



Table Tennis News

No. 185

November 1989

90p



**'THE MASTERS'
CRAFTSMAN**

**John
Jaques**

English Iconoclasm!

NO, DON'T reach for the dictionary! Iconoclasm merely means "breaking down idols" and for the past two years the ETTA has been establishing a growing reputation for setting new trends in tournament organisation. Sacred cows have been slaughtered and conventional wisdom overturned on the route to new and exciting events.

Team Event follows Individual

The latest example of the new thinking comes with the Leeds English Open in January. The established way of running Open events world wide has been for the team event to precede the individual event. In practice this has meant that the team finals are usually buried in mid-week, watched by few and virtually ignored by the media. But in Manchester all that will change. In an exciting new schedule, the Open will start on Thursday 4 January with the individual Events, the finals being televised on BBC Grandstand on Saturday afternoon, then in the evening the team competition gets underway, climaxing on Sunday evening 7th January.

The team final could provide a repeat of the epic clash between Sweden and China in Dortmund and by staging it, the quarter and semi-finals, on Sunday, more people than ever before will be able to watch. Not only that but fresh opportunities will exist for newspaper and television coverage.

New Thinking

The Open is just one example of the new thinking in England. The 13 match China tour last season was seen by many other nations as a major breakthrough, so much so that in Germany they copied the English example and staged a 17 match China tour of their own, parading their world doubles title winners "Rossi und Speedy". The pre-Olympic tour of England by Sweden was also perceived as a tremendous coup. Throughout Europe eyes are turning to England for good ideas.

This new way of doing things has been well received by television who are giving massive approval to the recipe of world class players, imaginative schedules, highly visual playing arenas and a new cooperation between organisers and TV producers. A co-operation which included turning the world calendar on its head to stage the Open at a time when TV could give it the coverage it deserved rather than squeezing in between two Rugby Internationals later in the month. This new approach has resulted in over one hour's coverage for each of the six table tennis programmes shown in the past year.

Book now for Manchester

The Chinese are coming, the Swedes are coming — all we need is you. The main auditorium at Bowlers in Manchester will hold around 2000 spectators but you will need to book early to make sure that you have a seat for the best English Open ever. There is a booking form with this edition so don't delay — book today.

Long live Iconoclasm!

TED WALLBUTON



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★ **COVER PICTURE**

JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN took the Leeds Masters Title in Preston, defeating the defending champion Andrzej Grubba in the semi-finals and England's Desmond Douglas in the final.

★

Much to look forward to...

THE SEASON has started well. We had a good summer during which we planned for the coming season. Our finances remained strong despite the necessarily low income during the close season.

The Leeds English Open (January 4 to 7)

We entertain enormous hopes for this showpiece to which we have given a great deal of time and thought. Again, we shall be breaking new ground, staging the Team Event last, Saturday night and all day Sunday. The Finals of the Individual Events will take place early on Saturday afternoon to fit in with Grandstand (BBC Television). We are particularly grateful to Editor John Philips who is a good friend of our Sport.

Come to Bowlers, Old Trafford, Manchester. The Swedes and Chinese will be there to welcome you and so will the world's elite from other countries. Why not make this a short holiday? We have negotiated excellent terms in good hotels. Watch this Magazine.

Well done, girls

I have paid tribute to the three J's, Jose Ransome, Jill Parker and Jenny Hughes and many others who masterminded an outstandingly successful series of Women's Internationals against Germany FR. There have been such matches before, but it was a long time ago. We now hope to make this an annual event and to make international Women's Table Tennis a regular affair, particularly that other countries follow our example and that a snowball has been set in motion all over Europe. For our girls it will mean more international opportunities and experience, for the sport more and fresh exposure.

Ranking Rebellion?

I have enjoyed (?) an unusually large mail bag and at one time I thought my record of having

replied personally to each member's letter I received was in some danger. The bone of contention was the decision not to award normal points to group matches in tournaments, confining such points only to the winners of groups. The petitioners and the postman can relax, because National Council has reversed this decision, though the vote was very close (15 - 13). Though I thought the original decision was, on balance, correct, I am nevertheless glad that we responded to our members. In the end that is what we are here for.

We are extremely grateful to our Sponsor Stan Lenton who makes no charge for this service. It is quite inevitable, despite major efforts, that mistakes will occur from time to time. All are being investigated and put right, which is a time-absorbing business and costly also in terms of staff time. It is assumed by some correspondents that buying a new computer or hiring additional staff is the answer. It is not. I am told that we now insert some 20,000 entries each year. I do not see how a number can fail to be wrong. I have yet to see perfection in this life. To pretend otherwise is dishonest. It was our view that fewer entries would mean fewer mistakes.

Penalised for Excellence...

The point made by some of the better players that they did not play in groups and were thus being penalised for their higher standards also seemed unanswerable. They said that others (not as good as they) picked up points, whilst they did not play. Others claimed that this factor would reduce their ranking and they were better off playing in groups!

Point Hunters...

Some Juniors (and some seniors) travel the length and

breadth of the country in a relentless search for computer points. Short term, this may be good for tournament organisers, long term it has burned out some of our brightest juniors who never appeared in the senior ranks. I recall the many familiar faces of parents and children whom I once knew and met so regularly in my travels around the junior tournaments. So many have disappeared. I have always advocated, indeed fought for players' rights to say 'no', so that they could have time at home for practise and rest. I felt that sometimes points should be sacrificed, the chase up and down the motorways abandoned. Having said all that, we bowed to public opinion and a democratic vote. We must now hope the decision was the right one.

Soldiering on...

It had been my intention to make this my last season after three hard years. I was persuaded to soldier on by many appeals to continue. These were often touching and ultimately irresistible.

That is my side. The real decision will be made by the members when I stand for reelection.

I continue to appeal for more streamlined procedures, that the E T T A should run more like a business, that our rule book, terms of reference, standing orders, appendices etc. should be given a very drastic overhaul, at any rate that management should not be tied by red tape. One hopes that in time we shall succumb to paper addiction less frequently. I have reported elsewhere that I read some 12,000 pages of E T T A material each year (my wife thinks it is rather more). That is the equivalent of 50 or 60 novels.

The trees of Finland..

Paper addiction is now widespread. We all succumb from



JOHN PREAN

time to time to an urge to write essays or papers. I wish I could claim that I was an exception. However, sobering times are always ahead, when one discovers how little is read and that less is remembered. My friend, Professor Soothill has wondered how many trees were chopped down in Finland or in the Rain Forest just to produce the E T T A's stencil output for one year. We know that Albert Shipley ended up in hospital after carrying all those endless sacks down the stairs when we moved out of Claremont.

Often I have felt like the lead in an amateur production of "The Emperor without Clothes", so little seemed capable of early solution, so much treacle had to be waded through, so much fine print had to be negotiated which had been lovingly created over the years. Things that a business can do in a second, in the E T T A took months or could not be done. Did I hear you say 'safeguards'? Is it a safeguard if you cannot serve your members effectively, if you are forced to give them second best?

Often I was left with the feeling how hard we had made our own life and how much still remained to be done.

If we don't respond only a very low 'ranking' in the ranking list of all sports will be our reward. We live in hard, competitive times, which have not been made easier by the current recession. Our own excellence is our only protection.

Women in Table Tennis 1

Women's International Matches a Resounding Success

The England — Germany Tests

by JOHN PREAN

ONCE AGAIN we made a little piece of history in staging these women's international matches between England and Germany, on 3rd, 4th and 5th October 1989.

In each case the gate was in excess of 300 and venues were filled to capacity or very near. I was not able to visit the match in Wolverhampton which England won 4-2, a good start which we did not quite keep up. There Lisa Lomas won two for us and Alison Gordon and Fiona Elliot one each. For the Germans Olga Nemes won two and she was to repeat this in each of the next two matches.

RESULTS

Wolverhampton 3rd October

England 4 - Germany 2

Elliot lost to Nemes 21-23, 15-21

Lomas beat Struse 21-18, 21-19

Gordon beat Nolten 21-18, 25-27, 21-17

Elliot beat Struse 12-21, 21-16, 21-15

Gordon lost to Nemes 19-21, 19-21

Lomas beat Nolten 21-19, 13-21, 21-19

Nemes the Heroine for the Germans

So the European No. 2 went through the series unbeaten, showing considerable resilience as, over the weekend, she had failed to win the German Top 12. She no longer showed her previous weakness against defence and proved the German trump card. Alison Gordon's victory in the World Championships was not given a repeat opportunity. Apart from counter hitting well, as always, Olga hit her forehands quite crisply and looped well with her backhand, though mostly diagonally to the right hander's backhand. She was in command almost throughout.

Andrea Holt caused her most anxiety when she took the first game 21-9 in the second encounter at Brentwood, but the German soon resumed control, winning the next two games with something to spare.

On to Peniel...

The second match took place in that hotbed of table tennis, the Peniel Academy. All 350 seats were sold and the crowd was extremely enthusiastic, quite

properly supporting our girls to the limit. This happens in Germany itself when the roles are reversed, as visitors to the World Championships in Dortmund will recall, where the German crowds made an immense contribution to the successes of their players, notably in the men's doubles. Any reservations about partisan behaviour are misplaced. The German players are quite used to this and would find more sleepy attitudes far less to their liking. Peniel are also attracting audiences of 100 plus to their Leeds British League matches, which is something we would all like to see more often in more venues.

An Excellent Result.. Table Tennis is King

The 3-3 result is the one I like to see most of all. It indicates a fine, close contest and that is what we got. Sadly, Lisa could not repeat her Wolverhampton success and lost both singles, but we found a new heroine in Alison Gordon. She defeated both Katja Nolten and Nicole Struse (at 19 already twice German Champion). With Nolten also vanquished by Andrea Holt, our girls achieved a good draw and a rousing match. All match arrangements at Peniel were quite superb and no credit is too great for Mike Reid, Peter Linnecar and a superlative team of helpers and backup. Table tennis is King (or Queen!) at Peniel.

Brentwood 4th October

England 3 Germany 3

Holt lost to Nemes 9, -12, -13

Lomas lost to Struse -20, -11

Gordon beat Nolten 14, 20

Lomas lost to Nemes -18, -15

Holt beat Nolten 18, -16, 18

Gordon beat Struse 17, 16

On to Cirencester

In this beautiful town and its attractive sports centre, our girls sadly, ran out of gas. The German girls proved simply too good. Perhaps 6-0 was a little unkind, but there could be no doubting the visitors' superiority on the evening. Katja Nolten, who lost all 4 in the previous 2 matches, now won her two and played very

well. Nemes was as good as ever and Struse was always a spirited battler and this time she made fewer mistakes as well. When she got behind she lifted her game. That is what our girls managed to do in earlier matches, but not this time. In the playing sense, it was a melancholy finale, but in no other way.



English girls, top to bottom: Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt



Women in Table Tennis 2

Once again the event was very well staged and Mike and Christine Lewis, Bob Davies and Alf Pepperd deserve much praise. Again we lived up to our promise to bring top class table tennis to the regions, particularly places which had never seen this or, at any rate, not for a very long time. Table tennis has had a wonderful revival in Cirencester and this match was only one chapter.

RESULTS

Cirencester 5th October

England O Germany 6
 Elliot lost to Nolten -19, -19
 Gordon lost to Nemes -15, -10
 Holt lost to Struse -14, 19, -19
 Elliot lost to Nemes -13, -17
 Holt lost to Nolten -16, -17
 Gordon lost to Struse 15, -19, -8

A Propaganda Tour..

Whilst I see such tours as occasions to put table tennis on the map and in this case particularly to strike a blow for WOMEN'S table tennis, perhaps a few notes on the playing part should not be forgotten. I regard all our 4 ladies as very good players, potentially as rather better than they are. Our defensive players hit very well, particularly Andrea Holt on the forehand. In the defensive positions they seem to me to make too many errors of the bread-and-butter kind. If you want to be a world class defender, you should get the slower loops back almost forever, not make unforced errors early in the rally. It seems to me that there is a distinct lack of consistency. More hard practice is needed, so that the basic strokes and gambits are produced without unforced errors. Alison Gordon is potentially in the best half dozen women in Europe, but to achieve this, a lot of hard practice will be needed to produce consistency. This means doing the same thing for half hour after half hour for many days in succession in order to get the basics right. Most points are won by hard work in training and by consistency on the table. The most brilliant shots win only one point at a time, the same as an unforced error.

However, overlooking Cirencester, our play was of an encouraging standard — something to build on.

A First Blow...

My thanks to all of those stout-spirited women, Jose Ransome, Jill Hammersley-Parker, Jenny Hughes and many others who had the courage and vision to take on this tour and bring it to a

highly successful conclusion. We shall certainly do this again and are confident of increasing audiences and maybe even television in the not too distant future for women's table tennis. A noble first blow has been struck. We need many more.

TOTALS

Elliot P4, W1, L3
 Lomas P4, W2, L2
 Holt P4, W1, L3
 Gordon P6, W3, L3
 Nemes P6, W6, L0
 Struse P6, W3, L3
 Nolten P6, W2, L4

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION CLASSIFICATION LISTS OCTOBER 1989

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 GUSEV Dmitrij (URS)
- 2 CREANGA Calin (ROM)
- 3 HEISTER Danny (HOL)
- 4 O'DRISCOLL Michael (ENG)
- 5 SCHMYREV Maxim (URS)
- 6 * WOSIK Torben (FRG)
- 7 SAIVE Philippe (BEL)
- 8 * OLEJNIK Martin (TCH)
- 9 * NOSKOV Sergie (URS)
- 10 * GRUJIC Slobodan (YUG)
- 15 OLDFIELD Chris (ENG)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 WIRTH Gabriella (HUN)
- 2 PRAEDEL Christiana (FRG)
- 3 ARISI Alessia (ITA)
- 4 * KOSTROMINA Tatjana (URS)
- 5 * NASTASE Adriana (ROM)
- 6 PETERSSON Pernilia (SWE)
- 7 LAPOSCHINA Olga (URS)
- 8 SOPOVA Monika (TCH)
- 9 * ELLO Vivien (HUN)
- 10 * WIRTH Veronika (HUN)
- 20 BILLINGTON Julie (ENG)

Players noted * are still juniors for 1989/90

CADET BOYS

- 1 * SAMSONOV Vladimir (URS)
- 2 * BATORFI Zoltan (HUN)
- 3 TRAN Thierry (FRA)
- 4 VARGA Zoltan (HUN)
- 5 GUSTAFSSON David (SWE)
- 6 * KOSTNER Sascha (FRG)
- 7 TOL Cristina (ROM)
- 8 KRCIL Frantisek (TCH)
- 9 BUCHBERGER Dieter (AUT)
- 10 BONDAREV Andrei (URS)

CADET GIRLS

- 1 COJOCARU Georgeta (ROM)
- 2 KUSCH Oksana (URS)
- 3 TAUSCHKANOVA Ekaterina (URS)
- 4 SIMON Nora (HUN)
- 5 NEGRISOLI Laura (ITA)
- 6 * CEHOVIN Polona (YUG)
- 7 BONDARENKO Natalia (URS)
- 8 PINTER Ildiko (HUN)

B.E.A. Supports Women's International Table Tennis Tour

THE UK regional airline, BIRMINGHAM EUROPEAN AIRWAYS, supported the Women's International Table Tennis test series against the Federal Republic of Germany team as the official carrier of the German team from Frankfurt to Birmingham.

The first match in the series took place at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Tuesday, 3rd October, the second match at the Peniel Academy in Breatwood, Essex on Wednesday, 4th October, and the final match on Thursday, 5th October at the Cotswold Leisure Centre in Cirencester, thus B.E.A.'s service into Birmingham International Airport became geographically very convenient for the Fed. Rep. German team.

Final of the Boys Singles in the European Youth Championships. It may be due to a disappointing showing in the Team Event.

Julie Billington (Derbyshire) appears at No. 20 in the Junior Girls and Nicola Deaton (from the same county) at No. 16 in the Cadet Girls. She alone has a chance to do better next time.

Chris Oldfield appears at No.15 in the Junior Boys, which must be a big disappointment for the Yorkshire lad, who is in the full England squad.

Plenty of food for thought. Malmo (8 medals in 1983) seems a long way away.

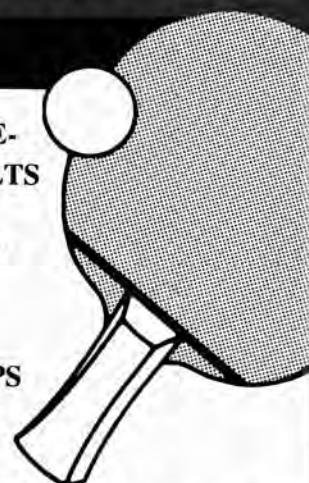
- 9 * POLIACKOVA Zusana (TCH)
- 10 STROEDEL Sandra (FRG)
- 16 * DEATON Nicola (ENG)

Players noted * are still Cadets for 1989/90

The European Junior Ranking Lists confirm a generally disappointing showing by the England squad. Only Michael O'Driscoll appears in a 'Top 10' position. His fourth place is perhaps a little hard as he reached the

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Women in Table Tennis 3



Ice-cool Olga unbeaten — tour all-square

by JOHN WOODFORD in Wolverhampton, Brentwood & Cirencester

SO SUCCESSFUL was this tour that I am willing to wager that a woman's tour of England will become an annual event. For the first two matches at Wolverhampton and Brentwood the two teams seemed to be very evenly matched. After the drawn game at the Peniel Academy which assured England of not losing the tie, it was on the cards that Federal Germany were going to put everything into the final match at Cirencester's Cotswold Sports Centre.

In my view, England had the better balanced team. True, we had four players to choose from — all four, Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt secured some fine wins. In contrast, the only unbeaten player on the tour was the European No. 2 Olga Nemes. The nearest she came to losing was a fine show by Alison who only lost by a pair of 19's — very little chance, except in that game, of the England No. 1 repeating her victory in Dortmund. Miss Nemes on court is a model of concentration, stylish, cool under

pressure, a real star!

Wolverhampton

With Tony Chatwin as referee and MC, Doug Young and Liz Wilson umpiring, the two teams seemed set for a flying start. Unfortunately, staff at the Civic Hall were also engaged in hosting a pop concert in the next hall and preparation of the seating went on right up to the last twenty minutes.

Olga Nemes struck first for West Germany — 21, 15 against Fiona

Elliot, but that advantage was quickly taken back by Lisa Lomas who conjured up some magnificent attacking shots and of course some classic chops to defeat the German champion looper Nicole Struse 18, 19. The Struse top-spin is of masculine variety, but Lisa was at home.

Alison Gordon came forward to put England ahead 2-1 defeating Katja Nolten 18, -25, 17, followed by Fiona succeeding in front of her home crowd in the third against Struse. Alison fought desperately to repeat her Dortmund victory over Olga Nemes, but the former

Rumanian scraped through 19, 19. Lisa completed the job for England 19, -13, 19 against Nolten who played well throughout the tour, but it was not until Cirencester that she managed to score.

Half-way through the match, my telephone to the rest of the world was locked up by the Civic Hall manager, but happily contact was soon restored! The hospitality by the Mayor of Wolverhampton was first class and was enjoyed by all including local officials Arthur Thomas, Tony Clift and Derek Sherratt.

Brentwood

The second venue, the Peniel Academy at Brentwood is always a delight to visit, an oasis of enthusiasm for the sport where nothing is too much trouble, the telephones are never locked away and the team of top people and helpers is presided over by "The Boss" Mike Reid and Peter Linnecar.

About 350 supporters gave the two teams a noisy reception as the six girls fought out a 3 - 3 draw. Andrea Holt served notice that she is after Fiona's No. 3 spot on the England list taking the first game from Nemes, but losing the others - 12, -13. Nicole Struse exacted revenge against Lisa Lomas to put the visitors 2 - 0 ahead. To the rescue came Alison Gordon with a beautifully timed and hard-fought win over Nolten, 14, 20.

Germany went 3 - 1 ahead after Nemes beat Lomas 18, 15 and things looked anything but rosy for England. The prayer-mats were out at the Academy and English prayers were answered — the miracle happened, England won the next two games to force a draw and ensure England could not lose the series!

It was a great night for Andrea, whose victory over Nolten 18, -16, 18 has been hailed as the start of a new surge of form by the girl from Ramsbottom. In the third game a "wag" in the crowd — might have been one of the parents — called out "Come on Andrea, you can beat this girl!" at a vital point in the third game where it seemed Andrea was about to lose.

Umpire Jack Melnik rebuked the wag for his shouted advice, but strangely, it worked — Andrea piled on the pressure, chopped a couple, slammed a few and England were on the way back.

Alison completed the job with a 17, 16 win over Struse and the excellent hospitality at the Academy started all over again. The match ended in a 3 - 3 draw, but it was also blessed with a vastly experienced MC, Albert Shipley, who earlier in the day had enjoyed a one-stroke win over Mike Reid & Co at the nearby Bentley Golf Club! Officials on court at Brentwood were Peter Roden as referee, umpires Jack Melnick and Dave Perry.

Women in Table Tennis 4

Cirencester

The tour party were accommodated at a very smart Cotswold-style hotel called "The Crown of Crusis", no doubt an historical background, but I had no time to find out more. Match organiser at Cirencester was the solver of all table tennis problems in the West, Mike Lewis and his wife Christine.

Playing conditions were once again excellent, as they were at all venues, but this time we were in a large sports centre, where the atmosphere is never the same as a small hall. Another 300 people or more, the stage was all set for a grand finale, hopefully an England tour victory. Fighting to make an 8pm deadline for the Fleet Street and Wapping early edition, I was mortified to witness a ten-minute speech before the match by MC Peter Cruwys, a happening that seemed to mystify even Mike Lewis. This delayed the start until about 7.45, lost deadlines and cost many thousands of table tennis fans the news of the match the next day, although "The Daily Telegraph" managed to get the 6 - 0 German victory in the later editions and repeated the result the following day.

However, for the German team clearly the time had come to throw

caution to the winds and set about England in no uncertain matter. It was Lisa's turn to drop out so Alison, Andrea and Fiona all lost the lot. The nearest we came to an England win was by Andrea who was only edged out 14, -19, 19 by the Struse top-spin.

Alison said to me at Hastings three days later, "I still do not know how we managed to lose 6 - 0!" However, the "staff" at Cirencester Referee Les Smith, umpires Pat Archdale and Alan Duke, organisers Bob Davis and "radio-fanatic" Alf Peppard all helped the show to a grand conclusion, although everyone was a little stunned by the result, at least the tour was a tie.

Captain Istvan Korpa, who up to then had hidden his knowledge of English, made a fine farewell speech on behalf of the team and the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund. All was well except that the Germans had to check-in at Birmingham International Airport at 6.20 a.m. the next morning!

Automatic alarms rang in all the bedrooms including mine at 4.15 a.m. as ETTA Manager Jenny Hughes shepherded her bleary-eyed flock into the mini-bus for the pre-dawn dash to the airport, achieved with two minutes to spare.

John and Erica Prean attended the matches at Brentwood and Cirencester and were clearly im-

pressed by all they saw, the Chairman was in form with his reception speeches — dry humour at its best!

Joy for Jose

Women in Table Tennis chairman Jose Ransome who attended the matches at Wolverhampton and Cirencester was jubilant on the success of the tour. She said "Well over 300 people at the venues, an excellent team of local organisers. We are so lucky that we have all these people to help us. All the girls in both teams played well. The standard of play was extremely high. I am sure we shall be having more women's international tours, all part of promoting women in our sport" she said.

