

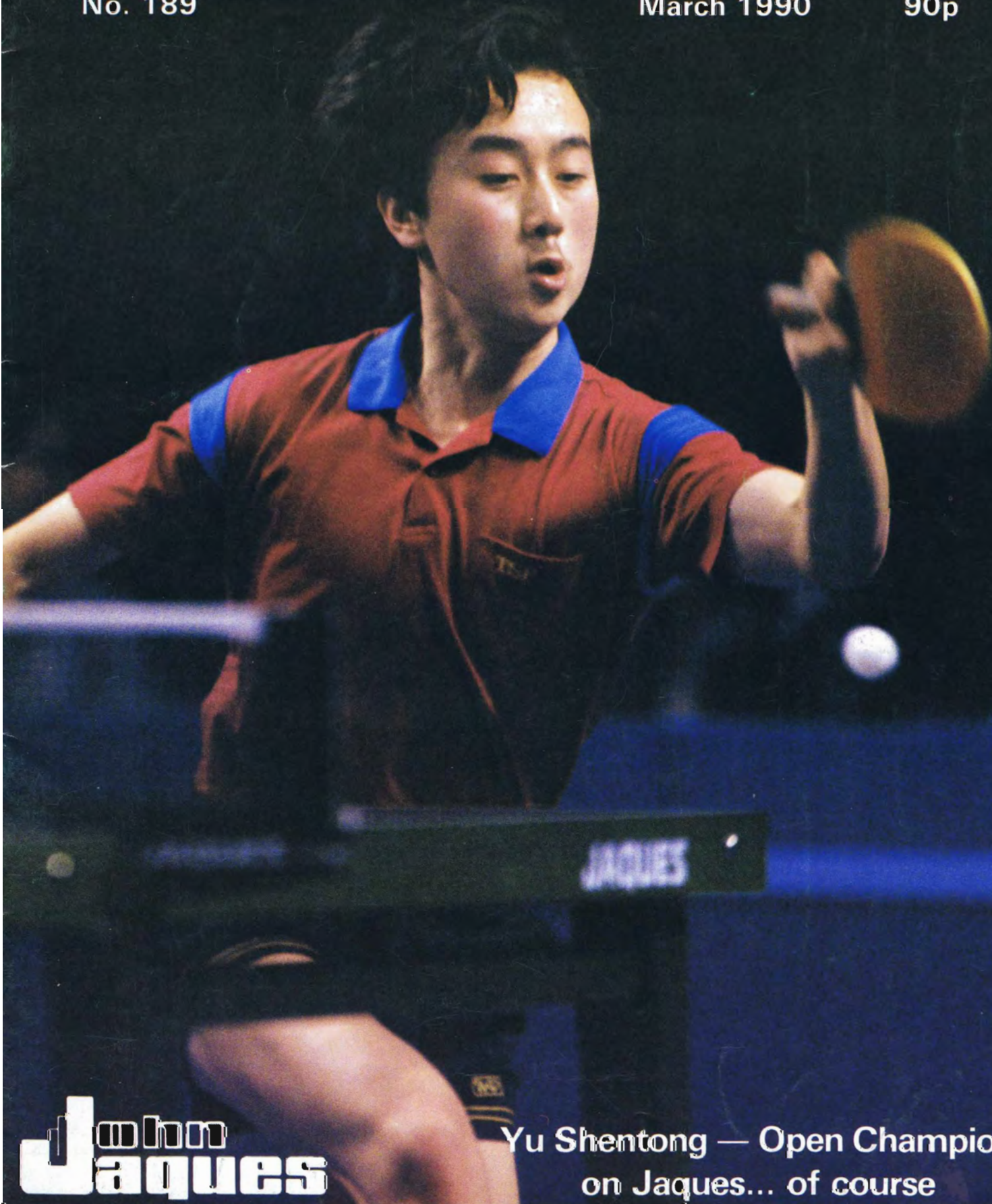


Table Tennis News

No. 189

March 1990

90p



Jaques

Yu Shentong — Open Champion
on Jaques... of course

Going for Gold

Gothenburg in Sweden this year hosts Europe's premier Table Tennis Event the European Championships which take place from 8 — 16 April. Last year England's men came very close to topping the World Champions; gaining a silver medal — this year we hope to go one better and take the gold. If our men all come good on the day then we are in with a real chance of attaining that dream.

England at full strength

We will be sending out our strongest team — Alan Cooke, Desmond Douglas, Carl Prean and Skylet Andrew. Although our female players are not as strong as the men at the present time a full complement of ladies Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt will be battling hard to justify the Management Committee's vote of confidence by sending a squad of four in their efforts to get a firmer footing a few rungs higher on the European ladder.

Support us at Bexleyheath

If your heart can stand the strain then the Crook Log Sports Centre, Bexleyheath is the place to be at 7pm on the 6th of March. England take on the might of the Federal Republic of Germany in the match that will decide if we are to retain our place in the European Super League next season. If our supporters get right behind the team as at Bude then we can certainly do a "Houdini" and avoid the drop.

ALAN PICKARD



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ALAN PICKARD

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★ **COVER
PICTURE**

Yu Shentong, winner of the Leeds English Open Men's title, was brought down to earth in the China tour which followed, losing three times to Alan Cooke. (photo by Action-Plus Photographic)

★

Stiga European Top 12 Champions dethroned

by GEORGE R. YATES



BOTH the world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, and Olga Nemes of the Federal Republic of Germany, lost their titles in the Stiga Europe Top 12 played in the Stadion-Sporthalle, Hannover over the period January 19/21, 1990.

Waldner in the final of the men's section lost to his compatriot Mikael Appelgren while the second reserve, Gabriella Wirth of Hungary, accounted for Miss Nemes in the women's final. England's only representative, Carl Prean, finished joint fifth with Jorg Roskopf of the host country.

Breaking with tradition on the all-play-all basis the twelve players in each section were split into two groups of six with semi-finals being contested by the winners of each group playing the cross-over runners-up.

In the men's section Waldner, despite losing to Roskopf, topped Group A with Appelgren the second placed player although losing to both Waldner and Ilija Lupulescu of Yugoslavia. In Group B Sweden's Jorgen Persson kept a clean sheet to finish top with Andrzej Grubba, losing only to Persson, the runner-up.

Prean was located in Group B and began with a 3-0 win over Zoran Primorac of Yugoslavia, a result emphatically reversed when opposed by Grubba. No joy either when next in opposition to Persson who won 3-1 but success against Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union, 18 in the fifth only to go down for the third time when beaten 3-1 by Erik Lindh of Sweden.

But, on count-back, the Isle of Wight player, claimed third spot over Primorac and Lindh who also finished with two wins and three losses and, along with Roskopf, picked up 1,500 Swiss francs as joint fifth.

In the semi-finals Waldner beat Grubba (3-1) and Appelgren had a 3-2 triumph over Persson with Appelgren, as the ultimate winner, picking up 5,500 Swiss francs to Waldner's 3,900.

Much furor was created, especially by the Swedes, at the inclusion of Otilia Badescu of Romania whose association had initially refused her invitation but, following the uprising in that country, subsequently requested her reinstatement. It was eventually put to the jury for that body to decide which they did in the Romanian girl's favour by 9 votes to 3.

Unbeknown to Badescu, the girl was reported to have hitch-hiked to Hannover from Bucharest in the hope that she could be included without knowing of the ETTU's agreement that she should travel following the withdrawal, through injury, of Hungary's Edit Urban. Initially Jasna Fazlic of Yugoslavia had been invited to replace Badescu but Miss Wirth, as the second reserve, was also included when the Soviet Union would not give Flaura Bulatova their permission to play.

Thus the argument of the Swedes for the inclusion of Marie Svensson was resolved although not to the liking of the Swedish delegation who did not agree with the reinstatement of Badescu after her association had initially said no.

In Group A of the women's section Mirjam Kloppenburg headed the four players who finished winning three sets and losing two with Miss Wirth, who lost to the Dutch girl, adjudged second.

Wang Xiao Ming, of France, headed Group B losing only to Hungary's Csilla Batorfi with Miss Nemes second. In the semis Wirth beat Wang and Nemes accounted

for Kloppenburg, the Hungarian going on to beat Nemes 18 and 19 in the final.

The new system of play was voted a success with only three tables being used at any one time and plenty of rest periods between the action. End results:-

MEN

Semi-finals:

J-O. Waldner (SWE) b A. Grubba (POL) 17, -18, 16, 19;
M. Appelgren (SWE) b J. Persson (SWE) -18, 11, 18, -17, 12

Final:

APPELGREN b Waldner 10, 17, -18, 22

Positions 3 and 4

A. Grubba b J. Persson 12, 15, 13.

WOMEN

Semi-Finals:

O. Nemes (FRG) b M. Kloppenburg (HOL) 5, 19;
G. Wirth (HUN) b Wang Xiao Ming (FRA) -18, 16, 11.

Final:

WIRTH b Nemes 18, 19

Positions 3 and 4

Wang Xiao Ming b M. Kloppenburg 17, 14

Finishing Positions

MEN

- 1 M. Appelgren (SWE)
- 2 J-O. Waldner (SWE)
- 3 A. Grubba (POL)
- 4 J. Persson (SWE)
- 5 C. Prean (ENG)
- J. Roskopf (FRG)
- 7 L. Kucharski (POL)
- Z. Primorac (YUG)
- 9 I. Lupulescu (YUG)
- E. Lindh (SWE)
- 11 J-M. Saive (BEL)
- A. Mazunov (URS)

WOMEN

- 1 G. Wirth (HUN)
- 2 O. Nemes (FRG)
- 3 Wang Xiao Ming (FRA)
- 4 M. Kloppenburg (HOL)
- 5 A. Safarova (TCH)
- V. Popova (URS)
- 7 O. Badescu (ROM)
- C. Batorfi (HUN)
- 9 D. Guergueltcheva (BUL)
- M. Hrachova (TCH)
- 11 R. Kasalova (TCH)
- J. Fazlic (YUG)

PREAN'S GROUP RESULTS

- b Z. Primorac (YUG) 20, 11, 18;
1 A. Grubba (POL) -15, -14, -18;
1 J. Persson (SWE) -18, 14, -15, -13;
b A. Mazunov (URS) 20, -6, 15, -9, 18;
1 E. Lindh (SWE) -15, 17, -14, -16.



Jan-Ove Waldner the 1989 Euro Top 12 title-holder beaten in the final by compatriot Mikael Appelgren. (Photo by John F.A. Wood)

European League

France en route

by GEORGE YATES

AWAY to Czechoslovakia in Topolcany on Jan 23 France bounced back from an opening set deficit, inflicted by Tomas Janci over Olivier Marmurek, to reel off five successive wins and eventually win 5-2 when Marmurek, in the final set, lost to Petr Korbel.

Both Jean-Philippe Gatien and Wang Xiao Ming kept clean sheets with Marmurek tasting success in the men's doubles when partnered by Gatien. Scores:-

T. Janci b O. Marmurek 17, 21; P. Korbel l J-P. Gatien -21, -7; A. Safarova l Wang Xiao Ming -19, -12; Janci/P. Javurek l Gatien/Marmurek 14, -18, -15; Korbel/Safarova l Gatien/Wang Xiao Ming -22, -12; Janci l Gatien 18, -19, -14; Korbel b Marmurek 7, 11.

Meanwhile in Lenhovda, the Federal Republic of Germany advanced their cause with a 4-3 win over Sweden whose Erik Lindh beat Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner and Marie Svensson had a 2-straight win over Olga Nemes! Both Rosskopf and Fetzner had wins over Peter Karlsson, the German pair taking the men's doubles and Rosskopf and Nicole Struse the mixed. Scores:-

P. Karlsson l S. Fetzner -21, 19, -19; E. Lindh b J. Rosskopf 19, 17; M. Svensson b O. Nemes 18, 11; Karlsson/T. von Scheele l Rosskopf/Fetzner -14, -11; Lindh/Svensson l Rosskopf/N. Struse 17, -24, -18; Karlsson l Rosskopf -14, -14; Lindh b Fetzner 14, 17.

In Delph the Netherlands had a 4-3 win over Poland neither side being at full strength. But, from being 2-0 down, the Dutch team had a winning 4-2 lead cut to 4-3 in the final set when Jaroslav Kolodziejczyk won his second singles of the night against Gerard Bakker having previously accounted for Danny Heister. Scores:-

D. Heister l J. Kolodziejczyk -19, 13, -18; G. Bakker l P. Skierski 20, -18, -20; G. Keen b A. Gieraga 12, 7; Heister/F. Boute b Skierski/Kolodziejczyk 20, -16, 16; Bakker/M. Kloppenburg b Kolodziejczyk/Gieraga 12, -27, 14; Heister b Skierski 16, 15; Bakker l Kolodziejczyk -21, -15.

Remaining Fixtures

Mar 6
Netherlands v France (Huizen)
Czechoslovakia v Sweden (Bratislava)
England v F. R. Germany (Bexley)
Poland v Yugoslavia

Belgium continue to dominate in **Division 1** having, at the time of writing, an outstanding match at home to Turkey. In a recent battle of the underdogs Finland brought off their first win of the season when, at home to Denmark, they won 4-3 to leave their victims still searching for their first win.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Belgium	4	4	0	23	5	4
Hungary	5	4	1	27	8	4
Austria	5	4	1	26	9	4
Bulgaria	5	4	1	21	14	4
Italy	5	1	4	16	19	1
Turkey	4	1	3	7	21	1
Finland	5	1	4	6	29	1
Denmark	5	0	5	7	28	0

Spain currently rule the roost in **Division 2** having dropped but one set in five matches.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Spain	5	5	0	34	1	5
Norway	5	4	1	21	14	4
Switzerland	3	3	0	15	6	3
Luxembourg	7	3	4	23	26	3
Ireland	7	3	4	21	28	3
Scotland	5	2	3	19	16	2
Wales	5	2	3	9	26	2
Greece	7	0	7	12	37	0

Portugal are to host the **Division 3** round-robin over the weekend of Feb 24/25 the visitors being Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein and Malta.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION Europe Club Cup of Champions 1989/90

RESULTS of Round 3, Men's Section (Nov 25/89)

Borussia Düsseldorf (FRG)	- TTC CA Stokerau (AUT)	5:1
Royale Vilette Charleroi (BEL)	- Levallois UTT (FRA)	2:5
Stonoteniski Club Partizan (YUG)	- De Blaeuwe Werelt (HOL)	5:2
ATSV Saarbrücken (FRG)	- Malmö FF (SWE)	5:4

RESULTS of Round 3, Women's Section (Nov 25/89)

Statistika PSC (HUN)	- Clycan Sovereigns (ENG)	5:0
SpVg Steinhagen (FRG)	- Wlokniaz Łódź (POL)	5:3
Trade Unions Moscow (URS)	- Mölndals BTK (SWE)	5:0
Vitkovice Ostrava (TCH)	- ASTK Mladost Zagreb (YUG)	3:5

PREVIEW of the SEMI FINALS, Men's Section (Feb 24/90)

Home Team	Away Team
Levallois UTT (FRA)	- Borussia Düsseldorf (FRG)
Stonoteniski Club Partizan (YUG)	- ATSV Saarbrücken (FRG)

PREVIEW of the SEMI-FINALS, Women's Section (Feb 24/90)

Home Team	Away Team
Statistika PSC (HUN)	- SpVg Steinhagen (FRG)
ASTK Mladost Zagreb (YUG)	- Trade Unions Moscow (URS)

6th Stiga Junior Europa Top 12 — Vichy

Final Placings

Boys

1. Wosik (FRG); 2. Samsonov (URS); 3. Grujic (YUG); 4. Olejnik (TCH); 5. Lundquist (SWE); 6. Pagonyi (HUN); 7. Tran (FRA); 8. Schlager (AUT); 9. Janasek (TCH); 10. Szafranek (POL); 11. Hantzis (GRE); 12. Jepsen (DEN)

Girls

1. Kravchenko (URS); 2. Schall (FRG); 3. Wirth (HUN); 4. Ello (HUN); 5. Kusch (URS); 6. Vachovcova (TCH); 7. Litinskaja (URS); 8. Tauschkanova (URS); 9. Kostromina (URS); 10. Lichter (URS); 11. Derrien (FRA); 12. Mladkova (TCH)

(Courtesy of I.T.T.F. Bulletin)

Dutch Closed Championships

Paul Haldan was the winner of the men's singles event in the Netherlands Closed beating Danny Heister -18, 13, 14, -20, 14 in the final. The counterpart women's event was won by Gerdie Keen with an 18, 17, -15, -15, 14 win over Mirjam Kloppenburg.

In the men's semi's Haldan beat Ron van Spanje and Heister beat Henk van Spanje. Kloppenburg had a semi-final win over Emily Noor and Keen beat Pat de Groot. Other results:-

Men's Doubles:

Heister/F. Boute b H & R. van Spanje 18, 16

Women's Doubles:

Keen/B. Huntelerslag b Noor/de Groot 12, -18, 17

Mixed Doubles:

Heister/Noor b M. Hoevers/M. Muller -19, 22, 17

Coaching

BY
ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL
TABLE TENNIS COACH

Coaching — Summer Schools — Exhibitions

1990/91 CREST U/12 SQUAD ASSESSMENT CAMPS

DETAILS

Date: May 11, 12, 13) Arrive Friday 8.00pm
May 18, 19, 20) Depart Sunday 3.00pm

Accom: Crest Hotel, Luton

Venue: Luton Regional Sports Centre, Stopsley, Luton

Cost: £30 inclusive of accom., all meals & transport

Players for the 1990/91 Crest U/12 Squad will be selected from these 2 camps. The Squad will consist of approx. 14 players and will have 5/6 weekend camps during the season.

If you would like to attend the assessment camps please send for a booking form or tel:

Jackie Bellinger
123 Rochford Drive
Luton LU2 8SU
Tel: 0582 450956

Disappointment in Vranje

by JILL PARKER

THE TEAM of Alan Cooke, Skylet Andrew, Fiona Elliot and myself departed three days prior to the European League match against Yugoslavia from Heathrow.

At Belgrade we were met by the Yugoslavian Association and transported to our hotel. We had two practice sessions at Lupulescu and Primorac's club in Belgrade on the Sunday arranged by the Yugoslavian captain Karakasevic, followed by two arduous games of 'Scrabble' — won by the girls I hasten to add.

We started out Monday morning for the journey to Vranje, a small town near Bulgaria. A 4½ hour journey with us all cramped into one car. When we arrived, we were taken to our hotel, a converted monastery 40 minutes from the sport hall. A very picturesque part of the country, but our journeys to and from were rather frightening at times especially when it was icy, as there were no barriers stopping us from veering over the steep winding roads down into the valley.

Because of the long journey from Belgrade, it was felt that to send Carl Prean after he had played in the European Top 12 in Hannover would have been too much and he would not have played his best. Therefore Alan and Skylet, who both have had good track records against Lupu and Prim were selected along with Fiona who beat Fazlic in the French Open in December.

Our match was at the new Vranje Sports Hall which was very large and very cold. Play was on two tables with a very enthusiastic crowd of about 2000. The two mens singles went on simultaneously. From a captain's point of view, I found this very difficult as I was having to try and watch both games at the same time. Unfortunately we lost both singles in a fairly short time to be followed by the womens singles and mens doubles. Playing some very exciting table tennis Fiona beat Fazlic 21-13, 21-18. A very deserved win. Skylet and Alan lost two 10's against the formidable pair of Lupulescu and Primorac and with the match score standing at 3-1 against us Skylet and Fiona went on to play Lupu/Fazlic in the mixed doubles. The Yugoslavs have won many international titles, so Sky and Fiona were up against an extremely good pair. We lost the first and had chances in the second,

but unfortunately lost it at deuce. This brought the match score to 4-1. With the two mens singles left to play and Alan and Sky a little dejected, we lost the match 6-1. A little disappointing, but on paper all three Yugoslavs are ranked higher in Europe than our players.

The games were closely fought, but on the day, we did not get the breaks. I was very pleased to see Fiona play so well, especially as she has worked so hard this season to improve her topspin, thereby adding a new dimension to her game. This was one match that the women excelled!

The decision to send a well prepared team did not pay off, but of course this was not helped by all the internal travel, particularly on the day of the match with the 'toing and froing' from the hotel to the hall.

The epic trip reached a climax when we awoke at 2.30am in the morning for the journey back to

Belgrade to catch our 9.40 flight to London. By the time I got home, I had been travelling non-stop for 18 hours and of course with a defeat the journey felt even longer.

