



Table Tennis News

No. 187

January 1990

90p



Jaques Tables chosen for more
English Open & World Championships
than any other make

BRITISH AND BEST

**John
Jaques**

Seasonal Greetings

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy 1990 from all the Management Committee, Office Staff and yours truly. We are now entering into a new era for table tennis with many very promising young players bursting onto the international scene in addition to our established stars. Our Chairman and Chief Executive together with the Leeds Building Society have worked wonders to put the sport in the television spotlight — it has not been an easy task but they are succeeding.

'Success for the Open — Success for the Leeds'

The Leeds English Open this month shows just how far the sport has progressed in the past few years. An imaginative new schedule, the entry of the World Champion, top quality teams from China and Sweden all leading to better spectator appeal, press reportage and television coverage. To adapt an adage 'What's good for the sport is good for the sponsor'; the Leeds have certainly had tremendous value from their investment in table tennis.

Who will benefit now?

With the Leeds exit from the scene the hunt is on for a suitable replacement. Ted Wallbutton is co-ordinating the search and his article on progress to date appears on page 15. As he rightly states it is often a case of who you know, and not what you know and among the 50,000 league players in the country there must be at least one who knows the right contact, in the right company who can reap full benefit from our newly revitalised sport. Why not ring Ted if you have any ideas.

ALAN PICKARD



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ALAN PICKARD

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In this issue

	<i>Page</i>
ETTA Chairman, John Prean	3
Alan Cooke — a Man for all Seasons	4
European Scene	5
Austrian Open	7
Hungarian Open	9
The Leeds British League	11, 12
England v France in Norwich	14
The Chief Executive on Sponsorship	15
Willmott Cup and Rose Bowl	16
Cleveland Junior Open	17
The Leeds County Championships	18, 19
Police International	21
Basic Coaching	23
News from the Counties	24-30
Regional News	32, 33
Mailbox	34, 35

★ **COVER
PICTURE**

CARL PREAN has made dramatic steps in recent months culminating recently in his entry to the European top 12. His exploits in the Hungarian Open are reported on page 9 and with his dedication and application to the sport it won't be too long before he wins a major event abroad.

★

Eleven days to Shake the World

WE SHALL see 1990 in with a bang. I cannot imagine a more dynamic start.

If all our plans work out, the LEEDS English Open will be a red letter day for the sport. Bowlers in Old Trafford, Manchester will be a unique venue. We are supported by the Manchester Olympic Bid Committee, which is working so actively to bring the 1996 Olympic Games to Manchester. A strong 'English Open' will support their case and show the world what Manchester can do. Never was it so important that we enjoy a big success.

A unique schedule...

We shall break new ground with a schedule which has excited and stimulated the Table Tennis World. No longer will the TEAM EVENT be tucked away on the opening day. It will reach its climax on the final Sunday (January 7) which in the past we never utilised at all. Yet it is then that most of our members are free from work. It is important in other respects as well that the TEAM EVENT is a success. The ITTF, led by President Ogimura, is making the most strenuous efforts to have a team event for Table Tennis included in the Olympic Games. This would give the sport the most tremendous boost. It is vital that we have a stunning team event.

It is no secret that the scheduling of the Table Tennis events left much to be desired in the Seoul Olympics, the one blot on an otherwise remarkable debut as an Olympic sport.

BBC Grandstand will be there...

Once again the Finals of the Individual Events will be shown live with early highlights on Saturday afternoon (January 6). As usual, they will be concluded by mid-afternoon. In the evening the Team Events will begin, building up to a

Sunday climax with the later stages, semi-finals and finals. When it is all over, those who come will have seen four full days of wonderful table tennis.

The players...

We have lined up most of the World's great players. The Chinese will begin on the hard road towards the supremacy which the Swedes so convincingly took from them in Dortmund. They remain supreme in the Women's game, but the setbacks received by their men really hurt. They have sent us their Dortmund semi-finalist Yu Shentong. He went further than the rest. He is joined by Chen Longcan and Wei Quingguang. These two are the OLYMPIC Doubles Champions and were World Champions in New Delhi (1987). In Dortmund their title was taken from them by the German pair Roskopf and Fetzner. Will there be a repeat of that meeting in Manchester? If so, it is as near as we can get to a 'title fight'!

China's best player?...

As far as I know, China issues no ranking lists. Their National Squad includes at least 20 players of authentic world class. Not all can play abroad and so we do not know how good they really are. I smile when I hear a Chen Zhibin introduced as No.33 in the World. Yet he is a potential world champion. I view with similar amusement the world ranking of Chen Longcan at No.8. When I spoke to the Chinese players on our last tour, all, without exception saw Chen Longcan as China's best player. That is the esteem in which he is held by his fellows. Chen will be in Manchester.

Waldner will be in Manchester

The World Champion has accepted our invitation and he alone will be worth the price of a ticket as he does battle with the Chinese and all others who will try to knock him off his pedestal. In the right mood, he remains a genius. His undoubted unpredictability adds to his charm. His presence will ensure that the world's greatest player will be at what we hope to make the world's greatest tournament of the year.

Many other stars will be in action, including our own players. Perhaps one will have a real breakthrough to set the media alight with victories against the world's elite.

Three Test Matches...

The three Chinese Super-Stars will play a 3 match Test Series against England (January 9 at Peterborough, on the 10th at Bridlington and the 11th at Gateshead). Those who were lucky enough to see some of our previous matches against China will know that they will see Table Tennis at its very best. The only 'friendship' will be off the table. In 20 or so matches recently we have won just once. I was privileged to be there when Alan Cooke won after being 18-12 down in the third to give England a 4-2 winning margin. That was SOME evening. It will remain with me for the rest of my life. May there be more on this tour.

The first 5 Star...

The Chinese will conclude their visit in the Cleveland 5 Star which thus becomes the first of our tournaments to be awarded this distinction. It will not be the last. All indications are that there will be much



competition for this accolade in future years. The Cleveland has always worked hard to attract top international players, often with success. This time the jackpot has been hit. It should be a terrific event. Make a note of the dates: January 13 and 14.

That will conclude 11 remarkable days for English Table Tennis. If you don't live close enough, why not make it a short holiday? Inexpensive accommodation in good hotels is available for both the OPEN and the CLEVELAND. It may be a long time before we are able to bring you Table Tennis of such outstanding quality.

I wish all our Readers a happy and progressive New Year.

Lovered Ball Spotting in Readers's Digest

FOLLOWING the joke that one of the few things that the Prime Minister has failed to achieve in her decade at No.10 is to cancel her subscription to "Reader's Digest"...

Mike Lovered is featured as one of the players in a Spot the Ball contest in the current edition of that worthy publication. I am told that the picture was taken at the 1988 Middlesex Open and has taken a year to materialise.

Mike tells me he has no idea where the ball might be in the picture, in any case he would not be eligible to enter. He says that the picture is not very flattering as his bat is shielding his face.



A Man for All Seasons

by JOHN WOODFORD

ALAN COOKE, 23 from Chesterfield, Derbyshire plays such athletic table tennis that he cannot afford to throw caution to the winds. Mentally and physically he carefully plans his campaign throughout the nine-months from September to May, aiming for peak performances at the most important times.

He told me at Bolton, after playing in all four of the tour matches against the young Soviets "Last season was very tough, it started early with the Olympics and finished late, but I managed to achieve just about all my major targets — regaining the English title, managed to get to No.1 on the England list, won the Commonwealth in Cardiff and helped England to win promotion to the Super Division of the European League."

After that bunch of successes, it was hardly surprising that he did not manage to pull up any trees in the streets of Dortmund. You cannot "win 'em all" as the saying goes.

During the early summer, Alan and Desmond Douglas pulled a master stroke by signing for the ambitious Grove club at Market Drayton. As a result, Grove appear at this half-way stage, certain winners of the Leeds British League premier division title.

But equally important the club is providing Alan and Des with other vital facilities, first-class practice in super conditions not far from home and with other players not far away — Bradley Billington, Chris Oldfield, Sean Gibson, Jonathan Taylor and others. Amongst other incentives Alan and Des can be seen driving around in their company cars — Volvos, provided by Williams the Market Drayton Volvo dealer involved in the sponsorship of the two England stars.

Said Alan, "We are secure at Grove. Nothing is more important than first class training facilities near home. It is also a breakthrough for Desmond who is enjoying the best deal since he returned from playing in Germany. I enjoyed playing for Falkenburg in Sweden for two years. It was great to be playing with some of the best players in Sweden, but the travelling was tedious."

He added "I think we have the best deal in the British League." Turning to this season he said "Things are improving for me, it is going to be an extremely busy season with the two most important events happening towards the end, the Europeans in Gothenburg and the new world team cup in Osaka — our win in Budapest means that we should be highly rated in Japan in May."

Early days

Alan Cooke's early days in the sport owe much to his coach Derek Marples who can often be seen watching his man in action, with very justifiable pride, although Derek is a very modest man. I acknowledge help from him in collating some of the following facts.

Alan commenced regular coaching sessions in 1977 at the Chesterfield Activity Centre, where he joined a team in division 5 of the Chesterfield league. His average number of wins was so high that he was quickly transferred through the divisions to a first division team at Sheepbridge works.

During the 1979 season he celebrated his 13th birthday by winning the Chesterfield mens singles crown at the time when the league attracted the best players from Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield and other surrounding areas.

How good was he when he started regular coaching? He completed his Halex awards almost immediately, but this didn't really indicate his abilities. This happened when he was asked to perform the basic shorts such as push/touch strokes to a standard to carry him through the local first division. Such was his capabilities that local top league players were unable to cope and many fell at the first confrontation.

Coaching delight

During this progression he learned all the other basic shots, developing them to a very high standard. "What a delight it was to coach him" said Derek Marples recently "he listened attentively — attempted to put into practice the shots exactly as requested — with the result he acquired a game which allowed him to have tremendous self development. This showed through particularly when he became a senior, where he was, and still is, capable of determining opponents weaknesses and exploiting them".

One of his most satisfying triumphs was leading the Derbyshire team to be national champions and then the following season winning the Maurice Goldstein Trophy at Burton-on-Trent.

I can recall watching that match and seeing Cooke facing an uphill struggle against Nigel Tyler. In typical style, he sorted out the problem and went on to win.



Alan Cooke, crowned a wonderful season of International play to become Commonwealth Champion for the first time. He will hold the title until April 1991 and it is expected he will defend it 6,000 feet above sea level in Nairobi.

His first selection for England was as a Cadet. "A just reward for all his application and hard work in developing his game" says his coach, "It was this attitude which was to carry him through when he became a senior. At this level he further expanded the quality of his game and won a place in the England team."

After securing that result, it was more training, more hard work, more dedication to technical development and then the three goals achieved — Top 12, National champion and England No.1.

"I was proud to see him win the Commonwealth title and gain Olympic selection and of course winning promotion in the European League. This takes us to the present, what next European champion, world champion?" concluded Derek Marples.

Who knows the answer? Nobody, but what is certain is that if Alan can continue to progress his game, lethal top-spin on the forehand and backhand, delightful, delicate touch-play in between he must continue to make progress at least towards the top twelve in Europe.

Although the top six England players all beat Europe No.7 Andrei Mazunov on the Russian tour of England, I would single out his fine victory in Budapest on November 17, when as England knocked out China 3 - 2 in the team quarter-finals Alan Cooke defeated Zhu Hong Ding and followed up with a win in the final against Yugoslavia 24 - 22 third game against Zoran Primorac, one of his closest rivals on the way to the elite ranks in Europe — signs that this enthusiastic, skilful and tough young man could re-start the tree-pulling, watch out Gothenburg and Osaka!

European League

by GEORGE R. YATES

POLAND's unbeaten record in the Super Division of the European League went to the wall in decisive fashion when, away to Sweden in Solvesborg on November 9, they were beaten 6-1.

But it was a strong Swedish team and a weak Polish side, the former being represented by Jan-Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson and Marie Svensson and the latter by Jaroslav Kolodziejczyk, Piotr Skierski and Agnieszka Gieraga.

Scores:-
Persson b Skierski 12, 14;
Waldner b Kolodziejczyk 6, 16;
Svensson b Gieraga 23, 13;
Persson/Waldner b Kolodziejczyk/Skierski 14, 19;
Persson/Svensson b Kolodziejczyk/Gieraga 20, -18, 20;
Persson b Kolodziejczyk 15, 13;
Waldner l Skierski -16, -10.

Both France and the Federal Republic of Germany, like England, tumbled to their second defeats Czechoslovakia beating the Federal Republic 4-3 in Havirov on November 7th and France going down by a like result to Yugoslavia on the same night in Cholet.

Scores:-

In Havirov

J. Janci l S. Fetzner 17, -15, -15;
P. Korbel b J. Roszkopf 19, 14;
R. Kasalova b O. Nemes-14, 18, 17;
Janci/J. Javurek l Fetzner/Roszkopf 19, -22, -11;
Janci/Kasalova b Fetzner/Nemes 13, 13;
Janci b Roszkopf -19, 17, 15;
Korbel l Fetzner -16, -15.

In Cholet

J-P. Gatien b L. Lupulescu 14, 11;
O. Marmurek l Z. Primorac -23, 12, -18;
Wang Xiao Ming b J. Fazlic 18, 6;
Gatien/Marmurek l Lupulescu/Primorac -10, -21;
Gatien/Wang l Lupulescu/Fazlic 20, -19, -15;
Gatien l Primorac 19, -15, -17;
Marmurek b Lupulescu -21, 17, 15

Belgium lead the way in Division 1 unbeaten in their three matches so far their latest success being by a 6-1 margin away to Denmark in Odense on November 11th when the mixed doubles was lost by Jean-Michel Saive and Els Billen.

Spain would appear favourites to gain promotion from Div 2 and, after a spate of matches in Luxembourg over the weekend of 18/19 November, Greece, who completed their fixtures, are due for the drop with 'nary' a win in their seven matches.

PREMIER

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	11	10	2
Netherlands	3	2	1	11	10	2
Poland	3	2	1	9	12	2
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	8	13	2
F.R.Germany	3	1	2	12	9	1
England	3	1	2	11	10	1
France	3	1	2	11	10	1
Sweden	3	1	2	11	10	1

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	3	0	19	2	3
Austria	3	2	1	15	6	2
Hungary	3	2	1	14	7	2
Bulgaria	2	2	0	9	5	2
Turkey	3	1	2	5	16	1
Italy	2	0	2	4	10	0
Finland	1	0	1	0	7	0
Denmark	3	0	3	4	17	0

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	4	1	21	14	4
Spain	3	3	0	20	1	3
Luxembourg	5	3	2	20	15	3
Ireland	6	3	3	21	21	3
Switzerland	2	2	0	11	3	2
Scotland	5	2	3	19	16	2
Wales	5	2	3	9	26	2
Greece	7	0	7	12	37	0

JACKIE BELLINGER'S Summer School 1990

DETAILS

Accommodation: Bill Todd's "Foxwood" Taverham, Norwich Bill organises most of the Table Tennis in this area. He owns a Guest House and within the grounds has a Table Tennis Centre and function room. Sleeping is either (1) in the Guest House (2) in tents/caravan — you need to supply your own sleeping bag.

Dates: Arrive Sunday 26th August (7.00pm) and depart Friday 31st August (12.00)

Venue: Taverham School which is opposite "Foxwood" 15 Tables, 4-5 hours coaching a day.

Meals: All meals will be supplied.

Extra Activities: Include Barbeques, Tournament, T.T.Videos and a Last Night Party.

PRICE: GUEST HOUSE: ... £120.00
TENT/CARAVAN: ... £90.00

★ There will be a FREE mini-bus laid on to Norwich, departing from Luton ★

Please send a deposit of £45 to Bill Todd, "Foxwood", Fakenham Road, Taverham, Norwich Norfolk (as soon as possible as places are limited) (Cheques made payable to Bill Todd)

If you have any queries contact Jackie Bellinger (0582 450956) or Bill (0603 868474) The balance is due by July 1st.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION Classification List December 1989

(Previous positions in brackets)

Men

- * 1 WALDNER Jan-Ove (SWE) (1)
- * 2 PERSSON Jorgen (SWE) (2)
- * 3 GRUBBA Andrzej (POL) (3)
- * 4 APPELGREN Mikael (SWE) (4)
- * 5 LINDH Erik (SWE) (5)
- * 6 KUCHARSKI Leszek (POL) (6)
- * 7 MAZUNOV Andrei (URS) (7)
- * 8 ROSSKOPF Jorg (FRG) (9)
- * 9 SAIVE Jean-Michel (BEL) (11)
- * 10 PRIMORAC Zoran (YUG) (11)
- * 11 LUPULESCU Ilije (YUG) (14)
- * 12 PREAN Carl (ENG) (16)
- + 13 DING YI (AUT) (10)
- 14 KLAMPAR Tibor (HUN) (8)
- 15 BÖHM Georg (FRG) (12)
- 16 MAZUNOV Dmitrij (URS) (19)
- 17 GATIEN Jean-Philippe (FRA) (15)
- 18 DOUGLAS Desmond (ENG) (13)
- 19 COOKE Alan (ENG) (18)
- 20 JANCI Tomas (TCH) (24)

* TOP 12 INVITEES

+ TOP 12 Reserve to travel

STIGA TOP 12, HANNOVER, January 19/21, 1990



Alison Gordon

Women

- * 1 GUERGUELTCHEVA Daniela (BUL) (1)
- * 2 BATORFI Csilla (HUN) (3)
- * 3 NEMES Olga (FRG) (2)
- * 4 BADESCU Otilia (ROM) (5)
- * 5 KASALOVA Renata (TCH) (7)
- * 6 POPOVA Valentina (URS) (8)
- * 7 WANG XIAO MING (FRA) (10)
- * 8 KLOPPENBURG Mirjam (HOL) (12)
- * 9 BULATOVA Fliura (URS) (4)
- * 10 SAFAROVA Alena (TCH) (9)
- * 11 URBAN Edit (HUN) (11)
- * 12 HRACHOVA Marie (TCH) (6)
- + 13 FAZLIC Jasna (YUG) (13)
- 14 WIRTH Gabriella (HUN) (19)
- 15 SVENSSON Marie (SWE) (15)
- 16 PERKUCIN Gordana (YUG) (14)
- 17 GORDON Alison (ENG) (17)
- 18 LOMAS Lisa (ENG) (18)
- 19 PALINA Irina (URS) (20)
- 20 KOVTUN Elena (URS) (16)

Two Bronze Medals for England

by a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S MEN fared better than our Women, winning two semi-final places — in the Men's Team and Singles Events. Organisation was First Class.

For Carl Preat the return visit to Linz brought defeat from the younger Mazunov, Dimitri, in the semi-finals. Echoes of 1984 when he lost to Andrej, the older brother, in the Final of the European Youth Championships. One must hope that Mrs Mazunov did not give birth to a third son. However, it was a notable run for the young man from the Isle of Wight, which took him past such notables as Ding Yi and Kucharski, both ranked rather higher in Europe than he.

"I shall win a big one soon..."

is what he said afterwards. Who can blame him? A couple of days later he defeated Dimitri quite comfortably in the England — Soviet Union Test Series, but there was then no car at stake for the winner as there was in Linz.

Skylet a big success...

Carl was not England's only success. Skylet Andrew also did well. In the Team Event he defeated Ilje Lupulescu and Zsolt Harzci and the latter could only shake his head in disbelief as boomer after boomer flew past him from seemingly fair returns. In the doubles Preat and Andrew got their act together quickly and only Lupulescu and Primorac (team event) and Roszkopf and Fetzner beat them, both in three and for much of the time they looked a match for two of the best doubles teams in the world, the reigning world champions included. The combination of left and right hander is now almost mandatory at world level and my tip for England's next European League Match is S. Andrew and A. N. Other (righthanded), at any rate in the Doubles. Readers will know soon whether I was right.

Team Event...

The Skylet Harzci win plus a hard one by Preat over a revitalised Kriston gave England a 2 - 0 lead against Hungary, which the doubles turned into 3 - 0 (Harzci and Nemeth were the victims here). It was a rotten welcome present for Zoltan Berczik, restored as Hungary's National Coach and he did not take kindly to the experience, complaining bitterly about Skylet's service. However, there was little else he could do as England sailed to the next round. There they met Yugoslavia's dynamic duo, Lupulescu and Primorac. A great start gave our two a 2-0 lead (Skylet — Lupu and Preat — Primorac). The doubles went astray, but only by 18 in the third, after 16-15 and 18 all. Lupu then beat Preat 19 in the third. Preat led 20-18 in the first and lost. Skylet's defeat against 'Prim' filled our cup to overflowing and we were out.