John Woodford's interview with Olga Nemes will appear in the December magazine

RESULTS

WOLVERHAMPTON:

England 4, West Germany 2
F. Elliot 1 P. Nemes -21, -15
L. Lomas b N. Struse 18, 19
A. Gordon b K. Nolten 18, -25, 17
Elliot b Struse -12, 16, 15
Gordon 1 Nemes -19, -19
Lomas b Nolten 19, -13, 19

BRENTWOOD:

England 3, West Germany 3
Holt 1 Nemes 9, -12, -13
Gordon b Nolten 14, 20
Lomas 1 Nemes -18, -15
Holt b Nolten 18, -16, 18
Gordon b Struse 17, 16

CIRENCESTER:

England 0, West Germany 6
Elliot 1 Nolten -19, -19
Gordon 1 Nemes -15, -10
Holt 1 Struse -14, 19, -19
Elliot 1 Nemes -13, -17
Holt 1 Nolten -16, -17
Gordon 1 Struse 15, -19, -8

FOOTNOTE: Was this the first-ever women's tour? Digging in the ETTA archives has revealed that in 1962 a Czechoslovakian women's team toured England - one match was at Wembley, perhaps some readers of "Table Tennis News" with long memories will be able to set the record straight.



Linda Farrow Table Tennis Club

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Saturday and Sunday 10.00am to 4.00pm

Shock Cancellation

by **GEORGE R YATES**

DUE TO lack of TV coverage which would have provided sponsors SORAD AND JOOLA with the necessary finance to sponsor the 5th Euro/Asia series and the 1st European Junior Masters, scheduled for Dec 11/18 and Oct 15 respectively, both events have had to be cancelled.



Andrzej Grubba

Mounting the Euro/Asia event this year has been problematical from the very start with that all-important aspect of finance, proving in the end, to be unsurmountable — this affecting Spain and France initially, then Greece and, finally, the Sorad Company who were to have sponsored the team matches in Strasbourg and Saarbrücken. Only the Italian Federation have stood firm with team matches in Rome duly confirmed but now, sadly, stood down.

It could be that a new date might be offered by Joola for the Junior Masters but the cancellation of the original date might involve the Federal German Company with compensation claims for air tickets bought by Associations with players involved. Headaches abound!

Happily all goes well with the European League with the first set First divisions fully completed. Don Parker has reported in the last issue on England's opening win against Sweden in Vellinge on Sept 12. Individual scores were:-

P. Karlsson l C. Prean -18, -12;
E. Lindh b A. Cooke 18, 22;
H. Gustafsson l L. Lomas 15, -14, -20;
Karlsson/Lindh l Cooke/Prean -14, -13;
Lindh/Gustafsson l Prean/
A. Gordon -21, -16;
Karlsson w.o. Cooke (injured);
Lindh l Prean -8, -9.

From being 3-2 down to France in Wloclawek, Poland staged a fighting recovery to win 4-3 with Andrzej Grubba beating Jean-Philippe Gatien in the penultimate set and Leszek Kucharski fought his way to final victory in beating Olivier Marmurek. Scores:-

A. Grubba b O. Marmurek 13, 15;

L. Kucharski l J-P. Gatien -16, 15, -17;
A. Mikijaniec l Xiao Ming Wang -6, -15;
Grubba/Kucharski b
Gatien/Marmurek -16, 17, 15;
P. Skierski/Mikijaniec l
Gatien/Wang -10, -14;
Grubba b Gatien 12, -10, 17;
Kucharski b Marmurek 21, -17, 17.

In Usti nad Labem all depended on the last set as Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands stood at 3-3 but Jiri Javurek got the Czechs home 4-3 with a comfortable win over Danny Heister. Scores:-

T. Janci l D. Heister -17, 9, -19;
J. Javurek l P. Haldan -20, 16, -13;
R. Kasalova b M. Kloppenburg -9, 17, 18;
J. and P. Javurek b Haldan/G. Bakker -21, 19, 18;
Janci/Kasalova b Heister/Kloppenburg 12, -22, 17;
Janci l Haldan 15, -13, -18;
Javurek b Heister 12, 10.

Biggest win of the night was that accomplished by Federal Germany in Kirchhain where Yugoslavia were put to the sword in being beaten 7-0 with only two of the 7 sets going to a deciding game. Scores:-

J. Roszkopf b I. Lupulescu 13, 16;
S. Fetzner b Z. Primorac 17, 14;
O. Nemes b J. Fazlic 14, 9;
Fetzner/Roszkopf b Lupulescu/Primorac 19, -15, 15;
Roszkopf/K. Nolten b Lupulescu/Fazlic 20, 16;
Roszkopf b Primorac 9, -20, 17;
Fetzner b Lupulescu 14, 10.

Results in Division 1 were:-

Bulgaria	5	Denmark	2
Hungary	6	Italy	1
Turkey	1	Austria	6
Belgium	7	Finland	0

And, in Division 2:-

Greece	0	Spain	7
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Mihovil Kapetanio, the President of the European Table Tennis Union, has now had a Fax machine installed in his Belgrade home the number being (from England) 010-38-11-458289.

European Table Tennis Union Invitation List for Stiga Junior Top 12

Vichy, France, January 6/7, 1990

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 WOSIK Torben (FRG)
- 2 OLEJNIK Martin (TCH)
- 3 NOSKOV Sergei (URS)
- 4 GRUJIC Slobodan (YUG)
- 5 JANASEK Tomas (TCH)
- 6 PAGONYI Robert (HUN)
- 7 SCHLAGER Werner (AUT)
- 8 SZAFRANEK Piotr (POL)
- 9 HANTZIS George (GRE)
- 10 Wild Card (FRA)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 KOSTROMINA Tatjana (URS)
- 2 NASTASE Adriana (ROM)
- 3 ELLO Vivien (HUN)
- 4 WIRTH Veronika (HUN)
- 5 KRAVCHENKO Marina (URS)
- 6 SCHALL Elke (FRG)
- 7 MLADKOVA Luba (TCH)
- 8 LICHTER Olga (URS)

- 9 VACHOVCOVA Georgeta (TCH)
- 10 Wild Card (FRA)

CADETS BOYS

- 11 SAMSONOV Vladimir (URS)
- 12 BATORFI Zoltan (HUN)

CADETS GIRLS

- 11 COJOCARU Georgeta (ROM)
- 12 KUSCH Olga (URS)

RESERVES BOYS

- *1 LUNDQUIST Frederik (SWE)
- 2 RICCI Luca (ITA)
- 3 JEPSEN Rhod (DEN)
- 4 KALMAR Tamas (HUN)
- 5 GREIL Kay-Andrew (FRG)

RESERVES GIRLS

- *1 LITINSKAJA Vanda (URS)
- 2 RASCANU Tulia (ROM)
- 3 MARTINCOVA Sabina (TCH)
- 4 FICHTINGER Petra (AUT)
- 5 JANUSZYK Anna (POL)

* = TO ATTEND (Travelling expenses to be paid by the ETTU if not called upon to play)

PLUS:- One Official up to three participants. Two Officials for more than three participants. (Plus 20 Swiss francs per day pocket money).

Players Representative on the National Council



STEVE MOORE is the oldest of a family of table tennis players, including his brother Adrian and sister Teresa.

He started playing at the age of 10 and was introduced to the game by

his late father Jim, as was brother Adrian. They were soon to be joined by Teresa. He has represented the county at all levels and is currently ranked at 39 nationally.

Steve now 26 years of age works in Eastbourne as a qualified accountant in public practice. Having finished his exams a while back he now has more time to devote to table tennis — however as his wife is expecting their first baby at the beginning of December this free time situation may not continue for ever!

Naturally, Steve is delighted to represent and work for the players, and had considerable input into the reversal of the decision to re-include group matches on the Lentec Computer Ranking Scheme. He represents your opinions and views and can be contacted on 0424 223469.

EXPRESS SPORTS WIN AGAIN

Yet again EXPRESS SPORTS players coached by MALCOLM FRANCIS won every event at the Wamers Table Tennis Festival.

Congratulations to:

Nicky Bradfield: Winner of U18 Singles & U/18 Assessment

Christian Thompson: Winner of U14 Assessment at 9 years of age

Paul Cicchell: Winner of U14 Singles

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Captain's Report by Don Parker

England dominates Quadrangular

THE 1989 16th Senior Quadrangular Tournament was held at the Dick McTaggart Centre, Dundee, on 6th to 7th October 1989. The England team was represented by our National Champion Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew while in the women's competition by Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt.

Skylet Houdini

It was anticipated that the main threat in the men's team would come from Scotland. However, in their opening match they lost to Wales 3-1 with Nigel Tyler winning two and Stephen Ward beating John Broe. In England's opening match we beat Ireland 5-0. However, Skylet Andrew saved five match points against the highly rated Slevin, coming back from 15-20 in the third. On Saturday morning the match against Wales had taken a slightly different perspective and our men totally destroyed the Welsh boys as the scores indicate. The final match against Scotland was a difficult psychological one to face. Scotland with two potentially dangerous players had nothing to lose while Cooke and Andrew, having already won the tournament, had nothing to gain. As expected Hannah and Broe played well. However the two English players responded accordingly, running out comfortable winners.

In the Women's team event the tournament proceeded as expected with the final match between England and Scotland deciding the title. Fiona and Andrea won convincingly not before however Sarah Hurry gained the valuable scalp of Fiona Elliot. The scores in all the matches indicate the ease with which our girls triumphed and highlights even more the progress Sarah Hurry as made in the last six months to inflict England's only defeat over the two days.

Profile... Credibility...

It is, of course, easy in retrospect to look back and ask why didn't we use a couple of younger players who would have benefited more from the experience. In the current climate, sponsorship is of vital importance as indeed is media exposure, particularly television. At the moment the ETTA has a very high profile and an improving relationship with television which is better now than it has been for many years. To maintain this credibility winning the Quadrangular is important as non table tennis persons only appreciate the winners and not necessarily the finer points of selection.



Top: left, Sarah Hurry - right, Fiona Elliot and bottom, Skylet Andrew



RESULTS

Men's Team

v Ireland
A Cooke v C Slevin 18, 12
S Andrew v S Spelman 10, 8
Cooke/Andrew v Slevin/Spelman 7, 18
A Cooke v S Spelman 10, 6
S Andrew v C Slevin 11, -17, 21
England Won 5 - 0

v Wales

A Cooke v S Ward 9, 10
S Andrew v N Tyler 8, 17
Cooke/Andrew v Ward/Tyler 4, 15
A Cooke v N Tyler 7, 8
S Andrew v S Ward 3, 11
England Won 5 - 0

v Scotland

S Andrew v D Hannah 9, -13, 13
A Cooke v J Broe 18, 14
Andrew/Cooke v Hannah/Broe 15, 10
S Andrew v J Broe 21, 11
A Cooke v D Hannah 6, 10
England Won 5 - 0

Final Positions

1. ENGLAND
2. Ireland
3. Wales
4. Scotland

Women's Team

v Ireland

F Elliot v J Reid 12, 16
A Holt v G Redmond 7, 12
Elliot/Holt v Ried/Redmond 12, 12
A Holt v J Reid 13, 12
F Elliot v G Redmond 11, 13
England Won 5 - 0

v Wales

F Elliot v N Williams 11, 13
A Holt v J Thomas 18, 10
Elliot/Holt v Williams/Thomas 13, 19
F Elliot v J Thomas 7, 13
A Holt v N Williams 7, 8
England Won 5 - 0

v Scotland

F Elliot v E McIlroy 14, 13
A Holt v S Hurry 14, 7
Holt/Elliot v Hurry/Rob 15, 11
Elliot v S Hurry -18, -14
Holt v E McIlroy 7, 13
England Won 4 - 1

Final Positions

1. ENGLAND
2. Scotland
3. Wales
4. Ireland

An Englishman Abroad

by JOHN PREAN

Carl Prean's German exploits have been little noticed in this country. He helped his Club ATSV Saarbrücken to a unique treble: German League, Cup and European Nancy Evans Cup. In all the key matches Carl only lost one singles and that was to a Chinese player. His victims included the former world champion Guo Yuehua, Lu Chiwei, Klampar, Ding Yi, the German trio Roskopf, Böhm and Fetzner.

The German League is played along lines our British League could well look at. The top 8 teams go into a play-off, played on a knock-out basis with a Final on neutral tables as the climax. A curious by-product of the system is that the team which ended up top of the table after the normal league programme has never won the play-off and so gained the German title! The basic system has so far survived for 5 years. Unfair it may be, but it provides some excellent matches and attendances and that is what the sport needs.

Like Film Stars

Germany played 17 matches against China in the month of June. Dare we say that they copied an earlier idea of the ETTA and our own excellent Chinese Tours? If so, good luck. The reigning world champions Roskopf and Fetzner played in all of these matches which were played in the new

Swaythling Cup format (3 players, but 4 singles and 1 doubles).

'Rossi' und 'Speedy' were received like film stars everywhere, a well deserved tribute to a fine pair that has done a lot for German Table Tennis. Gates were between one and two thousand every time. English players complaining of 'long seasons' ending in May, please note. It was a fantastic tour and good for German Table Tennis. Players, in the end, get from the game what they put in.



Kettler Sponsor London Youth Games

MEMBERS of Enfield's winning table tennis team receive their trophy from Mr 'Taff' Hughes, sports manager of Kettler (GB), during a presentation ceremony at the end of the recent London Youth Games.

Down Memory Lane

Ichiro Ogimura is now President of the ITTF. Zoltan Berczik was the coach of Hungary's winning team in the World Championships of 1979 and the author of the article which appears on page 17 of this issue.

This photo was taken in 1957. The caption on the reverse of the photo reads: "Ichiro Ogimura (left), who won the World Singles title for men in the World Table Tennis Championships at Tokyo, in 1956, is seen with the Hungarian wonder player Zoltan Berczik (right), at Stockholm (March 7), where the 1957 World Table Tennis Championships have just started.

Berczik is said to be the only player the Japanese Champion is worried about."



The Leeds English Open

BOWLERS, TRAFFORD PARK, MANCHESTER THURS 4th — SUN 7th JANUARY 1990 Your Chance to See World's Best

THE 58th English Open could be one of the most dramatic since the Championships were first played in 1922. In Dortmund in April 1989 Sweden's men broke a ten year Chinese domination of the sport with a sensational World Championship team victory which rocked table tennis. They followed this by making the Men's Individual Final an all Swedish event, with Jan-Ove Waldner beating his compatriot Jorgen Persson to take the World Title. So the English Open, rated by many as the best in the world, will be the place for the Chinese to bring out a new, young team, in a bid to recover their number one position.

But whilst Sweden's men rule the world, the Asian domination of the Women's game continues — or will we see a European revival in Manchester? One thing is certain, the quality of entry will be higher than ever, with Sweden and China confirmed participants and invitations issued to every major table tennis nation in the world. All of England's top players will be competing, anxious to enhance their already high world reputation.

The 1990 English Open will have a brand new look, with a dramatically different playing schedule. In a break with established tradition, the Open commences with the Individual Championships, running from Thursday to the Finals on Saturday afternoon. Then the Team Event takes over the spotlight, starting on Saturday evening and running through to the Finals on Sunday evening.

The venue selected for the Open is dramatically different too. Bowlers spacious sports halls will be totally devoted to Table Tennis, with over 2,000 seats around the



Jan Ove Waldner

Show Court on which the Finals will be staged. The atmosphere will be electric. All seats are unreserved so you will have to make the most of your All Day Ticket and arrive early to secure the best viewing position.

But first you have to book to ensure that you will be one of the audience for a feast of exciting, world class table tennis, the Leeds 58th English Open — don't miss it!

distance of Bowlers. The three hotels in the Group are renowned for their sports facilities, squash, gym, aerobics and dance studios, and make the perfect centre for your Open visit.

Fully inclusive rates of £16 per night in a twin or £22 in a single room are available to English Open ticket holders. Details from Paula Anderson, The Village, George Street, off Bury New Road, Sedgeley Park, Prestwich, Manchester. Telephone: 061-798 8905.

HOW TO GET THERE

BY ROAD: From M56 follow the M5103 Princess Parkway, taking the M63 (junction 9) North/Leeds turn off, stay on M63 until the Trafford Park (junction 4) exit.

From M62 follow the M63 southbound to junction 4, taking the Trafford Park exit.

At the traffic island follow Trafford Park & indoor cricket & bowls signs (A5081 Parkway) until the next island, turning 1st left into Ashburton Road and left again at the Daily Telegraph offices, Bowlers is straight ahead.

RAIL: After arrival at Manchester Piccadilly Station head for the nearby City Centre where a special English Open shuttle service will run on the hour everyhour to Bowlers.

AIR: From Manchester International Airport take the City Centre shuttle service and then pick up the special English Open transport to Bowlers.

WHERE TO STAY

The ETTA have set up a special accommodation package with the luxurious Village Hotels, all of which are within easy driving

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

Send completed application form, self addressed stamped envelope and remittance to either:

The Leeds English Open Box Office Bowlers Leisure Centre, Longbridge Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1SN Telephone: 061-873 7388

(Credit Cards: Bookings may be made on major credit cards by telephoning the Bowlers Box Office. A postage and package fee of 35p per transaction will be made.)

OR

English Table Tennis Association Queensbury House, Havelock Rd. Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF Telephone: 0424-722525.

(Cheques and Postal Orders: Made payable to 'The English Table Tennis Association' and crossed 'A/C payee only'.)

SCHEDULE AND PRICING

DATE	SESSION TIMING	MATCH DETAILS	PRICING (inc. VAT) PER DAY	DISCOUNTS * Party Discounts ** Childrens/ *** Students/ **** Senior Citizens
THURS 4 JAN	9.30 — 22.00 (approx)	INDIVIDUAL EVENT 1st & 2nd Rounds	£1.00	Nil
FRI 5 JAN	9.30 — 22.00 (approx) Morn./Aft. Evening	INDIVIDUAL EVENT 3rd Round Quarter Finals	£2.00	50p
SAT 6 JAN	9.30 — NOON (1.30 — 16.30 (approx)	INDIVIDUAL EVENT Semi-Finals FINALS Women's & Men's singles Women's & Men's doubles Mixed doubles	£4.00	£1.00
	9.30 — NOON 18.30 — 11.00 (approx)	INTERNATIONAL TEAM COMP Qualifying Rounds Last 16 teams		
SUN 7 JAN	9.30 — NOON (13.00 — 17.00 18.00 — 22.00 (approx)	INTERNATIONAL TEAM COMP Quarter Finals Semi-Finals FINALS	£4.00	£1.00

PLEASE NOTE: Season Tickets — including Finals — Adults £7.50 — Children/Students/Senior Citizens £4.00. Tickets are issued for the full day's play and give access to all courts. Due to the unpredictable length of matches all timings are approximate — please check with venue before attendance if timing is critical.

* Party Discounts may be deducted from the STANDARD PRICE of each ticket purchased for a party of 12 persons or more on Advance Bookings only.

** Discounts apply to each ticket purchased for a Child (under 16 years), Students (with a Student's Union Card) or Senior Citizens (with Pension Book).

TICKET BOOKING FORM

DATE	NO. OF SEATS	GROSS VALUE £	LESS DISCOUNTS £	TOTAL COST £

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I enclose cheque/postal order for the total cost plus a stamped addressed envelope £

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Desmond's "magic" is back

by JOHN WOODFORD

Table Tennis Correspondent "The Daily Telegraph" in Preston

DESMOND DOUGLAS at 34 is back in business - making his second tournament final appearance in a fortnight, he once again thrilled the crowds at the £4,000 Leeds Masters at Preston with touches of the "magic" that has excited fans for the past eleven years.

English fans have few opportunities these days to watch his superstar top spin and reflex blocking as he does not appear (so far) in the European League.

The format of the Masters is a strange one — Douglas secured only one win in the group play, but it was vital — against Carl Prean, a revenge victory for Portsmouth last May. Carl, the hero of the defeat of Sweden only four days before, rarely seems to reach his best form at Preston's superb Guild Hall.

Another strange happening was that on the Saturday morning Prean beat Chen (the same as at the last Masters in February) to put Douglas through. Half-way through the tournament it seemed that Andrzej Grubba stood an excellent chance of winning his fifth Masters crown, although cracks were showing in the performances of the second-seeded Erik Lindh,

especially after he was beaten 14, - 13, 20 by Alan Cooke, whose injury clearly prevented him from reaching anything like his best form.

Speedy Gatien

Although Jean-Philippe Gatien was a slow starter in the City Open, it became apparent at Islington as he finished the individual event by knocking out Nicky Mason, Cooke and Douglas, that his speed can often overcome a slight weakness on the backhand side.

The Frenchman, 20, appears to have taken over the mantle of the legendary Jacques Secretin. He is extremely quick and seems on course to advance upwards in the European rankings.

His path to the final saw him account for Dmitrij Mazunov, Cooke and in the semi-final the best battle of the tournament - 14, 19, 22! The young man from Paris was well

behind in the third game against Grubba who was just recovering from jet-lag after flying back from the World Cup in Nairobi where he reached the final.

— Gatien — and in general the event proved successful, with excellent facilities for the media and of course BBC television live on Grandstand.

DES SAID...

One of the main talking points at Preston was the sparkling form shown by Desmond Douglas — two big international tournament finals in a row — the City Open in London and this one. Des is 34, how does it happen?



Des Douglas

Des spoke to Richard Eaton and myself after the dust had settled. He told us "At my age firstclass practice near home, being able to some extent to choose events is what it is all about. At the Grove club, I have all I need — top practice with Alan Cooke, Sean Gibson, Bradley Billington and a number of other top England players.

"The facilities at Grove are excellent. Ever since coming back from Germany, I had trouble finding the right practice facilities with top players. Now that problem is behind me."

Asked about retaining his skills he answered, "That is no problem, but keeping match-fit and match-tight is not so easy. I am hoping to go on playing at top level for several more years yet and I really enjoy playing."

Continued on page 14

Carl Prean



Alan Cooke



Soviet Union Tour Timetable

MATCH DETAILS

Date: Thursday 9th November 1989

Venue: Worthing Leisure Centre
Shaftesbury Avenue
WORTHING
West Sussex
Tel: 0903 502237

Start Time: 7.30pm

Tickets Available From: Venue (Dion Burke at Centre)

Price: Adults £2.50. Children/OAP's £1.50.

Date: Friday 10th November 1989

Venue: Crook Log Sports Centre
Brampton Road
BEXLEYHEATH, Kent
Tel: 01 304 5386

Start Time: 7.00pm.

Tickets Available from: Venue

Price: Adults £4.00. Children/OAP's £2.00.

Date: Saturday 11th November 1989

Venue: Bletchley Leisure Centre
Princes Way
MILTON KEYNES, Bucks
Tel: 0908 77251

Start Time: 7.30pm.

Price: Adults £4.00. Children/OAP's £2.50.

Date: Monday 13th November 1989

Venue: Albert Halls
Victoria Square
BOLTON, Lancs
Tel: 0204 22311

Start Time: 7.00pm.

Tickets Available From: Box Office 0204 364333

Price: Adults £3.00. Children/OAP's £1.50.

(Balcony: Adults £2.00.

Children/OAP's £1.00.)

The Leeds Masters 2

Continued from previous page

Winning £1,000 for coming second seemed a useful reward, "The money is just a bonus" quipped Des.

It is now known that should the services of Desmond Douglas be urgently needed in the European League Super Division, he will be available. This should only be necessary if Alan Cooke or Carl Prean should be unfit.

Reaching two major finals in three weeks proves that Des still has a great deal to offer English table tennis. It is interesting to note that the rather strange format of the Masters allowed Des to qualify for the semi-finals with only one win — over Carl Prean. He and Cooke both beat Erik Lindh, but it was Des who was fittest to contest the final.