RESULTS

Primorac bt Andrew 21-17, 21-19
Lupulescu bt Cooke 21-17, 22-20
Fazlic lost to Elliot 13-21, 18-21
Primorac/Lupulescu bt Cooke/
Andrew 21-10, 21-10
Lupulescu/Fazlic bt Andrew/
Elliot 21-9, 22-20
Primorac bt Cooke 21-18, 21-12
Lupulescu bt Andrew 21-18,
21-19

WINNERS: YUGOSLAVIA by 6:1

Fiona Elliot our only player to get on the scoresheet in Vranje.



Edwina Currie to Open Women's Seminar

by JOSE RANSOME

ONE of Britain's best known public figures, former Junior Health Minister Edwina Currie, M.P., has accepted an invitation from the Women's Committee to open and give the keynote speech at the Women in Table Tennis Training Seminar at British Coal's Technical Department Lecture Theatre, Bretby Centre, Stanhope Bretby, South Derbyshire, on Saturday, 17th March.

Mrs. Currie, who is the local member of Parliament, sees women's involvement in sport and recreation as being extremely important for the wellbeing of the whole population, and we hope that her speech will add impetus to the Women in Table Tennis campaign.

The Seminar has been designed particularly to attack the problem of the low numbers of women and girls who are participating at the local level and to encourage those who are involved to move on towards achieving their full potential in the organisation.

A recent survey confirmed that whilst there is now a greater awareness at the national level, as a result mainly of the highly successful Leeds Women's British League weekends and the International Series against West Germany, very little change has taken place at the

local level. At this Seminar we hope to formulate a plan to redress the current imbalance between male and female membership, starting with encouraging women to organise sessions at local sports centres and then to promote the sport to schoolgirls once there are suitable places for them to play and more coaching available.

The Seminar is particularly aimed at county and local league representatives together with Regional Chairmen, Women's co-ordinators and Coaching Chairmen and, in fact, anyone else who may be interested in the development of table tennis for women and girls.

For further information, please contact either Jose Ransome Tel: 0642 322223, or Diccon Gray, the Development Officer at the E.T.T.A. office at Hastings.

Edwina Curry - former Junior Health Minister.



THE LEEDS YOUTH CUP Nationwide search for Youth Stars

HUNDREDS of ambitious young sporting enthusiasts competed over the weekend (10/11 February) for a place at the Leeds Youth Cup Table Tennis final in London later this spring.

Ten regional finals in the Leeds Permanent Building Society sponsored event, were held at venues as far afield as Southampton and Middlesbrough. A spectacular national final is scheduled to take place at London's Queen Mother Sports Centre on 28 May.

The English Table Tennis Association in conjunction with the English School's Table Tennis Association organised each regional competition to include junior (under 17) boy's and girl's singles and doubles, and cadet (under 14) boy's and girl's singles, but only four singles winners at each venue will qualify for the national final.

The top 2 ranked juniors and cadets on the national ranking list gain automatic entry to the final with top juniors Neil Bevan (Bude) and Sally Marling (Hull) and cadets Alex Perry (Crediton) and Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield) tipped as favourites for the trophies.

Each finalist, along with a parent or coach, will receive expenses towards their travel to London for this ever-popular tournament.

England send Team of Eight to European Championships

ENGLAND team captain Donald Parker has selected his strongest possible squad for the 17th European Table Tennis Championships to be held in Gothenburg from 8th to 16th April 1990.

In 1988 the England men's team earned the silver medal, being defeated by Sweden in a dramatic final. Parker has selected the four England leading men to attempt an improvement on that position. The team will be Alan Cooke (Chesterfield), Carl Prean (Ryde, Isle of Wight), Desmond Douglas (Walsall) and Skylet Andrew (Stratford).

The women's team, captained by former European Champion, Jill Hammersley-Parker, consists of Alison Gordon (Reading), Lisa Lomas (Dunstable), Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton) and Andrea Holt (Bury).

The European Championships will be played at "Scandinavium" the site of the 1985 World Championships, which has a capacity of over 12,000 spectators. The team events are to be played from 8th to 11th April and the individual events from 13 to 16th April.



British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Grove I Drop a Point

by MIKE LOVEDER

ONE of the 'unluckiest' young men playing in the Premier Division this period must be Grove's Sean Gibson who lost at 19 in the third to Ormesby's Dave Hannah and 20 in the third to John Broe. However Grove salvaged a draw as their Man of the Match Bradley Billington beat Broe and Michael O'Driscoll. Chen Xinhua once again beat both Des Douglas and Alan Cooke (11 & 19) and (17 & 14) respectively.

Bathwick Tyres I, in third place, beat Ellenborough 7-1 as Colin Wilson beat John Souter. Butterfly Cardiff beat Armada 400 by the same score and Dulwich Rams beat Kettler Sport 6-2.

Grove II crushed West Warwickshire 7-1 in Division 1 North. St Neots retained second place with a 6-2 win over Bayer Bradford and Well Connected Menswear beat Chan Construction by the same score for third place. Bottom-placed Ruston Marconi Lincoln took a point from City of Leeds which now seems to leave the division in two clear halves.

Ashford retain top spot in Division 1 South with a 5-3 win over Horsham Dolphins. Team Peniel, one point behind the leaders, pushed Chelmsford down to third place with a 5-3 win. Rejects recorded the divisions twentieth 5-3 win against TSP Larkhall. Scott Greenbrook came back from 4-9 down in the third against Mike Hammond to win through 21-14. John Payne lost to Greenbrook too but managed to talk his way to a victory over Jerome Jonah. Colley Toyota shared the points with Britannia Anglia Commercial for both teams to stay in the relegation zone.

In Division 2 Midland Grove III crashed 1-7 to VPM Mazda who are starting to gain some impressive results to move up the table. This left Burslem comfortably on top following their 6-2 victory over Birmingham SC. Cheltenham Saracens beat White Hart Launceston 5-3 to stay third. Bath edge up the table with a 5-3 win over Royal Mail Leicester.

Concord Flash, in Division 2 South, lost 3-5 to Victory Sports Tonbridge, and were consequently caught up by Fellows Cranleigh who were only able to draw with Horsham Dolphins II. Rejects seconds came second in their match, losing 3-5 to a revitalised TSP Larkhall II. Ellenborough II chalked up their fourth victory of

the season with a 6-2 win over Jolliffe Poole.

There appears to have been little activity in Division 2 North although I'm told that Liverpool beat Oldham 5-3 which keeps them in the top half of the division. Seat

Division 3 South sees Deptford Rams II continuing to run away as their challengers fall back. Pillinger Air Croydon had their progress halted by Gunnersbury Triangle who beat them 5-3. Rejects III managed to move off the bottom of



Bradley Billington - Man of the Match against Ormesby.

Peterborough continue their unbeaten run in Division 3 East and open up a seven point lead which should guarantee their promotion. Their 6-2 defeat of Lincoln this period left the Crusaders at the foot of the table. The Milton Keynes challenge seems to have fizzled out with two consecutive 3-5 losses, the latest being to Fellows Cranleigh. Brentwood TTC dropped a valuable point to Britannia AC whose new lease of life has moved them off the bottom. Team Peniel II beat Levi's Westfield 5-3 to consolidate their mid-table position.

Blaydon YC move off the bottom of Division 3 North with a 6-2 win against the Telford Tigers. Humberside Andro continue at the top with a 5-3 win over Bri-Bar Byker. Ormesby recorded the same score against SEE SW Durham. Vymura International hold 3rd place with a 5-3 win against Concorde Huddersfield.

the division by virtue of beating the Lambeth 4 Tops 6-2. One more win may see them safe...

Colley Toyota II stay one point ahead of AHW Comets in Division 3 West. Colley beat Grove IV 6-2 while Comets beat Bude Surfers 7-1. Kingfisher Reading move up to third place with a 5-3 win over Bathwick Tyres III. Leckie TTC move up above Thorns TTC having just beaten them by the convincing score of 7-1.

My thanks to Alan Woolven, Press Officer of Victory Sports Tonbridge, who very quickly submitted to me a copy of his 'blow by blow' account (5 pages!) of their match with Concord Flash in Division 2 South. The following is a summary: Paul Rainford suffered a 15 & 20 defeat by James Oyekunle as the latter served very well and blasted any loose returns. Mark Brown's varied game levelled the score as he beat Miss Kuburat Owolabi 21 & 15. Ayoade

Ademakinwa apparently talked his way to an 18 & 21 victory over Neil Harris followed by Mark Romano beating Adewale Ariyibi 15 & 17.

It was Paul Rainford who put Tonbridge ahead for the first time with a decisive 15 & 14 win over Miss Owolabi. James Oyekunle brought the score to 3-3 with a 25-23 third game victory against Neil Harris. In the penultimate game Mark Brown found that defence made little impact on Adewale Ariyibi but his ability to vary his style of game saw him home with a 17 & 15 victory. This left Mark Romano to play Ayoade Ademakinwa and in a close finish managed a 10, -16, 17 win to inflict this season's second loss for Concord Flash.

LEAGUE TABLES AT 1 FEB:

Premier Division	
Grove I	9 8 17
Ormesby	9 7 15
Bathwick Tyres I	9 7 14
Deptford Rams	9 6 12
Kettler Sport	9 2 5
B'ly Cardiff	9 2 5
Ellenborough	9 2 4
Armada 400	9 0 0
Division 3 East	
Seat Peterborough	9 9 18
Brentwood TTC	9 5 11
Fell Cranleigh II	9 4 10
C Milton Keynes	9 4 9
Team Peniel II	9 4 8
Britannia AC II	9 2 6
Levis Westfield	9 2 6
Crus. Lincoln	9 1 4
Division 3 North	
Humberside Andro	7 7 14
Ormesby III	9 6 14
Vymura Int'l II	8 5 11
Bri-Bar Blaydon	8 5 10
Conc Huddersfield	9 4 10
Blaydon Y C R	9 2 4
SEE S W Durham	9 1 3
Tigers (Telford)	9 0 2
Division 3 South	
Dulwich Rams II	9 8 16
Pillinger Air Cr	9 5 12
Am Gen Fareham	8 5 11
Gunnersbury Tri	8 5 10
Marley Ashford	8 3 6
Lambeth 4 Tops	9 3 6
Rejects III	9 2 4
Harlesden PCC	8 1 3
Division 3 West	
Colley Toyota II	9 7 16
A H W Comets	9 7 15
KingF'r Reading	9 5 11
Grove IV	9 3 10
Bathwick T III	9 4 8
Leckie TTC	9 3 6
Thorns TTC	9 2 5
Bude Surfers	9 0 1



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



England's overdue win at Bude — Prean, Douglas unbeaten!

by JOHN WOODFORD in Bude, North Cornwall

A TALE of the unexpected... who would have thought that a boisterous crowd of 700 would have cheered England to a fabulous 4-3 win in the European league at tiny Bude on the North Cornish coast? It needed courage and flair by Don Parker to take the almost unprecedented step of resting Alan Cooke and bringing back from European League retirement, 34-year-old Desmond Douglas, who once again thrilled and delighted the fans with his brilliant blinding speed and flashing attack.

As we hastily telephoned our reports back to London after a spell-binding match, Richard Eaton and I agreed that we could not recall any occasion in the past when we had seen Desmond working at such speed to beat Tomas Janci 13, 16 and Petr Korbel 19, -20, 14, a magnificent comeback preceded by Desmond winning the 5-star Wiltshire Open at Swindon.

The match started in the most promising fashion — Douglas stopped Janci — the man who beat Yu Shentong at the team event in Manchester and Carl Prean managed to squeeze home -8, 19, 19. Prean started disastrously in the first game. Priceless (hopefully) words from Don Parker before the second game saw a transformation as the Grenzau No.1 gradually mounted his attacks with more efficiency with the help of the fans — who like fans abroad sometimes — made distracting noises when they should have been quiet.

Great Support

However, some English fans are so quiet when the team needs support, that the Cornish and Devon supporters, many of whom had travelled a long way to be there, that I would not dream of criticising them — they were great! I asked Des Douglas after the match about the fans, he said, "They were fine, I was really pleased to hear the crowd behind me."

With England forging ahead full-steam with the rain beating down and the wind thrashing around outside — we could hear the famous Bude surfing waves — everything looked good. But the Czechs who led the Super Division table only a few weeks ago, had other ideas.

They started the fight-back with a success by Renata Kasalova over Alison Gordon who finds it extremely difficult to score at this level in this competition. Although Alison secured the first game the quick-hitting girl from Banovel, ranked No.27 in the world found her targets to win 11,12.

Knowing that England are weak in the doubles matches, the Czechs exploited the vulnerability in the men's and the mixed events. Prean and Andrew snatched the first game of the men's doubles against Javurek and Korbel and at that juncture things looked even brighter for England, but slowly the Czech pair managed to grab the initiative and confidently hit back 14 and 13.

Scores Level

Making his debut as an MC, the local organiser Peter Hancock found himself announcing that the scores were now level at 2 - 2. Once again, England took the first game of the mixed doubles, Alison Gordon and Skylet, but again the visitors fought back to win convincingly 12, 14, to give Czechoslovakia a 3 - 2 lead. It looked like the end of the line for England, yet another defeat, it would have been five in a row, would put them beyond help.

But the cavalry was waiting to make a dramatic rescue, as dramatic as any life-saver in the surf at Bude. Des Douglas found himself up against the most dangerous and promising youngster Petr Korbel, a shock finalist in the Austrian Open. Our wily Walsall professional, using every ounce of experience took the first, just lost the second but pounced on Korbel to win the third easily, as the crowd again erupted.

Prean to the Rescue

So, it was 3 - 3, the scoreline that is so familiar in the European League. This time, it was Carl Prean to the rescue. Having just recovered from the 'flu and two winter colds, he did not look a hundred per cent fighting fit, but he listened to the wise words of Don Parker, and skilfully, clinically shredded Tomas Janci, 16, 13 to give England a splendid win that resulted in a standing ovation — although many fans were standing anyway, there were no seats left!

What a Crowd !

TEN out of ten to chief organiser Peter Hancock who somehow conjured up 700 spectators from a Bude population of 5,000. Many travelled great distances in this first ever European League match in Cornwall, among them a welcome return for Keith Ponting. The ETTA will look with interest at any venue that can produce 700 "bums" on seats — England will be back?

Sidelights

- The journey in a mini-bus from Heathrow for the Czech team took around five hours but they had a night's sleep to recover from the journey. The weather in Devon and Cornwall was shocking for the travellers, rain, hail and high winds.
- ETTA Events Manager Jenny Hughes showed her undoubted talents as a driver on the 600-mile round trip and as an organiser at the venue, the Bude Haven Sports Hall, where the playing conditions were excellent.
- The organisers wish especially to thank the North Cornwall District Council for their help in organising the match.

RESULTS

England 4, Czechoslovakia 3
D. Douglas b T. Janci 13, 16
C. Prean b P. Korbel -8, 19, 19
A. Gordon l R. Kasalova 17, -11, -12
Prean and S. Andrew l J. Javurek and Korbel -16, 14, -13.
Andrew and Gordon l Janci and Kasalova -15, 12, -14
Douglas b Korbel 19, -20, 10.
Prean b Janci 16, 13.



Carl Prean - vital win against Janci in final match.



Desmond Douglas - in scintillating form at Bude.

SKYLET ANDREW

★ Table Tennis Star

★ Comedian, Model ★

NOW

★ After Dinner Speaker

MOST PEOPLE inside our sport would agree that Skylet Andrew is the fortunate possessor of a personality that captivates all around him.

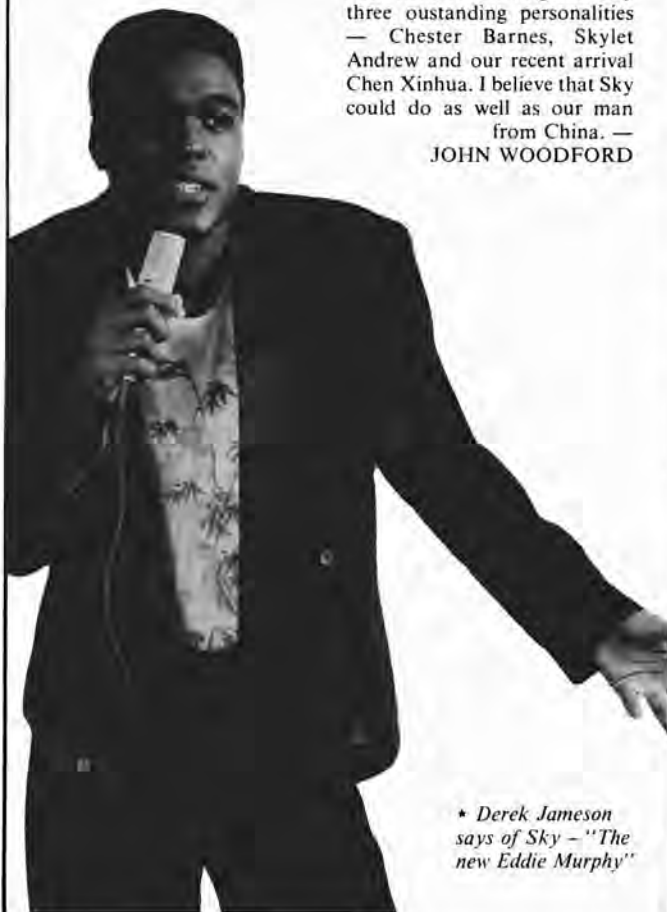
Not long ago returning on a ferry from Ostend to Dover, Sky entertained for two hours scores of school-children, just like the Pied Piper! There are not a lot of people who could do that — many would not want to, but what a wonderful gift of communication for the man from Stratford, East London.

Sky is not the greatest table tennis player England has ever seen, but he wins well abroad and on the recent China tour at Gateshead he beat Wei Qing Guang, No. 19 in the world. He is a born showman. He will be 28 this month and may well have a great future ahead of him, as a comedian, model or even as an after-dinner speaker.

He is now with a new public relations company who have said they intend to expand his income considerably — his magnetic, soon to be charismatic personality may turn out to be a legend, in the course of time.

In the last twenty or so years, table tennis has in England only three outstanding personalities — Chester Barnes, Skylet Andrew and our recent arrival Chen Xinhua. I believe that Sky could do as well as our man from China. —

JOHN WOODFORD



★ *Derek Jameson says of Sky — "The new Eddie Murphy"*

CINDY

— from Hong Kong

by JOHN WOODFORD

AMONGST the foreign umpires at the Leeds English Open in Manchester was a familiar face to those of us who travel abroad for the big tournaments — Cindy Leung, an International Umpire with the Hong Kong TTA.



Photo courtesy John F.A. Wood

A teacher, she is now studying on a one-year course — educational psychology for maladjusted and problem children — at Birmingham University. Cindy has umpired across three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe. She was referee of the 1989 World Cup in Nairobi and has umpired in five World Cups. She was also Technical Director of the Stiga World Grand Prix in Paris in November 1989.

Whilst in England, she has been assisting in a translation working group — Mandarin and Cantonese — at the ITTF headquarters in Hastings.

She is a firm advocator of hand signals for umpiring on each point

— an Asian style fully approved in high places round the world, but not something easily accepted by umpires from the other continents. I told her the usual reply from European umpires, it was "We will not do it, we think it looks rude."

Cindy is involved in umpiring observation for the ITTF and is expecting to be back in Europe if not before, for the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992.

No prizes for guessing who Cindy teamed up with on the courts in Manchester, genial extrovert Bill Moran!

AFFILIATION FEE UNIT FOR 1990/91

IN accordance with Rule 7.6, I write to inform you that the amount of the fee unit calculated under Rule 7.4 for 1990/91 season will be £2.10, unless there is a change of the relevant Rule.

The formula used for this calculation is:

$$\frac{1989/90 \text{ fee unit} \times \text{November 1989 R.P.I.}}{\text{November 1988 R.P.I.}}$$

This becomes:

$$\frac{194p \times 118.5}{110.0} = 208.9$$

This is

rounded up to the next even number of pence to become 210p.

The Association's Auditors have submitted a certificate which reads as follows:

"We certify that the Fee Unit for the season 1990/91 is to be £2.10 and that the Retail Price Indices used to calculate this figure are as follows:

November 1988: 110.0
November 1989: 118.5

SPAIN BROS
Chartered Accountants

Defence Tactics

by TREVOR PARRY

SERVICE

1. Against defensive players it is largely a means of just putting the ball into play, but you should always be looking for lapses of concentration from your opponent to win points direct.

Against attackers service must be tight to prevent quick initiative, usually short, with little forward movement to the centre of the table or weaker attacking wing, usually backhand. You can occasionally throw in a deliberate looser serve to tempt your opponent to make an attacking shot to your stronger defensive wing, but you must be ready for a good shot.

