



Table Tennis News

No. 191

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90p



TRIPLE CHAMPIONS

Fiona Elliot



John Jaques


Jaques



Double Fish

Follow That!

THE NEWS that England's men had crowned a successful season with a bronze medal in the European Championships followed by another in the World Team Cup proves that our sport is really on the march at top level. In both championships it took the World and European Champions, Sweden, to beat us. England also won the Hungarian Open Gold Medal and it took China at full power to put them out of the Leeds English Open at the Semi-Final stage. No wonder Donald Parker has been quoted throughout the season as saying that this is the best team he has ever managed, the best for a decade.

Off Court Success

The good times have continued to roll off court as well as on. The Leeds English Open in Manchester was a marketing triumph, with a brand new format and presentational style which has set the trend throughout the World. Now the promoters of the World Cup, World Championships and many other events are starting to use the coloured vinyl flooring, blue tables and specially constructed centre courts which have been pioneered in England over the past three years. BBC TV executives were delighted with the format at Manchester and screened over 90 minutes of prime coverage on Grandstand, including a sensational Women's victory by Mika Hoshino and a dramatic performance by the new Englishman, Chen Xinhua. We also appeared on BBC for a further two hours with the Leeds Masters and the USSR Tour, a good total. The press too have broken all records for coverage of the sport. Admittedly a good deal behind the Chen issue, but this has spawned larger space everywhere. Of course there have been some downs. England's women have not yet matched the men's success but hard work is being put in by the women's committee to generate female enthusiasm at all levels. The loss of the Leeds sponsorship, after three amazingly successful years, also hurt. But if there is any justice the sterling efforts being made to find a replacement will bear fruit. So overall 1989/90 must be rated a Grade 'A' success.

The Year of the Member

But all this success and activity is wasted if we don't achieve our main ambition by using the publicity positively, to attract more and more players to Table Tennis. So it was particularly refreshing to report that in 1990/91 the ETTA will be pouring £100,000 into development schemes created by local leagues to recruit new members. Only three years after being technically bankrupt, finances have improved to such a degree that much of the surplus generated by John Prean's team this season is being returned directly to where it will do the most good, the grass roots of the sport. What is now needed are hard initiatives from the leagues to use this tremendous opportunity to bring in new players. The growth of play and enthusiasm in the veterans area is heartening to see, but unless we replace the 'missing generation' of players the sport will surely die. So why don't you act as a prompter of action in your league. Direct some effort to schools, youngsters, women, leisure centres — where we really need growth. Finance is available. Ideas are bursting from the ETTA Development department. Last season was just the ammunition for future growth.

Let's go for it!

TED WALLBUTON



In this issue

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COVER PICTURE

FIONA ELLIOT captured the elusive triple of titles: Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles at the Leeds National Championships, the first time it has been done since Karenza Mathews in 1972. (Picture: John F. A. Wood) ★

Big Apple in Gothenburg

by GEORGE R. YATES

SWEDEN'S Mikael Appelgren won an unprecedented third European men's singles title when, in Gothenburg's Scandinavium, he retained his crown — won in Paris in 1988 — with a final win over Andrzej Grubba of Poland.

In the counterpart women's event Daniela Guerguelcheva of Bulgaria was also a popular winner when she took over the title, not defended by Fliura Bulatova of the Soviet Union, with a final victory over Yong Tu, a Chinese Swiss resident.

Undoubtedly the best doubles pairings in Europe, if not the world, battled out the men's doubles final with Yugoslavia's Ilija Lupulescu and Zoran Primorac beating the reigning world champions, Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Rosskopf of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hungary's Csilla Batorfi and Gabriella Wirth survived an opening game deficit in the women's doubles final to beat the Soviet Union's Irina Palina and Yelena Timina while in the mixed doubles final Jean-Philippe Gatién and Wang Xiaoming of France ran up the tricolour with a win over Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium partnered by Miss Wirth.

Sweden Again

In the team events Sweden retained their men's title with final 5-2 win over F.R.Germany and Hungary jumped up from their previous sixth position obtained in France by a final 3-0 success against Czechoslovakia in the ladies' event.

What then of England's two quartets in the team events? Well the men fell one rung down the ladder exchanging silver, as won in Paris, for bronze in Gothenburg. With wins over the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Poland and the Soviet Union in the first stage our only defeat was against the Federal Republic of Germany which proved a disaster for Carl Prean as he was thrice beaten by Steffen Fetzner, Georg-Zsolt Böhm and Jorg Rosskopf!

But it was Carl, overall who had the best results winning ten of the 14 sets he contested as against nine wins for Alan Cooke, seven for Desmond Douglas and a brace for Skylet Andrew when he took over from Des in the final match against Yugoslavia for position three or four.

Not so good for the women however who slipped from No.8 to No.9 with Lisa Lomas proving the best with Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt sharing four wins as against Lisa's six, while Fiona Elliot had nought to show for her labours.

Efforts worthy of praise in the team events were the victories of Prean against Paul Haldan of the Netherlands, Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union and Zoran Primorac of Yugoslavia. Cooke distinguished himself in beating Mariano Loukov of Bulgaria, Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner of

F.R.Germany, Dmitrij Mazunov of the USSR and Ilija Lupulescu and Primorac of Yugoslavia.

Evergreen Desmond Douglas collected the scalps of such fine players as Haldan, Loukov, the two Manunovs and all while Andrew, vacating the bench for the first time against Yugoslavia in the final match, accounting for Zoran Kalinic and Lupulescu.

On the distaff side Lisa distinguished herself in beating Alessia Arisi of Italy, Renata Kasalova of Czechoslovakia, Otilia Badescu of Romania and Olga Nemes of F.R.Germany!

Cooke was undoubtedly our star man in the men's singles reaching the quarter-finals in beating Euan Walker of Scotland, Massimo Costantini of Italy, Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium and Andrei Mazunov of the USSR before falling to the eventual winner Appelgren who remained unbeaten throughout the championships.

Cooke in Quarters

Cookie, in partnership with Douglas, also reached the quarters in the men's doubles where they were surprisingly beaten by Sweden's Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Scheele after seeing off Gatién and Grubba in the previous

round 19 and 21 for a tremendous win.

Prean and Andrew were taken out in the last sixteen by the Mazunov brothers. Top seed in the men's singles was Jan-Ove Waldner but the reigning world champion fell to Gatién in a captivating quarter-final tie with the Frenchman coming back from a 0-2 deficit to win the next three 14, 24 and 20! Fascinating stuff to be sure.

Jorgen Persson, seeded No.2, fell at his first hurdle when beaten by Norway's Chinese immigrant Wang Yansheng over five while Andrew, England's fourth man lost to Sandor Varga of Hungary after an initial win over Gennaro Di Napoli of Italy.

Andrea Holt was England's first faller in the women's singles losing to the Czech, Alena Safarova, but in the next round it was total demise for Alison, beaten by Gerdie Keen of the Netherlands, Lisa beaten by Otilia Badescu of Romania and Fiona by Csilla Batorfi of Hungary.

In the doubles Alison and Andrea had a good win over Yong Tu of Switzerland partnered by Emily Noor of the Netherlands, but thereafter proved no match for Jasna Fazlic and Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia. Lisa and Fiona had one visit to the table in this event

and were beaten by Gunnel Borgström and Lotta Erlman of the host association.

Skylet and Fiona figured as the only English pair in the mixed doubles and progressed to the last sixteen before losing to Gatién and Wang Xiaoming, the eventual winners. Andrea joined forces with Slobodan Grucic of Yugoslavia and their stay was short lived being beaten by Jaroslaw Kolodziejczyk and Anna Januszyk of Poland.

It was good to have players from four different countries contesting the semi-finals in both the men's and women's singles with Sweden, Appelgren apart, not so dominant as hitherto although winning the men's team title and the prestigious men's singles.

No doubting the splendour of the Scandinavium arena with seating for 12,000 spectators but only boasting some 4,000 as the maximum attendance. Could it be that Swedish successes have become all too predictable?

However, a well organised championships with remarkable television coverage, at least by English standards, and which is so vital in obtaining sponsorship. Next stop in two year's time — Stuttgart. Be prepared!

Continued on page 4



Sweden's Mens Team — Champions of Europe (Photo courtesy of Brian Webster)

17th European Championships — 2

Continued from page 2

ENGLISH TEAM RESULTS

MEN

v Netherlands (won 5-0)

D. Douglas b T. Keen 11, 7;
C. Prean b P. Haldan 11, -15, 12;
A. Cooke b D. Heister 13, 13;
Douglas b Haldan 18, 16;
Cooke b Kean -18, 16, 13.

v Bulgaria (won 5-1)

Douglas l I.Stoianov -19, -12;
Prean b G.Ormanov 8, 11;
Cooke b M. Loukov 9, 17;
Prean b Stoianov 13, -17, 20;
Douglas b Loukov 9, 19;
Cooke b Ormanov 16, -14, 15.

v Poland (won 5-0)

Douglas b P. Skierski -21, 22, 20;
Prean b J. Kolodziejczyk -18, 7, 11;
Cooke b P. Molenda 15, 17;
Prean b Skierski 11, 16;
Douglas b Molenda -20, 19, 16.

v F.R.Germany (lost 2-5)

Douglas l G-Z Böhm -18, -21;
Cooke b J. Rosskopf 10, 14;
Prean l S. Fetzner -14, -19;
Douglas l Rosskopf -13, -11;
Prean l Böhm 19, -14, -19;
Cooke b Fetzner -16, 11, 19;
Prean l Rosskopf 19, -16, -15

v U.S.S.R. (won 5-1)

Douglas b D.Mazunov 11, 18;
Cooke b S. Vardanyan 13, 16;
Prean b A. Mazunov 16, -15, 16;
Cooke l D. Mazunov 24, -16, -17;
Douglas b A. Mazunov 16, 9;
Prean b Vardanyan 21, -20, 7.

STAGE 2

v Sweden (lost 1-5)

Douglas l M. Appelgren -18, -13;
Prean b J. Persson 13, -23, 16;
Cooke l J-O Waldner -16, -20;
Prean l Appelgren -13, -19;
Douglas l Waldner -13, -15;
Cooke l Persson -22, -24.

STAGE 3

v Yugoslavia (won 5-1)

Cooke b I. Lupulescu 21, 14;
S. Andrew b Z. Kalinic 19, 11;
Prean b Z. Primorac -19, 20, 11;
Andrew b Lupulescu -12, 20, 21;
Cooke l Primorac -12, -11;
Prean b Kalinic 13, -18, 16.

	P	W	L
Prean	14	10	4
Cooke	13	9	4
Douglas	12	7	5
Andrew	2	2	0

WOMEN

v Yugoslavia (lost 0-3)

A. Gordon l G. Perkucin -14, 15, -15;
F. Elliot l J. Fazlic -16, -24;
Elliot/L. Lomas l Fazlic/Perkucin
15, -19, -10

v Italy (won 3-0)

Gordon b C. Semenza 12, 18;
Lomas b A. Arisi 20, 14;
Elliot/Lomas b Arisi/Semenza
-20, 14, 6.

v Czechoslovakia (lost 1-3)

Lomas b R. Kasalova -13, 11, 20;
Elliot l A. Safarova -14, -19;
A. Holt/Lomas l Kasalova/
Safarova -19, -16;
Lomas l Safarova -15, -17.

v Romania (lost 2-3)

Gordon l E. Ciosu -20, 13, -18;
Lomas b O. Badescu 16, 18;
Holt/Lomas b Badescu/
M.Lunescu 14, -19, 8;
Gordon l Badescu -15, -19;
Lomas l Ciosu -17, -20.

v F.R.Germany (lost 2-3)

Lomas b N.Struse 15, 19;
Holt l O.Nemes -14, 7, -16;
Elliot/Lomas l Nemes/K.Nolten
-19, -17;
Lomas b Nemes 18, 19;
Holt l Struse -14, -18.

STAGE 2

v Poland (won 3-0)

Lomas b A.Januszyk 16, 8;
Gordon b D.Djaczynska 8, 12;
Elliot/Lomas b Djaczynska/
A. Mikijaniec 14, 17.

STAGE 3

v Sweden (won 3-2)

Holt b P. Petterson 17, 8;
Elliot l L. Erlman 19, -12, -18;
Holt/Lomas b M. Svensson/
Petterson -20, 15, 11;
Elliot l Petterson -16, 9, -11;
Holt b Erlman 17, 14.

	P	W	L
Lomas	8	6	2
Gordon	5	2	3
Holt	4	2	2
Elliot	4	0	4
Elliot/Lomas	4	2	2
Holt/Lomas	3	2	1



The European Mixed Doubles champions from France, Wang Xiaoming and Jean Philippe Gattien (Photo courtesy of B.D. George)



The Hungarian Ladies Team with Coach delighted with their "golden" performance (Photo courtesy of Brian Webster)

17th European Championships – 3

TEAM FINALS

MEN

Sweden 5 F.R.Germany 2
M. Appelgren b S. Fetzner 19, 17;
J. Persson b J. Roszkopf -16, 12, 15;
J-O Waldner l G-Z Böhm
-22, 14, -18;
Appelgren b Roszkopf 17, 13;
Waldner l Fetzner 14, -14, -15;
Persson b Böhm 15, -22, 19;
Waldner b Roszkopf 18, -21, 18.

WOMEN

Hungary 3 Czechoslovakia 0
G. Wirth b A. Safarova 10, 20;
C. Batorfi b R. Kasalova -15, 21, 8;
Batorfi/Wirth b M. Hrachova/
Kasalova 20, 17.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles: Round 4

J-O Waldner (SWE) b G-Z Böhm
(FRG) 17, 12, -18, 16;
J-P Gatien (FRA) b Z.Primorac
(YUG) -16, -20, 8, 20, 13;
P. Haldan (HOL) b P. Franz (FRG)
-14, 18, -19, 19, 19;
A. Grubba (POL) b D. Mazunov
(URS) 19, 10, -17, 16;
M. Appelgren (SWE) b G. Wrana
(SWE) -18, 19, 10, -20, 19;
A. Cooke (ENG) b A. Mazunov
(URS) 15, -21, 9, 18;
J. Roszkopf (FRG) b I. Lupulescu
(YUG) -20, 15, 13, -18, 26;
Wang Yansheng (NOR) b Ding Yi
(AUT) 11, 13, 14.

Quarter-finals:

Gatien b Waldner -13, -20, 14,
24, 20;
Grubba b Haldan 15, 20, 9;
Appelgren b Cooke 19, 15, -18, 13;
Roszkopf b Wang Yansheng
-13, 21, 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Grubba b Gatien 17, -19, 14, 18;
Appelgren b Roszkopf -12, 17, -19,
13, 16.

Final:

Appelgren b Grubba 15, -15, 14, 19.

Women's Singles: Round 4

G. Keen (HOL) b O. Nemes (FRG)
20, 19, -12, 18;
G. Wirth (HUN) b E. Ciosu (ROM)
13, 8, -17, 13;
M. Kloppenburg-Hooman (HOL)
b A. Safarova (TCH) 15, 17, 11;
D. Guergueltcheva (BUL) b
E. Urban (HUN) 18, -20, 13, 11;
M. Hrachova (TCH) b Wang
Xiaoming (FRA) 14, 20, 20;
O. Badescu (ROM) b Y. Timina
(URS) 18, 11, 19;
Yong Tu (SUI) b K. Nolten (FRG)
15, -16, -12, 19, 16;
C. Batorfi (HUN) b E. Noor (HOL)
14, 12, -17, 11.

Quarter-finals:

Wirth b Keen -11, 13, 16, -21, 20;
Guergueltcheva b Kloppenburg-
Hooman 15, -20, 10, 16;
Badescu b Hrachova -17, 15, 13, 19;
Yong Tu b Batorfi 16, 15, 19.

Semi-finals:

Guergueltcheva b Wirth
19, -19, 17, 16;
Yong Tu b Badescu -18, 18,
-12, 14, 12.

Final:

Guergueltcheva b Yong Tu
-17, 15, 18, 16.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-Finals:

S. Fetzner (FRG)/Roszkopf b D.
Palmi (AUT)/E. Schetinin (URS)
12, 7;
P. Karlsson/T. von Scheele
(SWE) b A. Cooke/D. Douglas
(ENG) 13, 19;
I. Lupulescu/Z. Primorac b Z.
Kalinic (YUG)/L. Kucharski
(POL) -21, 6, 15;
A. Mazunov/D. Mazunov (URS)
b Appelgren/Waldner 18, -15, 16;

Semi Finals:

Fetzner/Roszkopf b Karlsson/von
Scheele 7, 19;
Lupulescu/Primorac b
Mazunov/Mazunov 16, 15.

Final:

Lupulescu/Primorac b
Fetzner/Roszkopf 20, 20.

Women's Doubles: Quarter Finals:

Batorfi/Wirth b Kloppenburg-
Hooman/B. Vriesekoop (HOL)
17, 19;
G. Melnik/V. Popova (URS) b G.
Borgström/L. Erlman (SWE) 14,
18;
E. Coubat (FRA)/Wang
Xiaoming b
Badescu/Guergueltcheva -15, 16,
17;
I. Palina (URS)/Timina b J.
Fazlic/G. Perkucin (YUG) 19, 18.

Semi Finals

Batorfi/Wirth b Melnik/Popova
19, 20;
Palina/Timina b Coubat/Wang
Xiaoming 10, 13.

Final

Batorfi/Wirth b Palina/Timina
-15, 18, 16

Mixed Doubles: Quarter Finals

Fetzner/Nemes b
Lupulescu/Fazlic 10, 13;
J-P.Saive (BEL)/Wirth b T. Janci
(TCH)/Kasalova 15, 4;
Ding Yi/Guergueltcheva b
Franz/Nolten 7, 13;
Gatien/Wang Xiaoming b D.
Mazunov/Melnik 17, -14, 15.

Semi Finals

Saive/Wirth b Fetzner/Nemes 10,
14;
Gatien/Wang Xiaoming b Ding
Yi/Guergueltcheva 12, -17, 15.

Final

Gatien/Wang Xiaoming b
Saive/Wirth 13, 23

FINAL PLACINGS

(Previous positions in brackets)

MEN

- 1 SWEDEN (1)
- 2 F.R.Germany (6)
- 3 England (2)
- 4 Yugoslavia (7)
- 5 France (9)
- 6 Hungary (4)
- 7 U.S.S.R. (3)
- 8 Netherlands (13)
- 9 Austria (14)
- 10 Czechoslovakia (5)
- 11 Bulgaria (10)
- 12 Poland (8)
- 13 Belgium (12)
- 14 Denmark (19)
- 15 Turkey (15)
- 16 Italy (17)
- 17 Romania (11)
- 18 Finland (16)
- 19 Norway (20)
- 20 Spain (25)
- 21 Ireland (26)
- 22 Switzerland (18)
- 23 Wales (21)
- 24 Scotland (22)
- 25 Luxembourg (23)
- 26 Germany DR (-)
- 27 Greece (24)
- 28 Portugal (-)
- 29 Isle of Man (-)

WOMEN

- 1 HUNGARY (6)
- 2 Czechoslovakia (2)
- 3 Yugoslavia (4)
- 4 Netherlands (3)
- 5 Romania (9)
- 6 U.S.S.R. (1)
- 7 France (7)
- 8 F.R.Germany (5)
- 9 England (8)
- 10 Sweden (13)
- 11 Italy (14)
- 12 Poland (10)
- 13 Bulgaria (11)
- 14 Belgium (15)
- 15 Denmark (12)
- 16 Austria (19)
- 17 Luxembourg (-)
- 18 Finland (16)
- 19 Greece (22)
- 20 Spain (17)
- 21 Norway (18)
- 22 Switzerland (20)
- 23 Germany DR (-)
- 24 Turkey (24)
- 25 Scotland (21)
- 26 Wales (26)
- 27 Isle of Man (-)

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Final Tables — Season 1989/90

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
France	7	5	2	31	18	5
F.R. Germany	7	5	2	31	18	5
Netherlands	7	4	3	23	26	4
Sweden	7	3	4	25	24	3
Poland	7	3	4	19	30	3
Yugoslavia	7	3	4	23	26	3
Czechoslovakia	7	3	4	23	26	3
England	7	2	5	21	28	2

DIVISION 1

Belgium	7	6	1	33	16	6
Hungary	7	6	1	37	12	6
Austria	7	5	2	36	13	5
Bulgaria	7	4	3	25	24	4
Turkey	7	3	4	17	32	3
Italy	7	2	5	25	24	2
Finland	7	1	6	9	40	1
Denmark	7	1	6	14	35	1

DIVISION 2

Spain	7	7	0	46	3	7
Switzerland	7	6	1	32	17	6
Norway	7	5	2	28	21	5
Luxembourg	7	3	4	23	26	3
Ireland	7	3	4	21	28	3
Scotland	7	2	5	21	28	2
Wales	7	2	5	13	36	2
Greece	7	0	7	12	37	0

DIVISION 3

Portugal	5	5	0	34	1	5
Malta	5	4	1	21	14	4
Liechtenstein	5	3	2	16	19	3
Isle of Man	5	2	3	15	20	2
Jersey	5	1	4	11	24	1
Guernsey	5	0	5	8	27	0

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION EUROPEAN LEAGUE FIXTURES 1990/91 SUPER DIVISION

	GROUP A	GROUP B
11th Sept 1990	Yugoslavia v France Netherlands v Belgium	Poland v Fed. Germany Sweden v Czechoslovakia
9th Oct 1990	Belgium v France Yugoslavia v Netherlands	Fed. Germany v Czechoslovakia Poland v Sweden
13th Nov 1990	France v Netherlands Belgium v Yugoslavia	Czechoslovakia v Poland Fed. Germany v Sweden
18th Dec 1990	A1 at home to B2 B1 at home to A2 A3 at home to B4 B3 at home to A4	
15th Jan 1991	B2 at home to A1 A2 at home to B1 B4 at home to A3 A4 at home to B3	
5th Feb 1991	Winner of B1/A2 at home to winner of A1/B2 Winner of B3/A4 at home to winner of A3/B4 Loser of B1/A2 at home to loser of A1/B2 Loser of B3/A4 at home to loser of A3/B4	
12th Mar 1991	Positions 1-2 (final): Winner of A1/B2 at home to winner of B1/A2 Positions 3-4: Loser of A1/B2 at home to loser of B1/A2 Positions 5-6: Winner of A3/B4 at home to winner of B3/A4 Positions 7-8 (Relegation): Loser of A3/B4 at home to loser of B3/A4	

STIGA GRAND PRIX POINTS 1989/90

Total	
675 PERSSON, Jorgen (SWE)	340 KORBEL, Petr (TCH)
630 GATIEN, Jean-Philippe (FRA)	325 MAZUNOV, Andrei (URS)
505 SAIVE, Jean-Michel (BEL)	320 PRIMORAC, Zoran (YUG)
490 LUPULESCU, Ilija (YUG)	300 LI GUN SANG (PRK)
475 PREAN, Carl (ENG)	300 WALDNER, Jan-Ove (SWE)
415 MAZUNOV, Dimitri (URS)	300 YU SHENTONG (CHN)
405 GRUBBA, Andzej (POL)	295 YOO NAM KYU (KOR)
405 LINDH, Erik (SWE)	250 KARLSSON, Peter (SWE)
360 APPELGREN, Mikael (SWE)	245 CHEN ZHIBIN (CHN)
350 MATSUSHITA, Kohji (JPN)	240 BENGTTSSON, Ulf (SWE)
350 ROSSKOPF, Jorg (FRG)	225 CHEN XINHUA (ENG)

SLOBODAN JERICIC

We learn with regret from the Yugoslav Table Tennis Association that Slobodan Jericic died on the 3 March at the age of 61 after a long illness. He had been Honorary General Secretary of the Yugoslav Association for more than 27 years and during that period had organised three World Championships, three European Championships and a great number of international and national championships and competitions.

He had served on the ITTF Technical Committee from 1963-1969 as a member and from 1971-1989 as its Secretary. ITTF Council members will recall particularly his kindness and helpfulness when he organised the Council Meeting in Dubrovnik in 1976 and 1986.

Reprinted from ITTF Bulletin

E.T.T.U. May 1990 Ranking Lists

MEN	
1 APPELGREN Mikael (SWE)	
2 WALDNER Jan-Ove (SWE)	
3 GRUBBA Andrzej (POL)	
4 PERSSON Jorgen (SWE)	
5 ROSSKOPF Jörg (FRG)	
6 GATIEN Jean-Philippe (FRA)	
7 LINDH Erik (SWE)	
8 PRIMORAC Zoran (YUG)	
9 SAIVE Jean-Michel (BEL)	
10 LUPULESKU Ilija (YUG)	
11 MAZUNOV Andrei (URS)	
12 BÖHM Georg-Zsolt (FRG)	
13 PREAN Carl (ENG)	
14 DING YI (AUT)	
15 MAZUNOV Dmitrij (URS)	
16 HALDAN Paul (HOL)	
17 COOKE Alan (Eng)	
18 KUCHARSKI Leszek (POL)	
19 WANG YANSHENG (NOR)	
20 DOUGLAS Desmond (ENG)	
Other English	
29 ANDREW Skylet (ENG)	
WOMEN	
1 GUERGUELTCHEVA Daniela (BUL)	
2 WIRTH Gabriella (HUN)	
3 BATORFI Csilla (HUN)	
4 TU YONG (SUI)	
5 NEMES Olga (FRG)	
6 BADESCU Otilia (ROM)	
7 WANG XIAOMING (FRA)	
8 HOOMAN Mirjam (HOL)	
9 SAFAROVA Alena (TCH)	
10 POPOVA Valentina (URS)	
11 HRACHOVA Marie (TCH)	
12 KASALOVA Renata (TCH)	
13 FAZLIC Jasna (YUG)	
14 URBAN Edit (HUN)	
15 SVENSSON Marie (SWE)	
16 PALINA Irina (URS)	
17 VRIESEKOOP Bettine (HOL)	
18 PERKUCIN Gordana (YUG)	
19 LOMAS Lisa (ENG)	
20 TIMINA Elena (URS)	
Other English	
22 Gordon Alison (ENG)	
32 ELLIOT Fiona (ENG)	
43 HOLT Andrea (ENG)	

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS FINAL

MEN

ATSV Saarbrücken (FRG) 3 UTT Levallois (FRA) 5

A. Podpinka bt Lo Chuen Tsung 18, 15;
Xie Saike bt J. Secretin 5, 8;
P. Engel l J-P. Gaten -13, -12;
Xie Saike bt Lo Chuen Tsung 14, 15;
Podpinka l Gaten -17, 19, -13;
Engel l Secretin 15, -22, -18;
Xie Saike l Gaten -10, 18, -17;
Engel l Lo Chuen Tsung -22, 19, -17

WOMEN

Trade Unions Moscow (URS) 3 Statisztika Budapest (HUN) 5

Y. Timina l G. Wirth -17, -12;
I. Palina bt Z. Olah 11, 16;
R. Timofeeva l K. Nagy -13, -11;
Palina bt Wirth -8, 22, 17;
Timina l Nagy 14, -8, -10;
Timofeeva l Olah -19, -19;
Palina bt Nagy 19, -19, 9;
Timofeeva l Wirth -20, -17.

Overheard in Gothenburg

"Splendid player, the Chinese chap, who has just beaten the No.2 seed. Who is he?"
"He is called Wang Junjun (sometimes called Wang Junhong). He plays and lives in Germany."
"So he plays for Germany?"
"No, he plays for Norway."
"Is that what is meant by 'residential qualification'?"
"Apparently."
So he lives in Germany, was born in China and that entitles him to play for Norway?"
"Exactly."

"Excellent Player, Tu Yong. Can you tell me more about her?"
"She is, of course, Chinese, as are most of the world's best female players."
"Which explains why she plays for Switzerland..."
"Presumably..."
"I understand there is, however, a very good case for this, as she has married in Switzerland..."
"Indeed. She has married in Switzerland but to a Vietnamese."
"Nearly won the European title."
"Hard luck. If the Chinese had sent one of the two hundred or so stronger ladies of their disposal, we would have had a Chinese European Champion."

"Who is this guy Calin Creanga?"
"Excellent Player. Comes from Romania. So you will not be surprised to hear that he plays for Greece."
"Probably emigrated as a boy."
"Not exactly. 9 months ago he played for Romania in the European Youth Championships."
"Ah. I remember. Set up some sort of a record, didn't he?"
"Went through the Mixed Doubles undefeated."
"Can't recall his name on the Cup."
"Good reason for that. Defected before the semi-finals. Left his partner at the altar, so-to-speak, at the table without a partner, must have been fun. That was when he was a Rumanian. Now he is a Greek. Took all of 9 months."

ETTU President Kapetanovic to ETTA Chairman John Preati: "I agree with all you have said on the eligibility issue, but in one matter you were wrong. You spoke of a young player who, at the age of 21, was qualifying for his third country. He is, in fact, qualifying for the FOURTH!"

A delegate: "There are up to 300 Chinese players outside China. The new 6 year eligibility rule may be hard, but we had to act. When you think of Wang and Chen, think also of Peng and Bao, knocked out by Chinese players from the European Championships."

"And to think of all the fans they made in Wales when we picked Nigel Lyder!"

Gothenburg and Other Topics



ALMOST the outstanding impression one took home from Gothenburg was how long it had all been. It is a theme to which I have often returned. When I wrote about our endless marathons at home and abroad in my days as the father and coach of our leading junior, some attributed my views and fatigue to having to catch the last boat home to the Isle of Wight, which I frequently missed. (The next one departed at 3 in the morning!) However, now that I can take a more detached stance, unaffected by such considerations, the sheer length of what we serve to the public remains indigestible.

"Let my People Go"

I am reminded of the Comedian Mort Sahl commenting on the film 'Exodus'. To change his text a little, the Gothenburg offerings were very long, even if you like table tennis, and, like him, I was tempted to march into the arena and cry "Let my People go!!" Consider, dear reader, that a 5-0 result might produce a three hour match, that the Final between Sweden and Germany, which ended 5-2, took four hours and that a match (1st round) between Sweden and South Korea (in Dortmund) had taken six hours before Sweden chalked up a 5-4 victory. Consider, too that two such matches are played by each team each day for three days.

A victory recipe

One could not fail to notice that players who had missed the team event had individual events far above their station. The Swede Vrana, ranked perhaps No. 8 in his country, all but beat Appelgren, the ultimate hero of the Championships, the Russian No. 4 Dvorak bundled out Desmond Douglas, the German No. 4 Franz did the same to Carl Prean, the Greek Rumanian Creanga eliminated Eric Lindh and the Norwegian Chinese Wang Junsun disposed of the favourite and No. 2 seed Jorgen Persson. Both ladies' finalists had light team events, in the case of the Chinese Swiss Tu Yong none at all. One could see exhausted player after exhausted player fall as the tournament progressed. Some argue that this is a test of endurance as well as skill. I cannot really join their ranks, since the former can be tested in the London Marathon. In Table Tennis I like to see players able to exercise their talents without prior drain.

Preaching to the Converted?

All that is now widely recognised, not least in I.T.T.F. circles and the new Swaythling Cup format (4 singles, 1 doubles) is the result, unfortunately a widely despised one in Europe. Within the European

Association (E.T.T.U.) rather more inspired remedies are sought. One can either reduce the number of matches or one can shorten the matches themselves. The three against three system (all play all, at any rate, if the match is played to a total conclusion) has stood the test of time and seems eminently fair. Why not then shorten the matches themselves? This is precisely what the E.T.T.U. will do and in the forthcoming European Youth Championships the Team Events will be played to 16 (not 21), but scoring will begin at 5 all, so that the 21 up system is preserved. Experiments will take place in respect of 11 up, in which case scoring will commence at 10 all. Purists will again protest, but many will not mourn the end of playing to 21, since so many matches are effectively over long before that point is reached. I lose count of the members who have told me that the late nights, endemic in local leagues, were what finally brought about their retirement. Parents tell me that they will not let their children play in our local leagues for the same reason. They are not prepared to send their off-spring to school washed and worn out by a late table tennis night. The case for shorter matches is now overwhelming — at all levels. In England this may yet prove another cause for 'controversy' (as nearly everything seems to be), but abroad the problem has been seen and solutions are sought.

A New European Women's League

It seems certain that there will be a European League for Women. I see this as a locomotive which will help to pull the Women's Game into a brighter future, providing opportunities and publicity for this activity. I am proud that the E.T.T.A. has played a leading part in bringing this about. I think that the present structure of the European League gives women a poor deal. The new set-up will provide a challenge and great opportunities. Crowds will not be won overnight and the beginnings will be hard. Some nations, with financial situations less strong than ours, felt some

reluctance to join in. We welcome the innovation.

Eligibility — A Chinese European Championship soon?

We already have a Chinese European Champion (Wang Xiao Ming — Mixed Doubles) and we nearly had a Chinese European Ladies Champion as well (Tu Yong — Switzerland). Two top European seeds were eliminated early in the tournament, Persson by Wang Junsun and Lindh by Creanga. The latter could be seen in the European Youth Championships as recently as last July and there he represented Rumania. The former plays in the

German League and he has become an 'instant' Norwegian. Numerous players are "eligible". In Germany alone I can count at least three former Chinese World Champions as well as a number of players of similar class. The eligibility rules, if one could so describe them, were so laughable as to be meaningless. The only thing that was even weaker was the will to enforce them. I therefore applaud President Kapetanovic's strong and statesmanlike lead in overcoming what had threatened to become an embarrassing farce.

Continued over page

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.

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Six Years!

