every match for Horsham Dolphins. It would seem to be a much better arrangement if the top men were pitted at the end of the match, rather than the players with the least experience.



*Adrian Moore leaped 29 places up the England list to No 24.*

With some six weeks to go to the TSB all-Sussex Championships at Southwick, Sussex selectors have a problem on the mens' singles seedings - Adrian Moore has shot up the England rankings, twenty nine places to No. 24. So, the selectors under chairman Keith Horton have to decide if they are going to use the England rankings for the seedings or the Sussex list which will place Adrian Moore at either No. 3 or 4.

In the womens' all-Sussex championship it appears that the four seeds will be the same as last year, but the order could be different with probably Janet Smith, the Scottish No. 1 at the top with the defending champion England No. 18 Teresa Moore seeded No. 2. In the middle of the seedings will be Sally Weston and Sheila King.

## SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

THE second session of play in the Shropshire County Table Tennis League began in much the same way as the first session of play ended with John Lumley and Martin Williams of Pontesbury in top spot having beaten Wrexham 'B' duo of Nicola Harris and Martin Furber in their opening match followed by a further convincing victory over club colleagues Colin Sayce and Jonathan Day to lead the Shropshire Star First Division.

The men from the South Shropshire village will need to be at their best to maintain their pole position with matches against joint leaders Wrexham 'A' (Alan Harris and David Wyn Morris) and Grove I duo Mark Turner and Spencer Harris to follow. Meanwhile, the Concorde Trophies Second Division has a distinctive Market Drayton look with Sasha Talbot and Clare Hand of Grove III making a fine start against Grove Reserves duo Kevin Edge and Martin Bailey whilst the ever reliable Sarah Pigram joined the squad for the thriller against Grove V with both Matthew Jeffrey and Matthew Alexander beaten by Miss Hand to leave the latter side in top spot with the ladies.

Grove's Welsh junior Spencer Harris continued his good form into the afternoon session of play winning the H & E Scaffolding Grade A1 Singles Title at the expense of Stoke-on-Trent's Neil Savage with the semi-finals being very much a family affair as Spencer beat father Alan Harris and elder brother beat younger brother as Neil beat David Savage. Further success came the way of the Grove camp with Matthew Jeffrey beating clubmate Keith Turner to capture the Grade A2 title whilst the Movefast A3 event saw Market Drayton's faithful Claire Marshall conquer the consistent Sasha Talbot.

The concept of Graded Singles proved once again a winner with all events full and the principle of "last received, first out" having to be applied; a splendidly fought Shrewsbury Built Up Felt Roofing Grade B event was typical of the day's play as Leominster's David Johnson came good over Potteries hard working Dave Hall whilst the Pontesbury camp dominated the Roofrite Grade C event as Neil Morris beat Robert Rowson. In similar vein young Vicky Fox of Stoke-on-Trent showed that she is a player for the future beating Gareth Forber of the Pontesbury village to win the R.S. Bratton Grade D event whilst the largest entry was reserved for the Talbot Hotel Grade E event with Grove's Simon Lea the victor over clubmate Daniel Salter.

Entries are flooding in for the January graded singles event as always many are being received from the small village of Pontesbury whose record over the past decade has been one of immense progress thanks to the motivation and tireless efforts of the splendid John Morris. It is without question that all successful organisations rely upon a first-class leader and Pontesbury owe John Morris a great debt, therefore it is with regret that John has decided to retire from table tennis and pass on the reins of office having served both Pontesbury and Grove in magnificent fashion. A most popular person on the tournament circuit guiding sons Stephen and David to great success with a placid fatherly eye, taking a back seat when necessary and always giving credit where due, the sport would be much richer for more men of this integrity and calibre. However the role fulfilled by John will be passed into the most capable hands of the very shrewd Dave Rowson who assumes the mantle of office in Pontesbury.

## WORCESTER

Dave Roden

THE COUNTY Junior team made a belated start to the season with three matches on November 26 at Ashford, Middlesex, and won them all. The first match, against Herts 2nds was won 8-2. This was followed with a 10-0 white-wash over Cambridgeshire, but the third match was a much closer affair with Middlesex 2nds, Worcs winning 7-3.

Worcs squad for the three matches was Lee Horton, Jason Thompson, Kevin Sefton, Andrew Kelly, Sarah Stone and Joanne Hill, with Horton, Sefton and Miss Hill all making their debuts.

The first County League matches have now been played. Results:-

Dudley	6	Kidderminster B	3
Bromsgrove	3	Kidderminster A	6
Malvern	6	Evesham	3

What a pity the Worcester City League, with 44 teams, couldn't find three players sufficiently interested to enter a team.

The County Junior Closed Tournament was held on December 4 in Worcester with a good entry, the result being a personal triumph for County No. 1 Lee Horton, who won three titles. He beat his Bromley club-mate Jason Thompson 10 and 19 in the Junior Boy's Final, and teamed up with Thompson to retain the Doubles Championship, defeating Kevin Sefton (Evesham) and Andrew Kelly (Kidderminster) 15 and 11 in the final.

Horton's third title was the

Cadet Boy's which he again retained, beating Adam Burman 12 and 13 in the final.

The Junior Girl's title was won by County No 1 Sarah Stone, who beat surprise finalist and Worcester league colleague Michelle McDornell -17, 16 and 17 in the final.

The closest final was the Girl's Doubles, again an all Worcester league affair in which McDornell and Nicola Jones beat Stone and Paula Hughes -8, 8 and 20 and the Cadet Girl's title was won by another Worcester player Carrie Hunt from Kidderminster's Kate McCloskey, -20, 17 and 8.

### Merit Award

During the tournament, an ETTA Merit Award presentation was made to retiring County Secretary John Barber for his services to table tennis over many years, both at school, league and county level, by Ian Crichmer, a vice-president of the ETTA and Worcestershire County President.

Worcester League ladies team of Helen Pogmore, Sue Meredith and Sarah Stone bowed out of this seasons Rose-Bowl Knock-Out following a 7-2 defeat at Preston recently, with Helen and Sarah winning one set each.

Congratulations to Sandra Roden who has reached No. 11 on the latest Lentec ladies National Ranking List, following another successful three star tournament in Middlesex and some good County Championship successes.

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

WHILE recognizing that national events are given full coverage elsewhere in these pages and that it has therefore always been my policy not to duplicate information in the County notes, I intend on this occasion to break that rule and offer sincere congratulations from his own folk to Michael O'Driscoll.

It is not every good player who gets his first senior England call-up against the all conquering Chinese - and the unassuming Mirfield lad looked in no way out of place at Bridlington - and to follow up with an invitation to be England's only representative at the European Junior Top Twelve is something special.

Yet Michael has not become 'too big' to be seen around his own patch, and the youngsters coming on could have no better example to follow than the quiet, studious boy who always gives of his best, be it for Huddersfield in Yorkshire League competition or for England in the international arena.

Two of that 'follow-up squad' - Katie Goodall (Leeds) and Sally

Marling (Hull), ranked at 1 and 2 in the current Cadet list - will be with O'Driscoll on the plane to Italy, where they will participate in an experimental Cadet Top Twelve, run by the Italian Association in co-operation with the ETTU.

Local news comes first from Selby where, in the closest contest for many years in the Fasprint Selby League Division 1 only two points separate leaders and defending champions Sturge A from challengers Goole A.

For Sturge young Selby champion Craig Smith beaten only once to date teams up with the experienced Mick Wilcockson and Nigel Thorn, while Goole also rely on experience with Paul Kirby, who topped last season's averages, lining up alongside Graham Wylie and Harry Quarmby.



Kate Goodall, Leeds

Man to beat in the League, however, is Selby born, Harrogate based Mick Emmerson who, playing for Sturge B, is back in the groove on his return from a spell in New Zealand with 100% return from his twelve outings.

Powerful sides FSW and Moor-end WMC are again setting the pace in Division 1 of the Dewsbury League with Stewart Milnes and Nicky Ryder, each with 17 wins to his credit, the men to beat, while Gary Crossley (16) and Paul Watson (15) have also made progress in the handicapped Burton Cup competition, where they join Alan Brook, David Firth, Richard Lucas, Ian Newby, Gary Page and Alan Waring in the last eight.

The Youth handicap competition, re-established after a break of two years, attracted eight entries - a number which it is hoped will be doubled next season - with Andy Crofts getting the better of Tracy Whitehead in the final, while the Rosebowl produced a number of shock results with both FSW and Moorend among the defeated teams.

Both Leeds and Hull have big spectator events coming up with England due to meet Belgium at the Leeds Town Hall on February 9th and England's Alan Cooke and World No.7 Chen Xin Hua starring in an afternoon of table tennis at Hull's Woodford Sports Centre on Sunday March 5th thanks to sponsorship from local firm Huon Haulage.

## A table tennis paradise in Essex

# The Peniel Academy story

by NICKY JARVIS

THE Peniel Academy, the table tennis players' paradise, is situated at Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex. When you arrive at the school you immediately feel the warmth and friendliness of the teachers and pupils.

It is a Christian school where principals Rev Mike Reid and Rev Ruth Reid with vice-principal Peter Linnecar have laid the foundations for the future of the pupils. The School is privately run and offers all pupils the opportunity to excel in many academic subjects.

With only 67 pupils, ages from 5 to 18, the teacher-pupil ratio is very low. Some teachers do not charge for their services. My re-action was how can this be? The teachers, pupils and many more families within the area belong to the Pentecostal church which is in the grounds of the academy. The whole congregation help each other in all aspects of life.

My involvement started in March 1988, after discussions with Mike Reid, Peter Linnecar and Mrs Esther Coleman. Mrs Coleman organises syllabuses,



Peniel Coach - Nicky Jarvis

timetables and is involved in many other areas within the school. She also finds time to teach and is deeply involved in the table tennis.