2. Generally against strong attack you must keep the ball short near the net or very long to the back of the table, preferably to the weaker attacking wing and never half court.

3. Return long balls to the middle of the back of the table to reduce angles.

4. Against strong loop drive players, keep the ball short in the middle of the table or play wide to the forehand side.

5. Basically try to pin forehand attackers in their backhand court. They will move further and further round to make a forehand shot from the backhand court and then you can play wide to the forehand with heavy chop.

6. The two weak spots of all shake-hand grip players are the same:-
(1) Direct to the racket shoulder.
(2) So wide a player cannot reach to make a proper shot. Also a sudden switch to a different wing is effective. Making a backhand shot after a forehand sequence usually produces errors.

7. The hardest balls for an attacker to play are very short heavy chops near the net and floated (no spin) balls to the back of the table.

8. You must vary your returns to make your opponent make mistakes. Heavy chop all the time presents no problems to an experienced attacker. Chop some returns, float some, half volley block some. Throw back some high topspins, attack some. Find the return your opponent does not like.

9. If you want to defend you must give your opponent some balls to attack. Don't make your defence so tight, your opponent will not try to attack or be reduced to pushing much of the time.

10. Don't return long low heavy chopped balls all the time. Most attackers, especially heavy topspinners find it much harder to play high balls to the back of the table either heavily chopped or floated. It also pays to vary the point of timing at which you play the ball, taking balls late after they have passed your body, rather than coming forward to meet the ball and chopping long through balls which come on to the attacker's bat, making it much easier to execute heavy topspin.

Playing Expedite. You should try to attack when you are serving.

(1) Try to win points outright with service (good tricky serves).

(2) Third ball attack... Serve, Return, Kill!

(3) Try slow rolled topspin (high) to get openings. A defender cannot chop these heavily or consistently, so you will get more openings.

(4) When receiving serve try to keep your returns as tight as possible. Your opponent has to win the point. You only have to keep the ball on the table for thirteen returns.

(5) Every point is critical. You must keep in touch with your opponent. If you lose three or four points in succession in an expedite situation, it is very difficult to recover against an experienced player especially if you are naturally a defender. Conversely if you get a few points ahead it gives you more confidence to go for attacking shots when you are serving.

Choice of Bat... Hard bat, Slow Sponge, Anti-Loop, Soft Pimples, Twiddler.

I would suggest that nowadays with the very fast spinny attacking rubbers used by good attacking players, serious defenders should opt for the 'TWIDDLER BAT', with slow controlled tacky sponge on one side (Butterfly Tacky Chop or Nittaku Talcus) and long soft pimples with or without sponge or anti loop (2.00mm) on the other. Only the anti or soft pimples will be able to control heavy spin or power attack and there must be a 'live' rubber to go with it to provide variation of stroke and some attacking capacity from a pushing situation. Soft pimples present more problems to the attacker in variation of spin, flight and bounce but are harder to master and less positive than anti in terms of control. Both are relatively weak in short pushing situations near the net and inferior in control to a live slow rubber. A relatively large slow blade helps in terms of control, because contrary to many popular misconceptions the length of time the ball remains on the bat has nothing to do with the length of the stroke and is purely a function of the density of the wood of the blade, the sponge and the taction of the rubber. A suitable bat will help you but will not compensate for limitations in your technique.



Matthew Syed from Reading - always a delight to watch making seemingly impossible returns from all angles (Photo: Courtesy Mike Loveder)

Schools & Cotswold Junior 2 Star



English Schools Table Tennis Association

by DAVID LOMAS

ALL twelve Area Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships were successfully staged on the weekend of January 20/21. The winners were due to compete in one of three Regional Finals on February 18th, with the winning schools going forward to the national Finals which are due to take place at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 17th (9.30 am)

Schools teams, ranging from Under-11 to Under-19, from 29 county schools association areas were still involved, with several leading computer-ranked players spearheading the hopes of the 4-strong teams.

In Area 1 (North-East), Newcastle Royal Grammar School edged through, winning their Boys Under-19 clash with Bishop Barrington School, Bishop Auckland. In Area 2, the Girls' Under-19 candidates, Wyke Sixth Form College were ably led by Samantha Marling whilst West Yorkshire's best hopes seem to lie

with Archbishop Cranmer Middle School, Leeds who have teams through in both Under-11 categories.

Schools from Barrow-in-Furness dominated the Area 3 Finals at Chorley. Parkview School have four teams through, backed up by a dual challenge from feeder school, Yarlside Primary. Lancashire's sole survivors are Runshaw Tertiary College, Leyland. Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School also dominated Area 4 at Grantham where all three teams won well.

In the Midlands & West Region, five Market Drayton schools faced

minimal journeys as they took on teams from Hereford & Worcester and Staffordshire at The Grove School. But only two emerged unscathed — both from The Grove. Garry Knights' experience helped to see Burton Technical College through as one of two Staffordshire representatives. In Area 6 (Walsall) teams from Warwickshire and Gloucestershire had a blank day but four schools from Wolverhampton, assisted by Moseley Park School, Bilston, fly the West Midlands flag.

Five teams from Somerset qualified in Area 7 at Plymouth and it will be interesting to see how Millfield Junior School, Glastonbury, fare at Stroud on February 18th (Boys' Under-13). Area 8 was decimated by lack of entries but three Avon schools survived individual play-offs.

The South East region has consistently produced winners for a long time, ever since the late sixties and seventies when teams from the London Borough of Newham lifted no fewer than 23 national titles.

This season looks set to be no different although it is not an easy task to predict who will be the standard-bearers from this region.

Bedford Modern School have hopes of regaining their Boys' Under-19 title. They should have no trouble against newcomers Eastbourne College who are obliged to field a weakened team, but it could be a different story

against Peniel Academy, Brentwood, who had two maximum 8-0 wins in the Area 11 finals. The Brentwood school have SEVEN other teams through with The Park School, Rayleigh, being the "outsiders" from Essex County, in the Boys' Under-16 event.

If my memory serves me correctly, I cannot recall as many as five teams from Suffolk reaching the regional finals stage but all five of them face a stiff task. Whitgift School are one of four teams through from the London Borough of Croydon. They include Jason Blake and John Blasco in their line-up (Boys' Under-16) whilst Cunmore House are already experienced campaigners in the Boys' Under-13 and Under-11 events, having already won five national titles.

The Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 28th. For the first time for many years this event will not take place on the weekend of the May Day Bank Holiday but the week before.

Entries for these Championships are only via county qualifying competition. Details can be obtained from Paul Birch, 23 Kestrel Road, Bedford MK41 7HR (0284) 41988).

The Cotswold Junior 2 Star

by ALF PEPPERD

ANOTHER highly successful Tournament in which this year all entries were surpassed and numbered a grand total overall of 362.

What is it about Gloucester that appears to cast a voodoo upon Bude's Neil Bevan? He lost the singles U17 here last year to Jonathan Taylor and this year went out to Leigh Jeffries (who admittedly played out of his skin) -18, 14 & 21, in the fourth round, Jeffries went on to take the title playing supremely throughout and is to be congratulated.

This is the 11th time that the Tournament has been staged at the Gloucester Leisure Centre giving us two packed days of thrilling, entertaining and exciting table tennis.

The Irish contingent of players failed to make an appearance due most likely to adverse weather conditions — we missed them and hope to see them next year.

The Len Huff special award for the local player who gets furthest in this tournament was awarded to 14 year old Raymond Powell of Gloucester — who with Andrew Eden from Ormskirk got to the S/F of the Boys Doubles U17 event, Powell also got to the 3rd round of

the U17 singles, but was beaten by Neil Bevan -9, -17, the top seed.



Leigh Jeffries - U-17 Singles Winner.

RESULTS

Boys Singles U12

Stephen Meddings (Wa) beat Darryl Meredith (La) 7, -13, 15

Girls Singles U12

Shelley Ruocco (E) beat Victoria Fox (St) 20, 15

Boys Doubles U14

Alex Perry (Dv) & Darren Blake (Sy) beat Edward Hatley (Sy) & Andrew Nichols (Y) -17, 14, 13

Girls Doubles U14

Sally Marling (Y) & Caroline Watt (Ch) beat Claire Pengeley & Lindsey Heyward (Dv) -17, 19, 16

Boys Singles U14

Alex Perry (Dv) beat Chris Sladdon (E) -18, 18, 6

Girls Singles U14

Nicola Deaton (Dy) beat Sally Marling (Y) 15, 11

Boys Doubles U17

Alan Cole (Sx) & Paul Carter (Sy) beat Garry Knights (St) & Neil Bevan (Co) 22, -18, 6

Girls Doubles U17

Joanna Roberts (Y) & Caroline Buckley (Bd) beat Ellen Meddings (Y) & Alison Gower (E) 18, -14, 18

Boys Singles U17

Leigh Jeffries (St) beat Grant Solder (E) (Dy) 9, 17

Girls Singles U17

Maria Thornley (La) beat Nicola Deaton (Dy) 9, 17

Bounce into Action

by DICCON GRAY

OVER THE last two decades during the sports/leisure centre boom, many community multi-purpose sports facilities have been built throughout the country. If one cares to visit an average sports centre anywhere in the country, any evening of the week, there is a good chance that activities would include badminton, squash and often five-a-side football.

To be able to play table tennis, as a generality one is forced to play in a corridor, ancillary hall or a small dark corner. In effect table tennis has missed out — clearly for the future development of our sport in these sorts of facilities an improvement of the current situation is needed. In an attempt to lift the image of table tennis by bringing it into the main hall of a centre (where it is brightly lit, warm and more open to public viewing) the ETTA have devised a specific participation scheme, **Bounce into Action**.

The scheme has been tried and tested at Hastings Sports Centre with the following observations of their Assistant Manager, Dave Pollard — "In our centre, table tennis was a casual usage sport with very sporadic bookings. Bounce into Action has changed that



- Action from Hastings Sports Centre where Bounce Into Action really has taken off. Friday evenings sees the centre buzzing with table tennis at the real grass roots level.



dramatically and by bringing some exciting structured table tennis into our main hall, the session soon really did take off and is now a buzz of action. By having four tables in operation on space equivalent to only one badminton court (one sixth of our hall) we sometimes involve up to 20 players which is certainly sensible court utilisation. In fact table tennis has become so popular that we now run an additional coaching session (with the help of a qualified ETTA coach). It seems that this versatile

sport will always be popular, especially as there is a local league structure that players can feed into; but the real beauty of it is that anyone can, and does join in."

EASY TO OPERATE

The scheme operates very successfully with an enthusiastic committed organiser — not necessarily an experienced table tennis coach (though some knowledge of the sport would obviously be an added



advantage). Four tables on an area equivalent to one badminton court for 1-1½ hours per week is all that is required. Players are then placed in groups on tables 1-4 where they would play a round robin series. At the end of the session there would be four ladders and the players ranked according to matches won. For the following session, groups would be formulated according to who was first and last during the preceding session e.g. winner of table 3 would start next time on



table 2. A player finishing last on table 3 would start next time on table 4. So there would be continual promotion and relegation from week to week. The session would be run on a turn up and play basis encouraging everyone to play and join in the fun. As the scheme becomes established it would act as a feeder into a youth league and/or a normal town league.-

INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

As interest increased, the organiser would then be faced with questions like — "I've been coming here for several weeks now and I would like to play twice a week, do you know where I can get coaching or join a club?" It would be up to the organiser to encourage further participation and provide local contacts.

The scheme comes with clear instructions complete with scorecards (for display in a centre) and promotional leaflets which advertise the scheme.

FIND OUT MORE...

Anyone further interested in the scheme or who knows a suitable centre which may be interested should ring or alternatively write to

DICCON GRAY,
National Development Officer,
English Table Tennis Association,
3rd Floor, Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 1HF
(Tel: 0424 722525)

Chen Xinhua — The President's Viewpoint

IF Chen Xinhua is selected to represent this country after May, when he becomes eligible on ITTF residential rules, England's men will undoubtedly have a much better chance of capturing European and World honours.

It is something I know that many supporters of the 30-year-old 'Honorary Yorkshireman' would like to see happen, though a highly controversial issue.

Think on. If Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, Yoo Nam Kyu of Korea and Jiang Jialiang of China could also be persuaded to move here for a couple of years and so qualify for England under this absurd ITTF regulation, then there is every chance that with them in our team we could rule world table tennis for quite a few years. But is that what we really want?

With so many world class table tennis refugees scattered around, to allow Chen to play for England on residential grounds could start a landslide.

A good idea? I doubt if Carl Prean and Alan Cooke think so, or their many talented supporting players, including highly promising youngsters on the brink of international recognition. And neither do I.

There is nothing I want to see more than for England to win the world title again — but to win it with native born, or at least

naturalised Britons, not with mercenaries able to qualify by temporary residence and free to change their allegiance if more lucrative offers should come along in the future.

Let me stress at once that I have nothing against Chen personally, quite the contrary. He is a charming personality and a brilliant player who was probably robbed of the world singles championship in Delhi in 1987 when ordered by China's head coach to lose in the semi-final to team mate Jiang

Jialiang. He deserves another chance, which no doubt is his greatest ambition.

In stating that he wants to play for England there can be no doubting Chen's sincerity. He has lived here with his Yorkshire-born wife for 19 months. They now have a baby son. He has already turned down substantial offers to join Germany or Italy instead. Chen has regularly assisted supremo Donald Parker at England training camps, given the benefit of his experience to many youngsters and formed affectionate links with all those English crowds he has entertained.

Without doubt Chen has a great deal to offer here. Instead of depriving our most promising youngsters like O'Driscoll, Syed and Oldfield the chance of a place in England's team so that he himself can be accommodated, could he not continue to help Don Parker to build on what is already a strong home-grown squad and transform them into potential world beaters? That to me is the best solution.

I do not consider that Chen himself should play for England until he owns a British passport, and that may not be possible for another 2 or 3 years.

Under those circumstances, no one could blame Chen if he were eventually to succumb to offers he could not refuse from less particular countries. That would be a great pity and very much our loss, but I stick to my principle.

Surely no one really wants to see England, or any other country, win World or European titles with teams which include players foreign to them? And to those who point out that I was once a member of an England European Cup and World Champion Team which included one player born in Hungary and another born in Austria I must remind them that both Victor Barna and Richard Bergmann were naturalised Britons of many years standing.

The National Council have referred the controversial subject of Chen Xinhua's England future to the 38 counties who will convey their votes at the next National Council meeting on April 21. It is the biggest issue I have known to face English table tennis in all the 45 years I have been involved at the top level and I feel very strongly about it. I trust that county members will weigh the pros and cons most carefully and reach the right decision.



Asian Domination in Cleveland

by ALAN RANSOME

China and Japan dominated the Cleveland 5 Star International Open Table Tennis Championships at Thornaby Pavilion on the 13th and 14th January winning six out of the seven titles. The event was the first English Tournament to be awarded 5 star status by the E.T.T.A.



China won all the three mens titles. The Olympic doubles champions played the mens singles final with Chen Longcan beating his partner Wei Qing Quang in straight games. The best English result came in the quarter finals of the mens singles when Alan Cooke who recovered from a foot injury which flared up in the international against China at Gateshead the previous Thursday beat the Leeds English Open champion Yu Shentong of China 21 - 17, 21 - 15.

Cooke fell at the second Chinese hurdle when he lost to Wei Qing Quang 21 - 15, 18 - 21, 21 - 16 in the semi finals. One of the best matches of the mens singles was Desmond Douglas's game in the semi finals against Chen Longcan. Douglas won the first 21 - 16 only to lose control in the second and third Chen winning 21 - 14, 21 - 15.

Chen Longcan's closest match in the competition was in the first round when Yorkshire's Chris Oldfield took the Chinese number one to 22 - 20 in the deciding game in a match which stopped the tournament.

The Chinese Olympic and former World doubles champions Chen Longcan and Wei Qing Quang dominated the mens doubles event winning the title with the loss of only one game to Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew in the semi finals.

The Chinese were equally convincing in the Butterfly International Team Event beating England 3 - 0 in the final without the loss of a single set. The withdrawal of Alan Cooke with the foot injury from the England team reduced England's chances of taking the title.

Just as China dominated the mens events the Mitsui Bank Team from Japan dominated the ladies. Japanese champion and Leeds English Open winner Mika Hoshino was outstanding in all three events winning the womens singles without the loss of a single game beating England's Fiona Elliot in the Quarter finals, Australia's Ying Kwok in the semi finals and then her team mate Masako Sudoh in the final. Alison Gordon provided one of the best results amongst the England



Yu Shentong, winner at Cleveland and Leeds Open winner.



Mika Hoshino - Ladies singles winner without conceding a game.



Chris Oldfield came closest to defeating Longcan when losing 22-20 in the third in their 1st round match.

Cleveland 5 Star — 2

players beating Australian Kerri Tepper to reach the semi finals but Miss Sudoh proved too strong for the former English champion with a score of 21 - 18, 21 - 14.

In both the womens doubles and the Butterfly International team event the Japanese pair of Hoshino and Tamaki Ohnuma were outstanding. In the womens doubles they beat Canada's Barbara Chen and Caroline Sylvester in the final. In the team event the Japanese beat England 3 - 1 in the final with Hoshino unbeaten. England's only win was scored by Alison Gordon who beat Miss Ahnuma in straight games.

The only title to be won by the English team was the mixed doubles in which the Chinese and Japanese did not enter a pair. Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot beat Nicky Mason and Alison Gordon to win the title in straight sets. The prizes were presented by the County Councillor David Forester Vice Chairman of Cleveland County Council's Community Services Committee, representing the main sponsors, by George Yates Secretary General of European TTU and by Yuki Kamizuru of Tamasu Butterfly Europa.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi Finals
Mika Hoshino (JPN) bt Ying Kwok (AUS) 9, 10; Masako Sudoh (JPN) bt Alison Gordon (ENG) 14, 18

Final
Mika Hoshino (JPN) bt Masako Sudoh (JPN) 8, 7

MENS DOUBLES

Semi Finals
Chen Longcan/Wei Qing Quang (CHN) bt Nicky Mason/Skylet Andrew (ENG) -13, 11, 9
Yu Shentong/Steve Dorking (Essex) bt Chris Oldfield/Michael O'Driscoll (Yorks) -19, 9, 15

Final
Chen & Wei bt Yu & Dorking 6, 8

WOMENS DOUBLES

Semi Finals
Mika Hoshino/Tamaki Ohnuma (JPN) bt Fiona Elliot/Lisa Lomas (ENG) -20, 18, 18
Barbara Chen/Caroline Sylvester (CAN) bt Alison Gordon/Andrea Holt (ENG) 21, 17

Final
Hoshino & Ohnuma bt Chen & Sylvester -15, 14, 10

MIXED DOUBLES

Semi Finals
Skylet Andrew/Fiona Elliot (ENG) bt Robin Moore/Kerri Tepper (AUS) 11, -17, 10
Nicky Mason/Alison Gordon bt Dennis Makaling/Ying Kwok (AUS) 14, 16

Final
Andrew & Elliot bt Mason & Gordon 14, 17

Class 2 Mens Singles
Leigh Jefferies (Staffs) bt Dipak Topiwala (Middx) 19, 16

Class 2 Womens Singles
Clare Mouzon (N'land) bt Sally Marling (Yorks) 16, -15, 14

VETERANS

John Hilton (Lancs) bt Stuart Gibbs (Essex) 16, -18, -14

RESULTS

BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENTS

MENS TEAM FINAL

CHINA bt ENGLAND 3 - 0
Chen Longcan bt Desmond Douglas 15, 15
Yu Shentong bt Skylet Andrew 17, 18
Chen & Wei bt Andrew & Nicky Mason 12, 12

WOMENS TEAM FINAL

JAPAN bt ENGLAND 3 - 1
Tamaki Ohnuma lost to Alison Gordon -14, -16
Mika Hoshino bt Fiona Elliot 7, 8
Ohnuma & Hoshino bt Gordon & Elliot 16, 13
Mika Hoshino bt Alison Gordon 19, 15

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

MENS SINGLES

Quarter Finals
Chen Longcan (CHN) bt Nicky Mason (ENG) 16, 19; Desmond Douglas (ENG) bt Sean Gibson (Lancs) 10, 14; Wei Qing Quang (CHN) bt Skylet Andrew (ENG) 9, -15, 15; Alan Cooke (ENG) bt Yu Shentong (CHN) 17, 15
Semi Finals
Chen Longcan (CHN) bt Desmond Douglas (ENG) -16, 14, 15; Wei Qing Quang (CHN) bt Alan Cooke (ENG) 15, -18, 16

Japanese Exports

Many companies know to their cost that it is much easier to import from Japan than to export back, but the ETTA has neatly reversed the situation. Viewers to Channel 12 in Japan were treated to over 2 hours of action from the Leeds English Open in Manchester during a programme in February. The Japanese Table Tennis Association and the President of the ITTF passed on their congratulations for a very successful presentation.