Germany (two from Georg Böhm and one from Roszkopf) won the Final 3-2 fittingly deuce in the third, as Lupu threw away lead after lead against Roszkopf, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. However, there was no lack of excitement.

Ladies...

Our girls had what seemed a good draw — Belgium in Round 1 with only Bulgaria or Israel thereafter barring the path to the semi-final. Andrea Holt defeated Karen Bogaerts in three in the best of possible starts after which Alison Gordon lost to Els Billen, also in three after leading 5-0 and 11-5 in the third. It was not one of her better performances.

The doubles never did look like our brightest hope with a combination of defence and attack. 1-2, but still plenty of hope. Unfortunately Alison lost to Bogaerts and the chance had gone, the bird had flown. 1 - 3.

Individual Events...

Andrea had a comfortable first round against a young Bulgarian, but a most unhappy second against a Soviet combination bat player, Irina Palina. The Soviet girl posed an insoluble mystery apart from hitting more soundly and, most of the time, pushing longer and better.

Alison at last had a winning score sheet, three straight against Holland's Emily Noor after a 1st round bye. After that she, too, encountered a Russian winter against Olga Lapochina, yet another in an endless line of excellent Russian ladies. That one went to four and Alison certainly played a lot better than the day before.

Skylet, after defeating Roland Vimy, a very good Czech, tasted defeat against Steffen Fetzner, world doubles champion and rising singles star. Sky had chances and should have won the first game, which would have made it 2 all instead of 1-3. Both boys took no prisoners with some fast early hitting.

Carl progressed via an Austrian qualifier and the excellent German Junior Torben Wosik, Kucharski and Ding to the shoot-out with Mazunov. There our last hope ended, but we did not depart without some success, taking home two bronze medals.

Dimitri was not to be denied and, apart from a brief uncertainty in the middle, convincingly defeated Petr Korbel (Czechoslovakia) in four in a good Final.

Super-Kloppenber

In the Ladies' Event one could say with some conviction that the best player won. Mirjam Kloppenberg was unbeaten in the Team Event and she won the Singles as

well. Her opponent in the Final was Valentina Popova, still good, but no match here. Nemes and Batorfi were other big names that did not make it on the road to the final. No praise could be too high for the Dutch girl, only ranked No. 12 in Europe, but she will be a lot higher next time.

What else is new?

The 'short game' was much in evidence, many rallies starting with short pushes till one player takes the initiative. It is not a tremendous development, akin to long, pointless midfield passing in Soccer, when nothing happens. A little like cat and mouse and not a great treat for spectators.

The stench of Glue...

The famous smell was everywhere and one wishes that players would apply the stuff in the open air where civilians don't have to smell it. I would not knock it in the playing sense, as it enables players to operate a little further away from the table, which encourages rallies. However, I watched internationals spreading layer after layer on their bats and I can't see how their rubber could not end up much much thicker than is indicated in the rules. I have no idea how thick ONE layer is, but I saw 6 and 7 being applied one after the other, allowing only a little drying time. I cannot see how the rubber can still be no more than the permitted 4mm after all that.

Elbow as part of the hand...

Each second year brings the results of new laws and rules from the I.T.T.F.'s bi-annual conference and this time we were really in the swing of things. The free hand must no longer be above the table and Skylet was duly called for this offence. The umpire was equally adamant that the elbow was part of the hand and ruled accordingly. Our doubles pair won despite that, but what if they had lost? Umpires can now take points off players for bad behaviour, as in Tennis. There was bad behaviour, though possibly less than in most tournaments, but few decisions that used the new rules. The service law remains a veritable maze with the height of the throw an endless contentious bone. Can someone please explain to me why 6" are good and 4" or 5" bad? What does this contribute to the sport? Can someone please explain how any umpire can confidently measure these things from a distance without a ruler?

Roszkopf & Fetzner still Über Alles!

The world champions may have lost a couple in the team event, but in the end they were the ones who collected GOLD yet again. What a team! Anyone who wants to beat them will not only have to match them for skill, but for confidence which is now very high.

Sport Table Tennis...

I heard rumours of further Chinese invasions. I understand the Portuguese now have a Chinese and that the Norwegians will have soon. The Austrians now have two. The Italians have three (who are eligible under the two year rule), but intend to soldier on with native talent and Coach Milan Stencil. If they ever change their mind, it will be an interesting match when they meet Brazil, who have three Japanese. The Norwegian Chinese is called Wang Junsun and he has had a fine record in the German Bundesliga. A Ding Yi vs Wang Junsun Final in the European Championships is now a real possibility; fascinating and you will not need a Chinese visa to see it! Legislators remain anchored in their seats. What are you going to do about this, chaps? Change the service rule yet again? Little else seems to be happening.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Holt - Mihajlova 14, 16, 18
Holt - Palina -9, -9, -11
Gordon v E. Noor 14, 11, 14
Gordon v Lapochina -15, 10, -16, -18
Andrew v Vimy 17, -18, 14, 16
Andrew v Fetzner -21, -15, 14, -15
Preat v Zillner (Austria) 13, 5, 8
Preat v T Wosik -20, 13, 21, 12
Preat v Kucharski 19, 11, 19
Preat v Ding Yi 19, 19, 16

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

Semi-Finals
Kloppenber v Nemes 14, 17, -20, 8
Popova v Batorfi 15, -16, 17, -20, 14
Final
Kloppenber v Popova 13, 17, -17, 15

MEN'S SINGLES:

Semi-Finals
D. Mazunov v Preat -16, 13, 13, 15
Korbel v J M Saive 22, 18, 11
Final
Mazunov v Korbel 11, -19, 10, 12

Men's Team Triumph — Carl loses in Singles Final

by JILL PARKER

Under the new system for the Men's Team, we came up against Czecho in their first match, whom we beat 3-2. An excellent win by Matthew Syed beating Korbelt, the losing finalist in the Austrian Open. Des & Carl both performing well to win their singles.

Against China, we changed the team, with Alan Cooke playing the 2 singles and Carl & Des playing 1 each plus the doubles. Des & Carl both beat Zhu Hong Bin & Carl beat Lu Lin at 2-2. As in the previous match, we lost the doubles. In the semi-final against Japan, Des played superbly against Shibutani winning 2-0. Saitoh played some exciting table tennis, but I felt Alan with his strong consistent backhand, just did not allow him to play his away from the table top spin style. Our first win in the doubles, made this a 3-0 victory.

In the final, with Yugoslavia having two strong players, who also play doubles, this system is a disadvantage when they play against a country with three strong players such as England. Carl went on first with a good win over Kalinic 2-0. Alan had a very exciting cliff-hanger against Primorac winning 22-20 in the 3rd. 2-0 up with AC/DD against the 2 left handers Kalinic/Lupulescu, a very unusual combination. They did not combine well at all, getting in each others way and our lads won a comfortable 21-12. 21-16. A marvellous 3-0 victory. With such a strong event, the England Men's Team did extremely well. All the boys played some excellent table tennis and it was a great team effort. I, as well as the girls, who supported them until the end were very proud of them.

Women's Team Event

A relatively easy match against Poland with Lisa and Fiona not having to assert themselves. Against China, as always, it was a different story 3-0. Our girls just didn't have anything to offer against the outstanding opposition.

Women's Singles

Lisa Lomas had a very disappointing first round defeat against the young Swedish player Asa Svensson. At no time did she look like winning.

Fiona Elliot's first round against the useful Austrian Maier, ended with a 3-2 victory. Her second round encounter was against Olga Nemes who was too consistent for her.

Both girls must learn to try and be more consistent. Silly unforced

errors account for a high percentage of the points lost.

Women's Doubles

1st round loss against a Hungarian pair Hegadus/Nagy 2-1. Having won the 1st game and a long way up in the 2nd, this should have been a 2-0 victory.

Mixed Doubles

With two pairs in the XD both went out to strong pairs. Matthew Syed/Lisa Lomas against Wang Tao/Chen Zihe and Fiona Elliot/Skylet Andrew against the brother/sister combination of Batorfi/Batorfi.

Men's Doubles

I tried to obtain partners for Matthew & Nicky to play with, but it was not possible, so they had to play together. Not an ideal partnership but they had a first round win over an Egyptian pair before losing to Constantini/Nanoni. Skylet Andrew/Carl Prean were a little disappointing in losing to the Russian pair Marinkievich/Vardanian. Alan Cooke/Desmond Douglas beat two good partnerships of Thorsell/Kadiri (Sweden) 2-1, and Vimi/Kutis (Czech) 2-1, before losing in the quarter-finals to Fan Yi/Zhu Hong 0-2.

Men's Singles

Matthew Syed was the only player of the team to play in the qualifications. Unfortunately, he came up against a very strong Hungarian player who played extremely well against defence. He lost 2-0. Skylet, I felt not up to his usual form, lost first round to Kriston of Hungary 3-0. Nicky Mason flew into Hungary a day later than the rest of the team played Janci of Czecho in the first round but lost 3-1 having taken the first game 23-21. Alan Cooke played his first match against the young Wosik of West Germany. Apart from the third game when Alan lost, the scores spoke for themselves 7, 12 & 10. His second

encounter was against Constantini of Italy, which was quite a marathon. A player with whom Alan has had many a tussle. In the last 16, he had to play the multi-talented Appelgren of Sweden. Alan fought very hard, as he always does, before he lost 3-0, deuce in the third game. Des played Bogen of Israel 3-0, Harczi of Hungary 3-0, in this match he played some of his best table tennis. Against Fan Yi Yong of China he had chances, but unfortunately Fan got away in the 5th game and that left only one player left in the tournament to carry the flag — Carl Prean.

Carl's first match in the singles was against the formidable Russian Vardanian. Quite an encounter, with Carl winning in the fifth game 21-19. A somewhat easier second round match with Thomas Von Scheele 3-0. Carl continued to play superb table tennis with wins over Gation of France 3-1. Klampar 3-1 and then in the semi-final against Primorac of Yugoslavia 3-1. Unfortunately, whether nerves took hold of him or what, it was not the same Carl Prean who had played so well previously that went out to play in the final. Lupulescu however, did play better in the final, but if Carl is at his best, there is no stopping him.

A very successful trip, it was only a shame that we did not hear the National Anthem for a second time.



Carl Prean



Skylet Andrew



Alan Cooke



Des Douglas



Matthew Syed

ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE Merit Awards

RECENTLY St Neots Table Tennis League held its handicap tournament and also took the opportunity to honour two of the club's members. The E.T.T.A. Merit Awards for devoted service to table tennis were presented by Mr Ken Marchant vice president of the ETTA and chairman of the Eastern Regional Coaching Committee to Lilian Olver and Alison Saywell.

Introducing Mr Marchant, Ken Chamberlain, chairman of St Neots League, paid tribute to Lilian and Alison for the wonderful work they had done in organising the catering over the years and Mr Marchant said that every county in England had played at St Neots Club and Lilian and Alison had done so much to enhance its reputation. They were known and appreciated throughout the country and their efforts have done much to improve the status of table tennis. It is of interest that they now join husbands Cliff and Len as holders of this award.



British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Mason's Firework Display

by MIKE LOVEDER

BEFORE a crowd of about 120 spectators (Bob's 1/2 full House?!), the three Bathwick Tyres teams all played at home together for the first time this season — and it was not necessarily one of their better days. With three tables in use simultaneously it seemed a little crowded with the first team holding centre court. In the opening game here Nicky Mason succumbed to a challenge from Desmond Douglas, but went down fighting. The pattern of the first game was familiar — evenly poised at the halfway stage, Mason led 11-10. Douglas made his usual surge to go 18-12 ahead and win through 21-15. Not too disheartened Mason kept the second game close throughout and served when leading 18-17. Sadly for him at 20-19 up he was the victim of a very low bounce and Douglas capitalised on this to leave Mason regretting he'd served off twice earlier in the game.

A slightly off-form Matthew Syed found himself a little short of space when he was taken on by Alan Cooke. A tangle with a court barrier at 19-20 down seemed to cost Syed the first game. In their second game Syed trailed 2-7 but bounced back staging a remarkable recovery. From 8-12 down he took 8 consecutive points to lead 16-12 and he found that chopping the ball very hard and low gave him a convincing 21-14 victory. In their third game the Bath defender simply got too far behind by returning the ball too high, and a more confident looking Cooke stormed through to win 21-12.

John Souter found Sean Gibson difficult to contain on the day. In their first hard-hitting game Souter found himself 3-9 down, but he too staged an impressive recovery to level at 19-19, only for Grove's rising star to take the next two points. In their second game Souter led 8-4 but could not hold on to his lead and suddenly found himself 10-11 down. Gibson then pulled clear by just a few points which was enough for him to win 21-17. Chris Rogers made a valiant effort against Brad Billington. Despite a slow start, Billington began to dominate and came through 21-19, 21-12 to put Grove 4-0 up. All four Bath players had lost a game at 19 or deuce and this had cost them a league point. At the halfway stage things were starting to look a little monotonous — but the Bath players didn't see it that way.

After the refreshment interval they seemed to gain a new lease of life and fought back hard. Nicky Mason looked grimly determined against Alan Cooke as he blasted himself a 9-2 lead in their first game, finding Cooke vulnerable with power shots wide to his forehead, Mason extended his lead to 17-7 and the England No.1 was starting

to look a bit cheesed off! Mason served off once again but the cushion he had built was sufficient for him to win 21-11. Alan Cooke was in no mood for giving in and he took a 6-1 lead in their second game. However Mason levelled at 7-7 and the points were evenly shared up to 13-12. Then came one of a number of ball changes as the match ball disappeared beneath the spectator stand. From this point Cooke surged ahead to lead 18-14 and take the second game 21-15. Many thought the battle was over as Cooke developed a 9-6 lead in their third game. Nevertheless Mason battled on relentlessly and edged ahead at 13-12. Then came a sparkling display as Mason blasted himself a 17-13 lead and this time he continued to blast balls off the bounce to go 20-14 up. He only conceded one more point to the delight of the home crowd who up until now had been particularly quiet. A loud cheer went up and 'Mace' grinned from ear to ear!

To a certain extent John Souter followed his example with a series of explosive shots against Des Douglas. Souter at times moved the dividing line between lunatic and brilliant! Despite a brave effort, Souter was just outgunned 18-21, 18-21. A massive tussle was to follow between Matthew Syed and his 'old' friend and rival Bradley Billington. Syed took an early lead of 7-4 but then started to take the ball later and consequently chopped it higher. This produced very mixed fortunes with the score margin narrowing to 13-12. By chopping the ball lower and throwing in the occasional float Syed took a 20-16 lead but found the winning point a bit of a problem. Billington battled back to 19-20 and then gained a crippling net shot which enabled him to pinch the game at deuce. In their second game Syed

looked prepared to work much harder and despite looking tired he took a 7-3 lead. He too served off but managed a 10-4 lead to dominate this game. Having won the second game a comfortable 21-11 Syed found it difficult to maintain the pressure on Billington in the deciding game. At times Syed was attacking too much for his own good, trying to hit the unhittable and consequently trailed 13-17. A determined effort ensured that he won this the 5th of their 6 most recent meetings as he scraped home 21-19 and gained the officials' Man of the Match nomination (to everyone's surprise!) His manager, Ray Perrin, presented him with a crystal decanter in recognition after the match.

In the final leg Chris Rogers took the sting out of Sean Gibson's game. His trip from Leicester was made more worthwhile as his high topspin loops from both wings gained him the first game at 21-15. Rogers led Gibson 18-11 in the second and was not deterred by another ball change as he won through 21-14 to make the final match score a more respectable 3-5. Des Douglas was the only player to win two and thus give Grove the edge over this match, which means that the Market Drayton squad can afford to lose one match and still win the League Championship.

Ormesby retained second place with a 6-2 win over Dulwich Rams. In this match Glenn Baker became one of a series of players who has recently beaten John Broe, who seems to find it tough this year at No.2. Carl Morgan recorded a good win (20 & 18) over Michael O'Driscoll. Two from both Nigel Eckersley and Chen Xinhua ensured a home win. Ellenborough beat Armada 400 7-1 with the battle of the Wilsons seeing Colin beat Gary 23 & 8. Colin experienced more problems with veteran Mike Short who he beat 19 in the third. Gary Lambert beat Tony Stark to prevent a whitewash. Perhaps the surprise of the weekend was Kettler Sport dropping a point to Butterfly Cardiff. I said they would have to be careful against the relegation candidates! Cardiff's point was largely down to Ian McLean who beat Adrian Moore and Steve Scowcroft. In fact, Kettler could easily have lost this match as Scowcroft just beat Paul Lewis at deuce in the third of the last game and John Hilton beat Paul Giles at 19 in the third of the first game.

4 x (5-3) = ?

West Warwickshire drop in to third place following their first loss (3-5) inflicted by St Neots. In a

hard-fought match Stuart Palmer beat Adrian Dixon 20 & 7 but this was offset by Phil Gunn beating Mick Harper 7 & 10. Keith Richardson clinched victory with third game wins over Barry Johnson and Andy Rich. Mick Stead played a key role in City of Leeds' 5-3 win over Bayer Bradford as he beat Mark Stevenson and Dave Gannon. Where was Martin Kinsella? Grove II stay top with a 5-3 win over Chan Construction and Well Connected Menswear hold on to fourth place with a (yes, you've guessed it) 5-3 win over Ruston Marconi Lincoln. Two more wins from Adrian Pilgrim ensured two points, and Andy Edmonds got the better of Dave Skerratt in an interesting game scoring -20, 6, 20.

Fords Action

Chelmsford OC's became the second team to beat Ashford despite the latter being at full strength and a rare duck from Grant Solder — who was 'spanked' by Kenny Jackson 9 & 13. There's class for you! Nevertheless this was balanced out by two from John Dennison who beat Dave Barr and Max Crimmins. Not a good day for Joey Kennedy who lost in straight games to Tony Penny and Dave Newman.

Lethal Lisa

Lisa Lomas continues to take the division apart and is now clearly the backbone of Team Peniel. They beat Colley Toyota 5-3 and this put the Welsh team down to 7th place. Not satisfied with her wins over defence experts John Payne and Mike Hammond of Larkhall, Lisa went on to beat John Bult and Steve Ward, the latter by scores of -4, 11, 15. Steve beat John Holland deuce in the third but it was Ian Attridge and Richard Darnell beating Mike Owens that helped to keep Team Peniel on top of things. TSP Larkhall remain pointless and are now five points behind their closest rivals following their 2-6 loss to Horsham Dolphins. Brian Garroway beat Phil Smith but lost to Paul Elphick.

Britannia Ipswich turned out a full-strength team with Phil Logsdon against half a Rejects team and only won 5-3! Mike O'Leary moved up from No.4 to No.2 and beat Richard Tanner. John Kitchener turned the match with wins over O'Leary and Percy Collino. With Scott Greenbrook injured, Gary Spencer playing football, and Paul Carter out winning the Kent junior tournament, it was left to Simon Philips to come in at No.3 and beat Logsdon. Peter Harry, high on painkillers, made little impact nursing a broken toe!



British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Mazda Shines

Royal Mail Leicester have lost their last two matches in Division 2 Midland and slip down to fourth place with their latest 3-5 loss to Cheltenham Saracens. Mark Owen gave Saracens the edge with third-game victories over Karen Smith and Maurice Newman. When Birmingham lost 1-7 to Grove Mick Browne beat Jill Harris narrowly but lost -6, -18 to John Ellis. VPM Mazda won a four-hour marathon against Bath where six games went to three. Mark Simon kept VPM ahead with wins over Lee Sadler and Diccon Gray. Burslem beat Launceston 6-2 with a duck from Neil Bevan who lost narrowly to Mark Evans and -16, -7 to Brian Johns.

Norwich Foxwood & Ormesby II battle it out for top spot in Division 2 North with the latter just one game ahead. Neil Gravener helped Liverpool to a draw against Ormesby with two useful wins. Ian (Bennie) Robertson and Jonah Kahn were the 'untouchables' for the Middlesbrough outfit.

Meanwhile Norwich knocked Vymura clean off the top with their 6-2 victory with Neil Pickard and Richard Stevenson dominating. Cambridge moved nearer to safety

with a 7-1 over Chan Construction for whom Colin Greene offered some resistance with a win over Helen Bardwell.