Last year, the Peniel under-16 girls team finished second in the ESTTA national team finals. This year they have entered five teams.

The playing hall is superb with halogen quartz lighting, a wooden sprung floor and a seven-table capacity for high-quality training sessions. All this led up to the highly successful McCartney & Dowie Classic with six of England's top players, organised by the PTA.

### Paradise

As a coach I feel I am in paradise. I have the full support of the school that wants to succeed not only in its academic subjects but also in table tennis. I am able to coach and train a group of players on a regular basis and take them to tournaments. This combination of coaching and captaining players is I believe, the only way a coach can give the players full support.

With the help of Mrs Coleman we are now coaching and training 35 players weekly, with individual sessions and small group sessions through Wednesdays and Thursdays - these include beginners through to England and county ranked juniors and cadets.

School timetables are reshuffled to accommodate table tennis. Players can practice daily if they wish. On Wednesday evenings we hold a 2½ hour training evening that includes the attendance of well-known Essex players - Richard Darnell, Grant Solder, Dave Newman.

During school holidays we run training camps with top players attending. This is the first full year of the tournament circuit - I am sure the Peniel Academy bus has been seen parked venues around the country, waiting for the doors to open. Depending on progress, the competition programme may be changed over the next 18 months.

I appreciate the support from Esther Coleman, her only thoughts are for the benefit of the children. The whole environment at Peniel is of people working together, helping each other in every way. It can only be a good thing for table tennis and society.

## CHESTER BACKS THE WINNERS!



CHESTER BARNES, the former England No.1 who still plays exhibitions at holiday camps in the West Country is back in the news - on the race courses of Britain.

Chester, always the man looking for a winner is apparently, seen close these days with Martin Pipe, the man who has set the National Hunt scene alight this winter by training 100 winners by Christmas, easily a record.

Chester is said to be part of the Pipe team. With a hundred winners so far, the suggestion is that Chester must be backing quite a few of the horses as they flash past the post as quick as some of Chester's backhand shots did at one time, but he clearly still likes his table tennis in between spotting the winners at the races.

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## THE PENIEL ACADEMY MASTERMIND



Rev. Michael Reid

## Mandy in Germany: beats Nolten

IT was a pleasure for me to watch Mandy Sainsbury play in the Bundesliga match recently against the home team here in Soest. Her quiet demeanour at the table was an object lesson to the histrionics of a couple of the local players and her three singles wins enabled her team, TUS Glane, to gain an unexpected win. Impressive was her win against Olympian Katja Nolten. Ten points behind in the third she kept her cool, only the occasional facial grimace was noticeable, and gradually clawed her way back to a win which was the springboard to the eventual team win.

I managed to have a brief chat to Mandy between her matches and was taken with the dedication she has towards the sport which, lets face it, doesn't offer too much financial incentive to women. Working and running a home, she travels weekly to compete here in Germany and was very enthusiastic about the playing conditions and the way she had been made welcome by her new team.

Obviously Mandy has maintained many interests outside the game, both sporting and private, and her continued high rating is proof of a pure nature talent.

It is also this type of dedication that is needed by youngsters if women's table tennis standards at home are to reach those on the continent. Admittedly here they are blessed with a society that recognises and provides excellent facilities for all sport. All Bundesliga matches that I have seen have been in school gymnasiums with ideal seating for hundreds, the typical German support for their favourites adding to the atmosphere. Last year I saw a match which included a team from Bavaria whose vocal support you usually associate with the ski-slopes. This, combined with the local response, provided an evening's entertainment long to be remembered.

It was not my intention to reminisce but now find it unavoidable. My early memories go back to my home in Jersey where I started playing table tennis as a schoolboy. The inter-island rivalry in all sport left that of England/Scotland in the shade and the build up to these matches had an intensity of its own. On coming to England I became one of many to make the numbers up in Open tournaments along the south coast in the Harrison, Stevens era. Many names come flooding back of those days but one that does stand out is that of Laurie Landry. Here was another natural, unassuming talent that was curtailed through an act of personal courage. I am due to return to the UK next summer and expect to settle in Wiltshire from where I hope to meet up with adversaries of years gone. I'm sure it will add a few more grey whiskers to Cyril Bush when I remind him that it is now over a quarter of a century since we were Dorset team-mates. I'm still too much of a gentleman to remind Joyce Coop of the same.

I cannot end without saying how pleased I am to see that our sport is on a sound footing again, especially after the turmoil of a couple of seasons ago. This is all due, of course, to the supporters of John Prean at the time who had the sense of envisage what the ultimate would have been if left in the hands of the less dedicated.

Congratulations to you also on an excellent magazine. I do not remember seeing any boast of increased circulation over the last couple of seasons but would think that this is deservedly so.

ROY CHAMPION  
Vogelsangerweg 6  
4770 Soest-Bergede  
West Germany

*Editor's Note: There has been some increases in circulation of TTN, but there are too many mean people passing it round instead of buying it! The "dedicated" who have supported John Prean will, I am sure, appreciate the acknowledgement from afar that it all happened for the best.*

## Fixture clashes

WHILST I have every sympathy with June Watts (T.T. News, December 1988), it must be said that the ETTA Calendar for 1988/89 included the 6th November as a British League date. Any League or County Closed which schedules its events on such a date therefore runs the risk that some players may give priority to their British League or other fixture. It is a free country and the players are entitled to make such choices.

Surely the answer is to schedule local events on dates on which no clashes are likely. Though only covered by one sentence it will require rather more time to discuss the topic of the British League and what it is achieving for Table Tennis at grass roots level. Readers will not want me to take up too much of the correspondence columns. The British League was formed some years before my time after the due democratic processes.

### The advantages

These are some of the advantages.

- 1 It provides professional players with some professional play.
- 2 It follows a pattern which has been successful in other countries.
- 3 In the lower divisions it offers players a ladder to the top.
- 4 It offers competitive play (over Week-ends) to players generally too strong for their local League.
- 5 It offers the best local League clubs a chance to compete at a higher level.
- 6 It provides an opportunity to play over week-ends (in the lower divisions) without having to travel too far.
- 7 It provides opportunities for budding and established promoters.
- 8 It provides an opportunity of publicity which the Sport badly needs.

On the negative side, one has to admit, that with a minimum of 14 dates it adds to the fixture congestion to which I have drawn attention many times both in and out of office. The membership has not pronounced on the merit of the possible remedies, i.e. fewer events or a longer Season. Until it does, fixture clashes will continue. Though unpalatable to local organisers, they do provide players with a choice and organisers with competition.

The ETTA Calendar Working Party does its best to reconcile all interests, but it cannot pour a quart into a pint pot, which is its present brief. There is undoubtedly a trend towards more play at weekends and this will add to fixture clashes. Some members

think that this is a sign of strength rather than weakness and that competition between organisers of different events is a good thing.

I have tried to outline the issues without taking sides, so that this particular debate can commence and ultimately produce decisions. If we continue in the same way, some clashes are inevitable and the only way to avoid them is by local or national co-operation between the affected parties. That, it appears to me, would have been the best solution in the local example cited by June.

JOHN PREAN

## Competition Forms lost in post?

THE Northumberland notes (T.T. News, December 1988) included the following: "Unfortunately, all of the Northumberland League teams have been excluded from the National competitions this season. Entry forms were never received from the ETTA and when enquiries were made it was too late, the draw having been made..."

I understand that all entry forms went out to all Leagues and that addressograph plates are used. It would appear physically impossible to take one out. It has to be assumed therefore that an envelope was lost after despatch, presumably in the post.

### High respect

The Chairman of the National Team Competitions Committee, the highly respected Len Pilditch added the following sentence to his covering letter: "Please note it is not my intention to telephone leagues who have not entered by the closing date." He might be involved in more than 100 phone calls if he decided to chase up all those who for any reason have not entered one or more of the six competitions.

It appears to me more reasonable that those who do not appear to have received forms should 'phone him at the appropriate time, which in this case would be early August, to let him know that their form has not been received.

If members nevertheless wish that such multiple "chasing" should take place, then it can, of course, be done, but the cost of this must inevitably be reflected by higher entry fees since all money one spends, however laudable the purpose, still has to be earned.

We all greatly regret that a League which wanted to play in an ETTA Competition should not have done so, but I feel that the organiser acted reasonably.

JOHN PREAN

## PLEASE LET US KNOW NOW . . .

your views on the three hours of table tennis screened on Channel 4 by Cheerleader productions over Christmas. Letters, not exceeding 300 words, will be considered for publication.

**Deadline - not later than March 1st**

## Chinese Friendship

THE Chinese practice of presenting their hosts with 'friendship' victories was abandoned some years ago once the Chinese realized how much this was resented by the ones to whom these so-called victories were presented.

Often such behaviour was unfair to opponents who might have scored a well merited victory only to read in a newspaper the following day that his Chinese opponent had given him the match in the cause of 'friendship.' Such incidents added to the myth of Chinese invincibility.

Contrary therefore to what Richard Eaton writes (TT News Jan.), there was no question of 'friendship' awards on the tables in any of the England-China matches. Their players and their young captain were very much on trial; their players were playing for places in the forthcoming World Championship; some hope to obtain lucrative playing contracts in Europe later. Neither goal is achieved by 'throwing' matches. The whole unhappy practice was mercifully abandoned some years ago. One must be grateful for that.

The Chinese Team played superbly almost throughout. Our men often matched them and scored a number of famous victories. Our young players fear no one now. They can hold their heads among the very best.

Richard implies that it was the Chinese victories which propelled Alan Cooke to the No.1 spot in the Lentec Computer Ranking List. As Chairman of the Association I try to be fair to all players. Devotees will have noted for instance that I no longer coach Carl against other English players. However, a few general explanations are in order. Under our system only victories count. No allowance is made for defeats, a vital part of the game. Similarly, you only get points if you play.