Injury Problem

Alan Cooke was never playing his best in Preston.

After his victory — a first win over Lindh I asked him about his injury. He said, "My shoulder is sore at the moment so I shall be using ice-packs tonight. The treat-

ment I had today (at the Preston FC ground) helped me a lot."

After the tournament had finished he added "Now I have a fortnight clear except for the odd exhibition matches, so I shall be able to rest the shoulder." Alan had the same problem at the previous Masters last February, so English fans will be hoping that this is not going to be a constantly recurring injury problem like Michael Appelgren. The Swede was forced to change his game by standing back from the table — but he still won the European title in Paris!

RESULTS

Group 1

A. Grubba b Chen Xinhua 7, 13
C. Prean 1 D. Douglas -22, -15
Grubba b Prean -16, 20, 14
Douglas 1 Chen 8, -14, 12
Prean b Chen 12, 21
Grubba b Douglas 18, -20, 17

Group 2

E. Lindh b D. Mazunov 15, 15
A. Cooke 1 J. Gatién -16, -19
Cooke b Lindh 14, -13, 20
Gatién b Mazunov -18, 9, 11
Cooke 1 Mazunov -15, 15, -17
Gatién b Lindh 11, 13



Gatién in action

Semi-finals

Douglas b Lindh -14, 10, 15
Gatién b Grubba -14, 19, 22

Final

GATIÉN b Douglas 17, 19

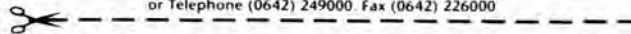
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Who Umpired Your Last Game ?

NO IDEA? Can't remember? I'll bet that most of today's players haven't got a clue (admittedly I can't remember either!). Yet, like it or not, the boys and girls in the blue blazers, play one of the most important roles in our sport. All too often their efforts seem to be taken for granted. Some umpires are even subjected to verbal abuse from time to time. In simple terms I would say the chief role of umpires is merely to ensure that the ever-increasingly complicated rules are complied with. It frequently seems to be a rather thankless task. I wonder therefore how many players put themselves in the umpires shoes and consider how they would react to various situations that arise.

I suspect that many of our umpires today are former players with a great love for our sport, but feel unable, for whatever reason, to compete at the level of competition on offer today. Such is their loyalty and dedication to the sport that they are able to maintain a strong desire to take an active role as an umpire — and let's not forget — voluntarily. The majority travel many counties, sometimes at their own expense (quite a few refuse to complete an expenses claim form), usually just to be stuck in a sports hall, going backwards and forwards to a table tennis table, for the benefit of others.

For their non-participating friends it does not seem to offer much of a topic of conversation. For example: "I travelled down to Portsmouth at the weekend". "Oh really, what did you see while you were there?" "The Mountbatten Sports Centre's main hall". "Oh!" end of conversation. So do let us spare a little more thought for those in blue blazers.

Sadly there are some occasions when umpires are sworn at and accused of a variety of misgivings and called childish names. These instances fortunately may not be particularly frequent, but they should never be swept under the carpet as 'one of those things'. Hopefully this sort of behaviour can be stamped out altogether before it becomes a too familiar sight. In these sort of situations it would perhaps be interesting to reverse the roles. Personally I think it could prove most interesting to see a tournament organised solely

for umpires to play in — and have the players spend a whole weekend umpiring their games with a few antics thrown in for good measure! I doubt if there would be too many volunteers for the umpiring jobs and those who did volunteer would probably be reluctant to do so again if they had abuse hurled at them. The point I am trying to make here is that if the troublesome minority of players were to be given a taste of their own medicine they may show more respect in the future. Some may say that troublesome players are only a minority. How is the word "only" appropriate?

How pleasing it is to see junior players with a quiet and polite temperament consistently. How easy it can be to pick them out from a crowd! And how much more successful they seem to be by keeping quiet and maintaining their concentration. The majority of veterans usually seem to behave like gentlemen and I feel sure that this must contribute to the success of 'Vets' events. It is the behaviour of the 'senior' players that can sometimes cause most concern — abusing their bats, cursing the umpires and swearing at their opponents. And yet it achieves so little. Perhaps one day they will grow up. Maybe what they do in private is their own affair but in a public place they are representing our national sport and should bare this in mind. (It may not be our leading national sport, but we seem to be moving in the right direction, so let's not spoil our chances).

What proportion of today's players are on truly friendly terms with umpires? Which and how

many players do umpires remember? And what proportion of players spend a lot of time whingeing about umpires? How many players give our umpires the consideration they really deserve? I expect the answers to these questions will vary. For some players it seems to be an effort to shake hands with the umpire(s) after a match, and for some an effort to simply remember to do so as they rush off to watch another match. The umpires have very limited opportunities to watch the best games of tournaments unless they happen to occur in the closing stages. We sometimes hear of some poor tournament finals which were preceded by some excellent games in the second round when very few umpires can have the pleasure of watching.

So if you find yourself swearing under your breath, or louder, or find yourself rushing away from a table to see another game, spare a thought for the officials and put yourself in their shoes. Umpires are human, you are allowed to mix with them. It's not the same as creeping round a school teacher. So stop and have a chat if the opportunity presents itself — you'll probably learn something!

Quite a number of Leeds British League clubs regularly have qualified umpires to officiate whatever the weather. "How do they manage it?" others ask. I suspect the answer to that is often it is the clubs who make the umpires feel most at home that are successful. You do need to make them feel welcome to reasonably expect them to come back. In contrast a small number of clubs

experience great difficulty in finding match officials regularly. Could the main interest of these clubs be getting fixtures completed without due regard to hospitality. One such club I have visited makes provision in their refreshments for the umpire(s) and duly pays him any travelling expenses, but he is left to fend for himself often sitting in a corner alone with a sandwich or whatever while the others talk among themselves. He must have felt as welcome as a dose of flu!

Another thought which may help to illustrate how much attention is paid to umpires:- If a photograph was reproduced in this magazine showing a crowd of umpires and tournament officials, I wonder how many of today's players could name more than just one or two of them. Very few indeed I suspect!

In the majority of tournaments I have travelled to I have to admit that the 'umpires area' is usually kept separate from the player's arena. This gives the players and umpires a rather limited opportunity to mix. I know of no rule which says that they must not mix with each other whilst a tournament is in progress so perhaps this aspect could be looked at by the organisers of various events. Perhaps if players and umpires are able to get together more easily it could lead to a greater understanding and better relationships. After all, where would we be with our sport if the umpires were to become extinct or even go on strike? I hope that these comments may stir up some debate on the subject of umpires today. I believe that the umpires profile needs to be raised before the blue blazers become a thing of the past.



The Leeds County Championships

The "Kick Off" of 600 Match Programme

TEAMS WENT into action on 30th September to start the season's programme of nearly 600 matches — 66 due on the first of the allocated dates. Apart from the Premier Divisions 3 other Divisions have arranged to meet on just 3/4 dates during the season.

SENIOR 1A:

Lancs 2.	5	Yorks 1.	5
Worcs	4	Suffolk	6
N'berland	6	Lincs	4
Warwicks	9	Cambs	1

Lancs 2, on promotion, would be well satisfied with a draw against Yorks 1, on demotion from Premier Div. Keith Williams (Lancs No.3) did particularly well to win his 2 singles, including the final event against Mick Stead, to secure the draw. Suffolk, also down from Premier Div., got off to a good start with a 6-4 win over Worcs. Stuart Palmer (Sk) won his singles and the doubles with Richard Tanner. Lincs, on promotion, visited Newcastle. The match score stood at 4-4 when Claire Mouzon (Nd) beat Suzanne Airey at 20 in the 3rd game. Malcolm Lusk (Nd) then won the final singles. A good fight by Lincs but N'berland got the 6-4 win.

SENIOR 1B: Team Secretaries have arranged for most matches to be played on 3 dates — 8 on each occasion. Dates and Counties in which matches will be played are

October 28	Middlesex
November 25	Avon
January 27	Hants

SENIOR 2A:

Leics 2.	6	Notts 1.	4
Cumbria	3	Warwicks 2.	7

With the match score at 4-4 Leics had 2 narrow wins in the final events to get the 6-4 win. Joanne Pickles (Le) beat Ruth Bentley 17, -18, 20 and then Keith Williams had a win over Lee Neil -12, 20, 19! Warwicks made the journey to Whitehaven and went into a 3-0 lead. The visitors won the 6 mens singles events. Interesting to see Alison Ledwitch and Kate Ryan, Warwicks — junior team members last season, promoted to the senior team. Kate Ryan won her singles against Karen Backhouse contributing to the 7-3 win.

SENIOR 2B:

Somerset	8	Avon 2.	2
Glos.	6	Worcs 2.	4

Somerset, on demotion, started with a convincing win over Avon. Steve Bettison, a recent Avon Junior team player, won a singles and lost, only at -22 in 3rd. to the experienced Brian Reeves. Dale Saunders (Gs) got a -15, 16, 14 win over Steve Horton to secure a 6-4 win for Glos. The Worcs. ladies, Sue Meredith and Sarah Stone, a junior last season, won their 3 events and Ken Walton had a good win over Graham Slack.

SENIOR 2C:

Herts	10	Hunts	0
Suffolk 2.	3	Cambs 2.	7

Herts, another demoted team, made a faultless start with a 10-0 win over Hunts. Hunts were unfortunate not to take the last event, and avoid a "whitewash", when Simon Pryke (Hu) lost -22, 23, -19 to Rob Liquorish! Cambs 2 visited Suffolk and got a good 7-2 win.

SENIOR 2D:

Essex 3.	10	Oxfords	0
Surrey 2.	4	Sussex 2.	6
Northants	3	Kent 2.	7

The young Essex 3 team, who were runners-up to Essex 2 in the Div last season, started off intent on the title this time. Under the captaincy of Stuart Gibbs, the team beat Oxfords 10-0. Sally Weston and Carol Hewett, winning their 3 events, were influential in the 6-4 win for Sussex 2 over Surrey 2. Peter Bartram (Sx) won the final singles to secure the win. Neil Harris (K) won his 2 singles matches, against Northants, and teamed up with Paul Rainford to take the doubles event.

SENIOR 3A:

Durham	10	Clwyd	0
Ches 2.	10	Northants 2.	0

Durham, newcomers to the Championships, made a pleasing start with a 10-0 win over Clwyd. The closest match was the ladies doubles when Lynn Yarnell/Shirley Gelder (Du) beat Barbara Williams/Christine Watkins 17, -20, 18. The other new team — Northants 2 — were at the other end of the scale losing 0-10 to Ches. 2. The first 2 events must have held out hopes for Northants as David Evans and Ian Baldock lost only at -20, and -19 in the 3rd games.

SENIOR 3B:

Bucks	10	Dorset 2.	0
Hants 2.	4	Herts 2.	6

Although Bucks gave Dorset 2 the "whitewash" there were 4 events which went to the final game. Again the losers started off with promise — the first 2 singles were lost by David Sharples and Mike Hughes (Do) at 18 and 17 in the 3rd respectively. Newcomers Hants 2 lost narrowly to Herts 2 although Mark Bleakley and Mark Thorne (Ha) won their 4 singles events.

JUNIOR 1A:

Lincs	3	Lancs 2.	7
Notts	3	N'berland	7
Yorks 2.	9	Northants	1

N'berland visited Nottingham for their first Div 1 match and got a 7-3 win. Barry Forster and Mark Cavender won 5 of the events. Northants, on promotion, had a tough baptism with a visit to Bradford to play the strong Yorks 2 team. Kieron Dabbs got the one win for the visitors

JUNIOR 1B:

Avon 1.	5	Oxfords	5
Cornwall	1	Middlesex	9
Surrey	7	Berks	3
Sussex	4	Herts	6

Unfortunately Oxford started their Div 1 campaign with a player short but forced a draw with Avon. Gavin Yates (Ox) won his 3 events. Cornwall, also on promotion, had to meet Middlesex, the team demoted from Premier Div. and found it hard going. Mark Bawden (Co) lost his first singles at -20 in 3rd and in final match won 22 in 3rd to get the 1 event for Cornwall! Martin Adams got the 3 events for Berks in their defeat by Surrey. Herts had a good win on their visit to Horsham. Majur Majithia made a good effort for Sussex in winning his 2 singles.

JUNIOR 2A:

Ches 2.	9	Clwyd 2.	1
Lancs 3.	6	Clwyd 1.	4
Leics	1	Ches 1.	9
Derbys 2.	2	Warwicks 2.	8

Newcomers Clwyd 2 had a tough initiation against Ches. 2. They won just 1 event when Robertson/Hopwood won the boys doubles. Ches. 1, on demotion, made a good start with a 9-1 win at Leicester. Dean Langley (Le) lost his first singles at -21 in 3rd but won his second at 18 in 3rd to get the one event for Leics.

JUNIOR 2B:

Berks 2.	1	Bucks	9
Herts	6	Wiltshire	4
Worcs	4	Glos	6

Bucks, on demotion, set off in style with a 9-1 win. B.Johnson got the one event for Berks with a -22, 19, 21 win in the final match. Wilts made a good fight back against Herts, if a little late, to come from 1-6 to 4-6. Raymond Powell (Gs) was dominant against Worcs winning his 3 events. He won the first game against Lee Horton (Wo) and came from 12-19 in the second to win 23-21. Catherine Drage and Paula Hughes, on their debut for Worcs, did well to win their 3 events.

JUNIOR 2C: Most matches are to be played on 4 dates throughout the season. 8 matches due on 30 Sept but no results received by 7 Oct.

JUNIOR 2D:

Norfolk 1.	9	Sussex 2.	1
Norfolk 2.	6	Sussex 2.	4
Kent 2.	4	Essex 3.	6



by DOUG MOSS

Surrey 2.	10	Surrey 3.	0
Middx 2.	4	Suffolk	6

Sussex 2 journeyed to Norwich to play both Norfolk teams. They won the first event against Nk. 1 but did not progress further. The match against Nk.2 was a closer contest. Wesley Bush-Harris (Sx) again started with a win and also took the doubles with partner Adam Smith. At a vital stage Debbie Wickham and Theresa Hewitt (Nk) won their singles after having lost in the doubles event.

VETS 1A:

Essex 2.	4	Worcs	5
Norfolk	6	Ches 2.	3
Warwicks	3	Lancs	6
Yorks 2.	2	Lincs	7

Essex 2, on promotion, started well going into a 4-1 lead against Worcs. However the visitors came back strongly, took the last 4 events and earned a 5-4 win! Mervyn Wood (Wo) was in fine form winning his 2 singles events. Lancs, on Div 1 debut, got a good win over Warwicks. Bill Russell and Tony Rigby won their 5 events for Lancs.

VETS 1B:

Berks 1.	6	Kent 2.	3
Oxfords	2	Middx 1.	7
Surrey 2.	7	Glos	2
Sussex 2.	5	Wilts	4

Berks took full advantage on promotion with a fine 6-3 win over Kent 2. E. Herrity (Bk) won 3 events. Oxford had a tough match taking on Premier Div demotees Middx. Arthur Chilvers won the only 2 events for Oxford. Promoted Wilts visited Horsham losing 4-5 to Sussex 2 — but this was only after Keith Jackson (Sx) had beaten Terry Bruce at 19 in 3rd in the final match.

VETS 2A:

Ches 3.	6	Clwyd	3
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Clwyd put up a good fight epitomised by Don Hobbs and Harold Furber, who both won a singles at 17 in 3rd and took the doubles at 20 in 3rd.

Continued over page



A further chapter in Zoltán Berczik's series on table tennis techniques

TOPSPIN EXERCISES

AT PRESENT, there are very advanced techniques used in competitions. Due to this fact, it is no longer enough for the players just to rehearse or practice in matches. Special practices and workouts are badly needed for any improvement.

Every practice requires careful planning. Drills should be selected carefully for any improvement in play depends on the nature of the drills. You must pay special attention to select or determine the drills. Their determination is a highly specialised work. You may need to select special drills for different players. The exercises aim to improve certain technical elements.

The exercises of the technical training can be classified as follows:

- Warm-up exercises at the table
- Main exercises
- Closing exercises

Exercises must be planned carefully, comprising of and aimed at improvement of technical elements. They should be set up considering the schedule of coming tournaments in the season.

In the preparation period, the length of exercises should be longer than during the competition period. In cases of forehand topspin exercises, for instance, the duration should be 15 to 20 minutes in the preparation period, and 5 to 10 minutes in the competition period.

I stated before that the topspin is a very important stroke. I have to stress once again that service and return are equally important, requiring the same attention. There are two players involved in any practice movement. One of them — the feed — sends balls to the other — the executor —, who practices a certain stroke.

They often may have the impression that it is only the executor who does exercises while the feed does not. That impression is wrong. Suppose they are rehearsing topspin drills. The executor will work hard to hit topspins against blocks. In this drill, the feed ought to think he too is practicing hard to return topspins with blocks. Both of them should practice with the same zeal and intensity.

Practices at the table start with warm-up exercises (backhand and forehand counters), with which the players prepare for the main exercises.

Forehand topspin exercises against chopped balls

Backspin is quite often used in various situations, both as service and return. It also appears in encounters involving a defensive player. Its deployment, however, is not confined to these cases. Backspin hits are quite common in matches disputed by offensive players. The outcome of the handling of backspins is often directly connected to the outcome of the match.

As said above, backspins appear in various situations of matches. To cope with them, you have to rehearse many drills — and repeatedly. I am going to show ten basic examples as drills for topspins against chopped balls.

Drill 1: Player A sends a long backhand backspin service to player B's backhand side, or to the middle of his court. Player B returns it diagonally with a backspin drive. Player A goes on hitting slow topspins to the adversary's backhand side.

Duration of the exercise varies from 15 to 50 minutes. It should be adapted to the given situation (period of preparation or competition), and to individual conditions.

Drill 2: Player A sends a long backhand backspin service to the backhand side of player B. Player B returns it with a chop down the line. The executor hits topspins with the forehand across the court. Length of the drill: 15 to 50 minutes.

Drill 1 and 2 should start off with a long backspin service each. The receiver is to return them with backspin hits. It would be a good idea to vary the drill even in the practice period. The server should use long topspin services in between backspin ones, while the receiver should mix flick or block returns in between backspin ones.

Drill 3: Player A sends a backhand topspin service into the middle of the court of player B, using topspin against the return of his service. The receiver returns it to the server's backhand side. The server hits two slow cross-court topspins, while the third one should be a slow topspin to the receiver's forehand side. Duration of the exercise: 15 to 30 minutes.

In the early stage, the third topspin should be slow and placed around the middle of the forehand side of the receiver's court. Later on, the third topspin can be a bit faster.

Drill 4: Player A sends a long backhand topspin service into the forehand side of player B, who returns it with a block or flick to the forehand side of A. The server uses a topspin to the forehand side, then into the middle, and then to the backhand side of the table. Duration of the exercise: 15 to 40 minutes.

Drill 5: Player A sends a short backhand mixed spin service to player B's forehand side. Player B returns it with a chop to the server's backhand side. The server hits two consecutive forehand topspins to the receiver's backhand side. The length of this exercise should be 15 to 40 minutes.

Drill 6: Player A sends a long forehand service with mixed spin to the forehand side of player B. He

returns it to the backhand side with a push. The server then uses two slow forehand topspins to the backhand side, while the third has to be a fast forehand topspin to the forehand side, and the fourth a fast one to the backhand side of the receiver. This drill aims to hit quick forehand topspins with correct footwork. Duration: 10 to 20 minutes.

Drill 7: Player A hits a short forehand backspin service to the backhand side of player B, who returns it diagonally to the backhand side of the server. He then hits a forehand topspin cross-court from the backhand side, which is blocked back to the forehand side. The server now hits a topspin to the backhand side of the receiver, who returns it cross-court. This is to repeat until the rally is over. Duration of the exercise: 10 to 20 minutes.

Drill 8: Player A sends a backhand short service with mixed spin to the forehand side of the receiver, who returns it to the backhand side of the server. This hits a forehand topspin to the receiver's backhand side, which is returned to the forehand side. The server then hits a topspin from the forehand side, then a fast topspin to the receiver's forehand side. Length of this exercise: 10 to 25 minutes.

Drill 9: Player A gives a long forehand service with mixed spin to the backhand side of player B, who returns it to the backhand side of the server. Using a slow topspin, the server sends the ball back to the receiver's backhand side. The latter returns it to the backhand side of the server. Now he is to use a smash or a fast topspin to the backhand side, which will be returned to the forehand side. The server again uses a smash or a fast topspin to the receiver's forehand side. This is a tiresome drill, and its length should be 5 to 15 minutes.

Drill 10: Player A hits a short forehand backspin service to the backhand side of player B, who returns it to the server's forehand side. (In this drill, the receiver returns all shots to the forehand side of the server.) The server sends a slow topspin to the forehand side, then a forehand topspin to the middle, and then a fast topspin or a smash to the backhand side of the receiver. This drill aims to use three different kinds of topspin from the forehand side. Duration of the exercise: 5 to 15 minutes.

The drills described here are the basic ones. Efficiency and intensity of the exercises will be increased if services are varied or more balls are used. The receiver can also contribute some variations. Returning the services, he can mix chops over the table, flicks and topspins.

When your pupils start to hit steady forehand topspins (slow and fast), they can start using a fast topspin with full power, or make a kill at the third ball.

(To be continued)

Continued from previous page

VETS 2B:

Beds 1.	4	Hunts 1.	5
Notts	5	Norfolk 2.	4

Beds/Hunts match score stood at 4-4. At this stage G. Albon (Hu) had a convincing win to get the Hunts victory. Another close match was Notts/Norfolk. Notts were 0-3 down. The 2 doubles events turned the tide, Pat Hammond won her singles to level scores and Ron Bolton and Alf Saunders followed up to get the win. Les Rayment won his 2 singles for Norfolk.

VETS 2C:

Bucks 2.	9	Herefords	0
Northants 1.	6	Wilts 2.	3

The closest in the Bucks/Hereford was the ladies singles when Jackie Thom (Bu) beat Margaret Newcombe 16, -18, 18. Northants, on demotion, got a 6-3 win over Wilts 2 with Keith Jones (Np No.1) unbeaten.

VETS 2D:

Hants	5	Berks 2.	4
Herts 2.	3	Dorset	6

The 2 demoted teams — Hants and Dorset — both got wins. Hants/Berks result was close but sets went decisively one way or the other.