The coverage results from the successful profit sharing exercise between the ETTA and BBC Enterprises to market coverage of top level events to a growing number of overseas countries.

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Easy Ride for Taylor

by IAN MARSHALL

GROVE'S much improved Jonathan Taylor proved the most successful player in the T.S.B. Grove School Under 21 Open on January 21st as the hard hitting man from Manchester captured both Under 21 and Under 19 Men's Singles titles without the loss of a set.

However, the finalists on both occasions cannot have been what Taylor expected as the unfortunate withdrawal of the injured Chris Oldfield left the adjacent half of the draw open for unseeded progress. In the Under 21 event it has to be the consistent Essex man Martin Cole who seized the opportunity to oust London's Tommy Cutler in the semi-finals after the latter had beaten France's Oliver Toutin in the close three set match. Meanwhile the Under 19 event saw a splendid display by Gloucester based Ray Powell who beat Matthew Greenwood and Mike Auchterlonie en route to a final spot, whilst Brentwood's Steven Rand ended the progress of Denmark's Martin Christensen and London's Tommy Cutler before falling in the semi-finals to Powell.

The entry of eight players from Saksobing Table Tennis Club in Southern Denmark added flavour to the tournament with their most successful effort being in the Under 21 Men's Doubles as Morten Neilson and Jon Madsen reached the semi-finals before falling to eventual winners Darren Howarth and Gary Knights whilst the latter gained further success in the Junior Boys Singles to beat the hard working Matthew Greenwood for the title having beaten clubmates Mike Auchterlonie at the penultimate stage and Welsh International Junior Spencer Harris one round earlier.

The most hard worked player of the day was undoubtedly Welsh star Natasha Williams who reached the finals, winning the girl's singles and the girl's doubles in partnership with Kate Goodall but falling to the

White Rose duo of Joanne Keighley and Kate Goodall in the Under 19 and Under 21 finals respectively. The unseeded Grove girl was to cause the major upsets in the Junior Girl's Singles as she ousted fourth seeded Lisa Crick of Maidenhead and the top seeded Leed's girl Kate Goodall before losing to Williams in the final. At Under 19 level the impressive topspin play of Joanne Keighley proved invaluable as Miss Goodall was beaten in the semi-final and Miss Williams in the final. However Miss Goodall was to make no mistakes in the Under 21 Ladies event as she dominated proceedings to take the title without the loss of a set with Miss Keighley giving her the severest of examinations in a high class straight set semi-final whilst the Yorkshire girl accelerated into overdrive to beat the excellent Natasha Williams in the final for gold



Under 21 Ladies Doubles

Semi Finals

Kate Goodall (Leeds) Natasha Williams (Rhyl) beat Claire Marshall/Tracey Garrett (Grove) 21, -9, 6

Emese Kottasz/Kitti Kottasz (London) beat Sarah Creasey/Elizabeth Creasey (Grove) 15, -13, 15

Final

Goodall/Williams beat Kottasz/Kottasz 18, 13

Under 19 Men's Singles

Semi Finals

Ray Powell (Glouc) beat Steven Rand (Brentwood) 12, 18

Jonathan Taylor (Grove) beat Garry Knights (Grove) 12, 16

Final

Taylor beat Powell 13, 8

Under 19 Ladies Singles

Semi Finals

Joanne Keighley (Bradford) beat Kate Goodall (Leeds) 19, 20

Natasha Williams (Rhyl) beat Lisa Crick (Maidenhead) 14, -20, 12

Final

Keighley beat Williams 17, -17, 11

Under 17 Boys Singles

Semi Finals

Matthew Greenwood (Wycombe) beat Leigh Jeffries (Grove) 16, 17

Garry Knights (Grove) beat Michael Auchterlonie (Grove) 19, 15

Final

Knights beat Greenwood 18, 22

Under 17 Girls Singles

Semi Finals

Sarah Creasey (Grove) beat Kate Goodall (Leeds) 17, 16

Natasha Williams (Rhyl) beat Elizabeth Creasey (Grove) 9, -21, 11

Final

Williams beat Creasey 20, 10

RESULTS

Under 21 Men's Singles

Semi Finals

Martin Cole (Brentwood) beat Tommy Cutler (Wembley) 16, 19

Jonathan Taylor (Grove) beat Steve Slater (Grove) 18, 12

Final

Jonathan Taylor (Grove) beat Martin Cole (Brentwood) 15, 13

Under 21 Ladies Singles

Semi Finals

Kate Goodall (Leeds) beat Joanne Keighley (Bradford) 19, 16

Natasha Williams (Rhyl) beat Elizabeth Creasey (Grove) 17, -7, 14

Final

Kate Goodall (Leeds) beat Natasha Williams (Rhyl) 8, 7

Under 21 Men's Doubles

Semi Finals

Garry Knights (Grove)/Darren Howarth beat Morten Neilson/Jon Madsen (Denmark) 20, 17

Leigh Jeffries/Jonathan Taylor (Grove) beat Spencer Harris/Mike Auchterlonie (Grove) -16, 19, 18

Final

Knights/Howarth beat Taylor/Jeffries 15, 15

Jonathan Taylor - comfortably won the Boys U-21 title.



Nottinghamshire Sport Training Scheme

by DICCON GRAY (National Development Officer)

Nottinghamshire County Council, through the Leisure Services Department, has a new scheme to encourage young people to participate in sport and to follow it through to a higher level in order to hopefully achieve their full potential.

This scheme initially focussed on eight sports centres, one in each district of the county, where different sports were on offer. Centres commenced with "taster" courses of six weeks duration which began in November 1989. The idea is to follow on with "improver" courses of twelve weeks duration. To complete the pyramid, two centres will be chosen for ongoing advanced level training which may include a residential course for a week.

Table Tennis

Table tennis was the only sport (out of eleven sports) to feature at all eight centres and for the "taster" courses, 103 youngsters enrolled throughout the county. As far as can be gathered, they were all new to structured table tennis activity.

ETTA Cooperation

The ETTA have shown considerable interest in the scheme and helped to provide eight qualified coaches to work within it. Each coach is paid an hourly rate, is provided with a tracksuit and has a supply of bats and balls to use with four tables.

Nottinghamshire County Table Tennis Association are aware of the scheme, as are its member leagues. Each league was asked to support the scheme in any way possible and at least provide a list of club contacts which children on the scheme could use if they wished to join a club. Scheme coordinator Steve Grainger is delighted at the response of children to table tennis and has indicated that it will again feature in all eight districts for the next cycle.

Developments

A further development which can only benefit table tennis in the area is an idea to have a course enrolment promotion in local schools by top players giving demonstrations and exhibitions. This is something which is being fully supported and encouraged by the ETTA.

A coaches sport leader award may also be staged to help with coach recruitment to run future sessions.

A great step forward for table tennis in Nottinghamshire and a model example of what can be possible from local authorities.

Diccon Gray (E.T.T.A. Development Officer) pictured with youngsters and coach who completed a "taster" level table tennis course at Sutton Leisure Centre, Mansfield. (Photo: Courtesy Chronicle Advertiser, Mansfield)



Three points from history

by RICHARD EATON

ENGLAND came within just three points of winning a series for the first time against China on a tour that finished level with one match drawn, one won, and one lost at Peterborough, Bridlington and Gateshead in January.

But for an injury to Alan Cooke, who had to concede against Chen Longcan at Gateshead because of a recurring foot and knee problem, England might have made a little bit of table tennis history.

Against opposition that was more or less at full strength and which gave one hundred percent a substantial amount of the time considering it was a friendly series, that was a considerable success for the home team.

Chen Longcan, the former winner of the World Cup, found Carl Prean's improved backhand hit too insistent to contain or counter, and lost both his matches to him; whilst Yu Shentong, winner of the English Open title in Manchester immediately before, could not cope with Cooke's bubbling topspins from both wings and lost three times to him.

Had it not been for the Olympic men's doubles gold medallist Wei Qing-guang, who suddenly came up with the goods at Gateshead when

he was a game down to Desmond Douglas and 18-18 in the second, England would have drawn that match as well, and won the series.

Yet there was no obvious way to strengthen the visiting team, as far as these things can ever be seen outside of China, except perhaps for using our old friend Chen Zhibin, who recently became Chinese national champion, or the improving young Ma Wenge, who did so well in the World Cup in Nairobi.

Maybe this indicates a slight decrease in the powers of the world's greatest table tennis nation (taking men and women overall). Certainly all three players they brought to England tended to duplicate their weaknesses.

All three were pengrip players, although two were lefthanders, and all were potentially vulnerable to being pinned down and forced back on the backhand, or contained on that wing and then dragged wide. They needed to be at their fittest

and quickest to make up for this, which happened only sometimes.

However the results also indicated the healthy standard of English table tennis. None of our men are world-beaters but our best three together make a tough team to beat, and there are others beginning to push to get in.

Results of friendlies should sometimes be taken with a pinch of salt, and the opening match at Peterborough appeared to reveal the occasional casual attitude by the Chinese. But there was no doubt that they were motoring later in the series, and most of the time the English were able to equal them.

This success on the table was matched by further encouraging success off it. It is beginning to sound like a replayed record, but the tour was a major promotional boon. For the third time within a couple of years China v England gained a great deal of publicity for the sport, with a substantial number of words and a few pictures in leading newspapers.



Mason's Dash

Strangely, it started with a hint of disappointment when Matthew Syed announced he was injured, and the willing Nicky Mason made a dash at short notice to Peterborough to fill in. But this was quickly replaced with plenty of excitement as Cooke toppled Yu, the champion at Manchester only two days before, by 21-16 in the third.

There was even more when Prean somehow saved three match points at 17-20 in the third game against Chen, to beat him for the second time in four days by 22-20, 15-21, 25-23. The maintenance of Prean's psychological advantage here had an important bearing on the outcome of the series.

There were two defeats for Mason but Cooke beat Wei to give England a 3-2 lead and it seemed as though victory in the opening match might then be possible.

But whereas Yu had been forced away from the table quite often against Cooke, against Prean he stayed up and attacked with ferocious commitment. He also produced a more treacherously varied set of serves from a higher toss, and after winning the first game narrowly was rewarded by seeing a tired Prean wilt. The score was 21-19, 21-12 and the match score 3-3.

Glory

The real moments of glory came at Bridlington, where England had their European silver medal winning trio of Cooke, Prean and Douglas in action for the only time, and won 4-2. This was Douglas's night. He was twice a winner, twice escaping from situations in which he could easily have lost in straight games, to win comfortably in the third.

First he beat Yu, who made three unusual mistakes at 18-18 in the second game and then suddenly was quite unable to contain Douglas's forehand loop, which propelled him to a 23-25, 21-18, 21-9 victory. Then Douglas beat Wei, who was also within three points of winning it in two and who then also found it impossible to keep Douglas out, and was beaten 17-21, 21-18, 21-13.



Nicky Mason - dashed to Peterborough to replace the injured Matthew Syed.

China Tour — 2



Wei Qing Quang "came up with the goods" at Gateshead (Photo courtesy Chris Tofalos)



Alan Cooke - came good once more after an indifferent spell by his high standards (Photo courtesy Mike Loveder)

Cooke beat Yu again and Prean overcame Chen for the second time on the tour and the third time in a row, including the English Open. The Isle of Wight player did that by 21-18, 21-19 to clinch the victory. The score was close, but somehow by now it seemed hardly in doubt.

But at Gateshead in the third and final match it was a different story. Douglas lost twice, both in straight games. Cooke aggravated an old injury in the knock-up and withdrew against Chen, and Yu won the decider against Skylet Andrew.

But Andrew had served and fore-hand looped with typical venom to beat Wei earlier in the evening, and there had been a splendid recovery by Cooke in his opening contest. He came back from 15-20 in the second game against Yu, saving five match points in a row, to beat the English Open champion yet again, 14-21, 22-20, 21-17.

In retrospect this was one of the most heartening aspects of all. It has been a season of change for the English national and Commonwealth champion. He has returned to play full-time in England after three years competing in the Swedish League, he has announced his engagement, and his fitness has been below its usual high standard.

Perhaps not surprising therefore that his form has been variable as well. But during the China tour Cookey once again came good.

ISLAMIC WELCOME

THE Chinese and England teams and Peterborough officials were sumptuously entertained to lunch at Peterborough at the Eastern Garden Restaurant, Lincoln Road where proprietor Khasru Chowdhury had been marinating overnight King Prawns, Goose Pasanda, Murghi Masala, Bindi Bahji and other Indian delights familiar to curry buffs.

Unfortunately and predictably, few of the players consumed the Indian food, because it is unwise to eat highly-spiced food a few hours before playing at international level. However, excellent more ordinary English food was also on the menu, so a pleasant time was had by all with thanks to Mr Chowdhury who specialises in entertaining famous people — the Sri Lanka cricket team were his guests last summer and a regular visitor to his restaurant is the "Hi-de-Hi" star Ruth Madoc, who lives not far from Peterborough. — JW.

Lancashire lead Premier Division

by DOUG MOSS

Stantonbury Leisure Centre was the scene of the first Round of Senior Premier matches. There were some great matches, surprise results and close finishes — 5 of the 12 matches were decided with a 5-4 match score.

Middlesex and Lancashire, last season's top 2 teams, were again successful by winning their 3 matches. Lancs take the lead by virtue of 1 set advantage over Middlesex. But it was certainly not easy for either of these teams. Middlesex had two 5-4 wins, their hardest match being against Leics, which they lost both doubles events. Middlesex led 4-3 but Chris Rogers then beat John Souter at 12 in the 3rd game. In the deciding event Graham Sandley lost the first game to Dave Gannon at -20, won the 2nd at 19 and then took the decider at 14 to give Middlesex the win. Middlesex also beat Derbyshire 5-4. In this match Souter/Tyler and Sandley/Keast won the doubles events and each of the men got a win. Lancs also had a 5-4 win over Derby. Sean Gibson, Tony Taylor and Nigel Eckersley each won a singles and Andrea Holt made a good contribution with a singles win over Julie Billington, at 14 in the 3rd game, and the mixed doubles with Nigel Eckersley.

There were some surprising results — Berks beat Essex 6-3 but these 2 teams met Devon with Essex winning 5-4 and Berks losing 1-8!

Lancs and Middlesex got a maximum 6 points and each of the other 6 teams earned 2 points from 1 win.

The best individual performances came from Nicky Mason (Sy) and Bradley Billington (Dy), who won all 6 singles, and Graham Sandley (Mi) won the 5 he played — he conceded 1 event due to an injured wrist. Andrea Holt (La) and Karen Smith (Le) were undefeated in singles. Karen played very well to beat Jane Barella, Lesley Keast and Elaine Sayer.

The final series takes place at Stantonbury on 24-25 March, which seems likely to produce an exciting finish, as happened last season.

RESULTS

Mi .5	Le .4	Dv .8	Bk .1
La .7	Sy .2	Dy .4	La .5
Bk .1	Dy .8	Sy .2	Mi .7
E .5	Dv .4	Le .5	E .4
Mi .5	Dy .4		
La .6	Dv .3		
Bk .6	E .3		
Le .3	Sy .6		

SENR 1A:

Lincs1	Warwicks9
Suffolk1	Yorks9
N'berland5	Lancs 2nd5
Worcs5	Cambs5

Yorks, with Chris Oldfield at No.1, had a resounding 9-1 win over Suffolk to strengthen their position at the top of the Table. Lancs 2nd improved their situation with a well won point against N'berland, who included Eddie Smith for the first time this season. Paul Hutchins (La) did well to beat Eddie Smith and Mark Christie in the final event to secure a draw.

SENR 1B:

Avon 17	Devon 23
Middx 21	Sussex9
Cornwall3	Middx 27
Essex 22	Sussex9
Kent3	Essex6
Hants5	Cornwall5
Devon 24	Kent6
Avon 110	Hants0

Top teams Avon and Sussex won both their matches to forge further ahead. Sussex have the much better sets average. They had emphatic 9-1 wins over rivals Essex 2nd and Middlesex 2nd. Janet Smith and Teresa Moore won all their events including a doubles at 27 in 3rd against Julie Askem and Kate Gower! Cornwall got their first point with a draw against Hants — Jeremy Williams was involved in 3 of the Cornish wins.

SENR 2B:

Wilts7	Somerset3
------------------	---------------------

Wilts went into a 6-0 lead and got a win to take them above Somerset — but still behind Glos to whom they have already lost. Kevin Satchell had 2 easy singles wins but, with Terry Lloyd, the doubles against Lee Sadler/Brian Reeves was won -17, 21, 18.

SENR 2C:

Norfolk 15	Beds5
Beds 17	Hunts3
Cambs 24	Norfolk6
Suffolk 23	Herts7

These results keep Norfolk at top of the Table. Against Beds they were 4-5 down when Trevor Bunn played Mike Levene (Bd), who had earlier beaten Phil Logsdon. Trevor did well to win 13 and 20 for the draw. Neil Pickard and Trevor Bunn won their 4 singles in these matches. The scores in Neil's match against Andy Withers (Ca) were -14, 14, 20!



SENR 2D:

Berks 20	Sussex 210
Oxon2	Surrey 28
Essex 38	Northants2

The way Sussex teams are proceeding they must be looking to the 1st team in Premier and the 2nds in Div 1! Sussex beat their nearest rivals 10-0 and all 2 straight — "nuff said"! Surrey 2nd, at foot of Table, went into a 4-0 lead against Oxon and got an emphatic 8-2 win. Mike Hammond, Dave Harding and Simon Philipsz won their 6 singles.

SENR 3A:

Staffs10	Durham0
Ches 27	Ciwyd3

Staffs and Durham were unbeaten and level at top of Table — and Staffs won 10-0. Staffs introduced Steve Slater, who played well in the English Open, at No.1 and Jill Harris took the No.1 lady spot. Good to see a Staffs senior team back in the Championships and producing top quality play.

SENR 3B:

Glam6	Bucks4
Dorset 21	Devon9
Cornwall 22	Hants 28

Bucks, with a strong team and 3 convincing wins, looked well set. But Glam came up with a 6-4 win. Stevie Donovan and Joanne Lee (Gn) made a valuable contribution with 3 wins and Tony Healan, Jeff Morgan and George Evans each got a win. Two of the Bucks wins came when Graeme McKim beat Jeff Morgan at 23 in 3rd and Jonathan Bradbury beat George Evans at 19 in 3rd.

CHESHIRE-VETS CHAMPIONS AGAIN

The Veteran Premier final series was played at Ashford T.T.C. Cheshire remarkably won the championship again — but it gets harder! Both Yorks and Essex finished with a better sets average but fewer points. Cheshire won the vital matches — they beat both Essex and, old rivals, Kent at 5-4. But there must have been thought that the title might go when Cheshire lost their first match to Surrey 4-5. Derek Holman was involved in 3 of the Surrey wins. Surrey later lost to the struggling Herts team. In all matches Surrey had a lack of success in doubles events.



England No. 11 John Souter — beaten by Chris Rogers on this occasion.

the Leeds County Championships — 2

Yorkshire had some easy wins and their clash with Cheshire was absolutely vital. Cheshire won 6-3 taking the vital doubles events (Hampson/Kean and Collins/Schofield). Paul Collins, the Ches No.3, came strong in this match winning his 2 singles events, including the defeat of Malcolm Corking at 19 in the 3rd game. It speaks well for Cheshire's all-round strength that the team won when their No.1, Roger Hampson, usually so successful, lost 6 of his 8 singles at this final series.

The only player with 100% in singles over the championships was Lesley Radford (E). Doreen Schofield (Ch) lost only once — to Lesley. Stuart Gibbs topped the mens singles with just one defeat — by Derek Holman (Sy). Dennis Neale and Malcolm Corking (Y) and Clive Morris (K) lost just 2 singles events. Dennis Neale/Malcolm Corking were the most successful doubles pair losing just once — to Roger Hampson/Brian Keen in the vital Cheshire match. Doreen Schofield did the best in mixed doubles being unbeaten with Roger Hampson and losing once with Paul Collins.

RESULTS

E...7 K...2 Ch...5 E...4
 Sy...5 Ch...4 K...1 Y...8
 He...4 Bu...5 Bu...3 Sy...6
 Y...7 Sx...2 Sx...5 He...4
 K...7 Sx...2 Ch...5 K...4
 Y...3 Ch...6 He...1 E...8
 E...7 Bu...2 Bu...1 Y...8
 Sy...4 He...5 Sx...5 Sy...4

VETS 1A:

Lincs...6 Lancs...3
 Yorks 2...6 Worcs...3
 Norfolk...4 Warwick...5

Yorks won their first match at the expense of previously unbeaten Worcs. Warwick also got their first points with a 5-4 win over Norfolk. Lincs won and forge ahead.