At the Midlands 3 Star, for instance, Alan played (and won.) Des, though he was there and in his home town, did not play. At our recent Stiga Top 12 Des again did not play. Alan did and won. The last two times the players met, Alan won.

Whatever the merits of ANY system, none will give you points if you do not play. Des was very fortunate not to have lost his spot last season. The Olympic Qualifying Tournament was not included as a computer event and neither was last season's Stiga Top 12 (played up to 11), though the previous one (also played up to 11) was. If both these events had counted, Alan would have been No. 1 last season.

I have always supported play-

ers' rights to play when and where they want, but equally they or their supporters should not complain about the consequences of their actions. You don't get or keep the No. 1 spot by not playing.

JOHN PREAN

*Editor's Note: Very few of us saw all the matches. Any reasonably skilful player can without causing suspicion make the odd "ambitious" shot - a backhand flick can be on or off by a fraction of a millimetre. If there were any friendship shots they were very carefully concealed, that is my view.*

## Yoo Nam's services - unfair?

I WAS surprised to read John Prean's views on Yoo Nam Kyu's service in November's TT News. An accusation of being "unfair" if you are playing within existing laws of the game is difficult to sustain, but I agree with him that it would certainly be better if players were to play within the spirit of the laws.

Unfortunately, it was because players ingeniously devised services which gave them undue advantage, or served so close to the divide between good and bad, that the service law became ever more complicated.

I concur with our Chairman in his belief that the wording has got somewhat out of hand. However, the latest modification of requiring a throw-up of at least 16 cm has got rid of the scoop straight off the hand though introducing debates on whether the ball was thrown up 4, 5 or six inches. It is obviously difficult to be certain with a hand following the ball when exactly the ball left the palm. Even so, I am certain that nobody in the world has been faulted for throwing the ball up only 5½ inches.

Though to return to the November article, I have a recording of the TV broadcast of the Men's Singles Final, and it does not seem to me that the opponent could not see the service, and it is hard to believe that nobody, not the Umpire, nor the Assistant Umpire nor the opponent could see the service even if John Prean looking, I now understand, down the doubles line, could not see properly.

Incidentally, it's no good asking for Line Judges to be appointed since that type of official was recently abolished.

I further agree with the Chairman when he said in his accompanying Newsletter "I see no future in personally unpleasant public arguments or in rubbishing the sport for the benefit of the press".

JACK S RANDALL  
9 Greystoke Gdns

Hanger Lane London W5 1EP

## Enthralled by Don Parker's men . . .

THIS is a copy of a letter to Don Parker:-

I watched with great interest the televised three tests against China and was enthralled by our players overall ability to cope with top class opposition.



Donald Parker, England.

It was a great asset to our game to have seen it on television and you and your staff must be commended for helping to produce world class stars of the future.

As our game at the moment seems to be losing membership anybody half interested in table tennis may just be rekindled with desire to play.

Both Carl Prean and Alan Cooke were exciting to watch and showed what is good about our game, but I am afraid Desmond Douglas does not come over on television as well.

As a club member now in my thirty first season I think it would have been good for our game to have seen the Lighterside and showed a top class exhibition game to show how the game can be played for fun as well as a highly competitive sport.

As a footnote I enclose our Association's Monthly Newsletter as our contribution to advertising the televised event.

I hope my observations and comments may be of some help the next time we can have coverage of our great game.

CHARLES WALING  
Committee Member  
Wisbech & Dist. TTA

## Norfolk coaching on the move

I WAS very interested to read Ken Muhr's column in the January issue.

Like Ron Applegate from Norwich we in the King's Lynn area have a good coaching scheme run by three coaches, namely, Chuck Hewitt, Steve Goodale and John Pringle.

We are very lucky in as much as we have a sponsorship from the town's Standard Capital Finance Company, which pays for the sports hall.

There are approximately 30 to 40 youngsters who turn up for the coaching sessions, which are split into two groups, the advanced section and the beginners section.

The scheme has been in operation for three years now and the coaching is really beginning to pay off, as our youngsters performances in the Norfolk Junior Championships will testify, having won the U15 Boys title, U13 Boys title, U15 Girls title and the runner up in the U15 Boys, plus several semi-final placings.

### Dedicated people

These sort of performances are all a credit to the coaching schemes run by dedicated people who give up a lot of time and expense to create a healthy contingent of youngsters to keep the sport of Table Tennis alive. This I'm sure Ron Applegate will agree with me.

Norfolk is on the move!  
JOHN PRINGLE  
King's Lynn, Norfolk

## More "table tennis" on television!

REGARDING how Table Tennis is portrayed in the general media, I do not know if anyone saw "Wild Things" (BBC2 DEC 30)

One of the scenes depicted a Table Tennis tournament being held in a hotel. Apart from the fact that nobody seemed to be able to play the game (there must be some actors who can somewhere) they were all dressed in white!

John C. Fairweather  
12 Bardon Walk  
Goldsworth Park  
Woking

*Editor's Note: Assuming it was a casual knock-about in a hotel I would not expect the players to be in regulation clothing and using Sriver L2.5!*



MANDY SAINSBURY recently landed a maximum for her club in West Germany - See Page 26.

## Sixteen nations for Cardiff

by ROY EVANS

THE increasing strength of Hong Kong, Canada, Nigeria and others means that England will have to fight to retain the titles they won on the Isle of Man in 1985, meanwhile entries so far received show that the number of Commonwealth countries coming to Cardiff from March 20 to the 26th may well exceed the previous record of sixteen.

Countries expected to be represented are: Australia, Barbados, Canada, Cyprus, England, Guernsey, Hong Kong, India, Ulster, Isle Of Man, Jersey, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Scotland, Singapore, Trinidad and Wales.

The event will be held at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff, venue of the 2nd Championships, and venue also for the many very successful Welsh Open Championships held in recent years.

### New Sponsors

Tamasu Tokyo, the manufacturers of Butterfly table tennis equipment in Japan have agreed to sponsor the 9th Commonwealth Championships. This is the first time that Butterfly have been the main sponsors of these Championships.

Butterfly Europa tables plus nets, posts and surrounds and Schlidkrot 3-star balls will be used for the event.

The Championships start on Monday 20th March with team events, the finals of which will be staged on Thursday evening. Individual finals will be on Sunday afternoon 26th March. Both the team and individual finals will be televised.

### Secretary of State Coming

There will be an Opening Ceremony on Monday evening which will be attended by the Secretary of State for Wales, the Hon. Peter Walker.

It is expected that a limited number of players, outside the teams, can be taken into the individual event but these will only be players nominated by their associations and the exact number will not be determined until all team numbers are known. In any case such entrants will be required to play in qualifying rounds on Thursday 23rd March.

There is to be a farewell party on Sunday 26th March and teams will depart on Monday 27th March in time for the World Championships in Dortmund, which start on 29th March.

England won both men's and women's team events at the 8th Championships in the Isle of Man in 1985. Desmond Douglas and Karen Witt took the individual titles, but Nigeria won the men's doubles and Canada the women's doubles. Douglas and Alison

### TICKETS

Tickets for the Championships are priced at £2.00 per day or £5.00 for the week long season ticket. There are no reductions for children or OAP's. Tickets and further information are available from the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff CF2 6BQ. Tel. (0222) 757241.



Roy Evans



Cardiff Sponsor - Alan Ransome, Butterfly (UK) Ltd

Gordon were the mixed winners. Since then Hong Kong have improved and they and Nigeria will constitute the biggest threat to England's dominance of the event.



Cardiff Press Officer Brian Spicer

## 40th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### All records will be broken

AN ALL-TIME record number of nations, probably 83, are expected to compete in the 40th World Championships in Dortmund from March 28 to April 9. The present record is held by Gothenburg with 68 nations.

Seventy per cent of the tickets have already been sold, so, in view of the fact that we hear a large number of English fans are expected to be planning trips, efforts should be made to secure tickets or book up with the two organisations with package tours - Teesports and Sports Spectator International.

### THE TIME-TABLE (daily from 9.00 to 22.00)

- March 29: Opening Ceremony (17.30 to 19.00 hrs)
- March 29-April 1: Ladies' and Men's team competitions
- April 2: Ladies' teams (quarter and semi-finals)  
Men's teams (quarter finals)
- April 3: Men's teams semi-finals (14.00 hrs)  
Ladies' teams finals (19.00 hrs)  
Men's teams final (18.00 hrs)  
Rest day.
- April 4: Singles competitions (qualification)
- April 5: Singles competitions (start main round)
- April 6: Ladies' and Men's doubles finals (20.00)
- April 7: Mixed quarter and semi-finals
- April 8: Ladies' and Men's singles semi-finals (from 9.00 hrs)
- April 9: Mixed, Ladies' and Men's singles finals (from 15.00 hrs)  
- afterwards Closing Ceremony -



Diane & Ebbie Scholar amongst the Dortmund organisers

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



DORTMUND 1989

### Draw on February 19

The draw for the 1st stage of the team competitions will take place at the Dortmund Westfalenhalle on Sunday, February 19. The draw for the individual competitions will be made on March 30/31.

### 32 tables

Due to the great response the Organising Committee has increased the number of tennis tables by four to now 32: in addition to the six tables at Westfalenhalle 1 ("Centre Court") the matches will now be played at 26 tables in hall 4.

## SOUTH WEST REGION NEWS

by ALF PEPPARD

EXACTLY a year ago in this magazine and this column I wrote in perhaps my normal blunt way of the apparent demise of County news reports that existed in this area, I also mentioned a sad lack of County Press Officers – and in some instances, Press Officers who were officially listed in the ETTA address book, but whom were just not tendering news.

Now, one year later what a pleasure it is to report almost a full S.W.R. complement of six County P.O's, all contributing valuable news and information – Well done all of you, but please keep it up.