VETS 3A:

Beds 2.	3	Herts 2.	6
Berks 3.	7	Northants 2.	2

VETS 3B:

Dorset 2.	6	Berks 4.	3
Wilts 3.	4	Sussex 4.	5

The Lentec National Ranking Lists



Opening List for Season 1989/90
Effective from 01.08.89

SENIOR MEN

1. Alan Cooke (Chesterfield)	1868
2. Carl Prean (Ryde)	1628
3. Desmond Douglas (Walsall)	1606
4. Skylet Andrew (Stratford)	980
5. Nicky Mason (Bexhill)	963
6. Matthew Syed (Reading)	729
7. Bradley Billington (Chesterfield)	665
8. John Souter (Neasden)	529
9. Steven Dorking (Hornchurch)	502
10. Kevin Satchell (Melksham)	500
11. Chris Rogers (Leicester)	479
12. Jimmy Stokes (Reading)	479
13. Glenn Baker (Guildford)	476
14. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield)	473
15. John Hilton (Manchester)	468
16. Graham Sandley (Potters Bar)	455
17. Christopher Oldfield (Sheffield)	448
18. Sean Gibson (Chorley)	436
19. Tony Taylor (Manchester)	422
20. Nigel Eckersley (Wilmslow)	400
21. Anthony Stark (New Barnet)	386
22. John Holland (Nottingham)	385
23. Paul Whiting (Plymouth)	379
24. Adrian Moore (Bexhill)	375
25. Adrian Dixon (Reading)	359
26. Philip Bradbury (Aylesbury)	354
27. Jonathon Taylor (Denton)	343
28. John Burleton (Milton Keynes)	341
29. Craig Bakewell (Stoke)	335
30. Paul Giles (Saltash)	335
31. Andrew Wellman (Didcot)	329
32. Edward Smith (Gosforth)	325
33. Desmond Charley (Basildon)	325
34. John Kitchener (Ipswich)	325
35. Stuart Palmer (Brandon)	324
36. Ritchie Venner (Crawley)	320
37. Michael Hammond (Tolworth)	320
38. Andrew Cunningham (Beckenham)	312
39. Stephen Moore (Bexhill)	303
40. Ian Robertson (North Shields)	303
41. Stephen Scowcroft (Manchester)	303
42. Max Crimmins (Reading)	300
43. David Gannon (Leicester)	297
44. Phillip Logsdon (Norwich)	295
45. Percy Collino (London SW5)	293
46. Phillip Smith (Crawley)	292
47. David Newman (Maldon)	291
48. Phillip Gunn (Birmingham)	286
49. Neil Bevan (Bude)	284
50. Dipak Topiwala (Edmonton)	284

SENIOR WOMEN

1. Alison Gordon (Reading)	1150
2. Lisa Lomas (Dunstable)	1030
3. Fiona Elliot (Wolverhampton)	834
4. Andrea Holt (Ramsbottom)	466
5. Joy Dean (Preston)	347
6. Jill Harris (Walsall)	326
7. Carol Giles (Plymouth)	309
8. Joanne Shaw (Normanton)	283
9. Helen Lower (Wolverhampton)	264
10. Helen Bardwell (Ware)	249
11. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	244
12. Lesley Radford (Upminster)	210
13. Sandra Roden (Dudley)	207
14. Deborah Toole (Normanton)	202
15. Teresa Moore (Bexhill)	199
16. Melonie Carey (Puriton)	195
17. Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln)	188
18. Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge)	183
19. Susan Collier (Maidenhead)	170
20. Elaine Sayer (London E12)	168
21. Susan Butler (Plymouth)	167
22. Jane Barella (Surbiton)	167
23. Suzanne Airey (Grantham)	162
24. Sally Weston (Horsham)	160
25. Claire Mouzon (Ashington)	156

VETERAN MEN

1. John Hilton (Manchester)	1147
2. Henry Buist (Orpington)	885
3. Malcolm Corking (Stkton on Tees)	852
4. Derek Holman (Tooting)	849
5. Matthew Shearer (Grimsby)	811
6. Andrew Meads (Ifield)	719
7. Derek Schofield (Stockport)	710
8. Connie Warren (Croydon)	672
9. Peter Radford (Upminster)	668
10. Brian Kean (Manchester)	665
11. Keith Horton (Burgess Hill)	651
12. Derek Wood (Colchester)	650
13. Brian Allison (Louth)	625
14. Clive Morris (Taynham)	624
15. Clive Judson (Wakfield)	614
16. Stuart Gibbs (Basildon)	592
17. Robin Stace (Worthing)	583
18. Babs Adedayo (Norwood)	573
19. Ralph Gunnion (Solihull)	565
20. David Seaholme (Carpenders End)	522
21. Frank Hams (Morden)	506
22. Ramesh Bhalla (Guildford)	474
23. Sidney Montgomery (Reading)	468
24. Raymond Dixon (Moxley)	457
25. Alex Watson (High Wycombe)	457

JUNIOR BOYS

1. Grant Solder (Barking)	832
2. Andrew Eden (Ormskirk)	738
3. Neil Bevan (Bude)	732
4. Leigh Jeffries (Sutton Coldfield)	625
5. Brian Mileham (Margate)	609
6. Jason Bamford (Aldecar)	463
7. Gary Knights (Burton on Trent)	450
8. Mark Stephenson (Halifax)	427
9. Peter Bowler (Dunstable)	397
10. Howard Whewell (Rossendale)	387
11. Alan Cole (Crawley)	368
12. Darren Howarth (Droylsden)	353
13. Ian Black (St. Albans)	343
14. Keiron Dabbs (Davenport)	322
15. Colin Bowler (Dunstable)	320
16. Martin Adams (Ascot)	279
17. Gareth Jones (Selby)	269
18. Barry Forster (Whickham)	260
19. Michael Auchterlonie (Halifax)	249
20. Paul Carter (Coulsden)	239
21. Matthew Greenwood (Amersham)	238
22. Nicholas Bradfield (Maidenhead)	235
23. Spencer Thompson (Rainham)	221
24. Alexander Perry (Crediton)	216
25. Ian Collier (Sunderland)	207

JUNIOR GIRLS

1. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	645
2. Joanna Roberts (Leeds)	600
3. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	577
4. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	496
5. Sally Marling (Hull)	484
6. Alison Gower (Ingatstone)	463
7. Sara Williams (Hillingdon)	442
8. Linda Radford (Upminster)	386
9. Sarah Pengelly (Paignton)	341
10. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	290
11. Caroline Buckley (Renhold)	277
12. Nicola Meddings (Birmingham)	268
13. Elizabeth Creasey (M.Drayton)	258
14. Lisa Crick (Maidenhead)	239
15. Claire Marshall (M.Drayton)	235
16. Nicola Cracknell (Reading)	225
17. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	218
18. Sarah Creasey (M.Drayton)	204
19. Samantha Marling (Hull)	189
20. Lesley Hollingworth (Sittingbourne)	186
21. Gail Ottolini (M.Drayton)	160
22. Esme Kottasz (Victoria)	149
23. Esther Baggaley (Milton Keynes)	147
24. Claire Pengelly (Paignton)	146
25. Tracey Cole (Crawley)	142

CADET BOYS

1. Alexander Perry (Crediton)	635
2. Edward Hatley (Frimley)	371
3. Christopher Sladden (Southend)	305
4. Darren Blake (South Croydon)	265
5. Andrew Nicholls (Selby)	205
6. Adrian Vincent (Plymouth)	187
7. Richard Hyacinth (Harlesden)	171
8. Kevin Hodgson (Barrow in Furness)	161
9. Jonathon May (Plymouth)	145
10. Andrew Wilkinson (North Shields)	95
11. Philip Neal (Hull)	89
12. Stephen Meddings (S Coldfield)	75
13. James Mason (Newport Pagnell)	71
14. Gareth Davies (Bristol)	70
15. Paul Hudson (Wanstead)	64
16. Ian Ferguson (Birmingham)	59
17. David Heath (Ipplepen)	57
18. Jeremy Hazelhurst (Harrogate)	53
19. Richard Owen (Peterborough)	49
20. Darryl Meredith (Oldham)	48
21. Jack Boulton (Chesterfield)	47
22. Matthew Coombe (Oldham)	44
23. Ryan Saville (S Hanningfield)	43
24. Robert Landman (Sheffield)	41
25. Mark Smith (Bradford)	39

CADET GIRLS

1. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	678
2. Sally Marling (Hull)	558
3. Claire Pengelly (Paignton)	352
4. Caroline Watt (Barrow in Furness)	248
5. Michelle Martin (Burton on Trent)	223
6. Sally Russell (Barton Seagrave)	125
7. Tracy Garratt (Market Drayton)	99
8. Tamar Connolly (Blackpool)	99
9. Talya Greenberg (New Barnet)	91
10. Lindsey Heyward (Newton Abbott)	82
11. Jennifer Coleman (Brentwood)	78
12. Anna Cahill (Connor Downs)	62
13. Gemma Schwartz (Reading)	57
14. Catherine Davies (Bristol)	54
15. Sarah Smith (Worksop)	51
16. Diane Chan (Weybridge)	49
17. Hayley Beaumont (L Buzzard)	48
18. Samantha James (Bridlington)	43
19. Carrie Lowes (Barrow in Furness)	40
20. Sarah Thorpe (Hartlepool)	40
21. Emma Roberts (Leeds)	37
22. Lindsey Jenkins (Wakfield)	34
23. Claire Rowlands (Pilgrims Hatch)	32
24. Claire Newns (Birkenhead)	30
25. Lorna Harper (Hartlepool)	27

Whilst every care is taken that the data inserted into the computer are accurate, the occasional error is inevitable as we are all human. The ETTA accepts no responsibility of any kind for such errors and their consequences. Any mistake discovered will be rectified in a subsequent list. Any queries from the ranking list should be directed to Diccon Gray, ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1HF and be accompanied by a deposit of £5 which will be returned to the applicant if investigation of the data validates the need for such a query.

The Computer Ranking System

by DON PARKER and TED WALLBUTTON

AS I anticipated, there is a great deal of consternation being expressed over the lack of points for groups in two and three star tournaments.

In order to evaluate the decision it is necessary to examine the implications.

Foremost, lower ranked players who are motivated by computer points and have the finance, will be less likely to enter events although, in pre-computer point days entries were equally high. For younger players, I must confess, I am concerned that firstly parents are under financial pressure to 'buy computer points', and secondly, players are more concerned about these points than the development of their game. However, I do appreciate that there are a great number of senior players who are motivated by the points and tournament organisers benefit from their attendance.

In recent years the system has, quite rightly, been made public in that players can request a print-out of their results. On the last two published lists the top players were given incorrect points. This obviously has effects and implications all the way down resulting in an inaccurate list. Players have communicated with the E.T.T.A. via solicitors involving the E.T.T.A.

spending a great amount of time and money dealing with the problems. In my opinion, team spirit among the England players has suffered, a point I appreciate some players lower down the list may regard as unimportant.

Some players no doubt feel it is the responsibility of the E.T.T.A. to produce an accurate list. However, with last years system this proved impossible because of the increasing amount of input. Taking out group results in 2 star and 3 star tournaments, I am informed, reduces the computer input by 40% over the whole season and bearing in mind that last season there were only 4, 2 star tournaments, this seems a reasonable sacrifice for greater accuracy.

The decision was made, after consultation with the players who attend England Training Camps, who represent the elitist end of the ranking list. It should of course be pointed out that a ranking list is for the elite as opposed to a rating system which is for larger numbers. Arguably a rating system is the way forward as in the 'Tennis World'

who are fortunate to have millions in the bank and V.W. sponsorship for their scheme.

Obviously, with more money injected into the system, the inaccuracies can be rectified and indeed even more results could be included i.e. local league etc.

I personally would like to see a computer levy introduced and the money used to finance an accurate rating scheme, with monthly print-outs of players results and a regular

accurate list. If, like myself, this is what the players want then they must start to make the necessary representation via the players representative and their own National Councillors. They will certainly have my support, but I certainly cannot support the continuation of an inaccurate list that is both unjustifiably costly to the E.T.T.A. and to the detriment of the England's Team performance.

Council Amend Decision

The decision made by Donald Parker to eliminate group results from the ranking scheme was debated at great length during the October meeting of ETTA National Council.

Stephen Moore, the player's representative was supported by several Councillors in his heartfelt plea to retain group results in the interest of both players and tournament organisers. Council recognised that a problem existed with accuracy of input of data but agreed that the motivational impact of the ranking scheme on the mass of tournament players should not be reduced. By a vote of 15 for/13 against, Council decided that the results of groups should be reinstated from 1st November 1989.

Council also decided to investigate the extension of the scheme into a general "rating" format, funded by direct contributions from the players appearing on the lists, as the player's representative was sure that this would be welcomed. Vice-Chairman Stuart Sneyd is to carry out a full investigation into the financial and practical feasibility of bringing in a wide ranging rating scheme as soon possible.

The whole debate highlighted not only the interest of Council in the ranking scheme but also demonstrated that not all management committee decisions are nodded through without comment!

Carl Prean

England Pole Vault Failure

by DON PARKER

THE SECOND European League match of the season took place in CZESTOCHOWA about 200 miles south of Warsaw. The match date had been rearranged to fit in with the Polish Open to save our team making two trips to Poland and thereby saving considerable expense. The winners of the match would move to the top of the table as all other teams in the league had already lost at least one match.

England lead 3-2

With two men of the calibre of Grubba and Kucharski, it would be very difficult to win any of the five mens matches. However, we made an excellent start with Alan Cooke giving Grubba an extremely close match and then Carl Prean carrying on where he left off against Sweden, beating Kucharski in fine style. Our girls did a first class job once again with Lisa Lomas winning comfortably in the singles, and Alison Gordon playing very well in the

mixed doubles to maintain her unbeaten record with Carl Prean. Unfortunately, Alan and Carl did not produce their best form in the doubles, but going into the last two mens singles we found ourselves 3-2 in the lead.

Grubba to the rescue

It was Carl who had the first chance to seal victory. However it was not to be as Grubba produced one of the best displays I have seen for some time. It was therefore left for Alan to play Kucharski at 3-3.

Alan led 16-12 in the first game only to find himself 16-19 down but serving. He then pulled back to 19 all but could not manage those two final points. In the second game Kucharski played with greater confidence, a confidence that would have been lacking had he lost that first game. He eventually overcame Alan 21-16 in the second after a great fighting performance by the Derbyshire player.

Poland favourites for the title

The Polish hospitality at the match was very good as indeed was the organisation. The match was played before a crowd of around 1000 people who were obviously delighted with the final result. The Polish team's vulnerability is in their comparative lack of strength in women. Most teams will be looking to win the womens singles, the mixed doubles and hopefully two of the mens matches. With the exception of Sweden, this provides a daunting task although neither Grubba or Kucharski can afford an "off" night. If they play as well against the other teams as they did against us then I must tip them to win the league as Sweden have already lost two matches.



RESULTS

Poland beat England 4-3
Grubba bt Cooke 21-16, 17-21, 21-17
Kucharski lost to Prean 11-21, 17-21
Gracek lost to Lomas 11-21, 18-21
Grubba/Kucharski bt Cook/Prean 21-14, 21-18
Koldziejczyk/Gieraga lost to Gordon/Prean 21-18, 16-21, 9-21
Grubba bt Prean 21-12, 21-14
Kucharski bt Cooke 21-19, 21-16

Personality Piece

' "Rooster" Mason always bounces back! '

— the man who crushed Mazunov in Moscow

by JOHN WOODFORD

NICKY MASON, 24, based at Bexhill in Sussex is the table tennis player I have written thousands of words about in the last five years, since in 1984 it first came to my notice that he had come to live in Sussex although he has continued to play for Surrey.

Last season he changed places with his great rival and friend Skylet Andrew on the England ranking list, both men alternating between the No.4 and No.5 positions. There was a standing joke that every time Mason slips up and Andrew down, Skylet gets his solicitor to try and sort it out!

Best win ever

Mason's best win ever came last season in Moscow when he shattered Andrei Mazunov, pride of all the Russias three-straight. A man blessed with a cheery personality, he has two nicknames — "Rooster" and "Mace" — it is easy to see the reasons for both labels.

He is a man for all seasons. If he is called on at the last minute by England, as has happened on a number of occasions he will jump in a car, on a train or in a plane and he will be there flashing away with his attacking top-spin, bouncing back from holes in the ground, never gives up, the happiest fighter in the England squad — always prepared to counter-hit his way out of trouble.

His list of successes is too long for this story, suffice to say one of his springboards came in 1983 when he won the boys doubles in the European Youth Championships with Carl Prean.

Since then he has made a number of appearances in the European

League, has won a host of 3-star tournaments, but every now and again he hits a low point. I recall he travelled to Dortmund to play only in the individual events last April and lost 18, 18 to Karoly Nemeth the brilliant young Hungarian in the qualifying rounds and at Portsmouth in the Leeds National Championships went down to Matthew Syed in the quarters, a happening that did not please his equally jolly manager Wimbledon businessman Ray Perrin.

Like most of the England squad he is interested in most other sports including lawn tennis. Last year he competed in a Volkswagen rating tournament in Sussex and knocked out two seeded players before losing in the final.

Triple Winner

In the Leeds British League he has been a member of the winning side three years in succession — 1986 Steelstock, Wolverhampton, 1987 Bathwick Tyres and 1988 Ashford. After playing for Ashford he is now back with Bath, but this time minus Desmond Douglas who is with Alan Cooke at Grove, the 1990 favourites!

However, you can never rule out Nicky Mason — I occasionally remind my colleagues in the press centres.

He could have the last laugh in the British League, he told me at Wembley "I shall be playing with Matthew Syed and John Souter and we shall have Kevin Satchell at No.4, we could do well".

Nicky who spent three weeks training in Sweden during August would like to clinch a place in the Swedish National League. With his determination anything seems possible.



Footnote: Mason's speed of shot combined with accuracy has made him and Skylet the best doubles pair in the England elite squad, so much so

that England may have to add the pair to the England team, even in the away fixtures in the Super Division of the European League.

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14/2/90 (State which region)

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29/4/90 (MANSFIELD)

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British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Grove take an Early Lead

by MIKE LOVEDER

GROVE I, as expected, take an early lead in the Premier Division. However they have not quite had it all their own way. They do have three whitewashes to their credit but the latest of these conceals Alan Cooke's two-one victory over John Hilton 17, -15, 15 and over Adrian Moore 17, -17, 9 when Grove travelled to Kettler.

Their toughest opponents have of course been Ormesby who they just beat 5-3 as Chen Xinhua won two beating both Alan Cooke and Des Douglas. More recently Ormesby have again recruited Dave Hannah who is rapidly returning to form and he helped Ormesby beat Bathwick Tyres 5-3 with a 20 & 18 win over John Souter.

So far there have been no draws in the Premier although each round of fixtures has included a 5-3 result. Dulwich Rams recorded their first of these over Ellenborough and they sit in a comfortable fourth place with just one loss to Grove. The Rams beat Armada 400 7-1 with Paul Whiting beating Glenn Baker 20 & 16 to stop a white-wash. Ellenborough have two 3-5 losses, there other being to Kettler Sport. I see Steve Slater has transferred from Kettler to Grove. In October Ellenborough beat Butterfly Cardiff 8-0 to move up into 5th position. Kettler did well to take two games from Ormesby and thus dent the latter's games average. Armada 400 prop up the table as expected while Butterfly Cardiff have taken just two points and six games — all from Armada 400.

REJECTS (TEMPORARILY!)

A surprisingly good start has been recorded in Division 1 South by Mike Pantin's "Rejects" who miraculously remain unbeaten. One of their best performances was to beat Ashford. Max Crimmins gained revenge over Percy Collino in 3 games but he struggled for double figures against an in-form Gary Spencer. Scott Greenbrook is doing well at this level and beat Neil Charles and Dave Barr in the same match. Britannia Anglia Commercial were doing reasonably well until they unexpectedly lost to Team Peniel 3-5 despite John Holland losing his two. Lisa Lomas did most of the damage beating John Kitchener 15 & 17 although she only beat King 13, -15, 20. But can you call her "Man" of the match?! More surprising for me has been Horsham Dolphins' poor start to the season with three 2-6 defeats. Nevertheless they stopped the rot against an unsuspecting Chelmsford OC's reversing that score-line. It was Grant Solder who won the two for Chelmsford and he looks

even more promising this season. Chelmsford, in their opening match, are the only team to have taken a point from Rejects (so far!) and Grant did most damage then too.

TSP Larkhall I seem to have now perfected the knack of losing matches 3-5 and are currently pointless. I thought they were one of the favourites to beat Rejects but the latter's inclusion of Paul Carter at No. 4 upset the form book as he beat Brian Garroway and John Payne. Colley Toyota have enjoyed mixed fortunes with a very good 6-2 win over Horsham Dolphins but an equally bad loss to Rejects. Colley Toyota did do well to hold Britannia Anglia Commercial to a draw. Perhaps one of the best wins of the period in this division is that of Grant Solder over Andy Cunningham 17 & 21.



Chen Xinhua

THREE TEAMS UNBEATEN

Third-placed Grove II in Division 1 North have drawn with the top two sides West Warwickshire and St. Neots. At the other end Ruston Marconi Lincoln and Bayer Bradford have no points. It seems a little incredible that Bradford's inclusion of Martin Kinsella and Dave Gannon has not enabled them to improve on an average of only two games a match. Chan Construction, City of Leeds and Well Connected Menswear are all sitting mid-table with four points having one two and lost two matches each. West Warwickshire had a bit of a struggle with Chan Construction and Ian Gunn beat Barry Johnson 9 & 18 to level the



"Another one in the net!" — Mike Loveder (33) starts the season by marrying Jane Crickmore (28). (Picture by Adam Ginalski)

match at 3-3. But Warwickshire won the last two games to put themselves at the top of the division. St. Neots take on West Warwickshire early in November and this result could help to decide the shape of things to come.

LEICESTER CHALLENGE

In Division 2 Midland Royal Mail Leicester are the only unbeaten team but they are in second place having drawn with Bathwick Tyres II and Burslem. Grove III are top but they lost to the Avon team. Cheltenham Saracens have also only lost one match and they sit in third place with six points. They beat Bath but lost to Grove. Bath and Burslem have five points each and then there is a gap as they are followed by VPM Mazda and Birmingham SC each with just one point to their credit. White Hart Launceston are yet to get off the starting blocks, their closest result being a 3-5 loss to Cheltenham Saracens.

ORMESBY IN FRONT

Division 2 North is led by Ormesby II who have made a pretty good start except they drew with Vymura International in October. Cambridge, who are without a point, just lost 3-5 to the leaders. Liverpool are going well following promotion but they slipped up with a 3-5 loss to Norwich Foxwood. Chan Construction are at the bottom having lost two of their three games 0-8. They put up more resistance against Oldham though just losing out 3-5.

ELLENBOROUGH AGAIN!

Following their promotion to Division 2 South, Ellenborough are going great guns in a division already showing 5 draws. Strangely though Ellenborough drew with bottom placed TSP Larkhall II who have made their usual poor start to the season, but they always promise to do better after the Christmas festivities. Victory Sports Tonbridge, Concord Flash and Fellows Cranleigh all have 5 points with one draw and one loss each. Victory Sports Tonbridge lost to Concord Flash who lost to Fellows Cranleigh who lost to Rejects II! Horsham

Dolphins have 3 draws and a 3-5 loss to Ellenborough. Jolliffe Poole meanwhile have just two draws.

SEAT PETERBOROUGH SURPRISE

In Division 3 East Seat Peterborough seem to have taken their opponents by surprise by being the only team unbeaten. They've made an excellent start with just one close match against Fellows Cranleigh II who in turn have inflicted Brentwood's only loss to date. City of Milton Keynes, Levi's Westfield and Team Peniel II have each won two matches while at the bottom are Crusaders Lincoln and Britannia Anglia Commercial II with one point and 10 games each.

HUMBERSIDE STEAMING

Concorde Huddersfield currently lead a close-looking Division 3 North. Close that is except for Humberside Andro who are sitting in second place after just three matches having won 21/24 with their match against Bri Bar outstanding from which they only need to draw to go to the top of the division. It is very close at the bottom of this division with all the bottom four teams having won at least 12 games. Telford Tigers have drawn with Durham and Ormesby, but they lost 3-5 to Blaydon Y C Racers. Vymura International II took a valuable point from Concorde Huddersfield and took two points from Bri Bar.

RAMS AHEAD

Division 3 South leaders Dulwich Rams II stamped their authority on this division when they beat second-placed Lambeth 4 Tops 6-2 in their opening match. Pillinger Air Croydon have made a fairly impressive start except for their draw with Amity Generation II Fareham. The latter and Marley Ashford seem to have postponed and this match could have quite an important influence on mid-table positions. Rejects III are yet to get their act together while Harlesdon PCC and Gunnersbury Triangle have one win each.