The outcome was an overwhelming vote for a qualifying period of 6 years in respect of players changing countries. That does not mean that they cannot play for clubs or in open tournaments, but it does mean that they cannot play for a new country for six years in the European League or Championships. There was loud applause when the result of the vote was announced and there could be no doubt that most of our European colleagues felt. Europe will try, through its delegates, to bring the I.T.T.F. in line, when that body's National Council meets in July. One must hope that Europe will succeed. It is the I.T.T.F.'s failure to deal with this long standing and accelerating problem which is responsible for the present mess.

Already I have received messages of deep concern from Europe that we (through our National Council) chose to be guided by the I.T.T.F.'s rather lax and clearly inadequate 2 year rule (which is almost certain to be changed in July) rather than the European (E.T.T.U.) 6 year rule. I cannot describe the disappointment felt that England, which gave the sport to the world, failed to support President Kapetanic, who has been a good friend to English Table Tennis, the E.T.T.U. Executive, which includes our own George Yates and a very large majority of European countries. "Could you not have waited till July?" I have been asked. "If the I.T.T.F. still stuck to its outdated 2 year rule, then there might have been some justification in your decision. Now

you have broken ranks, can you blame smaller countries, if they do so? You have a good team. They have not."

I had no answer.

The playing side

Since this is fully covered elsewhere by George Yates, a few lines will suffice. Appelgren was, of course, quite magnificent, drawing on vast resources of will power and stamina. He went through the team event unbeaten before he took the singles title. An epic performance.

Guergueltcheva was a worthy winner of the ladies' event, seeing off the Swiss Chinese challenge. One noted how weak her opponent was against persistent top spin, but she was not in the top slice of Chinese ladies. Germany had two former world champions "eligible" (Cao, Tong Ling), but did not elect to play either.

I thought our men's 3rd place in the team event a noble effort. (Douglas 7-5, Cooke 9-4 and Prean 10-4 were the victory/defeat ratios). We had no chance against Sweden this time (unlike Paris, where we did). We crashed 5-1, Prean's victory against Persson giving us our only point. We had chances against Germany, though losing 5-2. Cooke's two were our highlight. I felt our opponents were fitter and returned service better. The former was invaluable in the slow conditions which prolonged rallies. Spectator figures were desperately disappointing. Perhaps they looked worse than they were in the large, splendid arena.

Attitudes of 50 years ago...

The scheduling was dreadfully old fashioned. The semi-finals of the team event were played at the same time and play on all 16 tables hardly added to the festivity of the occasion and the importance of the matches. The singles semi-finals, both men and women, were similarly played simultaneously and quite early in the morning at that! Must we really be surprised if people don't come to our big events? The march of the sport into the 20th century seems to be taking a very long time. So many attitudes seem rooted in another era, whilst our competitors, in the shape of other sports, understand the needs of modern marketing. Some nations, for instance Germany and Holland, have made a lot of progress and we have, till now, stood in the forefront of innovation and reform.

Despite detecting an earnest desire for change, all too often I have seen good ideas rejected by countries with limited finances and vision and so a great deal is reduced to the lowest common denominator. There is also the bureaucratic faction which seeks to drown everything in paper and creates confusion out of order. Despite all that I see a great deal of modern and progressive thinking in many of Europe's countries. The tragedy is that our own influence will be near zero after the breaking of ranks in the Chen Xinhua eligibility issue. The work of three years has been undone by National Council's vote of 21 April.

Chex Xinhua — the aftermath

I could only view the National Council vote by 23 votes to 14 with great sorrow, having fought so hard on this issue. In one afternoon we lost the respect of most of Europe and offended China, the most important table tennis nation, and the most influential, on earth. China had not given permission for us to select Chen Xinhua. Under I.T.T.F. rules we can ignore the Chinese and go against their wishes. They had asked us not to select Chen before July, the date of the I.T.T.F. Council Meeting. We had staged many enjoyable, profitable England vs China matches, which gave the game and its image a big boost. One wonders whether there will be more.

The Management Committee had twice voted that only British citizens should play for England. Despite leading the sport from near-bankruptcy to its present sound position, despite all that has been achieved, Councillors, who meet 4 times each year, over-turned the Management Committee, the Association's Chairman and Treasurer. Again one noted how little interest was shown, for instance, in the Sport's new £100,000 Development Fund and how much in the matter of a citizen of another country playing for England. Press agitation and media hype and, above all, commercial interests prevailed. Players, who have served us well, feel betrayed and let down. They are too proud to say this in public for fear of being seen worried about their England places, but they have

SPOT BRADLEY'S BALL — the Result

So that's where the ball was in last month's mystery competition!

From a sackful of entries the winning solution was submitted by:

R Green
19 Torcross Road
Ruislip
Middlesex

Mr Green estimated that the ball was in the crook of Bradley's elbow, about 12 inches away from the actual position, but that was a better estimate than any other. So a **Donic Tracksuit**, compliments of **Fast Bat House** is winging its way to Ruislip. Congratulations Mr Green.

It is encouraging to see that even the best players have their 'Whoops' moments too. The only question now remaining is who has the best reactions, Bradley or ace snapper Mike Loveder who captured the magic moment.

Thanks to Mike and all entrants.



The Chairman writes — 3

said it to me. Officials, all over the country, and this includes our President Johnny Leach, the finest ambassador the country has ever had, and our Treasurer Peter Hillier have conveyed to Council their deep unease about this decision. The sport has been torn apart. There were minor and unpleasant undercurrents. These could be traced to some of those who had served the sport so badly before my time.

One has nothing against Chen himself. A very full programme always was open to him. Why we could not wait till he was in possession of British citizenship I shall never know. The decision itself will make little difference now, since Europe has acted as it did. Few opportunities will now exist.

The other decision by Council, to petition the E.T.T.U. Executive to allow Chen to play in European events has no chance of success. Do we really think that Europe will allow our Chinese to play at once, whilst imposing a 6 year qualification on everyone else's? It was the one final stroke of absurdity of the most depressing afternoon I can recall in the history of English Table Tennis.

My own position...

When I made the decision to offer myself for re-election last December, I promised my members that I would serve my full term. I shall do this. That term lasts till July



Joola Trophy for Batorfi and Gatién: Left to right – Michael Bachtler MD of Joola, Jean Philippe Gatién, Csilla Batorfi and Mihovil Kapetanic ETTA President (Photo: Hans Jazyk)

1991, the date of our A.G.M. Some months before that I shall have to decide whether to continue. Our members will also think about this. They will then decide whether to be guided by media hype or the evidence of our sound balance sheets and what we have put into the game. They will decide whether I have done a good job or not. I will continue to stand for what I think is right.

Though I am in good health and vigour, standing down will present me with no problems when the time comes. If a strong alternative emerges, I shall need little encouragement. However, the job specifications are demanding. I cannot see how Deputy Chairman Ransome can succeed me, not least because of his powerful commercial interests, but also because the post of chairman is now so demanding that it requires the full time attention of the holder of that office. Even then the post requires someone able to command a very high salary elsewhere,

but prepared to work for the E.T.T.A. for nothing.

These are a few of the issues our members will have to consider. The wrong move will return us to the ice age from which the sport has recently emerged and which so many have already forgotten.

Have a good summer.

Letter to All European Associations

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, the Congress of the ETTU, meeting in Gothenburg on Friday 13th April, 1990, agreed to introduce a qualification regulation concerning the eligibility of players playing in the team and individual events of all European closed events. The meeting agreed that in future, a player may not represent a country unless he has been resident in that country for a period of six years.

For all events outside of ETTU jurisdiction the ITTF regulation which requires only two years residency still applies but my purpose in writing to you is to request that you apply the ETTU ruling for all events in which players from your association take part.

As the ITTF will most probably amend their own regulations on this subject at their Council meeting in July, the ETTU regulation will remain in force until then. If the ITTF produce a regulation which is in keeping with the feelings expressed at the Congress, then we will amend our own procedures accordingly as we would prefer to be in accord with the ITTF, being one of their member Continental Federations.

The Congress also agreed the appointment of a European Qualification Panel consisting of the Executive Committee plus Mr Andre Damman, who will decide all special cases.

It is without doubt a complicated subject but the vast majority of ETTU Associations agreed that the present ITTF rule is not strong enough to dissuade foreign nationals representing a country which is not their natural birthplace or home.

I look forward to your co-operation in this matter.

M. KAPETANIC
President, ETTU

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

1990/91

The ETTU have introduced a new format for the European League next season. This will involve group play, finishing with cross over semi-finals and finals to decide each division.

ENGLAND will feature in DIVISION ONE.

The only home group match will be in the week prior to 13th October versus SPAIN.

If successful in the groups England may also have home play off matches later in the season.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STAGING AN INTERNATIONAL IN YOUR AREA? IF SO CONTACT:

Jenny Hughes,
Events Manager,
English Table Tennis Association,
Queensbury House,
Havelock Road,
HASTINGS,
East Sussex TN34 1HF.

The ETTA Computer Ranking Scheme 1990/91

The following was presented to the National Council on 21st April 1990 by England Team Manager Don Parker and approved at that time.

THE E.T.T.A. enters its tenth season of Computer Ranking. This will be the first season that the ranking scheme will be totally handled in terms of input and administration within the E.T.T.A. offices. While this extra work will obviously incur costs, the situation will lead to fewer mistakes and the reaction of the players is that they are quite prepared to support this scheme with the necessary finance.

The most significant change for the Seniors is that the Top 50 on the European Ranking List will override the English Ranking List. In other words, whenever a new English Ranking list is released, any English players on the current European Top 50 list will be ranked correspondingly. This then means

that all international competitions, with the exception of the English Open, will not count for English Ranking Points as results will count towards European Ranking. Domestic tournaments with International Team events and friendly matches will count as per the 1989/90 season using the expected

and unexpected win tables, however, friendly matches have been devalued in terms of weighting. Once a player moves out of the European Top 50 he will join the next English list one point above the highest player not ranked in the European Top 50. This system reduces the 'dummying' problem which, being subjective, is a constant source of aggravation. Hopefully, the top England players will be motivated by achieving a European ranking, while the players just out of England contention will not be disadvantaged as a result of rivals picking up points at foreign tournaments.



With European Junior and Cadet Ranking lists based almost exclusively on the previous seasons European Youth Championships it was felt the same situation could not apply for the Juniors. Juniors and Cadets who just miss out on selection are at a serious disadvantage, however, players who do represent their country and win deserve some recognition. It was therefore decided to include overseas international tournaments on the **BONUS POINTS** scheme with set points for wins in the team events and for reaching the various stages of the tournament.

For the start of the season, all points gained at the end of the 1989/90 season have been divided by two, except those for the cadets which have been divided by three.

EXPECTED WIN TABLE

POINTS DIFFERENCE	POINTS GAIN	
1 to 20	8	
21 to 50	7	
51 to 90	6	
91 to 140	5	× The Weighting Factor
141 to 200	4	
201 to 270	3	
271 to 350	2	
351 & over	1	

UNEXPECTED WIN TABLE

POINTS DIFFERENCE	POINTS GAIN	
1 to 20	9	
21 to 50	10	
51 to 90	11	
91 to 140	12	× The Weighting Factor
141 to 200	13	
201 to 270	14	
271 to 350	15	
351 & over	16	

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

WEIGHTING FACTORS

		Junior and Cadet	
Senior		2 Star Open Tournaments	× 1
2 Star Tournament	× 1	All County Championships matches	× 2
All County Championships & British League matches	× 2	International Events — Category C	× 2
Friendly International Matches	× 2	Friendly International Matches	× 2
3 Star Open Tournaments	× 4	Select Open Tournaments (3 Star)	× 4
Televised Friendly International Matches	× 4	National Ranking Trials (knock-out or cross-over stages)	× 4
English Top 12 (knock-out or cross-over stages)	× 5	Junior 5 Star	× 5
Five Star Open Tournaments	× 5	English Top Twelve (knock-out or cross-over stages)	× 5
English National Championships	× 6	English National Championships	× 6
English Open	× 7	English Junior Open	× 7

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Computer Ranking Scheme — 2

Veterans	
2 Star Open Tournaments	× 1
All County Championships	× 2
3 Star Open Tournaments	× 4
National Veterans Society Tournaments	× 4
5 Star Open Tournaments	× 5
English National Championships	× 6

Group Events
Points per win will be awarded as follows:

Final Regional Junior & Cadet Ranking Trials	— 3 points/win
National Junior & Cadet Ranking Trials	— 10 points/win
National Junior & Cadet Top Twelve	— 25 points/win
National Senior Top 12	— 25 points/win
European Junior Top 12	— 40 points/win

Junior and Cadet International Team Events	
Category A Tournaments	— 20 points/win
Category B Tournaments	— 10 points/win

BONUS POINTS

European Junior Championships	
Winner	— 800 pts.
Runner-up	— 400pts
Losing Semi-Finalist	— 200pts
Losing Quarter-Finalist	100pts
Last 16	— 50pts
Last 32	— 25 pts

Junior International Events — Category A, European Junior Top 12 (k.o.stages)	
Winner	— 400pts
Runner-up	— 200pts
Losing Semi-Finalist	— 100pts
Losing Quarter-Finalist	— 50pts
Last 16	— 25 pts

English National Championships, 5 Star Opens	
Winner	— 200pts
Runner-up	— 100pts
Losing Semi-Finalist	— 50pts
Losing Quarter-Finalist	— 25pts

Senior Top 12 (k.o. stages) Junior & Cadet Top 12 (k.o. stages), 3 Star Open Tournaments, 'Select' Open Tournaments, National Junior & Cadet Ranking Trails (k.o. stages), Junior International Events — Category B.	
Winner	— 100pts
Runner-up	— 50 pts
Losing Semi-Finalist	— 25pts
Losing Quarter-Finalist	— 10 pts

NOTE: In Top 12's only bonus points for semi-finalists and finalists in the result of a cross over system.

Junior International Events — Category C	
Winner	— 50 pts
Runner-up	— 25 pts
Losing Semi-Finalist	— 10 pts
2 Star Open Tournaments, Veterans at 2 Star Opens	
Winner	— 20 pts
Runner-up	— 10 pts
Semi-Final	— 5 pts

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

Foreign Players (including those from Home Countries). Dummy positions, as determined by the National Team Manager, will be allocated on the computer lists as appropriate.

Junior Foreign Tournaments
Players playing bonifide foreign national tournaments at their own expense where an England Team is also competing will have their results included.

Domestic Tournaments with International Team Events
Any domestic tournaments with an international team event including at least two foreign teams, excluding the home countries, will for the purpose of the team event be weighted by the ranking panel dependant on the quality of the entry.

Women in the British League
Women playing in British League, will be given dummy positions and men awarded the appropriate points for a win. Women will only be awarded points for wins in the Womens British League.

Junior Events at Senior Tournaments
These will not be included.

FINANCE OF SCHEME
The scheme will be financed as follows:

Junior Tournaments	£1.00
per player	
Senior Tournaments	£1.50
per player	
Veteran Tournaments	£1.50
per player	
British League Registration	£20.00
per team	
County Registration	£12.00
per team	

The tournament computer fee will be added to the existing E.T.T.A. levy so making one overall amount to be added to the respective entry fee. This will apply to all tournaments except one star and those which opt out of the computer ranking scheme. The fee will be payable by all players entering the tournament irrespective of whether they appear on the list or their nationality. Players cannot opt out as individuals.

ELIGIBILITY
The decision of the ranking panel will be final on questions of eligibility of individuals to appear on E.T.T.A. ranking lists.

Complaints, Queries, Etc.
These should be sent in writing to: E.T.T.A., Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 IHF

Any complaints should be accompanied by a £5.00 deposit which is returnable if the complaint is valid. All suggestions, comments on policy, etc., will be considered in the course of the annual review which will take place at the end of the 1990/91 season.



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Unbeaten in the European League could he win the World Veteran Title in 1995

by JOHN WOODFORD

IN THE thirteen years that Desmond Douglas has plied his trade as a table tennis professional he has had many ups-and-downs but this season is ending on a high note for the man from Walsall who will be 35 next July but still possesses the "magic" touches that has endeared him to crowds worldwide for many years. How long will he go on? Could he win the world veteran title in 1995? If betting were permitted my money would be on him to win!

For sometime I held the view that Des would help England out in the European League if the chips were down despite the fact that he retired from that competition over two years ago after losing vital games against Holland. Some said he would only return if Carl Preat or Alan Cooke were injured.

When England beat Sweden in the first match of the season, it seemed as though Des could relax at home watching sport on television — his favourite pastime — whilst our young men retained our position in the Super Division.

Losing match after match, usually 4-3, led to a re-think by Don Parker and into the line-up on a wet and windy night in far off Bude in North Cornwall came Desmond. It was the Czechs who found themselves on the rocks as Des (and Carl) squeezed a 4-3 win out of the team from Prague. Three weeks later, England lost the last match 4-3 against West Germany at Bexleyheath, and again Des was undefeated winning the first game against Steffan Fetzner and the penultimate game against Jorg Roskopf, West Germany's only big success in recent times.

Just prior to Bude, at Swindon, Des put on another magical performance to lift the Burmah Wiltshire 5-star Open, defeating Carl Preat in the semis and the other "magician" Chen Xinhua in the final.

• Some of the questions raised in this story were asked by Dutch journalist Bas Den Breejen

Fitness the Key

Many men in their mid-thirties start to put on weight and generally slacken off in terms of fitness. Not so Desmond, practice four times a week at the Grove club at Market Drayton with Alan Cooke and other leading players has got over that problem — Alan Cooke returning from Sweden is another ingredient that has helped Des and helped Grove to monopolise the premier division in the Leeds British League.

When editing this magazine for nearly three seasons I only wrote one Desmond personality story. His popularity remains at such a high level as we saw at Bude and Bexleyheath that it is worth recalling a few of the facts from Desmond's past:

He started to play table tennis at the age of 11 at Birmingham YMCA where "there was no run-back so I developed my close-to-the-table game". He was born Desmond Hugh Douglas on July 20, 1955 in Kingston, Jamaica, coming to England with his parents in 1960 when he was five.

Des is not married but has a charming girlfriend Margerita and a young family. He started his career in 1972 at the European Junior Championships in Denmark. Des worked for about six years in the garage of Birmingham Buses and then studied to become a mechanic. He ceased, as we journalists have said, on a number of occasions "rolling under Birmingham Buses" at the same time as the 1977 World Championships at the NEC in Birmingham.

He has now won the English title ten times, nine in a row, losing to Alan Cooke in 1988. In Germany he played for Dusseldorf for eight years and two English clubs before joining Alan Cooke at Grove, where with a "company car" he is "very happy indeed".

Peace Doves

Des has over the years had a number of problems with the England administration, some quite serious because he is a man who says what he thinks, but just recently (March 10) Des and Alan Cooke had "amiable discussions" with the ETTA Management Committee and as



Desmond Douglas — Ten times our Champion (Photo courtesy Mike Loveder)

the doves of peace flew over the Bonnington Hotel, it seems that a new understanding has been reached in 1990 between the top players and the corridors of power on talking to the media.

Asked about the peaks of his career Des said "I have had several, I was ranked No. 7 in the world when I finished third in Duisburg in 1987. Another peak came in Basle in 1987 when I won the Top-12. I played nine times in the Top-12 in Europe and reached three finals."

Villa Supporter

His hobby is watching all sport on television, every sport especially football, athletics, boxing tennis and snooker. He is a supporter of Aston Villa.

The 64,000 Dollar Question is once again, how long can he play at this level — beating people like Persson as he did in the World Team Cup? Des answers: "Now I am very happy, I am in good condition, I take every season as it comes, I practice four times a week, I shall just wait and see, I have no thoughts of retiring at this time."

Footnote: Bas Breejen asked him "How many coaches have you had?" The journalist meant personal coaches. Des replied "Les Gresswell, Brian Burn, Peter Simpson, Donald Parker — all the England coaches." As far as I am aware, Des has not been coached since Birmingham YMC days — he does his own thing with a highly personalised, unorthodox, blocking and attacking game that has defeated so many of the best players in Europe and may well continue to do so for at least another five years.

Forever Desmond —

Douglas Magic Spell No. 11

by JOHN WOODFORD

DESMOND DOUGLAS has now become rather more than a legend! By lifting his eleventh English crown at the Leeds English National Championships at Oldham Sports Centre on May 7, a few weeks short of his 35th birthday is an achievement that puts him in a class along with the Great Names of the past in English table tennis — Johnny Leach, Richard Bergmann and Victor Barna.

His popularity with the crowd has not diminished over the years. The 500 crowd at Oldham on most days, were as Don Parker would say "delighted" with Des as he defeated the defending champion Alan Cooke in the semi-finals and then proving dominant to another classic five-game clash to finally beat the top-seeded Carl Prean -8, 17, 17, -17, 12.

In both the final rounds, Douglas had his back to the wall. Against Cooke, still unhappy about the top seedings, he came from 0 - 2 down to take the third and fourth games and then led 14 - 11 in the decisive fifth game before the Walsall professional made a last desperate bid and came through 21 - 19.

The mens singles final was a splendid battle, with the advantage swinging alternately. The Grenzau No.1 found few problems in the first game but Douglas moved into overdrive to take the next two games. Prean swept back into action with some thrilling rallies laced with deadly top-spin, that Desmond blocked and counter-hit with some of the sharpest angles I have seen for some time.

The fifth and final showdown between Prean and Douglas saw the old campaigner blasting away, increasing the angles of his attacking and blocking shots to saunter through on the scoreboard 21 - 12.

That victory was worth coming a long way to see — the first day of the tournament was mainly qualifying rounds and veterans events, the second day there were no shocks so we journalists had to concentrate on the seeding controversy, but on the third day, three of the four semi-finals provided shocks as Douglas beat Cooke, Fiona Elliot stopped Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt defeated (for the first time) Lisa Lomas.

Strange Schedule

Apparently, the schedule was in the hands of the marketing committee under Alan Ransome, who also took charge in Manchester at the Open. As a result of the marketing moves, a number of faces seen at the English tournaments for many years were missing — Doug Young, Doreen Stannard, Harvey Webb, Mike Watts to name just a few.



DESMOND DOUGLAS took the English title for the 11th time and received the trophy from Steve Wild of the Leeds. TOP SEED Carl Prean, who lost a dramatic five game final, looks on and waits for his time to come (Photo: John F.A.Wood)

It was a strange programme of events that seem to revolve around a large number of qualifying rounds that eventually produced 32 men competing in "Round 1" of the mens singles, and 16 in "Round 1" of the womens singles. This meant that the media had nothing to report on the Saturday, therefore missing space available in the Sunday papers.

On the Sunday, all the top seeded players reached their expected places. On Monday however, with the rest of the week-end sport out of the way, "orders" for space increased considerably in the "heavies" — The Times, Daily Telegraph, The Independent and The Guardian.

I was surprised to see the arena down to five tables for the last two days of the tournament. Fine for the spectators of course. The first floor viewing gallery at the Oldham Sports Centre is without doubt one of the best in the country.

Battle Royal

However, back to the tournament and the men's quarter-finals

— John Souter emerged as a quarter-finalist at the expense of Michael O'Driscoll who was beaten 21-19 in the fifth in a spectacular battle royal, but the Middlesex No.1. posed no problems for Carl Prean who won 11, 8, 21.

The second men's quarter-final was the one that drew the crowds as Nicky Mason was pitched against his great rival Skylet Andrew. Who was going to win this one? It seems that Mason performs best at home whilst Sky is more at home on the continent or even in other continents.

The three games between "Mace" and "Sky" were all cliff-hangers, but it was the Bexhill-based counter-hitter who triumphed 22, 19, 20.

In the bottom half Douglas started the first of his five-game duals, going through 21-11 in the fifth against another young England hope Bradley Billington. The Derbyshire youngster seems to be making progress — taking two games from the legend Des Douglas ranks as a fine performance.

The fourth quarter-final Syed v Cooke was another clash that some people had travelled some way to watch in the belief that Alan some-

times gets into difficulties against good defenders. But not on this occasion. The Chesterfield professional penetrated the Reading youngster's defences convincingly enough to win 16, 18, 15.

Prean Closed Door

Just a word on Mason against Prean in the semi-finals — Mason snatched the first 23-21 and actually led 12-6 in the second before the man from the island off the Hampshire coast closed the door very professionally, getting home 21-14 in the fourth game.

It might be some time before there is £6,000 prize money on offer again at the English National Championships. Douglas won £1,000 and £160 for winning the mens doubles; Carl Prean netted £500 for getting to the final; Fiona Elliot can hardly have believed her good fortune, walking away with cheques amounting to £840 for winning all three events.

Continued overleaf

Fiona and Andrea move in but quartet remains intact

FIONA ELLIOT of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Andrea Holt of Ramsbottom, Lancashire were the two stars that twinkled brightly in the Women's Singles at Oldham. Whether the two senior players they beat — Alison Gordon (lost to Fiona) and Lisa Lomas (lost to Andrea) in the semi-finals were suffering from jet-lag after flying in from Japan only some 48 hours early is a matter of conjecture. Fit professionals should of course be able to cope with playing in one continent and then playing as well after a 7,000 mile flight through time zones.

To Fiona, goes the honour of lifting all three titles, the singles beating Andrea in the final, the womens doubles with Lisa Lomas and the mixed doubles with Skylet Andrew. Fiona is the first triple women's champion since Karenza Mathews in 1972, a magnificent feat, a just reward for perseverance and not getting too downhearted when not always making the England squad or team when only one pair is needed.

Regained Title

Fiona regained the title she first won in 1987, proving that there is strength in depth in the England squad. This same point was made when Andrea knocked out Lisa -11, 20, -12, 11, 19.

But the England women's squad remains intact, Gordon, Lomas, Elliot and Holt are our four outstanding but the worrying factor is not whether Jill Parker will make a come-back as a veteran when she qualifies, but are the young players like Julie Billington coming through with enough speed?

Quarter-Finals

The women's qualifying rounds provided some hope for the future — Sally Marling, Nicola Deaton, Linda Radford, Debbie Toole and Kathy Goodall all came through to make up the elite last sixteen. They all lost in the battle for the quarters, Julie Billington, our brightest ray of hope got through on a walk-over against Carol Giles who had an ankle injury and scratched.



Both Alison Gordon and Lisa Lomas came under pressure in the quarter-finals, so it is possible that the trip to Japan was making the road hard. Meanwhile, Joanne Shaw created a shock by stopping Jill Harris 25-23 in the fourth and Juliet Houghton raised the hopes of the Kent supporters to halt Caroline Buckley 21-18 in the fourth game.

But pressure or not, the four members of the elite England squad — Gordon, Elliot, Holt and Lomas all reached the semi-finals in straight games, as Gordon beat Shaw, Elliot stopped Houghton, Holt held off the petite Billington and Lomas chopped out a gallant Helen Lower 11, 16, 16.

Left: FIONA ELLIOT took the singles title previously held by Lisa Lomas but teamed up with the former champion to win the Women's doubles.

Below: PRIDE of Lancashire, Ramsbottom's Andrea Holt, 19, reached the final for the first time with a first ever win over the holder Lisa Lomas (Photos: John F.A. Wood)



CONTROVERSIAL TOP SEEDINGS

RESISTING the temptation to take sides on whether Alan Cooke or Carl Prean should have been seeded No. 1. in the mens singles, I will stick to the facts. As most people are aware there is a "dummy" or "ghost" system for seedings at English tournaments.

England captain Donald Parker is the man who has to decide on these dummy positions, essential where for example, Prean is not on the England list. Don had to examine carefully the records this season of both men. Alan will be the first to agree that overall this season has not been one of his best, apart of course from excellent performances in Gothenburg culminating in reaching the quarter-finals of the mens singles after doing well in the team event for England.

The European League was not a happy hunting ground for the man from Chesterfield. Carl on the other hand, perhaps with more opportunities, recorded a string of successes at home and abroad but crashed in the singles in Sweden after beating Jorgen Persson, No. 2 in Europe, finishing fifth in the European Top-12 in Hanover and finishing with a European ranking of No. 13.

Powerful Attack

Alan's Chesterfield supporters, who apparently are not always in accord with the Derbyshire TTA, led by Martin Kinsella, launched a powerful attack on the seedings in the regional press, listing his successes as Commonwealth champion, the fact that he was the holder etc. ending with a correct report that Cooke and Douglas are now required to have an ETTA official with them when talking to the media.

We are all entitled to express our feelings on seedings. The decision in this case was not the hardest that Don Parker has had to face, he chose Carl on his overall record this season.

The most unfortunate ending to what might have been seen as a healthy debate came when for reasons that can only be guessed at Alan Cooke was conspicuous by his absence on the winners podium when the presentations were made at the end of an exhilarating day.

DESMOND SAID

STEPPING down from the winner's podium, looking surprised to be there at all, Desmond Douglas spared a few thoughts for the media. He said, "Winning this time was almost as good as the first one. I shall be 35 in July, it is getting harder and harder to pace myself, especially against the younger players such as Carl and Alan."

"I felt here in Oldham that I was starting to play well. Carl is very awkward to play against. I prefer playing best of three games, my legs are starting to hurt in the best of five matches when they go on to the fifth game, as my games did in the last two rounds" he said.

He concluded by saying, "In patches I am playing as well as ever. I try to pace myself carefully, but it is not easy when there is a heavy floor."

The flooring was a heavy rubbery-type compound, which players find hard on the feet and legs compared to the more traditional wood surfaces.

Media Farewell to the Leeds

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society sponsorship and the services provided by Alan Pascoe Associates have been invaluable for the media over the past three years. Steve Cunningham, Lucy McCrickard, Betty Maitland have done a great job. How we shall manage without them remains to be seen. Meanwhile as Wendy Cunningham and Steve Wild move away from the Leeds and to the South, we are sure not to lose sight of them.

THE DOUBLES & VETERANS EVENTS

Three-year spell ends for Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason

GROVE club team-mates Douglas and Cooke mirrored their sharp play in the singles with a victory in the mens doubles final that brought to an end three years domination of the event by Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason, who were bidding for their fourth successive title. The Grove men triumphed 15, 18 in the final.

Both the senior pairs stopped the younger men in the semi-finals — Cooke and Douglas dismissing Chris Oldfield and Michael O'Driscoll, whilst Sky and Mace took out Bradley Billington and Sean Gibson.

There is no doubt that best mixed doubles men are both based in Essex — Skylet Andrew and John Holland, now a professional at the Peniel Academy who are wanting to run a major tournament at Brentwood next season. Julie Billington and Holland, shock winners at Portsmouth last year, almost did it again, but with Fiona in such devastating form, her partnership with Sky led to their victory in the final 20, 19.

As expected, the womens doubles was dominated by the four England squad players. Each team carried a possible "jet-lagger", so it was very even scoring all the way. Eventually, Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot capped a superb display over Alison and Andrea Holt — note the scores in a real thriller of a final — 19, 19, 19.



A GOOD OMEN for the new Swaythling cup format? Alan Cooke and Desmond Douglas took the men's doubles title — a first ever for Alan but number 10 for Desmond (Photo: John F.A. Wood)

John Hilton is the new England veterans champion, with a relatively comfortable success 19, 13 in the final against Peter Radford of Essex who whipped out Malcolm Corring in the quarters and Derek Holman 16, -22, 22 in the semi-finals.

Hilton took care of the powerful Cleve Judson in the other semi-final and his experience told once again as in the final he succeeded 19, 13 against the brave Radford.

My own county of Sussex would not forgive me if I did not mention a remarkable victory for Robin Stace and Keith Horton in the veterans mens doubles final -10, 19, 20 over John Hilton and Roger Hampson!

The Leeds National Championships — 4

RESULTS

Mens Singles

Round 1

Carl Prean bt Jimmy Stokes 9, 20, 13
 Christopher Oldfield bt John Hilton 13, 14, 12
 John Souter bt Glenn Baker 6, 12, 12
 Michael O'Driscoll bt Paul Giles 14, 22, -18, 13
 Skylet Andrew bt Malcolm Corking 14, 13, 15
 Stephen Dorking bt Stephen Slater 15, -8, 6, 13
 John Holland bt Kevin Satchell 9, 13, 9
 Nicky Mason bt Tony Taylor 19, 6, 18
 Desmond Douglas bt Craig Bakewell 10, 10, 13
 Christopher Rogers bt Ritchie Venner -16, 16, -17, 14, 13
 Sean Gibson bt Nigel Eckersley 10, 9, 12
 Bradley Billington bt Mark Stephenson 10, 11, 13
 Matthew Syed bt Paul Hutchings 12, 14, 11
 Jonathon Taylor bt Graham Sandley 16, -23, 20, -16, 20
 Paul Whiting bt Adrian Moore -16, 16, 18, 13
 Alan Cooke bt Matt Shearer 10, 11, 9

Round 2

Prean bt Oldfield 16, 11, 15
 Souter bt O'Driscoll -18, 14, 13, -14, 19
 Andrew bt Dorking 10, 21, 15
 Mason bt Holland 19, 16, 14
 Douglas bt Rogers 6, 14, 12
 Billington bt Gibson 18, -16, 11, -19, 11
 Syed bt Taylor, 13, 10, 15
 Cooke bt Whiting 15, 8, 11
Quarter Finals
 Prean bt Souter 11, 8, 21
 Mason bt Andrew 22, 19, 20
 Douglas bt Billington 12, -19, 9, -24, 11
 Cooke bt Syed 16, 18, 15
Semi Finals
 Prean bt Mason -21, 14, 19, 14
 Douglas bt Cooke 13, 13, -17, -14, 19
Final
 Douglas bt Prean -8, 17, 17, -17, 12

Women's Singles

Round 1

Alison Gordon bt Sally Marling 14, 7, 14
 Joanne Shaw bt Jill Harris 8, 23, -18, 25
 Juliet Houghton bt Caroline Buckley 10, 17, -16, 18
 Fiona Elliot bt Nicola Deaton 16, 14, 16
 Andrea Holt bt Linda Radford 9, 10, 17
 Julie Billington bt Carol Giles — walkover
 Helen Lower bt Debbie Toole 10, -8, 20, 19
 Lisa Lomas bt Katherine Goodall 13, 11, 14
Quarter Finals
 Gordon bt Shaw 16, 10, 14
 Elliot bt Houghton 11, 13, 13
 Holt bt Billington 8, 10, 18
 Lomas bt Lower 11, 16, 16
Semi Finals
 Elliot bt Gordon -20, 18, -11, 17, 15
 Holt bt Lomas -11, 20, -12, 19, 19

Final

Elliot bt Holt -12, 21, 11, 14

Men's Doubles

Quarter Finals

N. Mason/S. Andrew bt G. Sandley/J. Souter 11, 13
 B. Billington/S. Gibson bt S. Dorking/J. Stokes 15, -18, 14
 C. Oldfield/M. O'Driscoll bt A. Eden/R. Darnell -16, 12, 13
 A. Cooke/D. Douglas bt T. Taylor/J. Holland 11, 17.