I have not mentioned The Leeds S.W. Region Senior Club League this season but I am informed that the first series of matches went off very well, apart from Falmouth Docks not turning up, apparently they had difficulty in raising a team (also trouble with transport), however three players were recruited, Dave Bull, Graham May and Bob Bridgett and the Falmouth matches were played.

Judy Chinn of Falmouth is interested in becoming League Organiser for the "Women in T.T. CAMPAIGN", its volunteers like this that provide the back bone to our sport, Well done Judy.

**West Cornwall T.T.L.**  
*Tribute to Roger Bunt.*

A set of six wine glasses and a book of League records was presented to Roger recently when a small gathering of friends said 'thank you' for 30 years of valuable service to the League. Not many members now enjoying their T.T. have any idea of the debt they owe Roger Bunt, his efforts during the late fifties and early sixties kept the game alive during a very lean period and led to a revival in our fortunes and the success that we now enjoy.

**Leading (Cadets) Players Averages.**

	P	W	L
D.Heath - Inter City A,	6	6	0
J.May - Inter City A,	6	6	0
A.Vincent - Inter City A,	6	6	0
J.Pocock - Larks A,	6	6	0
E.Baires - Coombe Dear,	3	3	0
N.McAlpine - Coombe Dear,	3	3	0
R.Clooke - Coombe Dear,	6	5	1
R. Gray - Coombe Dear,	6	5	1
R.Boon - Larks A,	6	5	1
D.Morzel - Larks A,	6	5	1
M.Williams - Global,	6	5	1
S.Dilkes - Torbay,	6	4	2

The Bath and District Closed Championship will take place in February 89, at the Bath Sports Centre, North Parade Road Bath. Bathwick Tyres continue to play away games, and there will be more home matches to come in the new year.

At the Headland Hotel Newquay Cornwall, BBC Radio Cornwall heralded its yearly Sports awards and representing Table Tennis – Neil Bevan of Bude was selected as the youth sportsman of the year for Cornwall.



Alf Peppard

Competition was extremely competitive, following close were nominee's for Rugby, Snooker and Athletics, with the popularity of the latter sports in mind this is indeed a great tribute for the young Cornish Player.

**HELSTON GARAGES "PLAYER OF THE MONTH"**

Young Matthew Ruston, who has been thrown in at the deep end since joining Falmouth Docks where he is playing for the "A" Team, has been voted "Player of the month" for October.

**Results to date for the S.W. Cadet League (South).**

	P	W	L	Pts
Inter City "A",	2	2	0	18
Coombe Dear,	2	2	0	16
Larks Cambourne "A"	2	2	0	16
British Rail	2	1	1	8
Inter City "B"	2	1	1	8
Larks "B"	2	1	1	7
Torbay,	2	0	2	6
Global,	2	0	2	5
Launceston,	2	0	2	5
Inter City "C",	2	0	2	1

## WREXHAM LEAGUE

Division One					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Groves/B	6	5	1	0	53
Llay RBL/A	6	6	0	0	52
Groves/A	6	5	0	1	38
Metal Box/A	4	4	0	0	34
Griflex	6	3	1	2	34
Caergwrle BB/A	6	2	1	3	29
Malpas	5	2	1	2	25
Gresford/A	6	1	0	5	23
Wrexham OB/A	6	2	0	4	22
McAlpine Qry/A	6	1	0	5	12
Llay RBL/B	6	1	0	5	10
Caergwrle BB/B	5	0	0	5	8

Division Two					
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Telecom/A	5	5	0	0	48
Wrexham OB/C	5	5	0	0	48
Telecom/B	5	4	0	1	31
Wrex-Vic YC	5	3	0	2	30
Wrexham OB/B	6	2	1	3	28
McAlpine Qry/B	5	3	0	2	26
Wrexham Lager	4	2	0	2	17
Wrexham OB/D	5	0	0	5	10
Metal Box/B	4	0	1	3	8
Gresford /B	5	0	0	5	4

## EVENTS COMING UP . . .

4 Feb	The Leeds County Championships
5 Feb	The Leeds British League
5 Feb	North Bournemouth 1-star
9 Feb	European League, England v Belgium; Leeds
10-11 Feb	The Leeds Masters, Preston
14 Feb	European League, England v Turkey, Bexleyheath
18 Feb	The Leeds County Championships
18 Feb	The Leeds Youth Cup Regionals
18-19 Feb	The Leeds County Championships, Senior Premier
25 Feb	The Leeds County Championships
25 Feb	Selby Junior 1-star
26 Feb	The Leeds British League
4-5 Mar	VETTS Western, Swindon
4-5 Mar	Nat-West Derby Junior 2-star Select
11 Mar	ESTTA National Team finals
11-12 Mar	Cleveland 3-star, Thornaby
18 Mar	Lee The Leeds County Championships
19-26 Mar	Commonwealth Championships, Cardiff
25-26 Mar	English Junior Top-12, Milton Keynes
28 Apr	9 World Championships, Dortmund
16 Apr	The Leeds British League, Premier
16 Apr	Bedford 1-star

## NORTH WALES COUNTIES TTA

by C. T. BAYLISS

### The Leeds County Championships

**Senior Division 2/A**

**Clwyd 1 v Lancashire 2nds 9**

Clwyd with the following team lost heavily against a strong Lancashire with Spencer Harris their sole winner.

*Clwyd team: Clive Parry, Phil Jones and Spencer Harris  
Barbara Williams and Pru Oakes.*

**Junior Division 2/A**

**Clwyd 2 v Cumbria 8**

Wins for Martin Furber and Natasha Williams in their singles against Cumbria, however again Clwyd failed to win any more against a good side losing 2-8.

*Clwyd team: Martin Furber, Andrew Jones and David Howarth  
Natasha Williams and Mienir Davies.*

**Junior Division 2/A**

**Clwyd 2 v Northumberland 8**

In their second match of the afternoon again Clwyd lost against their visitors with Natasha Williams their singles winner and partnered with Angela Thompson they won their girls Doubles.

Changes from the team that played in their earlier match brought in Darren Bagnall in place of David Howarth and Angela Thompson for Mienir Davies, all three boys played hard without any success.

**Veteran Division 2/A**

**Nottinghamshire 7 v Clwyd 2**

Away at Nottingham Clwyd Veterans lost with their winners coming from Christine Watkins who won her singles and partnered with Peter Williams also won the Mixed Doubles.

*Clwyd team: John Bowen, Peter Williams, Barry Robertson and C.Watkins.*

### Wrexham and District Table Tennis League

**New round-up for the Wrexham League.**

With almost a third of the season now over the Division One situation shows the Groves/B team out in front with just a one point lead over Llay RBL/A both having played six matches with Groves on 53 and the Legion side on 52 in third place are Groves/A with 38 points.

In Division Two Telecoms/A and Wrexham Old Boys/C team are locked together with 48 points from 5 games and in third place Telecoms/B with 31 points.

The third Division again is a dead heated situation with Wrexham Social Club for the Disabled and Wrexham Old Boys/E both with 38 and Groves/A Juniors third with 30 points having played a match less.

The Godfrey Parry Cup now has reached the third round and the Teams that will go through to the Semi-Final stage are as follows:

**Round Three Results.**

Wrexham Old Boys/A 0	Malpas 9
Groves/A 0	Metal Box/A 9 Match forfeited
Llay RBL/A 8	McAlpine Quarries/A 1
Groves/B 5	Gresford/A 1

# The Hrachova Story

by Dr. Zdenko KRIZ, Sweden

MANY people still cannot understand why table tennis robbed itself of a medal in all events, particularly at the time of its Olympic debut. In the past, two bronze medals were awarded in all major competitions, but not this time. . . Players who finished in fourth place in Seoul left empty-handed. And this is precisely what happened to Czechoslovak player Marie Hrachova.

In the individual, she fought her way into the semi-final, which was a genuine world sensation, but as she could not defeat her Chinese rivals, she had to be satisfied with the not too popular fourth place. But all those who are familiar with table tennis will take note of this fourth placing. Figuratively speaking, were we to break Hrachova's non-existent medal in half, we could find a real jewel in it. . .

So much has been said about the superiority of the Asian players, as if this could last for an eternity. Hrachova's glory is all the more enhanced by this. She boosted the confidence of the entire continent, raised the spirits of the Europeans. She caused very difficult minutes for the hosts, and in her quarter-final match defeated Yang Young Ja, the second seed of the Olympic tournament, the best South Korean who was one of the players considered to have the best chances to win. Hrachova's feat was similar to her performance at last year's World Championships in New Delhi, where she was the only European to reach the best eight, by defeating one of the top players of the world, Jia Zhimin of China.

### Bold attack

At that time, she lost to Yang Young Ja in the next round, but made up for this defeat in Seoul. Marie truly showed excellent form, she was bold in attack, while being mature and sparkling at the same time.

Hrachova was born in 1963 in Ostrava, and plays in the local club TJ Vitkovice. She lives in Frydlant, a small town near Ostrava. She was always considered talented, but not to the extent she was always favoured to win.

### Hard work

Hrachova's name conjures up the notions of deliberateness and hard work for all Czechoslovak players. Marie never had to be told to train, and everything fell into place. She was hardly 15 years old when she entered the adult European Championships. In 1978, she played in the same team with Uhlíkova, Silhanova and Dubinova in Duisburg, and although her contribution to the silver medal was small, she was able to get accustomed to the atmosphere of major competitions.



Marie Hrachova, the Czech No.1.

She could not be blamed for losing to Hellmann of Sweden in the first round, as there is nothing to be ashamed about in being defeated by the eventual bronze medalist. Marie's game was good, as she won the Czechoslovak Championship for the first time that very same year.

Her hard work began to bring results, first in the junior field: she won one medal after the other in the Junior European Championships. In 1979, she finished in second place with Pelikanova in the girls' doubles, and also with the team.