TIGHT AT THE TOP

AHW Comets are just ahead of the pack in Division 3 West where there have been 3 draws so far. Grove III recorded two draws, one with Comets, the other with Colley Toyota II. Kingfisher Reading have lost just one match but this was to Bathwick III. Bude Surfers and Leckie TTC are yet to get off the mark and they meet each other on Guy Fawkes night. Perhaps they'll set the division alight! Thorns scraped a win over Leckie and then drew with Colley Toyota II. So I



British League Table

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



suspect it may be foolish to try to predict this division at such an early stage.

Premier Division

Armada 0, Bath 8
Grove 8, Cardiff 0
Kettler 2, Ormesby 6
Ellenbro 3, Dulwich 5
Dulwich 6, Kettler 2
Ormesby 3, Grove 5
Cardiff 6, Armada 2
Bath 7, Ellenbro 1

Division 1 South

Ashford 7, Peniel 1
Colley T 6, Horsham 2
Larkhall 3, Brit AC 5
Chelmsford 4, Rejects 4
Rejects 5, Larkhall 3
Brit AC 4, Colley T 4
Horsham 2, Ashford 6

Division 1 North

Lincoln 3, Chan Con 5
Grove 8, Leeds 0
Bradford 1, Warwicks 7
Well ConM 3, St Neots 5
St Neots 5, Bradford 3
Warwicks 4, Grove 4
Leeds 6, Lincoln 2
Chan Con 0, Well ConM 8

Division 2 North

Vymura International 1 7,
Cambridge 1
Oldham 0, Ormesby 11 8
Chan Construction 11 0,
Liverpool 8
Liverpool 7, Oldham 1
Ormesby 11 7, Norwich Foxwood 1

Division 2 Midlands

Cheltenham Saracens 5, Bathwick Tyres 11 3
VPM Mazda 6, White Hart Launceston 1 2
Burslem 1, Grove 111 7
Royal Mail Leicester 7, Birmingham S.C. 1
Birmingham S.C. 3, Burslem 5
Grove 111 8, VPM Mazda 0
White Hart, Launceston 1 3,
Cheltenham Saracens 5
Bathwick Tyres 11 4, Royal Mail Leicester 4

Division 2 South

Fellows Cranleigh 1 6, Jolliffe Poole 2
Victory Sports Tonbridge 4,
Horsham Dolphins 11 4
TSP Larkhall 11 3, Concorde Flash 5
Ellenborough TTC 11 6,
Rejects 11 2
Rejects 11 5, TSP Larkhall 11 3
Concord Flash 6, Victory Sports Tonbridge 2
Horsham Dolphins 11 4, Fellows Cranleigh 1 4
Jolliffe Poole 2, Ellenborough TTC 11 6

Cardiff 0, Bath 8
Armada 0, Ormesby 8
Grove 8, Dulwich 0
Kettler 5, Ellenbro 3
Dulwich 7, Armada 1
Ormesby 5, Bath 3
Kettler 0, Grove 8
Ellenbro 8, Cardiff 0

Peniel 4, Chelmsford 4
Peniel 6, Horsham 2
Ashford 5, Brit AC 3
Colley T 2, Rejects 6
Larkhall 3, Chelmsford 5
Rejects 5, Ashford 3
Brit AC 3, Peniel 5
Larkhall 3, Colley T 5
Chelmsford 2, Horsham 6

Chan Con 5, Leeds 3
Lincoln 3, Warwicks 5
Grove 4, St Neots 4
Bradford 2, Well ConM 6
St Neots 6, Lincoln 2
Warwicks 5, Chan 3
Bradford 2, Grove 6
Well ConM 2, Leeds 6

Vymura International 1 8, Chan Construction 11 0
Cambridge 3, Ormesby 11 5
Norwich Foxwood 5, Liverpool 3,
Oldham 5, Chan Construction 11 3
Liverpool 8, Cambridge 0
Ormesby 11 4, Vymura International 1 4
Oldham 0, Norwich Foxwood 8

White Hart, Launceston 1 1, Bathwick Tyres 11 7
Cheltenham Saracens 2,
Grove 111 6
VPM Mazda 3, Birmingham S.C. 5
Burslem 4, Royal Mail Leicester 4
Birmingham S.C. 3, Cheltenham Saracens 5
Grove 111 3, Bathwick Tyres 11 5
Burslem 5, VPM Mazda 3
Royal Mail Leicester 6, White Hart, Launceston 1 2

Jolliffe Poole 4, Horsham Dolphins 11 4
Fellows Cranleigh 1 5, Concorde Flash 3
Victory Sports Tonbridge 6,
Rejects 11 2
TSP Larkhall 11 4, Ellenborough TTC 11 4
Rejects 11 5, Fellows Cranleigh 1 3
Concord Flash 4, Jolliffe Poole 4
TSP Larkhall 11 1, Victory Sports Tonbridge 7
Ellenborough TTC 11 5,
Horsham Dolphins 11 3

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove I	4	4	0	0	29	3	8
Bathwick I	4	3	0	1	26	6	6
Ormesby I	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
Dulwich Rams	4	3	0	1	18	14	6
Ellenborough	4	1	0	3	15	17	2
Kettler Spt	4	1	0	3	9	23	2
B Cardiff	4	1	0	3	6	26	2
Armada 400	4	0	0	4	3	29	0

Division 1 South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rejects I	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
Ashford	4	3	0	1	21	11	6
Colley Toyota	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Team Peniel	4	2	1	1	16	16	5
Chelmsford	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Britannia AC	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Horsham Dol	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
Larkhall I	4	0	0	4	12	20	0

Division 1 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W Warwicks	4	3	1	0	21	11	7
St Neots	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
Grove II	4	2	2	0	22	10	6
Well ConM	4	2	0	2	19	13	4
Leeds City	4	2	0	2	15	17	4
Chan Con	4	2	0	2	13	19	4
RM Lincoln	4	0	0	4	10	22	0
B Bradford	4	0	0	4	8	24	0

Division 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby II	4	3	1	0	24	8	7
Liverpool	4	3	0	1	26	6	6
Vymura International I	3	2	1	0	19	5	5
Norwich Foxwood	3	2	0	1	14	10	4
Oldham	4	1	0	3	6	26	2
Cambridge	3	0	0	3	4	20	0
Chan Construction II	3	0	0	3	3	21	0

Division 2 Midlands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove III	4	3	0	1	24	8	6
Royal Mail Leicester	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
Cheltenham Saracens	4	3	0	1	17	15	6
Bathwick Tyres II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Burslem	4	2	1	1	15	17	5
VPM Mazda	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
Birmingham S.C.	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
White Hart Launceston	4	0	0	4	8	26	0

Paul Carter - excellent wins over Brian Garroway and John Payne



Division 2 South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ellenborough II	4	3	1	0	21	11	7
Victory Sports Tonbridge	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Concord Flash	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
Fellows Cranleigh I	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
Rejects II	4	2	0	2	14	18	4
Horsham Dolphins II	4	0	3	1	15	17	3
Jolliffe Poole	4	0	2	2	12	20	2
T.S.P. Larkhall II	4	0	1	3	11	21	1

The Service Law explained...

The Service Law

by COLIN CLEMETT

This article is based on a paper presented to the 1988 meeting of the ITTF Council. It does not represent the official views of the ITTF nor of any of its committees but is offered as one possible way of simplifying the service law which could help towards greater consistency in its application.

ONCE AGAIN, the BGM Agenda includes several proposals for changes to the service law. This law has probably been subject to more modification than any other law or regulation, but it still causes difficulties both for players and for umpires and it is obvious that we have not yet found a really satisfactory version.

The problems for players stem from the fact that, with modern materials and techniques, a clever server can dominate the rally. Thus a match can become simply a contest of serving skill and rallies shortened to an extent that detracts seriously from the sport as a spectacle. It is for these reasons that so many restrictions on service have been introduced.

The difficulties experienced by umpires are due at least in part to the complication of the law, which means that it is often impractical for them to ensure that every requirement is observed. As a result, individuals may decide to concentrate on the ones they consider most important, which can lead to inconsistency between one umpire and another.

This affects players, who naturally feel aggrieved when a service which has been deemed perfectly legal by one umpire is penalised by another and the consequence is that umpires tend to be less strict in the application of the law, so as not to appear to be "troublemakers". The outcome is that the law is not properly observed and its restrictions are rendered ineffective.

How can we break this circle of cause and effect? In my experience, drastic changes often do more harm than good and I think there is a consensus that the present law, if properly applied, can work fairly well in controlling the potency of service. My priority would be not to introduce substantial new requirements but to enable the present ones to be applied sensibly.

Except at the 1987 BGM, where the requirement for the ball to be thrown within particular limits of vertical angle was removed, changes have usually added new requirements, without considering whether they superseded

existing requirements or in some other way made them no longer necessary. I suggest that the approach should be to see whether the law could be simplified.

As a reminder of the task facing the umpire under the existing law, in the fraction of a second that the service occupies he is supposed to determine

that (1) *the ball is resting on the palm of the free hand* which is (2) *stationary*, (3) *open* and (4) *flat*, with (5) *the fingers together* and (6) *the thumb free*,

that (7) *the free hand, while in contact with the ball, is at all times above the level of the playing surface*,

that (8) *the whole of the racket is above the level of the playing surface from the last moment at which the ball is stationary on the palm of the free hand until it (the ball) is struck in service*,

Continued on page 26

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England win International Team Event

GROWING FROM the need of a bigger venue, last year's Lambeth 2 star became "The City Open" at the Sobell Centre, Islington. The organisers decided that to justify the 29 table centre they would do something special, and so the three way friendly international was set up on Friday evening — between England, France and Holland, this was planned with help from the England team captain Don Parker.

The organising committee decided that the maximum amount of play should be available for every player, but as the 380 entries came in, a very low entry from the girls was noted, only 88 — making a balance difficult. A limit on the numbers in mens class events had to be imposed. The entry taken was — 211 mens class two, 198 mens class three, and 189 mens class four. Many were refused.

The International saw some thrilling games, with Matt Syed seeing off Jean Philippe Gatien two straight, with Alan Cooke and Des Douglas also on form England swept to an easy win over both countries.

However the England girls led by Lisa Lomas partnered by Fiona Elliot found the French with Xiaoming Wang and Emanuelle Coubart and the Dutch girls Miriam Kloppenberg backed up by Gerdie Keen formidable, and in spite of putting up a good fight were beaten into third place.

Saturday was the day of the class events, with over 700 games to play and not enough women to fill 29 tables even once, the schedule ran within 30 minutes all day, until the inevitable queue for the quarters started, with players like Grant Solder, John Bult, Phillip Cox,

wanted in several events — there was a further delay when Phillip Cox tore a thigh muscle, the referee allowed the maximum delay, but unfortunately Phillip was unable to continue, he was expertly advised by the Centre's well trained staff who packed his thigh with ice. The finals started late and two of them were held over with the players agreement, until Sunday, this because the Centre could not allow play beyond 10pm. The finalists having had a busy day in several events seemed glad of the respite.

Many people not having seen class 3 and 4 before expressed amazement at the very high standard shown. Simon Rockall having survived a cliff hanger of a semi with John Bult 17, -17, 23 this was in doubt until the final point, then had a fairly easy win over Gary Jordan 9, 9 in the class 4 final. As so often happens the quarters and semis provided the most exciting games in many events.

Sunday — with another heavy schedule, well over 500 matches and a deadline to meet — all went well until the late afternoon when the sun burst low through the clouds and made play on 10 tables impossible — the Centre staff worked valiantly. They had painted over windows to blot out the morning



Matt Syed

sun, but this was the other side of the building — forty minutes were lost, until then some events had been on time, others were running late. The referee decided to hold back the mens doubles and concentrate on the mens singles keeping this event near to the right time. This decision seemed justified as over 600 people watched the mens singles final, and by using the organisers radio phone (we'd been teasing Alex Facey all day about his Yuppie phone) we were able to keep in constant touch with John Woodford, and Richard Eaton thus making the press deadlines.

The results do not look anything like the usual two star tournaments, and many three star events would like to boast this cast of players.

by DAVID MILLER

RESULTS

Mens class 2
Grant Solder E bt Joey Kennedy K -22,10,19

Women class 2
Jane Barella Sy bt Juliet Houghton K 11,18

Mens class 3
John Bult Y bt Lee Hewitt Y 13,11

Women Class 3
Lesley Popkeiwicz K bt Doreen Schofield Ch -13,15,18

Mens class 4
Simon Rockall Mi bt Gary Jordan Ca 9,9

Jnr Boys singles
Alan Cole Sx bt Grant Solder E 15,20

Jnr Girls singles
Sara Williams Mi bt Ruth Cleminson E 6,13

Veteran Men
John Hilton La bt Jim Hobley E 4,18

Veteran Women
Doreen Schofield Ch bt Pauline Steel St 8,19

Mens Doubles
Douglas Wa/Cook Dy bt Gatien/Marmurek Fra 17,-19,19

Women Doubles
X Wang/E Coubart Fra bt M Kloppenberg/G Keen Hol 8,22

Mens Singles
Jean P. Gatien Fra bt Desmond Douglas Wa 17,16

Women Singles
Xiaoming Wang Fra bt Emanuelle Coubart Fra 8,19

Continued from page 25

that the server then projects the ball (9) *by hand only*, (11) *without imparting spin*, so that (12) *it rises at least 16cm after having left the palm of the free hand*,

that as the ball is (13) *falling from the height of its trajectory* the server strikes it so that (14) *it touches first his court and then*, (15) *passing directly over or around the net assembly*, (16) *touches the receiver's court* and that when the ball is struck in service, (17) *it is behind the end line of the server's court or an imaginary extension thereof* but (18) *not farther back than the part of his body, other than his arm, head or leg, which is farthest from the net*.

At the same time he must check

that the ball (19) *is not struck with a side of the racket blade whose surface does not comply with the requirements of Law 3.4.2* and

that during service (20) *neither the server nor his partner stamps his foot*

and he may have to decide whether to declare a let

because (21) *the ball, in passing over or around the net assembly, touches it, provided the service is otherwise good or is volleyed or obstructed by the receiver or*

because (22) *the receiving player or pair is not ready to receive service or*

because (23) *failure to make a good service is due to a disturbance outside the control of the server*.

The way in which amendments have been added makes many of these provisions over-complicated and their essential purpose could be expressed more simply. For example, is it necessary to define so precisely that the free hand must be "open and flat, with the fingers together and the thumb free" when the clearly understood object is to ensure that the ball rests freely on it?

It is more important for the umpire to ensure that the ball really is resting freely and is not gripped in any way than for him to check whether the thumb of the server's

free hand is held apart from the fingers and that the fingers themselves are literally together. This is how a good umpire will interpret the law, so why should the wording not recognise the fact?

Other parts of the law could similarly be re-phrased and the version below is a first attempt to do this. The only amendment that is more than a wording change is to replace the present requirement for the ball to rise by 16cm with the requirement for it to fall 16cm from the top of its trajectory; this fulfils the same purpose but should be easier to apply.

Modified Service Law

Service shall begin with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the stationary free hand.

The server shall then project the ball upwards, without imparting spin.

After the ball has fallen at least 16cm from the top of its trajectory the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then,

passing over or around the net assembly, touches the receiver's court.

The free hand, while in contact with the ball, shall be above the level of the playing surface.

The whole of the racket shall be above the level of the playing service from the start of service until the ball is struck.

When the ball is struck it shall be behind the server's end line or an imaginary extension thereof but not farther back than the part of his body other than his arm, head or leg which is farthest from the net.

This version is about one third shorter than the corresponding clauses of the existing law and, it is suggested, expresses the same intentions in a more easily understood way. No doubt further simplification is possible, perhaps with some modification of the requirements, and it will be interesting to hear views from readers on how best this might be accomplished.

BCP Communication's transcript of BBC Television Transmission of the 1989 City Table Tennis Tournament on 1st September 1989

SPORTS INTERVIEWER, Michael Wales... And now to table tennis. I remember the days when it was called Ping Pong. EURO TUNNEL and VOLVIC have sponsored the Three Day City Tournament starting tonight and continuing tomorrow and Sunday at the MICHAEL SOBELL CENTRE, Hornsey Road, N7. 500 hopefuls. Two young South East hopefuls were knocking up at the Centre this morning — PHILIP BRADBURY from a small village just outside Aylesbury, taking on ENGLAND'S No. 1 — ALAN COOKE, and Guildford's GLENN BAKER playing the legendary DESMOND DOUGLAS. Both PHILIP and GLENN play for the DULWICH RAMS.

INTERVIEWER - So, Phil, what was it like playing England's No. 1?

PHILIP BRADBURY - Terrific! That's the sort of practice I need before a big Tournament like this, to get a chance to play against Alan. It really makes me feel good. It gets me ready for the Tournament.

INTERVIEWER - And Phil, you want to be full-time, do you?

PHILIP - Well, actually I'm a self-employed builder at the moment and as much time as I can get, I play table tennis.

INTERVIEWER - Alan, how good are we at Table Tennis?

ALAN COOKE - There was only Douglas who was a first-class player at one time, whereas now we've got three or four who are

really quite high in the world and at the moment there's Sweden and China and I would think England are very close behind them.

INTERVIEWER - What sort of training do you do?

ALAN - Well the season is basically the same as the football season so during the summer it's officially our rest period but that's the time of year when a lot of the players tend maybe to put their bats away a little bit and only play two or three times a week but that's when they'll concentrate on the physical training, weight training.

INTERVIEWER - Desmond, you made the breakthrough in Britain, didn't you? You went to Germany and played there in the League?

DESMOND DOUGLAS - Yes, I was quite fortunate. I worked for the Transport in Birmingham and then in 1977, the Germans offered me a contract to play in Germany and I accepted and from there I could play in the Bundesliga and play every day and the competition was very good and brought me on.

INTERVIEWER - Glenn, do you see this happening to you? It's quite a battle for you isn't it?

GLENN BAKER - I'm trying to get on to the International circuit at the moment. I want to play all the internationals so at the moment I'm looking for sponsors to do that because it costs quite a lot of money but hopefully if I can get one and play the International Tournaments, I'll become as good as Des, if not better.

INTERVIEWER - Alan, how much table tennis do you have to play a day?

ALAN - Well, I've heard rumours that the Chinese sometimes before major championships practise eight hours a day. In England we tend to practise for maybe five hours a day.

INTERVIEWER - Alan, this Tournament this weekend. I mean, it's a one off isn't it?

ALAN - Well, hopefully, it's the first of many. I believe to get such good players at the first attempt it can obviously go a long way. So hopefully we'll put into the game and we hope that this tournament will get something back and players will come back next year.

Footnote: This Interview on BBC 1 Television commanded three minutes of prime air time.

Manchester 1996 — The British Olympic Bid

by PETER KNOWLES

BRITAIN HAS hosted the Olympic Games twice this century — in 1908 and 1948 — both times in London. On neither occasion did we 'bid' for the honour, rather we agreed to play host when the rest of the world demurred. For the Games of 1996, the Centenary Games of the modern era, Britain is making a proud and confident bid from a position of new strength. Not London this time, but Manchester.

Like so many other major industrial cities of Europe and North America, Manchester has had a hard time of it since 1945, but today the city looks forward to the 21st Century with new hope and energy.

Bringing the Games to the North West will be a catalyst to speed economic regeneration on a massive scale, adding to the physical transformation which is already under way. New venues will be built in the towns where long term demand is greatest and where the desire to have a part of the Games is strongest — leaving behind legacies rather than monuments for our children and grandchildren. Above all, an Olympic Games centred on Manchester would provide an opportunity for the people of the North West to take pride in the area's organisational skills and enthusiasm.

But what must Manchester do to be awarded the Games? In simple terms we must convince 47 of the 93 members of the International

Olympic Committee (IOC) to vote for us rather than Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Melbourne or Toronto, our five rivals. Between now and September 1990, when the vote is taken in Tokyo at the 96th Session of the IOC, we must put the case for Manchester and Britain clearly and persuasively, and to be able to say, hand on heart, that the nation at large believes that it is both a realistic and practical proposition.

We have great advantages. Any British bid is potentially strong, especially now that the Princess Royal is a member of the IOC.

Our Olympic credentials as a nation are impeccable; we are the only nation in the world to have been represented at every Summer and Winter Games.

Our language, our sporting heritage and our sense of fair play are some of the rocks on which the modern Olympic movement has been built. Today, as levels of sporting achievement rise to unimagined heights, we still produce outstanding Olympic champions.

To gain confidence and conviction throughout the UK we have designed an awareness campaign that aims to inform and enthuse the population at large. This campaign is called:

Driving the Dream



This is the inspirational theme of the bid and it is a slogan that will be seen again and again in the coming months.

The perhaps unlikely venue chosen for the English Open is Bowlers — a privately owned exhibition and leisure centre close to the

M63 — which claims to be the biggest indoor bowling and cricket complex in the world. For the first week of January Table Tennis will take over the entire 5000m2 complex and a major transformation will take place to ensure an ideal venue for the most prestigious event in the calendar of English Table Tennis. Over 1500m2 of 12mm chipboard (to provide consistent playing surfaces) and 3000 temporary individual tip-up seats is just the start. What is for certain is that 2000 seats tightly packed around one table will provide a tremendous atmosphere on the 'centre court' and that the total complex will provide players and spectators alike with an experience to remember.

We look forward to welcoming you and English Table Tennis to Manchester and Bowlers in January and anticipate that you will become enthusiastic supporters of the Manchester Olympic Bid — for your support is vital to the success of this endeavour to bring the most spectacular sporting event of them all back to Britain.

For further information contact: The Manchester Olympic Bid, The Olympic Suite, Bridgewater House, 60 Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 6LT. (061 228 1996).

Counties 1

Contributors to County Notes

When submitting articles for this section it would be helpful if they could be typed and double spaced. I would be grateful to receive black and white photographs of County players to use in break up the often too long solid section of typematter so making the Notes more appealing to subscribers.

Please note that the copy deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

WITH THE issue of the 1989/90 season handbooks mathematically minded members of the Reading and Bracknell Leagues may feel inclined to examine the numbers of Clubs and Teams playing compared with last season. By and large such an analysis produces a fairly encouraging result — that is Table Tennis is alive and well and maintaining its numbers. Bracknell with the same number of clubs have increased their team count by 2 to 58, and although Reading league seem to be down from 37 to 33 separate Clubs, they show an increase to 113 in the number of teams playing in their 10 divisions. The most significant Reading absence for the coming season is surely that of the Woodland Club, who must have been in existence for at least 35 years since I note that they were Division 4 Champions in 1954, following this up 2 years later with the coveted Division 1 title. In 1988/89 they were still a force to be feared with no fewer than 5 teams appearing in Divisions 1 to 5. Their demise was caused by the loss of their premises, not through lack of enthusiasm, and their players have transferred or been snapped up by other Clubs, notably Kingfisher, who with a massive number of teams playing in 5 different leagues, are apt to pick up any free swimming fish.

Talking of Kingfisher I see in his pre season clairvoyancy column in the local paper that Bracknell Results and Registration Secretary Alan Gess predicts that the club will fail to keep their 3 year hold on the League title as a result of withdrawing their star players to concentrate on retaining the Reading top spot. It would probably be more true to say that Kingfisher could still stroll through the Bracknell League if some of their players, including both their club champion and runner-up, chose to appear for Kingfisher rather than for other Bracknell clubs. Furthermore, my guess is that the Jim Stokes managed squad which includes Nicola Cracknell, Gemma Schwartz, and Kosh Subhan, will continue to improve apace and may surprise all, especially Alan when he comes to play them in week 9.