Semi Finals

N. Mason/S. Andrew bt B. Billington/S. Gibson 18, -17, 11
 A. Cooke/D. Douglas bt C. Oldfield/M. O'Driscoll 8, -18, 16.

Final

A. Cooke/D. Douglas bt N. Mason/S. Andrew 15, 18.

Women's Doubles

Quarter Finals

L. Lomas/F. Elliott bt S. Richmond/J. Keighley 12, 10
 J. Shaw/J. Houghton bt J. Billington/D. Toole 16, 13,
 H. Lower/J. Harris bt T. Moore/S. Roden -21, 14, 19.
 A. Holt/A. Gordon bt L. Radford/L. Radford 11, 12

Semi Finals

L. Lomas/F. Elliott bt J. Shaw/J. Houghton 14, -17, 13
 A. Holt/A. Gordon bt H. Lower/J. Harris 14, 15.

Final

L. Lomas/F. Elliott bt A. Holt/A. Gordon -19, 19, 19.

Mixed Doubles

Quarter Finals

J. Holland/J. Billington bt N. Eckersley/A. Holt -19, 17, 8
 N. Mason/A. Gordon bt A. Moore/T. Moore 18, 17
 C. Oldfield/J. Harris bt G. Jones/E. Meddings 14, -20, 10
 S. Andrew/F. Elliott bt P. Radford/Lesley Radford 17, 16

Semi Finals

J. Holland/J. Billington bt N. Mason/A. Gordon 16, 10
 S. Andrew/F. Elliott bt C. Oldfield/J. Harris 16, 13

Final

S. Andrew/F. Elliott bt J. Holland/J. Billington 20, 19

Veteran Men's Singles

Quarter Finals

Peter Radford bt Malcolm Corking -21, 21, 16
 Derek Holman bt Mat Shearer 14, 15
 Cleve Judson bt Andy Meads 10, -17, 19
 John Hilton bt Tony Rigby -15, 13, 13

Semi Finals

Radford bt Holman 16, -22, 22
 Hilton bt Judson 14, 15

Final

Hilton bt Radford 19, 13

Veteran Women's Singles

Quarter Final

Doreen Schofield bt Carol Judson 16, 8
 Lesley Radford bt Gillian Knightley 15, 14
 Margaret Dignum bt Juliet Pilford 16, 15
 Pat Bassano bt Christine Basden 11, 15

Semi Finals

Schofield bt Radford -14, 18, 20
 Bassano bt Dignum 18, 10

Final

Bassano bt Schofield -19, 13, 8.

Veteran Men's Doubles

Quarter Finals

R. Stace/K. Horton bt P. Bradley/N. Stag 5, -14, 17
 D. Schofield/M. Shearer bt J. Holland/W. Moran -21, 12, 9
 J. Hilton/R. Hampson bt B. Allison/A. Meads 13, 16
 M. Corking/S. Gibbs bt R. Gunnion/D. Seaholme 13, 16

Semi Finals

R. Stace/K. Horton bt D. Schofield/M. Shearer 16, 18
 J. Hilton/R. Hampson bt M. Corking/S. Gibbs -15, 17, 16

Final

R. Stace/K. Horton bt J. Hilton/R. Hampson -10, 19, 20

Veteran Women's Doubles

Quarter Finals

C. Judson/P. Bassano — bye
 J. Beadle/P. Butcher bt L. Reid/J. Hunt 18, -19, 18
 M. Dignum/J. Pilford bt C. Basden/G. Knightley -15, 18, 17
 D. Schofield/C. Moran bt E. Shaler/S. Carrol 15, 13

Semi Finals

C. Judson/P. Bassano bt J. Beadle/P. Butcher 21, 16
 D. Schofield/C. Moran bt M. Dignum/J. Pilford -18, 18, 13

Final

D. Schofield/C. Moran bt C. Judson/P. Bassano -20, 17, 17

Leeds Permanent Building Society marked their exit from the 3 year sponsorship programme covering the whole of English Table Tennis with a friendly and informal dinner at the Thistle hotel in Manchester. Wendy Cunningham made a presentation of four framed colour photographs as a memento of a very happy as well as a very successful sponsorship venture (Photograph shows Leeds Public Relations Manager Wendy Cunningham making her presentation to (left to right) ETTA Chairman John Prean, Chief Executive Ted Wallbuton and England Team Manager and Director of Coaching Donald Parker)



A PICTORIAL PRESENTATION FROM THE LEEDS

Picture Parade — 1



EVERGREEN John Hilton receives his Men's Veterans Singles trophy from ETTA Deputy Chairman Alan Ransome, who wasn't competing this year.



EAGERLY AWAITING the finals are ETTA Events Manager, Jenny Hughes, ETTU Secretary George Yates and 'Scoop' Woodford of the Telegraph.



ADAM PARKER chairs a top level meeting between Nicky Mason and England team manager Donald Parker.



NATIONAL CHAMPION Des Douglas pictured with the Oldham & District team who did sterling work on the door. Carl Simpson (next to Des) and (left to right) John Phillips, Marjorie Riddle and Peter Aspin.



THE BATTLE between Vets and Umpires to be first at the dinner table was invariably won by the wily tactics of the mature players. The rush was well merited, the Oldham staff served up superb food in difficult conditions.



TOP TABLE TRIO. Referee John Jermyn, Umpires Controller Di Jermyn and Deputy Referee Geoff Taylor enjoying the women's Vets final. (Photos: John F.A. Wood)

Picture Parade — 2



Left: SKYLET ANDREW assisted Fiona Elliot to her third title at the Nationals – the mixed doubles. They are seen here receiving their awards from former holder Jill Hammersley Parker and Wendy Cunningham from the Leeds.

Below: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE between Nicky Mason and yoghurt? Answer, yoghurt is cultured. Sorry Nicky, couldn't resist it.



Above: SLEEPING BEAUTIES! A hard schedule at the Nationals left Liz Wilson and Dave Perry feeling completely pooped.



Right: THE ORGANISERS line up against the wall to receive their just reward. (L to R) Terry Jennings (Oldham Sports Centre), Jenny Hughes (ETTA), Peter Knowles (Manchester Olympic Bid-) plus Lucy McCrickard, Betty Maitland and Steve Cunningham (Alan Pascoe Associates). (Photos: John F.A. Wood)





British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Relegation on the Card — If...

by MIKE LOVEDER

ALL FOUR Premier Division matches were won 7-1 on Sunday 18th March. Ormesby beat Butterfly Cardiff, winning the first seven in straight games. Ian McLean beat Nigel Eckersley in the last game. Cardiff need to take points from Kettler in their last match to avoid relegation. Paul Whiting gained Armada 400's sole win against Kettler Sport who were being led by an in-form John Hilton. Whiting lost to Hilton but beat Adrian Moore. Grove took no chances with Ellenborough and travelled south at full strength. Colin Wilson gained the Man of the Match nomination for beating Sean Gibson at 19 in the third. In the absence of Nigel Tyler, Nicky McKoy came in at No.4 for Ellenborough and chipped in a respectable performance. Glenn Baker beat Matthew Syed at 23-21 in the third for his MoM nomination, but Bathwick Tyres I rattled off the next seven against Dulwich Rams I.

FIRST DIVISIONS

Susanne Airey recorded a -17, 19, 19 win over Jason Bamford but Bayer Bradford won the other seven two-straight against Ruston Marconi Lincoln. Richard Jermyn beat Steve Moore and Stuart Palmer in straight games but Chan Construction lost 3-5 to MBS St. Neots. At 4-3 it was left to Jimmy Walsh to beat Pete Machin for his first win of the season. Well Connected Menswear's Graeme McKim beat Alison Gordon 18 & 14 but Grove II won the other seven, six of which went to three games. Stephen Slater beat Andy Edmonds and John Burleton. West Warwickshire whitewashed City of Leeds with only one game going to three. Phil Gunn beat Mark Ward -19, 16, 10.

GOLLY COLLEY...

John Payne gained the Man of the Match nomination from Terry Vance in Larkhall's match against Ashford for beating Neil Charles and Max Crimmins. Joey Kennedy beat Mike Hammond at 19 in the third but lost to Brian Garroway by the same margin. John Bult was the star for Colley Toyota. His wins over Tommy Cutler and John Denison led to Chelmsford dropping a valuable point. Steve Ward won the other two. Dave Newman beat Angie Evans and Mike Owens comfortably. Chelmsford could decide who wins this division when they meet Ashford at home on 13th May. Team Peniel stayed in the hunt, flexing their muscles against Rejects and beating them 8-0. A rare duck from Gary Spencer who lost -13, 18, -11 to Andrew Eden (their latest trump card) and 21, -17, -19 to Lisa Lomas. Ian Attridge enjoyed one of his better days beating Mike O'Leary and Percy Collino with deuces. Horsham

Dolphins had a tough time beating Britannia ACI 5-3. Dolphins led 3-1, but then John Kitchener beat Ritchie Venner. Richard Tanner beat Andy Cunningham to level the score. Phil Smith secured two points with a 9 & 8 win over Russell King.

LIVERPOOL MARATHON

Helen Bardwell played a key role in a 6-2 win for Cambridge over Oldham. She beat Wayne Renton and Norman Thewlis to give Cambridge a 5-1 lead. Liverpool and Vymura International enjoyed a 3½-hour marathon. The 7-1 win flattered Liverpool as they won three consecutive games at 19 or deuce in the third. Paul Hutchings beat Graham Clark -16, 17, 15 and Andrea Holt -20, 12, 19. Holt beat Keith Williams -14, 16, 15 for Vymura's sole win.

BURSLEM BEATEN

Cheltenham Saracens pulled level with Burslem by beating them 5-3. Mark Owen opened with a 19 & 19 win over Brian Johns. Burslem recovered to lead 3-2 but Owen levelled the score with a 19, -14, 18 win against Eddie Wilkes. Graham Slack beat Mark Evans at 19 in the third and Darren Griffin finished off with a straight games victory over Paul Barnett. VPM Mazda dealt a sizeable blow to Royal Mail Leicester dropping just one game as Phil Smith beat Mark Thomas 6, -15, 17. George Evans put Mazda 5-1 ahead with an 18, -14, 19 win over Martin Pickles. Tony Healan was fairly untroubled by Martin Simpson and Maurice Newman. Bathwick Tyres II dealt Birmingham SC a lethal blow winning 7-1, all games two-straight. Mick Browne took consolation in beating Eddie Kaser 18 & 21. Gregory Bridgett fought gallantly for White

Hart Launceston beating Darren Howarth and Helen Lower. However WHL lost 3-5 to Grove III as Garry Knights and Howard Whewell remained unbeaten on the day.

TAYLOR MADE

Jolliffe Poole remain one off the bottom of Division 2 South following a 2-6 loss to Rejects II. John Taylor carved up Jason Creasey and Tony Clayton. Clive Carthy beat both Martin Hughes and John Robinson at 18 in the third. Concord Flash dropped another point, this time to Horsham Dolphins II. Paul Barry's hard-fought two offset two from Kuburat Owolabi. Victory Sports Tonbridge continued their charge beating Ellenborough II 6-2 with Paul Rainford on continuing good form. He beat Jon Proffitt 9 & 11 but the latter beat Neil Harris 8 & 11! A late result from TSP Larkhall II showed that they led Fellows Cranleigh 2-0. However careful team selection — ie the inclusion of Damian Holland — saw Cranleigh go 5-2 ahead.

ANOTHER MARATHON!

Team Peniel II played Britannia Anglia Commercial II — for 3 hours and 45 minutes — and won 8-0! Matthew Greenwood was Man of the Match with two wins including a -19, 20, 22 win over Ritchie Nelhams. The City of Milton Keynes got the better of Brentwood. Peter Bowler helped to keep CMK ahead with wins over the Coles, David and Martin. Colin Bowler succumbed -12, -16 to Peter Hayden but finished off the match with a 9 & 5 win over Paul Stephens. Fellows Cranleigh II ensured Gothorp Plumbing Crusaders (Lincoln) stayed at the bottom with a 6-2 win. Jason Tendler and Dave Window took useful maximums.

Keith Rodger, Chris Bryan and Ian Brown ensured that Seat Peterborough did not drop a point. Ian Hawes and Steve Hanks took consolation for Levi's Westfield with a win apiece over Jimmy Brewster.

A GOODE DRAW

The top of the table clash in Division 3 South between Dulwich Rams II and Gunnersbury Triangle resulted in a draw. Jonathan Bradbury beat Peter Harris 20 & 19 but lost -14, -11 to David Goode. Trevor Manning lost to Goode too -8, -19 but he beat Chris Boothby -15, 14, 20. Consequently Pillinger Air Croydon scraped into second place by one game with their 6-2 win over Lambeth 4 Tops. Neville Miller and Carl Mingo beat Steve Davies, the latter did so with scores of -15, 19, 22. Amity Generation Fareham dropped a valuable point to Rejects III. Trevor Campbell and Farhat Rasul beat Ramesh Bhalla. Steve Carpenter beat Graham Toole 13, -17, 19 but lost to Mark Bleakley who also beat Jason Blake to be nominated Man of the Match.

IT WAS CLOSE

Lying second in Division 3 North, Vymura International II beat bottom-placed Blaydon YC Racers 7-1. But it was close! Six out of eight went to three and five games were won/lost at deuce. Vymura went 4-0 up but John Hope beat Stephen Coverdale -15, 18, 22 and Ken Connor beat Phil Robson 8, -20, 21. Humberside Andro beat the Tigers 5-3 at Lilleshall. But not without some resistance from Malcolm Langford who beat Mike Harrison 18 & 18 and Lee Robinson 9, -17, 19. Concord Huddersfield took a 5-0 lead against SEE SW Durham. Geoff Brook and Tim



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the Leeds British League — 2

Dyson did most damage for Concord. Bri-Bar Byker took a 5-0 lead against Ormesby III. Chris Jones beat Dave Godbold for the final score of 1-7. Mark Christie was on form with comfortable wins over Jimmy Nicholson and Steven Cooper.

COLLEY WOBBLES

In contrast to Colley Toyota I the seconds came rather unstuck without Penduck. Kingfisher Reading inflicted a nasty shock on Colley Toyota II beating them 6-2 after being 4-0 up. Terry Haley opened with a -21, 15, 18 win over David Buck and this was followed by Tony Duffield beating Jeremy Hobbs -16, 19, 19. Wally Allanson won his two in straight games against Lee Thomas and Jonathan Allen. This result leaves AHW Comets on level points at the top and three games ahead as they beat Leckie 6-2. The two were taken by Adrian Thorp who beat Steve Cowley 19 & 18 and Keith Samuels 20 & 20.

BUDE SUFFERERS

Grove IV consolidated 4th position with a 5-3 win over Bude Surfers. Spencer Harris beat Andrew Bevan and John Menzel to keep his team on top. Bude's Martin Rowe beat Mark Turner -16, 15, 25 and Esme Stevenson finished off with an 11 & 10 win over John Lumley. Bathwick Tyres III fought off the Thorns with a 5-3 win. Ian Johnson helped to keep Bath ahead with wins over Mark Brookes and Eric Hardman. He trailed 12-17 in the third against Eric Hardman only to come back and win 21-18.



Alan Cooke - Grove I (Photo: Mike Loveder)

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES MID MAY 1990

Premier Division

	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Grove I	14	13	1	100	12	27
Ormesby I	14	11	2	82	30	24
Bathwick I	14	10	0	84	28	20
Dulwich Rams I	14	7	0	46	64	14
Ellenborough I	14	5	1	51	61	11
Butterfly Cardiff	14	4	1	34	78	9
Kettler Sport	14	3	1	38	74	7
Armada 400	14	0	0	12	100	0

First Division North

Grove II	14	11	3	86	26	25
West Warwicks	14	10	1	71	41	21
MBS St Neots	14	9	1	61	51	19
Well Connected	14	7	0	58	54	14
Bayer Bradford	14	6	0	53	59	12
City of Leeds	14	4	1	41	71	9
Ruston Marconi	14	2	2	42	70	6
Chan Construction I	14	3	0	36	76	6

First Division South

Team Peniel I	14	11	1	73	39	23
Ashford	14	10	1	68	44	21
Chelmsford O.C.'s	14	8	3	63	49	19
Horsham Dolphins	14	7	1	58	54	15
Britannia ACI I	14	4	4	55	57	12
Colley Toyota I	14	4	4	51	61	12
Rejects I	14	4	1	44	68	9
TSP Larkhall I	14	0	1	36	76	1

Division 2 Midland

1 Grove III	14	9	1	70	42	19
2 V.P. Mazda	14	8	3	69	43	19
3 Burslem	14	8	3	61	51	19
4 Chelt'm Saracens	14	8	3	60	52	19
5 Bathwick Tyres II	14	8	2	65	47	18
6 Royal M Leicester	14	2	5	49	63	9
7 Birmingham S.C.	14	2	1	35	77	5
8 W. Hart Launceston	14	1	2	39	73	4

Division 2 North

1 Liverpool	12	9	1	67	29	19
2 Norwich Foxwood	12	9	-	66	30	18
3 Ormesby II	12	8	2	64	32	18
4 Vymura Inter.	12	7	2	59	37	16
5 Cambridge	12	3	1	36	60	7
6 Chan Constr. II	12	2	-	26	70	4
7 Oldham	12	1	-	18	78	2

Division 2 South

1 V.Sports Tonbridge	14	10	1	72	40	21
2 Fellows Cranleigh	14	7	4	62	50	18
3 Ellenborough II	14	7	3	59	53	17
4 Concord Flash	14	5	4	56	56	14
5 Horsham Dols. II	14	4	5	57	55	13
6 Rejects II	14	6	1	54	58	13
7 Jolliffe Poole	14	4	3	49	63	11
8 T.S.P. Larkhall II	14	1	3	39	73	5

Division 3 East

1 Seat Peterborough	14	13	-	84	28	26
2 City Milton Keynes	14	8	2	63	49	18
3 Brentwood	14	7	2	64	48	16
4 Fellows Cran. II	14	6	4	61	51	16
5 Team Peniel II	14	6	1	55	57	13
6 Levi's Westfield II	14	4	3	46	66	11
7 Britannia Anglia II	14	3	2	42	70	8
8 GP Crus. Linc.	14	1	2	33	79	4

Division 3 North

1 Humberside Andro	14	13	-	90	22	26
2 Vymura Inter'II	14	10	1	69	43	21
3 Bri-Bar Blaydon	14	9	-	67	45	18
4 Concorde Hudders'd	14	8	2	65	47	18
5 Ormesby III	14	7	2	54	58	16
6 S.E.E. S.W.Durham	14	2	1	39	73	5
7 Blaydon Y.C.Racers	14	2	-	33	79	4
8 Tigers Telford	14	1	2	31	81	4

Division 3 South

1 Dulwich Rams II	14	10	2	80	32	22
2 Gunnersby Triang.	14	10	1	69	43	21
3 Amity Gen.Fareh'm	14	9	2	76	36	20
4 Pill'r Air Croydon	14	8	3	73	39	19
5 Marley Ashford	14	5	-	42	70	10
6 Lambeth 4 Tops	14	4	-	33	79	8
7 Rejects III	14	3	1	37	75	7
8 Harlesden P.C.C.	14	2	1	31	81	5

Division 3 West

1 Colley Toyota II	14	10	3	73	39	23
2 A.H.W. Comets	14	9	4	75	37	22
3 Kingfisher Reading	14	7	4	64	48	18
4 Grove IV	14	5	7	63	49	17
5 Bathwick Tyres III	14	7	-	57	55	14
6 Leckie T.T.C.	14	4	1	46	66	9
7 Thorns T.T.C.	14	3	2	41	71	8
8 Bude Surfers	14	-	1	29	83	1

The Final Round Up...

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

With Colin Wilson beating Nigel Eckersley and John Broe, Ormesby dropped a point against Ellenborough which guarantees Grove as League Champions — although it was never really in doubt! Congratulations to Grove. Butterfly Cardiff put a little more pressure on Kettler Sport by beating Dulwich Rams 7-1 somewhat unexpectedly. Paul Giles was Man of the Match for beating Phil Bradbury and Hamish Innes.

In Division 1 North Phil Gunn helped West Warwickshire to a 5-3 victory against Well Connected Menswear with wins over Mark Randle and John Burleton. St. Neots beat City of Leeds by the same score as Stuart Palmer beat Mick Stead 24-22 in the third. Bayer Bradford demolished Chan Construction 8-0 to decide the fate of both these teams. Ruston Marconi Lincoln drew with Grove II and went 3-1 up when Phil Vickers beat Leigh Jeffries 10 & 10.

the Leeds British League — 3

RULE BRITANNIA?

Further south Britannia ACI recorded a surprise win over Chelmsford — from 1-3 down they rattled off the next four games which included a win for Phil Logsdon over Dave Newman. Horsham Dolphins pushed the former divisional leaders into serious relegation danger with a convincing 6-2 win over Rejects and only John Taylor beat Paul Elphick and Phil Smith. TSP Larkhall lost 2-6 to Team Peniel who now edge to the top. Mike Hammond beat John Holland 20 & 12 but lost to Lisa Lomas -10 & -12. Steve Ward convincingly beat Joey Kennedy and Kenny Jackson as Colley Toyota upset the Ashford appercart by taking a point.

BATH II TOP

VPM Mazda beat Cheltenham Saracens 8-0 in Division 2 Midland while Bathwick Tyres II flattened Burslem 7-1. Mark Evans beat Eddie Kaser for consolation. In 2 South, Victory Sports Tonbridge took top spot with a 6-2 win over Fellows Cranleigh. Jolliffe Poole beat TSP Larkhall 5-3 with Tony Clayton beating Derek Holman 15, -26, 5. City of Milton Keynes beat Seat Peterborough 5-3 with Peter Bowler beating Lindsay Taylor in the opening game. The showdown between AHW Comets and Colley Toyota II resulted in a draw with Keith Samuels and Andrew Penduck unbeaten on the day. A key game was won by Mike Levene against David Buck 12, -19, 22.

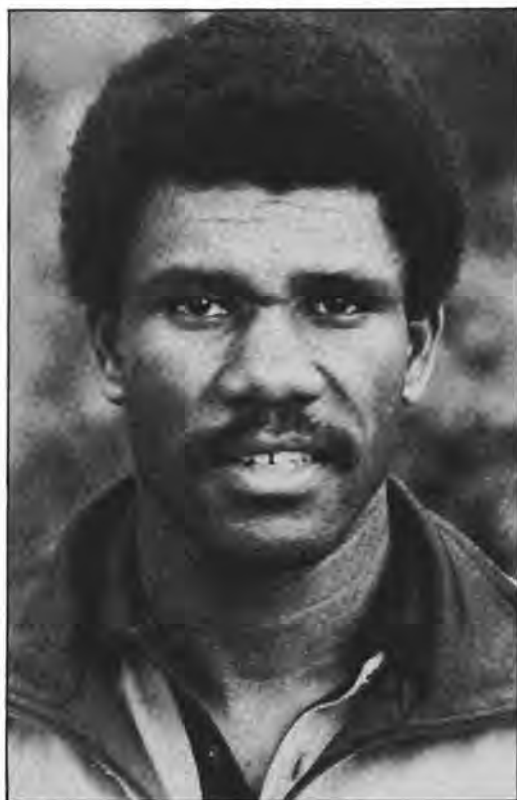
*Desmond Douglas - Grove 1
(Photo: Mike Loveder)*



Lisa Lomas: Backbone of Team Peniel (Photo: Mike Loveder)

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Chen Xinhua on becoming Leeds British League Player of the Year. Keith Ponting takes over as Chairman of the British League from Mike Holt who has been Chairman for the last three years. The administrators Colin Kerry and Peter Hancock are both being replaced by Les Wooding.



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Women in Table Tennis — 1

Above: Phil Dicks of The Sports Council, Northern Region, makes the presentation to the Ladies of Slatyford, Division 4 Winners. Below: North Shields 'C' Division 3 Winners - Diane Cartmell and Joanne Connelly (Photos: Jose Ransome)

Contest at Seaburn

by DAVID SCHOFIELD

THE second session of the Newboulds Women & Girls Northern Region League was played at the Seaburn Centre, near Sunderland, on 1 April 1990. There were no April Fools although there were plenty of colourful outfits on display.

The league was divided into four Divisions, promotion and relegation having been settled in the first session. Play-offs for Division 2, 3, and 4 were arranged between the winners from the first session and the winners from the second.

Phil Dicks of the Sports Council, Northern Region attended to make the draw in an extremely well supported raffle where the prizes had been donated by Newboulds and by the girls themselves, and to present some of the trophies. A presentation of one of the attractive inscribed glasses was also made to Phil Dicks in appreciation of the Sports Council's support of the women's programme in the Northern Region. Caron Guthrie, as Northern Region Representative, presented the balance of the trophies. An innovation was introduced whereby the players were invited to nominate a 'Woman of the Match' on the scoresheets, prizes to be given to the most nominated player and to the runner-up.

Division 1 again went to North Shields A represented by Regina Stevens, who remained undefeated, and Caron Guthrie. Number 2 spot went to the two Lynnes — Bainbridge and Yarnell, from St. Gabriels.

An upset occurred in Division 2 when Rainbow B beat their A team but Hartlepool P.C. (Shirley Carruthers and Sarah Thorpe) cruised through their league matches and narrowly beat Karen Newby and Denise Wilkinson of Jarrow in the play-offs to take the title. Shirley also came runner-up in the 'Woman of the Match' competition.

A similar upset occurred in Division 3 when Dorette Brodie and Joanne Richardson of Kader B beat their A team to win the Division but were beaten into runner-up spot in the play-offs by North Shields C, represented by Diane Cartmell and Joanne Donnelly. Joanne Richardson also received the winners trophy in the 'Woman of the Match' competition.

Division 4 was entirely made of players from Gosforth and what they lacked in height they more than made up for with enthusiasm. All of the games went to form with Sophie Edgar and Louise Hewitt of

Gosforth B ending top of the League only to lose in the play-offs to the ladies of Slatyford made up of Iris Catchpole, Eileen Thompson and Iris Henderson.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a bouquet to Jose Ransome by the players in recognition of her splendid organisational work and thanks must go to her, the sponsors, Newboulds, the staff of the Seaburn Centre and to the players themselves for making the event such a successful and enjoyable occasion.



Edwina stimulates at Burton

by JOSE RANSOME

YET another milestone was achieved in the Women in Table Tennis Campaign on Saturday, 17th March at Burton on Trent when we held our second seminar this one to focus primarily on increasing women's participation in table tennis at the local level.



Jill Parker (left) and Andrea Holt (right), make a presentation of a flower arrangement and signed blade to Mrs. Edwina Currie, M.P. for South Derbyshire.

ETTA County Supplement

AVON

THE LATEST news within Avon starts with Bath's Annual Championships. The tournament took place at the Bath Sports Centre throughout the whole week of February 19th - 24th with the finals being played on Friday. This was excellently run by the hard working organisers and with so many competitors, finishing time was well past the 10.30pm deadline.

With no less than 20 different titles to be won, the entertainment throughout the week kept many new spectators from a balcony view, intrigued with interest just as to what a little plastic ball can be made to do.

Winners were:

Mens Singles (Williams Cup)
G Baldwin
Mens Singles (Chronicle Cup)
G Baldwin
Ladies Singles
B Lee
Mens Doubles
T Lloyd/R Murray
Mixed Doubles
G Baldwin/B Lee
Junior Singles
D Anstice
Junior Doubles
D Anstice/P Millen
Lucky Pairs
N Burton/S Dork
Mens Handicap Singles
N Green
Ladies Team Handicap
S Blacker/E Obdeyn
Veterans
R Smith

Avon's No. 1, Paul Lewis, has been picked to represent Wales in the European Championships in Gothenburg, we all wish him well, especially as he can't regain his place in the local league?

The County lists consisting of P Lewis, C Holley, A Creed, M Cohen and H Perrott continue their winning ways with a 7-3 win over Devon 2nds and Hampshire 10-0 to keep the pressure on Sussex for the title. Both have dropped just 1 point.

Before we write about Bathwick Tyres British League teams, let's have a quick mention for the table tennis stars that participated in a Swimathon in aid of the various charities.

Swimathon stars such as Eddie Kasser, Andy Creed, Kevin Satchell, Elaine Carpenter and Leesa (Tiggy) Baker all managing 30 lengths easy, well, all but one, a Mr K Satchell, who, rumour has it, was unable to play in the South of England 3 Star because of cramp? Bath's Junior champion Danny Anstice managed 150 lengths on his own.

Back to the table tennis scene and Bathwick I's place looks settled after a 5-3 defeat at the hands of Ormesby with Bath's Nicky Mason losing -22 to Chen in the third.

Bathwick II's could get the runners up spot if they carry on winning as they did against Grove III - 5-3. Bathwick III's lost 5-3 to Grove IV.

The Junior County team gained an unexpected point against an under strength Berkshire side. It was a hard fought, evenly balanced match that had I Johnson (2) D Anstice (1), M Bush (1) and the Boys Doubles Avon's winners.

Latest off the Press! Avon's No. 1 lady; Michelle Cohen - whilst on a skiing holiday WON another Skiing holiday but then lost it again after failing to turn up to claim it (REASON - TOO MUCH APRÈS SKI - HE! HE!)

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

SEX DISCRIMINATION reared its ugly head, or so it was alleged, at the 1989/90 Berkshire Closed Championships. Lisa Crick, reigning County Under 17 Girls champion and contender for the Senior crown, had not been seeded in the Gary Harding Under 21 event, although this honour had been accorded to 13 year old Ben Johnson, who, our objector asserted, was much the inferior player. In the event, Lisa had a golden opportunity to expose any injustice that there may have been, being due to meet Ben in the second round. Alas, a swift departure against fellow Maidenhead contender, Ian Dawson, deprived her of the chance. After disposing of Ian, Ben proceeded to trounce all remaining opposition including Martin O'Donovan and Stuart Champion, before losing by a whisker in the final. Case dismissed! However, County President and Trophy Secretary Stan Roper was a bit naughty in selecting for a mixed tournament, a trophy surmounted by a male figure - not much doubt in his mind. As a Maidenhead man, he should have remembered that only four years ago, this self-same event was convincingly won by Sue Collier. Furthermore, the Ladies Singles trophy (actually won by Lisa) was similarly topped by a male figure! "Bet they've never stuck a woman on the men's trophy" our objector was heard to mutter. Wrong - a couple of years ago Paul Savins, on being presented with a distinctly

female looking trophy, proclaimed "I'm not having that, its got titties!"

Meanwhile back to the table tennis. Apart from the Under 21 Lisa won everything she entered, Junior Girls Singles and Doubles (with Nicola Eaglestone), Ladies Singles and Doubles with Anna Watton. This last event was remarkable in that the runners up, Gill Knightly and Mary Stafford, have been in the final every year since 1981/82, winning it three times.

The Cadet singles events were won by Joanne Barratt and Ben Johnson, who teamed up with Marcus Horth for the doubles, but these two lost in the Under 17 to Martin O'Donovan and Kosh Subhan. Sid Montgomery is our new Veteran Singles supremo, Pete Bradley and Mike Harris likewise in the Veteran Doubles. Dave Wise and Clive Payne won the Mens Doubles whilst Martin Adams seems to have won the bits I haven't mentioned, including the Mens Singles (final against Clive).