Fellows Cranleigh and Ellenborough shared the points in Division 2 South. Paul Sayer was the star for Cranleigh with a 21-9 in the third game win over Dipak Topiwala and a 9 & 6 beating of Simon Proffitt. It was John Robinson who kept Jolliffe Poole in the hunt as they chalked up a 5-3 win over Victory Sports Tonbridge. Mark Brown lost to him, but beat Tony Clayton. Concord Flash go top with a hard-fought 6-2 victory over Rejects II. Miss Kuburat Owolabi beat Jerome Jonah 16, -19, 18 and Paul Carter -9, 13, 19. Fatai Ayinde won his two in straight games. The non-arrival of Kent veteran Tom Adams saw Larkhall crushed 7-1 by Horsham Dolphins. Graham Bateman took consolation in beating Andy Walker -15, 11, 19.

Rodger the Dodger

Seat Peterborough opened up a 5 point lead in Division 3 East with a 5-3 win against Brentwood. Keith Rodger convincingly dodged defeat but Lindsay Taylor lost narrowly to Horst Baermann. Britannia beat Levi's Westfield 7-1 but are still bottom. Steve Hanks beat Charles Fulcher to stop a whitewash but lost to Andrew Doshier. Fellows Cranleigh beat Team Peniel 5-3 as

Andrew Eden conceded a total of 34 points on the day, burying Dave Window and Mark Wicker. Crusaders Lincoln suffered a 3-5 defeat to City of Milton Keynes as Peter Bowler beat Paul Moore and Kev Rogerson. Ashley Hodgson got full marks for effort despite losing his two. Simon Rockall came away undefeated.

Concorde Crashes

Humberside Andro knocked Concorde Huddersfield out of the running in Division 3 North only conceding one game as Tim Dyson beat Joe Naser. Lee Hewitt retained his 100% record with a 19 & 19 win over Tim Dyson. Telford Tigers and Blaydon YCR continued to battle it out for bottom place. Telford lost 1-7 to Bri-Bar Blaydon II as Julian Wotton beat Mark Christie 12 & 16 in the opening game. Blaydon YC Racers lost by the same score to Ormesby. Barry Forster beat Maurice Check and Fred Short in this match. John Hope starred in Vymura's 7-1 victory over SEE SW Durham, beating Roger Stewart and John Crawford.

All positions are unchanged since last time in Division 3 South. Dulwich Rams cling on to top spot, one point ahead of Fareham, by virtue of beating Rejects 7-1. Another win for Hamish Innes (!) and he took Peter Tan close. Fareham beat Harlesden PCC 6-2 as

Errol Skeete beat Ram' Bhalla and John Lennon beat Graham Toole. Pillinger Air Croydon are chasing hard with an 8-0 over Marley Ashford which gives them a healthy games average. They seem to be just waiting for a slip up to move higher. Gunnersbury Triangle took a 5-0 lead (all two-straight) against a new-look Lambeth 4 Tops. Javad Ameri became Lambeth's No.1 for this game but saw his players lose 1-7. Anthony Dixon beat Pete Moss to stop a whitewash.

Terry Haley and the AHW Comets

Leckie won their first match in Division 3 West beating Bude Surfers 6-3. Gary Powell helped to tip the balance with two wins. Andrew Bevan scraped a win for Bude against Robert Till -21, 17, 19. Colley Toyota hang on to top spot with a 5-3 win over Bath III. David Hadley resisted with wins against Lee Thomas and David Buck. Grove IV beat Thorns 7-1 although 5 games went to three. Julie Billington won both of her games at 21-11 in the third against Ken Walton and Eric Hardman. The latter beat Mark Gibson 18, -19, 19 for Thorn's sole win. Kingfisher Reading battled valiantly against AHW Comets but only came away with two wins taken from Colin Luscombe. Phil Aspinall was on form with straight-game victories over Wally Allanson and Terry Haley.

RESULTS

LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 6TH NOVEMBER



Ormesby	6	2	Dulwich	Ormesby	4	4	Liverpool
Kettler	4	4	Cardiff	Vymura	2	6	Norwich
Bath	3	5	Grove	Cambridge	7	1	Chan Con
Armada	1	7	Ellenbro				
Warwicks	3	5	St Neots	Ormesby	7	1	Blaydon
Leeds	5	3	Bradford	Bribar	7	1	Tigers
Chan Con	3	5	Grove	Vymura	7	1	Durham
Lincoln	3	5	WCM'wear	Humberside	7	1	Huddersfield
Rejects	3	5	Britannia	Rejects	1	7	Dulwich
Horsham	6	2	Larkhall	Triangle	7	1	Lambeth
Peniel	5	3	Colley T	Fareham	6	2	Harlesden
Ashford	3	5	Chelmsford	Pillinger	8	0	Marley
Grove	7	1	Birmingham	Brentwood	3	5	Peterbro
Launceston	2	6	Burslem	CM Keynes	5	3	Lincoln
Bath	3	5	VPM Mazda	Britannia	7	1	Westfield
Cheltenham	5	3	Leicester	Cranleigh	5	3	Peniel
Rejects	2	6	Concord	Grove	7	1	Thorns
Horsham	7	1	Larkhall	Bude	2	6	Leckie
Poole	5	3	Tonbridge	Bath	3	5	Colley T
Cranleigh	4	4	Ellenbro	Comets	6	2	Reading

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove I	7	7	0	0	50	6	14
Ormesby I	7	6	0	1	41	15	12
Bathwick Tyres I	7	5	0	2	45	11	10
Dulwich Rams I	7	4	0	3	28	28	8
Kettler Sport I	7	2	1	4	21	35	5
Ellenborough I	7	2	0	5	25	31	4
Butterfly Cardiff	7	1	1	5	10	46	3
Armada 400	7	0	0	7	4	52	0
First Division North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove II	7	5	2	0	41	15	12
MBS St Neots	7	5	1	1	33	23	11
West Warwicks	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Well Connected	7	4	0	3	30	26	8
Chan Construction	7	3	0	4	26	30	6
City of Leeds	7	3	0	4	24	32	6
Bayer Bradford	7	2	0	5	21	35	4
Ruston Marconi	7	0	0	7	17	39	0
First Division South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Team Peniel I	7	5	1	1	33	23	11
Ashford	7	5	0	2	34	22	10
Chelmsford OC's	7	4	2	1	30	26	10
Rejects I	7	3	1	3	28	28	7
Horsham Dolphins	7	3	1	3	27	29	7
Britannia A.C.I.	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
Colley Toyota I	7	2	1	4	26	30	5
TSP Larkhall I	7	0	0	7	19	37	0

Woodfield 1 Star

Division 2 Midland

Grove III	7	6	0	1	43	13	12
Burslem	7	5	1	1	31	25	11
Cheltenham Saracens	7	4	1	2	29	27	9
Royal Mail Leicester	7	2	3	2	30	26	7
Bathwick Tyres II	7	3	1	3	30	26	7
VPM Mazda	7	2	2	3	25	31	6
Birmingham S.C.	7	2	0	5	21	35	4
White Hart Launceston	7	0	0	7	15	41	0

Division 2 North

Ormesby II	6	4	2	0	35	13	10
Norwich Foxwood	6	5	0	1	34	14	10
Vymura International I	6	4	1	1	34	14	9
Liverpool	6	3	1	2	32	16	7
Cambridge	6	2	0	4	18	30	4
Oldham	6	1	0	5	9	39	2
Chan Construction II	6	0	0	6	6	42	0

Division 2 South

Concord Flash	7	5	1	1	35	21	11
Fellows Cranleigh I	7	4	2	1	34	22	10
Ellenborough II	7	3	2	2	29	27	8
Rejects II	7	4	0	3	27	29	8
Victory Sports							
Tonbridge	7	3	1	3	31	25	7
Jolliffe Poole	7	2	2	3	25	31	6
Horsham Dolphins II	7	1	3	3	27	29	5
TSP Larkhall II	7	0	1	6	16	40	1

Woodfield 1 Star

Senior

THE ENTRY was affected by the Veterans Southern Area Tournament, however some excellent table tennis was played.

John Turner, one of the few veterans who entered the tournament and travelled all the way from Cambridge nearly caused an upset by taking the second seed Phil Gunn to 3 games in the semi final, but Phil could not overcome the top seed Craig Bakewell in the final.

Another long distance traveller Carol Hewett from Brighton had a successful day by beating Sandra Roden in the womens singles semi final and going on to win the event with a close win over Sandra Peakman.

The mens doubles went according to form with the number 1 seeds Andy Rich and Phil Gunn comfortably beating 2nd seeds Craig Bakewell and John Hancock from the Potteries in the final.

In the womens doubles another disappointment for Sandra Roden who with Amanda Home were expected to win the event but lost a close and exciting final to Sandra Peakman and Sue Culbertson.

Junior

A first class entry for all the junior events provided some good

close games. The behaviour of all juniors who entered was excellent and a credit to their coaches and parents.

With England number 1 cadet Alex Perry seeded number 1 in both the juniors and cadets it was expected that he could make a clean sweep, however Birmingham entrant Ian Ferguson, himself a cadet, had other ideas and beat Alex 22-20 in the third game in an excellent quarter final match in the junior event. In the final number 2 seed Lee Horton got the better of Ian but he still managed to take a game before losing game 17 in the third.

In the Cadet Boys final Alex Perry got his revenge over Ian Ferguson by beating him in a surprisingly one sided final.

The Girls and Cadet Girls events were a double triumph for Welsh star Natasha Williams who played some good attacking table tennis to take both titles back to Wales.

Both the boys and girls doubles title went to the number 1 seeds to conclude a very enjoyable and exciting weekend's table tennis.

Junior Boy's Singles

Horton b Ferguson 21, -11, 17

Junior Girl's Singles

Williams b Meddings -13, 13, 18

Boys Doubles

Thompson/Horton b Richmond/-

Denny -17, 17, 18

Girls Doubles

Meddings/Martin b Fletcher/Tierney

16, 11

Cadet Boys

Perry b Ferguson 12, 14

Cadet Girls

N. Williams b M. Martin 18, 9

RESULTS

Men's Singles

Bakewell b Gunn 17, 16

Women's Singles

Hewett b Peakman -19, 5, 15

Men's Doubles

Rich/Gunn b Bakewell/Hancock 14,

16

Women's Doubles

Peakman/Culbertson b Roden/House

17, -16, 18

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Gatien and Wang Close the door on England

by JOHN WOODFORD in Norwich

ENGLAND returned to the popular St Andrews Hall at Norwich on November 29 with high hopes of a European League victory over France that would have put them amongst the leaders in the Super Division.

But it was not to be. Instead, the ever-improving Jean-Philippe Gatien and Wang Xiaoming made sure that France were worthy winners 5-2 at the end of the day before another superb Norwich crowd of around 600 fans.

France took the lead at 4-2, although England came within two match points of making it 4-3 when Alan Cooke just failed to clinch the dead rubber against Olivier Marmurek. The Frenchman who has given Cooke some problems in the past, took the second game 31-29 in a cliff-hanger that went to expedite — a fine match that deserved more attention than it got.

Gatien's three visits to England in three months included the City Open at Islington where he lost to Matthew Syed and his final round victory at the Leeds Masters over Desmond Douglas. I had the feeling before the match started at Norwich that we could lose the match to France mainly because of the maturing play of Gatien and Wang. The Chinese lady got her reward in the new European rankings moving from 10 to 7, but Gatien is still on the outside looking in, paying the penalty of losing on the European tournament tour, especially to Prean.

Aggressiveness the Answer

Gatien's highly successful tactics at Norwich were to cover his weakness on the backhand side but stepping up his aggression on both wings, attack being the best form of defence as Chester Barnes once said.

Gatien played in all four matches, losing only the mens doubles but ending with an exquisite win for him, revenge over Carl Prean 15, 16. Prean lost his way temporarily in his opener with Marmurek, but bounced back neatly to win the third, 13. But England's fans were quickly damped down by Gatien beating Alan Cooke 13, 20 and Alison Gordon apparently standing no chance against Wang who sailed through 9, 10.

The cavalry stormed in for the mens doubles — Prean and Skylet Andrew winning 19, -16, 19 over Gatien and Marmurek, some cause for celebration in the England battle lines after the embarrassing defeat against Holland at Sheffield. But the mixed doubles saw Skylet and Alison again making no

headway at all putting the French trio in front 3-2. All that remained was for Gatien to keep up the high standards against Carl and it was all over including the shouting.

Praise for Local Officials

Norwich is such a magnificent venue for the Leeds International matches that it is a great pity that England's record there is not good; the Norfolk fans and the local officials are a credit to the sport. The local administrators go out of their way to make the teams, visiting officials and the media at home and it is very much appreciated by all including the ETTA, who know that when a match is given to Norwich, all problems will be small ones, but we do need a good result for England at Norwich, that perhaps is something to look forward to at some time in the future.

Matthew Syed's destruction of Gatien at Islington in September have led to suggestions that Don Parker might have gambled by bringing the Reading teenager into the Norwich match, but I understand that Syed was not amongst the original European League registrations, so that was not a possibility.

England, clearly now deep in relegation trouble, must it seems win one of their three remaining matches, away to Yugoslavia at home to Czechoslovakia and West Germany, to avoid the roof dropping in.



England players in practice before the International against France at the beautiful St. Andrews Hall venue with stained glass window in background (Photos: Adrian Judd, Eastern Evening News)



Alan Cooke relaxes by tuning in to his "Walkman" or was he pensive of what was to follow.

SPONSORSHIP — Who do You Know ?

by TED WALLBUTTON



AT THE end of October Leeds Permanent Building Society announced that they would not be renewing their wide ranging sponsorship of English Table Tennis when their contract ended in August 1990. Changed conditions in the Building Society and savings markets meant that although the Leeds have been highly satisfied with their return from our sport their promotional objectives also needed to change and sports sponsorship no longer fitted their corporate strategy. So the hunt is on for new sponsors to use the whole of the ETTA's competitive programme, at grass-roots, national and international level as part of their consumer promotion.

There is no doubt that Table Tennis is one of the hottest sponsorship options open currently. The sport has obtained over 10 hours of national television coverage in the past year and viewers have seen just what an exciting sport it is to play and watch. Not only have our own China Test Matches, Swedish Pre-Olympic Tour and the Leeds Masters hit the screen but there has also been extensive coverage of the Olympics and the Dortmund World Championships. All with good sponsor visibility.

But there is more, much more, to the sponsorship of Table Tennis than television coverage. Recent research has shown that over 2.3 million adults play on a regular

interest to many companies for their promotion. Because the sport is based on local leagues it is possible for any sponsor to gain awareness right down to individual club level. The sponsorship package being offered by the ETTA covers the British League and County Championships, Youth Cup, national championships at Under 11, 14, 17 and Senior levels for both men and women plus the English Open and many top international events. It represents a tremendous package for any potential sponsor.

Work on finding new sponsors for the sport started from ETTA Headquarters in April this year, with the announcement of a major international package. A new

colour brochure was prepared setting out the benefits of the sport and its statistics in a clear and dramatic way and sponsorship basis, plus countless thousands of schoolchildren. The players are numerous in the 19 - 24 years age category and this is an area of great proposals were mailed regularly to hundreds of sponsorship consultancies and potentially interested companies. This work is already bearing fruit and discussions are proceeding with several good prospects. But in the current economic situation every bit of help is needed to find a suitable sponsor and ensure that the sport does not regress.

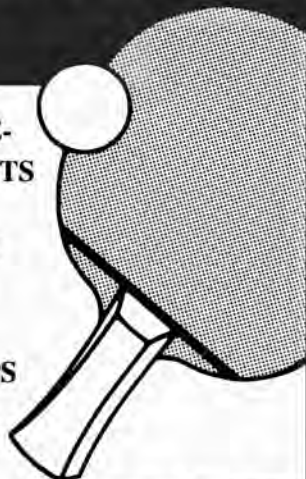
In sponsorship search, as in life, it is usually a case of 'not what you know, but who you know'. There is

no better way of starting your presentation off on a good foot than knowing the top man in the company you are contacting. And if he just happens to be a player himself negotiations speed along much more smoothly. So if you know someone who could be interested in a sponsorship package for Table Tennis why not ring me, Ted Wallbutton, at the ETTA. I will tailor our approach to the company to offer them the best possible promotional package for their kind of business.

In November an interesting piece of research was published by a well known survey company, Mintel, which showed that the big growth sports in the country are Cycling, Bowls, Hockey and... Table Tennis. So why not help a business friend of yours climb aboard the 'Sponsorship Opportunity of the 1990's' and help our sport to keep growing.

TABLE TENNIS INFORMATION LINE

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Application for Entry Forms

Please tick the appropriate boxes for each entry form required. Please return form with stamped, addressed envelope (one for each entry form required) to:

English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House
Havelock Road,
HASTINGS
East Sussex TN34 1HF

the Leeds
Youth Cup Regional Finals
14/2/90 (State which region)

The Fourth
National Under 11 Championships
29/4/90 (MANSFIELD)

the Leeds National Championships
5-6/5/90 (Venue to be advised)

the Leeds English Junior Open
2-3/6/90 (BRIDLINGTON)

TICK BOX	NUMBER REQUIRED
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	



Leeds Team Events Results

the LEEDS Wilmott Cup 1989/90

Results of Preliminary and First Round Zone matches

Zone 1	
Match 1	Wirral 3 : 5 Liverpool B H
Match 2	Liverpool 5 : 2 Warrington
Match 3	Blackburn 5 : 1 Blackpool
Match 4	Bolton 6 : 0 Carlisle
Zone 2	
Prelim 1	Grimsby 4 : 5 Leeds
Match 1	Bradford 7 : 2 Huddersfield
Match 2	Leeds v Hull
Match 3	Stockton 3 : 5 Northumberland
Match 4	Sunderland 6 : 0 York
Zone 3	
Prelim 2	Burton-on-Trent 0 : 5 Nottingham
Prelim 3	Oldham 3 : 5 Stockport
Match 1	Nottingham 5 : 4 Leicester
Match 2	Leamington Spa 0 : 6 Birmingham
Match 3	Glossop 0 : 5 Chesterfield
Match 4	Potteries v Stockport
Zone 4	
Match 1	Chemsford v Burnham-on-Crouch
Match 2	Southend 1 : 5 Brentwood
Match 3	Norwich 8 : 1 King's Lynn
Match 4	Lowestoft wo : sc Ipswich
Zone 5	
Match 1	Wembley/Harrow 4 : 5 W.Middlesex
Match 2	bye - : - High Wycombe
Match 3	Insurance Offs 1 : 5 London Civ Sv
Match 4	Central v Willesden
Zone 6	
Match 1	bye - : - Haywards Heath
Match 2	Hastings 8 : 0 Worthing
Match 3	Brighton - : - bye
Match 4	Guildford 0 : 5 Crawley
Zone 7	
Match 1	Peterborough sc : wo N Herts
Match 2	Stamford & Rut 0 : 5 Milton Keynes
Match 3	Harlow sc : wo Dagenham
Match 4	Watford 1 : 5 London Banks
Zone 8	
Match 1	N Cornwall 2 : 5 Plymouth
Match 2	Slough 4 : 5 Bracknell
Match 3	Maidenhead 0 : 6 Reading
Match 4	West Wilts 5 : 4 Oxford

the LEEDS Rose Bowl

Zone 1	
Match 1	Warrington - : - bye
Match 2	Wirral v Liverpool
Match 3	Blackpool - : - bye
Match 4	Preston 5 : 2 Oldham
Zone 2	
Match 1	Northumberland - : - bye
Match 2	bye - : - Sunderland
Match 3	Bradford 5 : 1 Grimsby
Match 4	Leeds 8 : 1 Hull
Zone 3	
Match 1	Nottingham 0 : 6 Wolverhampton
Match 2	Chesterfield sc : wo Burton-on-Trent
Match 3	Peterborough v Leicester
Match 4	bye - : - Dunstable
Zone 4	
Match 1	Burnham 1 : 5 Dagenham
Match 2	Brentwood sc : wo N.Herts
Match 3	Chelmsford - : - bye
Match 4	Norwich v Ipswich
Zone 5	
Match 1	W Middlesex - : - bye
Match 2	bye - : - Slough
Match 3	High Wycombe 0 : 6 Maidenhead
Match 4	bye - : - Reading
Zone 6	
Match 1	Brighton - : - bye
Match 2	bye - : - Hastings
Match 3	Crawley - : - bye
Match 4	bye - : - Sittingbourne
Match 5	Hastings 6 : 3 Brighton
Zone 7	
Match 1	Central - : - bye
Match 2	bye - : - London Civ Sv
Match 3	Willesden wo : sc Insurance Off
Match 4	bye - : - Wembley/Harrow
Zone 8	
Match 1	Andover - : - bye
Match 2	Oxford sc : wo Bristol
Match 3	N.Cornwall 1 : 5 Plymouth
Match 4	bye - : - Swindon

Zone Semi-Finals to be played by 31 December 1989

MATCH 5

Zone 1	Liverpool v Liverpool BH
Zone 2	Hull or v Bradford Leeds
Zone 3	Birmingham v Nottingham
Zone 4	Brentwood v Burnham-on-Crouch or Chelmsford
Zone 5	High Wycombe v W Middlesex
Zone 6	Hastings v Haywards Heath
Zone 7	Milton Keynes v N Herts
Zone 8	Bracknell v Plymouth

MATCH 6

Zone 1	Blackburn v Bolton
Zone 2	Northumberland v Sunderland
Zone 3	Chesterfield v Potteries or Stockport
Zone 4	Norwich v Lowestoft
Zone 5	London Civ Sv v Central or Willesden
Zone 6	Brighton v Crawley
Zone 7	Dagenham v London Banks
Zone 8	Reading v West Wilts

MATCH 5

Zone 1	Wirral or v Warrington Liverpool
Zone 2	Sunderland v Northumberland
Zone 3	Burton-on-Trent v Wolverhampton
Zone 4	N Herts v Dagenham
Zone 5	Slough v W Middlesex
Zone 6	Hastings 6 : 3 Brighton
Zone 7	London Civ Sv v Central
Zone 8	Bristol v Andover

MATCH 6

Zone 1	Blackpool v Preston
Zone 2	Bradford v Leeds
Zone 3	Leicester v Dunstable or Peterborough
Zone 4	Chelmsford v Ipswich or Norwich
Zone 5	Maidenhead v Reading
Zone 6	Crawley v Sittingbourne
Zone 7	Willesden v Wembley/Harrow
Zone 8	Plymouth v Swindon

Little "Hospitality" shown to Visitors

by ALAN RANSOME

DESPITE a strong foreign entry English players picked up all but one of the titles in the Cleveland Junior Open International Table Tennis Championships at Eston Leisure Centre on 18th and 19th November. However some major surprises were handed out by unseeded players.