One year later, she won the individual and the mixed doubles with Broda, to go on to win another four silver medals next year. She naturally played in the Czechoslovak colours in the adult field as well, and has been considered her country's top player since 1980. The rivals began to take notice of her, and she was invited to compete in the Europe 12 tournament in Miskolc (HUN) in 1981.

She fared well, and finished in 7th place. But Marie had hopes of better results, and the opportunity came in the Europe 12 tournament in Bratislava in 1984. This tournament was characterized by a "fight to the end". Although Marie lost two matches, and it seemed she could not win, and managed to secure a place on the rostrum. Spurred on by this suc-

cess, she played excellently at the European Championships held a few months later.

She won medals in almost all events in the Moscow competition, finishing third in the individual and in the doubles, with Vriesekoop, winning the silver in mixed doubles with Pansky. Pansky was a separate chapter in Hrachova's career, as Marie played with Jindrich when they were both juniors. Experts saw as early as then that they would make a good doubles. And they make a good pair not only in the sport, they are good friends in private, too. They were silver medalist in the Göteborg World Championships in 1985, and won the Prague European Championships a year later.

But her failures should also be mentioned, as these also accompany table tennis. For instance, Hrachova was defeated in Prague in 1986 by Badescu of Romania, and lost in Paris in 1988 in the individual to Wirth of Hungary, although she won the silver in the team event, and the bronze in the doubles with her new partner, Kasalova.

### Great shock

Her loss to Wirth was a great surprise, and there were those who believed this would be the beginning of the end of Hrachova's career. But they did not know Marie, that for her such

MARIE –  
FOURTH  
IN  
SEOUL

a loss posed a challenge. She began to train even harder after Paris. Her coach, Marta Novotna – in who Marie has total confidence – helped her in this. But the determining element in her efforts was that she wanted to prepare for the Olympics as best as possible, and for her results to be the gratitude for all that she had received.

Hrachova is a very kind person, and although her name is Marie, everyone calls her Marushka. She plays with great enthusiasm, is also studying psychology, and is a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Union of Youth.

### Not afraid

But why was Hrachova the best European player in Seoul? Why? Simply because she was not afraid of the Asian players, because she wanted to defeat them. These are not empty words, nor is it accidental, as Marie proved in the past.

The Chinese saw her at the Europe-Asia intercontinental competitions, and almost all of them have been defeated at least once by Hrachova. Marie won against Dai Lili, Li Huiifen, and the world champion He Zhili.

### Just like that!

When asked how she does it, she just smiles and says there's nothing to it: one should return the serves well, and then attack.

# Out and about

- SHROPSHIRE
- LEICESTER
- CHESHIRE
- YORKSHIRE



Graham Sandley, the man who once took Desmond Douglas to "deuce" in the fifth in the final of the English championships at Basingstoke now plays for Grove in the Leeds British League. A fine and typical action shot from the lens of Geoff Twiss.



Adam Twiss, qualified county umpire aged 12, is probably the youngest umpire in the country. He officiates regularly in the Leeds British League for the Grove club.



Louise Davis and Andrea Holt were the runners-up at the Grove Youth Open tournament. Photo: Geoff Twiss.



In the Leeds British League – the Royal Mail Leicester team: left to right: Martin Pickles, Martin Simpson, Maurice Newman, Phil Smith. Picture: Murray Corbin.



Karen Tonge, north-west coaching panel chairman took this photograph of the North-West Coaches Course for new club coach awards held at Runcorn in November. Nicky Jarvis was among the tutors.



## RISING STAR

Katherine Goodall from Leeds is the No. 1. England cadet and in the opinion of the England captain a tip-for-the-top in future years. She appeared for England in the unofficial Cadets European Top-12 in Italy early last month.



# West Midlands Ladies Regional Championships

## Twins victory at Ladies event by IAN MARSHALL



Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey

YOUTH overcame experience in the West Midlands Ladies Regional Club Championships as Grove duo Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey piped the experienced Worcester duo of Lynda Reid and Janet Hunt for the title at Grove School.

The opening match of the programme was to prove crucial with the Grove pair forcing a draw against the Worcester side with Janet Hunt unbeaten on both occasions, however confidence was to grow in the Market Drayton camp and Sarah Creasey was to remain unbeaten for the rest of the tournament as Gail Ottolini and Claire Marshall of Grove II were beaten 4-0 as were Highfields pair from Wolverhampton Karen Benton and Lisa Rowley.

The competition swung in favour of Grove I with Leckie T.T.C. of Walsall forcing a draw with Worcester thanks to an unbeaten display by Dutchgirl Jose Bongers, meanwhile Sarah Creasey proved a tower of strength by beating Lyn Sibley and Janet Richardson of Leamington based club Lillington to effect a 3-1 win, a result which was to be mirrored against Leckie with SARAH unbeaten once again. The battle for third place was resolved earlier in the day with Jose Bongers unbeaten for Leckie against Lillington for whom Sibley beat Richardson in a 3-1 success for the Walsall side.

A very full days' play with Grove the victors in a competition for ladies 2-a-side club teams. Six teams entered playing four singles per match in a hard fought tournament played in a splendid spirit.

## EAST MIDLANDS Cadet TT League by JOHN BURWELL

THE first session of the league took place at Grantham, with 11 teams competing for the title. The early leaders, as so often in recent years, are Coventry, who dropped only 2 rubbers in their first 3 matches and Nottingham who lost only 1 rubber, but played only 2 matches. All other teams lost at least one match, so the early pace-setters would appear likely to be contending for the top honours in March 1989. As might be expected, the Coventry and Nottingham players dominate the individual records.

Coventry 10	Amber Valley I 0
Burton 8	Amber Valley II 2
Hunts Central 0	Grantham I 10
Leicester I 1	Nottingham 9
Leicester II 1	Grantham II 9
Grantham I 10	Burton 0
Amber Valley I 9	Hunts Central 1
Nottingham 10	Leicester II 0
Amber Valley II 0	Coventry 10
Lincoln 4	Leicester I 6
Hunts Central 9	Amber Valley II 1
Grantham II 1	Leicester I 9
Burton 0	Amber Valley I 10
Leicester II 3	Lincoln 7
Coventry 8	Grantham I 2

### League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Nottingham	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Grantham I	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Amber Valley I	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Leicester I	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Lincoln	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Grantham II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hunts Central	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Burton	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Leicester II	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Amber Valley II	3	0	0	3	3	27	0



Odds-on bet for a star of the 1990's - Dmitrij Mazunov from Russia has been playings since he was six. Dmitrij is playing in the Leeds Masters on 10 Feb in Preston as a late replacement for Gatien. See page 35. Photo: Jack Randall

## SEOUL REVIEW MEETINGS

THE British Olympic Association has embarked on a series of review meetings with the governing bodies of Olympic Sports - which will last until Monday 23 January 1989 - with the aim of analysing Britain's performance at the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul from September 17 - October 2, 1988.

"We want to look at all aspects of each sport's preparation, participation and performance", explains BOA General Secretary Dick Palmer, "and learn the lessons which will help us do better in Barcelona".

Coaching, selection policies, results, medical back-up, funding and other topics will be covered by the meetings with the 19 sports bodies concerned, which will take place at the BOA offices in Wandsworth Plain, London.

Then, in February 1989, the BOA looks set to make public its report on the meetings followed, later in the year, by the unveiling of its policy and plans in the lead-up to Barcelona in 1992.

## SOUTHERN REGION from BRIAN LAMERTON

League Tables as at 1st. Jan 1989.

### Premier Division

Kingfisher 'A'	4	4	0	30	6	11
Cippenham 'A'	4	3	1	22	14	9
Am Gen 'A'	4	2	2	19	17	7
Rownhams	4	2	2	16	20	5
Purbrook	4	1	3	14	22	3
Isle of Wight	4	0	4	7	29	1

### Leading Players.

Martin Adams (Kingfisher)	p8
w8	100%
Keith Hodder (Kingfisher)	p11
w10	91%
Alec Watson (Cippenham)	p12
w10	83%

### First Division

Pyestock	3	3	0	18	9	7
Am Gen 'B'	4	2	2	19	17	6
Burnham	3	2	1	13	14	5
Kingfisher 'B'	3	1	2	13	14	4
Cippenham 'B'	3	0	3	9	18	2

### Leading Players.

Andrew Nash (Pyestock)	p6	w5
83%		
Jonathan Samuel (Kingfisher)	p9	w7
78%		
Sarah Hammond (Am Gen)	p8	w6
75%		

### Ladies League

Cippenham	2	2	0	9	1	5
Aldershot	2	1	1	4	6	3
Isle of Wight	2	0	2	2	8	1
Jacque Farwell (Cippenham)	p4	w4	100%			

# The Two Mazunovs

by VIKTOR GUSEV, Russian Journalist

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE RUSSIAN BROTHERS

THE flight from Seoul arrived in Moscow at 6 in the morning. At noon, it was futile to look for Andrei Mazunov in the Hotel Sport, the accommodation for athletes from other cities. "Andrei is in Gorky" – said Boris Rozenberg from Odessa, who was not only a room-mate, but partner of Mazunov in the Soviet table tennis team. And this was no joke – when the coaches thought Mazunov would be resting in the hotel after the long trip, he was already at home along the Volga River.

What would he have done in joyous Moscow, which during these days was always meeting the charter flights bringing home the Olympic champions? Andrei did not advance from the group matches in Seoul, thus his mood was understandably not the best . . .

The Paris competition was held six months earlier. He won an unexpected silver medal at the European Championships, a genuine sensation. This was his surprise for his 21st birthday, which was on March 31. At that time, the most appreciative words were used when talking about the Mazunov family, with Andrei's 16-year-old brother, Dmitri also sharing in the limelight. To quote a Russian saying, it did not spoil his joy as he was also a member of the bronze medalist team.

Andrei is four years older than his brother. They closely resemble each other, and Dmitri has so far cleverly copied Andrei's sports successes.