To return to my theme of the month ie the ladies. Heartiest congratulations to the Maiden Erleigh Under 16 team who have just returned from the National Schools Team Final with a staggering third place out of all the schools in England. Nicola Cracknell, Isabel Walker, Kerry and Gemma Schwartz were the players and they have my vote for the best performance by any group of Berkshire youngsters this year.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

THE COUNTY Closed Individual Championships were held over the weekend of March 10th and 11th at Launceston College, being very well organised by tireless Peter Hancock. The overall entry was again fairly healthy from the male section, but unfortunately there was only a scant entry from the females. Bude's Neil Bevan, the hot favourite in a number of events, had the misfortune of breaking his collar bone a few days prior to the Championships and looks to be out of action for some time. However, as always the show must go on and the finals of each event transpired as follows:

Mens Singles
J Williams (Falmouth) bt
J Bassett (St Ives)
Womens Singles
E Stevenson (Holsworthy) bt
R Boon (Camborne)

Intermediate Singles (U21)
A Bevan (Bude) bt
M Bawden (Launceston)
Veteran Singles
J Bassett bt R Jacobs (Truro)
Mens Doubles
J Bassett/J Williams bt
R Jacobs/R Hill (Truro)
Ladies Doubles
E Stevenson/P Rowe (Holsworthy) bt
R Boon/L Williams (Camborne)
Mixed Doubles
R Jacobs/B Jacobs (Truro) beat
J Williams/E Stevenson
Boys Singles
J Menzel (Camborne) bt N Macey (Bude)
Girls Singles
R Boon bt L Williams
Cadet Boys Singles
J Pocock (Camborne) bt
D Menzel (Camborne)
Cadet Girls Singles
N Bray (Helston) bt
S Richardson (Launceston)
U12 Boys Singles
K Worth (Launceston) bt
B Pocock (Camborne)
U12 Girls Singles
S Davis (Bude) overall winner
Junior Doubles
J Menzel/N Martin (St Austell) bt
J Pocock/J Phillips (Camborne)

The league situation in Cornwall seems to be taking shape now with the West Cornwall League in particular approaching the closing stages. Cornwall has three affiliated leagues spanning the whole of its boundaries from Lands End to Launceston, a distance of some ninety miles. The current situation in the Premier Division of each of these leagues is as follows:

NORTH CORNWALL

	P	Pts
Holsworthy A	11	89
Dunheved (Launceston A)	10	61
Holsworthy B	10	56
Metherell B	11	45
Bude A	8	30
Bude B	9	28
Metherell A	7	20

Leading Averages

N Bevan (Bude A) 100.0%;
M Rowe (Holsworthy A) 96.7%;
M Gurney (Holsworthy A) 92.5%;
E Stevenson (Holsworthy A) 75.0%;
M Bawden (Dunheved A) 70.0%;
G Sussex (Holsworthy B) 64.5%;
S Pennell (Dunheved A) 63.3%;
K Rowe (Holsworthy B) 62.0%

Counties 2

MID CORNWALL

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St Austell Slades A	13	13	0	0	111
St Austell Slades B	11	9	0	2	80
Siblyback A	11	8	0	3	71
Cubert A	11	5	1	5	56
Bodmin A	9	5	1	5	56
Mevegissey A	11	4	1	6	42
Roche A	11	2	1	8	41
Newquay A	11	1	2	7	32
Newquay B	11	2	0	9	31
Bodmin B	10	1	2	7	24

WEST CORNWALL

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fal. Docks A	15	15	0	0	135
Fal. Docks B	14	13	0	1	121
St Ives A	14	9	1	4	90
Redruth A	14	8	1	5	77
Truro A	14	7	2	5	68
Camborne A	15	5	2	8	64
Devoran	15	5	3	7	59
Helston					
Godolphin A	15	4	2	9	57
Camborne B	15	0	1	14	30
Penzance YMCA A	13	0	0	13	18

Leading averages:

J Williams (Fal Docks B) 97.6%;
 G Reed (Fal Docks A) 95.5%;
 M Peters (Fal Docks A) 93.3%;
 J Bassett (St Ives) 88.8%;
 N Reed (Fal Docks B) 83.3%;
 M Rushton (Fal Docks A) 82.2%;
 S Lobb (Redruth A) 76.1%;
 D Williams (Fal Docks B) 76.1%;
 R Jacobs (Truro A) 75.0%;
 G Lobb (Redruth A) 71.4%;
 J Menzel Jnr (Camborne A) 63.1%;
 R Smith (St Ives A) 61.9%

DERBYSHIRE

Martin Kinsella

BY VIRTUE of a fine all round team performance in the second weekend of play in the Senior Premier Division of the County Championships the Derbyshire team swept to a string of impressive result beating Surrey 8-1, Lincolnshire 9-0, Devon 7-2 and Essex 8-1.

Bradley Billington at No.1 won 8-8 with John Holland at 2 winning 6-8 and Martin Kinsella also finishing with 6-8. On the ladies side Julie Billington was undefeated in four singles and the mixed doubles in which she was partnered by the up-and-coming youngster Alan Cooke. Who knows, we might give the lad a run out in the singles next year. These results catapulted Derbyshire out of the pack past a disappointed Lancashire side into a creditable runners-up spot behind Middlesex.

We are now looking forward to another memorable battle for the Maurice Goldstein Trophy.

In contrast to the success of the senior side, the Derbyshire Junior first team were relegated from the Junior Premier. Representing Derbyshire were Jason Bamford, Steven Shaw, Martin Dawson, Michael Davies, Simon Hall, with Nicola Deaton and Jessica Pope on the girls side. The Derbyshire side were most unfortunate to lose all of their 4 matches even against Champion county Lancashire by the narrow 6-4 margin.

Good individual performances came from Jason Bamford who is out of the Juniors next season and yet another "marvellous" performance by "our Nicola".

Thanks from all the players to Les Allwood who was NPC on the Junior weekend and was in charge of the team "spirit" at the Senior Premier. Thanks also to umpire Colin McCleen.

Another successful derby Junior Select took place at the Moor Lane Sports Centre, Derby, attracting entries from all four home countries. Nicola Deaton again maintained her record of winning every Cadet Select tournament played this season and she is now looking for the grand slam, Nicola also powered to the girls doubles, partnered by Michelle Martin of Burton on Trent.

These performances led the normally reticent Colin Deaton into remarking to coach Alan Lowe "I'm telling you, she is a good player! Do you think she has grown?"

Further Derbyshire success came from Dronfield's Richard Purdy who cruised to his first Open Under 12 title. Richard is a product of the Dronfield schools league which is run by the dynamic duo of Chuck Henry and Alan Lowe. Well done to all concerned. It should be mentioned that Dronfield Junior School reached the final of the Under 11 English Schools event going down to the boys of Cunmor House, Croydon 6-2.

Finally Chesterfield have reached the semi final stage of the Wilmott Cup beating West Middlesex 5-0. The Chesterfield side of Cooke, Kinsella and Billington were never in trouble. however, the Billington in question was not Brad but Maurice who turned in a vintage performance displaying all of his spectacular defensive skills. With Brad back for the summer, Chesterfield could be favourites for the title with the semi. to be played in Chesterfield and the Final down the road in Mansfield. Good crowds are anticipated.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

I WISH to dispel the impression gained from a cursory reading of the March issue of Middlesex Notes that I have risen to a high position in their ranking list, deserved as it might have been. I think Iris Moss was referring to Andrew Shepherd.

A very exhausting and traumatic week-end was spent by our juniors at Pontesbury when the Premier title was decided. From our overnight headquarters at the Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury, we emerged to repel Beds by 8-2. These opponents are never easy to beat, with Peter and Colin Bowler plus Caroline Buckley in their ranks, so we were pleased to get that one behind us.

Next we faced Lancashire, and such was the strength of our other results, although we did not know it at the time, that a 5-5 draw would have given Essex the Championship. In the event a fiercely fought match ended with Lancs agonisingly winners by 6-4. Darren Howarth beat Keith Buers 21/19 25/23 and then James Oyekunle by 19/21 21/19 21/19 and could well be adjudged man of the match, but even Darren was the first to admit that luck had gone his way on many big points.

These two losses were, however, evened up by James and Grant Solder both beating England No.1. Andrew Eden and combining to take the boys doubles. As Grant also beat Howard Whewell, we only needed one win out of the three girls matches to achieve the draw.

Since we fielded Alison Gower and Linda Radford, ranked at 4 and 6 in the England list, while the two Lancs girls, Maria Thornley and Karen Richardson were at 7 and 44, the odds against losing all three matches must have been astronomical. That Lancs won the girls doubles 18/21 21/19 21/19 was bearable, but that Karen could beat Linda by any score, not to mention by 21/15 21/19 was quite unbelievable! The terrible irony of this result was that the following week Linda beat Jill Harris, ranked No.5 in England seniors at the south of England 3 Star.

Still hoping for a miracle we started Sunday with a match against Devonshire and duly won 8-2. This time Alison and Linda had no problems, assisted by Ruth Cleminson in the doubles. Cris Sladden replaced Keith Buers in this match, and gained some valuable experience, but no victories!

Our final match was against Yorkshire and our boys created some sort of record by winning all seven sets. James was brilliant in beating the tough Mark Stephenson

and unstoppable against Philip Chapman. Keith Buers ended his juniors career with absolutely stunning victories over Philip and Gareth Jones. These wins were received with great acclamation by the rest of the team. Grant Solder completed his last junior year in magnificent style by going unbeaten though his 14 singles and in 6 out of his doubles when partnered by James Oyekunle (Grant and Keith Buers managed to lose to the relegated Warwick pair!).

So we have to grit our teeth and congratulate our friends from Lancashire in becoming champions and trust that they will extend a little sympathy to our team over the narrowness of their triumph. As to our boys and girls it is hard to find the words adequate enough to express my admiration for them. Their efforts throughout the week-end were terrific and I am just sorry for all of them that they did not come back to Essex as Champions. However, what do you think of a group who did what they did? We decided that to travel to Shropshire on the Friday night would be too expensive in hotel charges whereupon Grant, James, Chris, and Linda undertook to stage a sponsored 6 mile run. Inside a couple of days they had raised over £150.00 - how about that? Grant's mum - Linda also went on the run unsponsored, which is amazing because her speed down the straight must have been worth £150.00 on its own. While Congratulations are being handed out I must thank my coaches Phil Gower and Bob Sladden for their part in what has been a splendid season for the county juniors.

Over the same week-end our junior second team jetted off to the north in Division 1 A, meeting Yorks II, Durham and Northumberland. Cecil Butcher and John Garden were in charge, and Gary Tendler, Neil Butcher, Matthew Reid, Nadine Barthee, Tracey French and Sarah Gardner were the players. They did not actually win any matches, but I believe that they all had a very good time!

Finally, what a good effort by our highly regarded junior third team squad in beating both Surrey teams 6-4 in Division 2 D. Against Surrey II Ryan Savill was the lynch pin, beating both John Blasco and Daniel Hacker, and winning the doubles, but Ben Ware, Peter Warrington, Jennie Coleman and Julie Rand gave sterling support. Surrey III were much harder opposition than expected but Paul

Counties 3

Hudson, Colin Law, Peter Whealy, Anna Weil and Cathy Sibbald managed to overcome them.

I have just heard the sad news that our Senior team was relegated from the Premier Division on March 24th. I have no details as yet but hope to include some comments next month.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

THE FINAL county report for this season, perhaps a month or even six weeks to cool off and then many of us will be seriously contemplating schedules for next season's events - ITS ALL GO ISN'T IT? - well, yes it is for some, at this year's Under 12 and Under 14 Championships - Les Smith, our County Chairman and National Councillor casually said to me - "you know Alf if we had more helpers, we could do lots more than we already do for the table tennis media." I am sure that Leslie's words equally apply to many counties and leagues throughout the entire country.

Inter League Championships

The first inter-league match for many years was held at Deer Park School, Cirencester between Cheltenham, Stroud and Cirencester, Gloucester were fully aware of this inter/town/city tournament - but declined to enter.

The overall result was decided on the last match of the day in the XD when Graham Slack and Julie Taylor (Cheltenham) beat Martin Harper and Caroline Thompson (Stroud) 13, 13.

The overall result in games won was:

Cheltenham	11
Stroud	10
Cirencester	6

The most notable results on the day were those players who won both their matches and they were as follows:

Veterans

Alan Giles (Stroud) bt Bob Davis (Ciren) 16, -18, 15.

Alan Giles bt Mike Gray (Chelt) 11, 17.

Seniors

Graham Slack (Chelt) bt Charlie Jeffries (Ciren) 17, 16.

Graham Slack bt Martin Harper (Stroud) -19, 4, 8.

Ladies

Julie Taylor (Chelt) bt Margaret Wilson (Ciren) 12, -15, 24.

Julie Taylor bt Caroline Thompson (Stroud) 10, 10.

Under 17

Leigh Nelmes (Stroud) bt Paul Grinnel (Ciren) 14, 19.

Leigh Nelmes bt David Malvern (Chelt) 10, -9, 15.

Under 14

Martin Cheung (Ciren) bt Tim Knot (Chelt) 17, 10.

Martin Cheung bt Emma Parker (Stroud) 15, 9.

News Media

I reported in April's magazine perhaps rather dramatically that Cheltenham's news letter - Net and Edge - was at the time in dire trouble, fortunately stalwart Veteran Stan Johnson has stepped in to accept the role of Editor, I further understand that he will continue next season.

Stroud's newsletter "The Pointmaker" perhaps suffering from lack of forthcoming news this season still appears under the excellent editorship of former County Chairman John Bunn. And "Focus on Points", Gloucester's most recent re-arranged newsletter edited by Keith Simpson, had well over 200 copies laid out on chairs for the Cities Final night on April 3rd. Congratulations to all these newsletter editors, they do a great job in bringing local news to the attention of their respective leagues.

County Matches

Copy date for this report prohibits, but speculation that the Senior County side of David Harvey, Darren Griffin, Graham Slack, Heather Tyrer and Cathy Robb play their last match of this season against Somerset - needing a win to secure promotion to Division One.

The veterans, Frank Jones, Alan Giles, John Fannin and Sheila Matthews, enjoying their first season in Division 1, play their final match v top of the Division Wiltshire - if we lose then its back into the second Division next year. Meanwhile, our Juniors in Division 2B face Berkshire 2nds at home, Raymond Powell, Jeremy Hyatt, Neal Henry, Alison Cox and 10 year old Kerry Hogarth (making her county debut), irrespective of the outcome, will have to settle I fear for the runners-up spot. Other selected players who have graced this team this season are Caroline Stainer, Caroline Thompson and Peter Hayward.

County Rankings April 1990

Senior Men

1. Darren Griffin (G)
2. David Harvey (C)
3. Graham Slack (C)
4. William Dawe (G)
5. Dale Saunders (G)
6. Raymond Powell (G)

7. Frank Jones (G)
8. Lawrence Symonds (G)
9. Alan Giles (S)
10. Martin Harper (S)

Senior Women

1. Morita Reiko (C)
2. Heather Tyrer (G)
3. Jaquie Carver (C)
4. Judy Morley (G)
5. Cathy Robb (C)
6. Christine Williams (G)
7. Julie Hogarth (G)
8. Julie Taylor (C)
9. Alison Cox (C)
10. Sheila Matthews (C)

Junior Boys

1. Raymond Powell (G)
2. Jeremy Hyatt (G)
3. Neal Henry (G)
4. Peter Hayward (S)
5. Leigh Nelmes (G)
6. Paul Morley (G)
7. Lawrence Simpson (G)
8. Richard Moore (G)
9. Trevor Fannin (G)
10. Matthew Anderson (G)

Junior Girls

1. Alison Cox (C)
2. Caroline Stainer (S)
3. Caroline Thompson (S)
4. Elaine Bassett (S)
5. Kerry Hogarth (G)
6. Michelle Hogarth (G)
7. Helen Arnold (C)
8. Lesley Dewick (G)

Veteran Men

1. David Harvey (C)
2. Frank Jones (G)
3. Alan Giles (S)
4. John Fannin (G)
5. Roy Fowler (C)
6. Peter Wood (G)
7. Roy Morley (G)
8. Don Sweeney (G)
9. R Barney (?)
10. Ray Poole (G)

Veteran Women

1. Judy Morley (G)
2. Jean Golding (S)
3. Sheila Matthews (C)
4. Rosalind Ross (C)
5. Viviane Hathaway (G)
6. Ann Smith (G)
7. Gillian Smith (C)

Code: S=Stroud, G=Gloucester, C=Cheltenham

In conclusion, my very grateful thanks to everyone who has compiled notes and messages for me to coordinate this county column

Cirencester Finals

Open Singles

Winner

Bob Davis

Runner Up

Robert Grinnel

Ladies Singles

Winner

Jane Muncer

Runner Up

Helen Davis

Mens Doubles

Winners

Bob Davis/Martin Cheung

Runners Up

Robert/Paul Grinnel

Mixed Doubles

Winners

Paul Bird/Jane Muncer

Runners Up

Bob/Helen Davis

Under 15

Winner

Martin Cheung

Runner Up

Chris Lowe

Under 17

Winner

Martin Cheung

Runner Up

Paul Grinnel

Handicap Singles

Winner

Martin Cheung

Runner Up

Paul Boulton

Footnote: Martin Cheung shows great promise and as a 13 year old player should be given every opportunity to further develop his game through the medium of proper coaching.

Cheltenham Finals

Mens Singles

Semi Final

David Harvey (Holder) bt Lawrence Symonds 10, 10

Graham Slack bt

Guy Greening 7, 10

Final

David Harvey bt Graham Slack 8, 8

Veterans Singles

David Harvey bt Peter Wood 12, 10

Ladies Singles

Alison Cox bt

Julie Taylor 16, -18, 20

Open Doubles

Harvey/Steve Dox bt

John Fannin/P Wood -16, 19, 12

Gloucester Old Market Printers

Finals

Open Singles

Semi Final

Michael Owens bt

Darren Griffin (holder) 22, 20

D Harvey bt G Slack 8, 14

Final

D Harvey bt

M Owens 19, -15, 12, -17, 18

Mixed Doubles

Judy Morley/Darren Griffin bt Michael Owens/Christine Williams 12, 15

Junior U17 Singles

Leigh Nelmes bt Lawrence Simpson 17, 18

Open Doubles

William Dawe/M Owens bt

Counties 4

D Griffin/D Harvey 21, -19, 11
Ladies Singles
J Morley bt C Williams 17, 26

Stroud & District TTL Finals

Junior Girls

Final

Caroline Stainer bt
Caroline Thompson 15, -18, 16

Open Singles

Semi Final

Alan Giles bt
Raymond Poole 20, -13, 18

Martin Harper bt

Rob Willsher -16, 8, 16

Final

A Giles bt M Harper 15, 17

Veterans Singles

A Giles (holder) bt

R Poole 16, -16, 15

Junior Boys

Peter Hayward bt L Nelmes 17, 19

Mixed Doubles

A Giles/W Nicholls bt

M Harper/C Stainer (holders) -18,
19, 21

Doubles

Ian Pooler/Andrew Stratford bt

Ron Barney/A Giles 19, 18

Ladies Singles

Roz Ross bt C Stainer -11, 21, 15

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

SO TO MY final report of the season. Quite a successful one I feel with the County teams generally getting encouraging results. In their final match against Sussex the County first team lost 3-7. Ramesh Bhalla had an outstanding match, winning his two singles against the Moore brothers. Mark Bleakley, brought in for Mark Wilding, won the other set. The 'B' team finished a successful season with a heavy 1-9 defeat to the strong Bucks 'A' team. Barbara Savage won the only set and Kathy Ridgard was the only player who extended a set to a third game. The Juniors finished with an 'A' versus 'B' team clash. Matthew Roberts did well for the 'B' team, beating Kevin Mackin to win a singles and combining with Mark Diffey to win the doubles, but his team lost 2-8.

Now a round up of the local leagues. My subtle hints for information have led to a better response recently. Local press cuttings forwarded to me at 19 Rockleigh Drive, Totton, Southampton is the ideal way to pass on information. If they can be sent by about the 25th of each month, this gives me time to collate them and forward them in time for the ETTA deadline of the end of the month.

Information for the first time from Andover. I do not know who sent the cuttings, but thank you! The John Hanson School had a successful season with eight players competing in the Hampshire Schools Championships with their No. 1, Jeremy Wilson, reaching the under 16 semi final.

Not to be outdone, the Andover Schools girls team of Laura Brown, Alison Griggs and Helen Avis reached the regional finals of the Dunlop National Team competition. In the Andover Closed tournament, Malcolm Cummings beat Mike Thomas in the Men's final. Jeremy Wilson won the Juniors and Martyn Wilson the Veterans.

In Bournemouth, Winton 'A' retain their Premier Division title from Merton.

I must mention that Fareham Blue have won the Gosport and Fareham Premier title otherwise Keir Donaldson will not continue to send me the Portsmouth News cuttings. He did, I gather, have some help from Andy Witcher and Rod McMullan. Amity Generation comets were runners up.

The Portsmouth Closed Mens Singles saw Mark Wilding lose a tight game to an in-form Andy Witcher, but Andy lost in the semi to Bob Cox. Mark Bleakley won two tight games in his semi to beat Graham Toole 25 and 18. Mark added the Portsmouth title to his County singles win to establish himself as the best player in the County this Season. His final win over Bob Cox was by 20 and 12. Sarah Hammond had an 18 and 6 final win in the Women's over Mary Barron. Matthew Roberts continues to progress and won the Junior title with a -22, 17, and 20 win over County No.1 Mark Shutler. Having beaten Norman Stagg 8 and 12 in the semi, Ray Lush lost in the final of the Veterans to Bob Cox 17 and 19 - the Veterans results this season in the county must be a nightmare to the selectors! Amity Generation Aces, although they dropped a point to Co-op Dukes for the first time in two seasons, look certain to win the Portsmouth Division 1 title.

Snows continue to dominate the Southampton Premier Division with their 'B' team currently holding a slender lead from their 'A' team. They will be joined in the Premier next season by their 'D' team, champions of Division 1.

Three teams still battling out the South East Hants Division 1 title with Alex Hawks leading from Cowplain Green and Amity Generation who have a game in hand.

St Cross 'A' retain the Division 1 title in Winchester.

Thank you to those who have supported me this season by providing information. In a county as far flung as Hampshire, producing this report without this help is impossible.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Neville Meredith

Vetts v Wilts II

LATE REPLACEMENT John Meredith, for injured brother Patrick, played very well beating both Ray Cordery and Alan Duke two straight, but captain Neville could not help and Richard Owens won only one of his two, beating Mike Oxley in the first game. Margaret Newcombe led Margaret Willson 18-16 in the first but was eventually beaten 19, 18. This was a better performance and by at least winning three games the team won more than they have during the previous four matches.

Even though the County Vets have lost all this year's matches ALL players have enjoyed themselves and would like to thank all opponents for an enjoyable and entertaining season.

During the recent Championship Richard Owens won his first Vets singles title when he defeated team-mate Nym Hodges who had beaten last year's Champion Neville Meredith 22-20, 20-22, 21-18 in the semi. Not to be outdone Neville and John Meredith became Vets Doubles champions, beating brother Patrick and Richard Owens in a close final. In the senior doubles Neville this time teamed up with Patrick losing to no. 1 seeds L Franklin and Mark Owens, the County Men's winner.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

THREE YOUNG gladiators of Barnets Junior Inter-League team, Morris Greenberg, George Sanders and Duncan Taylor, took the Hertfordshire Junior Inter-League tournament by storm, when they conquered the opposition, to take the trophy, at Barnet Table Tennis Centre in March.

These three, almost invincible, lads, nearly white-washed the rest, winning all their games 7-0 except

against Watford, when they only won 6-1.

Watford's hero was Robert Barrasso, who beat the county champion from Barnets, Morris Greenberg, 20 and 15.

The only other occasion that Barnet's team came close to losing a game, was when Hemel Hempstead I's Ameer Rasheed took Barnet's George Sanders to threesets, narrowly losing 19 in the third. The closest contest of the day though, was for 2nd and 3rd places, fought out between St Albans and Watford, which was decided when the two sides met.

In fact it couldn't have been closer, with St Albans just snatching it 4-3 when the doubles partners Kevin Harber and Graham Livesay just edged out Watford's Robert Barrasso and Sarah Seaholme 20 and 20.

With the singles game between St Albans' Richard Anderson and Watford's Daniel Walters being the final climax, when Anderson clinched the runners up spot for St Albans, winning 20 in the third.

Propping up the bottom of the league table was Hemel Hempstead II, who are in fact a cadet team who played with keenness and enthusiasm, even though they were on most occasions out-played.

Hemel Hempstead II's team of Roger Wu, Jon Whitton, Matthew Masters and John Fleming, who were beaten 7-0 every game, will live to fight another day.

In the middle of the table three teams of Cheshunt, North Herts and Hertford all put in good allround performances with the North Herts team of Craig Millwood, Darren Humber and Colin McCarthy, putting in a really super effort, when they were narrowly beaten 4-3 by runners-up St Albans. This nail-biting match stood at 3-3 before St Albans' Richard Anderson flew the flag for his league, by beating North Herts' Colin McCarthy, 18 and 19.

Junior Inter-League 1989/90

Team	PWLF	APts
Barnets	7 7 0	48 17
St Albans	7 6 1	33 16 6
Watford	7 5 2	37 12 5
Cheshunt	7 4 3	30 19 4
North Herts	7 3 4	23 26 3
Hertford	7 2 5	15 34 2
H Hempstead I	7 1 6	10 39 1
HHempstead II	7 0 7	0 49 0

Counties 5

KENT

Adrian Hall/Brian Etherington

KENT JUNIOR Closed Championships were held at Lordwood Leisure Centre on 17/18th March 1990 and although clashing with the Sittingbourne and Ashford Closed tournaments, an exceptionally high entry was received. It was particularly good to see so many Under 11 competitors for both boys and girls. In the Under 17 Boys final Martin Gunn, in his last season, beat Spencer Thompson -15, 17, 18 after a very close semi final tussle with Matthew Vardy before winning 21-18 in the third.

The Under 17 girls produced a surprise winner in Carly Riggs from Maidstone, who overcame Desiree Joseph from Deptford 21-19 in the third. Special mention must be made of Nicola Duke, who won the Under 15 girls Class 2. This, together with two titles on Saturday, completed a treble of individual titles.

Good performance too by Joanne Barham in the Under 15 Girls Singles beating Nicola Duke and reversing the Under 13 final result. Alison Smith in the Under 11 Girls final beat Laura Pethers who had beaten No. 2 seed Rachel Woolven in the semi final deuce in the third. Surprises too in the Under 14 boys where Nickolas Vardy beat Charles Chamberlain in a hard fought final. Glen Ritchie played well to win the Under 13 boys but was taken very close by Ross Friday.

Christian Thompson added the Under 11 boys trophy to his Under 11 schools trophy in a final battle with Adam Beasley.

Results:

Saturday 17th March

Under 11 Boys

C Thompson bt a Beasley 14, 15

Under 11 Girls

A Smith bt L Pethers 15, 17

Under 13 Boys

G Ritchie bt R Friday 24, 19

Under 13 Girls

N Duke bt J Barham 14, -15, 9

Under 14 Boys

N Vardy bt C Chamberlain -13, 17, 12

Under 14 Girls

N Duke bt H Steers 11, -20, 19

Under 14 Boys Doubles

A Crowe/N Vardy bt

B McCarthy/J Cheeseman -14, 8, 10

Under 14 Girls Doubles

A Smith/H Steers bt J Barham/

N Barham 22, -19, 23

Sunday 18th March

Under 15 Boys

M Hewett bt N Welton 18, 8

Under 15 Girls

J Barham bt N Duke 16, -14, 14

Under 15 Boys Class 2

M Hewett bt M Rowden 19, 7

Under 15 Girls Class 2

N Duke bt C Riggs -18, 14, 15

Under 17 Boys

M Gunn bt S Thompson -15, 17, 18

Under 17 Girls

C Riggs bt D Joseph -9, 16, 19

Under 17 Boys Doubles

M Hewett/M Willey bt

S Thompson/P Duke 12, 14

Under 17 Girls Doubles

C Riggs/D Joseph bt

S Baker/K Ackerley 13, -22, 7

The Ashford League Lambeth Building Society Closed Championships resulted in a men's final which was a real test of skill and tactics with scintillating rallies. Matthew King took the first game 21-15, Mike Jones came back in the second game with close to the table play to lead 18-12 before King stepped up his game to win 21-18. The men's doubles was won by the left-handed pair of Dave Atherton and Fred Coleman against the right/left hand combination of Adrian Hall and Shev McDonald 21-11, 21-16.

The mixed doubles defending champions Atherton and Crystal Hall had two close matches before reaching the final. However, in the final, the new pairing of Coleman and Joan Beadle proved too strong, winning 14-21, 17-21. The ladies final was a repeat of last year, but this time with Joan Beadle beating Denise Glenister 21-12, 21-12. In the Veterans singles Dave Atherton proved too strong for all his opponents, winning his matches two straight. In the junior boys final Kevin Read beat Craig Hastie 21-12, 21-16.

Maidstone's Rachel Woolven has been selected for England Schools Under 11 team for the home international series in Scotland during April. Rachel with other Kent schools champions Christian Thompson U11, Nicola Duke and Ross Friday U13, Carly Riggs and Spencer Thompson U16, will be competing in the National Schools Final at Mansfield at the end of April.

LANCASHIRE

George Yates

STILL NO Senior Premier Division title for the Red Rose county in the Leeds County Championships, not even runners up position this season with Middlesex retaining their title and Derbyshire pipping us for second spot.

However, apart from our Junior team winning their Premier Division title, we do have another title winning side in our Veterans 2nds, who, with an unblemished record, conquered their Division 2A. And, of course, there is the challenge match against Middlesex due for April 21st.

But take a bow Brian Clements, Ray Ashley, Derek Watmough and Alwyn Burrough, not forgetting Bob Johnson whose team, with his assistance on one occasion, brought off their triumph.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Stockport, who have taken over the title role of the men's first division of the Lancs and Ches league from Liverpool, concluded their fixtures by losing their only match of the season when beaten 6-4 by Bolton who are destined to finish third behind their victims and Liverpool.

Two wins each for David Carse and Ron Durose plus a singles success for Nigel Hallows and the doubles won by Carse and Hallows got Bolton home against a treble for Darren Howarth and a solo for Steve Horsfield.

Liverpool retained their women's first division title pipping Oldham by one point for the championship which they won with only one point dropped when held to a draw by Warrington in their very first match. Well done Justine Thomas, Brenda Buoeoy and Paula French.

On the Junior front the first division title has been won by Barrow who, in their final match, saw off Bolton by 10-0 to afford them the title by having a superior sets average 49-11 to 41-19 over Preston with Oldham last season's champions finishing third.

Stockport, with one result awaited, look set to retain their first division veterans title, having only dropped one point in six matches and that to Macclesfield.

The final of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy will be between Liverpool and Bolton with the latter trying to wrest the cup from the Liverpuddians who, in last season's final, beat Preston.

Pride of place in this round up of the season must go to the Preston TTA who, on Saturday, April 7th, ran the Lancs Closed Championships at the West View Centre sponsored for the second year by SSS Sports Group.

Honours were spread around the county with Graham Clarke of Blackburn winning the men's singles event with a final victory over Liverpool's Malcolm McEvoy. It was also a Liverpool player on the receiving end in the women's singles when Mandy Goodwin of Oldham defeated Brenda Buoeoy.

Robin Faulkner of Bury was the winner of the Junior boys' title, his final victim being Jason Lee of Nelson. Tamar Connolly of Blackpool beat Lindsay Thornton of Bury to take the girls' title.

Bolton's Bill Russell won the veterans' singles title beating Norman Thewlis of Oldham in the final, the men's doubles being won by McEvoy and Paul Hutchings with Jack Evans and Steve Stringer of Warrington the runners up. The singles finalists, Brenda Buoeoy and Mandy Goodwin, took the women's doubles title beating Paula French of Liverpool and Denise Conroy of Warrington in their final. Results:

Men's singles

G Clarke bt M McEvoy -12, 17, 12.

Women's singles

A Goodwin bt B Buoeoy 19, 18.

Boy's singles

R Faulkner bt J Lee 9, 11.

Girl's singles

T Connolly bt L Thornton 8, 8.

Veterans singles

WRussell bt N Thewlis -14, 15, 14.

Men's Doubles

P Hutchings/McEvoy bt J Evans/

S Stringer 15, 11.

Women's Doubles

B Buoeoy/A Goodwin bt D Conroy/

P French 19, 6.

Mr Howard Gore of the SSS Sports Group was assisted in the prize giving by LTTA officials Arthur Upton, the Chairman, and John McKim, the Hon. Sec.

In the closed championships of the Bolton Brady League Nigel Hallows took the men's singles title for the seventh time and Robin Faulkner, I am told, was the men's singles winner in Bury.

In the Leeds County Championships, Lancashire failed to bring off the double finishing third in the Senior Premier Division but in the challenge match subsequently they beat Middlesex. Still a win for the juniors in their Premier Division and for Lancs Vets 2nds who have championed their Division 2A.

The AGM's of both the LTTA and the L&CTTL are scheduled for Tuesday, May 22nd, at the Thames Board Mills Social Club, Padgate, Warrington.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillcrap

WITH YET another season drawing to a close, Knighton Park I look to have the Leicester League Division 1 title nicely sewn up with maximum points from 15 matches played.

Counties 6

Knighon's Karen Smith is perched at the top of the individual averages in this division, having dropped only two games to date. Great Glen I also look to have the runners-up spot well within their grasp whilst at the bottom Snibsten Inn with only one drawn match and fourteen defeats to show for their season, will probably welcome dropping down a division next year.

Cavaliers A and Swithland Motors A were both unbeaten in Division 1 of the Loughborough League when I last heard, although it is fair to say that this information was two months old at the time of writing.

Certainly at the Halfway point of the season, the Cavaliers foursome of Roger Bailey, Mike Meredith, Mike James and Tony Kinsey, were all unbeaten so I think it is probably a fairly safe bet to predict that Cavaliers will be the 1990 Division 1 champions. Having said that, I have been known to lose a bet on a one horse race!

More recent information from Loughborough indicates that Thringstone A are heading the Loughborough Echo Division II with a 100% record so far and here again it is hardly surprising to note that the Thringstone trio of Peter Williamson, Clive Hall and Bryan Summers fill first to third places respectively in the divisional averages with Peter still on 100% from 26 games played.

Swithland Motors B are currently at the top of the Arthur Princes Garages Ltd Division II, again unbeaten to date. At least there will be some satisfaction from within the motor trade that the trophy for this division looks like going "in house"!

On the County scene, the Veterans have emerged victorious from their last two Division 2B encounters against Bedfordshire and Nottinghamshire, thanks in the main to the efforts of John Illiffe and Tony Kinsey who were both undefeated in both fixtures.

More disappointingly though, the Juniors have lost their last two fixtures, both at home against Clwyd and Lancashire, with Philip Pagett and Martin Brunning being the only Leicester players to win a singles game in either of the matches. Victories by the Leicestershire Senior second team in Division 2A of the Leeds County Championships over Cumbria and Warwickshire have banished any lingering fears or relegation but are not likely to affect the destination of the Divisional Championship as both teams were below Leicestershire in the table anyway. Maurice Newman and Keith Fellows had the satisfaction of being unbeaten for Leicestershire in both matches.