Hospitality Inn International Team Event

The only title to leave this country was the Hospitality Inn Junior Boys International Team Event which was won by The Netherlands. Gort Kobes and Lindo Greve defeated England II by 3 sets to 2 in the Semi-Final, then in the final the Dutch beat the Granville Club team, consisting of

Gary Knights and Neil Bevan, by 3 sets to 1 with only the Boys Doubles being won by the Granville pair.

The England first team of Grant Solder and Leigh Jeffries were well beaten 3 sets to 0 by the Dunstable team of Mark Stephenson and Peter Bowler. Dunstable failed to maintain their form in the Semi Final losing to Granville 3 sets to 1.

Despite a tough draw the Pontefract team of Joanna Roberts and Caroline Buckley excelled to win the Hospitality Inn Junior Girls International Team Event. In the first round they beat Grove 3 sets to 1, in round two the Marling sisters playing for Wold fell by 3 sets to 0. Next in the Semi Final the Pontefract pair beat The Netherlands by 3 sets to 1. (Two nights earlier the Dutch pair had beaten the England Junior Girls team in the Gateshead International). In the final the Pontefract Team beat England by 3 sets to 2 after trailing 2 sets to nil Caroline Buckley clinched the victory by beating Ellen Meddings 18, -12, 15 when the score was even at 2 all.

The form in the Hospitality Inn Cadet Team Events was not so volatile. The England Boys Cadets of Alex Perry and Edward Hatley won the Championships by defeating Fellows Cranleigh 3 sets to 1 in the Semi Final and the French team by the same score in the Final. Alex Perry did well to win both his sets against the French but came unstuck against Chris Sladden in the Semi Final. Edward Hatley was undefeated against Cranleigh but lost to Armand Phung from France in the Final.

The English pair of Nicola Deaton and Claire Pengelly did well to win the Cadet Girls International Team Event by beating Canada by 3 sets to 1 in the Semi Final and France 3 sets to 1 in the Final. Miss Deaton excelled against Canada whilst Miss Pengelly was unbeaten against the French.

Individual Events

Cornwall's Neil Bevan won the Boys Singles without meeting a single foreign player. Bevan beat Barry Forster by 2 sets to 1, Darren Haworth, Andrew Eden and Peter Bowler all in straight sets. Then in the final he defeated Grant Solder 17 and 19.

The Dutch challenge was bounced out of the tournament by the Bowler brothers. Chris beating Gort Kobes 21 - 15 in the third and Peter defeated Lindo Greve in straight games both in the quarter finals.

The Girls Singles saw a brilliant run by Sally Marling to take the title. In the first round she beat her sister Sam and then French cadet Anne Boileau. Next to go was Ellen Meddings in straight games



followed by the Dutch girl Marielle Van Gool at 2 - 0. In the other half Linda Radford did well to beat Nicola Meddings, Helen Wright and Alison Gower to reach the final where she found Sally Marling too strong going down 16, -16, 9.

The best run of the tournament came from Cumbria's Kevin Hodgson who won the Cadet Boys Singles. The scalps Hodgson collected included Darren Blake, French Cadet Armand Phung, then in the final the top seed Alex Perry.

The tournament sponsored by Cleveland County Council received its largest (350 players) and strongest entry (22 National teams) in the twenty one year history of the event. The prizes were presented by a Councillor.

RESULTS

Junior Boys Team

Semi Final: Granville bt Dunstable 3 - 1. Netherlands bt England II 3 - 2

Final: Netherlands bt Granville 3 - 1

Junior Girls Team

Semi Finals: England bt Cranston Park 3 - 1. Pontefract bt Netherlands 3 - 1.

Final: Pontefract beat England 3 - 2

Cadet Boys Team

Semi Finals: England bt Fellows Cranleigh 3 - 1. France bt Netherlands 3 - 1

Final: England bt France 3 - 1

Cadet Girls Team

Semi Finals: France bt Netherlands 3 - 0. England bt Canada 3 - 1.

Final: England bt France 3 - 1

Junior Boys Singles

Final: Neil Bevan bt Grant Solder 17, 19

Junior Girls Singles

Final: Sally Marling bt Linda Radford 16, -16, 9.

Cadet Girls Singles

Final: Nicola Deaton bt Clare Pengelly 10, 13

Cadet Boys Singles

Final: Kevin Hodgson bt Alex Perry 17, 21

U11 Boys

Final: Steven Meddings bt Michael James -17, 18, 9

U11 Girls

Final: Nicola Smith bt Sian Jenkins 21, 14



Neil Bevan

The Leeds County Championships 1

Essex Lead Junior Premier Division

by DOUG MOSS



JUNIOR PREMIER:

THE FIRST series of matches at St Neots T.T. Club has been completed and it is the Essex team that heads the Table. The team had 3 convincing wins and have a 25-5 sets average. Grant Solder and Alison Gower are vital to the Essex team and they went through the programme unbeaten.

Yorkshire have dominated the junior scene for many seasons but now do not have their star players — Michael O'Driscoll, Chris Oldfield and Debbie Toole. But they do have the current top 2 girls in the country — Katherine Goodall and Joanna Roberts — and Mark Stephenson is well experienced at Junior Premier level. Yorks will take some knocking off their perch — they have 3 wins and are just one sets average down on Essex.

Lancashire have a very good chance this season with 3 of their boys being in the top 12 of the national ranking list — Andrew Eden, Howard Whewell and Darren Howarth. Lancs also went through the programme unbeaten although the team was without the services of their No.1 girl Maria Thornley.

One player who did particularly well over the weekend was Colin Bowler (Bd) who had wins over Brian Mileham (K), Alex Perry (Dv) and Andrew Eden (La). The scores against the latter were -19, 13, 19. Colin's one defeat was at the hands of Darren Howarth (La), which was vital for Lancs in a 6-4 win over Bedfordshire.

The final series at Pontesbury T.T. Club in March will be very interesting when the 3 unbeaten teams will meet.

Results

Y.....6	Dv...4	K.....4	La....6	Y.....9	Wa...1
E.....8	Dy...2	Wa...1	E.....9	E.....8	K....2
La...10	Wa...0	Dy...1	Y.....9	La....6	Bd....4
Bd...4	K....6	Dv...5	Bd....5	Dv...8	Dy...2

League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Devon	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Kent	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0
Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	2	28	0



John Kitchener (Suffolk) ranked 25 in England

SENR 1A:

Lancs 2....9	Lincs.....1	Worcs.....3	N'berland....7
Camb...4	Yorks.....6	Warwicks..7	Suffolk.....3

Suffolk travelled to Birmingham and found Carl Morgan playing as No.1 for Warwickshire. This was very influential in Warwicks 7-3 win. Carl beat John Kitchener at 19 in 3rd game and Stuart Palmer 22 in 3rd, after losing the first game -10. He and Adrian Dixon also had a good doubles win, and inflicted a rare defeat on Stuart Palmer/John Kitchener at 17 in the deciding game. Adrian Dixon also had a good win over Stuart Palmer 23 and 17. This may well have spoilt Suffolk's chance of a swift return to Premier Div. Yorks got a good win at Soham. Mick Stead was in good form with two 2 straight singles wins — one of these over Keith Richardson. And he combined with Lee Hewitt to take the doubles.

SENR 1B:

Cornwall...1	Essex 2.....9	Devon 2...1	Sussex.....9
Hants.....2	Kent.....8	Middx 2...2	Avon.....8
Sussex....10	Cornwall.....0	Middx 2...4	Essex 2.....6
Devon.....7	Hants.....3	Kent.....4	Avon.....6

The 8 teams gathered at Bath on this occasion. What happened to Middx 2 after such a good start to the season?! Avon got 2 very good wins playing on home territory — for whom Paul Lewis got 4 singles wins. And Essex 2 had a much improved performance with 2 wins — one over Middx. Richard Darnell (E) had a clean sheet in singles events. Sussex won 2 matches dropping only 1 event and now take over the lead in this Div.

SENR 2A:

Notts.....2	Ches.....8	Yorks 2....8	Cumbria.....2
-------------	------------	--------------	---------------

The Notts/Ches match was a much closer contest than the final score suggests. Six events went to a decider and 3 of these were close. Brian Johns (Ch) won 2 singles and the doubles with Wayne Percival.

SENR 2B:

Avon 2....8	Worcs 2.....2
-------------	---------------

Diccon Gray in good form with 3 wins for Avon. Ken Walton (Wo) won a close contest over Gary Baldwin and Sue Meredith (Wo) beat Sue Lovell 19 and 20.

SENR 2D:

Berks 2....4	Essex 3.....6	Oxon.....6	Northants....4
Sussex 2...8	Kent 2.....2		

Essex 3 and Sussex 2 are still going well. Jason Tendler won the last vital event to give Essex 2 points over Berks 2. Scott Greenbrook got 2 singles wins for Sussex. Dawn Barnett won her singles for Oxon after travelling back to Oxford from a junior match at Reading.

SENR 3A:

N'thants 2..1	Durham.....9	Beds 2.....2	Staffs.....8
---------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Durham are going very well having dropped only 1 event over their first 2 matches. Steve Brown won the 1 singles for Northants when he beat Chris Blake 16 and 13.

SENR 3B:

Herts 2...10	Cornwall 2...0	Dorset 2...2	Herts 2.....8
Cornwall 2.4	Dorset 2.....6	Devon 3...2	Hants 2.....8

The Cornish, Dorset and Herts teams met at Broadstone. Herts had 2 very good wins. Carolyn Seaholme and Maria Williams (He) won all their events.

JUNR 1A:

Essex 2....7	Northants....3	Durham...9	Lancs 2.....1
--------------	----------------	------------	---------------

Essex were well on top but Kieron Dabbs had 2 hard fought wins for Northants. He beat Matthew Reid 18, -18, 22 and Tayo Fasanya 19 and 22! Another Durham team is doing very well!

JUNR 1B:

Avon.....1	Herts.....9	Berks 1....5	Oxon.....5
Cornwall...5	Sussex.....5		

The Berks/Oxon clash was a hard fought match with 7 events going to a decider. The score stood at 4-4 when Nicola Cracknell (Bk) beat Dawn Barnett 19 and 15 but Martin Haycock (Ox) secured the draw with a win over Kasif Subhan.

Sun Life Bristol Junior One Star

by V. M. BETTISON

BRISTOL & District's first Junior One Star Tournament was held at Thornbury Leisure Centre on Sunday 29th October 1989. A very large entry from all over the country ensured a very full day's programme, with 14 tables fully occupied from 8.30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and some first class table tennis was the reward for those who came to see the day's events.

Chairman of the Sun Life Bristol League, June Watts, pronounced the event a real success. "It was very encouraging to see so many youngsters from near and far away enjoying playing table tennis, and it

bodes well for the future of our sport". She added "A special vote of thanks must go to the Officials and Umpires without whom such events could not take place".

Winners

U12 Boys

Stephen Meddings (Warwickshire)

U12 Girls

Sara Stedman (Sussex)

U14 Boys

Ryan Savill (Essex)

U14 Girls

Natasha Williams (Clwyd)

U17 Boys

Steven Gill (Glamorgan)

U17 Girls

Nicola Meddings (Staffordshire)

Class 2

U17 Boys

Raymond Powell (Gloucestershire)

Class 2

U17 Girls

Sarah Lees (Clwyd)

Local Company Strengthens Management Team

IN LINE with their rapid expansion programme, and following another record year, I.M.S., part of the Beales Group, and the U.K. distributor of Yamaha Sporting Goods, and Stiga Table Tennis Equipment, are strengthening their management team with the appointment of a General Manager, Richard Cotter, and a Marketing Manager, Sharon Nicholls.

Richard, aged 28, was born in Redditch, Worcestershire, and has spent most of his life involved in sport. At school Richard represented the county at football, cricket, badminton, swimming, athletics and golf — playing off a two handicap. At seventeen he turned golf professional and amongst his achievements during a celebrated career, played in the British Open. In 1985 Richard joined Astral Sports as golf professional but was soon to find that his talents lay in other directions. In 1986 he was

appointed equipment buyer, rapidly to be promoted to group equipment buyer.

Sharon Nicholls, nee Gittins, has also had a wide and varied career within marketing.

Sharon started her career with BDH and has worked in both their London and Eastleigh sales offices. After completing a postgraduate management and marketing qualification, she then took up the position of Marketing Executive, Exchange and Mart, with locally based Link House Publications.



I.M.S. new appointments: Richard Cotter (General Manager) and Sharon Nicholls (Marketing Manager)

Continued Sponsorship for Table Tennis Team

THE KETTLER Sport table tennis team, promoted to the Premier Division of the Leeds British League for the 1989-90 season, is receiving continued sponsorship from Kettler (GB).



Pictured being presented with a cheque by Mr. 'Taff' Hughes (centre), the company's Sports Sales Manager are (left to right): Joe Deakin, Stephen Scowcroft, John Hilton, Craig Bakewell, Stan Deakin and Adrian Moore. The team is led by John Hilton, a former European champion and ranked no. 14 in England. So far seven matches have been played with two wins, a draw and four defeats.

Last season, the first under the Kettler banner, the team won Division One (North) of the Leeds British League. The company's sponsorship of the Kettler Wulstans Club, based at Brooklands Sports and Social Club, Holmes Chapel, also extends to the club's other teams playing in the local Potteries and District League.

Special Olympics 1989 A FIRST FOR TABLE TENNIS

by MIKE SMITH

THE SPECIAL Olympics United Kingdom's 3rd National Games were held at Leicester between 18th and 26th August 1989.

With over 2,500 participants, this was the largest sporting event outside the U.S.A. for people with a mental handicap. Table tennis was one of 8 demonstration sports included for the first time — alongside 6 official sports.

30 men and women took part in the table tennis events held at the Leicester Leys Leisure Centre over 2 days. The initial task was to classify competitors according to their individual ability, using an amended version of the Dunlop Skills Award Scheme. The results led to skills medals, but also to the organisation of groups of roughly similar ability for the match play events. The standard of many proved so high that we had to devise an extra test to produce final placings.

The skills, enthusiasm and sheer pleasure in playing were clearly shown in the matches, with some thrilling play at all levels of ability. The outstanding lady was Jean McGurk (Strathclyde) and the

leading man was Herve Hammer (Strasbourg) — a member of a strong contingent from Leicester's twin city in France. A feature was the exhibition match between Chris Rogers and Karen Smith — Leicester's international players.

All the organisation was willingly provided by Leicester League members — Pat Pickles, Jose Rogers, Karen Smith, Laura Smith, Susan Smith, Audrey Watson, Terry Bown, Clive McDermott, Alan Mould, Richard Pinnington, Mike Smith and Harry Ward — who found it all a very moving and very special event. The motto of the Special Olympics is "Let me win but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

We thought they were all winners — and hope that they will carry on — helping to make the next games even more special.

British Police successful in Quadrangular by CHRIS BUDDEN Hon. Sec. B.P.T.T.C.

AFTER OUR successful and enjoyable tour of the Netherlands, Germany and France last year, the British Police Table Tennis Club decided to return the hospitality shown to them by their European colleagues by inviting all three National Police teams over to England to partake in a Four Nations competition.

Everyone arrived at Sunbury on Thames on the afternoon of Friday 20th October, and after a few social drinks that evening, the tournament started the following morning with the British Police playing the Dutch, and the French playing the Germans.

Our first team were weakened by the late arrival of Pat McCabe from the West Midlands, with Chris Budden (Met Police) having to fill in, but with valiant efforts from both Keith Rodger (Cleveland) and John Hawkins (Strathclyde) our former Scottish internationals, we managed to scrape home 4-3 gaining the maximum 3 points. Our second team of Chris Jacob (Essex) Keith Lythgoe (Kent) and Jim Craggs from the Met Police, fared a little better with a 5-2 win. Our ladies Joy Dean (Kent), Sue Anderson (Merseyside) and Judy Stevenson (Thames Valley) won 4-3 and our Vets, Bill Ingram (Lancs), Clive Dewison (Cheshire) and John Fryer won.

The finals started with an easy victory in the ladies doubles for Joy

Dean and Sue Anderson over the Dutch pair of Vander Zee and Mikken. The Veterans final saw unorthodox players, Joly of France play the Essex County Vet Chris Jacob. This final was another two straight win for Britain with Chris the victor. In the mens doubles we saw the all Scottish pairing of Keith Rodger and John Hawkins meet Patrick Roversé and Regin Thomassin. This was probably the hardest fought final of the day with the class of Roversé finally showing through when it mattered winning 21-17 in the third. The ladies singles saw the two strongest girls in the competition, Joy Dean and Alison Barker meet with Joy showing her class winning two straight.

Finally came the mens singles final, with everyone hoping that perhaps, a Keith Rodger on top form might extend Patrick Roversé ranked 69 in the world, and third in France behind Gatien. The first end showed a lot of effort from Keith with flashes of absolute brilliance from Roversé, first end

to Roversé. In the second we saw some terrific rallies with Keith getting to deuce on his service, one of Keith's best disguised serves down Roversé's forehand saw Keith 21-20 up. Roversé served deep to Keith's backhand, he knew he had to go for it and for the only time in the whole tournament over the three days there was a look of concern on Patrick's face at the thought that he may drop an end must have entered his head. Unfortunately for Keith his backhand missed the edge by fractions of an inch and Patrick then engaged 4th gear to win 23-21 in the second.

With Britain ten points clear of France on the final day, needing only three points, which constituted one win by any of the four teams, our expectations were high, especially as we had both Joy and Alison playing against a French ladies team yet to win a match. Even with this supposed banker there was still tension. Dave Solman (Met Police) came in for Pat McCabe in the first team with Pat joining Chris Jacob and Keith Lythgoe in the seconds.

Our Vets, who had served us well the whole tournament remained unchanged.

The first team got off to a good start with Keith Rodger easily defeating the French No. 2 and John Hawkins using his vast experience to beat the French No. 3. From there it went rapidly downhill with the French team winning 5-2 and the British team without a point. A strengthened second team ran out easy winners — and our Vets fought long and hard to earn a point in a 3-4 defeat. Once again our ladies sailed through with a 7-0 win, leaving the British team the first ever winners of the European Police Table Tennis Championships. France were runners up, the Dutch third and the Germans fourth.

Our thanks go to Len Pilditch and his fine colleagues, who assisted us throughout the competition by umpiring all matches.

That evening saw the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert and his wife, Lady Imbert, present all competitors and officials with commemorative medals and individual trophies. It proved such a success that it was decided that this competition be held every year, with next year hopefully being hosted in Wuppertal, West Germany.