Returning to the subject of League make up, it is especially encouraging to observe the entry of the Bracknell Coaching Squad to League Table Tennis. This group, under coaches Tim Carney and Neil Ward have been in existence for less than a year, so we wish them well against the might of John Cunningham's OLOP youngsters and the oldies of ICL, Wokingham and the Met Office.



A novel way to play doubles!

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

CUMBRIA LOST their opening inter-county table tennis championship match on Saturday September 30th when Warwickshire 2nds won 7-3 at Whitehaven Sports Centre.

Due to the late arrival of the men of Warwickshire, through traffic delays on the M6, the women played first and Cumbria got off to a great start with skipper Julie McLean (Carlisle) and Karen Backhouse (Barrow) taking the women's doubles 21-13, 21-13.

Cumbria had a great chance of going two-up when Karen Backhouse won the first game of her three-setter with Kate Ryan (Leamington Spa) 21-17. But in the next two games, over-confidence was Karen's downfall. Gone were her smashes of the first game and falling back on defence let Kate in at 21-16 and 21-18. The home team regained their lead, however, when McLean beat Allison Ledwith (Birmingham) 21-15, 21-14.

When the visiting men arrived the picture changed dramatically. Number one Mike Browne (Birmingham) beat number two Steve Temple (Carlisle) 15-21, 19-21; number three Peter Waite (Birmingham) beat number three Mark Temple, brother of Steve 21-17, 14-21, 21-8; Dhiru Parmar (Birmingham) beat Cumbria's number one Ian Reed (Millom Former Pupils) 21-15, 19-21, 21-17 and Parmar beat Mark Temple 21-18, 21-18, to give Warwick's a 5-2 lead, a position where they could not lose.

Cumbria's only hope now was a draw and hope was restored when Reed and Steve Temple smashed their way to a doubles win over Browne and Parmar in two straight sets, 21-15, 21-12.

However, the glory was short lived. In the next set, Browne made sure that his side would take maximum points to the Midlands

At the time of writing, six people have responded to the county association's new patrons scheme at £5 per head. They are Gordon Brown, Stephen Crosby, Lynne Hadfield, Ken Kinsella, and Colin and John Taylor

They will all be kept informed of the county association's affairs through a newsletter launched in October.

The Whitehaven League has again two divisions after talk of combining all 14 teams into one division. First Division comprises Windscale, Whitehaven News, YMCA A, B and C, newly promoted Beckermert and newcomers Worthington Town Boys' Club.

Second division also have new names in Maryport and Whitehaven Sports Centre. Other teams in this division will be St Benedict's School, who have returned after a few years absence, relegated Telecom, Mirehouse Social and YMCA D and E teams.

Included in the Sports Centre team is former Cumbria county and North of England Open junior finalist Ron Batty, who has come out of retirement after an absence of more than 20 years.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

EVEN THOUGH the new season is barely under way, we already have four things to celebrate. Foremost is the news that our rapidly rising young star, Steve Dorking, has been selected to represent England at the Russian Open. My copy of the latest ITTF bulletin does not reveal the date of the event, unfortunately! This is a great honour for Steve, who has just turned 22, and is a reward for the tremendous work he has put in to improve his game. Next I note with great delight that the opening Junior Ranking List reveals Grant Solder at No. 1, which is the first time that one of our boys has led the list since the heady days of Chester Barnes, Stuart Gibbs and Keith Lawrence, over twenty years ago.

Thirdly came the report that Skylet Andrew had fought his way back into the England squad to face Poland on October 17th and also to take part in the Polish Open. We look forward to big results from Sky.

Finally news came that our top cadet player Chris Sladden has been picked to represent England in a series of cadet internationals against Sweden, another great honour and reward for hard work. Also, I suppose, something back for his dad, Bob, who must have spent a fortune, like all table tennis parents, in carting him around. I have advised putting Chris on a diet of steaks and Guinness to build up his physique!

Counties 2

Congratulations to Steve, Grant, Skylet and Chris from everybody in Essex.

Our junior ranking trials have now taken place and the leading positions are:-

Junior Boys

1. Grant Solder (Dagenham)
2. James Oyekunle (Dagenham)
3. Keith Buers (Brentwood)
4. Chris Sladden (Dagenham)
5. Tayo Fasanya (Dagenham)
6. Gary Tendler (Waltham Forest)
7. Matthew Reid (Brentwood)
8. Ben Ware (Brentwood)
9. Jonathan West (Beacontree)
10. Neil Butcher (Chelmsford)
11. Wayne Mitchell (Harlow)
12. Ryan Savill (Brentwood)
13. Paul Hudson (Dagenham)
14. Richard Lawrence (Southend)
15. Peter Whealy (Brentwood)

Junior Girls

1. Alison Gower (Chelmsford)
2. Linda Radford (Romford)
3. Ruth Cleminson (Brentwood)
4. Tracey French (Chelmsford)
5. Nadine Barthee (Brentwood)
6. Jenny Coleman (Brentwood)
7. Sarah Gardner (Chelmsford)
8. Julie Rand (Romford)
9. Anna Weil (Brentwood)
10. Cathy Sibbald (Brentwood)

Cadet Boys

1. Chris Sladden (Dagenham)
2. Ryan Savill (Brentwood)
3. Paul Hudson (Dagenham)
4. Daniel Yardy (Brentwood)
5. Vincent Avery (Brentwood)
6. Jonathan Avery (Brentwood)
7. Andrew Taylor (Dagenham)
8. Wayne Smithies (Chelmsford)
9. Edward Cook (Chelmsford)
10. James Wickens (Thurrock)

Cadet Girls

1. Jenny Coleman (Brentwood)
2. Cathy Sibbald (Brentwood)
3. Ingrid Cleminson (Brentwood)
4. Shelley Ruocco (Romford)
5. Claire Rowlands (Brentwood)
6. Helen Cambridge (Brentwood)
7. Karen Mason (Braintree)
8. Sarah Davison (Brentwood)
9. Julia Cambridge (Brentwood)
10. Michelle King (Harlow)

Under 12 Boys

1. Vincent Avery (Brentwood)
2. Stephen Joslin (Brentwood)
3. Barry Mays (Burnham)
4. Alex Yardy (Brentwood)
5. Ben Linnecar (Brentwood)

Under 12 Girls

1. Shelley Ruocco (Romford)
2. Julia Cambridge (Brentwood)
3. Karen Mason (Braintree)
4. Sarah Davison (Braintree)
5. Melanie Sharp (Brentwood)

Therefore when Graham Lee (Gen/Sec of the Gloucester City T.T.A.) informed me of the following — needless to say I was delighted.

Graham in conjunction with the Gloucester League has managed to negotiate a substantial two year sponsorship deal with, "Old Market Printers", who incidentally do all the Gloucester T.T. printing, therefore for the next two seasons the City League will be known as "The Old Market Printers Gloucester T.T. League" at all times.

Furthermore, the Mens and Junior teams in the Midland League will be supplied with T.T. shirts for sole use in their respective matches. I understand that other benefits will follow during the season — including sponsorship of the City Finals Night. The League is greatly indebted to "Old Market Printers" for their generous support.

Gloucester City sees very little top line T.T. these days (apart from the annual well run Cotswold Junior), therefore the Clive Oakman promotion 1989 English Tour T.T. challenge and Exhibition (one of four staged events) at the Cities Leisure Centre was well appreciated by a small contingent of really keen enthusiastic T.T. supporters, who certainly got full value for their money.

Des Douglas on the night beat Alan Cooke -17, 14, 16 & 15, and notched his overall chances to a 2 to 1 lead in the £2,000 challenge stakes, but the final result will be decided in front of Desmond's home crowd in his native Birmingham with the last match to play.

After a half hour break, we were then treated to 1 hour and 25 minutes of sheer laughter and fun watching the amazing antics of Jacques Secretin & Vincent Purkart. I totally refrain from even attempting to report WHAT THEY DID, suffice to say that as the World's No. 1 table tennis exhibitionists, many of you readers will already have seen their video, but I can assure you of one thing, "The Video is good", but LIVE VIEWING is even better.

Also well worthy of a mention was Brigitte Thiriet, a French lady player who has won 19 French National titles. At this exhibition Brigitte swapped her role from player to that of umpire, DID SHE? WAS SHE? able to control Messieurs Secretin and Purkart??? I am pleased to report that Mademoiselle Thiriet kept her cool and handled them exceedingly well, and that took some doing at times.

The annual County Closed Championships has once again been arranged to take place in Cheltenham. Peter Cruwys the County Vice-Chairman and Coaching Officer is hoping for a large entry for this popular event which



Alf Peppard

will be held at the Cheltenham Cricket School on Sunday 26th of November.

With regard to the County Closed and the Juniors it was suggested that the Juniors should be allocated a separate day — pending further enquiries and maybe their events might be staged at St. Benedicts School.

Disabled 6th Division Gloucester City T.T. Player, Mrs. Elaine Marshall from Robinswood was selected to represent Gt. Britain back in the summer by the British Les Autres Sporting Association for Great Britain in the disabled T.T. European Championships in VIENNA.

Elaine duly went there, but did not win anything. She, however is the holder of two National Titles for the disabled, and upon return from Vienna — phoned me to say that it was a great thrill to be selected and perhaps a greater one to be there.

Another young Gloucester City player making quite a name for himself is the County's No. 1 Junior, Raymond Powell. Last summer he was selected to represent "The Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation" in Junior team competition at JACA at the foot of the Pyrenees in N. Spain. I understand that his team and individual performance were both of a very high standard.

And finally I have a distinct feeling that Raymond Powell will be giving quite a few very experienced 1st Division League Players in Gloucester a few shocks this season.

1st official issue of County Rankings - Season 1989/90.

To be released 28th September 1989.

Senior Men

1. Dave Harvey (C)
2. Darren Griffin (G)
3. Graham Slack (C)
4. William Dawe (G)
5. Dale Saunders (G)
6. Frank Jones (G)
7. Alan Giles (S)
8. Sylvester Callum (G)
9. Guy Greening (C)
10. Martin Harper (S)

Senior Women

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

Veterans (Men)

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

Veterans (Ladies)

1. Sheila Matthews (C)
2. Ann Hazlett (G)
3. Gillian Smith (C)
4. Ann Smith (G)
5. Viv Hathaway (G)
6. Rosalind Ross (S)

Junior Boys

1. Raymond Powell (G)
2. Jeremy Hyatt (G)
3. Neil Henry (G)
4. Richard Moore (G)
5. Paul Morley (G)
6. Peter Hayward (S)
7. Tim Dewick (G)
8. Lawrence Simpson (G)
9. David Fannin (G)
10. Trevor Fannin (G)

Junior Girls

1. Alison Cox (C)
2. Caroline Stainer (S)
3. Heather Fannin (G)
4. Caroline Thompson (S)
5. Elaine Bassett (S)
6. Lesley Dewick (G)
7. Beth Walker (S)
8. Helen Arnold (C)

CODE:-

S = Stroud, G = Gloucester
C = Cheltenham

Footnote: Although Cirencester are now an affiliated League within our County, as yet it is early days for them to submit their rankings — we must give them every reasonable chance to get their League established.

GLoucestershire

Alf Peppard

SOLID SPONSORSHIP in our sport both Nationally and Locally is like gold-dust, often hard to come by and yet so vitally important when ever you obtain it.



Adeyfield team

HERTFORDSHIRE

JOHN WOOD

ADEYFIELD of Hemel Hempstead, became the Hertfordshire club champions, when they beat the North Herts Champions Mereden, 5-1 in the final, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre last spring.

The Adeyfield team of Glen Wilkes, Ian Black and Rob Liquorish, were really the underdogs, having lost to the same team the week previous, 5-3, in the final of the Alpha Herts/Beds Cup tournament, held at the Warren Springs laboratory, Stevenage.

In the semi-finals Adeyfield beat Fullerians of Watford 5-2 and Mereden overcame the close challenge of Neeld of Barnet 5-4.

There's no change in the No. 1 spot, held by Keith Samuels of Stevenage, following the County Senior trials held at Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Saturday 16th September.

Keith Samuels proved his talent and ability by beating all comers, with Barnet's John Taylor close on his heels in the No. 2 spot.

But the surprise of the men's trials was the emergence of Glen Wilkes of Hemel Hempstead in 3rd position and the giant leap of St. Albans' junior Ian Black who took the 4th spot following his superb three set victory over Watford's Pete Harris.

But Barnet's Rob Liquorish, who couldn't make the trials will figure in the final rankings.

The Ladies trials saw the top two missing on the day, Hemel Hempstead's Lynn Harrison and Cheshunt's Maggie Pavitt.

But on the day it was Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling who stole the show by taking the No. 1 spot, with Karen Morton of Stevenage in 2nd place, and Watford's Caroline Seaholme following closely in 3rd position, whilst Barnet's Maria Williams finished fourth.

Hertfordshire Seniors got off to a winning start in the Leeds County Championships on Saturday 30th September, when the 1st team overwhelmed Huntingdonshire 10-0.

Flying the flag for the county were Keith Samuels, John Taylor, Rob Liquorish, Emma Hurling and Caroline Seaholme.

Not to be outdone Hertfordshire 2nd team of Glen Wilkes, Dave Seaholme, John Lennon, Maria Williams and Karen Morton, beat Hampshire 6-4.

Finally, good news for Hertfordshire in that Robin Harding of St. Albans and Bob Mellor of Barnet, passed their Coaches Award at St. Neots.

LANCASHIRE

George R Yates

TOP EUROPEAN sports action came to East Lancashire when Blackburn Postal Club took on the crack Federal Germany's TTC Julich 1948 e.V Club in Round 1 of the ETTU/Nancy Evans Cup.

And it was Blackburn who suffered their anticipated defeat but the 9-0 reverse did not detract from the enjoyment of competing at international level against full time professionals with Thomas Rosskopf, Mathias Hutterman and Hans-Jurgen Fischer ruling the roost dropping just one game which was claimed by Liverpool importee Paul Hutchins. Both Graham Clarke and Neil Gravener benefitted only from the experience as did club secretary Harold Murphy.

Both Clarke and Hutchins donned the green shirts of Lancashire in the senior Div. 1A of the Leeds County Championships at home to demotees Yorkshire at Preston on September 30th. It turned out to be an excellent match played with great skill and a spirit of good sportsmanship but looked very much as though Lancashire were to go down fighting. But a spirited second half and in particular Keith Williams (standing in for a reluctant David Carse) made a successful effort in the final set which was something to be seen as he beat Michael Stead to equate the final score 5-all.

From being 4-1 down, with Williams beating Lee Hewitt at the half way stage, the recovery was remarkable as Hutchins beat Hewitt to be followed by Brenda Buoeuy accounting for Helen Shields and Mandy Goodwin doing likewise against Ruth Bray. The recovery job was complete with Williams coming back from an

opening game deficit to claim the scalp of Stead and a point for the Red Rose. Michael O'Driscoll was in a class apart with 2-straight wins over Hutchins and Clarke and sharing a like success in the men's doubles with Stead.

With Darren Howarth, formerly with Cheshire, transferring his affections to Lancashire, the county's Junior Premier Division team would appear to be championship material. Headed by Andrew Eden and Howard Whewell the trio are computer ranked at Nos. 2, 10 and 12 with the top girl, Maria Thornley classified at No.3.

Junior Boys

- 1 Andrew Eden (Southport)
- 2 Howard Whewell (Burnley)
- 3 Darren Howarth (Manchester)
- 4 *Robin Faulkner (Bury)
- 5 *Jason Lee (Nelson)
- 6 *Ron Pennington (Preston)
- 7 *Darryl Meredith (Oldham)
- 8 Chris Campbell (Oldham)
- 9 Rod Manwaring (Preston)
- 10 David Pilling (Burnley)
- 11 Duncan Preston (Burnley)
- 12 Alex Cardno (Bury)
- 13 Chris Whitehead (Oldham)
- 14 Barry Osborne (Oldham)
- 15 Sohith Khurana (Oldham)
- 16 Steven Thornley (Bury)
- 17 Stephen Woods (Southport)



Andrea Holt

County Rankings Season 1989/90

Mens

- 1 John Hilton
- 2 Sean Gibson
- 3 Tony Taylor
- 4 Nigel Eckersley
- 5 S. Scowcroft (Bolton)
- 6 Graham Clarke (Blackburn)
- 7 Paul Hutchins (Liverpool)
- 8 David Carse (Bolton)
- 9 Keith Williams (Liverpool)
- 10 Dave Bunting (Blackpool)
- 11 Mal McEvoy (Liverpool)
- 12 Neil Gravener (Blackburn)
- 13 Barry Elliott (Farnworth)
- 14 David Griffiths (Oldham)

Mens

- 1 Andrea Holt (Bolton)
- 2 Mandy Goodwin (Oldham)
- 3 Brenda Buoeuy (Liverpool)
- 4 Marjorie Riddle (Oldham)
- 5 Paula French (Liverpool)
- 6 Barbar Smallwood (Southport)
- 7 Denise Conroy (Warrington)

Veterans Men

- 1 Norman Thewlis (Oldham)
- 2 Bill Russell (Bolton)
- 3 Tony Rigby (Preston)
- 4 Brian Clements (Manchester)
- 5 Derek Watmough (Bolton)
- 6 Ray Ashley (Preston)
- 7 M. Keane (Liverpool BH)
- 8 R. Bennett (Blackpool)
- 9 T. Kilip (Southport)
- 10 M. Sibley (Preston)
- 11 R. Edwards (Liverpool BH)
- 12 A. Hartshorn (Nelson)
- 13 Roger Whewell (Burnley)
- 14 I. McElwee (Liverpool BH)
- 15 G. Jones (Oldham)

Veteran Women

- 1 Mabel Neary (Southport)
- 2 Alwyn Burrough (Blackpool)
- 3 Lesley Smallwood (Southport)

Junior Girls

- 1 Marie Thornley (Preston)
- 2 *Karen Richardson (Oldham)
- 3 *Joanne Wooldridge (Preston)
- 4 *Julie Abbott (Preston)
- 5 *Tracy Abbott (Preston)
- 6 Gayle Woods (Southport)

Cadet Boys

- 1 *Darryl Meredith (Oldham)
- 2 *Matthew Coombe (Oldham)
- 3 *Chris Whitehead (Oldham)
- 4 *Andrew Halford (Oldham)
- 5 Matthew Williams (Oldham)
- 6 Andrew Bottoms (Preston)
- 7 Nigel Cockcroft (Oldham)
- 8 Raman Deo (Oldham)

Cadet Girls

- 1 Tamar Connolly (Blackpool)

* Qualify for Regional Trials

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillicrapp

THE CLOSE SEASON saw the association bidding a reluctant farewell to Mike Holt as Chairman. Mike, one of the most enthusiastic and capable chairmen the association has had for many years, felt that a three year stint at the helm was enough and decided not to stand for re-election at the recent A.G.M. His organisational ability will be greatly missed although he is staying on as Leicestershire's National Councillor. Successor to Mike is yours truly, and I sincerely hope that I can do half as well as he did.

One of the first problems the association has to address itself to

this season is whether to run a Leicestershire closed tournament. Last season's event was cancelled at the last minute due to lack of support and resulted in the association losing £75.00. in non-returnable booking fees for the intended venue.

Appeals in the magazines of the member leagues of our association for some sort of feedback from players as to why they had stayed away proved fruitless with no-one bothering to respond to the questions posed.

If anyone out there has a magic cure to apathy please enlighten me.

The second week in September saw clubs in the Leicester League starting their 1989/1990 fixtures and it is pleasing to note that the size of the League has remained at 12 divisions (each of 12 teams).

One of the League's most respected senior citizens HARRY WARD was elected to the post of League President following the resignation of the previous incumbent PHIL SMITH halfway through last season. In addition to this Harry has also taken over the secretaryship of the leagues largest club Knighton Park T.T.C.

For many years now he has devoted himself, virtually full time to table tennis, where his special interest, for those few of you who don't know him, is the furtherance of our sport at junior and cadet level and the league presidency is an honour that he richly deserved.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

ON 16th September I attended the Awards Evening of the Friends of the County of Middlesex at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge, where I collected on behalf of the Middlesex Table Tennis Association, a Championships Award because our team had won the County Championship title. David and Margaret Howes were also there and collected a Sports Award for Ashford Table Tennis Club for their achievements in the 1988/89 season. For those of you who have not heard of this organisation, it has been set up, under the presidency of our President, Russell Grant, to keep the name of "Middlesex" alive and band together all who have an interest in Middlesex. Membership includes many sporting associations as well as historical societies, conservation environment and heritage groups and commercial undertakings. It also includes numerous individual affiliates and anyone interested should contact the Secretary, Steve Fenn, The Friends of the County of Middlesex, 82 Aberdale Gardens, Potters Bar, Middlesex EN6 2JF.

The Middlesex 3-Star Open is definitely ON. Thanks to sponsorship from Ray Perrin Music Management, Maintenance Man and Ricketts Decorating (all organised by Ray Perrin) we can go ahead without fear of a loss. I have not quite finished my "sums" but if possible we will increase the Prize Fund slightly. (I have got a dispensation from the ETTA Tournaments Committee that I can do this as long as the increase is in direct proportion to the published amounts.) Entry forms will have been distributed at the Sussex 2 Star and more are available from Doris Moors (12 Bishops Close, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey) or me. Closing date is 16th November, so don't delay.

We are experimenting this year with our Closed Championships and taking them to Ashford to see whether our entries will improve at that venue. The Junior Closed Championships will be over the week-end of 13th and 14th January 1990 and the Senior event, hopefully, the week-end of 3rd and 4th March. The latter has not yet been confirmed by Ashford but I will keep you informed.

The Senior Ranking List for Middlesex players remains virtually unchanged from last season, and the Junior Ranking List has not yet been endorsed by the Committee, so more about that in the next issue.

noting the pros and cons of the various makes taking into account the very great use these tables will be put to. Their conclusions came down in favour of the top of the range. Cornilleau 680 and five of these were duly purchased and are now in full use at the Centre. I hope these will give many years service to the league and would remind players that these tables are made for playing on — not with. Having had a sudden request for a County umpires test paper only this week reminded me to make the point in this article that we are always looking for possible new umpires and there are many very interested parties who could do worse than have an attempt at the paper — pass or fail you will learn some more about the rules that will stand you in good stead.

I have heard that Thetford league has died after some years of decline. Lack of playing rooms was a prime cause and possibly the administration was not strong as we could never get any representation from that league at County meetings. All other leagues in the county seem to have stopped the loss of teams and are hoping with local and national efforts to start increasing from next season. At the first county matches of the season our seniors had a day off, the veterans first team beat Cheshire 2nd 6-3 with Mick Musson in his second year as a veteran winning all of his games. We are making the most of him now in case he goes

required in the rules for county play. When you receive a county handbook do not just put it in your bag and forget it — read it. The regulations as printed apply to YOU as well as the other players.

What a pleasure to see some different faces now our British league team is in division 2 North. Travelling to Ormesby and Oldham and having Liverpool in Norwich so far has given our team a new interest as the names and reputation of the opponents are unknown to us as no doubt we are to them.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

A NEW season, a new Chairman, a new era. Let us hope that this becomes the natural sequence of events, as Phil Snelling, that likeable and most talented young player takes over at the helm and bids to put an end to that parodied refrain, "Where have all the Chairmen gone?"