A last gasp win against Devon in their final match at the last Premier Weekend saw Leicestershire clinging on to their Premier League status by the narrowest of margins.

Earlier on in the weekend Leicestershire were whitewashed by a Derbyshire side who only apparently used Alan Cooke in the mixed doubles, lost 3-6 to Berkshire, despite Dave Gannon beating Dave Barr and Karen Smith maintaining her 100% record and also went down by the same scoreline to Lancashire.

With no disrespect intended to other members of the Leicestershire Senior first team squad, we rely heavily on the talents of Chris Rogers, Dave Gannon and Karen Smith and the worrying aspect about this is that, at the moment, there seem to be no obvious long term successors coming up through our Junior ranks especially amongst the young ladies. Hope some of our youngsters prove me profoundly wrong in two or three years time!

A fine brace by Veteran Maurice Newman failed to prevent Yorkshire II recording a 7-3 win over Leicestershire in the recent Leeds County Championships Senior Division 2A fixture.

Julie Potts won Leicestershire's other game in this match when she recorded a fine win in the last but one game of the afternoon against Cathy Johnson.

As this is most likely my last epistle to Table Tennis News, may I take this opportunity of thanking everyone locally who provided me with results and information over the last two seasons and also my thanks to the current and previous editors for their valued assistance.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

WE'VE DONE it again! Our Premier team has managed to retain the County Championships title for yet another year. They all played extremely well over the second Premier weekend, with Graham Sandley keeping his 100% record in the games he played (he had to concede one match in the first weekend owing to a damaged wrist). But I should not really mention just one player; they all played well and their marvellous team spirit made every game an all-out effort.

Len Pilditch has decided that this will be his last season as non-playing Captain and after 23 years of the job with just one short 2 year break when he went up to Peterborough, it is quite understandable, but I am sure that he will

be sadly missed by his team.

At the time of writing we are hoping that the Maurice Goldstein Challenge match will take place at the Barnet Table Tennis Club on 21st April 1990 but we will not know definitely until after the entries for the Barnet Closed Championships are in and they know whether they will need to use the Saturday.

Unfortunately the builders descended on the Ashford Club and demolished their kitchen, toilets and changing rooms, so we had to come away from there at the last moment. We are grateful to Barnet for even considering us at such short notice, and hope that we will get a good crowd to make all the problems worthwhile.

We did manage to get our Senior Closed Championships played at Ashford (we beat the builders to it by a very small margin) and although the numbers were not great, the day was enjoyed by all concerned. The final results were:

Mens Singles

Semi Finals

N Charles bt N Swift 16, 15.

N McKoy bt S Rockall 20, 21.

Final

N Charles bt N McKoy 13, 18.

Womens Singles

Semi Finals

S Williams bt H Williamson 12, 17.

R Knight bt K Kottasz 18, -15, 16.

Final

S Williams bt R Knight 12, 11.

Mens Doubles

Final

P Simmonds/N Charles bt

W Brookman/J Holland 17, 17.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

WATCHOUT Devon. In particular Plymouth, what with Mike Short winning the VETTS Western Masters at Swindon, beating some very high ranked players in the process. Roger Yates of Friends Provident Norwich has moved to Plymouth and will no doubt organise something there next season. Watch out Kings Lynn as Ray Drew has now an up to date rule book so he will be implementing the current service rule and not the one applicable in 1982 when he last had a book.

During the close season when players hang up various things for the summer break, us officials have already started getting ready for the round of AGM's etc. Having seen the draft calendar for next season one problem already appears. That is 5 of the 7 County Saturdays are followed directly by British League Sundays - should we be away on both

days it could mean some players having to make the choice of what to play in. At the Norfolk AGM both the Secretary (pressure of other work) and Treasurer (family) are resigning.

Steps are being taken to cover these jobs before the meeting to save the farce of no one wanting the positions.

At this AGM the number of teams for next season will be discussed. The seniors having drawn their match with Herts will stay in Division 2 which may be just as well as in Division 1 our men could hold their own but at the moment our ladies cannot. The juniors hope to run two teams but with Jon Cockburn, Andrew Hawes, Mark Wilson, Kathryn Longbottom and Debbie Wickham all too old now, it is going to be difficult to fill the two girls places in the second team unless some drastic improvement with the up and coming girls takes place during the summer.

Veterans are to ask for a third team to be entered dependent on availability of venues and officials - including a captain come selector for the third team.

The Norwich League Readymade Cup Final went to the CEYMS B side who beat the good Foxwood side in an entertaining final 5-3. As expected Neil Pickard and Mick Broughton gained maximums and Steve Fox beat Mark Wilson in the third to gain the vital fifth win in a nine match final.

The Norwich League annual Championships took place at the University of East Anglia on Sunday 8th April with the finals night at the Miller Hall on the Monday. Entries were slightly down on last season but the quality was exceptional. Doug Bennett made a welcome return to the event and had a good run before going out to Neil Pickard in the semi final. Phil Logsdon beat Russell King in the other semi final, duly winning in straight games. And so the stage was set for a repeat of the 1989 confrontation of the county's two top players. Phil won the first 21-19 but was finally vanquished, mainly due to Pickard's clever serving and spinning game. Pickard and Bennett won the men's doubles, beating Logsdon and Paul Durrant in three and Joy Dixon won the ladies singles beating Alison Taylor 21-17, 21-13. Mick Musson stopped Mick Broughton's recent Veterans successes by beating him two straight in an entertaining final.

SURREY Terry Vance

Senior Premier Weekend
Surrey stay up! This was thanks to Nicky Mason's timely arrival for two of the final weekend's matches and to some excellent doubles wins. But the main cause of our survival was the display of Mike Hammond in winning his matches and instilling a tremendous team spirit.

Juniors and Veterans
Surrey Juniors reach the Premier Division with a fine 10-0 win in their last match. Vets 2 beat Sussex 2-5-4 in a relegation battle. A very exciting game with fortunes fluctuating with each match. It was decided in the last match with John Callcut winning in 3 quick hitting games. The Vets 3rd team beat Wiltshire 6-3 with Ron Langheim winning his 2 singles.

Surrey Schools
Whitgift and Cumnor House both won national titles in the team events. Fifteen of our pupils are going to the National Individual finals.

Croydon and District League Championships

Results
Mens Singles
Martin Lowe bt Tony Fitzgerald
Division 2
Simon Hurley bt Ray James
Division 3
Walter French bt Adrian Grimstone
Ladies Singles
Lesley Popkiewicz bt Margot Fraser
Mixed Doubles
Emil Emezc/Lesley Popkiewicz bt Russell Bates/Heather Allen
Open Doubles
Tony Fitzgerald/Lee Nicholls bt Emil Emezc/Graham Bateman
Hart Bat
Emil Emezc bt Russell Bates

Inter League Competitions
Only six out of the twelve senior Leagues in Surrey have entered the men's team event and four have entered the mixed team event. It has been decided not to run the Ladies or the Junior events due to the lack of ladies and girls entered or someone in each league willing to organise the teams.

Thames Valley League
Rosehill still lead Division 2 by six points from Molesey 1 and MMB 1. Lorraine Garbet leads the averages followed by Archie MacMillan and Roy Evans. The Championships have so far attracted 62 entries and will have been played by the time

this is read. Hopefully, results next issue.

Umpires Corner
My thanks to all those who have officiated for me this season and best wishes to Terry Carpenter who has just sat his International Umpires Examination.

SUSSEX John Woodford

AS FAR as I can recall, Sussex have never had two teams promoted in the senior section of the Leeds County Championships, so there are some congratulations due to the players of the first senior team who reached the dizzy heights of the premier division when they beat Hampshire 7-3 at Horsham.

Two of the players, Stephen and Adrian Moore appeared a trifle nervous when losing to Ramesh Bhalla, the Hampshire No. 1 from Guildford, but the rest of the team - Ritchie Venner, Janet Smith, Teresa Moore kept their cool and all was well.

On the other table Sussex II were also winning promotion with a 10-0 lashing of lowly Oxfordshire. Phil Smith came in in place of Andy Walker who did not play because he was banned for failing to take a dope test at Portsmouth last May!

Andy failed to take the test at the Mountbatten centre when he could not find the Sports Council's Dope Testing Officer to hand in his specimen. Andy forgot all about the matter until six months later when he received a letter to say that he was banned for two years at all levels!

After a fortnight or so of tension, he appeared before the ETTA's Disciplinary Committee in London to make an appeal. After two and a quarter hours, he emerged triumphant after the committee lifted the ban with immediate effect. What a crazy system that waits months before raising a ban.

However, Sussex are set to field a further senior team next September, making nine teams in all, giving further opportunities for a steadily increasing crop of young players to play for their county, although it is my personal view that in all divisions, no county should have more than two teams - the whole thing is diluted and devalued if counties have masses of teams.

WARWICKSHIRE Alan Healy

THE ANNUAL Birmingham Closed Championships took place at Birmingham Sports Centre, High, Birmingham on Sunday 25th March.

Results - Finals
Mens Singles
Phil Gunn bt Barry Johnson 21-16, 21-13.

Ladies Singles
Sue Culbertson bt Sandra Peakman
Womens Doubles
Culbertson/Peakman bt Ann Lloyd/J Humphrey-Middlemore 21-11, 21-7.

Mens Doubles
Andy Hare/Dilip Parmar bt John Williams/Chris Leach 21-14, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles
Culbertson/Gunn bt Lloyd/Johnson 21-12, 20-21, 21-12.

Veterans Singles
Roy Norton bt Kwok Chan 21-14, 10-21.

Restricted Singles 'A'
Stuart Taylor bt Arun Jogi 21-15, 21-16.

Restricted Singles 'B'
Arun Jogi bt Paul Du Cros 21-17, 21-8

Restricted Singles 'C'
Doreen Robinson bt Steve Smith 21-18, 13-21, 21-17.

Girls Under 17 Singles
Joanne Groves bt Angela Stych 21-17, 21-23, 21-19.

Girls Under 14 Singles
Jenny Allen bt Helen Barney 21-13, 21-16.

Girls Doubles
Leisa Dingwall/Joanne Groves bt Angela Stych/Jenny Allen 21-13, 21-16.

Boys Under 17 Singles
Gary Denny bt Sam Barney 21-17, 21-7.

Boys Under 14 Singles
Chris Taylor bt Paul Whitaker 21-14, 21-19.

Boys Doubles
Denny/Taylor bt Du Cros/Whittaker 21-17, 21-14.

1989 Mens Singles winner Philip Gunn confirmed his no. 1 seeding for these Championships in a predictable but keenly contested two sets win against defender Barry Johnson, who had previously emerged as the winner of an exciting 'three ender' semi final against Steve Bertie. The Ladies singles title similarly went to last year's winner, Sue Culbertson, who achieved a hard-fought straight sets victory over the 1988 Ladies Singles champion and last year's runner up, Sandra Peakman.

In the Boys under 17 event, Gary Denny was yet another 1989 holder to retain his title, with a convincing straight sets win over Sam Barney.

One of the individual highlights of this tournament however, was the determination shown by Under 17 Girls Singles champion Joanne Groves. Joanne fought back from 17-10 down in the third set against runner up Angela Stych, to win this event at 21-19. The same two players happened to meet again in the ladies Open event. This time, Angela had the final word by delivering a resounding 21-8, 21-12 reversal.

Overall, these friendly local Championships were well attended, with a fair mix of players of all ages and abilities playing through a well-organised wide range of events.

Despite two more 5-4 victories, Warwickshire's Vet-erans have to win their final match at Essex to be sure of retaining their place in Division 1. Yorkshire II and local rivals Worcestershire fell to two more fine all round performances.

Pat McCabe's four victims included both No. 1's Keith Powell (Yorkshire) and Ray Dixon (Worcs) whilst Terry Bache and Neil Wheatley maintained their 'one win per match' average.

However, Ann Lloyd's first ever defeat of highly ranked Carol Judson was the match winner against Yorkshire.

Several of the Norfolk and Worcestershire Veterans join forces to represent Birmingham in the Midlands League and it is thanks to the in-depth strength of this squad that the team has a 100% record in Veterans Division 1 and has reached the quarter final of the VETTS National Team Competition. To date Terry Bache, Brian Belcher, Ray Dixon, Mike Howell, Barry Hunt, Neil Wheatley and Marvin Wood have all represented the city this season.

Leeds County Championships Premier Weekend 3/4 March 1990
Warwickshire Juniors started this 'County Weekend' with a hard fought 6-4 win over Derbyshire, the doubles result being critical, with an excellent performance from Kerry Morgan. However, the team were well beaten in subsequent matches against Devon and Kent - 10-0 and 9-1 respectively.

As expected, relegation issues were decided in the last matches on the Sunday afternoon. Warwickshire Juniors required a vital win against Bedfordshire to stay in the Premier Division.

After game 6, the score was 3-3 against Bedfordshire, but Warwickshire could not sustain their momentum, eventually losing the match 7-3.

Although this young team were relegated along with Derbyshire,

Counties 8

the players all played to the best of their ability and with a lot of effort.

Meanwhile, the Warwickshire Junior 2nd team clinched second place in Division 2A of the County Championships with a thrilling 6-4 win over Cheshire 1st team. David Johnson sealed the victory with a fine 18 in the third win over the visitors' Mark News in the final set of the match.

The squad of Ian Ferguson, Steve Meddings, Joanne Groves (all Birmingham), Leighton Matthews (Coventry), David Johnson (Leamington) and Susan Clarke (Stratford on Avon) have developed a fine team spirit during the season and all thoroughly deserved their success.

Every player contributed with vital wins. The strength in both Boys and Girls Doubles was also important. The selection policy for this team is to choose players with at least two more seasons as a Junior. Several members of this year's squad are even younger, so the future looks very promising.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

FIFTEEN YEAR old Lee Horton, from the Bromley Club, Dudley, became the youngest player for many years to win the main event, the Men's Singles, at the 38th County Closed Tournament on

Sunday 4th March. Lee beat last year's losing finalist Eric Hardman 13-21, 21-17, 21-16 in a splendid match of fast attacking table tennis, having knocked out Mark Hingley 16 and 18 in the semi final. Hardman beat last year's champion, Jeremy Duffield 17 and 18 in the other semi final.

Horton started the day slowly, losing his group match to Thorns' Mark Brookes 18 and 13, but qualified for the knockout stages as a group runner up. Among Horton's victims were Lewis Siket, Paul Garner and Ken Walton, winner in 1987.

Sandra Roden retained the Ladies Singles title with a gritty display to overcome injury and the determined Evesham battler Linda Reid.

Sandra hurt her shoulder while qualifying for the Mixed Doubles final earlier in the afternoon. She survived two Championship points in the final game to win the title for a fourth consecutive time -16, 17 and 21. That wasn't the end of Sandra's troubles, as she suffered a further ankle injury in the Mixed Doubles final, Jeremy Duffield and Sarah Stone beating Sandra and John Stafford 10 and 13.

Ray Dixon retained his Veteran's Mens Singles title with an 8 and 14 win over County teammate Mervyn Wood.

Other results:

Mens Doubles

Paul Garner/Ray Dixon bt Jeremy Duffield/Eric Hardman -21, 17, 13

Ladies Doubles

Sandra Roden/Sarah Stone bt Linda Reid/Sue Meredith 14, 17

Veteran Ladies Singles

Linda Reid bt Janet Hunt, 5, -19, 16

Veteran Doubles

Ray Dixon/Mervyn Wood bt John Stafford/Ken Worton 16, 13

Consolation Singles

Adrian Tottey bt Craig Ward -12, 15, 15

Presentations were made by guest of honour Dave Watton, the Worcester City League Chairman.

On the County Championship scene, pride of place this month goes to the Junior Team who, following their 9-1 win over Herts in their final match, are assured of winning Division 2B. Congratulations to Lee Horton, Jason Thompson, Craig Ward, Catherine Drage and Paula Hughes, and not forgetting John Smith, NPC, chauffeur, coach etc.

The Senior 1st's also achieved a good result, a 5-5 draw in the local derby with Warwickshire. Malcolm Green beat Adrian Dixon; Green and Trevor Washington easily beat Dixon and Carl Morgan 9 and 14 in the Mens Doubles, and Sandra Roden and Mandy House won all three ladies events to earn a vital point in Worcestershire's fight to retain Division 1 status.

The Veterans team played Warwickshire Veterans at Coventry and lost 4-5. With Roy Norton not available, John Stafford again came into the team and shared in a Men's Doubles success with Mervyn Wood. Janet Hunt, Ray Dixon and Wood all recorded one singles win for Worcestershire.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

PLAYERS FROM Bradford dominated the scene at the County Closed Championships with, the major challenge coming from Hull. The wood city's County man Mick Stead took the men's singles title from the top seeded spot as expected, but his passage was by no means an easy one as he was made to work for his victory by Sean Madden (Hull) - quarters, Andrew Horsfield (Sheffield) - semi final and fellow Bradfordian Tony Bottomley at the final hurdle.

Stead apart, the men to take the eye were the left handed Bottomley, who had lost little of his skill now that he is no longer 'on the circuit', Hull's Mike Harrison, making a welcome return to table tennis after a long absence, and Horsfield, who reached the semi finals of both Men's Singles and Restricted Men's Singles.

On the ladies side Hull and Bradford shared the honours with top seed Ruth Bray, who has now established herself in the county side, claiming the singles title and Helen Shields - Joanne Keighley pairing for the doubles.

Winners and Runners up were:

Men's Events

Singles

Stead (Bottomley)

Men's Doubles

Bottomley/Priestley (Bradford) (Harrison/Madden)

Restricted Singles

Bottomley (Harrison)

Ladies Singles

Bray (Keighley)

Ladies Doubles

Shields/Keighley (Cathy Johnson/Sandra Giddings (Leeds))

Restricted Ladies Singles

Carol Judson (Wakefield) (Ruth Baxted (Leeds))

Veterans Singles

Cleeve Judson (Wakefield) (Doug Bartle (York))

At Selby, the Fastprint Selby Closed, which incorporated the Selby Youth Championships, developed into a battle between the town's top two players, talented teenagers Craig Smith (17) and Gareth Jones (16).

Three times the pair were in opposition with Gareth taking the Under 17 and Under 21 Boys Singles, but it was Craig who collected the 'big' one - the coveted Open Singles - after fighting back from one game down.

Another of the teenagers, Debbie Newman (15) claimed both Junior and Intermediate Girls titles as well as the Ladies, Craig added the Open Doubles with Chris Nicholls, while at the other end of the scale, the pleasing feature was the big entry of 60 in the youth events, including a considerable proportion of girl players.

In the Selby League, Andy Nicholls became the first player this season to get the better of Jones when leaders Sturge met Selby High School, who are one of the two challengers battling for second place.

At Harrogate, Wanderers A look set to retain the Division 1 title as they lead the table by 24 points from Ripley Star A with just four matches to play. Wanderers field former England No. 1 Denis Neale, County man Nick Davies and one

time Sheffield and Leeds United football star, Len Browning, with Ripley calling on Richard Whiteley, supported by Peter Campkin and Dave Weatherhead.

England Junior No. 1 Ellen Meddings lines up with Ripley Star B who lead Division 2, Nalgo are still undefeated in Division 4 while Ray Aker, the only citizen of the United States playing in Harrogate, and probably in Yorkshire, has still to lose for Knarborough Social H.

The Hull League, who increased their membership by a full division at the beginning of the season, are not resting on their laurels, and are presently in the process of setting up summer 'feeder' leagues in five centres in different areas of the city.

It is expected that some 50-60 players, none of whom have previously been involved in competitive table tennis, and most of them in the younger age groups, will come into the game and, hopefully, move into full League play in September.

So could Hull be looking to a further expansion from ten to eleven divisions of 14 clubs each - just three short of the biggest ever total of thirteen in 1980/81?

Women in Table Tennis — 2

We were delighted that Mrs. Edwina Currie, M.P. for South Derbyshire, accepted our invitation to give the Keynote address at what proved to be a very stimulating conference.

In her speech, Mrs. Currie welcomed the visitors to South Derbyshire and established her theme by outlining how her particular part of the country had changed in recent years, from an area which relied on coal mining pits and pottery to one now proud of a variety of new industries. She provided interesting statistics on the change in social trends, the workforce, leisure time, leisure opportunities and emphasized that women now have more time and money of their own as well as a greater expectation of themselves and their careers.

Mrs. Currie confirmed our own views that table tennis has tremendous potential as a lifetime activity for the whole family and congratulated the English Table Tennis Association on their initiative in getting more women involved in the sport. She also commented that table tennis was a great deal more important internationally than perhaps many people in this country realised. Although the sport did not figure in her statistics, she recognised that it was probably a major sport in many other countries.

Mrs. Currie extended her best wishes to the women's campaign, saying that table tennis could be good for the whole family and the nation, and concluded her speech by wishing the seminar success on the day.

Question Time

During the question period which followed the morning's speeches, Mrs. Currie was asked about the 300 Group at the House of Commons and she agreed that our campaign did bear some similarities to this initiative. In 1979 there were only 19 women Members of Parliament out of the 650 elected, the same number as there were 50 years ago. The 300 Group organised themselves and got other women together, did their own coaching in fact. Women tend to lack self confidence and need to be constantly encouraged to continue to achieve their full potential, Mrs. Currie said. As a result of the 300 Group's work, after ten years there are now 43 (44!) women Members of Parliament. However, she also cautioned that it would be wrong to leave the men out — sport is important to everyone!

Governorship?

A couple of further interesting ideas also emerged at this point, one being that table tennis could be particularly suited to some groups of women who could not get involved in other activities, i.e. Asian women. (I remember that there were some very good Indian women players in the 1970's in the Commonwealth and World Champion-

ships, but none in recent years). Another useful suggestion made by our guest speaker was that as a result of the change in the school curriculum and facilities, it might be useful for people to get themselves involved as school governors and therefore be in a position to help to take decisions on activities and the use of school facilities.

Terry Gadsby asked Mrs. Currie if table tennis was played in the House of Commons and it transpired that whilst there are a whole host of other sporting activities at Westminster, table tennis was not one of these. However, Mrs. Currie advised, the timing was right to make the suggestion as improved gymnasium facilities were currently being arranged for members.

Before Mrs. Currie left the gathering, a flower arrangement and table tennis blade signed by all the delegates were presented to her by Jill Parker and Andrea Holt.

continued over page

*Photos from top to bottom:
The Lassies from the North East:
l/r Karen Newby, Caron Guthrie,
Denise Wilkinson, Mary Allen and
Shirley Carruthers.*

*Margaret and Tony Carey of
Bridgwater, Somerset and Jackie
Billington of Chesterfield.*

*Christine and Mike Lewis of
Bristol with Terry Gadsby of
Burton on Trent.*

*Tony and Pauline Steel of
Worthing with Roy Bayliss of
Derby.*



*Below: Gail McCulloch of Woking,
Surrey, representing the English
Schols TTA.*

Rainbow Ladies Table Tennis Club

by JOSE RANSOME

First started in 1982 — Still flourishing in 1990

IN 1982, concerned by the lack of women and girls playing table tennis in the County, we obtained a grant from the Sports Council, Northern Region, to cover the rental of a suitable venue for a "Women's Table Tennis Action Day". The County Association also assisted with expenses.

With lots of help from all sorts of people and organisations involved locally, including the Leagues, schools association, top players, and some good press, the event attracted over 50 women and girls, most of whom had never played before and some players who had previously left the sport. We put on a fashion show, warm up session, demonstration and coaching session, refreshments and a raffle of table tennis equipment. The local newspaper sent their women's page editor who had a go and wrote a big article all about it.

This day led to the formation of the Cleveland Ladies TTC. Over the years the group has moved facilities depending on what was available and the cost, but the club has always been self supporting since gaining help with the first grant, and has managed to maintain a bank account so there are always some funds to fall back on.

The club entered a team in the Middlesbrough & District League and the North East Summer League

and the Ladies have enjoyed this competition for about five years now. Having started at the bottom of the 4th Division, they are now halfway up the division. We also have three teams in the Northern Region Women's League and the girls have found this a most enjoyable day of competition as well as meeting other ladies with the same interest from other parts of the region.

Three years ago we obtained sponsorship from Newboulds, a local meat pie manufacturer, and promoted and ran a Cleveland Family Tournament with Women's, Men's and Mixed Family teams. This sponsorship has now been passed on to the Regional Women's League.

For the last three years the club has played at the Rainbow Leisure Centre in Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, hence the name change to Rainbow Ladies to show support for the centre. The club meets on Tuesday nights from 8.00-

10.00 p.m. and we book one badminton court and use four tables. The cost per player is 75p for adults and 50p for junior girls. This covers the cost of the court, with sufficient left over to cover the cost of the court and one table for home matches every fortnight.

For several years there has been a basic core of about six ladies who run the club, and the numbers of players has varied. Currently we are getting 16/18 players and therefore have borrowed three tables and hired an extra court to cater for the increased interest.

The play is informal. The mixture of mature ladies and young teenagers practice together, play doubles or singles, often with much hilarity, and we stop for coffee and a chat halfway through. We also arrange a social night out together at Christmas time. We have a bag of spare bats and provide coaching for anyone who wants it. Sometimes the six mature ladies take the six teenagers on the table for individual practice. We find that the club provides a stepping stone for new players who may move up to higher teams, to young players who go through to the Centre of Excellence, and to former players who want to get their hand in again.

At the beginning of each season we always send a notice out to

everyone who has been before as well as a press release to the local newspapers and radio stations advertising a "Come & Try It" night.

Several of the ladies who started playing just for fun, often mothers of young girls and boys who were involved, have become very keen on the competition and attend the county coaching sessions. The initiative has also added a new dimension to the Middlesbrough League, and they have responded by adding separate cadet and junior girls events to the local league tournament, plus a veteran Women's singles, and re-introduced a Mixed doubles event. The recent tournament had 14 pairs who really enjoyed the event. The increased female participation also added to the County Closed event.

Being involved has also encouraged the ladies to take part in the local organisation. For instance, Brenda Stephenson, the mother of two boys who played, won the bat at the first Action Day raffle. She had never played before, but took it up, enjoyed playing, and now, as well as looking after the club and team, works as Assistant Secretary for the Middlesbrough League and Assistant Tournament Secretary for the County, and does a first class job.

Continued from previous page.

I think I would be correct in saying that everyone found it a great pleasure to have the chance to meet Edwina Currie. She used the half hour whilst having a cup of coffee on arrival to meet most of those fifty people in attendance and chatted informally about her constituency, was interested to hear where they had travelled from and their involvement in the sport. All in all, I would conclude, a real coup to have had the opportunity of introducing our sport to someone as knowledgeable and influential as Edwina Currie, M.P.

•••••

An interim report is being mailed to National Councillors asking them to encourage their member leagues to consider women's development in their submissions to the new Development Fund and a full report on the Seminar including all the presentations will be published later.

The three main issues addressed at the Seminar were:

- To increase the participation in the sport by women and girls
- To encourage more women to take up coaching and progress in their qualifications
- To encourage more women to become involved as organisers, administrators and officials and to increase women's representation on E.T.T.A. committees.

It was agreed that women should be encouraged to establish clubs in sports and leisure centres to provide suitable venues for women and girls to enjoy table tennis and that a mass participation programme for girls in schools should be discussed with the English Schools' Table Tennis Association.

The next project of the Committee will be a Women's Coaching Conference, perhaps in conjunction with the National Coaching Foundation and the E.T.T.U. and the Cleveland proposal to establish a Women's Department should create an awareness of the need to involve more women in the decision making of the sport.

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Middlesex Unbeaten — Retain Premier Division Championship

by DOUG MOSS

Premier Division

The final series at Stantonbury Leisure Centre started with Lancashire in the lead and Middlesex, the holders, also unbeaten. But, as last season, Lancashire faltered at this stage and Middlesex, never really in difficulty, won all their matches and retained the title.

Lancashire first came unstuck against Berkshire, the team that started the weekend at the foot of the Table. Berkshire included Matthew Syed this time and Jimmy Stokes, who was in good form. Berkshire went into a 3-0 lead and won 7-2! Lancs 2 events were won by Andrea Holt, who was partnered in the mixed by Tony Taylor. Middlesex had easy wins over Essex and Devon and then met Berkshire. An all-round team effort brought Middlesex a 6-3 win. In this match John Souter inflicted the only defeat on Matthew Syed — 15 and 17, but lost to Jimmy Stokes, who was unbeaten over the weekend. Colin Wilson came into the team and won a singles and partnered John Souter in a doubles win. Graham Sandley played only in the mixed doubles, with Lesley Keast, which they won — and Nigel Tyler weighed in with a win over David Barr.

Middlesex and Lancs met in the last group of matches. Lancs needed a 7-2 win if they were to take the title! Middlesex won the first 2 events, which spurred on Tony Taylor to beat John Souter 16 and 16 and win the mixed with Andrea Holt. Andrea Holt won her singles to give her a 100% in singles over the whole series. But Middlesex went on to win 6-3 with Nigel Tyler and Graham Sandley winning their 4 singles. Graham Sandley in fact won all 11 singles he played.

Derbyshire played very well to win their 4 matches whilst dropping only 6 events. Having lost to Middlesex and Lancs in the first series it was most unlikely Derby could take the title but they ultimately finished as runners-up. Alan Cooke was part of the team but played in just 3 successful mixed doubles events with Julie Billington. Bradley Billington played very well and was unbeaten in singles in the whole of the 7 matches. Julie Billington was also in good form and had just one loss — to Andrea Holt.

Surrey pulled themselves out of trouble with two 5-4 wins over Essex and Devon.

In the Devon match Paul Giles beat Nicky Mason at 17 in the 3rd game. Essex were without Steve

Dorking and lost all 4 matches and are demoted after 1 season. Leicestershire lost their 3 matches and, in the final group fought a relegation battle with Devon. Leics won 5-4 with Dave Gannon winning his 2 singles and the team taking both doubles events — at 18 and 19 in the 3rd games! This doomed Devon to relegation which was hard luck as the team fought well although losing 3 matches at 4-5.

The full 16 results were —

Bk ..6	Le ..3	Mi ..8	E ...1
E ...1	La ..8	La ..2	Bk ..7
Dv ..2	Mi ..7	Sy ..5	Dv ..4
Dy ..7	Sy ..2	Le ..0	Dy ..9
La ..6	Le ..3	Mi ..6	La ..3
Bk ..3	Mi ..6	Dy ..8	E ...1
E ...4	Sy ..5	Sy ..3	Bk ..6
Dv ..3	Dy ..6	Le ..5	Dv ..4

Chen Xinhua plays for Yorkshire

SEN 1A:	N'berland ...5	Yorks	5
	Warwicks ...5	Worcs	5
	Lancs 28	Cambs	2
	Lincs	Suffolk	8
	Yorks	Worcs	0
	Warwicks ...6	Lancs 2	4
	Suffolk	N'berland ...4	4
	Cambs	Lincs	1

There was a surprise for Yorks when they had to pull back from 3-5 down to get a draw with Northumberland. Ian Robertson beat Michael O'Driscoll two straight and Robertson/Mark Christie beat O'Driscoll/Mick Stead in the doubles. But Worcs softened the blow to Yorks by making a draw with Warwicks, their nearest rivals. Sandra Roden and Mandy House (Wo) won their 3 events and Malcolm Green/Trevor Washington beat Carl Morgan/Adrian Dixon 9 and 14 in the doubles! This led to Yorkshire getting their strongest possible team for their last match against Worcs. Huddersfield based Chen Xinhua came into the team at No. 1 and the team also included Michael O'Driscoll and Joanne Shaw. The match was well staged, there was a big crowd to support

Yorkshire and the T.V. cameras were there! Yorks won 10-0 and made sure of promotion. Worcs suffered the consequences because rivals Cambs surprisingly beat Lincs to the tune of 9-1. Lincs were 1 lady short and conceded 2 events. Cambs stay up — Worcs go down.

SEN 1B:

Cornwall ...3	Devon 2	7
Kent	Middx 2	6
Essex 2	Avon	6
Sussex	Hants	3

Sussex completed a successful season with a 7-3 win over Hants. They will be in Premier Div next season. Janet Smith (Sx) went through the season unbeaten in singles and doubles and Teresa Moore lost only 1 singles. Ritchie Venner had a good season and was only beaten once. Essex 2nds were depleted in their last match against Avon because John Dennison and Richard Darnell had, the previous weekend, played for Essex in the Premier Division. Avon won 6-4 and finished level on points with Sussex, with whom they had a drawn match. Sussex had a clear lead on sets average.

SEN 2A:

Cumbria ...2	Ches	8
Yorks 2	Leics 2	3
Notts	Warwicks 2	5
Ches	Yorks 2	6

Yorks 2nd came through the season dropping just 1 point — to Notts. They will be promoted to Div. 1. to replace their 1st team. Yorks had a good team performance from Lee Hewitt, Nick Davies, Tim Dyson, Helen Shields and Cathy Johnson. Helen Shields was unbeaten in singles and doubles, with Cathy Johnson, and Cathy and Tim Dyson lost only one singles each. Helen Shields/Cathy Johnson retained their unbeaten doubles record when beating Janet Deakin/Jill Schofield (Ch) -13, 19, 20!

SEN 2B:

Dorset	Somerset	5
Worcs 2	Dorset	6
Somerset	Glos	7



Tony Clayton (Do) was dominant and won his 3 events easily against Somerset. Brian Reeves won 2 singles for Somerset. Against Worcs, Dorset were a lady short and conceded 2 events but still got a win. Tony Clayton again in fine form and Barry Hill also won his singles — he had an entertaining and exciting match against Steve Horton which he won at 17 in the 3rd game. Glos win over Somerset gave them the championship and promotion to Div 1. The Glos men, Dave Harvey, Darren Griffin and Graham Slack, had a very good season. They won all the doubles and dropped only 7 singles events in the 5 matches.