EXPRESS SPORTS

19 CAMPBELL CLOSE, UCKFIELD, SUSSEX or RING 0825 4566

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DONIC APPLGREN ALL ROUND		£14.00
DONIC PERSSON POWERPLAY	..	£17.00

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A MESSAGE FROM MALCOLM FRANCIS

I wish all readers and customers of Express Sports a Happy New Year and with my prices, I'm sure they will have a prosperous one.
Malcolm



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Lancashire & Cheshire League

by GEORGE R. YATES

STOCKPORT with three successive wins under their belt are currently heading the men's first division, their victories to date being against Liverpool (9-1), Ellesmere Port (7-3) and Warrington (6-4).

Jonathan Taylor was a treble winner in the latter engagement with A.Horsfield supplying two and Derek Schofield a solo, beating Aussie Peter Lander but losing to Peter Flint and Terry Turner.

Blackburn hold second place with two wins and a draw their most recent win being 6-4 away to Bolton where both Graham Clarke and Neil Gravener had two successes in singles and, in tandem, won the doubles. Keith Jackson got the other against two each for David Carse and Nigel Hallows, the latter beating Clarke.

Burnley, who last season finished bottom of Div 1, have yet to play a match in Div 2 (North) the indications being that they will drop out. Meantime their companions in distress last season, Oldham, have yet to be beaten in this division currently headed by Manchester with three wins, their latest being against Wirral 6-4 with Steve Dobbins trebling, Keith Weatherby (2) and John Hope (1).

In the women's first division Liverpool, the defending champions, are back on top following their opening draw against Warrington subsequently beating Oldham (6-4) and having a conceded 10-0 home win credited them when Preston, last season's runners-up, failed to raise a team!

But Preston lead the way in the Junior first with wins over Burnley (8-2) and Crewe (10-0). Defending champions, Oldham, are also unbeaten as are Barrow.

Stockport, the defending champions of the Veterans Div 1, currently lie second to all-conquering Warrington who have seen off Trafford (8-2), Wirral (6-4) and Preston (6-4). In this latter engagement The Wires were represented by Jack Evans, Bob Bagot and Norman Deakin who were all beaten by Tony Rigby to whose treble Ray Ashley could only supplement by one when he beat Deakin. Lead positions:-

Men's First	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Blackburn	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Women's First	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Oldham	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Southport	2	1	1	0	7	13	3
Junior First	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Barrow	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Oldham	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Veterans' First	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Stockport	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Preston	3	2	0	1	21	9	4

Renunion at West Ealing

by BABS and ERIC BLANCH

Earlier this year my wife Babs and I were privileged to be present at a memorable reunion of members of the once famous but sadly now expired West Ealing Club.

The gathering was the brainchild of John Sutchall, at whose Kentish home the meeting took place, aided by his wife Rosemary and their family who must have worked all night to organise the magnificent buffet, erect the marquee, lay out the drinks and organise seating. A measure of the affection the West Ealing members had for their club and friendship and also of John's popularity was the enthusiasm with which the proposal was greeted by everyone he managed to contact and the fact that over 130 former members and "other halves" travelled tremendous distances to be there.

Table Tennis Who's Who

The cast list for this magnificent production reads like a "Who was Who" of table tennis and included 9 former internationals, headed by Diane (Rowe) Schöler (over from West Germany for the occasion) and twin sister Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett, Margaret (Fry) Hiorns, Joy (Seaman) Falkner, Laurie Landry, Len Adams, Ken Craigie, Derek Burridge and Alan Lindsay. In addition there were about 30 County players and a great many other fine players other clubs would have loved to have as members.

Apart from the hospitality of our hosts the outstanding features of this wonderful reunion were the rapport and friendship which were so apparent

Topics discussed ranged from News & Views to the latest edition to the family and "Where's old so-and-so?"

Old rivals relived past battles, erstwhile tearaways remembered past pranks and many photographs were taken. One of John's sons took a video throughout the day. Nostalgia was pre-eminent.

The climax of the day was the presentation to Rosemary and John of a suitably engraved cut glass bowl which was accompanied by short speeches from Derek Burridge and Johnny Harrald with responses by the hosts. All impromptu, amusing and very sincere.

Although Babs and I were not members of the West Ealing Club John had invited us because we were members of the Acton & District League from 1948 to 1987 when the North Acton League and ourselves amalgamated to form the West Middlesex League in which we still play. Most of those present had played in one or both of the original Acton Leagues and we were flattered that many remembered us while we remembered most of them. It made no difference — we were welcomed as if we had been members and would like to thank everyone there for accepting us into their company and allowing us to be ex-officio members of their Table Tennis Hall of Fame for one memorable day.

Finally our thanks to Rosemary and John and their family. We look forward to 1994.

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L. to R: Margaret (Fry) Hiorns, Dorothy (Ellis) Morris, Sheila (Smith) Spielberg, Joy (Seaman) Faulkner, Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett, Peggy (Alan) Marsh, Diane (Rowe) Schöler.

Psychology & Tactics and Attack Tactics

by TREVOR PARRY

PSYCHOLOGY & TACTICS

IN ANY competitive sport there are at least two people that have to be convinced that you are a good player or at any rate better than your opponent, namely yourself and your opponent. If you are an accomplished gamesman you can also involve a third party in the shape of the spectators or audience to get them with you and against your opponent.

First you must really believe in yourself at whatever level you play. This sort of conviction grows the longer you play and the sounder your basic technique becomes. Temperament is very closely allied to technique in match play situations. Nerves are often an excuse for bad examination results, but if you really know your stuff you are not nervous! It is a brutal but very positive line of thinking if you want to succeed in competition. More games are won and lost on mistakes than brilliant shots. There is nothing much you can do about your opponent's brilliant shots but, if he knows that you never serve off or into the net and he has to win every point he gets, he is going to have to try that much harder and that is where mistakes occur, under pressure. I always like to think that you score in 'two's' in that every point you lose your opponent gains one. At 3 - 1 at the start of a game the next point is a critical one in that if you win it is 4 - 1 and you have a three point cushion. If you lose it, the score is 3 - 2, only one point difference. At the end of a game say 19 - 17, the next point is even more crucial, because if you win it, you are 20 - 17, but if you lose it, it is 19 - 18 and anybody's game. All players are nervous, table tennis situations are often charged with tension so you must exploit nerves to your advantage. If you can spot a weakness in your opponent's technique or you have a particular service that causes problems, you must exploit these at crucial pressure situations in the game, not all the time or you might play the weakness out. If I get a lucky net or edge in a game, I don't say 'sorry'. Some observation like 'lucky' is psychologically more effective because it sows seeds of doubt in the opponent's mind that he is not only playing against you but luck and the 'Almighty' as well.

Sometimes you can play on a player's vanity. Many players are often not the best judge of their own shots or the real strength of their game. For example if a player has a powerful but somewhat erratic loop or an effective but inconsistent backhand flick, it often pays to encourage him to use it, provided more shots go off than on.

The basic psychological tactic is always to try and make the opponent play the game he does not want to play. Tempt chisellers to

hit, make defenders attack and attackers defend.

If you are a 'Defender' pure and simple as opposed to an 'All Round Defender', it never pays to get involved in an expedite game until you have to, because the all-rounder will probably win. Better sometimes to let a game go before the fifteen minutes are up to avoid playing the whole match at expedite. For the 'All Round Defender', it pays to go for an expedite situation as early as possible in the match. Vary the tempo of your game, hustle your opponent if you are winning, before he has time to collect his composure, but deliberately slow things down if you are losing to recover yours. A common failing with attacking players playing defenders is to try to play faster and faster and hit the ball harder and harder. It sometimes works in which case it pays to preserve or increase the momentum, but it is no use playing like a 'demented lemming' if you are losing point after point. Many players do. It is arguably unethical to deliberately try to upset an opponent. It is often psychologically unsound, because there is at least a fifty-fifty chance it will make the opposition play that much better. The one infallible tactic for upsetting one's mother-in-law is to agree with her. A similar philosophy frequently prevails in a table tennis situation. It sometimes upsets the opposition even more if you remain all sweetness and light despite all provocation and gamesmanship.

ATTACK TACTICS

SERVICE IS more important to the attacking player than the defender. You must control the game from your service. You must develop good serves to exert pressure on your opponent to make direct errors off service or at least to set the ball up for third ball attack (serve - return - kill). Usually the first return off service is the weakest return you will get in any rally, so if the ball is loose, hit it hard so it will not come back.

It is more important to vary the length of your shots bringing your opponent in and out from the table than to move him from side to side. The basic idea is to try to reserve

your power shots for when your opponent is coming in to meet the ball. If a defender keeps the ball long to the centre of the back of the table, you cannot make any effective angles because you only have 2'6" width of table to play with. You just make it easy for a defender to adopt a central position and play backhand or forehand without moving. You cannot make effective angles until you play short near the net. If the ball is central, the most effective place for your best shots is directly at your opponent's racket shoulder. The other direction to win points is so wide that your opponent cannot reach the ball. You can produce errors from your opponent by the sheer power of shot or the amount of spin, but these will be further compounded by the right length and direction. A fundamental principle of good attack is that you take balls over the table early, just below the peak of the bounce, with a short economical swing (short ball - short swing, long ball, longer swing).

It is common practice among players to play every ball at table level with a long swing well after the peak of the bounce. Such players can never play short heavy chop well, because the ball has died on the table before the attacker can apply the necessary acceleration of the racket to counter the chop. Another essential principle for consistent stroke play is that you always play a ball with heavy spin on it back down the same line or where it comes from.

Attacking Attackers

Your first attacking stroke must be a strong positive one. A weak, tentative shot is very easy to counter attack. It is better to push a short low ball accurately than to produce a weak topspin. Similarly blocked returns to slow to medium topspin or service usually give very weak returns, which are easy to counter hit. With fast backhand half-volley topspin exchanges over the table the ball will tend to be long and there is little chance of producing effective angles. It is usually the player who concentrates on just reflecting the ball back onto the table rather than the one who strives for extra power or angles who wins the point. With the modern game you must develop your attack on both wings, especially against good attackers. You will not have time to run round and play everything on the forehand. It is also worthwhile to cultivate some defensive capacity because you cannot attack every ball against a good player and variety is a very effective weapon of attack.

Attacking Defenders

The essence here is sheer power and spin to demoralise the defender or sheer consistency to outlast him or ideally a combination of both. Good serves and third ball attack are vital against good defenders, because the defensive game thrives on long rallies, nothing demoralises a defender more than losing points direct from service or the consequences of a loose return of service. If the defender has a very tight defensive control and you lack the sheer power to crack him, you must opt for consistency, basic ideas like attacking one wing down the longest diagonal or playing to the orthodox rubber as much as possible if the opponent uses a 'TWIDDLER' slow high rolled topspin especially against anti-loop, soft pimples or hard bats, chiselling, very short play near the net or even 'dolly-balls' to tempt a defender to attack if you cannot break his defence. Always change a losing game. Never change a winning game. If necessary against a purely defensive player, play for 'expedite' as early as possible in the game. Against any player, find his weak spots, pressurise them at crucial stages of the game and try to make him play the game he does not want to play. If you do not play heavy chop well, do not loop or play heavy topspin to an anti-loop or soft pimple bat, because you will get all your topspin back as heavy chop. Slow rolled high topspin played to clear a 12" net, cannot be chopped heavily, and is more consistent and effective. Technically topspin could always beat chop, because the mechanics of execution of the shot enable you to apply more topspin than chop.

Choice of Bat

You do not necessarily need to have a very fast, hard blade. Many of the top attackers favour a softer blade because it gives better control and produces more spin, because the ball stays on the bat longer. On terms of rubbers SRIVER S & L and YASAKA MK5 are consistently good for speed and spin. Chinese Friendship is rather slower but produces plenty of spin and is good for control... 1.5mm will give you better control and probably produce a better balanced bat. 2.00mm will give you more speed and spin. Every choice is a compromise and a change of a bat or rubbers will not compensate for deficiencies in your technique. A faster, spinnier rubber will make your weaknesses more apparent and the ball will go off just the same, but by a wider margin.

Many thanks to those Counties who have supplied me with black and white photographs to help make the Counties Section more interesting. I am sure there must be still many more keen photographers out among the Counties who would like to see local personalities in the magazine. — Editor.

AVON

ONCE AGAIN the Annual Sun Life Bristol Closed Championships for November were held at Soundwell Technical College. Due to the lack of Senior entries at last year's championships (this being due to Leeds British League) the organisers decided to change the playing days (Seniors moved to Saturday and Juniors to Sunday). Using these tactics saw the best entry for 5 years.

Last year's Men's champion Brian Reeves, not only retained his title, but clean swept with three other events. In the first of the Semis Brian disposed of No. 3 seed Diccon Gray, while Chris Holley, No. 2 seed, did the same to Hugh Dalton, who ousted No. 4 seed Paul Hooper. So, the final was set between the top 2 seeds! Chris stormed through to easily win the first, but the second was just as easy for Brian. Would the third be close? No! Brian, on a high from taking the second, got off to such a great start that Chris never ever closed the gap. Other victories included the Mens Doubles, Belsten Cup Team Event for Nailsea and the Veterans Singles.

Only four entries for the Ladies Singles saw a Round Robin Event that consisted of Miss M. Cohen, Miss C. Webb, Miss D. Sandford and J. Westall. Michelle Cohen was the outright winner with Carey Webb being the runner-up.

On Sunday saw the Juniors take to the tables with domination from Miss L. McCourt, who three times got the better of her school friend from Holymead School Miss R. Rosewell starting from the U11's, U14's and then the Junior Singles. What an achievement from this pair so young.

No. 1 seed for the Boys, Ian Johnson, had a convincing win in the final over Stuart Beaver, but Stuart and Colin Butterworth teamed up to take both the Boys Doubles and Team Event over I. Johnson and Nicky Ambrose all from Nailsea T.T.C.

The U14 Boys title went to Gareth Davies over clubmate Barry Fudge.

Avon County

Avon's 1st team strive for promotion, having beaten Cornwall 6-4, Middlesex II 8-2, and Kent 6-4, and are level on points at the top of the table with Sussex.

Good wins on the day from P. Lewis, and C. Holley over the highly ranked Adrian Moore and Michelle Cohen over Adrian's sister Teresa enabled Avon to draw 5-5. Only Sussex's vast games difference keeps them in front.

Avon's II's lost 9-1 to Gloucester, 6-4 to Wiltshire, 7-3 to Dorset, 8-2 to Somerset, but won their final match with Worcester II's 8-2.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

CORNWALL'S youngsters continue to bring glory back to the Duchy with some superb tournament successes of late. The County's leading player, Neil Bevan, pulled off a fine win at the Cleveland Junior Select on November 18th and 19th by beating a string of leading juniors to win the Junior Boys event. This was perhaps Bevan's most commendable tournament success to date. Meanwhile, the West Cornwall youngsters have been working hard at their game as well. Cadets David Menzel and Jonathon Pocock from the Camborne club, which is now thriving once again, did very well at the Grove 2 Star in October. Unseeded they won the Cadet Doubles with some fine attacking play that must have put a smile on the face of coach John Menzel. Pocock also won the South West Regional Cadet Trials at Plymouth recently, and now qualifies for the National Trials at Lilleshall in January. He joins Neil Bevan (Juniors) and Anna Cahill (Cadets) who were exempt from qualifying.

The West Cornwall League held their annual divisional championships on Sunday November 26th and secured sponsorship from the National Westminster Bank for a tremendous fifth successive season. Carn Brea Leisure Centre seemed a lot fuller this year, with entries increasing to seventy, the highest for five years, which is most encouraging. The quality of games was also good. Graham Reed confirmed that he is now one of the most difficult players to beat on the domestic circuit by winning the Premier Division Singles for the third consecutive season with his usual quick fire counter hitting.

All is not rosy on the County match scene. The Senior first team, newly promoted to Division 1B, have had a poor start to the season,

losing 4-6 to Avon, 4-6 to Kent, 1-9 to Essex II and 0-10 to Sussex. All four matches were fulfilled without Neil Bevan, and his presence is clearly needed if Cornwall are to avoid an instant 'drop' after the remaining matches. Fielding a full side is clearly a problem at the moment. The Junior first team have also attained division one status. A home defeat 1-9 against Middlesex followed by a 5-5 home draw against Sussex were played without key players. Mark Bawden and Rachel Boon being the most consistent players to date.

In the National team events, Cornwall's hopes have been dashed in the very first round. Plymouth continued to be a thorn in the side of Cornish teams. In the Wilmott Cup North Cornwall were beaten 5-2 at home by Plymouth and were again defeated 5-1 in the Rose Bowl. Falmouth Docks, looking to make amends for their Cornish colleagues in the Ormesby Cup, travelled to Plymouth, but after some entertaining games were well beaten 5-0. The Carter Cup match between North Cornwall and Plymouth has yet to be played.

Following a 5-3 defeat at Birmingham Sports Centre (after leading 3-1) and a 6-2 defeat at home to Burslem, White Hart Launceston remain firmly at the bottom of Division 2 (Midland) of the Leeds British League. Finding all players on form at the same time appears to be the main objective in avoiding relegation to Division 3 again.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

STEPPING up from the Whitehaven League to the far stronger Carlisle League, former Cumbria county player Jimmy Cummings is already making his mark. He has won more than he has lost for Huntingtons, the Wigton side, in the first division, including a win over county player Mark Temple.

Mark's brother, Stephen, also a county star, lost his unbeaten league record to league secretary Martin Tickner in a match for league leaders and reigning champions Sports Centre Leaders against Taylor Made Windows, for whom county captain Julie McLean lost her unbeaten record by losing to Stephen Temple and county squad man and coach Roger Stewart on the same night.

First Division members Cumberland News have changed their name to Ex-Club and now play home games at Carlisle Ex-Servicemen's Club.

At the time of writing YMCA Aces lead the Whitehaven League with George Bell outstanding.

At the end of November, Cumbria had still to get off the mark in Division 2a of the Leeds County Championship.

They suffered their third defeat in going down 8-2 to Yorkshire 2nd at Bradford.

Cumbria's only successes were recorded by number two Stephen Temple, when he beat Kevin Rogerson, and by Temple and number one Ian Reed, in the doubles.

Yorkshire 2nd names first: Nicky Davies beat Stephen Temple 21-17, 21-12; beat Ian Reed 21-23, 21-14, 21-17. Tim Dyson beat Mark Temple 21-14, 21-14; beat Ian Reed 21-13, 21-18. Kevin Rogerson beat Mark Temple 24-22, 21-19; lost to Stephen Temple 21-14, 20-22, 18-21. Dyson and Rogerson lost to Reed and S. Temple 16-21, 19-21. Helen Shields beat Julie McLean 21-19, 14-21, 21-16. Cathy Johnson beat Karen Backhouse 21-12, 21-18. Shields and Johnson beat McLean and Backhouse 21-18, 21-14.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

The Leeds County Championships

WITH players moving out of the Dorset area, and others not wishing to be considered for the County this season, the ranking lists for 1989/90 have been confirmed as follows:

Senior Men

1. Tony Clayton
2. John Robinson
3. Martin Hughes
4. Terry Glennon
5. Martin Tate
6. Barry Hill
7. Dave Sharples
8. Jason Hegarty
9. Matt Poulson
10. Mike Hughes

Senior Women

1. Cheryl Skevington
2. Leanne Harman
3. Joyce Coop
4. Tracy Scott-Pawson
5. Jo Le-Neve-Foster
6. Debbie Applin
7. Jean Smith
8. Sarah Thomas
9. Mae Allen
10. Pat Baldwin

Veteran Men

1. Barry Hill
2. Howard Davies
3. Mike Toole
4. Dennis Joyce
5. Eric Buckley
6. Danny Allen
7. Trevor Smith
8. Cyril Bush
9. Dave Woodcock
10. Syd Brice

Veteran Women

1. Joyce Coop
2. Jean Smith
3. Mae Allen
4. Dot Robins
5. Pat Baldwin

The senior first team travelled to Bath Sports Centre on 28 October 1989 and took part in a quadrangular series of matches against Avon seconds, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

As is the usual practice at Bath these days, it was well organised and played in good conditions. Congratulations to all the organisers, and to the umpires who lasted the eleven hour day.

Our team of Tony Clayton, Terry Glennon, Martin Hughes, Cherry Skevington and Tracy Scott-Pawson finished with an 8-2 victory over Avon, a 5-5 draw with Gloucestershire and a 4-6 defeat at the hands of Kevin Satchell's Wiltshire. An excellent day was enjoyed by all.

The senior second team came away empty handed when they travelled to Buckinghamshire, and lost 2-8 to Hertfordshire seconds, but recorded their first victory when they overcame Cornwall seconds by six games to four.

The Leeds British League

Jolliffe Poole are beginning to find their form at the time of writing in the second division south of the British League, after an indifferent start to the season.