VETS 1B:

Sussex 2...6 Oxon...3
 Berks...6 Glos...3
 Wilts...5 Surrey 2...4
 Kent 2...5 Middx 1...4

Middlesex surprisingly lost their first match. Berks and Wilts each won 2 points and are "hot on their heels".

VETS 2A:

Lancs 2...9 Clwyd...0
 N'berland...8 Lincs 2...1

VETS 2B:

Essex 3...6 Notts...3

Essex continue unbeaten and look well set for the title. The ladies singles was hard fought with Pauline Anker (E) beating Pat Hammond 19, -22, 20!

VETS 2C:

Middx 2...9 Herefords...0
 Wilts 2...6 Bucks 2...3

Top of the Table Bucks lost their first match and the Middlesex maximum win puts them in the lead.

VETS 2D:

Sussex 3...3 Hants...6
 Dorset 1...7 Berks 2...2

This was a very close match — 6 events decided narrowly in 3rd game. Two of the Sussex wins were at 19 in the decider.

VETS 3A:

Beds 2...2 Herts 4...7
 Hunts 2...2 Berks 3...7

Berks continue triumphantly and now have 4 wins dropping only 5 events. Mike Harris and Roger Woolven-Allan are unbeaten.

JUNR 1B:

Cornwall...0 Berks...10
 Sussex...8 Avon...2
 Middx 1...7 Oxon...3

Middx had a very good win. Sara Williams and Esmé Kottasz won their 3 events and David Baker won both his singles events.

JUNR 2A:

Derbys 2...5 Ches 2...5
 Warwicks 2...7 Lancs 3...3

Cheshire 2nd were 0-3 down against Derby 2nd but fought back well and Mark Barnes (Ch) beat Russell Hardy in the final event to secure a draw.

JUNR 2B:

Bucks...4 Herts 2...6
 Berks 2...9 Northants 2...1

Herts 2nd got an important win and are the only unbeaten team. But Worcs go top with a 9-1 win over Wilts. The boys doubles was well fought with Lee Horton/Jason Thompson (Wo) beating Alex Collar and Peter Fry -17, 19, 19.

JUNR 2C:

Cornwall 2...3 Hants 1...7
 Hants 2...1 Somerset...9
 Somerset...0 Glam...10
 Dorset...4 Hants 2...6

Devon 3...1 Glam...9
 Dorset...5 Cornwall 2...5
 Hants 1...10 Devon 3...0
 Dorset...2 Devon 2...8

8 matches were played at Bournemouth and Devon 2nd and Glamorgan continue unbeaten. Glam look very strong — they have lost just 9 events over their 6 matches. The girls, Laura Collier and Denise Elward have 100% in singles and doubles. Devon 2nd have also dropped just 9 events and the clash with Glamorgan should decide the championship.

JUNR 2D:

Essex 3...8 Suffolk 2...2
 Kent 2...5 Sussex 2...5
 Surrey 2...7 Norfolk...3
 Surrey 3...2 Norfolk...8
 Essex 3...9 Suffolk...1
 Surrey 2...7 Norfolk 1...3
 Surrey 3...2 Norfolk 1...8

Suffolk were unbeaten and well in the lead. I commented last month that Essex 3rd had not made a good start but could well have a vital influence. And behold the Essex team beat Suffolk 9-1 and take over the lead. Middx 2nd did not have a match and are still in the running. Sussex 2nds, without a point, did well to come back from 3-5 to force a draw with Kent 2nd. Sarah Stedman turned the tide with a 13 and 17 win over Michelle Ritter and then Simon Cox beat Nicholas Wetton -19, 16, 18 to earn the team points.



Dave Gannon (Leics) lost in third to Graham Sandley



League Positions as at 5 Feb 1990

SENIORS

Premier division	P	W	Pts
Lancashire	3	3	6
Middlesex	3	3	6
Derbyshire	3	1	2
Devonshire	3	1	2
Essex	3	1	2
Leicestershire	3	1	2
Surrey	3	1	2
Berkshire	3	1	2

Division 1A

P	W	Pts	
Yorkshire	4	3	7
Warwickshire	4	3	6
Northumberland	4	2	5
Lancashire 2nd	4	1	4
Suffolk	4	2	4
Worcestershire	4	1	3
Cambridgeshire	4	1	3
Lincolnshire	4	0	0

Division 1B

Sussex	6	5	11
Avon	6	5	11
Essex 2nd	6	3	7
Kent	6	3	6
Middlesex 2nd	6	3	6
Devonshire 2nd	6	2	4
Hampshire	6	0	2
Cornwall	6	0	1

Division 2A

Yorkshire 2nd	3	2	5
Cheshire	2	2	4
Leicestershire 2nd	3	2	4
Nottinghamshire	4	1	3
Warwickshire 2nd	3	1	2
Cumbria	3	0	0

Division 2B

Gloucestershire	4	3	7
Wiltshire	4	3	6
Somerset	3	2	4
Dorset	3	1	3
Avon 2nd	5	1	2
Worcestershire 2nd	3	0	0

Division 2C

Hertfordshire	4	3	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	5
Norfolk	3	1	4
Cambridgeshire 2nd	3	1	3
Suffolk 2nd	2	0	0
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0

the Leeds County Championships — 3

Continued from page 21

Division 2D

Sussex 2nd	4	3	7
Essex 3rd	4	2	5
Berkshire 2nd	3	2	4
Surrey 2nd	3	1	3
Kent 2nd	3	0	2
Oxfordshire	4	1	2
Northamptonshire	3	0	1

Division 3A

Staffordshire	3	3	6
Cheshire 2nd	3	2	4
Durham	3	2	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	2	1	2
Northamptonshire 2	3	0	0
Clwyd	2	0	0

Division 3B

Buckinghamshire	4	3	6
Hampshire 2nd	4	3	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	3	6
Glamorgan	2	2	4
Devonshire 3rd	4	2	4
Dorset 2nd	5	1	2
Cornwall 2nd	5	0	0



Richard Cotter (General Manager of I.M.S. Ltd) presents Alan Cooke with his trophy after winning the Stiga Top 12 - looking on are Alan Ransome and Jenny Hughes.

Table Tennis Extravaganza at RECMAN '90

Visitors to RECMAN '90 in March have a treat in store when they visit the Richmond Hall. Even those who have never picked up a table tennis bat before will be captivated by the virtuoso performance of the former World and European champion Jacques Secretin and Vincent Purkart.

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"The Year of the Member"

Dear Colleague,

YOU may have read various bits and pieces in some newspapers which may have caused you some astonishment. If so, I share this with you.

In real life, things have gone remarkably well. The ETTA in three years has been completely transformed.

A Magnificent Open

We have staged a wonderful and profitable English Open where we enjoyed no less than one hour and twenty minutes of television (BBC Grandstand), which was a record for this programme. I recall without difficulty the days when we received three ten minute spots between horse-racing. Media support was higher than at any time in the modern era. Gates were up. The thousands who came saw some wonderful Table Tennis.

Finances

Above all, our financial position is in excellent shape and this financial year, subject only to the unforeseen, we shall make a profit of close on £100,000. It is a stunning turnaround. You do not need reminding that our situation three short years ago was quite desperate and that each summer we survived only with the help of our bankers in the shape of an overdraft of £50,000.

The Year of the Member

Previous profits put right our poor situation. This year's profits, up to £100,000, we propose to return to our members

in the form of development grants, probably up to a limit equal to their annual affiliation fees. We hope that the money will be spent to develop the sport in your area, that you will negotiate regional Sports Council grants as well as Local Authority grants to top up any scheme you may wish to originate. We hope such initiatives will bring in new members. New facilities may emerge, which is happening all over the country. You may have many other ideas which will advance the sport.

Now is the time to put forward your ideas. Not later than April we propose to circularise a paper which will incorporate all the best ideas and which will establish the guidelines governing the grants.

It was good and positive management which made all this possible. For my team and me it will be a great day when we are able to give the profits we have helped to earn back to our members.

We now look for a strong positive response from our member leagues and further indication that our sport is not only on the mend, but marching forward very fast into a very bright future.

JOHN PREAN



THE LEEDS YOUTH CUP

South West Region by LES SMITH

DESPITE the reduction in the number of entries, due to the late circulation of Entry Forms and the Christmas post, a fine day's table tennis was enjoyed by those who had entered at the Stroud Leisure Centre on Saturday 13th January.

The finalists in the four main singles events were all from Devonshire with the top seeds all winning their way through to the National Finals in London on 28th May.

RESULTS

Boys Singles: A. Perry (Dv) beat J. Shipman (Dv) 21-5, 21-16.

Girls Singles: H. Wright (Dv) beat C. Pengelly (Dv) 17-21, 21-19, 21-18

Cadet Boys Singles: A. Vincent (Dv) beat J. May (Dv) 21-15, 21-15

Cadet Girls Singles: L. Heyward (Dv) beat L. Morrish (Dv) 21-13, 21-14

Restricted Boys Singles: M. Smith (So) beat S. Perry (Dv) 21-17, 18-21, 22-20

Restricted Girls Singles: L. Morrish (Dv) beat R. Sandford (Dv) 21-18, 19-21, 21-10

Restricted Cadet Boys Singles: P. Hayward (Gs) beat B. Fudge (Av) 21-16, 21-16

Restricted Cadet Girls Singles: L. Morrish (Dv) beat E. Parker (Gs) 21-3, 21-9

Junior Boys Doubles: J. Hyatt (Gs) & I. Johnson (Av) beat R. Powell (Gs) & G. Davies (Av) 21-18, 21-18

Junior Girls Doubles: C. Pengelly & L. Heyward (Dv) beat H. Wright & R. Sandford (Dv) 13-21, 21-15, 21-15

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TO MAKE things easier for both the Editor and the printer it would be helpful if contributors to the magazine followed, where possible, the following guidelines:

Articles to be typed with double spacing, wide left hand margin, clearly defined paragraphs and, most important, the name of the writer. If it isn't possible to send in typed copy then clear handwriting, showing punctuation and written in upper and lower case, except maybe names which could be in capitals (for clarity).

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

Bracknell for World Record!

WHENEVER anyone claims the largest cabbage or longest carrot the point is for someone else to claim bigger and longer. A few years ago Chris Oldfield and Les D'Arcy claimed the greatest age difference (50 years?) between a regular top division doubles pair, now Bracknell claims the greatest height difference between opponents in a "proper" table tennis match. Up against Met Office, Kingfisher at the last moment found themselves a player short. Always ready to extend himself, young Ali Subhan eagerly volunteered to rise to the heights of the Bracknell Premier Division. Now Ali, being 10 years old, has yet to be a six footer like his dad, and so far has only managed to get to four foot three. It turns out that his first opponent is shorty Pete Newcomb, who besides having one of the hardest backhands in the business, also stands six foot nine in his socks. This makes a height differential of two foot six which may not sound much until one has actually seen it happen. Can anyone beat it?

At the half way stage of the season Clive Payne and Bob Sym have 100% records in the top division of the Reading League (they obviously haven't played each other), whilst Martin Adams finds himself in the same position at the top of the Bracknell averages. Tim Chatfield's column in the Bracknell News was headlined "Perfect Adams and Schwartz", which was generally taken as somewhat of an exaggeration. The Schwartz referred to is not Gemma, sister Kerry or even father Ray, but uncle Irvin, who is still unbeaten in the Bracknell First Division.

On the Cadet scene, pride of place this month again goes to Marcus Horth, in reaching the final of the National Ranking Trial at Lilleshall. In team events, Berkshire Juniors have as ever been achieving success in virtually all events which they enter. Following Kingfisher's triumph in the nationwide St Ives Junior Team tournament, Reading are through to the zone final of the Carter cup. Windsor Boys School annihilated the opposition in the under 19 Team event of the ESTTA Area final, and go for the third year running to the Regional Final. Maiden Erlegh frightened off the opposition to reach the same stage in the girls event. Finally, the County Junior team showed just

what they can do when they all appear together (the first time this season). Travelling 270 miles to meet Cornwall they stretched their legs sufficiently to stroll to a 10-0 win. This team should have made it to the Premier Division last year but look like failing yet again after turning out with only two of their five first team players against Surrey. If they ever get to the Premier all but one of the current players will be too old to enjoy the fruits of their labours. There must be a message in there somewhere...

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

THE local league scene in Cornwall has been slow taking off this season due to a slightly later start. Now well under way though, some interesting battles have developed in both the North Cornwall League Premier and also the West Cornwall Premier Division. In the North Cornwall League, holders Bude seem in trouble at this stage with the limited availability of the Bevan brothers. Holsworthy have capitalised on this situation and with the inclusion of former seventies county player Mick Gurney and also consistent form from Martin Rowe, they have opened up a twelve point gap at the top. In the West Cornwall League, Falmouth Docks A the runners up last season have opened up a twenty two point lead over their own B team who have played two games less. Graham Reed remains unbeaten to date and is still a very difficult domestic player to beat. Meanwhile St Ives A are the other main threat thanks to good form from veteran John Bassett who at 49 years of age still has a 95.2% record. Craig Ellsmore is St Ives main trump card though having improved beyond all recognition this season. Camborne A were expected to challenge for honours this year and despite the services of young John Menzel and Jonathon Pocock they languish dangerously near the foot of the table.

Another milestone for Cornwall occurs at Bude Leisure Centre on Tuesday February 13th when England entertain Czechoslovakia in the European League. It is hoped that this first ever European League match to be staged on Cornish soil will attract an attendance of around 500. Let's hope that the Cornish public give this event the support it deserves.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

THE county association have got a sponsor for their closed tournament on March 4. W. Milligan and Sons, who own the Ford garage in Lancashire Road, Millom, have promised to pour in £75.

The championships, which will be held in Millom Recreation Centre, will have 10 events — men's, women's, junior boys, junior girls', under-14 and veterans' singles, and men's, women's, mixed and junior doubles.

With the latest victories at the time of writing being 10-0 over Southport and 6-4 against rivals Trafford, Barrow senior men's town team stood second to Manchester in Division Two North of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. County man Ian Reed (Millom Former Pupils) played well in both matches and has also been turning it on for his club in the Barrow League, but they were five points behind leaders Vickers in January after vying with them and Ponderosa before Christmas.

The county were only scheduled two home games this winter. The next and last will be at Whitehaven Sports Centre on Saturday March 17th, 2.30pm. Former county player Ron Batty, who has made a come-back to the Whitehaven

League after 25 years' absence, is on course for an unbeaten season with second division leaders Sports Centre.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

THE first three matches of the Senior Premier Division of the County Championships were played off at Milton Keynes in January. Our County was once more unable to use Skylet Andrew, its best player, who was required to represent England in a European League match in Yugoslavia. Derbyshire were without Alan Cooke, and both Counties could well have a relegation fight on their hands in March. I apportion no blame here, as I know I would be wasting my time. However I do believe that it should not be beyond the ingenuity of the E.T.T.A. to ensure that nothing prevents the top players from being available to take part in the two Premier week-ends. We have been led to think that these are the apples of our sponsor's eyes.

(The County Premier Week-End was allocated a clear date by the Calendar Working Party. The European League Match vs Yugoslavia was fixed for the Tuesday which followed. It was not known at the time that the match had been fixed

THE NEW ETTA TIE

The new, redesigned ETTA members' tie is now available. It is attractively woven with the Association emblem in gold on a navy background enhanced with a fine blue stripe.

"The designer has done an excellent job. I shall be delighted to wear this tie on all occasions, not merely those connected with table tennis. Excellent quality and very attractive," John Prean, ETTA Chairman.

This stylish tie is available at £4.95 including p&p.

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Essex - cont.

some 8 hours (by road) from Belgrade.

In order to have the team arrive reasonably fresh at their destination for this important match, Team Manager Donald Parker very properly decided on an earlier departure which meant that Skylet Andrew and Alan Cooke were unable to play for their Counties. Given the circumstances, we do not see how this could have been avoided. - Ed

Despite the absence of Sky our team still had the best of starts with a 5-4 win over Devon, Steve Dorking with a maximum. Against Leics we only really needed one win from Des Charlery as Dave Newman won two and Steve Dorking one, plus the doubles. Unfortunately, much to his personal distress, Desmond could not deliver the goods, and a narrow 4-5 defeat resulted. On paper our easiest match remained, against Berks, consisting of Jimmy Stokes, two choppers and a girl ranked a lot lower than ours. Predictably, perhaps, this rather motley crew stuffed us out of sight. Well done, Berkshire, but what can we do now? Someone has suggested that we should recall Johnny Leach!

One week after these disasters, our Second team took on Kent and Sussex, winning one and losing one. Against Kent (7-3) Richard Darnell was unbeaten, as were Julie Askem and Kate Gower, while John Dennison took part in two winning sets. Against Sussex (1-8) Richard beat Stephen Moore, and the girls lost 27/29 in the third in the women's doubles! We think that Sussex will win the Division.

The Junior Committee has been very concerned about the prospects for next season. Although this year's squad has a great chance of becoming champions, only Cris Sladden of the top 8 boys will be available after June 30th. However after a lot of hard work with our third team, a glimmer of hope has emerged through the outstanding form of Wayne Mitchell and Ryan Savill, who I can now see as forming the basis of a first team next year with Cris Sladden, Alison Gower, hopefully Linda Radford, and our other very good younger girls.

Only that third team was in action in January, when we fielded our usual two sides against Suffolk I and Suffolk II. Wins by 9-1 and 8-2 were highly satisfactory, especially as Suffolk I were hitherto unbeaten. Wayne and Ryan were brilliant, but had fine support from Ben Ware, Julie Rand and Anna Weil. In the "extra" team there were excellent debuts by Peter Whealy and Andrew Taylor, backed up well by Paul Hudson, Cathy Sibbald and Annette Oakman.

Finally congratulations to Peniel Academy, Brentwood, whose teams won 6 age groups at the E.S.T.T.A. Area Team Finals and will be represented by them at the Regional

Finals next month. Essex also had the Boys Under 16 winners in The Park School from Rayleigh.

GLoucestershire

Alf Peppard

SUDDENLY, and all at once a spate of resignations have filtered through in Gloucestershire. Frank Jones, who has held the position of County Umpire's Secretary for several years and was also Chairman of the County Selectors, has himself given up both positions.

I understand that as a temporary measure Les Smith has taken over as Umpire's Secretary, and that Peter Cruwys has volunteered to be Chairman of the Selectors.

Ernie Pemberton, (from deep down in the Forest of Dean — Oh, AR) has given up his post as both a Gloucester Representative on the County Committee, and also has resigned from the Gloucester City executive Committee.

Meanwhile, at the last meeting of the Old Market Printers Gloucester T.T. Association, Paddy Jackson our 2 Star coach mentioned that he would be officially announcing his retirement at the AGM on May the 4th, I think that many of us have perhaps anticipated this move of Paddy's for some considerable time, and I well recall when he joined us — I think in 1979, he did then promise at least a five year old coaching project, of course it's more than doubled that period of time.

Both Paddy and his successor, George Novoth are 100% dedicated coaching Officers — and Paddy's services to Gloucester (and for a short time the County as well) will unquestionably be long remembered.

It's not many devotees of our sport that over a ten or eleven year period have — motorcycled or driven their car from Bristol to Gloucester — say twice a week for coaching sessions and then upon most weekends driven youngsters all over the Country to Tournaments and perhaps further coaching sessions.

So have a jolly good retirement Paddy — you and yours richly deserve it, and thanks for all the hard work that you have put into the local coaching scene.

As perhaps one coaching door is shortly to close another has opened — and isn't that life after all? Julie Hogarth whom I mentioned in last month's News as doing sterling work in coaching at Newent ran a most successful 1st ever "Newent T.T. Junior Club Championships" at the Newent Sports & Leisure Complex. This Tournament featured a majority of Julie's own proteges — plus some youngsters from Gloucester aged from 8 to 12 who already play in the lower Divisions of the City's League.

Many of these youngsters already at such a tender age, have all the hall marks of being very good players — and don't we need them?

Full results of the Newent Junior Tournament:

Non-League Players, Ben Davis beat Melonie Garlick, 12-21, 21-8, 22-20

Under 17 Singles, Jamie Day beat Andrew Day, 21-15, 16-21, 21-18

Under 12 Girls Singles, Kerry Hogarth beat Michelle Hogarth, 21-11, 22-20.

Under 12 Boys Singles, Jamie Day beat Andrew Day, 21-13, 21-18.