### Started at the age of six

"Naturally, my interest for the sport began because I wanted to resemble Andrei", says Dmitri. "I was only 6 years old when my brother took me to one of his practice sessions."

Andrei took his brother to his own coach, Mikhail Nosov, the expert who had no outstanding results in his active career, but who is a noted teacher and organizer. A man who was capable of elevating table tennis to the number one sports spot in Gorky. (Forcing even the ever popular ice-hockey to the background.) "Andrei was a talented pupil", notes the coach. "So I thought, why not try out his younger brother? And the parents also asked me to do this."

For by that time, Galina Aleksandrovna Maszunova, who is a prominent expert of computer technology, and her engineer husband, Vyacheslav Stepanovich Mazunov, saw how much sport had changed their older boy, how it gradually turned him into a man.

### Leading personality

The older Mazunov brother also showed signs of becoming a leading personality. And this does not simply mean he has been the best player of the Soviet team since 1984. "Andrei is a very valuable man for the team", his friends say. "He is a calm and confident sportsman. He can help his partners, calm them down and direct them like no-one else."

. . . "And nothing fell into place in Seoul, in spite of this", Andrei Mazunov smiles sadly while saying these words. "Naturally, the task for us to return from the Olympics with medals seemed to be too difficult and, let's say it, unrealistic. But we did hope, all the same. Nowadays, when I get nervous about the poor performance in Seoul, I also think about the next world championships. I encourage myself with the fact that the Olympic experiences can serve me well in that competition."

According to Nosov, Andrei should mainly improve his technical skills in the interest of advancing. For he does have shortcomings in this respect. "And apart from this he should finally find his genuine winning weapon. A present, Andrei hits the ball six to eight times, but he cannot always break down his opponent's resistance. In the end, he grows tired and loses the point. So I set him the task of changing his smashes. His opponent should be placed in a position similar to the goal-keeper in soccer, who has minimal chances to block the penalty kick. But we have not achieved this as yet. The truth is that Andrei is capable of playing the ball very well and unexpectedly from the left, but if it comes from the right he is not as successful. He has practically defeated all the top players of the world, but his spectacular points are frequently followed by silly errors, of which he sometimes hits as many as seven or eight during one set. A good example of this is the European Championship final, which he played with the Swedish Mikael Appelgren. It was precisely because of losing these "easy" balls that Andrei lost the match, although he could have won. . ."

Andrei, who many believe will eventually make a successful career as a coach, is aware of his own shortcomings. "In Seoul, I paid attention to the game of the best players and tried to learn useful hits", he recalls. "I must say that the performance of the Europeans impressed me the most, particularly the Swedes, Erik Lindh and Jan-Ove Waldner, and the Hungarian Tibor Klampár."

Among the younger players, Andrei mentions his brother, not because of brotherly feelings, but realistically. And Nosov agrees with him.

"I must say Dmitri is more talented than Andrei", says the coach. "However, the younger Mazunov brother does not have the physical endurance which characterizes his brother. Andrei's approach to table tennis is far more professional."



Andrei  
Mazunov



Dmitrij  
Mazunov

Either way, the coaches of the national table tennis team clearly see the future of the Mazunov brothers also in a "family" doubles. The brothers played together in an official competition for the first time in 1985. This was the Spartakiad of the Peoples of the Soviet Union, and the Mazunov brothers won the silver medal. Their ways parted then: they played in different-level national teams, which also meant they also saw little of one another at home, although both live with their parents. They occasionally ran into each other when the adult and the replacement teams were both in the same training camp. One year ago, at the traditional competition held for the prizes of the periodical Soviet Culture, an event in the international Grand Prix series, the coaches decided to enter the brothers together for the doubles. The result? Second place behind another Soviet pair, Igor Podnosov and Boris Rozenberg, and a good reaction both from the experts and the press.

"The most important thing is that they understand each other so well", says Nosov. "It could, naturally, be seen that Dmitri is still very young and his game is not as mature, but he shows a steady development."

### See them both at Dortmund

We shall next see the brothers at the same table in the Dortmund World Championships in spring. In other words, the coach will have achieved what Andrei and Dmitri's mother frequently dreams about . . . But she thinks about the dinner table, and that the long-awaited family meeting will one day come about.

And the brothers, who now play together, have for long wanted an opportunity to sit down and have a nice long talk with each other. And not only about table tennis, there are many other things in life that they should discuss in private. As brother to brother.

# Table Tennis techniques

by ZOLTAN BERCIK

THIS article is written by one of Europe's best coaches Zoltan Berczik who has remained faithful to Hungary for many years. Younger players may have heard of him, older players may tell you he is the best in Europe.

### Fast counter forehand topspin

The fast counter forehand topspin is one of the main weapons to score a point in matches today. It can be deployed either from the forehand or from the backhand side.

This stroke is characterized by a fast movement of the racket, both in backswing and forward swing. In addition, a proper racket angle and precise timing is necessary. With this shot, power is mixed with feeling.

When making this stroke, you have to reach the ball quickly and swing your racket fast. This means you have to feature a high level of physical and quick footwork.

Fast counter forehand topspins are often used after an effective service or a slow topspin. It is sometimes used after making a counter shot against the adversary's shot.

### Basic position

You have to make up your mind to use a fast counter topspin at least one stroke ahead. After the preparatory stroke you have to step back and place the left foot some 50-80 cms behind the baseline on the table. The right foot is drawn back. The knees must be slightly bent while the right toe points to the right.

### Backswing

As you move your feet, you must produce a backswing so that the racket comes behind and below the right side of the waist. At the same time, your upper body should be turned to the right and rear. The racket has to close an angle of 60-70 degrees with the surface of the table, according to the current situation. The angle has to be less wide when you hit a ball right after it bounces on the table.

### Forward swing

From the position described above, move the racket vehemently and quickly forward and slightly upward to hit the oncoming ball. Do not forget the proper angle of the racket!

### Impact

The contact with the ball can take place in three positions: at the top of the bounce; immediately after the ball bounces on the table; shortly after it has left the top of its bounce.

The racket should be swung upwards, forwards and to the left, hitting powerfully the rear part of the ball. The upper body turns to the left and leans a bit backward. During the swing, the left foot moves a bit forward, while the body weight should be shifted from the foot behind to the one in front.

The idle hand also moves to help the swing. It also swings to the left and upward in order to promote the pivoting of the upper body. The position of the racket in the end should be in front of the left shoulder or the forehead.

When the shot is completed, you have to step back and prepare for the next stroke. This move backward after the stroke is very important. When the shot is returned by the adversary, the ball will fly twice the speed of a slow topspin. If you step back you will be ready to produce another swing.

The powerful counter forehand topspin is one of the most difficult, and also the most useful, techniques in table tennis. Having excellent physical power and fine footwork, you can reach the ball and use this stroke in most cases, which assures you of taking the initiative in the game.

Permanent practice and clear thinking will give you the clue as to which shot of the adversary you should return with the fast counter topspin, since this stroke cannot be deployed against any kind of shot.

### Re-topspin

This stroke means a technique involving topspin against the adversary's topspin. It is also one of the most difficult elements in table tennis. It can be produced in three positions: far from the table (2-4 metres away); close to the table (50-80 cms), and over the table.

#### 1. Far from the table

Let us assume that you have completed a stroke and made a step back to take up the ready position. Now you want to hit a re-topspin. First of all you have to move back 2-3 metres away from the table. Then, you have to assume a left-foot-forward position, with your feet positioned a bit wider than your shoulders. Both knees should be bent.

There is a need for more technique material in TTN - this is a start.



ZOLTAN BERCIK once a great player, now a great coach.

As the upper body is being turned a little by pivoting around the waist, your body weight should be shifted onto the right leg.

### Backswing

At the same time, the racket is swung back to the location below the right knee, with its tip pointing downward.

After the backswing, you have to swing the racket either slowly or fast. When moving it slowly, it will produce a safe topspin. When you aim to finish a rally, it must be swung fast. Regardless to the speed of the racket motion, you must swing it to the right, forward and upward to hit the oncoming ball.

### Impact

The racket must meet the ball in the last phase of its descending bounce. Then the racket must be swung forward, upward and to the left. In the end of the stroke, the racket must have reached a position above your head. You also have to swing your idle arm forward and to the left in order to promote the stroke. As you swing your arms, you have to move both feet a bit forward to help the swing. A long arm swing with the feet moving forward is a basic requirement to produce a fine re-topspin far away from the table.

When the stroke is completed, pull back your right foot and prepare for the next shot. In matches it will be very effective if you hit re-topspins in different directions, for instance after hitting one crosscourt you ought to hit the next one down the line.

#### 2. Near the table

When a ball is coming to your forehand side, you must step back to the right, while shifting your bodyweight onto the right leg.

### Backswing

There is a difference in comparison with the stroke far away from the table. In the previous case, the racket has an open angle. This time, however, you must produce a closed angle. With a racket angle a bit closed, you must swing the racket backward and bring it into a position slightly below the waist.

From the position in the end of the backswing, you have to swing the racket forward and upward to hit the oncoming ball.

### Impact

The racket should hit the ball on top of its bounce. After the impact, the playing arm should swing forward, upward and a bit to the left. The position of the racket in the end should be near the forehead (short movement), or in front of the left shoulder (long movement), or in front of the right shoulder (fast movement).

#### 3. Over the table

The re-topspin over the table has been produced by constant improvements of forehand topspins, leading to a new technique. It is often described as the stroke with the racket covering the ball.

European shakehand players started to use this stroke in 1980. In order to produce this stroke, you must feature the precise racket angle and an accurate ball-contact. The correct racket angle and precise timing are the keys to a successful shot.

### Basic position

The ideal position to produce re-topspins over the table is 50-60 cms away from the table. Let us suppose a topspin is coming to your forehand side. From the ready position you must step backward to the right with your right leg, while the left foot is being pulled a little closer to the right one.