Tony Clayton and John Robinson have been the most consistent players of the team so far, and have accounted for the man of the match award on three out of seven occasions.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

This month our Juniors took part in the initial Premier Division weekend of the County Championships at St Neots and for the first time since we regained our Premier status we remained unbeaten. I would like to believe that we have a chance of winning the title of champion junior County come next March, although Lancs and Yorks, both also unbeaten, will be very tough nuts to crack. If only Damian Holland could have been born 12 days later, he would still have been a junior, and I think our team would have been almost unbeatable!

We commenced our programme with a match against our old rivals Derbyshire. The only Billington on duty this time was Jackie, and fortunately we were able to persuade the Referee that she was ineligible!

The opening set between Jason Bamford and James Oyekunle was magnificent, and I did not see one more exciting or skilful all weekend. Nor have I seen Jason play better than this, and he deservedly won 16, -18, 18. The remaining matches were a bit of an anti-climax, with the Derby youngsters rather struggling. However our Keith Buers was not too pleased to be beaten 22, -16, 15 by little Stephen Shaw. Result 8-2 to us.

Our match against Warwickshire had few high-spots, apart from Grant Solder managing to lose the first game of the first set to Matthew Jordan, who is probably ranked about 495 places below him in the national ranking list! Chris Sladden made his Premier Division debut for us in this match and won both his singles. Warwicks had a good win in the doubles so we won by 9-1.

The week-end was completed with a great win over Kent by 8-2.

Much credit for this score-line goes to Grant Solder, who so destroyed Spencer Thompson (6,7) that his contributions afterwards were of a limited nature. Alison Gower and Ruth Cleminson staged an astonishing come back to take the girls doubles from Lesley Hollingworth/Desiree Joseph but the icing on the cake was the magnificent victory by Keith Buers over the unfortunate Spencer Thompson.

It is sad to report that Linda Radford declined, for personal reasons, to represent her County in these matches. However, the girl who replaced her, Ruth Cleminson, performed brilliantly, and was a perfect team-member. In fact the team spirit and camaraderie of the boys and girls could not be faulted, even though James does not exactly talk a lot!

I returned from St Neots to discover that our Junior second team had beaten Northants by 7-3. The score-sheet revealed that Neil Butcher and Julie Rand had been unbeaten and that Matthew Reid and Tayo Fasanya had gone incredibly close with the highly ranked Kieron Dabbs. A somewhat out of form Tracey French was beaten by the very promising Sally Russell, but had partnered Julie to a straight games win in the doubles.

Two junior third teams made their annual tour of East Anglia, stopping off in Norwich to draw 5-5 with Norfolk I and beat Norfolk II 10-0.

Finally I am delighted to report that all arrangements have now been finalised for the Essex 3 Star Open event to be staged at the prestigious Brentwood Centre on the weekend of April 14th/15th 1990. Our sponsors are Barclays Bank and all enquiries for entry forms etc should be sent to our Organiser Dick Roffe at 54 Curtis Road, Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 2QS (Tel: 0402 472341)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

Annual County (Closed) Championships 1989

HELD at the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Club's Headquarters opposite "The Prince of Wales Stadium" and under the ever watchful eyes of Hon Referee Peter Cruwys, this one day championship proved a great success.

Perhaps the major surprise of the entire tournament was the shock defeat of the title holder for the past two years — Dave Harvey, Harvey was beaten in straight games by Stroud player Martin Harper 24-22, 21-14.

This left the championship stakes clear for a final play off between the County's No. 2 & 3 players, Darren Griffin and Graham Slack — Griffin who has been in the County

T.T. Championships wilderness for the past couple of years produced sound championship play to beat Slack 21-19, 21-14, in the final and thus regain the title that he last won three years ago.

Out of 13 entries for the Ladies Singles, the two top seeds — defending champion Mrs Heather Tyrer and Japanese Student (learning English) Morita Layko produced perhaps the best Ladies singles final seen for a very long time, both fast attacking players — Mrs Tyrer was unlucky to lose the first game at 20-22, but there was no doubt of the 18 year old Asian Girl's dominance in the second where she sealed the match 21-13, and thus took the title.

The Veteran Singles was a foregone conclusion even before it was played, with FORMER County No.1 Dave Harvey entering for the very first time — it was easy street all the way for the Cheltenham 40 year old, Harvey beat former Veteran Champion Frank Jones 21-13, 21-7.

In the Minor Singles (excluding all 1st Division Players) a very large entry for this popular event which was eventually won by 15 year old Kings School Boy from Tibberton Lawrence Simpson, Simpson beat Alex Robinson 21-16, 20-22, 21-15 in the final.

Boys U17 Singles: With the County No.1 Junior, Raymond Powell, not entered, the coast was clear for the No.2 to prove his metal, and this Jeremy Hyatt did with unflinching ease against an always hard pressed Neal Henry in the final & by a scoreline of 21-14, 14-21, 21-19.

In the Girls U17 Singles the defending Champion - Cheltenham's Alison Cox narrowly retained her title by beating Stroud's Caroline Stainer 21-19, 14-21, 21-19.

The Men's Doubles Final saw the scratch pairing of William Dawe & David Smith meeting Steve Moreman and Graham Slack in the final, Slack/Moreman eventually triumphed as winners in a very closely contested 18-21, 21-19, 21-18 contest which indeed could have gone either way.

Only seven entries for the Ladies Doubles, which eventually was won by Cheltenham's Linda Probert & Julie Taylor who beat Alison Cox & Morita Layko 21-10, 10-21, 21-17 in the final.

Junior Doubles: Another foregone conclusion — when the respective Counties' No.1 and 2 combine forces it is indeed a formidable force to take on. Raymond Powell and Jeremy Hyatt beat David Malvern and Richard Moore 21-12, 21-19.

FOOTNOTE: The County Association's President Mr L.C.T. Davis kindly attended and presented the cups and trophies, Mr Davis was accompanied by his wife.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

HERE I am writing my first report of the season for publication in January! Brian Lamerton, in his position as Hampshire Press Officer, stepped in as a temporary reporter in December and explained the reason for lack of notes to date. It is quite impossible in a county as far flung as Hampshire to produce full coverage without help from individual towns — this help is notable for its complete absence. A letter by Brian to all towns in the county has produced little response. My friend Kier Donaldson has given me weekly cuttings from the Portsmouth News and has promised these on a regular basis. This is ideal — could other towns please copy! But enough of our problems, let us get down to some news!

Firstly I must start with the sad report from Portsmouth of the death of their stalwart Eric Needham. Eric, who suffered a bad fall, was the long serving Secretary of the Portsmouth League and has served on their Committee for several decades.

In the Gosport and Fareham Premier Division, Fareham Blue lead but their unbeaten run was ended by Amity Generation 2 Comets with a tight 6/4 victory. Phil Watson won his three sets including the vital first defeat of Rod McMullan 19 in the third. Collingwood lead Division 1.

In South East Hants First Division it is very tight at the top with four points separating the top four teams. Amity Generation 2 lead on games difference from Cowplain Green, who they defeated 9/1 to inflict the heaviest defeat for a long time on the previously unbeaten leaders.

Hampshire have been fortunate in obtaining sponsorship from the Fareham company Amity Glass & Glazing, who are providing the kit for the County Teams. Help of this nature is vital to the county and Amity have already shown their generosity by sponsoring the Generation 2 Club.

The spate of fixtures on November 25th more than doubled the county's matches to date. The Hampshire First Team lost 2/8 to Kent 1 and 3/7 to Devon 2. Sarah Turner won a Singles in the Kent match and combined with Sarah Hammond to win the Women's Doubles in both matches. Graham Toole excelled in the Devon match, beating both Gary Lambert and Michael Short. A good win for the young Second Team with Jeff Giles and Mark Thorne unbeaten, Mark Bleakley and Kathy Ridgard each winning a Singles and both Doubles going our way. The Junior First Team lost 0/10 to the Welsh team

Counties 3

from Glamorgan and 3/7 to Devon 2. Mark Shuttler won two and Clare Woodham one in the Devon match. The Second Junior Team also suffered heavy defeats to Devon 2 (2/8) and Gwent (1/9) but Matthew Roberts picked up a Singles in each match. There looked little hope for the Veteran 'B' Team when they trailed Wiltshire 3 by 0/4, but they won the last five sets for a notable victory. Ray Lush, Maurie Shave, Ken Burton and Anne Abraham each won a Singles, while Ray and Ken won the Doubles.

Hampshire Closed Tournament

Not a good entry for a county of our size, but the quality was there with some good table-tennis provided. In the Mens Singles the early rounds were played in groups and saw the demise of three of the eight seeds. Most notably Jeff Giles ousted champion and County No.1 Graham Toole -15, 11 and 14. Chris Shetler disposed of Miki Sinanan and Pete Woodacre beat Mark Thorne. In the Quarters, Jeff Giles beat Graham Outrim, Chris Shetler came from 15/20 in the third to beat Mark Wilding, Mark Bleakley easily beat Andrew Ely and Rhamish Bhalla beat Pete Woodacre after dropping the first. Two comfortable two straight victories for Jeff Giles over Chris Shetler and by Mark Bleakley against Rhamish Bhalla in the semi's. A good see-saw final with Jeff winning the first at 17, Mark the second at 18 and coming from behind to win the decider 22/20. Good to see new names in the Final and, although nerves perhaps lost him this final, Jeff Giles is certainly a champion of the future at only 18. For Portsmouth champion Mark Bleakley an excellent tournament.

With last year's champion Cheryl Buttery now out of the area, the Women's Singles title was up for grabs. Past winner Sarah Hammond, the County No.1 was not at her best, suffering from tennis elbow (why tennis and not table-tennis elbow I wonder?) She went down to her first defeat by Sarah Turner in the semi's, 15 and 15. In the other half Barbara Savage (nee Clarke — congratulations on her recent marriage!) beat Tina Caws 25/23, 21/14. Some excellent attacking from both wings in the final gave Sarah her first title 19 and 17.

There has been much comment and controversy over the Veterans ranking list. After being demoted from No.1 to No.4 in the list issued just before the tournament, Norman Stagg gave his reply in the best possible fashion — on the table. He beat Ray Lush in the semi and the new No.1 and holder of the title, Graham Lynch, in the final 17 and 18. Pam Brown beat Vera Hutchinson 19, -19 and 14 in the Veteran's Women's Final. One of the few titles to be retained was the Intermediate (Under 23) event

where Jeff Giles beat Mark Thorne 19, -17, 19. In the Doubles events Graham Toole and Mark Wilding beat Graham Pointer and Kier Donaldson 14 and 11 in the Mens. Graham Toole and Sarah Hammond beat Mark Bleakley and Barbara Savage in the Mixed 18 and 10. Sarah Hammond and Sarah Turner each gained a second title, the Womens Doubles, when they beat Barbara Savage and Tina Caws 19 and 15.

As usual, a well run tournament with Secretary Harold Albery and referee Mick Strode in control.

HERTS

John Wood

RED HOT favourites for this season's Hertfordshire InterLeague Senior Trophy are North Herts, following their recent 5-2 victory over last year's champions Hemel Hempstead.

The North Herts team of Mick and Sandra Harper and Keith Samuels, lead the field at the half-way stage of the Senior tournament, which was held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre following their three victories, beating Barnet 6-1, Watford 7-0, and Hemel Hempstead 5-2, where North Herts' Keith Samuels was the star of the show finishing with a 100% record.

Hemel Hempstead who are still in with a slim chance of retaining their title, beat their 2nd team 7-0, St.Albans 7-0, and Cheshunt 7-0, before losing their last match of the day 2-5 to North Herts, where their only player to finish with an 100% was Lynne Harrison.

Third placed Barnet, who lost to North Herts 1-6, beat Watford 5-2, and Hemel Hempstead II 6-1.

The only two upsets on the day involved Barnet, when Jeff Linskey beat highly talented Mick Harper of North Herts 18, -19, 16, and when Barnet's Neil Stratton lost un-

expectedly to Hemel Hempstead II's John Wood 6, -23, -22.

North Herts will be crowned Champions on January 14th 1990 when the second half of the contest takes place, barring upsets, when they play Cheshunt, Hemel Hempstead II, and St. Albans.

HUNTS

David Deller

St Ives Inter Club Team Tournament

The fifth St Ives Inter Club Team Tournament was held over the weekend of November 11th/12th at St Ivo Recreation Centre in Cambs. Some fine finals concluded the 72 club side tournament, which had brought around 350 youngsters to the St Ivo Centre.

The cadet event sponsored by Hi Fi Choice (St Ives) gave North Yorks a final win over Edison of Middlesex. Richard Hyacinth putting the latter one up in the final beating Andrew Nicholls. Philip Neal defeated Simon Zeffert to level the scores. The Yorks team taking the title when Jeremy Hazelhurst beat Joe Henley. Reading defeated Fellows Cranleigh for 3rd and 4th place.

Full Positions of the Cadet Tournament

1 North Yorks; 2 Edison (Middx); 3 Reading 'A'; 4 Fellows Cranleigh; 5 Brentwood; 6 Bedford; 7 Leamington; 8 Chelmsford; 9 Stadtallendorf (W.Germany); 10 Peniel 'A'; 11 N Yorks 'B'; 12 S.C.Oxstall (Glouc); 13 Wallington (Surrey); 14 Ellenborough; 15 Newport Pagnell; 16 Lowestoft; 17 Peterborough; 18 City of London; 19 Wallington 'B'; 20 St Albans; 21 Grantham; 22 Wood Green; 23 Woburn Sands; 24 St Ives; 25 St Neots; 26 St Ives 'B'; 27 Huntingdon; 28 Grantham 'B'; 29 Peniel 'B'; 30 Reading 'B'; 31 Huntingdon; 32 St Ives 'C'.

The Junior section sponsored by Superior Finish of St Ives saw Kingfisher of Reading newcomers to the tournament take the title at the first attempt. In an excellent final they just overcame Foxwood of Norwich. The Norfolk side going one up as Andrew Hawes beat Martin Adam, Matthew Greenwood levelled the scores beating Jon Cockburn, the Reading side wrapping it up with Marc Priddle beating Mark Wilson. Sturges of Selby finished 3rd beating Heathcote for the 3rd and 4th place final.

Final Positions of Junior Tournament

1 Kingfisher (Reading); 2 Foxwood (Norwich); 3 Sturges (Selby); 4 Heathcote (Essex); 5 Fellows Cranleigh; 6 Chelmsford; 7 Lowestoft; 8 N Yorks Boys; 9 Taverham (Norfolk); 10 Stadtallendorf (W.Germany); 11 Chelmsford 'B'; 12 Cambridge; 13 Peniel 'A'; 14 St Ives; 15 Reading; 16 Arundel; 17 Ellenborough; 18 Leamington 'A'; 19 N Yorks Girls; 20 Maldon; 21 St Albans; 22 Peniel 'B'; 23 Leamington 'B'; 24 Lansbury.

The Under 12 Tournament sponsored by Dudley Haulage of Buckden also had a new team winning at the first attempt as Grove of Market Drayton completed the day unbeaten. In the final they knocked over Peniel of Essex 3-0. The Grove team of Steven Meddings, Adrian Cadman and Robert Rowson, whilst the Peniel trio was Ben Linnecar, Stephen Linnecar and David Coleman. N Yorks beat Chelmsford for the 3rd and 4th place.

North Herts Inter-League Senior Team.

Left to right:- Mick Harper, Sandra Harper, and Keith Samuels (Photo courtesy of John F.A.Wood)



Counties 4

Final Positions

1 Market Drayton; 2 Peniel 'A'; 3 N Yorks; 4 Chelmsford; 5 Arundel; 6 Lowestoft; 7 Fellows Cranleigh; 8 S.C.Oxstall; 9 St Ives; 10 Woburn Sands; 11 St Albans; 12 Bedford; 13 Huntingdon; 14 Leamington; 15 Peniel 'B'; 16 Lansbury.

The Tournament which had been 29 teams over-subscribed-again proved very successful. Any team wishing to be added to future mailing lists should contact myself at 17 Tennyson Avenue, St.Ives. Tel: 0480 66607.

LANCASHIRE

George R Yates

SOUTHPORT's Andrew Eden, now resident in Essex but still a registered Lancastrian, spearheaded the Red Rose team at the Junior Premier weekend in St Neots in which Lancashire beat Warwickshire (10-0), Kent (6-4) and Bedfordshire (6-4).

Emulating Eden's five singles successes were Burnley's Howard Whewell and Darren Howarth and with three successful boys' doubles for Eden and Whewell and a solo success for Blackpool's Tamar Connolly, standing in for Marie Thornley, the journey home was a pleasant one.

Lancashire's senior seconds, at home to Lincolnshire at Liverpool, triumphed 9-1 with Brenda Buoy losing the one to Sally Johnson whereas Graham Clarke, Paul Hutchings, Keith Williams and Mandy Goodwin carried all before them. Oldham's Chris Campbell (2) and Darryl Meredith (1) were Lancashire's only winners when the Junior 3rds lost 7-3 to Cheshire at Oldham's Sholver Hall in Junior Div 2A.

Unusually the Bolton area was only represented by one team this year in the Greater Manchester Schools team championships held at Mossley on Nov 19 and sponsored by Hurley Sports Manchester Ltd.

But that team, Thornleigh Salesian College, in their first attempt at senior level — they won the U-16's title last year — triumphed in the U-19's section.

The team selected comprised Adrian Denson, Matthew Heap, Andrew Platt and Aidan Varley but due to an unfortunate last minute withdrawal by Heap the College team were only represented by three players which meant they had to concede 2 sets in every 8-set match.

In all four matches were contested including two against Hulme Grammar School of Oldham, last year's senior champions, but not a set was dropped as the Thornleigh boys came through with unblemished records. This Greater

Manchester success now qualifies the team to contest the Area 2 finals of the Dunlop National Schools Team Championships in Leeds next January against opposition from Humberside, S and W Yorks.

Each member of the Thornleigh team plays for St Thomas of Canterbury Youth Club in the Bolton Brady League and Denson, Platt and Heap comprise the Bolton junior inter-league team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League.

Consolation for Hulme Grammar School came in their winning of the Boys' U-16's title and the award of the Boys' U-13's title, the latter by virtue of a walk-over with no other entrant. And Hulme Court, the preparatory school for Hulme Grammar, won the Boys' U-11's title.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillicrapp

AS THE time approacheth for the man in red robes to appear bearing gifts for all, Royal Mail Leicestershire Veterans received an early present in the shape of the availability of 'Supervet' Tony Kinsey for their recent Leeds County Championship home division 2B fixtures against Norfolk II.

Kinsey duly obliged with an impressive 'brace' against David Juler and Tony Hipperson as the home side ran out comfortable 7-2 winners.

Royal Mail Leicestershire juniors at last found the secret of success in their third match of the season as they narrowly defeated a spirited Derbyshire II side. Leicestershire, with home advantage, shot to a 5-1 lead and looked set for an easy win. James Wheatley, Louise Petty and Catherine Pidgen had different ideas though for Derby and brought the scoreline back to 5-4. Philip Padgett managed to secure the points for Leicester in the last game of the match against out-of-form David Purdy thus raising a smile on the face of home captain Peter Gerdes for the first time this season.

Both Phil Padgett and Martin Brunning were undefeated for Leicestershire as this win comes as a very welcome relief to a side who had lost both previous games heavily.

On the local scene Knighton Park I are perched proudly at the top of Division 1 of the Leicester League with 6 wins from as many starts.

Park have been able to field Dave Gannon in 4 of the 6 games and he has yet to be beaten.

Supported by County Ladies' No.1 Karen Smith and the consistent Keith Fellows even at this early stage of the season it is difficult to see any other team in the Division being able to mount a serious challenge.

At the bottom of this Division and at the opposite end of the success/failure spectrum are Snibston Inn who have lost all of their 7 matches, and look, to quote the late John Laurie 'doomed'.

The Loughborough League have not yet communicated with me this season but I do believe they are still in business. Hopefully I shall be able to report on happenings in the far north of our fair County in my next newsletter. Until then may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a most prosperous New Year.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

AS THE organiser of the Middlesex 3-Star, can I make a plea to players — which I am sure will be endorsed by others in the same position. First of all, please do not leave your entry until the last moment. A week before the closing date, I could envisage cancelling the event or at best having a very easy tournament, but in the end I had to refuse entries because we were over-subscribed. When entries come in with a rush, errors are more likely to creep in, whether the recording is done manually as I do it, or on a computer. Secondly, please remember the stamped addressed envelope. It is not just the cost (we can always charge you at the event) but remember it is only one envelope for you to write — but I had to sit and write 30 when I was desperately anxious to get all the notifications into the post.