SEN 2C:

Suffolk 28	Hunts 2.
Cambs 24	Beds
Beds	Suffolk 2
Norfolk	Herts

Beds took over the lead in the Div with their narrow win over Cambs 2. Beds then completed the season with a 10-0 win over Suffolk 2 to take the title. Julie Eames and Lisa Robins (Bd) went through the season with 100% success in singles and doubles. Philip Logsdon and Neil Pickard both recorded wins over John Taylor and beat Keith Samuels and Rob Liguorish respectively but Trevor Bunn had an off-day losing both his singles and the doubles partnering Pickard. Ruth Hunter and Alison Taylor won the ladies doubles but were well beaten in the singles.

SEN 2D:

Northants ...4	Sussex 2nd ...6
Essex 3	Kent 2
Berks 2	Surrey 2
Kent 2	Berks 2
Surrey 2	Northants ...5
Sussex 2	Oxon

Carol Hewett won a vital singles to give Sussex their win over Northants. She beat Alison Boxall -18, 18, 20. Northants did well in their last match to take a point off Surrey 2. With the score at 3-3 Donna Furniss (Np) beat Maria Taylor-Woodward -20, 19 and 19 and at 4-4 Alison Boxall (Np) beat Debbie Simmonds 16, -7, 18. Sussex 2nds completed a successful season with a 10-0 win over Oxon and will replace their 1st team in Div 1. Sally Weston and Carol Hewett were the

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most successful Sussex players winning all their singles and doubles events.

SENR 3A:

Staffs9	Northants 2...1
Ches 2.....1	Durham9
Beds 2.....9	Clwyd.....1
Clwyd.....4	Staffs6
Durham10	Beds 2.....0

Staffs were a player short in their last match at Clwyd but got a 6-4 win. Dave Hanney (St) lost his 2 singles. Staffs went through the season unbeaten and dropped only 8 events. Beds conceded their match against Durham whereas they could have been playing for runners-up position in the Div.

SENR 3B:

Glam10	Cornwall 2...0
Devon 3.1	Glam9
Glam10	Dorset 2.....0
Bucks8	Hants 2.....2
Hants 2.....1	Bucks9

Glamorgan finished their programme with 3 great wins and became Champions at first attempt. But Bucks made a great effort. They needed a 10-0 win over Hants 2 to draw level with Glamorgan. Bucks led 8-0 but then Barbara Savage (Ha) beat Dawn Robbins 14 and 17. The match score was finally 9-1. Bucks finished level with Glamorgan on 10 points but 48 events compared with 49 for Glamorgan.

JUNIOR PREMIER Lancs win the Championship

In the final series at Pontesbury, Yorkshire, who have dominated the junior scene, were knocked off their perch. They were beaten twice — by Essex 7-3 and Lancs 6-4. In these vital matches the Yorkshire girls — Katharine Goodall, Joanna Roberts and Sally Marling won all their events. In fact these girls went through the whole programme unbeaten!

The Essex/Lancs clash, with both teams unbeaten, proved to be a vital one in deciding the new Junior Championship County. Wins came alternately until the match score was 4-4 and, at that stage, Maria Thorneley (La) beat Alison Gower at 15 in the 3rd game. Howard Whewell then clinched the match for Lancs with an 18 and 18 win over Keith Buers. The Lancs girls, Maria Thorneley and Karen Richardson, won their 3 events in the match and Darren Howarth won both his singles. This still left Lancs to meet Yorkshire the following morning — and they won 6-4. This time it was left to the boys to turn on the style. Darren Howarth and Howard Whewell won their 4 singles and Andrew Eden won one, but lost easily to Mark Stephenson. Eden and Whewell won the doubles at 17 in 3rd game.

It was still not over for Lancs. They met Derbyshire in their last match, who must have caused some jitters. Derbyshire fought well and won events at 18, 19, 20 and 21 in the 3rd games! With Lancs leading 5-4 Howard Whewell met Simon Wall and lost the first game -19! He just got the 2nd at 22! Howard then went on to take the decider 21-9 and Lancs were Champions.

Both Essex and Yorkshire had a superior sets average over Lancs, who won the vital matches. In fact Lancs won 6 of their 7 matches 6-4!

Devon played well over the weekend with a 7-3 win over Kent and taking 4 events off Lancs. There were some very close events in this match — in the doubles Eden/Whewell beat Alex Perry/Greg Bridgett -21, 20, 20 and then Claire Pengeley beat Karen Richardson 19, -19, 19. Derbyshire and Warwicks are the demotees but no team went without a win.

The stars of the Junior Premier were Grant Solder (E), Katharine Goodall and Joanna Roberts, who won all their singles matches. Solder also won all his boys doubles events with James Oyekunle, and Eden/Whewell won the 5 they played. Katharine Goodall/Sally Marling and Alison Gower/Ruth Cleminson were unbeaten in doubles.

RESULTS

La ..6	Dv ..4	Dv ..10	Wa ..0
Bd ..2	E ..8	Dy ..4	K ..6
K ..2	Y ..8	Y ..8	Bd ..2
Wa ..6	Dy ..4	E ..4	La ..6
La ..6	Y ..4	Dv ..7	K ..3
K ..9	Wa ..1	Wa ..3	Bd ..7
Bd ..4	Dy ..6	Y ..3	E ..7
E ..8	Dv ..2	Dy ..4	La ..6

JUNR 1A:

Yorks 2.....8	Essex 2.....2
N'berland ..7	Essex 2.....3
Essex 2.....5	Durham5
Notts0	Lincs10
Lincs6	Durham4
Yorks 2.....10	Notts0
Yorks 2.....7	Durham3
Essex 2.....5	Lincs5
Lancs 2.....5	Yorks 2.....5
Durham8	N'berland2

Durham came back from 3-5 down against Essex 2nd to get a draw, and keep their hopes of promotion alive. Yorks 2nd drew with Lancs 2nd and, as happened when their 1st teams met, it was the Yorks girls (2nd team — Debbie Newman and Caroline Bentley) who were the key in winning their 3 events. Durham match versus Yorks 2nd was hard fought. Caroline Bentley (Y) beat Clare Flynn -21, 11, 19 and Karl Horsfield beat Steven Riggins -19, 13, 18. Yorks got a vital 7-3 win and won the championship of this Div, which I am sure would help to compensate for their 1st team having lost the Premier title.

JUNR 1B:

Sussex1	Oxon9
Cornwall ...4	Surrey6
Herts5	Middx5
Avon5	Berks5
Middx8	Sussex2
Berks9	Herts1
Oxon5	Cornwall5
Surrey10	Avon0

Herts dropped a valuable point to Middlesex. It took Duncan Taylor, promoted from their 2nd team, to win the last event against Dov Katz 12 and 18 to secure a draw. In the final event against Cornwall it was Jason Blake beating Mark Bawden 19, -18, 15 which gave Surrey the win over Cornwall. This then put Surrey level on points with Herts and in contention for promotion.

Shocks came in the last round of matches and a big surprise when Berks beat Herts 9-1! This put Herts out of the championship race. Martin Adams has been a great strength for Berks winning all his singles and doubles events. Surrey, who had drawn matches with Herts and Middlesex, won their last match 10-0 against Avon, took the title and will be in Premier Div next season. The Surrey boys Paul Carter, Jason and Darren Blake and Edward Hatley, all performed well throughout the season.

JUNR 2A:

Warwicks 2. .6	Ches 1.....4
Derbys 2.....7	Clwyd 2.3
Leics4	Lancs 3.....6
Ches 2.....1	Clwyd 1.9
Clwyd 2.4	Leics6
Ches 1.....9	Clwyd 2.1
Ches 1.....6	Derbys 2.....4

Warwicks 2nds fought well to get the 6-4 win over Ches 1. David Johnson (Wa) clinched the final event 19, -13, 18 against Mark News. But it was Clwyd, level on points with Warwicks 2nd but with a better sets average who took the title. Clwyd were very well served by Spencer Harris and Natasha Williams, who were unbeaten in singles and doubles, and Susan Lees lost only 1 singles.

JUNR 2B:

Bucks3	Glos7
Northants 2. .5	Wilts5
Worcs9	Herts 2.1
Herts 2.9	Northants 2. .1
Glos7	Berks 2.3
Wilts4	Bucks6

Worcestershire had a resounding 9-1 win over rivals Herts 2nd to make sure of the championship. Herts were without their No. 1 Duncan Taylor. The Worcs girls, Catherine Drage and Paula Hughes, had 3 tough matches but finished the season unbeaten in singles and doubles. Jason Thompson (Wo) also completed the season with 100% in singles and doubles. Glos won their last match v Berks 2nd 7-3 and lost only to Herts 2nd during the season but could not match Worcs sets average. Robert Powell played very well for Glos

and lost only 1 singles during the season.

JUNR 2C:

Glam7	Hants 2.....3
Cornwall 2...2	Hants 2.....8
Hants 1.....8	Gwent2
Dorset2	Hants 1.....8
Gwent2	Somerset8
Devon 2.1	Glam9
Devon 3.4	Dorset6
Cornwall 2. .3	Somerset7
Hants 1.....8	Hants 2.....2
Devon 2.9	Devon 3.1

8 matches were played at Redbridge, Hants. Glamorgan's 2 wins gave them the championship to emulate their Senior team's success. The Glamorgan girls — Laura Collier and Denise Elward — went through the season unbeaten in singles and doubles.

JUNR 2D:

Suffolk 2.....1	Suffolk 1.....9
Kent 2.....3	Norfolk 1.....7
Kent 2.....8	Norfolk 2.....2
Surrey 2.4	Essex 3.6
Surrey 3.4	Essex 3.6
Middx 2.7	Sussex 2.3
Norfolk 1.9	Middx 2.1
Norfolk 2.2	Middx 2.8
Suffolk 1.....7	Kent 2.....3
Suffolk 2.....1	Kent 2.....9
Sussex 2.6	Surrey 2.4
Sussex 2.2	Surrey 3.8

Essex 3rd team certainly finished their programme on a high note but it was not enough to win the championship. In their last match Suffolk 1st team clinched the title with a 7-3 win over Kent 2nd. For Kent 2nd Martin Gunn, who did not come into the team until end Jan, played well. Against Suffolk he beat Graham Watts at 19 in 3rd game and against the No. 1 — Mark Dawson — he won at 25 in the 3rd game! Suffolk's success was from an all round team effort from Mark Dawson, Graham Watts, Adam Cole, Janet Scoulding and Suzanne Burdett.

VETS 1A:

Norfolk6	Lancs3
Warwicks.....5	Worcs4
Yorks 2.....6	Essex 2.3
Ches 2.....4	Lincs5
Lincs8	Norfolk1
Worcs6	Ches 2.3
Lancs4	Yorks 2.....5
Essex 2.5	Warwicks.....4

Results have been unpredictable in this Div but Lincs rose above all other teams. Warwicks pulled themselves around since the introduction of Pat McCabe and had 3 successive 5-4 wins. But in the last Round the bottom teams, Essex 2nd and Yorks 2nd, both got 5-4 wins and staved off relegation. Warwicks included Ralph Gunnion in their last match of the season. Gunnion was involved in 3 wins. Brian Belcher also played his only match of the season. However, despite Gunnion's 3 wins, Essex got a 5-4 win. Despite Warwicks' 3 wins in

Leeds County Championships — 3

the 7 match programme, they were relegated with Cheshire 2nd team who finished at the foot of the Table. Lincs finished unbeaten with 14 points and the runners-up were Worcs with 8 points.

VETS 1B:

Oxon5	Glos4
Berks 1.6	Surrey 2.3
Surrey 2.4	Oxon5
Kent 2.6	Sussex 2.3
Middx2	Berks 1.7
Glos2	Wilts7

Wiltshire's only defeat was suffered in the first match of the season. Wilts concluded with a 7-2 win over Glos to take the title and promotion to Premier Div. Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding have been the stars of the Wilts team. This match confirmed Glos demotion after one season. Oxon had a vital match at Ashford T.T.C. against Surrey 2nd. The teams were level on points and sets average and a 5-4 win for Oxon saved them from relegation. Alf Davies and Nat Richardson won their 4 singles. Surrey also escaped as Sussex 2nd were beaten 6-3 by Kent 2nd and join Glos.

VETS 2A:

Lancs 2.8	Ches 3.1
N'berland ...1	Yorks 3.8
Ches 3.4	Lincs 2.5
Yorks 3.4	Lancs 2.5

With both teams unbeaten the Yorks 3/Lancs 2 match at Bradford

was to decide the championship. Yorks led 4-2! But Lancs had a great fight back, took the next 3 events and the title. The Lancs men — Brian Clements, Derek Watmough and Ray Ashley — each lost only 1 singles event during the season. The Ches 3/Lincs 2 match was hard fought with 6 events going to a decider. Lincs 2nd got a 5-4 win and a vital factor was Tom Marland/Kath Fisher winning the mixed, against Lionel Royle/Karen Tongue -16, 16, 20.

VETS 2B:

Leics7	Notts2
Beds 1.6	Norfolk 2.3
Notts6	Beds 1.3
Norfolk 2.1	Essex 3.8
Hunts2	Leics7

Beds got their first win against Norfolk 2nd with Brian Mayfield winning both singles and the doubles with Jim Wooliscroft. In the last Round of matches Essex 3rd team completed their programme unbeaten and champions of the Div. Essex lost only 1 doubles event throughout the season. Notts 6-3 win over Beds saved them from relegation. The bottom 2 teams — Beds and Norfolk 2nd — finished level with 2 points and identical sets average.

VETS 2C:

Middx 2.8	Bucks 2.1
Northants 1. .3	Surrey 3.6
Surrey 3.1	Middx 2.8
Hereford3	Wilts 2.6

Middx 2nd had an 8-1 win over nearest rivals Surrey 3rd. Middx won all their matches and took the title. Middx team did not lose one doubles event the successful pairs being John Smith/Tony Taylor and Norman Slifkin/Kathy Nunn. Tony Taylor also had a 100% success in singles.

VETS 2D:

Berks 2.5	Sussex 3.4
Hants5	Somerset4
Berks 2.6	Herts 2.3
Sussex 3.4	Dorset5

Hants had a narrow win over Somerset. Ray Lush, promoted from Hants 2nd team, was involved in 3 of the wins. The score stood at 4-4 when Mike Toole beat Chris Hatton (Sx) 14 and 15 to give Dorset the win and complete their programme unbeaten. Dorset, after demotion last season, will make an immediate return to Div. 1. Joyce Coop went through the season unbeaten in singles and doubles.

Remarkably this is the 3rd consecutive season that Joyce has had 100% success in singles in either the Senior or Veterans sections.

VETS 3A:

Herts 3.4	Berks 3.5
Hunts 2.5	Beds 2.4
Herts 4.3	Herts 3.6
N'thants 2. .5	Hunts 2.4

Berks 3 got a narrow win over nearest rivals Herts 3 to keep their unbeaten record and win the championship. It was down to the last event when Mike Harris (Bk), beat George Tyler 20, -16, 17. Herts 4 took 3 events off their 3rd team. Sally Bax was involved in 2 of the wins, beating Gill White -21, 13, 16 and winning the mixed, with Dave Wilson, at 16 in 3rd game. Len Flowers/Derek Caulder won the mens doubles, against Keith Hart-ridge/George Tyler 17, -18, 23!

VETS 3B:

Dorset 2.6	Sussex 4.3
Wilts 3.2	Dorset 2.7

One team unfortunately dropped out of this Div which left teams with just 4 matches. Hants 2nd were unbeaten. They beat their nearest rivals, Dorset 2nd, 5-4. Dorset 2nd bt Wilts 3rd in their last match with Eric Buckley and Danny Allen winning their 4 singles. Jean Smith (Do) lost her first singles — to Sylvia Morse (Wi) -18, 13, -19.

FINAL TABLES — SEASON 1989/90

SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Middlesex	7	7	0	44	19	14	
Derbyshire	7	5	2	46	17	10	
Lancashire	7	5	2	37	26	10	
Berkshire	7	4	3	30	33	8	
Surrey	7	3	4	25	38	6	
Leicestershire	7	2	5	23	40	4	
Devonshire	7	1	6	28	35	2	
Essex	7	1	6	19	44	2	
Division 1A							
Yorkshire	7	5	2	0	51	19	12
Warwickshire	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Suffolk	7	5	0	2	37	33	10
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	3	2	40	30	7
Northumberland	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Cambridgeshire	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Worcestershire	7	1	3	3	28	42	5
Lincolnshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0
Division 1B							
Sussex	7	6	1	0	57	13	13
Avon	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Essex 2nd	7	3	1	3	36	34	7
Kent	7	3	0	4	33	37	6
Devonshire 2nd	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Hampshire	7	0	2	5	20	50	2
Cornwall	7	0	1	6	20	50	1
Division 2A							
Yorkshire 2nd	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Cheshire	5	3	1	1	35	15	7
Leicestershire 2nd	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Nottinghamshire	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Cumbria	5	0	0	5	8	42	0
Division 2B							
Gloucestershire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Wiltshire	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Dorset	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Somerset	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Avon 2nd	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Worcestershire 2nd	5	0	0	5	14	36	0



Tony Taylor (Lancs) - A good win over John Sauter was not enough as Lancs went down 6-3 to Champions Middlesex.

Leeds County Championships 4

Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Division 2C								Division 2D						
Bedfordshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9	Suffolk	9	8	0	1	60	30
Norfolk	5	2	3	0	34	16	7	Essex 3rd	9	7	1	1	64	26
Hertfordshire	5	3	1	1	33	17	7	Middlesex 2nd	9	7	0	2	56	34
Cambridgeshire 2nd	5	2	1	2	25	25	5	Norfolk	9	6	1	2	64	26
Suffolk 2nd	5	1	0	4	14	36	2	Surrey 2nd	9	4	0	5	49	41
Huntingdonshire	5	0	0	5	9	41	0	Kent 2nd	9	3	1	5	42	48
								Norfolk 2nd	9	3	0	6	35	55
Division 2D								Suffolk 2nd	9	2	1	6	26	64
Sussex 2nd	6	5	1	0	45	15	11	Surrey 3rd	9	1	1	7	27	63
Surrey 2nd	6	3	2	1	39	21	8	(71-136)						
Essex 3rd	6	3	1	2	38	21	7	Sussex 2nd	9	1	1	7	27	63
Northamptonshire	6	1	2	3	30	30	4	(70-139)						
Kent 2nd	6	1	2	3	25	35	4	VETERANS						
Oxfordshire	6	2	0	4	18	42	4	Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire 2nd	6	2	0	4	14	45	4	Cheshire	7	6	1	39	24	12
								Yorkshire	7	5	2	45	18	10
Division 3A								Essex	7	5	2	41	22	10
Staffordshire	5	5	0	0	42	8	10	Kent	7	4	3	33	30	8
Durham	5	4	0	1	36	14	8	Sussex	7	4	3	30	33	8
Bedfordshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	27	23	6	Surrey	7	2	5	26	37	4
Cheshire 2nd	5	2	0	3	19	31	4	Hertfordshire	7	1	6	22	41	2
Clwyd	5	1	0	4	16	36	2	Buckinghamshire	7	1	6	16	47	2
Northamptonshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	10	40	0							
								Division 1A						
Division 3B								Lincolnshire	7	7	0	48	15	14
Glamorgan	6	5	0	1	49	11	10	Worcestershire	7	4	3	32	31	8
Buckinghamshire	6	5	0	1	47	13	10	Lancashire	7	3	4	32	31	6
Hampshire 2nd	6	4	0	2	36	24	8	Essex 2nd	7	3	4	29	34	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	4	0	2	32	28	8	Yorkshire 2nd	7	3	4	28	35	6
Devonshire 3rd	6	2	0	4	27	33	4	Norfolk	7	3	4	27	36	6
Dorset 2nd	6	1	0	5	11	49	2	Warwickshire	7	3	4	26	37	6
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	0	6	8	52	0	Cheshire 2nd	7	2	5	30	33	4
JUNIORS								Division 1B						
Premier Division								Wiltshire	7	6	1	37	26	12
Lancashire	7	7	0	0	46	24	14	Berkshire	7	5	2	39	24	10
Essex	7	6	0	1	52	18	12	Kent 2nd	7	5	2	32	31	10
Yorkshire	7	5	0	2	47	23	10	Middlesex	7	4	3	40	23	8
Devonshire	7	3	1	3	40	30	7	Oxfordshire	7	3	4	28	35	6
Kent	7	3	0	4	32	38	6	Surrey 2nd	7	2	5	27	36	4
Bedfordshire	7	1	1	5	28	42	3	Sussex 2nd	7	2	5	24	39	4
Derbyshire	7	1	0	6	23	47	2	Gloucestershire	7	1	6	25	38	2
Warwickshire	7	1	0	6	12	58	2							
								Division 2A						
Division 1A								Lancashire 2nd	5	5	0	36	9	10
Yorkshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	43	17	11	Yorkshire 3rd	5	4	1	33	12	8
Durham	6	3	1	2	39	21	7	Northumberland	5	3	2	24	21	6
Lancashire 2nd	6	3	1	2	34	26	7	Lincolnshire 2nd	5	2	3	18	27	4
Essex 2nd	6	2	2	2	32	28	6	Cheshire 3rd	5	1	4	14	31	2
Northumberland	6	3	0	3	31	29	6	Clwyd	5	0	5	10	35	0
Lincolnshire	6	2	1	3	31	29	5							
Nottinghamshire	6	0	0	6	30	60	0	Division 2B						
								Essex 3rd	5	5	0	33	12	10
Division 1B								Leicestershire	5	4	1	32	13	8
Surrey	7	5	2	0	48	22	12	Nottinghamshire	5	2	3	20	25	4
Middlesex	7	4	3	0	47	23	11	Huntingdonshire	5	2	3	16	29	4
Hertfordshire	7	4	2	1	40	30	10	Norfolk 2nd	5	1	4	17	28	2
Berkshire	7	3	3	1	44	26	9	(42-63)						
Oxfordshire	7	1	3	3	35	35	5	Bedfordshire	5	1	4	17	28	2
Cornwall	7	1	2	4	26	44	4	(39-62)						
Sussex	7	1	1	5	24	46	3	Division 2C						
Avon	7	0	2	5	16	54	2	Middlesex 2nd	5	5	0	38	7	10
								Buckinghamshire 2nd	5	3	2	26	19	6
Division 2A								Surrey 3rd	5	3	2	23	22	6
Clwyd	7	6	0	1	50	20	12	Northamptonshire	5	2	3	24	21	4
Warwickshire 2nd	7	6	0	1	46	24	12	Wiltshire 2nd	5	2	3	19	26	4
Cheshire	7	5	0	2	43	27	10	Herefordshire	5	0	5	5	40	0
Lancashire 3rd	7	4	1	2	36	34	9							
Cheshire 2nd	7	2	2	3	34	36	6	Division 2D						
Leicestershire	7	2	0	5	24	46	4	Dorset	5	5	0	29	16	10
Derbyshire 2nd	7	1	1	5	30	40	3	Hampshire	5	4	1	26	19	8
Clwyd 2nd	7	0	0	7	17	53	0	Berkshire 2nd	5	3	2	22	23	6
								Sussex 3rd	5	1	4	21	24	2
Division 2B								Somerset	5	1	4	19	26	2
Worcestershire	6	5	0	1	48	12	10	Hertfordshire 2nd	5	1	4	18	27	2
Gloucestershire	6	5	0	1	43	17	10							
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	5	0	1	34	26	10	Division 3A						
Buckinghamshire	6	3	0	3	33	27	6	Berkshire 3rd	5	5	0	36	9	10
Berkshire 2nd	6	2	0	4	27	33	4	Hertfordshire 3rd	5	4	1	27	18	8
Wiltshire	6	0	1	5	16	44	1	Hertfordshire 4th	5	2	3	20	25	4
Northamptonshire 2nd	6	0	1	5	9	51	1	(54-60)						
								Northamptonshire 2nd	5	2	3	20	25	4
Division 2C								(46-56)						
Glamorgan	8	8	0	0	67	13	16	Huntingdonshire 2nd	5	1	4	18	27	2
Devonshire 2nd	8	7	0	1	59	21	14	Bedfordshire 2nd	5	1	4	14	31	2
Hampshire	8	5	1	2	49	31	11							
Somerset	8	5	1	2	45	35	11	Division 3B						
Gwent	8	3	1	4	42	38	7	Hampshire 2nd	4	4	0	24	12	8
Hampshire 2nd	8	2	0	6	23	57	4	Dorset 2nd	4	3	1	23	13	6
Devonshire 3rd	8	1	1	6	27	53	3	Sussex 4th	4	2	2	18	18	4
Dorset	8	1	1	6	25	55	3	Berkshire 4th	4	1	3	13	23	2
Cornwall 2nd	8	1	1	6	23	57	3	Wiltshire 3rd	4	0	4	12	24	0

Sponsors see the Light...

Small Firm Stimulates Local Table Tennis

by LES D'ARCY

SEVERAL organisations and players in the Wakefield, Castleford and Dewsbury areas are benefiting from a small, but progressive local firm's generous sponsorship. ALAN AUSTIN (Manager) and partner RICHARD AUSTERFIELD of G.B.TROPHIES are always ready to give a helping hand to those in need. England No.9, JOANNE SHAW (Commonwealth Games sponsorship) and former England No.1 Cadet DEBBIE TOOLE have also benefited from their association with the firm.

Three local leagues and a number of smaller groups have received trophies and/or equipment to give incentive to their members. The firm is also planning to sponsor a major table tennis event in this year's Wakefield Advisory Sports Council's Festival of Sport. Players of all ages and abilities will be able to enjoy two weeks of coaching, exhibitions, a coaches seminar and a Veterans' tournament.

Details of the event which takes place at Thornes House High School (July 28th to August 12th) from Les D'Arcy — 0924 366420.



Left: Wakefield Festival of Sport Table Tennis Coaching Course Beginners and Intermediates Course, with some of the advanced players who helped the coaches on the course. Sponsored by G.B.Trophies and Wakefield Coaching Trust. (Photo by kind permission of Yorkshire Weekly Newspapers Group Ltd.)

SEAT Peterborough Celebrate in Style

THE photograph shows SEAT Peterborough British League Team celebrating after winning Division Three East of the Leeds British League.

On Sunday 25th February, they travelled to Fellows Cranleigh needing a point to take the title. They indeed won 5-3 opening up an eight point gap at the top of the table with only three games remaining.

Match sponsors for the SEAT Peterborough Team were the Eastern Garden Indian Restaurant, who treated the team to a complete first class meal with bottles of champagne all on the house, with the compliments of Restaurant owner Khasru Chowdhury, who has been involved in sponsoring other table tennis events locally. In the capacity of sponsoring local team manager Julian Tee, to take guests to the restaurant for free meals, not only do the team benefit from Tee's contacts regularly, but the English and Chinese National Teams benefited from a free meal at the restaurant on the first day of the Chinese Tour this year.

Former World Cup Champion Chen Xinhua has also accompanied Tee to the restaurant for special dishes along with Scottish International John Broe when they both



The picture shows Julian Tee standing touching glasses with Khasru Chowdhury with other SEAT Peterborough team members looking on — Lindsay Taylor, Pete Elderkin, Ken Glindon, Jason Adams, and Kev Tory.



Steve Bettison, Men's Singles and Doubles winner, Avon Closed Table Tennis Championships.

Steve Bettison wins Avon Table Tennis Trophy

EIGHTEEN year old Steve Bettison of Nailsea, has won the Men's Singles title in the Ford Farrow Avon Closed Table Tennis Championships.

Steve, who was last year's runner-up, defeated fellow Nailsea club member Ian Johnson in a hard fought battle. Steve also teamed up with Gary Baldwin of Clevedon to win the Men's Doubles Title.

Ian Johnson, although losing the men's singles, won the Junior Boys Singles and, with partner Stuart Beaver of Nailsea won the junior doubles.

Knowle and Brislington were also well represented, with Rachel Rosewell winning both the under 12 and the under 14 girls titles; Graham Long taking home the under 12 boys title, and Barry Fudge winning the under 14 boys category.

Carey Webb of New Cheltenham won the ladies singles and teamed up with Dina Sandford of Clifton to win the ladies doubles, whilst Julie Westall of Clevedon won the junior girls championship and teamed up with Gary Baldwin to win the mixed doubles title.

Roy Smith of Patchway won the veterans division of the annual event, held at the Thornbury Leisure Centre and sponsored by Bristol advertising agency Ford Farrow & Partners.

South West Regional News

by ALF PEPPERD

TAKING the first six copies of our National Magazine into full consideration that is: from October until March, here is a detailed list of County reports actually sent in and duly published.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Avon	1	0	0	1	0	0
Cornwall	0	0	1	1	0	1
Devon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	1	0	0	0	1	0

As can be seen from the above the majority are rather few and far between, and two in question who have listed Press Officers have as yet made no attempt to place their respective Counties activities in our splendid news media.

But still it would appear as I have not seen any official complaints forthcoming regards the apparent lack of some County news — one has to assume that everyone is quite happy, which leaves me to ask the following poignant question. Does Table Tennis News really require County reports coming in from County Press Officers?

News from Mike Hawkins of the Bath & District League, the Bathwick Tyres Friday night Club is still well attended — with many Juniors attending these sessions and no doubt deriving a great benefit from existing T.T. facilities.

And finally, to current date of writing as copy date for May is almost here and I have not received any further news from the Region, I will sign off by saying: Many thanks indeed to the following for giving me BBC Radio interviews for this past season — John and Carl Preen, Jill Hammersley Parker MBE, Jack Reeves (Chief Organiser of the Cotswold Junior 2 Star), Neil Bevan (Bude), and in anticipation — Kevin Satchell (who this year is head coach for the 4th Gloucestershire School of Sport 9th — 12th

April 1990 at Cheltenham) Ken Bridle, current Chairman of the Cirencester League and Bob Davis, also from Cirencester, who played such an important role as one of the Organisers in the early stages of the season with the Womens International England v Federal Republic of Germany staged at Cirencester.

Also thanks to all in the South West Region who have either contacted me by telephone or written.

Success for Sussex Sisters

THREE sisters — all from the same school (Thomas Peacocke School, Rye) were among the 285 players competing for honours in the Dunlop English Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships which took place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday 28th April.

Lian Wilson (17), Natasha Wilson (16) and Claudine Wilson (13) all won through the East Sussex Schools Individual county qualifying championships, and younger brother, Alex (11) narrowly failed to make it, losing in the Under 11 final in March.

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Maurice Goldstein Trophy 1990

by MIKE LOVEDER

Leeds County Champions, Middlesex, played host to the runners-up, Lancashire, in the 1990 challenge match for the Maurice Goldstein trophy at the Barnet TTC on Saturday 21st April.

Instead of playing at No.3 for Middlesex, Graham Sandley found himself in the No.1 slot in the absence of John Souter who was apparently under orders to drive the Grove minibus, and Nigel Tyler who was again visiting Switzerland. Clearly not the most convenient weekend for Middlesex as Lesley Tyler-Keast was also away.

In contrast the Lancashire team turned out at full strength and the result was hardly ever in doubt although the hosts put up a good fight at the start. First at the table, before a 'crowd' of about 10 spectators, was Colin Wilson with the unenviable task of facing the Lancashire No.1 Sean Gibson. The latter won at deuce in the second game. The evergreen Mark Mitchell was dragged away from his garage to make his 113th appearance for Middlesex. He proved too consistent on the day for Nigel Eckersley as only 25 points were conceded by him. Graham Sandley put his county ahead in the match for the only time by taking the first game from Tony Taylor, losing the second at deuce, and then securing an irretrievable 14-7 lead in the third.

Lancashire took the Mixed Doubles as Nigel Eckersley partnered Andrea Holt while Mark Mitchell was partnered by his sister Angela Smith. Sean Gibson and Tony Taylor managed a surprise Mens Doubles win against Graham Sandley and his fellow left-hander Colin Wilson. The Lancashire pair pinched the first game 29-27 but then lost the second game. However they pulled away in the third and took a 3-2 lead in the match. Andrea Holt proved herself to be too good against Angela Smith (nee Mitchell), often catching her out with her combination tactics.

With the Middlesex 2-1 lead turned in to a 2-4 deficit it was left to Colin Wilson to beat Nigel Eckersley to stop the rot. From one game each Colin forged 6-1 ahead but the Northern extrovert recovered to lead 15-10 and eventually take the game, set and match. Graham Sandley battled to make the scoreline look more respectable against Sean Gibson but, undeterred by the 'dead rubber' an aggressive game of numerous rallies was witnessed with Sean Gibson coming through the victor at 19 in the third. Tony Taylor finished off any remaining Middlesex resistance coming from Mark Mitchell. Tony took the first at 19 and the second more comfortably for a final score of 7-2 to Lancashire.

This result saw the Lancastrians £500 the richer while Middlesex consoled themselves with a £250 cheque. Len Pilditch retired from the role of captain for Middlesex having run the county team for a couple of decades. He has seen his team take the county championships title on about 9 occasions and I'm sure he will wish his successor equal success.

Next year the competition should have added interest as Yorkshire make their Premier bid as the news has just come in that "Chen's in, wow!"