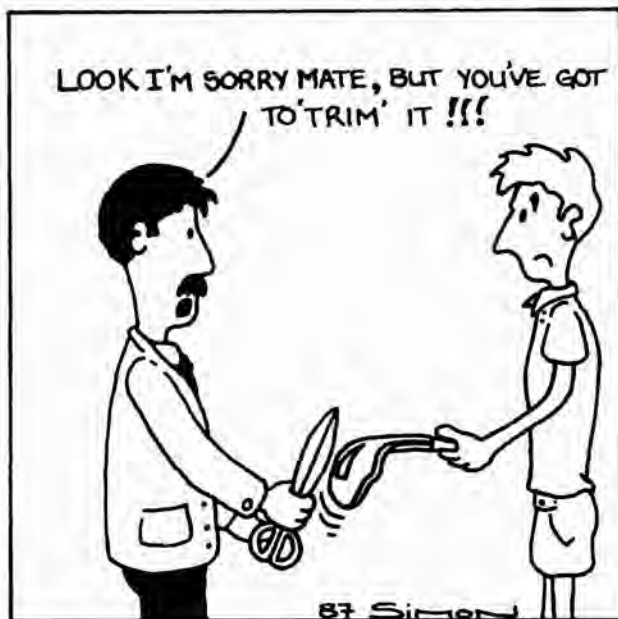
Certainly local table tennis stands at a crossroads, for while several former regulars decline to represent Northants in the Leeds County Championships, an enterprising decision by the Committee sees six sides in contention, giving more players than ever before, not only an opportunity of playing for their county, but also of competing at the highest level.

Another forward looking move is the appointment of Phil Slade as County Events Manager which should not only perpetuate, but also enhance, the many competitions staged within the county boundaries, starting with the County Closed Tournament, scheduled for Kettering Recreation Centre on Saturday 18th November, and for which I understand there is likely to be a major sponsor.

Although team entries are marginally improved in a majority of leagues, the sudden demise of Greg Dobrowolski's Barclaycard seems likely to give the Northampton League Committee food for thought, especially as the continued and reinforced presence of Well Connected in Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering tends to make the final outcome in each case a foregone conclusion.

Individual registrations in Wellingborough and Kettering are on the upgrade and much of this is due to the Computer Ranking List sponsored by Pennine Designer Packaging and Display, whose Managing Director Gerald Finney was instrumental in bringing about the Top Twelve Tournament during the close season.

In this, top county player Graeme McKim proved why he is No. 1 with a series of stylish victories containing just one fright when pushed to the limits in the semi-final against Ian Hawes.



NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

NORWICH LEAGUE needed to replace the 5 tables in their Miller Hall centre, and having about £2,000 available the question was what make of table so a sub-committee of experienced players and administrators toured the area

skiing again....The second team travelled to Nottingham to lose 5-4 and returned home at 1.30 a.m. Sunday. Our Junior first and second teams both beat Sussex 2. I am informed that our Juniors were dressed in a variety of colours so I would remind both players and officials that the county colours are red shirts and navy blue shorts/skirt. These colours MUST be worn when representing the county besides being smart it is

Counties 5

Hawes outplayed McKim in the first end his physique giving him an early advantage as he attacked every ball with immediate success but in the second McKim unsettled his opponent and the clash went into a decider with Hawes leading 10-7 at the change-over. However at this juncture McKim pulled out all the stops calling on his greater match and tournament experience to pull through 21-16.

The second semi-final was another close run tussle with Andy Edmonds gaining an early advantage with a series of spin services that Richard Elliott couldn't handle. But then Elliott began to master this aspect of Edmonds game, and driving his opponent away from the table began to gain the ascendancy, levelling in the second and holding on to take the third 21-18.

The third place play-off was a superb encounter with both players eventually tiring in the oppressive heat. After Edmonds had run away with the first game, Hawes began to take control. Edmonds fought to the end but it was Hawes with two deuces who emerged the winner.

The finals started in scintillating style and for a while Elliott seemed to be gaining the upper hand but McKim pulled himself together to shade the opening end before putting together a string of brilliant attacking shots which not only demoralised Elliott but gave McKim the magnificent new Top Twelve Trophy.

Other players to emerge with credit were the leading juniors from the Leeds County Championship winning side, David Evans who gained splendid wins over Hawes and Mark Nannery, and Kieron Dabbs who lived up to his national junior ranking to finish in fifth place.

Final Tournament Placings

1. Graeme McKim
2. Richard Elliott
3. Ian Hawes
4. Andy Edmonds
5. Kieron Dabbs
6. David Evans
7. Mark Nannery
8. Mick Edwards
9. Melv Starkie
10. Neil Atkinson
11. Chris Handshaw
12. Steve West

SUFFOLK

Paul Hutchinson

FOLLOWING THE Junior Ranking Trials at Claydon the lists are published as below:

Boys

1. Mark Dawson
2. Graham Watts
3. Adam Cole
4. Stuart Wadsworth
5. A. Clitheroe
6. G. Purling

7. Richard Armes
8. Chris Bradley
9. M. Davies
10. Ian Macpherson
11. Wayne Flatt
12. Carl Harvey
13. Andrew Bradley
14. Toby Lowe
15. Lee Balaam
16. Ian Boreham

Girls

1. Janet Scoulding
2. Suzanne Burdett
3. Emma Corbett
4. Emma Pratt
5. Chloe Severwright
6. Louise Addison
7. Sonya Smith
8. Tracy Corbett
9. Marie James
10. Katie Green

With Suffolk Juniors having both their first County games postponed players have now to rely on the local league play and tournaments to keep them sharp. Good performances from Lee Balaam and Paul Owen at the Wiltshire tournament were encouraging and with Chloe Severwright showing improvement as well Suffolk will be looking to these younger players in the future. Paul Owen qualified at the Regional Rankings for the next round showing many of the elder cadets that he will need to be watched.

Leeds British League

The early start to the season, together with County matches on the same weekend have meant unsettled teams for both Britannia A.C.I. and Britannia Ipswich. Britannia A.C.I. with their new sponsors Anglian Commercial Insurance have managed three points from three matches, winning away to T.S.P. Larkhall, drawing with Colley Toyota, and losing to Ashford away. Britannia Ipswich however are at present pointless from three games but showing promise and when they can play a settled side should improve.

County

The County first team have started well with a fine 6-4 win away to Worcestershire. What a splendid match this was, everyone watching could not say they were bored. This was a cracking match with Stuart Palmer showing everyone his powerful backhand. Suffolk were down 3-1 at one stage but fought back well with a good debut win for Richard Nelhams over Trevor Washington 21-19 in the third — truly an open entertaining match with at times six attacking shots from both ends to win a point.

Julie Vansertima showed her maturity to beat Sandra Roden to give Suffolk the lead. Suffolk's Richard Tanner put the icing on the cake to comfortably beat Edward Hardman who had difficulty reading the Tanner service.

The County second team unable to field a full strength side were

beaten 3-7 by Cambridgeshire, with wins by Richard Hutchinson, Malcolm Davis and Andrew Doshier.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

RITCHIE VENNOR and Janet Smith, both skilled top-spinners have started the season as the leading Sussex players. Venner from Crawley, son of the former England and Surrey player Harry Venner, leads Horsham Dolphins in Division 1 of the Leeds British League.

Dolphins have through Andy Dodd, attracted part sponsorship from the London-based recruitment consultants Office Angels and they have signed the well-known Kent high-ranker Andy Cunningham, a determined young player, No. 38, two below Venner, which means that Paul Elphick has a new problem to fight for his place in the side who finished second in Division 1 last campaign.

Dolphins are now without Keith Horton who resigned earlier this year as manager. Keith also pulled out as chairman of the Sussex selectors and the vital job of senior match secretary. Both jobs are now in the capable hands of Derek Bunday, who is also chairman of Crawley and secretary of the Horsham TTC, where playing conditions are excellent, although not cheap.

Janet Smith is fighting hard to retain her high ranking in Scotland in the face of a determined bid for the top ranking by Sarah Hurry whilst Carol Dalrymple is also still highly rated. Sussex women's squad remains strong with Teresa Moore teaching at the Patricia Fawcett School Brighton where no doubt, table tennis is going to be very high on the P.E. dept agenda, whilst the Horsham-based Sally Weston is beating many a red-faced male player — she hammered three Dutchmen when the Dordrecht team visited Sussex in August.

Pat Ginnaw's coaching stable at Arundel in West Sussex continues to produce talented youngsters. The Stedman family, David (19), Helen (16) and now Sarah just 12 are the best examples. Sarah is now in the England Under-12 squad. The Arundel town council have just awarded Sarah £50 sponsorship. This is said to be "from the rates", which seems a little unlikely! Father George Stedman a Worthing school-teacher is the Sussex junior supremo.

SUSSEX HAVE taken the bull by the horns with massive changes for the all-Sussex championships. Years ago, nearly 300 players lined-up at the Brighton Corn Exchange, usually following the English Open

with 16 tables in a line, an impressive sight.

Plush municipal venues are now in the past, instead we have, whether we like it or not, spartan sports centres. The reason for the changes are that more players are needed, but in order to attract them, the need is for a full day's play, not a quick knock-out and a game in the consolation event.

So, it is planned that next March 72 players will line-up, playing in groups of six, men, women, juniors, veterans all in together! This means that all players will get at least six games during the day — the prime object of the fresh approach. After group play the winners and runners-up go forward to second stage knockout and the remainder play in Class 2 and 3 events, also knockout. The women are also segregated at the second stage so that we end up with county champions male and female.

If this experiment works then it is possible that in the following season the number of people could be increased slightly, but to give people lots of games the numbers have to be kept down. Charging £6 a head for the day's action also relieves any financial worries and headaches with sponsors.

The surprise at the meeting was that the traditional "leaders of the opposition" in Sussex Patricia and Peter Wales both approved of the swinging Sussex tournament changes, a most encouraging sign for the special subcommittee — Dennis Reed, Derek Elphick and Roger Gillett whose midnight oil burning is proving well worthwhile.

King Cole?



Alan Cole from Crawley seems poised to play a big part in the future of Sussex table tennis. He won the City Open junior event at Islington stopping Grant Solder, but he was not so lucky at the Wiltshire 2-star losing to Alex Perry. That match included a clash with umpire Dave Miller for Cole. He was penalised a point for allegedly swearing on court, as he went down in the third round of the singles.

And there is more... Cole has done what many star juniors have been tempted to do in their last season as juniors — dropped out of

the Sussex junior squad to concentrate on tournaments and British League. At a meeting of the Sussex TTA recently Haywards Heath spokesman Keith Jackson said "Sussex have put a lot of money into coaching and travelling for young players — I hope the senior selectors will not consider Alan Cole." But that appears to be a minority call — if Cole maintains his progress he is in line to be a future senior Sussex champion.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

JUNIOR TRIALS were staged at Pensnett on Sunday 3rd September with Lee Horton and Jason Thompson confirming their Nos. 1 and 2 positions from last year by again finishing first and second.

Craig Ward from Bromsgrove finished third, with Evesham's Eddie Nixon doing well to finish fourth.

Catherine Drage and Paula Hughes headed the girls group and will both make their County debuts in the first match against Gloucs. as last years top two girls are now both over age.

Junior Boys

1. L. Horton (D)
2. J. Thompson (D)
3. C. Ward (B)
4. E. Nixon (E)
5. A. Burman (W)
6. K. Dean (D)
7. D. Hancock (K)
8. N. Green (E)
9. S. Rush (K)
10. R. Hazell (D)
11. J. Shirodkar (D)
12. A. Bradley (K)
13. C. Harris (D)
14. M. Bartlett (W)
15. A. Seaman (K)
16. M. Stephens (K)

Junior Girls

1. C. Drage (K)
2. P. Hughes (W)
3. C. Hunt (W)
4. K. McCloskey (K)
5. Z. Evans (K)

B — Bromsgrove, D — Dudley
E — Evesham, K — Kidderminster
W — Worcester

The County selectors have issued the following Senior Ranking lists to open the new season:

Mens

1. M. Jukes
2. M. Green
3. T. Washington
4. K. Walton
5. E. Hardman
6. S. Horton
7. K. Chan
8. M. Brookes
9. M. Fiddian
10. W. Aherne
11. L. Sproston
12. K. LeMilliere

Women

1. S. Roden
2. M. House
3. L. Reid
4. J. Hunt
5. S. Meredith
6. H. Pogmore

7. J. McLean
8. B. Jukes
9. S. Stone
10. J. Hill
11. N. Jones
12. L. Davis

Veteran Men

1. R. Dixon
2. R. Norton
3. M. Wood
4. J. Stafford
5. R. Butterson
6. B. Thompson
7. M. Dicks
8. J. Smith

Veteran Women

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

Thorns TT Dudley have now played three matches in the British League DIV 3 West, winning one, drawing one and losing one. Ken Walton was named 'Man of the match' following their 5-3 success over Leckie Walsall

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

IT IS not every county which can boast a Seoul Olympic gold medallist in their ranks, much less one who competes regularly in the local leagues but, of course, Yorkshire, as ever, are unique.

David Hope turns out regularly for Hermits in the top division of the Bradford League as well as making the weekly journey to don the colours of E.T.T.A. sponsors Leeds Permanent Building Society in nearby Leeds. "David who?", you may say, but not here in Yorkshire and more particularly in his home territory of the West Riding, for David is the young man who travelled to the Far Eastern city for the Paralympics last year and returned with a top honour — a gold medal as table tennis champion.

Although this was the pinnacle of his achievement, David is no stranger to the very tense, but equally friendly, atmosphere of table tennis among the handicapped. In 1987 he won bronze at the British National Championships at Birmingham and two silvers (Mens Singles and Team Event) as a member of the Great Britain squad in the Europeans at Aylesbury. This was to be followed twelve months later by gold in the British event, but the Yorkshireman lost out the following year when, after disposing of old rival Don McIver (Durham) in a tight semi-final, he went straight back on court only to lose out to Peter Taylor (Lincs) at the final hurdle.

Came Seoul and the ultimate achievement but — dare I say it! — "Hope springs eternal" and there he was in Vienna some two months

ago to pick up another silver in the singles.

But David, who works as a surveyor in Huddersfield, while desperately loyal to the handicapped organisations with whom he competes, is not afraid to put his talent against the best of the able-bodied. As a youngster in Gomersal, he began his playing career in the local Youth Club and went on to play fifty matches in the highly competitive Yorkshire League for the Dewsbury representative side, before moving into the Bradford League to gain the benefit of a higher standard of play.

With team mates Mick Stead, Steve Kosmowsky and Tony Bottomley he has helped Hermits to

both League and Cup in each of the past two seasons, as well as continuing his Yorkshire League career with Bradford and appearing regularly in local tournaments. No wonder that, with the extra demands on his time from many and various organisations, both handicapped and able-bodied, after his success in South Korea, David has temporarily (we hope) hung up his blue County Umpire blazer. But, with an enthusiasm that many could do well to follow, he assures me that there is more to come, and Yorkshire will look confidently towards further success from this unassuming West Riding man who is an example to us all.

South West Regional News

by ALF PEPPARD

ALAS READERS too late (regards copy-date) to give results of the German National Women's Team tour — but these appear elsewhere in this edition.

The last of these three Internationals will be staged at the Cirencester Cotswold Sports Centre on Thursday October 5th. Cirencester is appropriately twinned with Itzenhoe in West Germany.

S.W. Regional Chairman — Mike Lewis, local co-ordinator from Cirencester Bob Davis and Les Smith have all put in a terrific amount of work upon this final match of the series and are to be congratulated.

Eddie Kaser the Aussie left hander (ranked at No. 3 DOWN UNDER) who now plays for Bathwick Tyres II tells me that he is over here for a year or so to learn

the European approach to table tennis. It appeared to me that Eddie has learned quite a lot in a very short space of time, he beat Cheltenham Saracens No. 1 and No. 2 (Dave Harvey and Graham Slack in straight games). It does not seem that Eddie's missing his Castlemain XXXX?

Ending on a happy note, the Gloucestershire County Committee extend good wishes to Les Smith (National Councillor & Current County Chairman) and July Barber (also a member of the County Committee) who were married in September.

Arthur Wall — Obituary

ARTHUR WALL, 80 last January, died peacefully in his sleep on July 21st 1989. He was a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. He was a Founder member of the West Bromwich Table Tennis Association and served for 47 years mainly as Secretary, retiring in 1980 to live with his eldest daughter in Gloucestershire. He attended our Finals Night in April and presented Trophies.

He ran his own club (OAK T.T.C.) in a large garage at the side of his house for many years, fielding 4 or 5 teams, including MAJORIE CUMBERBATCH (Ex England player).

I saw Arthur two days before he died, to take a photograph of the Finals Night presentation. A quiet statistical man, Arthur was a keen W.B. Albion fan, and kept records of all matches they had played since pre-war days, including teams, and of course he had records of all W.B.T.T.A. activities, officials etc. since its formation.

A grand hard working man respected by all who knew him.

Ray Williamson

East Yorkshire Junior 2-Star

by REA BALMFORD

BRIDLINGTON, a new 'top' venue for International table tennis — I quote the words of Cllr. Bob Owen, Chairman of East Yorkshire Borough Council, at Saturday evening's civic reception — enhanced its growing reputation with the 3rd East Yorkshire Junior Championships.

With excellent playing conditions, superbly organised, and enjoying first class hospitality, the event again attracted the cream of the country's young talent. But the tournament itself provided relatively few shock results, the main upset in the singles being that caused by Alison Gower in the junior Girls who, ranked at No. 6, came through the groups to fight her way through to the title.

She then dismissed top seed Joanna Roberts (ranked 2) in the Round 2 match on her way to a final confrontation with Maria Thornley (3), who had fought back from one game and 6-10 down against Sally Marling (5) to shade the second 26-24 and then take the decider.

A tight final saw the hard hitting Essex girl carry just too much power for the Lancastrian as she moved to a well deserved victory.

In the Boys event all eight seeds took their allotted places in the quarters, with only Peter Bowler (9) needing a decider as he came past Spencer Thompson, who had a good tournament, but then the surprises crept in.

Mark Stephenson (8) from the host county of Yorkshire was the first to take a premature departure, going down to Kieron Dabbs (14) at 19 in the third.

But, not to see his county losing out, Gareth Jones (17), who has made a meteoric rise up the list in the last twelve months, removed Jason Bamford (7) in straight sets.

However, this was the end of the road for both the upstarts, with the two top seeds, Grant Solder (1) and Andrew Eden (2), taking their final places in straight sets.

A thrilling and spectacular final ensued, with Eden pulling back from 17-20 to take the first at 23-21, repeating the feat in the second, only to go down 22-20, to leave everything on the final match of the tournament.

But Eden ran out of steam, the top seed establishing an early 5-1 lead which he never lost, and taking the game out at 14.

But the finalists added a second title with Solder partnering Bamford to a Boys Doubles victory over Eden/Thompson, and Eden sharing the Mixed with Miss Thornley, who thus gained some reward after losing out on both Singles and Girls

Doubles, the latter to the Marling sisters, Sally and Samantha.

At Cadet level Edward Hatley, in his final year in the age group, and Sally Marling, fresh from success at Under 12 level, came through to

claim the singles honours past Chris Sladden and Claire Pengelly respectively.

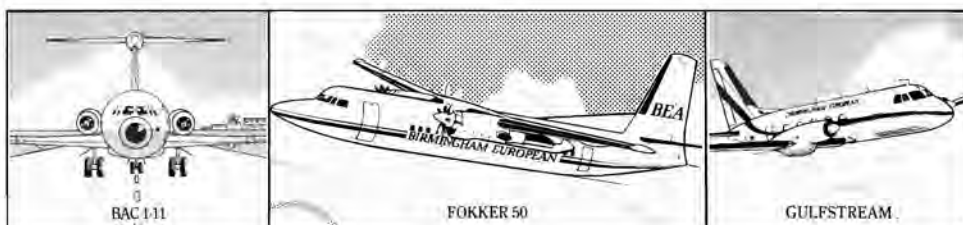
The Surrey left hander took the title without the loss of a game, and went on to add the Boys Doubles in tandem with scratch partner Darryl Meredith, who stepped into the vacancy left by the injured Andy Nicholls.

Competition was keener among the Girls with Sally extended the

full distance by first Caroline Watt (semi-final) and then Miss Pengelly, while the Devon girl gained some consolation for her defeat by taking the Doubles with Lynsey Heyward.

Good to see local interest in the Under 12 Boys, where ten year old Michael, youngest of the T.T. James' family, went down in the final to Vincent Avery after dismissing top seed Meredith in the quarters.

Continued over page



BIRMINGHAM. THE END OF THE HEATHROW HASSLE?

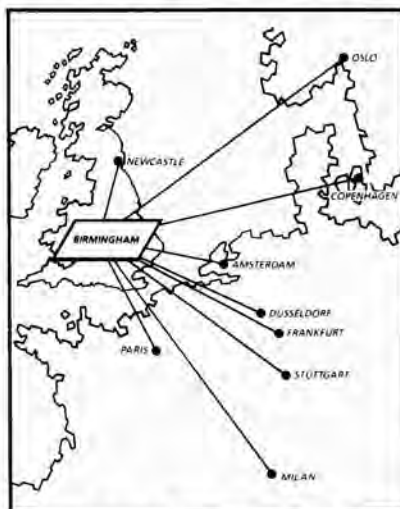
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Juniors 2

continued from page 35

RESULTS

Junior Events

Boys Singles

Semi Finals:
Grant Solder (Essex) bt
Kieron Dabbs (Northants) 12,
16;
Andrew Eden (Lancs) bt
Gareth Jones (Yorkshire) 11,
13.
Final:
Solder bt Eden -21, 20, 14

Boys Doubles

Solder/Jason Bamford (Notts)
bt Eden/Spencer Thompson
(Kent) 12, 16.

Restricted Boys Singles

Semi Finals:
Robin Faulkner (Lancs) bt
Martin Vickers (Yorks) -14,
15, 21;
Edward Hatley (Surrey) bt
Chris Sladden (Essex) 18, 10.
Final:
Faulkner bt Hatley 17, 10.

Girls Singles

Semi Finals:
Alison Gower (Essex) bt
Joanna Roberts (Yorks) -22, 6,
18;
Maria Thornley (Lancs) bt
Sally Marling (Yorks) -10, 24,
15.



Edward Hatley (right) and Christopher Sladden (left)

Final

Gower bt Thornley 18, 19

Girls Doubles

Samantha & Sally Marling
(Yorks) bt Gower/Ellen
Meddings (Yorks) 20, -14, 11.

Restricted Girls Singles

Semi Finals:
Claire Pengelly (Devon) bt
Nadine Barthee (Essex) 21, 22;
Caroline Bentley (Yorks) bt
Debbie Newman (Yorks) 18, -
17, 17.

Final:

Pengelly bt Bentley 11, 15.

Mixed Doubles

Eden Thornley bt Dabbs/Sally
Johnson (Lincs) 19, 11.

Cadet Events

Boys Singles

Semi Finals:
Edward Hatley (Surrey) bt
Kevin Hodgson (Cumbria) 7,
15;

Chris Sladden (Essex) bt
James Mason (Bucks) 12, 9.
Final:

Hatley bt Sladden 17, 19.

Restricted Boys Singles

Semi Finals:
Chris Whitehead (Lancs) bt
Brian McRandall (Ireland) 12,
-17, 20;

Patrick Brown (Ireland) bt
Darren Lindley (Yorks) 20, 22.

Final:

Whitehead bt Brown 16, -14,
20.

Boys Doubles

Hatley/Darryl Meredith
(Lancs) bt Brown/Jonathan
Cowan (Ireland) 14, -18, 16.

Girls Singles

Semi Finals:
Sally Marling (Yorks) bt
Caroline Watt (Cumbria) 19, -
16, 7;

Claire Pengelly (Devon) bt
Sarah Smith (Notts) 12, 12.

Final:

Marling bt Pengelly 14, -23,
17.