Having had my little moan, I would like to thank all the players who so loyally support the Middlesex every year. We value you all and hope you had an enjoyable event. A report by Mike Loveder will appear in the next edition of Table Tennis News. I am grateful to him in volunteering to take this task 'off my plate'. Our County Championship teams started off very well but it is still too early to predict how they will end up. The Inter-League Championships have started but once again it is early days.

Entry forms for the Middlesex Junior Closed, to be held at Ashford on 13th and 14th Jan 1990 have been issued and more are available from Doris Moors (12 Bishops Close, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey). The Senior event will also be held at Ashford on 3rd and 4th March and Doris will be issuing the entry forms for that once she has got the Junior event out of the way.

Finally, an important date for your diary. The Maurice Goldstein Challenge Match between Middlesex as County Champions and Lancashire as runners-up will take place at Ashford on 21st April 1990. Play will start at 2.30pm and admission will be £1 with reduction to 50p

for children under 16 and Senior Citizens. Come along and support YOUR team.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

England v France in Norwich is no doubt reported elsewhere but I have a few thoughts on the match in my capacity as redundant 'twiddler' as even that aspect of the game has been automated — what next, robot umpires who do not make mistakes? I was pleased to hear complimentary remarks on the organisation of the match by the Norwich international committee as they made strenuous efforts to make the event successful and the hospitality both before and after the match. The talking point of the match will be the expedite called at about 26 all in the second game between Alan Cooke and Marmurek the French No.2. I have been asked many times after the match why this should happen in a match in which both players were not playing defensively, it went a long time because of the score and a bit of time wasting by the French player, as between each point he went walk-about and wiped his hand on the table by the net. I think this expedite spoiled an excellent crowd-pleasing match but as I had to explain to the uninitiated the rules are to be enforced not bent to suit the occasion.

County junior teams seem to be split evenly between Norwich and K. Lynn players and as these two meet shortly in the Carter cup competition some indication of rankings should emerge. County senior team has available Geoff Davies, Philip Logsdon and Neil Pickard who together with Ruth Hunter and Gill Hancock must be in with a very good chance of winning their division. I hear that Geoff Davies has joined CEYMS in Norwich for specific matches — this can only do good for both Geoff and his opponents to play someone different to usual. Hope it does not snow on match nights as 40 miles each way is something. As Geoff is now playing for Norfolk and Norwich what about Foxwood British League to make the trio. First vets team are involved in some marathon travelling and close results as div 1A is going to be anyone's guess as to who goes down — games average should decide. Vets second team being used to blood new veterans with a view to next season's possibility of another team — come on Jane get practising.

Willmott Cup. Norwich lost to Ipswich mainly because of Andrea Ambrose who contributed three of the five Ipswich wins — she gets a bit tense under pressure. Veterans 3-a-side competition Norwich with the County squad have progressed to the zone final with wins at Hunts central and W Middx and now meet

Counties 5

St Neots at home and should they beat them travel away again. Maybe next season we will have a home draw both for the players benefit and for the occasional spectator who has heard of the exploits of this team but is unable to see it.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

THE FINAL County Closed Tournament to be staged at Kettering Recreation Centre produced a series of exciting finishes with all 5 of the major titles going the full distance.

As always the former Drill Hall added its unique atmosphere to the Barclaycard sponsored proceedings as the last final — the Mens Singles — turned into a David and Goliath clash of epic proportions.

Ultimately the artistry and flair of holder Andy Trott was put to the test by the brilliant serving, the accurate play and the finesse of a determined Andy Edmonds who for so long has played in the shadow of Graeme McKim — the Pennine Computer No.1 — holding a controlling interest yet again as he umpired this superb tussle.

The opening game ebbed and fro and the tension heightened before Trott clinched the longest game ever to grace a final, 29-27. Edmonds however rallied as Trott went through one of his less auspicious patches, and the match was level with all to play for.

Edmonds again moved into a clear lead in the third, but some tremendous shots from Trott brought him back into contention and there was no forecasting a winner as deuce was called in the final game.

In the event, Edmonds maintained his composure, and Trott lost his title in one of the most exhilarating finals to take place within the county boundaries.

In the ladies section it was Alison Boxall all the way — although she was made to fight for the title when Kristina Cox, champion for the past 2 years, clawed her way back into the match in the second. However the greater experience of the nationally ranked Boxall counted as she called the tune in the 3rd game to win easily.

Boxall also added the 2 doubles titles, the ladies with Sally Russell in their 1st tournament together, and similarly with Edmonds in the mixed doubles. In the latter though it needed all the ability of the 2 singles champions to hold off Ian Hawes and Muriel Cox who came within 2 points of victory.

Mrs Cox, playing with daughter Kristina, also ended on the losing side in the ladies event, but gained some consolation when in another cliff-hanger she edged out Joyce Porter 25-23 in the decider, in the

first running of the Veterans Ladies Singles.

The Mens Doubles was another event to provide a grandstand finish, and it came from Chris Handshaw and Richard Elliott. After a comfortable passage to the final, it was Edmonds and Trott who provided the opposition and who looked the likely winners — until Handshaw and Elliott levelled at deuce in the 3rd before majestically taking the last 2 points and the title. It was Handshaw's 5th, and his 3rd in succession, all with different partners.

There were several surprises in the veterans mens, with 2nd seed Mick Edwards going out in the 1st round for the 2nd year in a row. Mike Pond was his conqueror, but after tournament organiser Phil Slade had beaten Greg Dobrowolski, he swiftly despatched Pond to set up a final against Keith Jones.

That was the end of the fairy story, as Jones cruised to his 7th title in 8 years — though he still has 3 more to win if he is to catch up with the legendary Dick Ingle.

Edwards recovered to join Jones in taking the Veteran Doubles against Dobrowolski and Slade (replacing the injured Geoff Atkinson), while Dobrowolski had his moment of glory when he won the very first Over 50's title.

With Kieron Dabbs an absentee, the junior events were in the balance and eventually the much improved Julian Marshall took the Under 17 Boys Singles, beating Tom Rowe in a close final, with Rowe gaining some revenge when he and Stephen Atkinson turned the tables on Oundle's Marshall and Alister Brudenell in the junior doubles.

The rest was all Sally Russell who took the Girls Singles with ease, and then became the first girl to win the open Under 14 competition.

Her brother Simon was not quite so successful, for after performing sensationally to reach the restricted singles final, he met the ubiquitous Alison Boxall on the crest of a wave, and she made no mistakes.

OXFORD

Steve Joyner

NOVEMBER saw the County's premier event take place, the Oxford (very select) City Tournament. Due to such a massive response last year the committee were forced to restrict this year's entry. To the committee's credit they managed to employ some clever diplomatic techniques for reducing demand. Firstly, the selective distribution of entry forms managed to immediately rule out a majority of entries. But for the players that managed to foil this ploy they were then confronted with several awkward tactics, the best of which

coming from tournament referee Barry Yates the father of the eventual winner Gavin. Despite the pre-tournament politics the event proved to be an exciting and unpredictable affair. It appeared that to be seeded was a burden as seed after seed toppled. In the ladies event Eleanor Harrison seemed to think that the No.1 next to her seeding indicated the number of the round that she was to go out in. So the new slim line Ely wobbled out at the first hurdle. The title was eventually snapped up by the aggressive Cathy Singleton. With two of the top 4 seeds missing from the mens event the draw was left wide open. As expected Carl Bushell managed to stop talking for half an hour whilst he progressed into yet another final. The other half of the draw was where the shocks were taking place. Still tired from the early mornings at his new doughnut shop, expanding Clive Morris rolled slowly into the last 4. Meanwhile young punk Gavin Yates was roaring through beating Nat Richardson and Paul Poulter. The shock of the day was to follow when little beat large (Yates beat Morris). Perhaps Clive should sell his products not eat them! In the final Yates beat Bushell to take the title. Banbury's popular bounce buster Bas Hook deservedly took both the restricted singles and the U15 event. Arthur Chilvers took the old mens title.

The senior county team were again below full strength as they took on Berkshire. The Berkshire team consisted mainly of Dawn Barnett's past and present boy friends. Young Nicky Bradfield who was in favour during the 87/88 season failed to tickle Dawn's fancy this time as he struggled to keep on the right side of pedantic match referee Sue Gogknor, eventually losing to Oxford's reserved press officer Steve Joyner. Martin Adams however fared much better as he had knocking partner Dawn Drawling. As his laid back approach saw him brush aside an apparent challenge from Paul Poulter who was obviously still hung over from his 2 pint dinner time session. Wild and wonderful Brian Johnson was Oxford's best performer taking a singles and the doubles with Steve Joyner. Lisa Crick showed why she is a top junior defeating Cathy Singleton. Gemma Schwarz however lost her match but showed that she will become a real handful rather than the pocketful she is currently. A good match however was unfortunately marred by certain Oxford "unofficials" trying to claim the match due to the late arrival of the Opposition. I know it is difficult for the County to gain success but I feel that an unreasonable attitude. Playing to the letter of the law is the way forward!

SURREY

Terry Vance

Change of Address: The County Captain Gail McCullough now lives at 53 Fenwick Close, Goldsworth Park, Woking GU21 3BZ. Phone 0483 728069

Kent 2 Star: Paul Carter continued his run of success when winning the U17 title. Stephen Lampkin won the U12's whilst Darren Blake lost in the finals of Boys' Cadet singles and doubles. In the Vets Gordon Chapman had a very good win over Peter Radford.

Midland 3 Star: Jane Barella had several important wins before losing to Fiona Elliot. Nice to see David Hannah in the final again but this time losing to the Huddersfield based Chinese Chen Xinhua.

County Championships: In the Junior 3rd team a tremendous doubles win for Andrea Hopkinson and the fast improving Rachel Forster. In the Vets team on the same day the men managed to win the 4 matches gained for Surrey with Bryan Simmonds winning his 2 singles.

Junior Coaching: The U14's day of Coaching is January 13th 1990.

National Junior Trials: The following Surrey Juniors have been invited: Edward Hatley; Darren Blake; Paul Carter; Miranda Markham; Hannah Webber; Karen Ashley and David Dyer. Congratulations.

Frimley Super League: Edward Hatley is having some very good wins against players at least twice his age.

Ritchie Venner - Sussex



SUSSEX

Graham Carter

SUSSEX Table Tennis action owes much to a calm 24 year old electrician named Ritchie Venner. The West Sussex championships held in Portslade at the end of November saw him complete a notable hat-trick by winning the Singles title for the 3rd year in a row.

Ritchie faced two youngsters from Andy Meads' Ifield Community College stable and found them quite a struggle. Alan Cole managed 19 and 18 points in the semi-final whilst the final against Scott Greenbrook, 18, was a see-sawing tactical battle. Venner eventually drew away from 14 all to win 21-15 in the third.

Whilst all this excitement was going on, East Sussex held their championships simultaneously at Hastings. The complete absence of the Moore family opened things up for a major upset of the sexes, which could be an English record — The main event was won by a woman.

The East and West Sussex tournaments were run with a new format whereby the Men's and Women's events were merged into 'mixed singles'. Everyone contested a 6-player group and the doubles were scrapped altogether. Brighton's Janet Smith wrote herself into the history books by beating the No.1 seed Paul Barry 21-18, 22-20 to become the Class I Singles Champion.

Of course Janet is no run-of-the-mill player. She is now a full time professional, has just spent time training in Tokyo and is hellbent on retaining her Scottish No.1 ranking. Sussex men beware — with the All-Sussex Championships looming in March, Janet is "looking forward to having a go at the top male seeds."

The verdict on the experimental set-up at Southwick, like the events, was mixed. Some felt that they missed playing doubles. Seeds had to endure numerous 'non-games' instead of perhaps one. Women had little to strive for, with none qualifying for the Class I Singles and most finding the going tough in Class II. Even so, the 42 players which the new-style competition attracted was a considerable improvement on just 24 last year.

Sussex teams prospered in the latest round of County matches. Crawley duo Ritchie Venner and Phil Smith joined forces with Bexhill's Adrian Moore to thrash Cornwall 10-0 and Devon II 9-1 at Bath. Those points hoisted the South coasters to the top of Division 1B. Sussex II beat Kent II 8-2 with Scott Greenbrook spanning 52 places in the England rankings to beat Paul Rainford while left hand attacker Sally Weston was looking her shimmering best.

Venner is player-manager of the Leeds British League team Horsham Dolphins. A poor start to the season has now been halted, and a 6-2 win against T.S.P. Larkhall was their third of the season, putting them at 5th place in Division I South.

There were a couple of encouraging developments on the Junior scene during November. Joanna Bush-Harris gained fame by winning a £200 sponsorship from the Prince's Trust. She is a member of the England under 12 squad.

Colin Ross and Brian Taite organised a very successful grand challenge match between Horsham Table Tennis Club and the Haywards Heath League. 10 teams comprised of 38 players fought it out, some playing competitively for the first time. The result ended up 2-1 to Haywards Heath, with 2 drawn.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

Lee Horton retained the Junior Boys title in the Worcestershire Junior Closed Tournament on 12th November with a narrow 14, -18, 19 win over his Dudley League teammate Jason Thompson. Lee had earlier beaten Craig Ward 14 & 27, while Jason beat Simon Rush 6 & 12 in the semi-finals.

The Junior Girls winner was Catherine Drage, who beat Paula Hughes 13 & 19 when they met in the girls group.

Other winners were:-

Cadet Boys Singles

Adam Burman bt Mark Cockerton -19, 16, 16.

Cadet Girls Singles

Carrie Hunt bt Zoe Evans 7, 11.

Junior Boys Doubles

L.Horton/J.Thompson bt S.Rush/Andrew Bradley 13,10.

Junior Girls Doubles

C.Hunt/P.Hughes bt C.Drage/-Kate McCloskey 13, -17,12.

On the County Championship scene, Worcestershire were again unable to field a full strength 1st team, against visitors Northumberland in Div 1A, and suffered the expected defeat, even though N'berland were also below strength. With Jukes and Green both unavailable, ex Cheshire No.1 Mark Hankey, now living in Kidderminster and recently ranked at No.4 in Worcs, was given his first match for the County. Although looking a little rusty (and slightly heavier than I remember him), he beat the fast improving Barry Forster, having earlier lost to 'Benny' Robertson. Mark Brookes, ranked at No. 9 in Worcs, was given a rare first team appearance and responded well to beat Malcolm Lusk 18, -9, 24 in a superb last set to make the final match score 3-7. Sandra Roden was Worcs' other winner with a good 15 and 17 over Clare Mouzin in the set between the two No.1's.

The Senior 2nd's are still looking for their first point. In poor playing conditions they lost 8-2 away to Avon, Sue Meredith and Ken Walton recording Worcs' 2 victories.

The Juniors continued their winning ways in Div 2B, beating Berkshire 2nd's 9-1 in Worcester. Catherine Drage, Paula Hughes, Jason Thompson and Craig Ward were all unbeaten; Lee Horton losing 23 and 18 to Berkshire's No.1 Marcus North.

The County Veterans recorded their biggest win to date, beating Lancashire 7-2 at Dudley, to maintain their 100% record. Janet Hunt and Ray Dixon were unbeaten, with Roy Norton and Mervyn Wood both dropping a set to Tony Rigby, playing at No.3 for Lancashire.

Thorns British League team won a close match with Bude Surfers 5-3 on 29th October, but then lost 7-1 to Grove the following week, Eric Hardman preventing a whitewash. Nice to see a regular band of supporters at Thorns' home matches. It all helps to create a good atmosphere in the theatre at the Thorns Community College in Quarry Bank. I understand a few more spectators could be fitted in

however! Next home match is on February 18th against Colley Toyota.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

Yorkshire's 2 talented teenagers, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield, have been in great demand during the past weeks, with Michael, named by Don Parker in the Gt.Britain Training Squad for the 1992 Olympics and Chris selected as a member of a very young England squad to compete in the Russian Championships over the final weekend in November.

Michael's preparations took him to the USA to compete in the US Tournament, and the Mirfield lad will be lucky to see much of his home town over the Christmas 'break' for, in the first week of January, he is due to move on to Helsinki for the Finlandia Open, where he will be up against the World's best, not only from Europe, but also from the 'big names' of the Far East.

The absence of the County's Nos. 1 and 2 on International duty has obviously made the task of the Senior side, looking for a quick return to the Premier Division, where everybody in the Broad Acres believes that they rightfully belong, that much more difficult.

But it is said that it is an ill wind... and pleasing feature on the County Championships front has been the way that a number of players who, for one reason or another, had parted company with T.T. at that level, have rallied to the cause. Big plus on the Mens' side is the return of Kevin Beadsley, for the talented left hander has much to offer, and with another left hander, Tim Dyson, also back in the fold and making his presence felt with the 2nd team, there is strength in depth.

With the Ladies, last season's problems look to have been more than adequately resolved now that former International Melody Hill is back in action and Ruth Bray, who made her senior debut at the beginning of the season, has established herself at Premier Division level. Both Helen Shields and Cathy Johnson are producing results, so once again there is depth in the squad, despite the absence of Joanne Shaw, whose work makes it impossible for her to commit herself to County play.

But no chickens are being counted — there is still a long way to go and the memory of that early season draw away to greatest rivals and equally great friends from the other side of the Pennines is still fresh — but if Yorkshire are not back in the top flight next season, it will not be for the want of trying.



Worcestershire Vets Ray Dixon and Sue Meredith.

Counties 7... Regional News 1

Only regional news this month comes from Northallerton, that busy little league on the northern fringes of the county, where the Veterans, with 4 Yorkshire League victories out of four, are making a bold bid for the Division 1 championship.

A hectic 7 days in late November saw a 9-1 victory at Rotherham followed by a home success against Bradford by the same score, while sandwiched between these 2 Yorkshire League outings was a visit from Sunderland in the national Vetts Competition.

The N Yorkshiresmen made progress 5-2 with England No.3 ranked Malcolm Corking the man to return a clean sheet, thus bringing his tally of victories over the 3 matches to 9.

Corking, although based in Cleveland, has thrown in his lot with Yorkshire, provides the solidity needed in the search for honours and, with good support coming from Barry Pearson and Dennis Reed, Northallerton will

take some stopping.

In brief:

Great news to hear that the second of the 3 match Test series against the Peoples Republic of China will be played at Bridlington on Wednesday January 10th.

Details of the European League match against the Netherlands will be found elsewhere, but congratulations to Sheffield — a magnificent venue, excellent organization and a full house.

'Buzz', that former County man Dave Indricks, is playing again in

Bradford, and has ambitions to regain his County spot — welcome back, Dave.

The Yorkshire Closed Championships will be held at Farnley Park, Leeds on Sunday, March 11th. There has been little support over recent years — why not enter and try to bring back that unique atmosphere which the Closed used to have — a 'get-together' of old rivals and old friends? I'll try to get Arthur along — 'come on, lads, Tables's waiting!' Entry forms from me or any Committee member.

Southern Region

by BRIAN LAMERTON

CIPPENHAM lead both the Mens Premier and the Ladies divisions of the Southern Region League and also boast the only regular player with a 100% record in Jacque Lovell.

	P	W	Pts
Mens Premier			
Cippenham 'A'	5	5	11
Kingfisher 'A'	4	4	10
Amity Generation 'A'	5	2	8
Purbrook	4	2	5
Pyestock	4	0	4
Isle of Wight	4	0	1
Mens First Division			
Kingfisher 'B'	5	4	11
Amity Generation 'B'	6	3	10
Our Lady of Peace	4	3	7
Burnham	4	1	5
Cippenham 'B'	5	1	5
Merton	4	2	4
Ladies Division			
Cippenham	3	3	8
Kingfisher	3	3	8
Our Lady of Peace	3	2	4
Aldershot	4	0	3
Isle of Wight	3	0	1

Isle of Wight

by BRIAN LAMERTON

Andrew Crews of Cowes High School won the season's first tournament, The All-Island Handicap played at Newport Vics when he overcame a 7 points start to defeat Adrian Bezzosi of St Lawrence in the final 26-23; 26-23; (glad I wasn't the Umpire!) Two better known names (at present) Pete Urry and Mary Wheeler were defeated semi-finalists. Pete Urry's boast that his Rookley team were the team to watch this season was not an idle one as the following leading positions show:

	P	W	Pts
Rookley	6	6	24
Newport Vics	7	4	22
Sandown	7	5	19
Shanklin	6	4	18

Rookley's next two opponents are Sandown and Shanklin.

Mathew Hobley whose playing form was highlighted last month is now on his way to becoming the Island's only active qualified umpire having successfully negotiated the written paper. Come on the rest of you — don't leave Mathew on his own!