RESULTS

C. Wilson l S. Gibson 17-21, 20-22
 M. Mitchell b N. Eckersley 21-15, 21-10
 G. Sandley b T. Taylor 21-18, 20-22, 21-11
 A. Smith l A. Holt 15-21, 14-21
 C. Wilson l N. Eckersley 15-21, 21-18, 16-21
 G. Sandley l S. Gibson 22-20, 16-21, 19-21
 M. Mitchell l T. Taylor 19-21, 12-21
 M. Mitchell/A. Smith l N. Eckersley/A. Holt 20-22, 17-21
 G. Sandley/C. Wilson l S. Gibson/T. Taylor 27-29, 21-18, 15-21

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Sun Life Bristol 2 Star — 1



Bradley Stars at Thornbury

Above: John Lewis, Promotions Officer of Sun Life Assurance, presenting the winner's cheque and medallion to Bradley Billington, winner of the Men's Singles title.

Bradley Billington (Derbyshire) is the 1990 Mens Singles winner of the Sun Life Bristol 2 Star Table Tennis Tournament. Bradley lives in Norwood Avenue, Chesterfield, and is an England International player who is currently ranked No.6 in the country. He caused a slight upset at Bristol when he defeated the No.1 seed and fellow International, Matthew Syed of Reading, in the final. After an exciting and closely fought game, Bradley came out on top by 21-18, 21-16.

Below: Julie Langdon (left) of Sun Life Assurance, presenting the winner's cheque and medal to Nicola Meddings, Junior Girl's Singles Winner.

Jill Harris (Staffs) won the Ladies Singles when she defeated Nigerian International Kubrat Owolabi. Jill, aged 27, is an England International currently ranked No.5 in the country. After an interesting match, Jill came out on top in straight sets, 21-13, 21-16.

To complete a very satisfactory day's work, Jill teamed up with Teresa Moore of Bexhill to also capture the Ladies Doubles title. In the final they beat Jane Barella and Sandra Roden by 21-11, 18-21, 21-18.

Nearly 400 competitors took part in this two day event held at the popular Thornbury Leisure Centre. And there was success for local players too, as Andy Creed (Avon) beat Malcolm Corring, (England No.1 Veteran) in the Mixed Singles Class II Final. (Class II is restricted to Men ranked not higher than 50 in

England and Women ranked not higher than 4). Kevin Satchell of Wiltshire partnered John Holland (Derbyshire) to runners up spot in the Mens Doubles finishing behind Andrew Eden (Lancs) and partner Richard Darnell (Essex).

In the Junior events Andrew Eden (Lancs) defeated Raymond Powell (Glouc) 21-10, 21-18 to take the Junior Boys Singles title

The Junior Girls title went to Nicola Meddings (Staffs) who, with her table tennis playing younger brother Steven, play regularly for Grove School Table Tennis Club. In an extremely close final Nicola beat fellow 14 year old Caroline Bentley from Yorkshire 21-19, 17-21, 21-12.





Top: Julie Langdon (right) of Sun Life Assurance, presenting the winner's cheque and medal to Clare Pengelly, winner of the Cadet Girl's Singles. Bottom: John Lewis, Promotions Officer of Sun Life Assurance, with Teresa Moore (left) and her partner, Jill Harris, winners of the Ladies Doubles.

RESULTS

Under 12 Girls Singles
Shelly Ruocco (Essex)
R-U Clare Newns (Wirral)

Under 12 Boys Singles
Vince Avery (Essex)
R-U Kevin Doyle (Sussex)

Under 14 Girls Singles
Clare Pengelly (Devon)
R-U Lynsey Heyward (Devon)

Under 14 Boys Singles
Richard Hyacinth (Middx)
R-U James Mason (Bucks)

Under 17 Girls Singles
Nicola Meddings (Staffs)
R-U Caroline Bentley (Yorks)

Under 17 Girls Doubles
Lisa Crick (Berks)/Laura Collier (Glam)
R-U Clare Pengelly (Devon)/Lynsey Heyward (Devon)

Under 17 Boys Singles
Andrew Eden (Lancs)
R-U Raymond Powell (Glouc)

Under 17 Boys Doubles
Martin Adams (Berks)/Matthew Greenwood (Bucks)
R-U Andrew Eden (Lancs)/Keith Buers (Essex)

Class II Mixed Singles
Andrew Creed (Avon)
R-U Malcolm Corking (Cleveland)

Veterans Singles Final
John Hilton (Lancs)
R-U Malcolm Corking

Womens Doubles
Theresa Moore (Sussex)/Jill Harris (Staffs)
R-U Jane Barella (Surrey)/Sandra Roden (Worcs)

Womens Singles
Jill Harris (Staffs)
R-U Kubrat Owolabi (Nigeria)

Mens Doubles
Andrew Eden (Lancs)/Richard Darnell (Essex)
R-U John Holland (Derbyshire)/Kevin Satchell (Wiltshire)

Mens Singles
Bradley Billington (Derbyshire)
R-U Matthew Syed (Berks)

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Forward Trust Irish Junior Open

by IAN JOHNSON

THE Development Dynamos team consisting of four English players, Duncan Taylor, Sarah Seaholme, Emese Kottasz, and Ian Johnson visited Mayfield Leisure Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland for the Irish Open.

We were under the supervision of Diccon Gray (E.T.T.A. Development Officer), who immediately proved his worth by the excellent choice of name!

We arrived at 1.00pm on Friday April 6th to be greeted with a warm welcome from the Irish contingent, then to find we were shortly to play in the team event.

Both teams got off to a good start with the boys having a 5-0 win over Scotland 'B' without dropping a set, and the girls also winning 5-0 over Ulster. The girls narrowly lost their two remaining matches against Wales and Ireland 'A' to finish a creditable third place, each receiving a bronze medal. The boys lost 3-1 to Ireland 'B' in the semis after a good start from Duncan, who went 17-0 up against the Irish number 3 junior, eventually winning in the third. In the third and fourth play-offs the boys team won 3-1 against Ireland 'A' with two wins from Ian over the Irish 1 and 2 juniors.

Saturday commenced with the singles at 9.30, with Sarah doing well to reach the girls final, smartly disposing of the number 1 seed along the way, only to lose to Wales's Laura Collier in the final. Emese finished third, easily beating the Irish number 2 in the quarters. Duncan lost in the last 16 and Ian finished 5th after losing to the Irish number 2 in the quarters, but beating the Irish number 3 & 4 juniors in the play-offs. Both doubles pairs did well to get to the semis but lost after two close games.

The team was most impressed by the Irish hospitality and the accommodation provided. The playing conditions were good but the umpiring was a little indifferent at times!

The tournament was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, although we must admit there was not much sleep on the last night, which was "just not on" according to Steven Gill from Wales!!

Many thanks to the Irish for the invitation and the opportunity which the team considered to be an excellent experience.

Forward Trust Irish Junior Open (April 1990). English contingent with tournament sponsor. (Left to Right) Emese Kottasz, Duncan Taylor, Midland Bank Representative, Ian Johnson, Sarah Seaholme, Diccon Gray (Photo: Allan J. McCullough)



**Table Tennis Coach/
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JAROSLAV STANEK, 15 times Czechoslovakian Champion and 1964 European Champion, would be interested in a position as a table tennis coach/Trainer in a national team or club. Following his career as a top international player, Stanek became a respected professional sports journalist and in 1988 was selected as the Czech Attaché to the Olympic Games in Seoul.

In addition to working as a player/coach at his club Slavia Praha Orbis, Stanek is also qualified as a tennis coach for youth and recreation players. His international languages include English, German and Russian.

Anyone interested in contacting Jaroslav Stanek may do so w/m.

180 00 Prague 5 - Nový Město
Novotický Hrad 723/13
Czechoslovakia
Tel. 390 - 345

D. Duffy Homefires Ladies Handicap

by JOHN CUNNINGHAM
Sec. O.L.O.P.T.T.

OUR Lady of Peace Community Centre hosted the finals of the Ladies 'Bounce into Action' Table Tennis Tournament. The event was sponsored by D. Duffy — Homefires of Woodley. The tournament was organised to attract newcomers, and those who used to play, back to table tennis.

Three newcomers reached the finals, along with local league players, Karen Slatford (scratch) and Caroline Goatley (+5). Lorraine Williams (+16) Nina Doddey (+16) and Helen Goatley (+11) made the seasoned players fight all the way. Caroline Goatley came top in the Round Robin stage with Karen Slatford just edging out the three newcomers for second place. How-

ever in the final playoff Karen's experience told and she overcame Caroline in a close contest.

The winner received a trophy and cheque presented by Declan Duffy of Homefires Woodley. Caroline also received a cheque for second place and the three newcomers will have their league registrations paid for the next season by the club.

Ladies and others interested in playing table tennis at any level are welcome to attend practice sessions on Sundays 11a.m. - 2p.m. or on Friday evenings — family table tennis 8p.m. - 10p.m. at our Lady of Peace Community Centre, Earley, Reading.

OBITUARY Rod Marchant

THE tragic death of Rod Marchant in a road accident, brought sadness to all who knew him as a table tennis player and a true gentleman of the sport.

With his father Ken a cornerstone of both the Wellingborough League and the Northants County Association, and also a National Councillor, it was not surprising that Rod made an immediate impact when he first played in the Wellingborough League at the age of thirteen.

His total commitment enabled him to obtain success wherever he played, and he was Northants' No.1 for six seasons, before moving south to gain many further successes in the Willesden and Medway Leagues.

Of quiet disposition, Rod always let his bat do the talking, and the results he achieved bear testimony to his tremendous ability and his reputation as the best player ever to emerge from the Wellingborough scene.

The Northants County Committee extends its deepest condolences to Rod's wife Mary, and his family.

D. W. MILLMAN
County Press Officer

A GENEROUS OFFER FROM LORUS

SPORTS clubs can apply to Lorus Quartz for watches as competition prizes in return for programme publicity or perimeter advertising at events. The watches will be provided in advance once the promotion and competition format has been agreed.

Dissolution of the International Club by LAURIE LANDRY

Formerly Hon Secretary of International Club

SADLY the International Table Tennis Club of England has folded up. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, no activity of any sort has been undertaken during the past two years.

Fired by the enthusiasm of Geoff Harrower and a few others, the club was formed in 1964, following meetings held up and down the country. Geoff was the first Hon Secretary and the Chairman until his death in 1972. Brian Wright was the first Treasurer and he remained in this position right to the end and Hon Ivor Montagu was our President.

Membership of the Club was open to players who had represented England in a Senior or a Junior International match and foreign internationals were also eligible to join if they lived in England. At one time the Club had well over 150 members and even at the end there were over 125 members.

The main function of the Club was to further the sport of Table Tennis in any way. This was done very often by playing challenge matches and partaking in demonstrations to the benefit of an event or to celebrate an anniversary. No charge was ever made with only basic expenses expected. Help was also given to young players to help them gain playing experience in the English Junior Open and the English Junior Closed. The Club was also the donor of the 'International

Club Trophy', presented at the English Junior Open for the Boys' Team Event. In addition, since 1974, the 'Geoff Harrower Trophy' has been awarded each year (until 1986), to someone who has made a significant contribution to Table Tennis.

One of the Club's main activities has been the organisation of the 'Hard Rubber Bat Open'. This took place at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre a total of 16 consecutive times from 1971/72 season until 1986/87. This was always a most popular event.

According to the rules of the Club, its remaining funds went to the English Table Tennis Association. Out of this money, a certain sum went to the County Championships (Veterans) for purchase of a Trophy and also to the English Schools Table Tennis Association for the same purpose. Out of the rest, a donation was given to the Barnet Table Tennis Centre for all their help and work with regard to the Hard Rubber Bat Open. The residue, which amounts to something over £300, goes to the ETTA Ivor Montagu Fund which is appropriately for development of the Juniors.

Bon Voyage, Christine!

FOR seventeen years Mrs Christine Wilkes worked as Secretary to the General Secretary of the ETTA at Hastings Head Office, but on 28 March there was a tearful farewell as she finally decided to call it a day. All the tears however were on the faces of her colleagues, notably Albert Shipley; Christine was as full of smiles as she has been on every day of her working life.

Christine has decided to take an early (very early) 'retirement' to spend more time with husband John who is doing the same. So a leaving present of two luxury garden loungers, from the officers and staff of the ETTA, was much appreciated and will probably take a severe beating during the Wilkes' prolonged travels around Europe with their caravan over the next few months.

Christine's exceptional efficiency and cool, calm charm will be greatly missed by all her colleagues. She has

A Tribute to the Atherstones by RON CRAYDON

THE names of Doris and Bob Atherton will mean little to the players of today, as they were of another generation and neither reached an international level of play. Essentially however, they were table tennis people, those indefinable enthusiasts who give up a large part of their lives for the sport they love and for the benefit of others. Sadly they are now no longer with us, as on the morning of Saturday, 21st April, Doris, the remaining partner, passed away. Her husband Bob had died six months earlier from the degenerative Alzheimer's disease. The strain of nursing him for a long period obviously affected Doris's health and hastened her own death.

In table tennis circles, mention of the Putney Table Tennis Club kindles up fond memories as it was possibly the finest club of its kind to be found in the South of England. It was a mecca for players of varying talents; beginners came to learn, club players came to let off steam and internationals came regularly to practice and to compete in week-end tournaments. It was the nearest thing to a National Centre. It was the brainchild of the Athertons and in my opinion their abiding epitaph.

In her younger days Doris was a regular tournament player and was particularly effective at doubles, in fact the first Open mixed doubles I ever won, was with Doris as my partner. Much as she liked to play, she also found time to work administratively for Surrey County and always encouraged the up and coming. Recently, I had a telephone call from former international, Peggy Piper, who told me that Doris had been a table tennis foster mother to her. She not only joined Peggy to her Club, but gave her practice regularly and took her around the tournament circuit. The greatest sacrifice she made was purposefully standing down from a County match to allow Peggy to play. Doris was that kind of a person.

She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her and most of all by the table tennis fraternity of the post-war period.

always been a great fan of Table Tennis and has promised to join the local 'Bounce into Action' scheme at the Hastings Leisure Centre, so all connections with the sport will not be severed. Goodbye Chris and happy travelling.



The picture shows two smart, yet functional watches by Lorus Quartz. The oblong ladies' watch has a white dial with Roman numerals and a black strap. It costs around £24.99. The round man's watch has traditional black Arabic figures on a white dial. In between the inner and outer track are featured the degrees of a circle. The watch has black leaf shaped hour and minute hands and a red second hand. It has a stitched tan strap and costs around £26.99. (From jewellers throughout the UK)

Eastern Magic at Brentwood

by ALAN SHEPHERD

THE International Hall at the Brentwood Centre on the evening of April 15th was the scene of another spectacular exhibition of the skills of Chen Xinhua as he captured the Men's Singles title and the £400 first prize. Matthew Syed played the supporting role and was gallant in defeat, extending the former World No.4 in the first game, but crushed in the second. You only have to look around at the faces in the packed auditorium, all smiling and happy, to realise that we have in our midst a wonderful entertainer. Since the days of our own Chester Barnes there has been nobody with the charisma of Chen in table tennis and in a short time he has become a much loved character. If the politicians of our sport decide that he cannot lead our England team once he has qualified under the I.T.T.F. residential rule, then we will be the poorer for it.

Thanks to the wonderful venue available for this tournament, the generous main sponsorship of Barclays Bank, and the superb organisation by Dick Roffe and his Committee, this was a most memorable week-end. The players who took part and the many spectators will no doubt marvel at the fact that Essex was nearly reduced to 2 Star status while an existing 2 Star event became a 5 Star. Unfortunately no representative of the English Table Tennis Association attended on an official basis, and it was left to our good friend Stuart Sneyd to make the long journey down from Oldham at our invitation. We were very grateful for this.

The European Championship had, of course, prevented Carl, Des, Skylet and Cookie from taking part and it was only left for us to receive the information from an unofficial source i.e. not the E.T.T.A, after the draw had been made that the E.T.T.A. were sending our No.4 and 5 seeds, Bradley Billington and Chris Oldfield, to some event in Saudi Arabia. I know that the Chairman will say that it was one of the world's top National Opens, but can this sort of thing really be justified when Organisers go out of their way to secure major sponsorships?

Going back to the beginning, on Saturday, it was then that the Class 2 Singles were played. There was a huge entry in the Men's event and it was good to see an Essex junior, Grant Solder, reach the Final, with wins over his old rival Damian Holland and the very good Avon player, Andy Creed (winner of the Wiltshire Class 2 event). His opponent in the Final was that hardy campaigner from Kent, Joe Kennedy, who ousted his County colleague Paul Rainsford in a tough semi-final. The Final itself was not without its controversial moments, but the greater experience of Joe just saw him home.

In the female department the Final was contested by two juniors, Kathy Goodall from Yorkshire and Sara Williams from Middlesex. Our own Ruth Cleminson had a great win over Sue Collier (Berks) in the

quarters, where Sally Weston (Sussex) won a battle royal with Susan Butler (Devon) deuce in the third. The Final was closely fought, with Kathy winning by some very odd scores.

On the Sunday where an early shock was the Round 1 exit of Kevin Satchell (Wilts) ranked 14, to the aforesaid Grant Solder. The remaining seeds by and large got through to their appointed spots, leaving Chen to play Steve Dorking in one semi-final and Nicky Mason to play Matthew Syed in the other.



Top: Ladies Singles Winner - Carol Giles, Runner-up - Joanne Shaw. Bottom: Men's Singles Semi-Finalist - Steve Dorking (Photos: Richard & Valerie Roffe)



Barclays Essex 3 Star Open — 2

In the Women's Singles Joanne Shaw (Yorks) had a big win over No.1 seed Jill Harris (Staffs) by a heart-stopping 23/21 in the third. This got her into the Final where she faced Carol Giles (Devon) the semi-final conqueror of Julie Billington (Derby), seeded No.2

The biggest cheer of the afternoon went up when the Veteran's Singles was won by the ever popular Henry Buist (Kent) against the jovial Lancastrian, John Hilton. I believe that John had not lost in a 3 Star veteran's event prior to this.

The Men's Doubles had to be revamped a bit when the absence of Bradley and Chris for the said reasons, and of Glenn Baker for reasons unknown, were noted. As a result Jimmy Stokes switched to play with Sean Gibson and this scratch pair proceeded to reach the Final, thanks to wins over Andrew Eden/Richard Darnell by -15, 15, 19 and over Paul Giles/Paul Whiting by 10, -15, 20. The bottom half winners were Chen/Syed, who got there by beating Steve Dorking/John Hilton by -22, 14, 20!

The Women's Doubles was a more sedate affair with no matches all that close and the No.1 seeded pair of Jill Harris/Carol Giles reaching the Final. The No. 2 seeds, however, Debbie Toole/Julie Billington lost to the unseeded Caroline Buckley/Joanne Roberts, who in turn lost to Joanne Shaw/Juliet Houghton in the semi-final.

So to the Final Session, played in the breathtaking arena specially constructed by Barclays Bank. All the surrounds were sky blue and even the floor was blue — it was quite startling. We started off with the Men's Semi-Finals, firstly Chen -v- Steve Dorking. For a long time Steve looked like pulling off a miraculous victory, hitting a stream of winners past Chen and actually leading 16-11. Unfortunately for Steve, Chen got a point back then and must have decided that enough was enough, because he proceeded to steamroller all over Steve, with the result shown below.

Nicky versus Matthew was a very exciting match as it always is between these two. It was in fact a repeat of last year's final, which Nicky won. This time, however, it was not to be, and although Nicky just won the first game, it was Matthew who secured the next two. I have described the Final earlier, but all three men's matches were great to watch, and were generously applauded by the large crowd.

The Women's Doubles Final came next and, like most women's doubles ended at deuce in the third. It could have gone either way, but Joanne and Juliet were the eventual winners.

The Men's Doubles Final was extremely entertaining as it had to be with Chen playing, but Matthew,

Men's Singles Winner, Chen Xinhua. Runner-up, Matthew Syed. Presentation by Mr. P. Ward, Regional Public Relations Manager

his partner, and Jimmy Stokes/Sean Gibson, their opponents, also contributed to the fun. The Chairman is certainly right about doubles being enjoyable to play in and watch, if this match was anything to go by. At one time Chen even tried to con the Umpire into giving his side a point in the manner of Purkart in his exhibition matches against Secretin! Despite all the larking about Chen/Matthew found time to win two straight.

To sum up, this was a great tournament, possibly the best ever organised in this country, and Essex have to thank all of their sponsors for their generous help, Barclays already mentioned, but also the Hilton Hotel Group and Butterfly (UK) Limited, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The ETTA was, in fact, represented by Stuart Sneyd (mentioned in the article), Chris Wright, Vice-Chairman Competitions, both members of the Management Committee and Development Officer Diccon Gray. President, Chairman and Deputy Chairman were, of course, in Gotherburg. Nevertheless the ETTA was represented by three well known members. The complaint, if that is what it is, seems difficult to understand.

Bradley Billington and Chris Oldfield decided to accept the invitation mentioned. That is entirely their decision. It is a free country.

Similarly, it was the decision of Essex to stage the event during the European Championships which, as stated, deprived the tournament of a number of leading players. An alternative date was deemed too late in the season. — Ed.



RESULTS

Mens Singles

Quarter Finals

Chen Xinhua (Y) bt Andrew Cunningham (K) 10, 10
Steve Dorking (E) bt Ritchie Venner (Sx) 13, 14
Matthew Syed (Bk) bt Sean Gibson (La) 11, 15
Nicky Mason (Sy) bt Tony Taylor (La) -19, 7, 11

Semi Finals

Chen Xinhua (Y) bt Steve Dorking (E) 16, 11
Matthew Syed (Bk) bt Nicky Mason (Sy) -19, 7, 11

Final

Chen Xinhua (Y) bt Matthew Syed (Bk) 17, 8

Womens Singles

Semi Finals

Joanne Shaw (Y) bt Juliet Houghton (K) 11, 16
Carol Giles (Dv) bt Julie Billington (Dy) 10, 19

Final

Carol Giles (Dv) bt Joanne Shaw (Y) 14, -14, 18

Men's Doubles

Semi Finals

Jimmy Stokes (Bk)/Sean Gibson (La) bt Paul Giles/Paul Whiting (Dv) 10, -15, 20
Chen Xinhua (Y)/Matthew Syed (Bk) bt Nicky Mason (Sy)/Joe Kennedy (K) 14, 15

Final

Chen Xinhua (Y)/Matthew Syed (Bk) bt Jimmy Stokes (Bk)/Sean Gibson (La) 15, 13.

Women's Doubles

Semi Finals

Jill Harris (St)/Carol Giles (Dv) bt Jane Barella (Sy)/Sandra Roden (Wo) -22, 12, 13
Joanne Shaw (Y)/Juliet Houghton (K) bt Caroline Buckley (Bd)/Joanne Roberts (Y) 13, 14

Final

Joanne Shaw (Y)/Juliet Houghton (K) bt Jill Harris (St)/Carol Giles (Dv) -11, 14, 20

Men's Class 2 Singles

Semi Finals

Joe Kennedy (K) bt Paul Rainford (K) 20, -20, 15
Grant Solder (E) bt Andy Creed (Av) 19, 11

Final

Joe Kennedy (K) bt Grant Solder (E) -16, 17, 19

Women's Class 2 Singles

Semi Finals

Sara Williams (Mx) bt Ruth Cleminson (E) 13, 13
Kathy Goodall (Y) bt Sally Weston (Sx) 19, 9

Final

Kathy Goodall (Y) bt Sara Williams (Mx) -18, 4, 17

Veterans Singles

Semi Final

Henry Buist (K) bt John Taylor (He) 20, -19, 15
John Hilton (La) bt Derek Holman (Sy) 16, -19, 19

Final

Henry Buist (K) bt John Hilton (La) -12, 13, 15

MOTORMOUTH

TABLE tennis had a small slot on the TVS Saturday morning children's programme Motormouth on 10th March.

Alan Cooke, Alison Gordon and Stuart Sneyd all demonstrated live in the studio, and Alan explained to viewers how easy it is for anyone to take up the sport.

Though the feature was only 15 minutes, there was plenty of action and thanks to the players, the sport was very well promoted.

GREEK EXCHANGE

A club of 12 men wishes to invite a team of 10 visitors and two adults to visit and play during August 1990. Full hospitality and international transportation will be paid by the hosts but there are also seeking a reciprocal visit in a future year.

The name of the club is Anonymous Area and it is situated in a town called Arta, some ten miles inland from the west coast of Greece.

Anyone interested should make direct contact with:
Vasilis M. Christopoulos
PO Box 22
6200 PATERADA
Greece

The Concorde Trophies Tournament

THE Concorde Trophies Classified Tournament held over the weekend of March 3rd and 4th proved to be a successful venture for a different format with the priority being on a large number of matches for all competitors.

The tournament held on a Saturday for junior players limited contestants to a maximum of two events but in each event players were drawn into groups of five with the players finishing first and second qualifying for the knock out section and players in third and fourth place entering the consolation knock out event. The system reversed the conventional tournament where only one player qualifies in this case only one player is eliminated and everybody plays at least four matches per event.

The most successful junior player proved to be Wolverhampton's Sarah Brabazon who won both the girls singles and cadet girls singles with Grove's Tracey Garratt and Wakefield's Sian Jenkins the beaten finalists. However there was to be success for Miss Jenkins in the Under 12 final where she accounted for Kent's Ann Smith at the final

hurdle whilst further success came for the Maidstone based players as young Rachel Woollven won the Consolation Event at Cadet Girls level.

Meanwhile on the boys side the home club gained success as Matthew Brown won the Junior Boys Singles conquering Leamington's Damon Fenton at the final hurdle whilst an all Grove final saw the talented Adrian Cadman beat Robert Rowson to clinch the Under 12 Boys event in style. However the role of runner-up had to be the lot in the remaining boys events as the impressive Bradford boy Mark Smith beat Grove's Paul Tomlinson with the Junior Team Event going the way of the White Rose duo of Scott Rotherham and Paul Smith over Matthew Brown and Matthew Alexander of Grove.

In the Senior Events held on Sunday the most successful player

on duty proved to be the ever faithful Chris Leach of Birmingham winning the Class 4 Mixed Singles at the expense of Sheffield's Alan Battye and beating Stockport's Bob Moores to win the final of the Class 2 Men's Singles whilst pairing up with clubmate Simon Upson to win the Men's Doubles.

Meanwhile Grove's Claire Marshall proved to be the most

successful lady beating clubmate Tracey Garratt to win the Class 2 Ladies Singles and was only denied a second title in the Ladies Doubles final when Leamington's duo of Emma Gibb and Vicky Clark saved five match points against Marshall and Garratt before clinching victory.

An innovation, an enjoyable weekend with the pressure off and most certainly worthy of a repeat.

RESULTS — FINALS

Class II Men's Singles

Chris Leach (Birmingham) bt Marcus Horth (Camberley) 11;12

Class II Ladies Singles

Claire Marshall (Grove) bt Tracey Garratt (Grove) 15;14

Class III Mixed Singles

Alan Battye (Sheffield) bt Bob Moores (Stockport) 11;7

Class IV Mixed Singles

Chris Leach (Birmingham) bt Alan Battye (Sheffield) 17;22

Class II Men's Doubles

Chris Leach & Simon Upson (Birmingham) bt Marcus Horth (Camberley) & Damon Fenton (Leamington) 14;12

Class II Ladies Doubles

Vicky Clark & Emma Gibb (Leamington) bt Claire Marshall & Tracey Garratt (Grove) -15;16;20

Class II Boys' Singles

Matthew Brown (Grove) bt Damon Fenton (Leamington) -17;15;12

Class II Boys' Singles: Con F:

Simon Rabone (Wolves) bt Stuart McIntyre (Sheffield) 16;18

Class II Girls' Singles

Sarah Brabazon (Wolves) bt Tracey Garratt (Grove) 15;18

Class II Junior Team Event

Scott Rotherham (Rotherham) & Paul Smith (Harrogate) bt Matthew Brown & Matthew Alexander (Grove) 2;1

Class II Cadet Boys' Singles

Mark Smith (Bradford) bt Paul Tomlinson (Grove) -12;16;17

Class II Boys' Cadet Singles: Con F:

Graham Long (Bristol) bt Danny Harris (Wrexham) 16;17

Class II Cadet Girls' Singles

Sarah Brabazon (Wolves) bt Sian Jenkins (Leeds) 6;13

Class II Cadet Girls' Singles: Con F:

Rachel Woollven (Maidstone) bt Kerry Hogarth (Glouc) 18;22

Class II U.12 Boys Singles

Adrian Cadman (Grove) bt Robert Rowson (Grove) 19;11

Class II U.12 Boys Singles: Con F:

Jamie Day (Glouc) bt Matthew Carlton (Burton) 18;20;17

Class II U.12 Girls Singles

Sian Jenkins (Leeds) bt Ann Smith (Maids) 17;17;14

Class II U.12 Girls Singles: Con.F:

Michelle Hogarth (Glouc) bt Jade Stuteley (Maidstone) 14;16

STOP PRESS ● STOP PRESS ● England Excel in World Team Cup

As we go to press the inaugural TSP World Team Cup has just finished in Japan, a full report will be featured in the October issue. Ted Wallbuton has been recording daily progress on the Table Tennis Information Line (0898-884418) and gives a short summary on the action as received on the hotline from Japan.

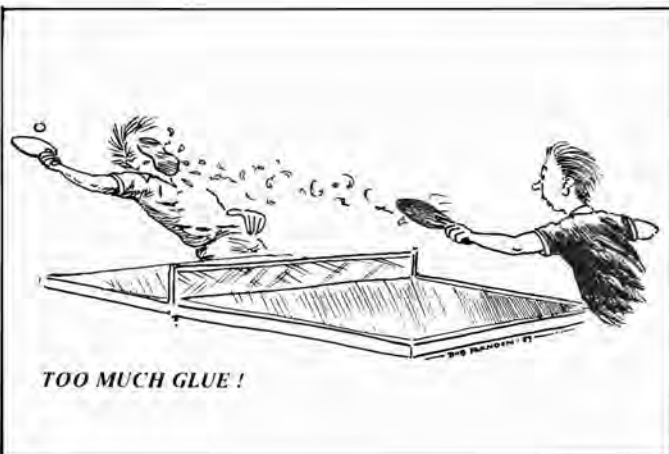
England had an outstandingly successful campaign in the first ever World Team Cup, sponsored by TSP, in Japan. They started play in a group of four at Aomori in the North of the country with the new Swaythling Cup format being operated; a three man team, two men each playing one singles and the doubles and one man playing two singles. Chinese Taipei and Canada were both despatched 3 - 0 to ensure that England went on to the next stage but the match against Sweden decided who headed the group and drew a runner-up from another. Sweden ran out 3-1 winners but not before 34 year old Desmond Douglas had beaten Jorgen Persson 21/14, 16/21, 22/20.

The teams flew off South, 700 miles to Osaka, for the quarter-finals where England avoided China and North Korea in the draw and faced their hosts, Japan. The match took 3½ hours with England winning 3 - 1. Chen Xinhua kept his unbeaten record in the event by overcoming Matsushita and 1979 World Champion Ono, but Ono at 35 years of age was still able to beat Alan Cooke. The new doubles pairing of Cooke and Douglas clinched victory with a win over Matsushita and Yamamoto.

So England were in the semi-finals and now faced... Sweden, yet again. This time there was no victory. Chen took a game from Waldner and the Cooke/Douglas pairing took Waldner/Appelgren to three but Desmond went down in two straight to Persson and England had to be content with a bronze medal. Put out by Sweden as they had been in the European Championships. No disgrace to lose to the World Champions, but a disappointment nevertheless.

And magic Sweden did it again. China beat off North Korea in their semi-final and went two up against Sweden but then Waldner, Appelgren and Persson turned on the power and clinched the title 3 - 2. The new playing format was claimed to be particularly suited to the Asian doubles strength, but even in Asia the Swedes dominated.

Congratulations to Desmond, Alan, Xinhua, Skylet and team manager Donald Parker. It took the World Champions to beat you.



Also, the success of local schemes is largely dependent on the time, enthusiasm and good will of the people running them. If this runs out then finance given to a scheme will be largely wasted and the project may fail. And the monitoring of schemes is not easy.

There is a danger that money may not go to areas where it is most needed — where there is little or no table tennis activity — as there is no-one in those areas to do the requesting and organising. It may go mainly to areas that are already nicely set-up. If the development grant idea is pursued, it will be important that strict criteria are laid down so that most money is directed to well thought out schemes for priority groups and/or in priority areas. The giving out of grants must not become just a political ploy to impress that the ETTA is doing something for the membership.

However, I would seriously question whether these grants are the most effective way of spending the money. Better to fund a few pilot projects only, and then disseminate the results (of success or failure) so that there can be replication elsewhere and lessons learned.

The basic problem at local level is that there are too few workers, and throwing money at local leagues won't help much in this respect, though it can buy equipment and facilities. What is needed is more workers to be brought into the game, and more support and encouragement for those that are active. My immediate thoughts are to propose appointing three new members of staff, either coaches with a development brief or development officers with a coaching brief (I won't debate here which I think is preferable) at a running cost including on-costs of say £50,000 gross per annum. Part of this expense would be defrayed by income generation, and the salaries could also be included in a submission to the Sports Council for a programme grant. But because the staffing costs would be on-going, the ETTA would have to budget for them annually. Job security and satisfaction would be essential to ensure that there was not a regular loss of valuable skills, knowledge and experience owing to staff leaving.