Handicap/Singles, Angie Bristow beat Michelle Hogarth, 30-28, 21-14.

Under 17 Doubles, Paul Kiddle/Peter Dupree beat Craig Brown/Kevin Jones, 13-21, 21-10, 21-18

Under-12 Doubles, Ann Humble/Peter Dupree beat Ian Freeman/Arron Mortimer, 21-14, 21-13.

16 year old Richard Moore, County/City/Junior from Gloucester did not enter this Newent Tournament competitively, but gave up the entire day to assist with the administration of the event.

This hardened old T.T. scribe thinks that Richard's sheer love and enthusiasm for table tennis goes well beyond the realms of many seniors — Well done Richard, table tennis would be far far better off if more were like you.

Since I left a well known local IBA Radio station after some 8 or so years of table tennis broadcasting and joined the BBC at Radio Gloucestershire South & West, I have this season blotted my copy book — up until November 1989 I had not missed a single weekly broadcast since January 1981 (other than in the closed season — May — September) when no broadcasts are made, alas in November I fell victim one weekend to the dreaded Flu Bug and missed one weekly live broadcast.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

THE third session of the Hampshire Inter-Town Cadet League climaxed with the two unbeaten teams clashing in the final match. Basingstoke with their leading player Kevin Macken keeping his 100% record to give his team a narrow 6-4 win over Gosport and Fareham. Jeremy Wilson of Andover lost only to Macken.

After the lull in the County fixtures Hampshire teams played 9 matches on one day. The new set-up with most Leagues being decided on a block basis may add to the social side of the game, but the financial side is not encouraging with some very expensive overnight

stays involved. This could lead to a call for increased subscriptions. For a very small percentage of the playing membership, can this be justified? The absence of Mark Wilding was a vital factor in the 'A' teams drawn match with Cornwall. Rhamish Bhalla's two singles wins including a 14 and 13 demolition of England Junior No.2 Neil Bevan. The Sarahs, Hammond and Turner, won their singles and the doubles. The 0-10 loss to Avon is best forgotten. The 8-2 win by the second team over Cornwall 'B' was a good team effort with Mark Bleakley winning both his singles, but all players contributing. The Junior 'A' team had two wins 7-3 over Cornwall and 10-0 over Devon 'B'. Mark Shutler, Kevin Macken, Jonathan Crouch, Clare Woodham and Caroline Newling-Ward all had wins in these two victories. The Junior 'B' team lost heavily to Somerset 1-9, but beat Dorset 'C' by 6-4. Matthew Roberts won the set against Somerset and both his singles against Dorset. The Veteran 'A' team, with Graham Lynch winning two sets, beat Sussex 6-3, while the 'B' team beat Berkshire 'C' by 8-1. Quite a successful day all in all, 6 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses.

In the Hampshire Junior Closed Tournament, No.1 seed, Clare Woodham of Aldershot, just eased out the Southampton holder of the title, Tina Caws, -18, 15 and 18 in the girls final. In the corresponding boys event, Aldershot's Jonathan Crouch beat No.1 seed Richard Hatley in the semi and No.2 seed, Mark Shutler, 13 and 14 in the final. Jonathan Crouch and Mark Shutler won the under-17 doubles, while Kevin Macken and Jeremy Wilson won the under-14s. In the girls events, Alison Griggs (Andover) won the under-14 and Wanda Hutchinson (Aldershot) the under-12. In the boys, Kevin Macken (Basingstoke) won the under-14 and Gareth Scadden (Gosport and Fareham) the under-12. The tournament as usual under the wings of Referee Mick Strode and Secretary Harold Albery. Hampshire are fortunate in having someone like Harold to rely on. Harold, now he has retired from the Diplomatic Corps, is able to devote much of his time to table tennis. Have pity therefore on us poor souls who still have to work for a living in between our unpaid stints at table tennis administration. More would be achieved by criticising those who do nothing for our game rather than running down those who already do more than their fair share of the work involved in running our amateur sport. I could, in my position of unpaid correspondent to the magazine, criticise local league officials for not sending me information on their town activities. I could criticise the County Team management and selection committee for not sending me details of the County teams results. I could complain about the lack of information from the County on inter-town matches. I could even say that the GS has neglected his duty in not sending me

Hampshire - cont.

a County handbook, copies of results of tournaments, junior events, ranking lists and the late appearance of minutes and meeting dates etc. But no, as I have said, why complain about those who are doing work and not those who sit back and take advantage of their efforts in running table tennis. The problem with local table tennis is that too few are doing too much in administration. Until this changes or the sport is put on a more professional basis as has been done at the "head office" of the ETTA, the future of our game does not look bright.

HERTS

John Wood

IT WAS six of the best when North Herts' Keith Samuels won the Hertfordshire Closed Men's Singles Crown for the sixth time, at the Barnet Table Tennis in January.

Keith, who is in his early twenties is young enough to break the county record, which is held by Welwyn Garden City's Terry Densham, who has won the title seven times.

The Men's Singles final was a real cracker, between Samuel's and Rob Liquorish of Hemel Hempstead, with the first leg going to Samuels. But the tall Liquorish grew even taller following a superb display of topspin aggression to take the second 18.

But Samuels in true champion style rose majestically to the occasion with fast topspin loops, that was sheer poetry in motion, as he sweeps to victory, 21-11.

The new Ladies Singles champion is young Emma Hurling of Hemel Hempstead, who has taken the trophy in her first year as a senior.

In the final she beat Cheshunt's Caroline Boxall, after losing the first set 19, she stormed back with flashing topspin drives, to take the final two games, 11 and 18.

Emma, who is working towards a degree in sports science at the Brighton Polytechnic, tasted sweet success twice, winning the Ladies Doubles in partnership with Barnet's Maria Williams, when they defeated Watford's Sally Bax and Cheshunt's Sylvia Tyler in the final, 5 and 11.

Rob Liquorish bounced back from his Men's Singles defeat to take the Mixed Doubles crown in partnership with Caroline Seaholme of Watford, defeating his old adversary Glen Wilkes of Hemel Hempstead and Emma Hurling, -20, 19 and 22, following an excitingly close final.

The prestigious Men's Doubles Trophy was won by Watford's Graham Witchalls and St. Albans' Stephen Greep, when they overcame the powerful challenge of Men's Singles Champion Keith

Samuels and Derek Balding, 15 and 22 in the final.

Once again Keith Hartridge of Welwyn Garden City has won the Senior Veterans Crown beating Geoff Bax of Watford in a repeat final of last year 19 and 6.

On top of this, these two golden oldies, fought out the over 40's final, with once again Hartridge triumphing 13 and 17.

Must be something in the water in Welwyn Garden City!

The Ladies Veteran's final was also a repeat of last year, with Cheshunt's Sylvia Tyler, reversing the result to beat Watford's Sally Bax 19, -14 and 19, following a tight defensive battle.

KENT

Adrian Hall & Brian Etherington

AS Kent have had no correspondent for some years, let us catch up with some of the season's highlights, ranking list and senior championship results.

Kent Juniors are well represented at National level, Brian Mileham — Margate, has played an International against Holland at Cleveland, while Leslie Hollingworth — Sittingbourne, has attended Junior Camps at Lillishall.

At the other end of the age range, Joanne Barham — Rotherhithe, and Crystal Hall — Maidstone, are attending regular training camps with The Crest National U.12 Squad.

Ranking List — Effective 1/9/89

Men

- 1 J. Burleton
- 2 A. Dodd
- 3 A Cunningham
- 4 D. Dodd
- 5 J. Kennedy
- 6 B. Mileham
- 7 P. Cox
- 8 P. Rainford
- 9 M. Brown
- 10 G. Spencer

Women

- 1 J. Houghton
- 2 L. Popkewicz
- 3 T. Stewart
- 4 J. Thorn
- 5 J. Mersh
- 6 K. May
- 7 M. Garlinge
- 8 M. Dignum
- 9 M. Dudgeon
- 10 C. Brown

Junior Boys

- 1 B. Mileham
- 2 S. Thompson
- 3 M. Willey
- 4 M. Gunn
- 5 D. Illing
- 6 K. Reed
- M. Bull
- M. Vardy

Junior Girls

- 1 L. Hollingworth
- 2 D. Joseph
- 3 C. Riggs
- 4 N. Duke
- K. Ackerley
- 6 M. Ritter
- S. Baker

Cadet Boys

- 1 A. Crowe
- 2 C. Chamberlain
- 3 G. Ritchie
- C. Hastie
- 5 N. Vardy
- 6 C. Thompson
- R. Friday

Cadet Girls

- 1 J. Barham
- 2 N. Duke
- 3 N. Barham
- 4 C. Hall
- 5 M. Joseph
- S. Hardacre

Tonbridge professional Juliet Houghton claimed her eighth successive singles title at the Kent Closed championships on 21 January 1990. The win equalled the county record and it was her third final of an action-packed day.

Houghton beat No.2 seed Julie Lawrence of Bromley in the singles final 21-16, 19-21, 21-11. Houghton and Leslie Hollingworth of Sittingbourne had a convincing win in the doubles over Tina Stewart and Karen May (North West Kent) 21-17, 21-4, while the mixed doubles was also clearcut, Houghton and Mark Brown beating A. Dodd (Woolwich and Simone Arndt (Bromley) 21-9, 21-7.

Top seed Andrew Cunningham of Bromley won his first senior men's title in the singles, beating Bromley League player Paul Rainford 18-21, 21-16, 21-15.

The men's doubles final was between Mark Brown (Tonbridge)/Paul Rainford who beat Ian Girdler/Darren Goodacre (Bromley) 21-18, 21-14. Medway Veteran Graham French beat Ken Hewitt (Maidstone) 21-7, 21-11 in the Vet's final.

Man of Kent: Neil Harris (Sittingbourne) beat Phil Saxby (Folkestone) 23-21, 21-19

Kentish Man: Mark Green (Bromley) beat Miles Willey (Bromley) 21-18, 21-19.

Category 2 Ladies: Julie Lawrence beat Joan Beadle (Ashford) 18-21, 21-18, 21-12.



Hertfordshire's Singles Champions, Keith Samuels of North Herts (left), who has now won the title six times, and young Emma Hurling, from Hemel Hempstead, who has just won it for the first time! (Photo courtesy John F.A. Wood)

LANCASHIRE

George R Yates

Sean Gibson, Tony Taylor, Nigel Eckersley and Andrea Holt, along with Stephen Scowcroft who played in two men's doubles, carried Lancashire's hopes forward when they represented the Red Rose county in the first Premier Division weekend of the Leeds County Championships.

Stantonbury Leisure Centre proved a happy hunting ground for the Lancastrians who, in turn, beat Surrey (7-2), Derbyshire (5-4) and Devon (6-3) to secure a half time lead.

The two sets dropped against Surrey were by Taylor and Gibson, both to Nicky Mason with Nigel Eckersley, at No.3, beating Glen Baker and Dave Hannah. Gibson and Scowcroft beat Mason and Hannah as did Eckersley and Andrea Holt against Baker and Jane Barella the latter losing to Miss Holt in their singles encounter.

Bradley Billington was the thorn in Lancashire's side in the match against Derbyshire with the Chesterfield player beating Gibson and Taylor as well as partnering John Holland to a doubles victory over Gibson and Scowcroft. Holland also tasted success with a win over Eckersley.

But Gibson, with a win over Holland, Eckersley with a win over Martin Kinsella, Andrea Holt beating Julie Billington and a doubles success for Eckersley and Miss Holt equated the scoreline at 4-4 setting up a grandstand finish for Taylor to beat Kinsella 9, 10, for a 5-4 match result.

It was somewhat easier against Devon despite Paul Whiting winning the first set against Taylor and Gary Lambert and Carol Giles denting the record of Eckersley and Miss Holt in the mixed for a 2-2 scoreline. Subsequently the next four sets were reeled off by Gibson and Taylor in the men's doubles and by Miss Holt, Taylor and Gibson in singles for a 6-2 lead narrowed to a final 6-3 result when, in the final set, Paul Giles beat Eckersley.

Howard Whewell of Rossendale won his first major title when, in the Essex Junior Select, he beat Colin Bowler of Dunstable 16, -11, 19 in the boys' singles final. Howard is a member of Grove II who are currently top of Div. 2 (Midlands) division of the Leeds British League.

Howard is a full time student at Burnley College taking a B-Tec course and plays for the College team who along with Duncan Preston, Alan Pilling and another are through to the Area Finals for the U-19's.

Lancs & Cheshire League

STOCKPORT remain the only unbeaten team in Division I of the Lancs and Cheshire League seeing off Blackburn 7-3 in December when Graham Clarke was beaten by both Andy and Steve Horsfield, two newcomers from across the Pennines. Liverpool, the defending champions, dropped their third point of the season when held to a 5-5 draw by Bolton who, at one stage, led 5-2.

Nigel Hallows had two wins for the Trotters with David Carse and Mark Gibson — elder brother of Sean — winning one each Carse and Hallows taking the doubles. Stuart Richards had two successes for the Liverpoolians as did Paul Hutchings with Keith Williams saving the day when he won his only set against Hallows 16 and 21. Preston head Junior Div. I but could be overhauled by Barrow, while Liverpool are on course to retain the Women's Div. I title.

of the Philip Reid Memorial Trophy when he beat Paul Henry -18, 17 & 18.

In this handicap tournament Matthew received the benefit of a 7 point start in each game in the final but failed to capitalise on it in the first game allowing Paul to claw back the deficit and eventually take the game. The second game went the same way initially until the Henry game plan went to pot allowing Hobday to make it one all. Unfortunately for Henry at 17/18 down in the third things again went disastrously wrong as he served twice on the trot into the net which effectively lost him the match and the Trophy.

Tournament organiser Terry Bown declared himself pleased with both the response to the tournament 42 entries (up on last year) and the spirit in which the games were played.

One note of caution was however sounded by Terry and it is one which I wholeheartedly agree with and that is that the tournament was, for the fourth time in the last five years, again won by a Junior whose grading at the time the tournament was held bore very little relationship to his grading at the start of the season (Sept 89) due to the rapid rate at which these youngsters improve. As previously stated the P. Reid Memorial Trophy is a handicap competition and the handicaps are based on the gradings the

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillicrapp

IN AN absorbing final Matthew Hobday became the 1989/90 holder



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Leicestershire cont.

competitors start the season with so us geriatrics who are getting worse instead of better are seriously disadvantaged as well as usually being on the wrong end of a hammering!

On a more serious note I think that Terry is right in saying that whoever runs the competition next season will have to make an effort to obtain more up-to-date gradings just prior to the staging of the tournament in order to make it not only as fair as possible but also to encourage those in the twilight of their playing days to have a bash!

The first Leeds County Championships Premier Weekend saw Leicestershire emerge bruised but far from demoralised winning but one of their three games played.

The opening fixture against current champions Middlesex saw the champions race to a 3-0 lead only for Leicestershire to peg it back to 3-3 by taking both doubles games and then Karen Smith beating Welsh International Lesley Keast in two straight. Leicestershire then went 3-4 down when Phil Smith found Nigel Tyler too hot to handle before Leics Skipper Chris Rogers again levelled the match when he defeated England No.8 John Souter. It was all down to Dave Gannon then to attempt to snatch a surprise win for Leicestershire when he played Graham Sandley in the deciding game. It wasn't to be however as Sandley took the final game 21/19 to secure the match for the champions.

The second game against Essex was just as tight as the first against Middlesex with the only difference being that Leicestershire came away with the points this time. Chris Rogers was unbeaten for Leicestershire as was sister Karen Smith and the three wins from the family Rogers plus a win from Phil Smith and a Rogers/Gannon doubles success was enough to see Leicestershire through.

The final game against a strong Surrey side was something of an anti-climax as far as Leicestershire were concerned after the previous two games as they slid to an ignominious 3-6 defeat. The Surrey men took five out of the six singles games they played. Karen Smith provided the high note of the match for Leicestershire as she recorded her third two straight victory of the weekend to maintain her 100% record.

The Selection Sub-Committee held their mid-season meeting just after Christmas and made the following amendments to our Ranking Lists. In the Senior Men, T.Holder was deleted and A.Shephard put in his place. In the Junior Boys' list P Jablon and A.Tanner were placed at Nos. 11 and 12 respectively and S.Jablon inserted between I.Wilson and R.Parmar. In the Cadet Boys', S.Jablon was promoted from No.10 to No.5.

Our Junior Closed Championships were held at Ashford on 13th and 14th January. The entry was a little disappointing with just over 40 taking part. I am sure that Middlesex should be able to produce more Juniors than that, but what we lost in numbers we made up in quality with virtually the whole of the Middlesex ranked players taking part. The final stages of the events and the winners were as follows:-

Junior Girls Singles

Semi-Final: Sara Williams beat Georgina Matthews 16, 14; Emese Kottasz beat Elizabeth Blanch 9, 11

Final: Sarah beat Emese 18, 15

Junior Boys Singles

Semi-Finals: David Baker beat Mark Williams -18, 15, 19; Dov Katz beat Paul Jablon 20, 16.

Final: David beat Dov 16, -14, 19

Junior Girls Doubles

(Played as a Group)
Winners: Elizabeth Blanch and Joanne Jablon

R-U: Sara Williams and Emese Kottasz

Junior Boys Doubles

Final: David Baker and Dov Katz beat Mark Williams and Sam Henley 14, 8

Junior Mixed Doubles

Final: David Baker and Sara Williams beat Dov Katz and Elizabeth Blanch 17, 15.

Cadet Girls Singles

(Played as a Group)

Winner: Diana Chan

R-U: Joanne Weare

Cadet Boys Singles

Semi-Finals: Richard Hyacinth beat Robin Church 18, 14; Robert Weare beat Simeon Zeffert -11, 16, 12

Final: Richard beat Robert -20, 16, 12.

Cadet Boys Doubles

Final: Richard Hyacinth and Simeon Zeffert beat Paul Sprackling and Robin Church 16, 18

Congratulations to all the winners.

Congratulations, too, to our Premier Division team who came through the first week-end unbeaten. Having beaten Leicestershire 5 - 4, Surrey 7 - 2 and Derbyshire 5 - 4, we came second to Lancashire who were also unbeaten and pipped us on games average. Will the Championships be decided once again on the match between Middlesex and Lancashire? We will have to wait and see. But in the meantime, well done our team; keep it up.

SUFFOLK

THE Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre bounced into 1990 with the 2nd W.Simpson & Son Annual Open Handicap Table Tennis Knockout Tournament on Sunday 14th January.

The event was well supported by players of varying abilities from all over Suffolk, including top ranked Suffolk Seniors and Juniors.

All winners received trophies presented by our main Sponsor Mr E.Simpson and in addition received prizes donated by Stiga (Holdalls), and Butterfly (Calendars) and Lion Sport (UK) Ltd (Bat Cases), Tournament balls were also donated by Lion.

Mr Simpson also presented the new Simpson Trophy for Top Junior of the Tournament to Graham Watts.

A great day was enjoyed by all 65 competitors playing in 160 matches during 9 hours of competition.

Result sheet attached.
Mens Winner — John Kitchener
Runner Up — Richard Tanner
Ladies Winner — Andrea Ambrose
Runner Up — Claire Nicholls

Junior Boys Winner —
Graham Watts
Runner Up — Stuart Wadsworth

Junior Girls Winner —
Suzanne Burdett
Runner Up — Emma Pratt

Mens Plate Winner —
Peter Fordham
Runner Up — Chris Nicholls

Ladies Plate Winner
— Sarah Davison
Runner Up — Emma Pratt

Boys Plate Winner —
Karl Harvey
Runner Up — Richard Oppenheim

Girls Plate Winner —
Sarah Davison
Runner Up — Kelly Pickering

Mixed Doubles Winners
Richard Hutchinson/
Janet Scoulding
Runner Up — Andy Doshier/Janet
Faires

Top Junior Perpetual Trophy
Graham Watts
(donated by Main Sponsor
W.Simpson & Sons)

SURREY

Terry Vance

At the Senior Premier Weekend we arrived with all our top players expecting to win all our matches. In the end we only won 1 out of 3. The 2 we lost were both by 7-2, the 3rd we won 6-3. It was mostly thanks to Nicky Mason who won his 6 singles and 1 mixed with Jane Barella. We are now struggling to stay up and

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

SORRY I did not appear last month but I got involved with the 'flu bug at the crucial time!



A gobsmacked Russell King from Suffolk!

Surrey - cont.

much will depend on who will be selected for the next weekend. The question maybe is do we want to stay up and continue to struggle each year without our best players.