Restricted Girls Singles

Semi Finals:

Jennifer Coleman (Essex) bt
Emma Roberts (Yorks) 15, 11;
Smith bt Nicola Massingham
(Lincs) 18, -16, 20.

Final:

Coleman bt Smith 12, 12.

Girls Doubles

Lynsey Heyward/Pengelly
(Devon) bt Marling/Watt 19, -
16, 13.

Under 12 Events

Boys Singles

Vincent Avery (Essex) bt
Michael James (Yorkshire) 15,
17.

Girls Singles

Massingham bt Crystal Hall
(Kent) 12, -15, 11.



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Midland Bank Wiltshire 2-Star Junior Open

IF YOU were looking for bags of surprises and controversies, the Midland Bank Wiltshire 2 Star tournament wasn't for you.

But if nail-biting finals full of enterprise and inspiration were your cup of tea, the Link Centre, Swindon, was the place to be.

Take the under 14 boys' final, for example. England number 2 Alex Perry (Devon) was forced to show all his class in a super scrap. He just clinched it in a fine deciding game against Edward Hatley (Hampshire)...

The Devon lad was also the surprise finalist in the under 17 singles but almost nonchalantly the exquisitely timed hitting of Neil Bevan (Cornwall), the country's number five under 17 year old, decided who walked away with the £50 top prize.

Another entertaining clash came in the girls' under 14s final when England number three Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) had to pull out all her best shots to defeat Devon's Clare Pengelly.

Clare's sister Sarah produced the only major upset of the two-day tournament by ousting top seed Alison Gower (Essex) in the under 17 semi-finals. And Sarah looked on her way to another surprise win when she took the opening game of the final against second seed Sara Williams.

But Sara learned from that game and blunted the Devon girl's attack to win the next two without too much trouble.



Going up in the world... Tracy Youldon, who won the trophy for the best performance by a Wiltshire girl in the Midland Bank 2 Star tournament is given a lift by tournament organiser Bill Willson, left, and Alan Small from the sponsors, Midland Bank.

For sheer tension the class two girls' singles between Ruth Cleminson (Essex) and Michelle Martin (Staffs) took some beating. Ruth eventually won the 129-point marathon.

It all added up to two days' great table tennis, again slickly organised by the Wiltshire Two Star Tournament Committee.

Trophies were presented by Alan Small, Suzanne Baxter, Mike Adams and Nigel Plees, all officials of the Midland bank which sponsored the tournament.

RESULTS

- Under 17 boys' singles**
Bevan bt Perry 17, 20.
- Under 17 girls' singles**
Miss Williams bt Miss Pengelly - 17, 13, 16.
- Under 17 class 2 boys' singles**
Baker bt Tendler -20, 11, 11.
- Under 17 class 2 girls' singles**
Miss Cleminson bt Miss Martin 19, -24, 18.
- Under 14 boys' singles**
Perry bt Hatley -20, 5, 19.
- Under 14 girls' singles**
Miss Deaton bt Miss Pengelly 13, -17, 18.
- Under 12 boys' singles**
Avery bt Scadden 17, 15.
- Under 12 girls' singles**
Miss Jenkins bt Miss Blake 6, 14.
- Under 17 boys' doubles**
Carter and Cole bt Thompson and Bradfield 9, 18.
- Under 17 girls' doubles**
Miss Deaton and Miss Williams bt Miss Wright and Miss S. Pengelly 13, 22.
- Under 14 boys' doubles.**
Blake and Perry bt Vincent and May 13, -18, 13.
- Under 14 girls' doubles**
Miss Heyward and Miss Pengelly bt Miss Martin and Miss Deaton 19, 9.

Tracy Youldon and Steven Elwick won special trophies for the best performances by Wiltshire players.

Southern Region by BRIAN P LAMERTON

DESPITE THE loss of sponsorship the Southern Regional League, now in its third season, has increased its numbers by two. Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club from Earley, Reading, who had a response of seventy to their 'Come & try it' sessions following the T.V. Challenge to Sport campaign, have entered both mens and ladies teams whilst Merton of Bournemouth (good to see a team from the extreme edge of the region) take the place of Rownhams. Two Mens divisions, each of six teams, and a four-team Ladies league all commence battle on Sunday September 24th.

Last season finally came to an end on Spring Bank Holiday when Berkshire retained the cadet team title from Oxfordshire with Hampshire third in an eleven team competition played at Frimley. Feelers are now out to turn this successful one day event into a full league for the coming season.

Sterling work by Chairman Ray Yates has resulted in a substantial Sports Council grant, with a promise of more to follow, to get the Banbury Schools Project off the ground; this scheme, independently thought out before the 'adopt a school' scheme is designed at getting a table and a senior player into every school, not already equipped, starting at primary level.

Regional junior trials have been arranged for Redbridge (Southampton) on Sunday October 15th with preliminary trials, if required, on Sunday October 1st — same venue.

An early reminder, especially to those who did not receive entry forms last season, the Southern Region Leeds Youth Cup competition will be held at Redbridge on Sunday February 11th. If you haven't received a supply of entry forms by Christmas then contact competitions secretary Mick Strode straight away.

As we go to print comes the sad news of the sudden death of LILY YATES, wife of Regional Chairman Ray. Whilst not actively involved in the sport Lily had supported Ray in all that he did for the game, both as a player and administrator, in the near 40 years that I had known them both. She was well known in T.T. circles and will be sadly missed — our deepest sympathy goes to Ray and his three daughters.

Lancashire & Cheshire League MERSEY BEAT by GEORGE YATES

SHOCK RESULT in Division 1 of the Lancs and Cheshire League was the 9-1 defeat inflicted on defending champions Liverpool by Stockport whose only loss was incurred by Roger Hampson who lost to Stuart Richards.

Otherwise it was all very much one way traffic with both Jonathon Taylor and the ageless Derek Schofield unbeaten with Taylor and Hampson taking the doubles against Paul Hutchins and Richards who, together with Keith Williams, had a disastrous night at Hyde.

Bolton, last season's runners-up, began with a like result at home to Ellesmere Port with Stephen Scowcroft and David Carse carrying all before them, including the doubles, with Nigel Hallows losing the one to S. Jones.

Blackburn, with Keith Jackson back in the fold after a season with Bolton, opened their fixtures with a 7-3 win over Blackpool. Graham Clarke being unbeaten, Jackson losing to Martin Ireland and Neil Gravener going down to both

Ireland and Dave Bunting. Barry Crook was without success.

In the women's first division Preston had a treble winner in Maria Thornley who beat Marjorie Riddle, Karen Richardson and Mandy Goodwin of Oldham, who, nonetheless, won 6-4. Stockport had a like success away to Macclesfield with Doreen Schofield on song beating Anne Greenough, Pat Brooks and Lilian Hamlett.

Stockport began where they left off as last season's champions of the Veterans Div. 1 by beating Bolton 8-2 with Derek Schofield and Paul Collins unbeaten, Vinny Mole losing to Bill Russell and Derek Watmough. Preston were even more impressive in beating Wirral 10-0 with Tony Rigby, Ray Ashley and Mike Sibley shedding one game only by Sibley to Colin Pratt.

A Further Tribute to Les Constable

AN EXCELLENT start has been made by the new editor for the October 1989 issue of Table Tennis News, but it was sad reading Geoff Waters' fitting obituary to Les Constable.

My first memory of trying to play 'serious' table tennis was being taken by my mother to Cambridge Y.M.C.A. for coaching. It was around 1963. John and Margaret Cornwell were the Coaches. And Les: For the next 10 years 'L.R.J.C.' seemed always to be there in every part of my Cambridge table tennis activities.

He had a dry humour and was occasionally a little grumpy, a small defeat. I got on with him well. He was willing, helpful and kindly unassuming. I remember his pleasure at a league committee meeting when, having won the Coca Cola press official award, he gave us all a glass of Bacardi and Coke!

With the death of Frank Pettit, Bill Rogerson and now that of Les, many of the stalwarts of my youth have gone. It is painful to me to consider how little I really knew them and how I took them for granted. We should value more those who have given so much of their lives to our sport. And why did I never speak to Les about the other things that mattered to him, his family, the Wesley Church, cricket?

In this increasingly changing and vulgar world, Les's qualities of constancy and integrity are much needed. He will be missed.

KEN MUHR
23 York Road,
Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes
MK11 1BU.

"3 Star Confusion" Reply from John Preat to George Hammond's statement in the October issue in Mailbox

IT IS true that the National Council earlier made the perfectly reasonable decision to have only six 3 Star Tournaments this season. As there were seven applicants, it followed that one had to be omitted. The Tournament Committee axe fell on the Essex.

This did not seem a good idea to some of us. I paid a personal visit to the Essex 3 Star last season and concluded that this had a lot going for it and deserved support. Perfectly properly, representations were made to the National Council to reinstate the Essex, and Council agreed. This meant that there would then be seven 3 Stars.

Granted, that this meant a change of heart, but why not, if it is thought that this is good for the game? The real 'crime' would have been to do nothing, pretending that all decisions, good or bad, were cast in granite and unchangeable for all time. That is not the way of a progressive sport.

Unofficial Ranking Lists

IN ANSWER to Alan Shepherd's letter re. unofficial ranking lists in the October issue, may I first confirm that my eyesight is good, so he need wonder no more on that score. I will admit in my original letter I omitted to state that the list I was objecting to was for the cadets.

If I read Alan's letter correctly he has produced a cadet list using junior results which makes the whole list worthless. As David only competed in about 4 Junior tournaments last season due to the costs involved he was not ranked very high as a junior, therefore the junior list was a true reflection of junior results, which brings me back to what I asked originally — what was Alan trying to prove? I will agree with Alan on one thing though — my daughter Katrina is delightful and my opinion may be biased. I think she has turned into a very nice young lady. Those who knew Katrina when she was a junior may like to know that she has just left college and has started to play again, so she may be seen on the circuit later on this season.

DAVE BAKER
35 Greencroft Road,
Heston
Middlesex
TW5 0BH.

Opens — Closed?

Any open tournament organiser reading the article on computer points by Don Parker in the October issue surely read with trepidation. They know that due to the costs of running a tournament it is essential to get a large entry. The abolition of computer points in group play must surely be the biggest threat to this aim there has ever been. "Computer points" are the buzz words in table tennis in this country. Without them a big incentive to entering tournaments is lost.

This astonishing ruling is potentially disastrous. Did anyone think through the possible consequences? Apparently there is a problem with errors, but this solution is surely a bigger blunder. The majority of players who enter tournaments will be affected. All of us, I'm sure, would be happy to keep the Lentec scheme as it is — rather than what has been decided. However, in the

same issue of TT News that this information was given, John Preat said our association was in profit. Perhaps he could use some to pay the computer operator to spend more time in entering the results — including the groups!

Finally the Hastings 2 star gave us value for money at least, despite the computer points controversy — 4 to a group! Well done. And what a good tournament as well! Let's hope more tournaments do the same.

FRANK HAMS
104 Wandle Road
Morden
Surrey SM4 6AE

National Coaching Scheme — Regional Coaches

THERE APPEARS to be a lot of misunderstanding of what the definition of a Regional Coach is.

It is NOT a qualification; nor is it a 'Life' appointment, which some Coaches, Players and League Secretaries that I have spoken to recently seemed to think.

A Regional Coach is a qualified Coach who has been appointed to do a 'JOB'. If there was a 'Job' Description it would read something like this:-

- To - visit Leagues/Clubs/Schools/ Sports Centres as appropriate
- To - help with Coaching
- To - promote and develop Table Tennis
- To - organise Coaching Sessions
- To - explain and support the National Coaching Scheme to a wide range of people, i.e. Players, Administrators, School Teachers, Sports Hall Managers, Youth Club Leaders, Local Authorities etc.

- To - enthuse and encourage people from the above list to take up Coaching

- To - train new Coaches
- To - encourage and help promote activities set up by the E.T.T.A. i.e. Bounce Into Action, Come & Try It etc.

- To - Liaise with Regional Coaching Chairman
- To - Fill in and return the necessary paper-work involved. Remuneration -

- Travelling Expenses and payment for a 2 hour Free Visit to Leagues and Registered Coaching Centres, but otherwise voluntary for Job Satisfaction and the Assurance of the Future of Table Tennis.

Anyone reading the above will realise that a Coach appointed to do this 'Job' must have reached a high standard in both Coaching Skills and Communication.

A League or Club could only benefit from using their 'Free Visit'

VALERIE CLACK
Coaching Chairman for the South West & Southern Region

Further comments on Rob Oldfield

NOTING THE comments made by Ron Fosker and John Woodford regarding the editing of Table Tennis News, I felt as the Vice Chairman responsible for Public Relations during the period in question, that I should have what I hope will be the final say.

When George Yates gave up the role of Editor of Table Tennis News after many years of successfully editing the magazine from his home in Bolton, Robert Oldfield took over the magazine with his wife Caroline Searle, assisting him with the work. He successfully modernised the compilation and did a very sound job until Caroline took up permanent employment herself with the Badminton Association of Great Britain and we all know the great success she has achieved since as a result of her work with sport.

Robert resigned under pressure, sadly, and Fiona Brown our then Development Officer, did the impossible in taking over the editorship within her own spare time after her full time work at Hastings, she subsequently trained John Woodford in the role of putting the letters and articles together for printing and completion. Her part was vital and well done as was John Woodford's until his resignation, for John worked 18 hours a week on the magazine on top of his regular national press reporting.

Ron Fosker, himself assisted ETTA seminars with excellent sessions on local league press activity and the ways to achieve local coverage. With congratulations like this gentlemen, do any of you have to pat yourselves on the back every time you see your name in print. In fact Ron your letter has more content than the input in total that you achieved in Public Relations meetings over two years.

BRIAN SPICER
27 Padbrook,
Detilms Lane,
Limpsfield,
Oxted, Surrey.

Come into the trenches Mr. Fosker!

WHEN I wrote a quick reply to Ron Fosker's attack concerning Rob Oldfield's editing of this magazine, I had not seen Ron's letter. Ron is a journalist igniting explosive comments from a distance. In recent times, there are only four people with editing experience (of this magazine) who have come under fire in the trenches, George Yates, Rob Oldfield, Fiona Brown and myself.

All will agree that is one of the most difficult tasks in the sport — the new editor Alan Pickard will at this early stage, also concur with that statement.

Continued on next page

Stamco Sussex Open 2-Star Tournament

by RON SPENCER (Organiser)

ENGLAND'S NO. 5 Nicky Mason became the first player to win the Men's Singles title in three successive years when he retained his title at the Hastings Sports Centre on 7th and 8th October.

In the top half of the draw and seeded No. 1, he had a tremendous three set match against Chris Oldfield in the quarter final and then hammered Graham Sandley 8, 8, in the semi-final. Sandley had earlier put out =3 seed Stephen Dorking in a three set match. The other half of the draw was made wide open through the unexplained absence of John Souter, seeded 2, and David Hannah, seeded =3. Glenn Baker and Sean Gibson took advantage of this to proceed steadily through their matches to meet in the semi-final which Gibson narrowly won 21 in the third set. In the final, Mason had a comfortable 13, 12 victory over Gibson. Alison's

Seventh

Alison Gordon, England's No. 1 lady player, continued her domination of the Women's Singles when she won for the sixth successive year

and the seventh in all with a straight sets win over Jill Harris. Both proceeded to the final without too many problems, although Jill was pressed to beat Lesley Radford 19, 17. The match of the event was Carol Giles' 15, -19, 22 win over Krubat Owolabi, an unseeded Nigerian.

In the Mens Doubles, No. 1 seeds Baker & Sandley moved to a finals place with an 18, 12 win over John Holland and Tony Stark in the semi-final. Helped by the withdrawal of No. 2 seeds, Souter and the injured Colin Wilson, Mason & Joe Kennedy came through their half of the draw beating the two Pauls from Devon, Giles & Whiting, in the semi-final. In the final, the No. 1 seeds just edged home 20, 20.

The Women's Doubles saw a second win of the evening for Alison Gordon who, with Juliette Hough-

ton, beat Jill Harris and Janet Smith. This latter pair just edged home -20, 20, 15 against Carol Giles and Sue Collier in the semi-final.

Nigerian Shocks

The major shocks occurred in the Mixed Doubles when unseeded Fatai Ayindi and Krubat Owolabi, two players from Nigeria now playing for the newly formed Concorde Flash Club in East London, first beat =3 seeds Adrian and Teresa Moore in the quarter-finals and then, after losing 23-21 in the first set, hammered the No. 1 seeds and holders, Mason & Gordon, 9, 11, in the other two sets in the semi-final. The No. 2 seeds of Paul Whiting and Carol Giles proceeded to the semi-final when they were ousted by Richard Darnell and Jill Harris. In the final, the unseeded pair, despite losing the first set, came back to take the next two and the title.

The Veterans Singles provided some of the longest and tense games of the tournament. Hertfordshire's David Seaholme, taking advantage of the absence of No. 1 seed, Derek Holman, had his money's worth beating R. Langheim and Gordon Chapman, both in expedite, and then had a hard -17, 16, 20 victory over Sussex's Keith Horton. He ran out of steam in the Final when he lost comfortably to Sussex's Andy Meads. Meads, however, did not

have it all his own way earlier beating Frank Hams 20 in the third, after losing the first, and then edged home 19, 19 against Mike Short in the semi-final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles

Semi-finals

N. Mason bt G. Sandley 8, 8
S. Gibson bt G. Baker 13, -15, 21

Final

Mason bt Gibson 13, 12

Women's Singles

Final

Miss A. Gordon bt Miss J. Harris 16, 14

Men's Doubles

Final

G. Baker & G. Sandley bt J. Kennedy & N. Mason 20, 20

Women's Doubles

Final

Miss A. Gordon & Miss J. Houghton bt Miss J. Harris & Miss J. Smith 9, -19, 13

Mixed Doubles

Final

F. Ayindi & Miss K. Owolabi bt R. Darnell & Miss J. Harris -16, 14, 14

Veteran's Singles

Final

A. Meads bt D. Seaholme 18, 9

CONTINUATION OF MAILBOX

Continued from previous page

When I said "We have come a long way since then" I was referring to the sport in general, not specifically the magazine. If an editor is committed to rewriting quantities of the material submitted as Rob tried to do, it would become almost a full-time job — who could afford the time to do that?

Under Rob Oldfield the number of advertisements was extremely low, the picture library was quite small, leading to vast areas of unbroken type, all of which hampered his efforts. All writers have their own style, Rob's was not my way of saying things, but that is irrelevant.

If Ron Fosker is so knowledgeable on editing "Table Tennis News" I think he ought to spare the time to offer some constructive assistance, other than defending a former editor and criticising my efforts over three years.

JOHN WOODFORD

Is making the sport more colourful going to improve its T.V. image?

AFTER HAVING failed to discover in Dortmund the reasoning behind the red floor which caused video-cameramen many problems, I read in May/June T.T. News that not only

did Mr. Ogimura like it... but would like to retain it... with yellow/orange balls and a white playing strip, at the Barcelona Olympics. Viewed from a mid-table seat, at floor level, I agree it would be excellent, however the T.V. Master Cameras (T.V.viewers) and the majority of the audience present at the venue, are both farther away and looking down to the play which is very different. For example the 1,000 Lux of Light "bounced" off the red floor (giving the players red faces), which would "make" the white kit "pink" and almost invisible, the proposed yellow/orange ball colour being (apart from pink) the hardest to see in those circumstances, alongside the "dazzle" from the light-reflecting clothing.

What can be learned from Snooker?

In the space of 3 years its coverage on T.V. moved from the last few frames of the 1976 world championship final, to every day coverage of the event in 1978. Why was this? From the B.B.C. point of view the major obstacle to be overcome before the real break-through in the game's popularity — the problem of television lights — which the players did not like! i.e. 40 lamps producing 40 reflections on each of the 22 balls. The T.V. producer "wanted to get the players over to the public to show a player about to play a shot or his opponent reacting

after he had missed one". Before 1976 there were few close-ups, the players disappearing into the darkness because of the way the lighting was arranged. In 1979 the last problem was solved — strip lighting was used instead of individual lamps which being much cooler made the players more comfortable and improved their performance which contributed additionally to its T.V. media success, to which it had "been dragged kicking and screaming" by a T.V. producer.

Lighting International Matches (without T.V. presence)

As the video tapes show most clearly (from last season's Chinese Tour), the lighting was inadequate; **For the players:** (at middle-distance) the ball was a shadow. **For the spectators:** & Team-Benches (at the ends of the court) at middle distance, the players became "black shadows" unrecognisable from each other. **Why was this?:** as Clive Oakman confirmed, the lighting was 400 Lux "at the barriers" but they are only 2 feet 6 inches high....no lighting being over them.

As a lifelong table tennis recent video fanatic, with a foot in both camps, might I suggest that in either recruiting the non-playing public to our ranks, or selling the sport on T.V. it requires experts outside our sport to achieve it, as the players are loath to alter what currently suits them, and our administrators (being former players) are naturally

"at a distance" from the present day non-players, "preach to the already converted", and naturally view the general public "through the sport's eyes", which in the case of snooker...from a T.V. point of view...was the greatest obstacle to its success.

With an eye on the European Super League

Why not offer the T.V. all one end of the venue (as at Preston), which would still leave adequate seating for spectators, produce income and "put bottoms on seats" at the end which the camera sees, which frequently on T.V. are shown to be empty.

Seating the sponsors and celebrities "at the in-camera end" would give them maximum exposure (as they get at snooker); a clear view of the play (currently obstructed by the umpire and scoring machine operators); and an appreciation "of what's on the ball".

In answer to critics who may accuse me of: "trying to turn the venue into a T.V. studio"... they are absolutely correct... because then their cameras are present, to them... that is precisely what it is.

SYD FRYER
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GREENS

The Workshop, Astley Lane, Bedworth,
Warwickshire, Tel: 0203 312183

WATCH THESE EVENTS:

KENT

JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

SAT/SUN, 4/5 NOVEMBER

The Waterfront Leisure Centre,
High Street, Woolwich SE18
Sat: U12 and Cadet Events
Sun: Junlor Events

CLEVELAND

JUNIOR SELECT

SAT/SUN, 18/19 NOVEMBER

Eston Leisure Centre, Normanby Road, Eston,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland
Tel: 0642 452488

Sat: International Junior Team & Cadet Events
Sun: Junlor Boys and Junior Doubles
Nominal Charge

STIGA MIDLAND OPEN 3-STAR

SAT/SUN, 11/12 NOVEMBER

Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, BIRMINGHAM

Sat: Men/Women Singles, Vet Singles, Men/Women Groups

Sun: Mens Groups, Men/Women Doubles, Men/Women Singles Finals

Tel: 021 444 8201

Admission: Adults £1 per day, Children 50p

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

SAT/SUN, 25/26 NOVEMBER

St Neots TTC, Riversmead, The Common, St Neots

Sat: Session 1 and 2, Sun: Session 3

Counties participating: Yorkshire, Devonshire, Essex, Derbyshire, Lancashire,
Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, Kent

Admission: 10p



ENGLISH

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SAT/SUN 2/3 DECEMBER

Hinckley Leisure Centre, Coventry Road, HINCKLEY, Leics.

Tel: 0455 610011

Sat: Cadet Events Sun: Junior Events

Admission Free



INTERNATIONAL — ENGLAND v FRANCE

WED 29th NOVEMBER

St Andrews Hall, Norwich

Admission: £6 (Including programme)

Tickets from:

Ken Edwards, 21 St Walstons Close, New Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk Tel: 0603 742544
or ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Rd, Hastings, E.Sussex TN34 1HF Tel: 0424 722525