In case of a topspin coming to your backhand side, you have to step with your left leg to the left, while the right leg moves backward and to the left.

(Continued on page 37)

# Coaching hints on doubles play . . .

by TREVOR PARRY of Dorset

**SERVICE** Serve short – Third ball attack. There is less chance of winning a point direct in doubles because the receiver knows what line the ball will follow. The secret of a good spin serve is that the receiver does not know where the ball is going in relation to the position of his body rather than the amount of spin on the ball. The serve must be accurate because the receiver finds it easier to attack the ball for the same reasons.

Return the ball as a general rule towards the player who played it last, i.e. put it back in the direction it came from unless a player is obviously out of position.

Remember your partner always has to play the 'third ball' so unless you can win the point direct with a good spin serve your partner has to cope with all your spin on the return which might cause him more problems than the original receiver. Generally simple variations of chop and top spin or very short touch serves are better, especially very short touch serves which tempt opponents to make weak attacking shots which can be counter attacked.

You must base your serve on your partner's game. You must base your whole game on your partner's game, not on preconceived notions as to what he ought to do or what you would do!

It is useless to keep setting up attacking chances if you are playing with a largely defensive partner. If your partner has a good backhand flick best openings arise from tight pushing situations, short balls and drop shots.

If your partner has a good forehand topspin or loop (right-handers), best openings arise from well directed pushes wide to the left side of the table. The returns will then be coming back across the body into the bat which makes them a lot easier to play than balls coming into the body from the right.

### Movement

Broadly speaking the partners should circle round behind each other in the direction the feet move to make a shot, i.e. (for right-handers) to the left for forehand shots and to the right for backhand. The body is then moving away from the flight path of the ball. If you move the other way you are moving right across your partner's line of vision and reduce the time he has to see and play the ball.

## DOUBLES IN ACTION

– rarely such glamorous opposition!



Lisa Lomas and Jackie Bellinger, Picture: Mike Loveder

### Service

You should think about this especially with service with right handers. It makes things much easier for your partner if you serve backhand mostly, especially if you have a left hand partner. Otherwise you are occupying more of the central control position and giving your partner less time to see the ball and get in position. In effect he is trying to play with your backside in his face all the time. One advantage of a left hand partner is that he is always completely out of the way when he serves. Think about this!

### Stroke production

Shots should be as short and economical as possible. Long looping exaggerated arm movements waste time and obstruct the vision and movement of your partner. The essential thing is to take the ball as early as possible over the table. This is more effective than long telegraphed power strokes.

### Psychological Aspects and Tactics

You must talk to your partner. Help and encourage him. He knows when he is playing badly without you reminding him or appealing to God or the rest of the world why you have to play with such a clot!!

Much better to try to play better yourself to compensate for your partner's mistakes. He knows he is playing badly and will try that much harder to match your brilliance. Perhaps it is your fault anyway because you are putting him into situations he lacks the technique to cope with. Perhaps really he is playing better than you and all your brilliant shots are coming from his clever openings and placings. Usually you win points when both players are playing well and you lose them when both are playing badly. If you are playing badly you should concentrate on keeping the ball on the table and not giving away silly points. It nearly always pays to ask opponents to serve first unless you prefer a particular end. You then choose who receives which service at the critical stage of a game.

### Combinations

Generally combinations of 2 attackers, 2 all rounders, or attacker and all rounder are best in doubles, two defenders or attacker and defender being relatively weak. Combinations of 2 right handers and right hander and left handers are good. 2 left handers seldom make a good pairing because with service always coming from the right hand court the ball is generally being directed back to the left handers backhand. It is relatively easy to shut out the left handers forehand attack completely.

### Backswing

The racket is swung backward to a position slightly below the waist. At this point, the racket arm must be stretched and the upper body turned backward and to the right. The racket angle is different from those in the previous cases. The racket must be held in a very closed angle.

From the position in the end of the backswing, the tilted racket must be swung quickly forward to the left and slightly upward to hit the oncoming ball. Note: this swing is more in the forward direction than in the previous cases.

### Impact

You should hit the ball as soon as it bounces on the table, or else over the baseline on the table. The racket has an angle of 50-70 degrees with the surface of the table.

After the impact the playing arm must move to the left, forward and slightly upward, with the upper body being pivoted backward and to the left. The right foot moves a little forward while the bodyweight is being shifted onto the left leg. This is the case when a topspin by the adversary is coming to your forehand side.

### Left foot forward

When you re-topspin from the backhand side, your left foot must move forward during the forward-swing of the racket.

When hitting re-topspins over the table, you always must return to the ready position quickly. This is a must in order to prepare for the next shot.

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4. Skylet Andrew (Stratford)	1321
5. Nicky Mason (Bexhill)	1195
6. Bradley Billington (Chesterfield)	885
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10. Glenn Baker (Guildford)	707
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94. Walter Allanson (Shillingford)	301
95. Jeremy Williams (Falmouth)	300
96. Neil Pickard (Norwich)	299
97. Robert Liquorish (Barnet)	296
98. Geoffrey Davies (Brierhill)	294
99. Andrew Rich (Wolverhampton)	293
100. David Barr (Newbury)	292
101. Steven Dettmar (Whitham)	292
102. Richard Beckham (Rainham)	289
103. Rakan Sigrell (Bournemouth)	288
104. Michael Owens (Leominster)	286
105. Michael Browne (Birmingham)	285
106. Stanley Deakin (Stoke)	284
107. Graham Slack (Cheltenham)	281
108. Steven Moreman (Tewkesbury)	279
109. Andrew Withers (Haverhill)	275
110. Jonathon Proffitt (Whetstone)	274
111. Michael O'Leary (Neasden)	274
112. Russell King (Lowestoft)	274
113. Anthony Murrell (Somerset)	272
114. Paul Rainford (Preston)	269
115. Matthew Sheader (Grimsby)	269
116. Phillip Smith (Huncote)	268
117. Graham Clarke (Preston)	267
118. Alex Facey (Catford)	266
119. Peter Bartram (Shoreham)	266
120. Lee Hewitt (Hull)	265
121. Martin Stevenson (Norwich)	264
122. Stuart Worrell (Lincoln)	263
123. Richard Whiteley (Harrogate)	262
124. Jerome Jonah (Wandsworth)	262
125. Mark Randle (Coventry)	257
126. Steven Davies (Tolworth)	257
127. Philip Vickers (Burrowash)	256
128. Malcolm Corking (Stockton)	256
129. Graham Toole (Southampton)	255
130. Peter Machin (Birmingham)	255
131. Andrew Walker (Worthing)	254
132. Keith Samuels (Arlesey)	253
133. Simon Proffitt (Beckenham)	253
134. Stephen Yallop (Derby)	251
135. Gary Lambert (Exmouth)	251
136. Scott Greenbrook (Crawley)	251
137. Ian Gunn (Birmingham)	251
138. Steven Sharpe (Wakefield)	250
139. Stuart Gibbs (Dagenham)	250
140. Jason Clark (London E6)	249
141. Paul Rooper (Bristol)	247
142. Derek Munt (Birmingham)	246
143. Mark Wilding (Denmead)	246
144. Mark Donaghy (Ipswich)	242

### WOMEN

1. Alison Gordon (Reading)	1181
2. Lisa Lomas (Dunstable)	932
3. Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton)	913
4. Joy Dean (Preston)	670
5. Andrea Holt (Ramsbottom)	588
6. Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury)	559
7. Jill Harris (Walsall)	419
8. Carol Giles (Plymouth)	364
9. Joanne Shaw (Normanton)	335
10. Susan Collier (Maidenhead)	311
11. Sandra Roden (Dudley)	309
12. Helen Badenwell (Ware)	288
13. Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge)	265
14. Helen Lower (Wolverhampton)	261
15. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	245
16. Jane Barella (Surbiton)	235
17. Melonie Carey (Puriton)	234
18. Teresa Moore (Bexhill)	224
19. Elaine Short (Plymouth)	215
20. Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln)	200
21. Deborah Toole (Normanton)	194
22. Claire Mouzou (Ashington)	184
23. Claire Potts (Chester)	181
24. Sally Weston (Horsham)	178
25. Susan Radley (Lincoln)	178
26. Debbie Simmonds (Virginia Water)	168
27. Gillian Blanch (Acton)	168
28. Karen Smith (Leicester)	165
29. Helen Perrott (Keynsham)	165
30. Rachel Knight (Twickenham)	161
31. Jean Parker (Preston)	160
32. Elaine Sayer (London E12)	160
33. Karen Burrows (Castleford)	134
34. Kim Hudge (London E13)	133
35. Linda Clemett (Wimbledon)	133
36. Claire Maisey (Swindon)	119
37. Kerry Hall (Chesterfield)	116
38. Linda Radford (Upminster)	116
39. Susan Butler (Plymouth)	114
40. Lesley Radford (Upminster)	105
41. Sheila King (St Leonards)	100
42. Alison Boxall (Cheshunt)	100
43. Lynne Harrison (H.Hempstead)	99
44. Carol Hewitt (Brighton)	98
45. J. Bongers (Staffs)	97
46. Sarah Turner (Southampton)	94
47. Susan Culbertson (Birmingham)	90
48. Suzanne Airey (Grantham)	88
49. Michelle Cohen (Bristol)	87
50. Nicola McGrath (Preston)	83
51. Lesley Popkiewicz (Purley)	83
52. Esme Stevenson (Bude)	75
53. Julie Dimmock (Dunstable)	72
54. Claire Plumridge (High Wycombe)	71
55. Janet Deakin (Warrington)	70
56. Sarah Hammond (Southampton)	69
57. Gillian Sharpe (Lincoln)	62
58. Susan Richmond (Northallerton)	60
59. Sandra Peakman (Birmingham)	60
60. Debbie Soothill (Carnforth)	58
61. Mary Jarrett (Eton Bray)	57
62. Yvette Hooks (Fowsworth)	56
63. Tracy Cole (Crawley)	56
64. Lisa Hayden (Hotton)	55
65. Constance Moran (Grimsby)	54
66. Marjorie Pavitt (Waltham Forest)	54
67. Caroline Buckley (Luton)	50