In the County Championships there was controversy when the Junior 1st drew away to Herts. The Surrey Captain refused to sign the match sheet stating that he would be making a written complaint. In the other Junior matches there were unexpected wins for Andrea Hopkinson; Daniel Annenberg; Mark Burman; and Jill Whitehead. County Badges were awarded to Jill Whitehead, Paul MacNamara and Daniel Annenberg.

In the Wandsworth League Steve Holloway lost his unbeaten record to Selwyn Campbell when Earlsfield A lost to Chesterton A. Even with this defeat the title was retained by Earlsfield with a margin of 2 points.

In the Thames Valley League Div 1 Ashford lead Spelthorne by 4 Points and Spicer by 17 at the Halfway stage. N Charles leads the individual averages with 100% followed by A Shephard & S Boxall. Spicer 2 have been fined for a late result card so other teams and Leagues be warned the Secretary needs these results early in order to keep you as up to date as the modern technology of computers will allow. Brian Windett beat Paul Safranek 21-19 in the third after being 19-6 down which is one of the highlights so far. In Div 2 Rosehill lead New Malden & MMB by 13 points. Lorraine Garbet still leads the averages with 87-50%.

Edward Hatley, Jason and Darren Blake have been selected to attend the National Training Camp.

Finally don't forget the South of England 3 Star Tournament at Woking on 10th & 11th March 1990. We have just been told that our Sponsors have pulled out but we are continuing with the event and hoping to attract other Sponsors. Please come along and watch as the spectators are vital for a Sponsor to gauge his success in the promotion and hopefully return for further sponsorship. There will also be a display of old table tennis equipment and perhaps a chance to try to play with one of the old banjo bats.

SUSSEX

Graham Carter

RITCHIE VENNER, 24, from Crawley, has been named in the top 20 Men in England for the first time. A consistent run in the Leeds British League for Horsham Dolphins, combined with 3 star and County success has led him, at No.19 to go one better than Bexhill's Adrian Moore.

Venner was quite surprised at hearing of his climb from the 30's. This strengthens Ritchie's claim for Moore's mantle of being the official No.1 in Sussex, especially as Venner is reigning Sussex Captain. Ritchie's best performance this season was when he took the notable scalp of Welsh No.1 Steve Ward during a Leeds British League match.

Sussex are now beautifully poised for promotion to the Premier Division of the County Championship. They are joint top of Division 1 needing just a win against lowly Hampshire to send the champagne corks flying.

The line-up of Venner, Scottish international Janet Smith plus the Moore trio of Teresa, Adrian and Stephen, reached previously unknown heights by beating both Middlesex II and Essex II 9-1 at the County weekend in Southampton.

It was Stephen — now widely known as the National Council players' rep. — who put paid to Crawley's hopes in the Wilmott Cup. He remained unbeaten to help Hastings to a tense 5-4 victory in the zone final. This included a shock win over Ritchie Venner.

Crawley's Alan Cole, 17, remains full of surprises. He caused an upset by beating Paul Elphick to win the Haywards Heath Championships. Elphick was attempting to win the title for the fourth time in five years, but had no answer to the "glue-bob's" efficiency.

Cole's second surprise was when he appeared for Sussex II just months after a Sussex committee member had campaigned for his exclusion. Keith Jackson had pleaded with the senior selectors to overlook the super kid "when the time comes". This was due to the Sussex No.1's refusal to play for the County Junior team this season. Alan was unbeaten in his debut against Berkshire II.

The local Veteran scene is flourishing wonderfully. Alan Cole's coach and former schoolmaster Andy Meads reached the last 4 at the Cleveland 5 star Veterans' event. Brighton looper Robin Stace won the Midland Vets tournament.

A team representing Brighton are through to the quarter finals of the Vets National Team Trophy. — Well done to Robin Stace, Andy Meads, Roger Chandler and Burgess Hill giant Keith Horton.

Teresa Moore wishes it to be known that she is not "loathe to desert her home town of Hastings in the Rose Bowl" (February issue), it is purely a question of not having any more spare time to devote to table tennis. - JW.

Payments to Players

AN item in the Sussex Notes of the February 1990 issue said, "Brighton declined to accept a sug-



Janet Smith

gestion from Miss Smith that they might pay modest professional fees"; that was to play for the league in the Rose Bowl. The fact that the player made the request, that the league considered it and, from my enquiries, that the matter involved a public debate would seem to imply that the league had some power and discretion in making such payments. The fact is, of course, that payments of this sort are banned by ETTA Rules. Rule 32.3.1 states, "No affiliated player shall be paid or receive any remuneration other than expenses for playing in a competitive table tennis event, that is, an event in which the player is playing for his Club, League, County or Country, or in Open, Invitation, Closed or other Tournament." Prizes are not included in that ban.

However, the National Council does, under Rule 32.3.5, have power "to license a specified competition to operate on the basis of players being paid." The British League has been given this licence and in that competition the ban therefore does not operate.

KEITH WATTS

(Chairman,

ETTA Rules Committee)

WARWICKSHIRE

Alan Healey

OUR friend Geoff Taylor, the previous TTN Warwickshire contributor, advises us that pressure of work and other commitments have prevented him from continuing with this column.

My journalistic experience is very limited, so perhaps we can use the next few editions, until the end of Season, as a trial period.

Initially, I must explain that after establishing contact with the various TTA's throughout Warwickshire — the message comes through loud and clear that table tennis in the County is alive and well, although as in many other places, there are not so many Clubs or players as there were a few of years ago.

Club/League table tennis in the County is organised, as follows:

Stratford on Avon Dist. TTA
4 divisions — 40 teams — 22 Clubs
Nuneaton Dist. TTA
3 divisions — 38 teams — 19 Clubs
Leamington Spa/
Warwick Dist TTA
4 divisions — 48 teams — 16 Clubs
Coventry Dist TTA
6 divisions — 72 teams — 23 Clubs
Birmingham & Dist TTA
(3-a-side) 8 divisions — 94 teams
(4-a-side) 5 divisions — 52 teams
(Womens) 1 division — 6 teams
Birmingham total 58 Clubs

Table Tennis Coaching for younger players in Warwickshire is available at the following Clubs:

Etone Sports Centre, Nuneaton, Warwicks (Sun 9.15am/11.30am)
Lillington Free Church TTC,
Leamington Spa, Warwicks.
Kingshurst Youth & Community Centre TTC, Birmingham B37 6BD
Colebridge TTC rear/72
Colebrook Rd, Shirley, Solihull WM1D
Streetly Youth & Sports Centre TTC, Foley Rd E. Streetley, S/Coldfield.

The Warwickshire Veterans team of Terry Bache, Pat McCabe, Neil Wheatley and Ann Lloyd gained their first points of the Season with a 5-4 win over Norfolk, at Norwich. A fine team performance this, with each member winning one of their singles — the crucial game being skipper Bache's narrow defeat of Norfolk's highly ranked No.1 Mick Broughton. McCabe and Mrs Lloyd sealed the victory with a decisive mixed doubles win — Warwickshire's first doubles success, this Season.

At Birmingham Representative level — The Birmingham Willmott Cup team of Phil Gunn, Carl Morgan and Richard Jermyn — won their Midland Zone Semi-final by defeating Nottingham 5-0. They now face Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington and John Holland of Chesterfield in the Zone final.

Resulting from a successful proposal at last years AGM, the Birmingham Dist. TTA Leagues' changed from the traditional points system in favour of a simple games won/points system. This proposal was unexpected on the night, and was carried — to some degree of continuing controversy.

In the Birmingham 3-a-side Premier Division — Handsworth Victoria 'A' (72 points) lead the division with two matches in hand from Kalamazoo 'A' (69 points).

The Kalamazoo Club (82 points) also lead Division 1, of the Birmingham 4-a-side League followed by a powerful Kingshurst YCC 'A' team (60 points). However, Kingshurst YCC 'A' continue to threaten, having played 3 matches fewer than the leaders.

England's overdue win at Bude — Prean, Douglas unbeaten!

by JOHN WOODFORD in Bude, North Cornwall

A TALE of the unexpected... who would have thought that a boisterous crowd of 700 would have cheered England to a fabulous 4-3 win in the European league at tiny Bude on the North Cornish coast? It needed courage and flair by Don Parker to take the almost unprecedented step of resting Alan Cooke and bringing back from European League retirement, 34-years-young Desmond Douglas, who once again thrilled and delighted the fans with his brilliant blinding speed and flashing attack.

As we hastily telephoned our reports back to London after a spell-binding match, Richard Eaton and I agreed that we could not recall any occasion in the past when we had seen Desmond working at such speed to beat Tomas Janci 13, 16 and Petr Korbel 19, -20, 14, a magnificent comeback preceded by Desmond winning the 5-star Wiltshire Open at Swindon.

The match started in the most promising fashion — Douglas stopped Janci — the man who beat Yu Shentong at the team event in Manchester and Carl Prean managed to squeeze home -8, 19, 19. Prean started disastrously in the first game. Priceless (hopefully) words from Don Parker before the second game saw a transformation as the Grenzau No.1 gradually mounted his attacks with more efficiency with the help of the fans — who like fans abroad sometimes — made distracting noises when they should have been quiet.

Great Support

However, some English fans are so quiet when the team needs support, that the Cornish and Devon supporters, many of whom had travelled a long way to be there, that I would not dream of criticising them — they were great! I asked Des Douglas after the match about the fans, he said, "They were fine, I was really pleased to hear the crowd behind me."

With England forging ahead full-steam with the rain beating down and the wind thrashing around outside — we could hear the famous Bude surfing waves — everything looked good. But the Czechs who led the Super Division table only a few weeks ago, had other ideas.

They started the fight-back with a success by Renata Kasalova over Alison Gordon who finds it extremely difficult to score at this level in this competition. Although Alison secured the first game the quick-hitting girl from Banovel, ranked No.27 in the world found her targets to win 11,12.

Knowing that England are weak in the doubles matches, the Czechs exploited the vulnerability in the men's and the mixed events. Prean and Andrew snatched the first game of the men's doubles against Javurek and Korbel and at that juncture things looked even brighter for England, but slowly the Czech pair managed to grab the initiative and confidently hit back 14 and 13.

Scores Level

Making his debut as an MC, the local organiser Peter Hancock found himself announcing that the scores were now level at 2 - 2. Once again, England took the first game of the mixed doubles, Alison Gordon and Skylet, but again the visitors fought back to win convincingly 12, 14, to give Czechoslovakia a 3 - 2 lead. It looked like the end of the line for England, yet another defeat, it would have been five in a row, would put them beyond help.

But the cavalry was waiting to make a dramatic rescue, as dramatic as any life-saver in the surf at Bude. Des Douglas found himself up against the most dangerous and promising youngster Petr Korbel, a shock finalist in the Austrian Open. Our wily Walsall professional, using every ounce of experience took the first, just lost the second but pounced on Korbel to win the third easily, as the crowd again erupted.

Prean to the Rescue

So, it was 3 - 3, the scoreline that is so familiar in the European League. This time, it was Carl Prean to the rescue. Having just recovered from the 'flu and two winter colds, he did not look a hundred per cent fighting fit, but he listened to the wise words of Don Parker, and skilfully, clinically shredded Tomas Janci, 16, 13 to give England a splendid win that resulted in a standing ovation — although many fans were standing anyway, there were no seats left!

What a Crowd !

TEN out of ten to chief organiser Peter Hancock who somehow conjured up 700 spectators from a Bude population of 5,000. Many travelled great distances in this first ever European League match in Cornwall, among them a welcome return for Keith Ponting. The ETTA will look with interest at any venue that can produce 700 "bums" on seats — England will be back?

RESULTS

England 4, Czechoslovakia 3
D. Douglas b T. Janci 13, 16
C. Prean b P. Korbel -8, 19, 19
A. Gordon l R. Kasalova 17, -11, -12
Prean and S. Andrew l J. Javurek and Korbel -16, 14, -13.
Andrew and Gordon l Janci and Kasalova -15, 12, -14
Douglas b Korbel 19, -20, 10.
Prean b Janci 16, 13.

Sidelights

● The journey in a mini-bus from Heathrow for the Czech team took around five hours but they had a night's sleep to recover from the journey. The weather in Devon and Cornwall was shocking for the travellers, rain, hail and high winds.
● ETTA Events Manager Jenny Hughes showed her undoubted talents as a driver on the 600-mile round trip and as an organiser at the venue, the Bude Haven Sports Hall, where the playing conditions were excellent. ● The organisers wish especially to thank the North Cornwall District Council for their help in organising the match.



Carl Prean — vital win against Janci in final match.



Desmond Douglas — in scintillating form at Bude.

Warwickshire - cont.

In a reduced **Birmingham Women's League** — Hatchford Brook (82 points) are locked in battle with the Kingshurst YCC girls (81 points) on level matches played. Margaret Simken (Hatchford Brook) played 33 won 30, Laureen Izon (F.Jacombs) 36/28 and Janet Wilson (Kingshurst YCC) 30/26 leading the individuals.

It is good to see talented young players from the Kingshurst YCC, Colebridge YC, and Shenley Court School, moving up through the divisions. These YC's and their patient coaches deserve all the recognition and support they can get.

Regarding future issues — It is hoped to receive promised regular input from all the Warwickshire Regional TTA's.

Events — Anniversaries — Local Results — Notable Performances — Comment — Controversy — Obituaries.

You can reach me via Telephone (021) 323-2033 (24 hour answer machine) or Fax (by arrangement) — there is no excuse... PLEASE ACT NOW!

Finally, may I just briefly recognise the skills and performances of the **Birmingham Freewheels TTC**. As the name suggests, this team mainly consists of severely handicapped players, who are battling out the season on level terms against able bodied players (such as myself).

At this time, Freewheels are narrowly leading the Birmingham 4-a-side Division 4 table. Their top players, Joe McGuire (22/15) and Tim Philips (16/13) exercise considerable skills in spin, spin services and split-second timing from the low-level of a wheel-chair. Long may Freewheels continue to compete...

Forthcoming Events — To Note
 Sunday 25th March 1990 — Birmingham 'Closed' Championships at Birmingham Sports Centre.
 Sunday 8th April 1990 — Warwickshire 'Closed' Championships at Coventry Disabled Centre.
 Sunday 22nd April 1990 — Midland 'Closed' Championships, Lilleshall
 Sunday 12th May 1990 — Birmingham Dist. TTA Annual Dinner, Dance and Presentation of Trophies at Hardy Spicer Social Club, Birmingham.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

LAST season's champions Dudley, and runners-up Kidderminster are again emerging as favourites to

finish in the two top positions of the Worcs County League. Both are unbeaten and have yet to meet. Dudley have beaten Evesham 9-0, Bromsgrove 5-4 and Malvern 8-1, Willie Ahearn beating Steve Horton to avert a white-wash in the Malvern match. Kidderminster have beaten Bromsgrove 8-1 and Worcester 5-4. Andy Barlow beat Mark Hankey in the final set to secure a Kidderminster win in the Worcester match. Other results to date: Worcester 5 Malvern 4 & Evesham 2 Malvern 7.

In the semi-finals of the County Knock-out competition, Bromley (Dudley) will meet Worths (K'minster), & Wyre Piddle (Evesham) will meet the winners of the Thorns (Dudley) versus Ledbury (Malvern) match.

In the semi-finals of the County Team Handicap competition, O.E.'s (Worcs) will receive 130 pts start against Four Pools Mixed (Evesham), and the ladies of Worcester Lawn Tennis Club will be giving Four Pools Greens (dad Colin and sons Neil and Mark), 100 pts start.

It has now been confirmed that the second week-end of the Womens British League matches on June 9th and 10th are to be staged within the County. The venue will be the new Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge, which is due to open in March. With 30 teams entered, two very full days of top class ladies table tennis is envisaged.

On the County Championship scene, Worcestershire 1st's entertained Cambridgeshire on Jan 27th at Dudley. A most entertaining match resulted in a 5-5 draw. With No.3 Mark Hankey failing to arrive, Worcs did well to get a point. Hankey could well have played his one and only match for his new County!

Scores, Worcs first:-
 Trevor Washington — lost Keith Richardson -15, -16; beat Gary Jordon 10, 18.
 Malcolm Green — beat Mick Harper 8, 18; lost Keith Richardson -13, 22, -19.
 Green/Washington beat Richardson/Harper 15, -19, 15
 Sandra Roden beat Ivette Hooks 19, 15
 Mandy House lost Helen Gipp - 11, -15
 Roden/House beat Hooks/Gipp 16, 11

The Juniors beat Wiltshire 9-1 in Div 2B to continue their push for promotion. Lee Horton, Jason Thompson, Catherine Drage, and Paula Hughes were all unbeaten; Craig Ward dropped one set for Wilts solitary win.

Worcs Veterans travelled to Yorkshire to play Yorks 2nds and lost their unbeaten record, going down 6-3. At a poor venue for a County match, the Railway Institute, York, Ray Dixon, Roy Norton and Mervyn Wood won one

singles each for Worcs, Janet Hunt suffering rare defeats in both singles and mixed doubles.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

IT WAS very much a day for Yorkshire's own players when with the teenagers to the fore, they dominated the Pontefract Open, claiming five of the eight titles, a share in a sixth, and five of the runners-up placings.

So it is congratulations to Michael O'Driscoll, the eighteen year old England No.7, certainly the favourite for the Singles title, but Michael also took the Doubles honours with scratch partner Zia Khan from Walsall in a thrilling final — and what a grand example the Mirfield lad set as he hoped to make the day for his partner, playing in his first ever Open tournament!

Thirteen year old Sally Marling saw to it that both Ladies and Junior Girls Singles trophies stayed in the White Rose county, in both cases at the expense of another talented youngster in Katie Goodall.

The Leeds girl had some consolation in the Ladies Doubles where she teamed with Karen Burrows from three miles down the road at Castleford to come through the final past Bradford pair Helen Shields and Joanne Keighley.

Mark Stephenson, Yorkshire's No.1 junior, not only took the Junior Boys' title with a victory over Gareth Jones (Selby) but proved to be the surprise packet in the Mens Singles, fighting his way to the semi-final before going out to O'Driscoll, while David Indricks, already making his presence felt on his return to the sport, completed Yorkshire's final representation when he fell to Brian Johns in the final of the Class 2 Singles.

A lively Dewsbury Newsletter, full of useful information for the local players, is to hand and provided interesting reading. Much hard work has obviously gone into its preparation and production, and I hope that this is appreciated.

If so, read again the 'leader' on handicapping, think about it, and then do your part — contact the Editor or one of his Committee and give him your views, and they will know that their efforts have been worthwhile.

In Yorkshire, as everywhere else, the escalating costs of administration and development have sparked off a search for new sources of income, and Craig Milner has now completed preparations for getting the 'Triple Tyke' club off the ground.

This is a '300 club' with a monthly draw for one major and a

number of smaller prizes for a contribution of £12, and the club also intends to organize a number of social events.

Most sources in the county have been thoroughly circled, but if any 'Yorkies' in the less fortunate parts of the country — or their friends — wish to be involved, Craig can be contacted on 0609 772264.

Youth has taken over at the top of the Selby League with five of the top six names in the half-season averages falling into the 14 - 18 age group. Gareth Jones and Craig Smith, both with 100% records, are separated from Karl Horsfield and brothers Chris and Andy Nicholls by the longer established Mick Wilcockson.

Very appropriately Mick is in charge of coaching in the North Yorkshire town, and he will no doubt have mixed feelings to see his charges pushing him so hard in the League averages, while, of interest to his many T.T. friends nationally will be the name of Mike Hanley, beaten only once in his nine Division 2 outings — yes, one of the game's most dynamic administrators can also play — with his left hand, a 'hard' bat, a penhold grip and that piece of equipment that so many players leave 'in the corner' along with holdall and track suit — his head.

At Harrogate League champions Wanderers made progress in the Wilmot Cup when two each from Denis Neale and Nick Davies and a single from Len Browning earned them a 5 - 1 success over Hermits (Bradford).

There was an early exit from Northallerton's Team Handicap competition, the Kellet Cup, for Appleton Wiske A when they were drawn against Brockholme A in a battle of the two top sides. Brockholme's initial 24 point advantage had been cut to 3 points after an excellent display by Keith Bell when Michael Nisbet (Brockholme) lined up against Jevon Chan, and the former hit top form to lead his team to a 26 point win and set up a Round 2 meeting with Rugby Club B.

The winners, who call upon John Crawford, Steven Cooper, Bell and Nisbet are favourites to retain the Division 1 title and currently hold a 13 point lead over Appleton Wiske (Malcolm Corking, Steve Brunskill, Ian Plummer and Chan), their nearest challengers.