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South West Regional News

by ALF PEPPERD

A VERY sincere and happy, "Not only new year" — but new decade as well to all readers of this column, as we all roll into the 1990's.

One very important part of our chosen sport is unquestionably 'CONTACT' or for want of a better word communications, the gentle art of letting folk know just what's going on in each and everyone's respective area.

Last season's collective series of County reports on the whole balanced out fairly well, November's South West Regional reports — was almost NON-EXISTENT, out of the 7 Counties in the Region, only one County was represented. I sincerely hope that as we move into this new decade press reporting within our area will once again blossom and flourish.

Bob Davis from Cirencester was recently the recipient of a Gold Award made to him in full recognition of special achievements in the field of sport for the whole of the Cotswold area, this award was presented to Bob at the Cirencester Rugby Club on November 20th,

and the actual presentation was made by Mr David Savage of D & J Sports, Cirencester.

Mike Hawkins of the Bath & District League has personally organised a "Junior Friendly", i.e. Bath Juniors v Swindon T.T.L. I understand that thanks are due to the Bathwick Tyres T.T.C. who have accommodated this fixture under their Friday evening club Umbrella.

Mike is seeking to organise further Junior matches for the Bath Association and hopefully has set Weston-S-Mare and Sun Life Bristol in his sights, I understand that it's his intention to play these series of Junior games this season, and if all goes well — then perhaps to take it a step or two further, such work for Juniors is highly commendable, but it should be done through the correct and appropriate channels.

Midland Table Tennis League

by KEVIN SHAW

THE Midland League is now in full swing, having increased its numbers from last year. It now operates 11 Divisions: 3 Mens, 3 Juniors, 4 Veterans and 1 Ladies.

Mens

In the Mens Division I Coventry opened their account in fine style beating Dudley 8-2. Adrian Pilgrim and Mark Randle both collected maximums. Newly promoted Stafford and Chesterfield fought out a close match which saw Chesterfield edge home 6-4, Neil Marples starred for the victors winning 3 sets. Gloucester white-washed Leamington 10-0, while Wolverhampton beat Stafford 8-2 in which Trevor Washington was unbeaten although Stafford's Colin Braxton produced probably his best performance ever to beat Staffordshire champion Andy Rich.

Steve Day produced a brilliant treble for Leicester in their Division 2 fixture with Lincoln, but it went unrewarded as Lincoln produced a fine Team effort to win 6-4. Loughborough thrashed Pontesbury 9-1, Mick Meredith (3), Dave Fox (3) and Alan Watson (2) all hitting top form.

Veterans

In Division I Walsall and Oxford fought out a 5-all draw — Barry O'Brien was unbeaten for Walsall but his efforts were cancelled out by two wins each from Alf Davies and Nat Richardson.

In Division 2 Stroud invaded Stafford and came away with a fine 6-4 win, Alan Giles starred for the victors with 3 wins and Ray Poole supported well winning twice.

Juniors

In Division 1 Birmingham held Gloucester to a 5-5 draw, Nicola Meddings won twice, one of which was a fine win over Raymond Powell (his first defeat in the Midland League for 2 seasons), and Gary Denny also scored twice. Powell and Jeremy Hyatt also scored twice for Gloucester. Coventry 'B' opened their account with a 10-0 win over their 'B' team.

Walsall beat Kidderminster 6-4 in their Division 2 fixture thanks mainly to Dave Hassell's maximum.

Success for 10 year old Kerry

10 years old Kerry Hogarth from Newent (Glo'shire), under the watchful eye of Coach Paddy Jackson scored her first major Open Tournament triumph on Saturday 25th November when she won the class 3 Cadet Girls singles at the Grove two star open Cadet Tournament in Market Drayton Shropshire.

Although the event was restricted to players outside the England Top 40 list, she beat two established players one of whom — N. Smith of Leeds recently won the Cleveland Select Open Tournament beating Kerry in the process.

They met in the Semi-Final and after going down 19 in the first Kerry overcame Smith's steady defence/counter attack with confident and controlled aggression to level the match.

In a very exciting final game Kerry fell behind 13-18 and 16-19 but with a delightful display of temperament and tenacity, fought through to the final by 24-22.

In the Final she met a hard hitting left hander from Nottingham — D. Pestka who succumbed to Kerry's ferocious counter-hitting and good tactics 13 and 16 for what could be the first of many trophies at National level with still 3½ seasons remaining for her at under 14's.

Raymond Powell from Gloucester, another of our strong "up and comers", stepping up from the Cadets to the Under 17 Junior scene this season has not been idle either, he has recently won Class two events at both Bristol and Kent Open Tournaments — Class 2 is restricted to players outside England's Top 20.

OBITUARY

It is always a sad duty to report anyone's sudden departure, more so perhaps when you have played with them and against them.

Michael John (Mike) Morgan died suddenly at his home in London Rd, Gloucester on November 10th 1989 where for many years he and his wife Pat had run a guest house. Aged 55, Mike gave up table tennis several years ago, but in his hey-day in the early 1950's in company with Bryan Merret and David Woodcock and playing for the YMCA in Gloucester, they were for a very long time unbeatable as a team force.

The Gloucester T.T.A. extend commiserations to Mike's wife Pat and children — Paul, Kay, Jackie, Robert and Richard.

Farewell my friend, and rest in peace.

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Europe vs Asia

MAY I please add to John Woodford's letter (T T News Dec.)?

The Event, as I know only too well (it took place in Cleveland two years ago), is very expensive to stage, requiring a partnership of Sponsors, TV, Organisers and Venue Providers. Only when all four main pieces have fallen into place, can such an event go ahead. If one piece drops out, then the whole thing falls apart.

I presume that was indeed Mr Georg Rebmann's problem and such setbacks, in which we have all shared, are inevitable from time to time. He runs the famous A T S V Saarbrücken Club, which last season won a unique treble (German Championship Cup and European Nancy Evans Cup), a tribute to his tireless efforts.

Carl enjoyed two excellent seasons with this great club (though not Des Douglas as was mistakenly stated — All his Bundesliga career was with one club — Borussia Düsseldorf). He left for Zugbrücke, Grenzau, mainly because he saw greater opportunities to concentrate on his international efforts. His recent successes (Semi-Final Austrian Open, Final Hungarian Open, being part of team that won the Hungarian Open Team Event) seem to confirm that his decision was correct.

However, none of this should obscure that the Saarbrücken Club has set new standards of excellence in many fields and so advanced the cause of all Table Tennis. A great deal of this is due to the tireless efforts of Mr Rebmann.

Carl has, incidentally, re-signed for Grenzau in respect of next season and these notes are written in the interest of fair play. I have often disagreed with Mr Rebmann on a number of matters, but his contribution to the sport is substantial and deserves to be recorded.

JOHN PREAN

John Prease replies to Stuart Greenberg A National Disease

I READ Stuart Greenberg's letter (T T News Dec) with surprise and sorrow, particularly with regard to matches between Alan Cooke and Des Douglas (part of Clive Oakman's recent much admired initiative which brought the Secretin/Purkhart exhibitions to this country for a return visit). Stuart describes the matches between our leading players as 'poison' and that is not the unkindest thing he has said! I did not see any of these events, but I DO know that h

players are extremely professional, indeed I have never seen either provide bad value or to give less than their best. One can always argue that 'modern' table tennis does not match that of Leach or Bergmann or Andreadis and Sido, but I see no need to denigrate the efforts of modern players. It seems a national disease.

Come back, Stellan...

The urge to knock, once released, knows no bounds, as subsequently Stuart is critical of our recent success against Sweden. According to Stuart, Sweden fielded only their third best team! The two men were the World No.7 Erik Lindh and the leader of the Grand Prix Points Table Peter Karlsson. The Swedish Team should have included Waldner, Appelgren or Bengtsson! The latter, if the immortal Stellan, retired some years ago or, if Ulf, no longer figures quite at the top of the abundant Swedish tree. On reflection perhaps Swedish selections should, after all, be left to their captain Glen Ost. Whether Cooke and Prean would have repeated their victories against Waldner (European Championships Team Final before 10,000 spectators) who knows? I don't see why they should be criticised for not beating a chap who was not there.

Henk Van Hindsight...

Knocking, too, from an anonymous (alleged) Dutchman (Van-Wise-after-the-Event?). He criticises the English Team selection against Holland. Far be it for me to assume that 'experts' are always right. I, too, would have selected Gordon against Kloppenberg. However, having seen both girls play in the 'Austrian Open', Alison herself will concede that at this time (I hope this will change soon), there is a vast difference in form. I had to conclude that **at this time** the Dutch girl is playing too well.

Mixed Hindsight?

Mixed Doubles? Cooke and Gordon lost both key matches last season (vs Austria and Belgium). Prean and Gordon won both European Mixed Doubles this season (vs Sweden and Poland). The former did reach the Finals of the Polish Open, but should Donald Parker have changed a winning team? Against France Don introduced Skylet Andrew, arguably our best doubles player, but the Mixed again went adrift.

Even with the benefit of hindsight I cannot see that the match was winnable **on the night**. Those who said that Alan Cooke should not have played overlook many brilliant performances of the recent past by a young man who is only 23. It is when players go through bad patches that they need our support most. There is no shortage of 'friends' in fair weather.

Get behind the Players...

Our international future is finely balanced between set-backs (possible relegation from the European Super League) and quite stunning successes elsewhere (note the victory in the Team Event of the Hungarian Open, incl. 3-2 against China). The difference may well be in the support our players get at home in the 'hinterland', whether they get 'knocked' or supported, whether the members are behind them or not.

It is totally pointless to criticise and 'knock' the players. The scoreline tells them whether they have done well or not. There is enough 'suffering' in defeat without 'civilians' adding their boot.

JOHN PREAN

Football Gets Too Much Publicity

REPLYING to Keith Jackson (Mailbox, December), I am in the business of promoting mainly through the Press, the sport of table tennis. Soccer gets more than its fair share. Alan Cole has reasons for playing football on Saturdays in preference to playing for Sussex juniors against for him, weak opposition.

It is my belief that Carl Prean might by now be the European senior champion had he not continued to play in junior events when far too strong for nearly all his opponents. The same principal applies to Alan Cole who naturally prefers to play in senior events, tournaments and Leeds British League. Other top-ranked juniors no doubt, feel the same.

However, the Crawley teenager is far too good a table tennis player to be sidetracked by this argument sparked off in Sussex by Keith Jackson. Alan has spent many hours at coaching sessions in Sussex on the tables coaching and playing and encouraging lesser mortals, so the money spent by Sussex on coaching and fielding junior teams has not been wasted.

Despite having one ear on the Ryder Cup at the Sussex meeting in October, the suggestion that I did not hear the reference to football was an incorrect assumption by the Honourable Gentleman from Haywards Heath!

JOHN WOODFORD



When will our Junior County Leagues be zoned?

HOW LONG can we afford to run our junior leagues in the present format? How long will it be before we run out of people durable enough to withstand 500-mile treks to outlying counties?

On Friday 24th November our County Junior team set off at 3.30pm to travel to Bude in Cornwall. Seven and a half hours later (plus one break down) they checked into their hotel in Bude. The game was played at 11am the following morning in very friendly and hospitable circumstances. The journey home commenced at 3pm and finished at 9pm. A tiring couple of days by any standards!

As for the cost — two cars travelling a total of nine hundred and ninety eight miles, £119.76. (The county policy is generous in paying 12p a mile for each driver and allowing a meal) The cost of meals was £22.50. The bed and breakfast cost £8.50 per head — £59.50. A grand total of £201.76.

Is it worth it?

GEORGE STEDMAN

Junior Match Secretary

2 High Ridge Close,

Arundel, W Sussex BN18 9ES

...Ask Annual Conference

I AM pleased to have the opportunity of replying to Mr. George Stedman's letter. The matter he has raised is an old chestnut as I feel sure he realises.

As Champions of Junior Division 2C last season, Cornwall 1st team were entitled to promotion to either Junior Division 1A or 1B. They were placed in Division 1B, the obvious choice, as it comprises Counties with a Southern bias.

It must be said that with one possible exception, teams participating in that Division and playing away to Cornwall, all have great distances to travel. Unfortunately zoning would not remove this particular problem because Cornwall is one of the outposts of Table Tennis.



Mailbox 2

It is usual for other County teams within the same Division to have to visit Cornwall in alternate years, but for just one moment Mr. Stedman, please give some thought to the distances the Cornwall teams have to travel every Season and without demur.

There is only one obvious solution, and that would have been for the teams within the Division to have got together as soon as the composition of the Division was known, and with the Administrator's approval first obtained, to arrange to play matches over two or more weekends at a centralised venue, as teams in other Divisions have done.

County Championships' Regulations provide that there shall be two First Divisions each consisting of eight teams so that nothing can presently be done to reduce the number of teams within those Divisions. It has been suggested that the number of teams within the lower Divisions could be reduced, where possible, to the minimum of six as allowed by Regulations. Whilst this would obviously bring about a saving in expenses by reducing the number of matches played, there is no guarantee that it would prevent teams having to travel long distances. In any case, I have gained the impression from what has taken place in the past that Counties do not favour participating in a Division where so few fixtures are available.

In conclusion, I would respectfully remind Mr. Stedman that the right and proper place to raise such matters is through his County Association Representative at the Championships Annual Conference.

DOUG. YOUNG
Chairman
County Championships Committee

Confused Blue Coat

I WAS pleased to be selected for the inaugural Top 12 Tournament at Milton Keynes in 1985 with the knowledge that I would be expected to meet the cost of one night's accommodation.

Imagine my surprise and dented ego when an article in the November 1985 "TABLE TENNIS NEWS" stated "If it depends on who can afford to pay, we'll end up with the dregs of the umpiring fraternity at events".

If I'm offered expenses (which is rare), I never claim more than the cost of petrol but today I received a circular on national events setting out a sliding scale agreed with Marketing as follows:- Car with one umpire 4p per mile, Two umpires 6p per mile, Three umpires 8p per mile and so on.

This seems to penalise my County which only has two umpires of the required status for these events so even if we're lucky to be selected together, the best we can hope for, with a vehicle doing 35 to the gallon, is for petrol money only, but if either of us is the sole representative, as is usually the case, a mere £1.40 towards a £1.86 gallon!

Putting something back into the game looks like keeping me in the "dregs" category until my enthusiasm is overtaken by financial ruin.

HOWARD WILLIS
International Umpire
Avon

In Support of Syd Fryer

THERE IS a lot of sense in what Syd Fryer says in his letter (Table Tennis News November), "That in either recruiting the non-playing public to our ranks, or selling the sport on T.V., it requires experts to achieve it."

Recently at the All-Japan Ladies and All-Japan Club Team Championships many colour experiments were used with the objective to bettering the appearance of the sport in the eyes of the spectators.

The observations report by Dr Rufford J Harrison, Chairman ITTF Equipment Committee about the colour experiments for the table, floor, balls, clothing and net which were tried at the championships was most informative and interesting.

One of the observations in the report was that as there were virtually no spectators at the championships the opinion of the public was not available. I also add that there was no T.V. executive present to assist in finding the best appeal for T.V. audiences, nor were sports journalists invited to witness the experiments.

To meet the intense T.V. competition from other sports, Table Tennis needs a centre court appearance including colour for the umpire and his podium from where he can be seen. The referee could wear a white jacket to be easily recognisable.

The JTTA and Japan manufacturers are to be congratulated on the innovations presented, but with all our experiments I agree with Syd Fryer that it is important that we consult, not only table tennis people, but also people from "outside" to be sure of the best image.

KEN WILKINSON
ITTF Vice-President
OCEANIA
59 Garden Rd, Avalon,
Lower Hutt, New Zealand

NORTH v SOUTH FOOTBALL MATCH The Way It Was!!!

by A. SOUTHERNER

It was once said that football was a matter of life and death, but Bill Shankley replied that it was much more important than that. This was the true passion that went into the first North v South match.

From the offset it was clear that sacrifices made by the Southern team in preparing themselves for such a quest were to pay dividends.

Matthew Syed must be mentioned for his excellent marking of the corner flag which as a result had a very quiet game.



The highly rated Northerners could never come to terms with the tactical ploy of playing in our penalty area for much of the first half, only for us to strike when they least expected. A scorching side foot from Paul Elphick opened the scoring after John Hilton had been deceived by the wobble and bounce of a corner.

The Northern forwards continued to bemoan their fate as several chances were first allowed, only for Andy Lomas in the Southern goal to stand laughing at such frail attempts.

In the second half the full power of the South's forwards came into play. Intricate passing and subtle skills were disregarded in favour of the "Up and Under" with Mason taking full advantage of the defensive weaknesses to score with a header after a move conjured out of nothing by Gray, Lewis and Moore in the midfield.

As we relaxed the North scored with a fortunate rebound totally against the run of play, but Mason soon put the South further ahead. His 'Maradonna' type run through the North defence leaving goalkeeper Worrall helpless. This despite the threat of being banned for two years by the pedestrian Parker, whose position in defence was somewhat obscure.

The South's rearguard of Sandley, Satchell, Baldwin and Simon Marsh were flawless throughout. The highlight came when Tony Taylor contrived an acrobatic fall from the merest of touches and the no penalty decision was upheld despite Taylor threatening to take his ball home.

Andy Lomas continued to frustrate the whole Northern side as his "Candy from a Baby" jeers rang out around the ground much to the displeasure of the opposition.

The final result a 3-1 win to the South thoroughly deserved !!

Apartheid and Olympism

DURING its meeting held at Puerto Rico on 27th, 28th and 29th August 1989, the I.O.C. Executive Board has reasserted its position regarding the policy of apartheid in sport. It has thus adopted the recommendation of the I.O.C. Commission for Apartheid and Olympism meeting on the 26th and 27th August **not to admit for the Olympic competition in Barcelona in 1992 those athletes having participated in sports competitions in South Africa FROM SEPTEMBER 1st, 1989 ONWARDS**, I would be grateful if NOC'S take the necessary measures.

Thanking you in advance for your taking good note of these decisions, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
FRANÇOIS CARRARD
Director General
International Olympic Committee



ENGLISH OPEN Thursday 4th January to Sunday 7th January 1990 at Bowlers Leisure Centre, Trafford Park, Manchester

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Saturday: Individual Events, Semi Final and Final. International Team Competition
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TOP 12 Saturday 30th December 1989 Commencing at 11.00am

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Tickets (including programme): Adults £3.00 Children/OAP's £2.00

Available from: Clacton Leisure Centre Tel: 0255 429647 and Peter White, Clacton League Tel: 0255 425292

on Tuesday 9th January 1990 at 7.15pm
at Orton Bushfields Sports Centre,
Peterborough, Cambs Tel: 0733 234018

Tickets available from:
Venue or Julian Tee Tel: 0733 322796
or Peterborough Table Tennis Centre,
Rock Road, Peterborough

CHINA TOUR See Top Chinese players against England

on Wednesday 10th January 1990
commencing at 7.30pm
at The Spa Royal Hall, South Marine Drive,
Bridlington, East Yorkshire

Box Office Tel: 0262 678258

on Thursday 11th January 1990
commencing at 7.00pm
at Gateshead Leisure Centre, Alexandra
Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear

The Centre Tel: 091 477 3939

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL — England v Czechoslovakia

Tuesday 13th February, 1990 at Bude Haven Sports Centre, Bude, Cornwall. Tickets from: Peter Hancock Tel: 0566 3625

Admission Charge: (including programme) Adults £4.00 Children/OAP's £2.50



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Premier Weekend

Sat/Sun 20th/21st January 1990

at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes

Sat: Session 1 and 2/ Sun: Session 3

Participants: Middx, Leics, Lancs, Surrey, Berks, Derby, Essex,
Devon. Contact: ETA Office Tel: 0424 722525



BRITISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TOP OF THE TABLE FIXTURES

on Sunday 28th January 1990 — 2.30pm
at Grove School, Stafford Street,
Market Drayton, Shrops.

Grove 1 v Ormesby 1 Contact: Ian Marshall Tel: 0630 3602

CLEVELAND 5 STAR and BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT

Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th January, 1990 at Thornaby Pavilion, Allensway, Thornaby, Cleveland Tel: 0642 760971

Organiser: Alan Ransome Tel: 0642 223333

COTSWOLD JUNIOR 2 STAR SELECT

Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th February 1990

at Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way, Gloucester

Box Office: Tel: 0452 306 788

Organiser: Mr M. Reeves Tel: 0452 713840

BURMAH WILTSHIRE 5 STAR

Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th February, 1990

at Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westleagh, Swindon, Wilts

Tel: 0793 871212 Organiser: Bill Willson Tel: 0793 536498

Please note Closing Date 5 Jan — not 26 Jan as previously stated.

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