Joining the commendable but over-stretched Diccon Gray and relieving the Parkers to some extent, the efforts of these new staff members would be targeted (but not exclusively) at developing and increasing participation in areas (or sections of society) of low or no activity. Thus their function would be much more closely defined than that previously for staff coaches, with specific objectives to be achieved. They would be more proactive (initiating work) than reactive (responding to demand), though

Chen in Milton Keynes

by KEN MUHR

FORMER Chinese champion Chen Xinhua visited Milton Keynes on Saturday 10th March, to run the A.T.C. session at Woughton Campus Leisure Centre. Starting with vigorous warm-ups, Chen concentrated on basic stroke technique, footwork (which he considered was the worst aspect of the English game) and multi-ball, giving every one of the 20 young players present his particular attention. Despite his professed difficulty in speaking English, he had an instant rapport and no obvious difficulty in communicating. At the end of the session he answered questions, with the help of his wife Jeanette. Finally, he played an exhibition match with local star/coach John Burleton, a useful warm-up to winning the South of England tournament at Woking the next day!

Chen's charm, patience and enthusiasm, as well as his outstanding skills, won him many admirers in Milton Keynes. He is a fantastic asset to English Table Tennis.

Chen coaches Tom Yeates (Photo courtesy: Milton Keynes Citizen)

a certain amount of help should be given to servicing the needs of localities which are already well organised. On the 'cascade' principle much of their time would be spent providing the professional back-up to workers (particularly coaches and organisers) in the field, recruiting, training, advising, supporting and encouraging them, and undertaking the kind of work that part-timers cannot (for lack of time, confidence or expertise) do.

One of these three employees should have a specific brief for promoting female participation which has reached crisis levels as highlighted by the excellent 'Women in Table Tennis' movement.

Rather than giving out grants itself, the ETTA and its development/coaching officers would be assisting leagues in putting together applications for grants and directing them to other agencies such as regional/local branches of the Sports Council, local authorities and sometimes local trusts, companies or health authorities etc. that collectively have far more funds available. I know that multi-agency matched funding is the 'in' thing at present but the ETTA must prioritise how it spends its limited resources and being one of the agencies contributing to local projects is not the most effective way. And if the ETTA is so rich and benevolent in giving away money, might not the Sports Council and potential national sponsors be less inclined to direct funds its way?

Further, I would question whether all the £100,000 should be spent on grass roots development — particularly at a time when the ETTA is apparently cutting back funding to centres of excellence, the junior top twenty tournament and possibly even training camps! Should not our gifted young players, the stars of the future, be given the necessary recognition, encouragement and opportunity to flourish and prosper at their chosen sport? More money should go this way.

Centres of excellence not only help create international players but they also assist in building up



and maintaining the general standard of County, British League and tournament play — the pool of ranked players — in which the future international players can develop. That the ETTA should be considering abrogating its responsibility for maintaining a national network of centres of excellence is a disgrace! — particularly at a time when it has a healthy surplus and in the absence of a public debate on the subject. To suggest that centres should be largely self sufficient and to leave it to chance whether and where they are set up (by go-ahead local schemes perhaps with the help of development grants), is to deny opportunities to many talented youngsters. The situation is bad enough as it is. The ETTA must have a national coherent strategy or plan for developing all levels of table tennis and not leave most of it to fortuitous local arrangements.

Finally, this year may have been an exceptional one for ETTA fortunes. If so, it might be prudent to leave a small sum in reserve for a 'rainy day'.

To sum up, although I consider that giving away local development grants appears a praiseworthy idea and would be of some benefit, on analysis more effective ways can be found to spend the £100,000 available. (A few pilot projects only might be supported — if the ETTA had much more money to play with I might think differently). I propose employing more coaching/development officers, maintaining/increasing support for developing 'gifted' players and possibly keeping a small sum in reserve for hard times. There may be other priorities such as supporting 'fringe' and international players. What suggestions do readers have?

Yorkshire Junior Select

by REA BALMFORD

THE last major Junior Open tournament of the season, the popular Yorkshire Junior Select at Halifax, produced its usual quota of surprise results but, in the end, it was the 'big guns' who came through to take the honours.

Eight of the ten titles went to the top seeds, the only two to 'escape' being in the two Boys Doubles events, while on the Girls' side each of the winners — Ellen Meddings (Junior) and Sally Marling (Cadet) — added a second victory when they shared wins in the doubles finals with Alison Gower and Tamar Connolly respectively.

In the Junior Boys Singles no less than five of the players in the 9-16 bracket had had their interest in the event ended by the close of Round 2 and, with neither Grand Solder (2) nor James Oyekunle making the journey to West Yorkshire, the opportunity was there for the lesser lights to shine.

'Giant killers' were Cris Sladden, who put out Matthew Greenwood, Edward Hatley (Kieron Dabbs) and Ian Johnson (Wallace Mahaffey), all at the first time of asking, while Keith Buers (Barry Forster) and Steve Coverdale (Martin Adams) continued the mayhem in Round 2.

First to take advantage of the demise of the seeds was Gareth Jones who, after winning through his group, took the place which should have gone to Oyekunle, came past Howard Whewell and lined up against No. 3 seed Leigh Jeffries in the quarters.

A thriller went the way of Jones in an advantage third game, but that was the end of the road for the Yorkshire boy, for the final place opposite Andrew Eden (who had come through without the loss of a game and never conceded more than 30 points in any match) went to Garry Knights.

The boy from Burton had moved smoothly into the slot allocated to Solder as he came past first Jason Bamford in two close games and then Jones at 16 in the decider, but he proved no match for Eden, who completed his straight sets romp through the event 10, 8.

The pattern was much more simple in the Junior Girls singles with only Sarah Creasey's tight three set victory over 4th seed Alison Gower in the quarters disrupting the planned course of the event.

The Market Drayton twin went out to Ellen Meddings, top of the draw, in three and the Harrogate lass, sharper than for some time, took the title as she got the better of Sally Marling, semi-final, winner over Joanna Roberts.

As in the Junior event, the seeds took some heavy knocks in the early rounds of the Cadet Boys singles with Darren Lindley, Ryan Savill, Jonathon Cowan, Adrian Vincent and Jeremy Hazlehurst all taking their leave in Round 1 and Andrew Nicholls surviving only one further outing.

Among those coming through at the expense of the nominated players were two talented young Israelis, Ilan Shafir and Tal Fuchs, who eventually fell to the highly ranked Hatley and Kevin Hodgson. But form took over in the end with Hatley and Alex Perry getting the better of Darren Blake and Kevin Hodgson, the two players in the middle of the draw, and Hatley the winner in straight sets.

No such problems with the Girls where the only hiccup was the dismissal of Michelle Martin by Tracy Garrett and, in the absence of top seed Nicola Deaton, Sally Marling came through the event without the loss of a game to overcome Clare Pengelly in the final.

The Under 12 events brought the expected wins for Steve Meddings and Nicola Massingham, but the doubles event provided plenty of problems for referee Bevan Walker — why do players enter and then walk out — usually without bothering to inform control? Also is the undertaking signed by the player on the entry worth the paper on which it is written? One or two good performances, particularly in the Cadet Boys Doubles — Shafir and Fuchs made the final, having overcome Richard Tilley — Paul Tomlinson, who had themselves shot out Devonians Adrian Vincent — Jonathan May; Meddings — Philip Neal applied the chop to top seeds Hodgson — Sladden; and in the Cadet Girls Doubles Jennifer Coleman — Claire Rowlands came through the half from which Deaton — Martin had pulled out.

FOUND

A "gold" wrist watch when clearing up after the tournament. Please contact Rea Balmford (0482) 821279.

CADET EVENTS

Boys Singles

Semi-Finals

Edward Hatley (Sy) bt Darren Blake (Sy) 13, 18;

Alex Perry (Dv) bt Kevin Hodgson (Cu) 22, 15.

Final

Hatley bt Perry 13, 18.

Boys Doubles

Perry/Blake bt Tal Fuchs/Ilan Shafir (Israel) 17, 19.

Girls Singles

Sally Marling bt Clare Pengelly (Dv) 8, 14.

Girls Doubles

Tamar Connolly (La)/Sally Marling bt Jennifer Coleman/Claire Rowlands (E) 7, 13.

UNDER 12 EVENTS

Boys Singles

Steve Meddings (Wa) bt Vincent Avery (E) 14, 20.

Girls Singles

Nicola Massingham (Li) bt Joanne Barham (K) -12, 11, 17.

JUNIOR EVENTS

Boys Singles

Semi-Finals

Andrew Eden (La) bt Peter Bowler (Bd) 8, 12;

Gary Knights (St) bt Gareth Jones (Y) 16, -14, 16.

Final

Eden bt Knights 10, 8.

Boys Doubles

Colin Bowler (Bd)/Cris Sladden (E) bt Eden/Keith Buers (E) 15, 15.

Girls Singles

Ellen Meddings (Y) bt Sally Marling (Y) -19, 18, 16.

Girls Doubles

Meddings/Alison Gower (E) bt Joanna Roberts (Y)/Caroline Buckley (Bd) 13, 13.

ETTA National Club Championships

DORIS L MOORS
Competition Secretary

Ormesby Cup Results — Quarter Finals

Zones 1 & 2

Leeds (Yorks Bank) bt Liverpool (Colonsay) 5-2

Zones 4 & 6

Guildford (Burymead) given W/O by Kings Lynn

Zones 3 & 5

Willesden (Apollo) given W/O by Birmingham (Handsworth Victoria)

Zones 7 & 8

North Middlesex (Ellenborough) bt Plymouth (Underground Hair) 5-2

Semi-Finals to be played by 29.4.90 (no extensions)

Leeds v Willesden

Guildford v North Middlesex

GAINSFORD CUP

Zone Final

Stockport (Vymura) bt Liverpool (Colonsay) 5-3

Semi-Final

Willesden (Apollo) bt Thames Valley (Graham Spicer) 5-2

The other semi-final Stockport v Grantham to be played by 29.4.90.

PS There have already been 19 walk-overs in the Ormesby Cup competition so far, could we get through the rest of the tournament without any more please?

Dunlop National School Team Championships Finals

by DAVID LOMAS

HONOURS were evenly shared when the winners of the Dunlop National School Team Championship Finals, held at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 17th, were determined.

Only one title was successfully defended — The Grove School, Market Drayton making it three wins on the trot in the Girls' Under-16 event, with some comfort.

And the multiple challenge of Parkview School, Barrow-in-Furness, who fielded teams in four of the eight events, resulted in only one victory — the Boys' Under-13 title — although they finished runners-up in the other three categories.

The finalists had fought their way through qualifying competitions at county, area and regional stages which began in some cases way back in October, 1989.

The senior (Under-19) events provided close and exciting finishes. Bedford Modern's Boys quartet of Gariba Awud, James Mason, Marc Merel and Simon Cox, retrieved a 1-3 deficit against Alsager Comprehensive to level at 4-4 and give them back the title they won in 1986 and 1987. Peniel Academy, Brentwood, seemingly dead and buried at 1-4 down against holders Kesteven & Grantham Girls, did even better with a tremendous team effort that gave them a winning draw when Ruth Cleminson beat Catherine May and Jennifer Coleman edged out Catherine Challis within seconds of each other.

Whitgift School, Croydon, fielding three ex-Cumnor House pupils in Jason Blake, Paul McNamara and Robin Shah, and former Downside player, John Blasco, won the prestigious Boys Under-16 event (for the "Leach-Carrington Trophy") at the first attempt, after a tense struggle against Parkview (Justin Brunton, Kevin Hodgson, Gareth Brunton and Nick Hill), holders of the title.

But Cumnor House themselves had to be content with a well-earned victory in the Boys' Under-11 event. Their Under-13's had expected a rough ride — with three players missing on a school cricket tour of Australia — and only number one and England Cadet (Under-14) No. 4, Darren Blake, saved them from a whitewash.

Coombeshead School, Newton Abbot, led by Lynsey Heyward, became the first Devon Girls team winners in the 24 years of the championships when they lifted the Girls' Under-13 crown. Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle School, Leeds, were the biggest winners of the day with two 7-1 victories in the Girls' Under-11 event.

LITTLE and LARGE

6 foot 5 inches Gariba Awudu, Bedfordshire Schools Boys Under-19 Champion towers over 4 foot 4 inches Anna McNamara, Surrey Schools Girls Under-11 Champion. The Tallest and the Shortest, and Oldest (19) and the Youngest (9), shortly before the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships at Mansfield on April 28th. (Full report and pictures in October issue of 'Table Tennis News').



James Tastes Success at Dumfries

by DAVID LOMAS



Above: England's U11 Boys Team at Dumfries: 1 to r: Tony Hudson, James Furner, Danny Fu and Stephen Clayton, with n.p.c. Martin Holland. Below: England's U11 Girls Team at Dumfries: 1 to r: Nicola Smith, Catherine Corkhill, Alison Woolven, Nicola Silburn (Photos by Martin Holland)



ENGLAND'S teams had early shocks in store for them when they took part in the inaugural British Primary Schools Table Tennis Championships at Dumfries on April 7th and 8th.

The Girls lost their opening match against Ireland 8-2, and the Boys also crashed out to Ireland by an amazing 9-1 scoreline.

Both English teams fared much better after lunch when they won comfortably against the Isle of Man and Scotland to both finish as runners-up to Ireland, followed by Scotland and the Isle of Man in third and fourth spot respectively.

But it was a different story in the Singles competitions on the Sunday, probably as a result of a pep-talk from team captains Bob Wood and Martin Holland. England had three players in the Boys semi-finals. Making a nonsense of the rankings, England No.3, James Furner (Cumnor House School, Croydon) beat the Irish No.4, Brian Fitzgerald of

Cork in the final, winning 21-18, 18-21, 25-23, having frittered away a 10-1 lead in the final game, to scrape home in an exciting finale to a splendid weekend.

And in the Girls Final, Nicola Smith — one of three players in the England line-up from the same school (Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle School, Leeds) put up a brave fight against Michele McGreevey of Belfast but went 21-19, 21-18.

Whilst the Irish team captains were first to acknowledge that probably the English players were not the strongest that the ESTTA could have selected there was no getting away from the progress that the Irish have made, even though by some strange administrative quirk

— as yet unexplained — the Irish fielded five of their eight players which in England would be regarded as Under-12's!

ENGLAND TEAMS:

Boys:

Tony Hudson (Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle, Leeds)
 Danny Fu (Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness)
 James Furner (Cumnor House, Croydon)
 Stephen Clayton (Dronfield Junior)

Girls:

Nicola Smith (Archbishop Cranmer)
 Nicola Silburn (Archbishop Cranmer)
 Catherine Corkill (Yarlside Primary)
 Rachel Woolven (North Borough Junior, Maidstone)

RESULTS FROM LEA GREEN:

Boys' U19

1. Bedford Modern School (Bedfordshire)
2. Burton Technical College (Staffordshire)
3. Alsager Comprehensive School (Cheshire)

Bedford Modern	5	Burton	3
Burton	6	Alsager	2
Alsager	4	Bedford Modern	4

Girls' U19

1. Peniel Academy, Brentwood (Essex County)
2. Kesteven & Grantham Girls School (Lincolnshire)
3. Yeovil College (Somerset)

Yeovil College	2	Peniel Academy	6
Kesteven & Grantham	5	Yeovil College	3
Peniel Academy	4	Kesteven & Grantham	4

Boys' U16

1. Whitgift School, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)
2. Parkview School, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
3. Mary Webb School, Pontesbury (Shropshire)

Mary Webb	1	Whitgift	7
Parkview	8	Mary Webb	0
Whitgift	6	Parkview	2

Girls' U16

1. The Grove School, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
2. Parkview School, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
3. Maiden Erlegh School, Reading (Berkshire)

Maiden Erlegh	4	Parkview	4
Parkview	2	The Grove	6
The Grove	6	Maiden Erlegh	2

Boys' U13

1. Parkview School, Barrow-in-Burness (Cumbria)
2. Brislington School, Bristol (Avon)
3. Cumnor House School, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)

Parkview	8	Brislington	0
Brislington	6	Cumnor House	2
Cumnor House	2	Parkview	6

Girls' U13

1. Coombeshead School, Newton Abbot (Devon)
2. Parkview School, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
3. The Grove, St. Leonards-on-Sea (East Sussex)

Coombeshead	8	The Grove	0
The Grove	2	Parkview	6
Parkview	4	Coombeshead	4

Boys' U11

1. Cumnor House, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)
2. Dronfield Junior School (Derbyshire)
3. Holmead Junior School (Avon)

Dronfield	4	Holmead	4
Holmead	0	Cumnor House	8
Cumnor House	6	Dronfield	2

Girls' U11

1. Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle School, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
2. Peniel Academy, Brentwood (Essex County)
3. Woodfield Junior School, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)

Woodfield	3	Peniel Academy	5
Archbishop Cranmer	7	Woodfield	1
Peniel Academy	1	Archbishop Cranmer	7

Boys "Best Performance" Award:

Paul McNamara (Whitgift School, Croydon)

Girls "Best Performance" Award

Claire Marshall (The Grove, Market Drayton)

Goodbye with Thanks

It is the time of the year to say goodbye with thanks to those who have served the game well. In particular we should be grateful to the Leeds Permanent Building Society for their splendid sponsorship, to Stan Lenton who produced the Computer Ranking List with little recognition and to Alan Pickard who nobly took on the onerous task of producing the magazine.

I would like to add my own thanks to Julian and Linda Jablon of Linda Farrow Sunglasses for sponsoring the Milton Keynes Under 21 Championships, which were again a great success despite the late finish.

Unfortunately, Linda Farrow feel unable to sponsor next season's Event, scheduled for September 8, 1990, and as the writer is currently studying for a degree with exams imminent, he has no time to find a new sponsor. Therefore, it is most likely that he will reluctantly cancel the 1990 competition but hopefully revive it for 1991.

Finally, it does look like a new beginning for Chen Xinhua and England! But whatever the outcome had been, I do agree with Juha Suotmaa (April Edition) that the ETTA should do all in can to speed up Chen's naturalisation.

KEN MUHR

23 York Road, Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes MK11 1BJ

An appreciation of an exciting defender

Although I still play competitively, it is many, many years ago that I competed in, or watched a top table tennis tournament. However, when Geoff Brook, a good friend of mine suggested I watch this year's English National Championships, which was almost on my doorstep, at neighbouring Oldham, I decided to go over to watch Sunday's play. What an experience it turned out to be.

Brilliant table tennis, boring table tennis, sustained rallies, no rallies. Exciting young athletes giving their all at breakneck speed. I was almost overcome by the stench of glue, which is apparently absolutely necessary to speed up your game to a maximum. I also saw near genius, and I saw the greatest injustice ever in any sport, and I watch many. The near genius! Alan Cooke? Alison Gordon? Oh no, not they, the near genius was a young man by the name of Matthew Syed. A superb athlete, reflexes like a cat, footwork like a class boxer, and like the other top players, a burning desire to win. I was told this young man is just 19 years of age, so maybe in a couple of years he may become English Champion, and eventually world champion. If he did, he

would be the finest table tennis player who had ever lived. In fact this young man is probably doomed never to become a champion. Why! Because the odds are stacked far too heavily against him. He is a defensive player. In his match with Cooke, he consistently and accurately returned all but the most fiercely hit shots. Some of his returns would have had the late and great Richard Bergmann gasping in admiration.

So did the lad almost win? No. Did he come close? No. Did he win a game? No. He never looked like winning. Everyone knew he was going to lose. Why? Is Cooke such an unbeatable player? Cooke is an excellent young player who can go on to better things, but why shouldn't Syed.

How long it is since a defensive player won a world title I don't know, but if the conditions of the game remain the same as they are now, never again I should imagine. This, as I have said before, is a great injustice, and one that should be remedied.

In the after war years of the hard pimped bat era, the game was beautifully balanced, and great players of all types could win world titles. The superb battles of Barna and Bellak, Vana and Bergmann, Andreadis and Hagenaur.

Previous to this era, defensive players had ruled the roost, giving rise to long boring matches with no crowd appeal at all. Because of this the authorities took action, and lowered the net height half an inch. This worked like a charm, and together with the expedite ruling ensured the elimination of tedious games.

Today the game is screaming for the net to be raised to the original level. The play would still be lightening fast. The difference being that attackers would have to select their kills more carefully. This of course would mean more sustained rallies, which is probably good. Serve and kill tactics would be more difficult, again this is good, and most important of all, brilliant young defenders may reap the rewards their play merits.

There is no other ball sport that I know where great players of all types cannot be the best. There will be future Borg's of tennis. There should be future Bergmann's of table tennis.

GEOFF WADSWORTH
'Lamb Hey'
Spa Lane
Linthwaite
Huddersfield

"Using" Chen?

10th March 1990

I am writing in reply to the letters regarding Chen Xinhua. I speak as someone who puts in as much time, if not more, than those in Hastings yet gets precious little in return

except pleasure. I can, to a large extent, agree with both Mr. Prean's and Mr. Leach's sentiments but cannot help feeling that the E.T.T.A., or at least those individuals who claim to speak for the same, are being somewhat hypocritical.

To be specific, the same people who do not want Chen to play for England when he qualifies — a clearly laid down and internationally agreed rule — are quite happy to take advantage of his skills for the development of our players through coaching and practice. The Deputy Chairman is quite happy to have Chen playing for one of his teams in the National League. All seem quite happy to allow Chen to play exhibitions with Alan Cooke. Quite happy to have a number of articles about Chen in the Table Tennis News. Quite happy to have Chen as one of the recognised E.T.T.A. coaches who can represent the E.T.T.A. when requested by any Association or League in the Country.

The E.T.T.A. seem quite happy to take advantage of Chen Xinhua in every single way possible except to allow him to play for his country. The argument that someone like Waldner might move here for a couple of years to qualify is absolute rubbish.

Chen will be one of the greatest assets to our country's table tennis and will attract huge audiences to any event, including international matches, in which he plays. At a time when our sport is beginning to thrive again and receive reasonable television coverage we need someone of Chen's skill and character and flamboyance in play.

Surely the reaction of the crowd at the English Open to Chen's semi-final victory proves what the members think — it is them (me included) who are table tennis in this country.

Although I am writing this from a personal standpoint I can categorically say that the Sheffield League, one of the biggest in the country to a man, want Chen for England NOW!

Yours sincerely in sport,

A.S.BATTYE
Hon Gen Sec
Sheffield T.T.League

Re: Note from the Chairman of March 30, 1990

THE above item came to my attention on April 1st, and as such was taken by me in good spirit as a "wind up". What governing body of any sport could possibly seek to prevent someone as talented as Chen Xinhua from not only playing for his adopted country but more importantly raising the standard of the game and thus the enjoyment of all those concerned with it, at whatever level.

Imagine my consternation on discovering what I had taken to be a childish prank was in fact a serious attempt to influence the reader against Chen and indeed Table-Tennis as a whole. It seems the E.T.T.A. are adopting a suicidal approach by stifling a much needed lifeline. There is a proverb that says suicide is only for "the very brave and the very stupid". I detect no bravery in your actions.

T. SAMUEL
23 Rowan Close
Sonning Common
Nr Reading, Berks

The Chairman comments;

The issue is not whether Chen Xinhua is a fine player (after a decade in the Chinese Team), but whether citizens of another country should play for England. All other E.T.T.A. activities, i.e. tournaments and leagues are freely available to him.

League Loyalty?

OVER the last 5 or 6 years we in Ilford, have suffered a kind of Chen issue.

The Essex Inter League competition was and still is weakened by many top players from local Boroughs changing their loyalties, to play also in the Dagenham League, but only play representatively for Dagenham at one time, having A, B, C teams all in Division 1 of the Essex Inter League. In a sense the competition lost its inter league rivalry.

Many of these players lived in Ilford and were coached as youngsters by local clubs. Suddenly on reaching Representative standard, they defected to represent Dagenham.

It was frustrating for many local leagues all experiencing the same problem with their top players defecting. God knows why, to play endless permutations against themselves.

Who wants to watch matches where the top teams are all from the same league?

I am happy to say Ilford have now rebuilt their representative fortunes and play in Division 2 of the Essex Inter League. It's good to see players are now returning to play and represent every league as opposed to the all in one phase.

VIC ELSTON
Ilford Match Secretary
30 Belvedere Road
Leyton, London E10 7NP

The subject of players endeavouring to move to stronger leagues/clubs has been with us a long time as have the conflicts of loyalty on one hand and ambition on the other. The Chen issue is different in the sense that the player, having been discarded by China, will now play for England.

John Prean

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MAILBOX continued

Chen for China!

Dear Mr. Preen,

Having read your comments regarding introducing the newly-arrived Chinese player into the England team, I couldn't agree with you more in your stance to protect home grown players.

If the policy of letting anyone qualify for the National side comes into being, what's the point of calling the side 'England'. Your description of us becoming a joke national is quite correct.

Representing your country should be an honour all top sportsmen should strive for but this sort of proposal makes a mockery of that ambition.

More power to your elbow.

D. B. COPARD
5 Parkside Road
Hounslow

An Open letter to all League Officials in the Greater London & South East Region

It is proposed to create a Greater London & South-East Region "Champion of Champions" tournament.

Such a tournament will encourage every player to enter his own League's Closed Championships knowing that there is a possibility of progressing further and representing their League against other players of equal standard. It is envisaged that the first tournament will be for Senior Ladies and Senior Mens Singles Champions only. The other Champions may be included once the tournament has become established.

The imagination of all players will be captured by the idea of a "Champion of Champions" Tournament.

It will be just like a non-league football club entering the F.A. Cup and reaching the 1st Round Proper. Playing against First Division opposition. Disposing of them and going through every successive Round to reach the Final.

If your League is sponsored, or seeking sponsorship, our proposed tournament can become an attraction which enables a sponsor to reach a wider audience within the region and, if this initiative "lifts off", nationally.

It is expected that each League, or sponsor, will support their Champion by paying the required entry fee to enter the "Champion of Champions" Tournament plus subsistence and travel expenses.

Overall sponsorship will be sought but in any event the Region will create a minimum prize fund out of entry fees for the top four players.

Please write back to me saying that your League is prepared to participate in this enterprise.

LAURIE DARNELL
Chairman of
ETTA Greater London Region
103 Queenswood Avenue
Hutton, Brentwood
Essex CM13 1HX

The Demise of the Youth Cup... or not

After reading the April edition of Table Tennis News, it was good to see a revival, through youth, of the game in Inner London and good development at grass roots with £100,000 being ploughed into the task. Yes, without looking after the players of tomorrow, the end result will be that we will have the biggest number of Vets leagues in the world.

Then I came across the most negative notice I have ever seen, that unless a sponsor can be secured, the Youth Cup will not be staged next season. Could you please explain the following:

1. Why put money in at grass roots to develop young players when one of the most important tournaments for them may be stopped.

2. Why use the word sponsor when sponsors would be more appropriate. By the above statement may I suggest that each region should find a sponsor for the event

in their particular area. With this in mind I suggest a meeting of all the regional organisers (soon). All those who can arrange the regional finals should be allowed to do so. After this is sorted out, the only sponsorship required would be for the final, which after all could be held in any part of the country.

If the Youth Cup is in doubt next season at least look at some alternative ways to stage it and go down with a fight not with such a negative notice.

Yours in sport,

KEN LYONS
24 Ashlands Close
Northallerton
N. Yorks

An ETTA spokesman told Table Tennis News:

The LEEDS Youth Cup has now run for three years. Hundreds of hours were expended in volunteer and staff time. I cannot recall a single word of praise or recognition from anyone during all that time. Sad that, when the event finally ends, our reward is an aggressive letter of this kind.

The ETTA runs the following Junior events at this time: Junior Open, Junior National, National Under 11, National Under 12 Team Championships, Junior Top 12, National Trials. Junior tournaments have enjoyed record entries this season. Perhaps some credit will be given one day for the transformation of the sport which has taken place.

Nothing to stop regions running Regional Championships. We would welcome this. To run a national event of this nature requires substantial resources of money and time. This cannot be done without sponsorship.

A "Humble" View of our Sport

There have been many reports over the past months concerning Editorials, Chen Xinhua and Tournaments and I would like to comment as follows:

1. Chen Xinhua seems to be the best player currently playing in England. He appears to have the appropriate credentials to represent England. I have yet to speak to a player at any level who would not like to see him playing for England, not the least reason being that it should encourage players to emulate his standard. So how about it selectors?

2. There have been arguments concerning Table Tennis News editorials. All I can say is that I consider T.T.N. to be a terrific magazine and well presented. Each issue is eagerly awaited and read avidly. The content seems fine and is broadly based with something for most and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity of being able to purchase it. So please do not let us have any further bickering about who does or did what as it seems pointless. It is also good to see regular press in the Daily Telegraph on mainly National Events, although I was unimpressed personally by the offering concerning why Chen should not play for England.

3. Generally, Tournament playing conditions are now at a high level but why is prize money so low? O.K. we have come a long way from the plastic dartboard era at the National Championships of years ago and let us be thankful for that.

However, money is not a vulgar subject and to place our sport on a higher perceived plane, surely prize money should match conditions.

Take for example the recent Essex 3 Star Open which was brilliantly organised at the very prestigious Brentwood International Centre with no whisper of complaint from competitors.

The finals were staged superbly, encouraging enthusiastic support and splendid entertainment. But in my view the prize money at £400 for the mens singles winner, £75 each for the mens doubles and £200 for the ladies singles winner for example were not in keeping with the event.

Continued over page

Watch these Events

MAILBOX Continued from page 47.

Why cannot a monetary minimum be put on 3 Star events e.g. mens singles winners £1,000. After all we are talking about rewarding the top players in the country and I feel anything less devalues their perceived status. If Counties cannot deliver prizes at these levels they should not, in my opinion, be allowed 3 Star status for their events (and I come from Essex, by the way).

No doubt areas of protest will be raised but how much would an extra £1 levy on every Essex player produce for example. It would not be much to ask, after all our sports administration is not exactly the dearest in the world and such levy scarcely represents one table tennis ball per player these days. Those levied upon would at least be secure in the knowledge that the money is being recycled to players exclusively with the object of raising the status and profile of the sport generally.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID C. HUMBLE
45 Tomswood Rd
Chigwell, Essex IG7 5QR

All Sports have their sponsorship problems

EVERY SPORT, with the possible exception of athletics, in the United Kingdom is having problems finding, or keeping, sponsors, due of course, to the present financial climate which has reached an appalling state due to high interest rates, high inflation and the Poll Tax.

Unlike three years ago, firms are finding it almost impossible to do what the Leeds Permanent Building Society did with £500,000.

The most ludicrous argument I have heard put forward in recent months on the failure so far of the ETTA to find new sponsors, is the one that the emergence of Chen Xinhua is the reason why sponsors are not interested in table tennis.

If his introduction to the England squad is handled sensibly he will be a tremendous asset to the sport in England, so to use him as a scapegoat so early as now, is absurd.

JOHN WOODFORD

No longer a requirement

MAY I point out that Carl Prean was born in this country. This may not be entirely clear in Rob Oldfield's otherwise admirable letter (T N News April). This apparently is



the Leeds Women's British League

SECOND WEEKEND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 9/10th JUNE 1990

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Stourbridge, W.Midlands
Tel: 0384 442543

For information: Mike Lewis — Tel: 0272 730788

no longer a requirement of playing for England — but I thought I should put the record straight.

ERICA PREAN
Ryde, Isle of Wight

"We have let them down"

I agree with all that John Prean and others of like mind have said concerning Chen and the England team, but sadly, I feel, they have not pursued the argument far enough. Personally, I would not consider him for the England team if he became a British citizen tomorrow, for citizenship, in my view, is simply something of a red herring.

Surely the England team should be the flagship of English table tennis, — its organisation, its administration, its coaching and its ultimate standards? Surely again, a player who was born abroad of foreign parents, but who came to this country in time to come up through our system is more entitled to represent England, even if still a foreign national, than one born abroad to English parents, and who stayed there, coming up through the system of a foreign country? It seems to me that there are better qualifications to play for England, (or indeed, any other country) than accidents of birth, or changes of heart and domicile, particularly, as in this case, after a player has been a member of some other national team.

I feel the same about other sports. I do not feel a great sense of

patriotic pride in the achievements of English sportsmen and women, when their ultimate standards are bred in say, American universities. My sympathies are with those who have flogged their guts out round the tracks, swimming pools, sports halls and clubs of Britain, and with their parents, coaches, team-mates and others who have given unstintingly of their time and money to help.

Dare we let them all down?

G. C. WILLIAMSON

P.S. Time has overtaken me. The last sentence should read "We have let them down".

I am sick and disgusted, and will have nothing more to do with organised table tennis again. I would in no way criticise anyone, from the chairman downwards, who did likewise, for who knows, they might find the time to set up an English Table Tennis Association and run an England team.

Personal Note to Chairman

Dear John,

A sad day. It seems to me that there has been a growing number of people in Table Tennis at all levels in recent years who seem to have a death-wish. Before you came, they nearly achieved it, and it was one of the reasons why I gradually withdrew. This is the last straw.

Very best wishes to you both.

GEOFF WILLIAMSON
Ex Staffordshire & National
Council
Brownsfield Cottage
Brownsfield Lane
LICHFIELD, Staffs

The Chairman comments:

HOW often I have heard the phrase "a sad day" recently! I, too, have observed the 'death wish' which grips English Table Tennis from time to time. I preferred the kinder satirical phrase "shooting ourselves in the foot".

In insisting on British citizenship prior to inclusion in England teams I sought a consensus among the differing views within the association, something I have done ever since my election. I felt the precedent had been established in the case of Richard Bergmann despite substantial other differences in his case and Chen's. Richard was a refugee who escaped death (he would have shared the fate of 6 million Jews killed by the Holocaust) and who fought for this country during World War 2 and became a British citizen.

Chen, in any event, was able to play a very full part, all activities of the E.T.T.A. being open to him: Tournaments, County, British League. It never was clear, and is not now, why he should, whilst a citizen of another country, replace English players who had served us well.

Geoff Williamson has served the sport with very great distinction. The sport can ill afford to lose people of his ability and dedication. I can only hope that we shall be able to string everything together again and repair the enormous damage that has been done to the sport.

JOHN PREAN