The Isle of Wight by BRIAN LAMERTON

MAINLY parochial but after the recent storms it does give you the chance to think of summer holidays and remind you of the best places in the U.K. to spend them (maybe the tourist board will consider this 'plug' worthy of sponsorship).

Always a pleasure to mention a new name — this time Tom Laight of Newport Vics. winner of the recent Guildford Cup handicap tournament after defeating Andy Westhorp in the final — defeated semi-finalists being Ian Urry and Andrew Crews.

William Hill have stopped taking bets on the destination of the Knowles (Handicap) team competition with four teams from the Rookley club through to the quarter finals where they have amazingly all avoided each other. The All-Island 'Top 10', the biggest individual event of the season so far was won, not surprisingly, by Roger Hookey but he was, surprisingly, defeated in the preliminary groups by Joe Daly, his first defeat by an Island player for over a year. The runner up was new Island Chairman, Alan Hulbert, in an event long looked forward to and well organised by the Island Vice-chairman. John Preat. Pete Urry

and Mike Turner were defeated semi-finalists.

Congratulations to Carl who more than justified his newly won 12th position European ranking by his performance in the European 'top 12' at Hanover. Sandown continue to make the running at the head of Division 1 but as the following table shows Rookley are pushing them all the way — one of the highlights of the remainder of the season is going to be the return fixture between these two teams on Rookley's table.

	P	Pts
Sandown	12	43
Rookley 'A'	12	42
Shanklin	12	38
Newport Vics A	12	34
Wroxall 'A'	12	25
Wroxall 'B'	12	17
Plessey 'A'	13	17
Ryde 'A'	12	14
Ventnor	12	6
Haven Street 'A'	11	4

Southern Region by BRIAN LAMERTON

Marcus Horth (Berkshire) is the Southern Region personality of the month having achieved runner-up position in the Cadet National Junior Ranking trials. Others for the 'roll of honour' include Berkshire's Lisa Crick who reached the girls quarter final, Martin Adams (Berkshire) and Mathew Greenwood (Bucks) who progressed further into the competition by finishing second in their initial 8 player groups and Gavin Yates (Oxon) and Nicola Cracknell (Berks) who both finished third in their group.

The next big event for these youngsters together with some 70 others is the Leeds Youth Cup in Southampton, entries being up a little this year due in no small part to some 'chasing' by organiser Barry Yates. Again the region have decided to present their own trophies as supplement to those provided by The Leeds. Cippenham, despite dropping a point to bottom team Isle of Wight continue to lead the premier division of the regional league: this is now a two horse race and will be decided by Cippenham's return match with Kingfisher.

Kingfisher meanwhile are streaking ahead in Division One, their latest victims being rivals Cippenham by 6 sets to 3 — surprise packet of Division One are Merton (Bournemouth) who after two opening heavy defeats have won four in a row and yet they are still only one point off the bottom; on the conventional system of two points for a win and nothing for

defeat they would be second from top — maybe worth a visit to the A.G.M. to change the rules for Christian Carmen, Kevin Smith and Lawson Thrower.

Premier Division	P	W	Pts
Cippenham 'A'	7	7	15
Kingfisher 'A'	6	5	13
Amity Generation 'A'	7	2	10
Purbrook	6	4	9
Pyestock	6	1	7
Isle of Wight	6	0	3
First Division			
Kingfisher 'B'	8	6	17
Amity Generation 'B'	8	3	11
Burnham	6	3	10
Merton	6	4	8
Our Lady of Peace	5	3	7
Cippenham 'B'	7	1	7
Ladies Division			
Kingfisher	5	5	12
Cippenham	5	4	11
O.L.O.P.	6	3	7
Aldershot	5	1	5
Isle of Wight	5	0	2

South West Regional Report by ALF PEPPERD

DESPITE the reduction in the number of entries, due to the late circulation of entry forms and the Christmas post, a fine day's table tennis was enjoyed by those who had entered at the Stroud Leisure Centre on Saturday 13th of January.

The finalists in the four main singles events were all from Devonshire with the top seeds all winning their way through to the National Finals in London on May 28th.
B/S: A. Perry (Dv) beat J. Shipman (Dv) 21-5, 21-16.
G/S: H. Wright (Dv) beat C. Pengelley (Dv) 17-21, 21-19, 21-18
Cadet Boys Singles: A. Vincent (Dv) beat J. May (Dv) 21-15, 21-15
Cadet Girls Singles: L. Heyward (Dv) beat L. Morrish (Dv) 21-13, 21-14
Restricted Boys Singles: M. Smith (So) beat S. Perry (Dv) 21-17, 18-21, 22-20
Restricted Girls Singles: L. Morrish (Dv) beat R. Sandford (Dv) 21-18, 19-21, 21-10
Restricted Cadet Boys Singles: P. Hatward (Gs) beat B. Fudge (Av) 21-16, 21-16
Restricted Cadet Girls Singles: L. Morrish (Dv) beat E. Parker (Gs) 21-3, 21-10

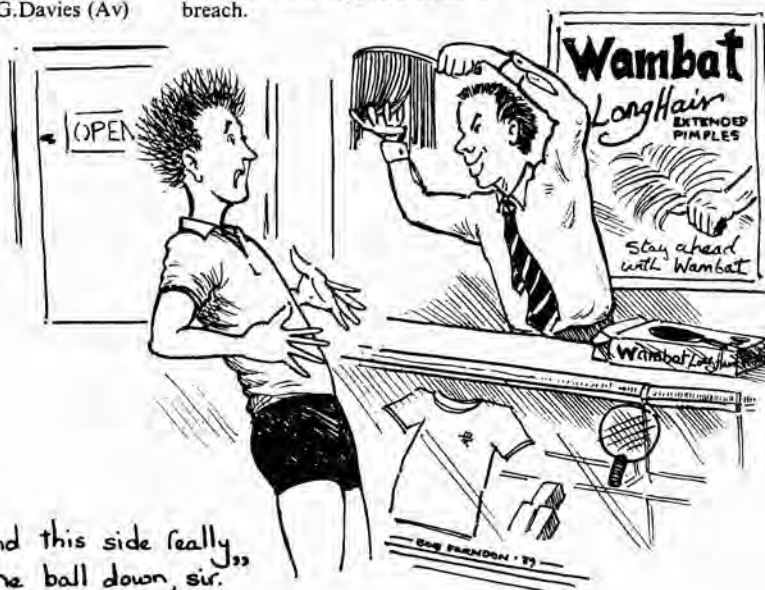
Junior Boys Doubles: J. Hyatt (Gs) & L. Johnston (Av) beat R. Powell (Gs) & G. Davies (Av) 21-18, 21-18

Junior Girls Doubles: C. Pengelley & L. Heyward (Dv) beat H. Wright & R. Sandford (Dv) 13-21, 21-15, 21-15

At a recent Executive Committee meeting of the Bath Association, it was suggested by Mr Bob House that perhaps it would be appropriate if the League had a Newsletter — the 65 Thousand Dollar Question was getting someone to edit it — I am delighted to say that Mike Hawkins stepped in to fill the breach.

It's a very worthy contribution, and Mike is to be congratulated, I expect like many table tennis news men/women, he finds getting news out of some folk — is like getting blood out of a stone.

Mike tells me that the second edition should be available for distribution at the Closed Championships at the Bath Leisure Centre.



Mike in the Money — courtesy the Leeds



The photograph shows Michael O'Driscoll being presented with a cheque for £500 by Keith Hancock, the Dewsbury Branch Manager of the Leeds, in recognition of his outstanding performance in the English Open.

The E.T.T.A. Computerised Ranking Scheme

AT THEIR meeting on 20 January 1990, the National Council of the ETTA received a report that Mr S Lenton wished to withdraw his support for, and operation of, the Lentec Computer Ranking list. Council accepted Mr Lenton's decision with regret. The Management Committee of the ETTA recommended to Council that an offer, made by ETTA member Les Wooding, to provide the initial programming and operation of a new computerised system should be taken up.

A full set of Ranking Lists has recently been published and this will be followed by another near the end of the season, produced on the new computer system. The intention is that all results obtained by all players between these two lists will be included, if this is found to be technically and practically possible.

A specialist panel has been formed to consider any changes that should be made to the computer ranking scheme for the 1990/91 season.

The new computer system is based on the very latest technology and programming expertise and should greatly improve the ranking accuracy and service which the ETTA gives to its members. Every effort will be made to have the new scheme operational in as short a time as possible.

E. J. WALLBUTTON
Chief Executive

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 Fourth National Under 11 Championships ▶

the Leeds National Championships ▶

the Leeds English Junior Open ▶

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



An Appeal for Sanity

by JOHN PREAN

AS AN English delegate to international conferences I have at times been able to support or initiate events which have brought benefits to English Table Tennis. I have pressed for sanity and commonsense and have fought against trends which might make the sport look ridiculous.

Nowhere can this be seen as clearly as in the indecent rush of a number of European countries to include Chinese players (as well as citizens of other nations) in their NATIONAL teams.

Three countries and only 21!

Austria and France field Chinese players at this time. I do not know what satisfaction they obtain from victories so achieved. I hear that Portugal, Norway and Luxembourg will follow suit very soon. One player, not Chinese, is qualifying for his third country at the age of 21. It is not unreasonable to suppose that players, discarded by their own countries, will soon seek other countries.

Lost opportunities...

We are not speaking of football teams which have eleven players and squads of rather more, of whom two or three may be allowed to be foreigners. We are not speaking of Napoli or Roma or Real Madrid. We are speaking of country teams, national sides.

National Table Tennis teams consist of two players (in Open tournaments) or two men and one woman (European League) or three men and two women (World and European Championships).

All this indicates the small number of Table Tennis players who can represent their countries — unlike, say, Athletics with its multiplicity of events.

If an English player loses his or her place, few opportunities are left. The introduction of a Chinese citizen, indeed any citizen of any other country, will deprive the English players of one third to half of THEIR opportunities. To say therefore that the introduction of Chen Xinhua into the English squad will leave everything as before requires a special brand of blindness, not to say hypocrisy. Even greater will be the impact on the next generation of Table Tennis players. Fewer will try to win an England place when the chances of success are so remote and the precedent has been so firmly established that his place can so easily be lost to the National of another country.

Carried to its logical extreme, there should be no reason why three Nationals of another country cannot play for England. I do not see why such events cannot be MADE to happen rather than wait for them to happen by accident as with Chen. I cannot see the difference.

Long enough to send a picture postcard

What stands in the way of such a farce? Only the ITTF's so-called two year residential qualification. This is now so lax as to be almost meaningless. In reality the two year limit means little more than attending a few training camps in one's new country and staying long enough to send a few picture postcards. We seem to be entering a period of lunacy in which National Teams compete on the basis of their Chinese or other guests. Decisive will be which nation has the better Chinese. A second Chinese is qualifying for Austria and an all-Chinese Austrian team may only be around the corner. Italy has three Chinese who have played in her National League for two years and under current 'Rules' could play for Italy, but so far Italy, to her credit, has played the game.

To join the herd

Sadly, one detects in some ETTA quarters a desire to join the rush and the presence of Chen Xinhua affords us that opportunity. Some urge that we, too, should join the herd and do what is clearly ridiculous. And for what? Will it win us a World title? Of course not. We shall continue to move in a range of 5th to 12th place. That we can achieve with our present team, given good preparation, form on the day, scheduling and the right draw. In 1983 we reached the semi-finals of the World, in 1988 the Finals of the European Championships with home-produced players. Today we are asked to throw away the work of years, to pitch our Chinese against the Chinese of other nations.

Mickey Mouse would be proud

After all the efforts we have made over the last three years to make the sport look professional and attractive after so long in a wilderness, we seem to be throwing it all away. If the National Council in April so votes, we shall have sacrificed all the gains we have made for dubious short term advantage. We shall look as silly as we have acted. We shall have been stampeded into the realms of Mickey Mouse and this time we shall again look the Mickey Mouse sport which we often looked in the past.

Chen a good and attractive player

It is good to have Chen play here. There are ample opportunities in our very full calendar to display all his talents and, if he wants to play in overseas Opens as a singles player, we would help him. To play for our National team he should be a citizen of England, not of China. If and when he becomes a British citizen, then he is entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by the rest of us. If he plays in an England team whilst a Chinese citizen, we shall lose credibility and respect at home and abroad. I have nothing against him. He is an excellent player, though I wish his supporters would not burden him with such exaggerated claims. One knows how easily our heroes of today are knocked off their pedestals tomorrow, particularly in the Press.

The Future...

Whilst presenting a picture to the world of a nation unable to produce its own talent, seeking success by stealing that of others, some thought should be given to our own young players. It is a matter of basic mathematics that their chances will have been reduced by a third to half as I showed earlier. What will be the point in trying to become a professional table tennis player? There is certainly no living for those who are NOT in the England team, because there is an insufficient public to pay for watching them. Television is only interested in players who play for England and win for England. Without television there are no big prizes. Who can say that this massive discouragement which will be dished out to our younger players will not discourage most enormously the NEXT generation and encourage a famine of talent, the like of which our sport has not seen? What will be the point of a decade of hard work to get to the top, if at the end of it all, it can be snatched away simply by signing a ready-made player created in another land? Will our spectators really identify with our team?

I have asked our Office to conduct a Poll to ascertain the feelings at the grass roots. Your League will have received the forms. I can only end as I began and ask you to cast your Vote for Sanity. It is an issue which can split the sport from top to bottom.

Mailbox

Manners Gentlemen, Please...

The Editor
Table Tennis News

Dear Sir,

I know I am old and old-fashioned but I find the lack of manners in young table tennis players abysmal. I have almost accepted that "Please" and "Thank you" are dirty words that have gone out of fashion — although I do snap back occasionally — but in general I find that many of the higher ranked players are completely lacking in common courtesy.

I accept that a lot of players have quite a distance to travel after a tournament and the Committee of the Middlesex 3-Star Open have brought the Finals forward until they are now completed earlier than they used to start. Nevertheless I feel it is an insult to their fellow players, the officials and still more importantly the sponsors, when they insist on getting their cheques and leaving before the official presentation. It is about time that players realised that sponsors put in money and officials put in a lot of

hard work for the benefit of the players and the least the players can do is to show their appreciation.

I must stress that this is a personal opinion which might, or might not, be endorsed by the Tournaments Committee and the County Association, but I intend to recommend that in future any prize winner who cannot wait for the official presentation gets their cheque sent to them at my convenience.

IRIS MOSS
7 Hillside Court
Holders Hill Road, Hendon,
London NW4 1EL

Grandstand as Prean eats Ping Pong Ball

Er... extraordinary scenes here at the Leeds English Open Table Tennis championships Desmond. ETTA Chairman John Prean has been seen to eat his words on a Table Tennis ball. In public. Er... quite remarkable. Back to you in London...

VIDEOS

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TOURNAMENT



SUN LIFE

BRISTOL

TWO STAR OPEN

AT THORNBURY LEISURE CENTRE

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Sunday 29th April 1990 ... Junior Events

Organiser -

Peter Sandford Tel: 0272 569381

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Mailbox

Thank you John. Well I'm sure you all appreciated why we stayed with that thrilling women's **Table Tennis** in Manchester. Now to watching ice melt at the ski-jumping in Kloffenklanger... we'll be back for the action in the men's singles **Table Tennis** at around 4 o'clock.

Rubberneck, slumped in his chair, rubbed his ears and scratched his eyes. He must have dozed off. Yet there was Desmond Lynam and the squash kit still needed ironing.

He paused, puzzled. But then it might be worth programming the video he supposed... have a look at this Ching Chang Chong guy everyone had been talking about.

Trouble is, you can't trust the media. With the curiosity of those who watched Christians thrown to the lions, there might be a good scrap... better get up there himself. 'Prepare the car, Parker'...'Yes, m'Lady'.

Five hours later Rubberneck bounced into Bowlers. Most unsettling. Lots of new faces, new sounds, new ideas...

Ted Wallbutton? The mysterious Jenny Hughes? Rallies? Spectators are without opera glasses?

And more... Applause? Sports-

manship? A team event... on **Sunday?**

Another sniff of Chack please, doctor... Ah, that's better, more familiar scenes and whispers...

'He'll kill the sport', hissed the back-stabber.

'He's kicking the heart out', proclaimed the apostle of moderation.

'I'm starving' gulped the free-loader.

'It's not the sport it was', mused the philosopher.

'Ah, yes', remembered Rubberneck cruelly after three years' asleep, 'the forgotten sport'. Below the spectators' benches an over-zealous official peered for a minor infringement, determined to have his day on court.

Relax my friends. Share the pain. A nightmare flies forgotten at the break of day. And dream of a leader who will shower you with roses from the garden while the sport dies on its feet.

Or wonder at the beauty of an emerging butterfly (no relation)... You're driving the dream... Hold the back page.

Would I lie to you?... Of course! All the time!

With thanks to Simon Kempton (Sx) and Dave Carpenter (Sports Council)

ROB OLDFIELD

**Acclaim from
Auckland**

The Editor,
Table Tennis News

Dear Sir,

Having been a minor league player and a keen follower of the game for many years I was delighted that a recent business trip enabled me to attend the English Open Tournament at Manchester.

What a difference from my last visit to a major tournament in Britain! Gone was the "village hall" atmosphere and rather dreary presentation which was clearly endured rather than enjoyed by players and spectators alike. The Manchester tournament was a transformation. Professional organisation, good pacy presentation and an excellent venue made the event one to be remembered. One left with the feeling

that the game is poised to take its place amongst the big-time sports and to gain both the sponsorship and TV coverage it deserves.

The Association is to be congratulated. A transformation has clearly taken place in the organisation of table tennis and I hope that the controversy and growing pains, news of which has even filtered down under, is now over and that the game progresses as it now deserves to do.

JOHN GALE
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland, New Zealand

"Heinz Reschke of 84 Augsburger Strasse, Dresden 8021, German Democratic Republic wishes to hear from fellow table tennis ball collectors with a view to exchange"

Watch these Events

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

the Leeds International — England v Federal Germany



on Tuesday 6th March 1990 - Start Time 7pm
 at Crook Log Sports Centre, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent Tel: 01 304 5386
 Admission charge (including programme) Adults £4, Children/OAP's £2
 Tickets available from the venue.

The Fourth National Under 11 Championships

Sunday 29th April 1990

At Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts

Tel: 0623 646081

Organiser: Rob Sinclair, c/o ETTA Office. Tel: 0424 722525

the Leeds National Championships



Saturday/Sunday/Monday 5/6/7th May 1990

at Oldham Sports Centre, Lord Street, Oldham, Lancs Tel: 061 678 4090

For further information contact ETTA Office Tel: 0424 722525



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Sat/Sun 24/25th March 1990

at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes

Participants: Berkshire, Leicestershire, Essex, Lancashire,
 Devon, Middlesex, Derbyshire, Surrey
 Contact: ETTA Office 0424 722525

British League Premier Division — TOP OF THE TABLE FIXTURES

on Sunday 29th April 1990 - 2.30pm

Grove I v Bathwick Tyres I

at the Grove School, Stafford Street,
 Market Drayton, Shropshire Tel: 0630 2121



the Leeds Women's British League

First Weekend - Saturday/Sunday 12/13th May 1990

Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes

For further information contact:

Mike Lewis 0272 730788



the Leeds Youth Cup

National Finals — Monday 28th May 1990

at The Queen Mother Sports Centre,
 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London SW1V 1EL.
 Tel: 01 798 2125



SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3 STAR OPEN

Sat/Sun 10/11th March 1990

at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey
 Tel: 04862 71789

Organiser: D Beesley 01 669 3755

CITY OF DERBY SELECT

Sat/Sun 24/25th March 1990

at Moorways Sports Centre, Derby. (Tel: 0332 363686)
 Organiser: A Horsley 0332 663570

ESSEX 3 STAR

Sat/Sun 14/15th April 1990

at the Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road,
 Brentwood, Essex (Tel: 0277 229621)
 Organiser: Dick Roffe (Tel: 05024 72341)

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR SELECT

Sat/Sun 21st/22nd April 1990

at Northbridge Leisure Centre, Northbridge, Halifax
 (Tel 0422 341527)
 Organiser: Rea Balmford 0482 821279

BRISTOL 2 STAR SENIOR OPEN

Saturday 28th April 1990

at the Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill,
 Thornbury, Bristol. Tel: 0454 418222

Organiser: Peter Sandford Tel: 0272 569381

BRISTOL 2 STAR JUNIOR OPEN

Sunday 29th April 1990

at the Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill,
 Thornbury, Bristol Tel: 0454 418222

Organiser: Peter Sandford Tel: 0272 569381

Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships

Saturday 28th April, 1990 at Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts.
 Tel: 0623 646081 Organiser: Paul Birch Tel: 0234 41988