# The Over 50s and 60s, Schools

## VETERANS ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS SOCIETY

### THE LENTEC OVER 50 (MENS) RANKING LIST as at 22nd November, 1988

MEN (Over 50)		MEN (Over 60)	
1. H. Buist (Kent)	474	1. R. Etheridge (Kent)	473
2. M Sheader (Lincs)	372	2. J. Husband (Bucks)	272
3. D. Schofield (Chesh)	317	3. L. D'Arcy (Yorks)	267
4. M. Wood (Worcs)	270	4. E. Dickenson (Essex)	191
5. F. Lockwood (Essex)	231	5. A. Hartshorn (Lancs)	181
6. B. Adedayo (Middlx)	188	6. G. Tsow (Warwick)	178
7. S. Battrick (Essex)	176	7. L. Browning (Yorks)	176
8. R. Etheridge (Kent)	172	8. S. Taylor (Essex)	169
9. T. Donlon (Chesh)	168	9. D. Somers (Herts)	168
10. K. Powell (Chesh)	129	10. R. Bolton (Notts)	121
11. M. Watts (Sussex)	126	11. A. Gould (Lancs)	116
12. B. Mayfield (Beds)	126	12. N. Lusher (Yorks)	97
13. G. Bax (Herts)	125	13. S. Nunn (Yorks)	80
14. W. Allanson (Berks)	122	14. T. Jenkins (Bucks)	76
15. A. Rowden (Sussex)	120	15. A. Holt (Wilts)	72
16. R. Langheim (Surrey)	117	16. V. Odden (Surrey)	52
17. G. Chapman (Surrey)	111	17. J. Mulley (Essex)	50
18. G. Batt-Rawden (Sussex)	101	18. R. Shaw (Bucks)	44
19. B. Halliday (Berks)	101	19. D. Clare (Sussex)	41
20. B. Keeley (Sussex)	101	20. R. Satchell (Sussex)	37
21. G. Brook (Yorks)	94	21. H. Nixon (Lancs)	37
22. W. Moran (Lincs)	85	22. J. Macey (Wilts)	33
23. A. Hunt (Yorks)	83	23. D. Lake (Sussex)	25
24. L. D'Arcy (Yorks)	81	24. G. Taylor (Sussex)	22
25. K. Hartridge (Herts)	76	25. J. Mansi (Norfolk)	21
26. J. Perry (Middlx)	76	26. A. Sawyer (Middlx)	16
27. P. Jones (Chesh)	71	27. P. Hamrer (Beds)	8
28. K. Burgess (Hunts)	71	28. I. Ball (Middlx)	6
29. B. Hawkins (Kent)	65	29. G. Garrett (Sussex)	5
30. C. Dyke (Berks)	62	30. G. Locke (Bucks)	4
31. E. Griffiths (Chesh)	60	31. J. West (Sussex)	2
32. R. Smith (Avon)	57		
33. T. Willson (Herts)	57		
34. N. Stagg (Hants)	57		
35. L. Pratt (Bucks)	56		
36. A. Saunders (Notts)	55		
37. G. Wines (Surrey)	52		
38. B. Edlington (Lincs)	51		
39. J. Mulley (Essex)	47		
40. G. Harris (Kent)	45		
41. M. Barrett (Surrey)	44		
42. J. Anker (Essex)	42		
43. L. Browning (Yorks)	41		
44. B. Thompson (Wilts)	39		
45. P. Thurman (Herts)	36		
46. D. Somers (Herts)	36		
47. A. Hartshorne (Lancs)	36		
48. C. Spielberg	36		
49. D. Wayland (Essex)	32		
50. S. Honor (Norfolk)	32		
51. M. Shave (Hants)	31		
52. B. Gale (Herts)	29		
53. T. Dickenson (Essex)	24		
54. D. Finlayson (Essex)	24		
55. R. Shaw (Bucks)	24		
56. R. Wells (Berks)	24		
57. C. Beaumont (Sussex)	21		
58. J. Leach (Chesh)	18		
59. H. Bartholomew (Berks)	18		
60. A. Wood (Middlx)	18		
61. G. Dobrowolski (N'thants)	17		
62. D. Caulder (Herts)	13		
63. R. Wilde (Surrey)	8		
64. M. Tew (Cheshire)	8		
65. J. Rose (Hants)	5		
66. A. Bland (Hants)	5		
67. D. Millman (N'thants)	5		
68. G. Holley (Hants)	4		
69. J. Ellis (Notts)	4		
70. P. Leckie (Bucks)	4		
71. J. Levene (Sussex)	4		

## ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### Grove, Peniel-five teams



David Lomas



Report by

**DAVID LOMAS**

WHEN the entries for the Dunlop National School Team Championships closed in mid-December the total number of teams being sent forward to the Area Finals by counties was slightly up on last season's total of 233.

It is interesting to discover that all eight of last season's winners feature again this time. It seems to be the season of the multiple entry. The Grove, Market Drayton, bid to add to their many previous titles with no fewer than five teams involved whilst this is equalled by Peniel Academy who seek their first title. Table Tennis is the No. 1 sport at Peniel where the pupils are coached by Esther Coleman and Nicky Jarvis. In the North region Gosforth Central Middle School, Newcastle, have four teams through as do Parkview, Barrow-in-furness, whilst in the South & East region Bedford Modern and Newlands School, Seaford also put forward four teams.

The Area Finals were due to take place on January 21/22 with the winners going forward to Regional Finals on Sunday, February 19th at Pontefract, Stroud and Croydon.

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# Doping controls

by ALBERT SHIPLEY

THERE cannot be many people competing in sport these days who are unaware of the fact that testing competitors for drugs is now common to all sports. Under a Sports Council policy our major table tennis events and training camps are all liable to a visit by an independent Sampling Officer.

For obvious reasons, competitors are not given advance warning of these visits and at the event a random selection of players to be tested is made. The procedure is a simple one of being required to give a urine sample at a pre-arranged time.

As we found from experience, problems can arise where competitors have been taking medicine for some common ailment. A number of preparations which contain banned drugs are available from chemists without a prescription. Those containing codeine, ephedrine or pseudoephedrine are important examples. Thus special care should be taken when obtaining treatments for headaches, pain or colds and nasal or bronchial problems. If a player needs such treatment just before a major event or training camp, he or she would be well advised to check with a doctor or pharmacist that the product does not contain a banned substance.

Whilst it is possible to publish a list of "safe" drugs, it is apparently not practicable to list all of the various brand names of medicines available over the counter that contain one or more of the banned substances. Examples of branded preparations which



Albert Shipley

would NOT be allowable include Bronchipax, Contac 400, Do-do tablets, Mucron, Nirolex Expectorant Linctus and Procol. Hay fever sufferers should take care not to use an anti-histamine preparation which also contains ephedrine.

Although the medical profession claims that no drug will improve the hand skill of a player, the British Olympic Association and the Sports Council will continue to pursue a policy of drug testing in all sports at all levels and table tennis will certainly co-operate in this crusade.

# FAIR PLAY IN SPORT Campaign

THE National Coaching Foundation and McDonalds Hamburgers have launched a Fair Play campaign for children in sport. We would ask you to assist us in promoting the concept by letting people know of its existence. The campaign is designed to reinforce the positive elements of children's participation in sport. A booklet and video have been developed to support the campaign which is intended:

- \* To ensure that children and young people find enjoyment and lasting satisfaction through participation in physical activity.
- \* To make adults aware that children play to satisfy themselves, and not necessarily to satisfy adults and their ambitions.
- \* To encourage children and young people to adopt a fit and healthy life-style by making sports participation attractive, safe and enjoyable.

Under this scheme, children who demonstrate good sportsmanship in their school may be awarded a certificate, signed by their headteacher or Coach and their McDonalds restaurant man-

ager. More details on this scheme are included on page 16 of the booklet.

In the foreword of the book Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, writes:

*"There is no doubt that sport can help to prepare children for the stresses of adult life. However, we must not forget that for sport to continue to play a positive role in society, competitive fervour must be balanced by adherence to the principle of fair play. It is all too easy for those involved in sport to lose sight of the need for such a balance in their quest for competitive successes, and indeed to lose sight of the fact that participation in sport must, first and foremost, offer children the prospect of fun and enjoyment."*

Everybody has a responsibility to see fair play - players, coaches, teachers, officials, parents, youth leaders, playworkers, administrators, spectators and people in the media. Together their attitudes and actions can ensure high standards of sporting behaviour, and help to emphasise fun, friendly competition and individual fulfilment.

ORDER YOUR  
TABLE TENNIS NEWS  
MONTHLY FROM  
THE ETTA OFFICE

## OBITUARY

### RON O'CONNOR

Journalist

RONALD O'CONNOR, 46, Sports Editor of The Daily Telegraph, died from injuries received in a car crash in Surrey on Boxing Day only months after being appointed to his new post.

Along with Sports Managing Editor Mr Radford Barrett, Ron played a key role in the reorganisation of the sports pages of The Daily Telegraph before and after the move from Fleet Street to the Isle of Dogs.

#### Unique Policy

The unique Telegraph policy of covering almost all sports, large medium and small was followed closely by this fine journalist who has no doubt calmed many a perturbed correspondent in trouble in some distant part of the world, including myself.

Sports of all dimensions including table tennis will miss the absorbing zest for all sport that was clear to all those who spoke to him regularly on the telephone. In the heat of battle, when the deadlines were closing in, Ron O'Connor was the calming influence that was so appreciated.



Alan Cooke receives the "Big Cheque" as he wins the Macartney Classic at Brentwood - Picture: Peter Elgar.

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