



Table Tennis News

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The official magazine of
The English Table Tennis
Association

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Front page: Carl Pream and
Andrea Holt the new National
champions, pictured here winning
the South of England 3 Star
(Photograph by John F.A.Wood)

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Editor's Note

AT long last I'm very happy to be sitting in the Editor's chair, two years after I was originally offered the post, when due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to accept.

Now I'm here, having just completed my first issue, which I enjoyed very much indeed, I hope to stay indefinitely.

The first tournament that I attended since becoming Editor was the South of England in February, at Farnborough, where two long pimple players, Carl Pream and Andrea Holt won the singles titles.

As a long pimple player myself I felt an affinity with their victories.

Then came the wonderful news that Matthew Syed had beat all comers to win the Czechoslovakian Open, with of course long pimples!

A fortnight later Carl and Andrea topped their South of England triumphs by winning for the very first time, the National singles crowns at Stourbridge.

So my introductory issue has been quite eventful, and with the world championships in Chiba and the Commonwealths in Nairobi in April and May, the next issue should be even more exciting.

Retiring Chairman John Pream pays tribute to Jim Beckley, the retiring Editor of Table Tennis News, on page 25, but I would also like to say a few words in praise of Jim's efforts.

Firstly, it was a pleasure working with Jim in my capacity as a photographer and writer. Secondly, he gave our magazine an interesting new look with good use of space and tints.

Finally, I am very pleased to inform you that we will not be losing Jim completely, as he will be continuing as Advertisement Manager, as well as writing the occasional report, like the National Championships in this issue.

Just before putting this issue to bed the election results were announced, With Alan Ransome becoming the new Chairman, and Stuart Sneyd the new Deputy Chairman. The full election details are on page 25.

John F. A. Wood

**ACTION
PACKED
APRIL**

On the mend

GREAT news! John Jermyn is on the road to recovery, following his recent cardiac surgery.

Hopefully we will soon see his and his wife Diana's, smiling faces back on the tournament circuit.

CHEN IN GERMANY

THE controversial Chen Xinhua, the former Chinese international chosen to represent England in the World Championships, has just signed to play for T S V Heilbronn — Sontheim in the German Bundesliga next season. He replaces the Polish No. 2 Leszek Kucharski. Sontheim are currently lying in 7th place in the 10 team Bundesliga, free from relegation worries.

It is hoped that an exhibition double act with the former World Champion Gua Yuahua (35) will rival that of the famous French duo Secretin and Purkhart. Advance bookings are reported as promising.

DEREK GETS PLASTERED

DEREK GEORGE deserves a gold star, with one leg in plaster from groin to toe, he still managed to play a Premier Division match in the North Herts League.

Not only did Derek play, but he won two of his three singles, and played his one legged part to win the doubles, in tandem with Kevin Nye.

This local club derby match, in Stevenage saw Derek's team LeRoi 'C' beat their 'B' team 7-3.

The game that Derek lost to Kevin Shaughnessy was really close, with the 'B' teams No.1 just pulling it off 18 and 23.

On Monday 18th March Derek visited the surgeon at Hemel Hempstead General Hospital, where the surgeon decided to plaster his leg.

Monday evening he played his match, and on Tuesday morning Derek had both of his knees operated on — the left had built up crystals under the knee cap removed, and the right had a torn cartilage treated.



Smiling John and Diana Jermyn, pictured at last year's Nationals

WEAK SPOT

CONGRATULATIONS to Matthew Syed on winning the Czech Open, which must have clinched his place in England's Team in Chiba. Worries remain about our doubles, the weak spot for so long. Yet success in doubles is essential in the new Swaythling Cup system.

The team that beat the world champions, Roskopf & Fetzner, i.e. Prean and O'Driscoll is sure **not** to be in action. Prean was pre-selected for Chiba. O'Driscoll goes to Nairobi. They may find it hard to work up an understanding.

ENGLISH NATIONAL Junior Top 12

IT was decided at the Management Committee meeting held on 25th January 1991 that the above tournament scheduled to take place on 11th and 12th May will now not take place, the Junior calendar being so overcrowded.

I PLAYED THE GAME

I played the game	I have no name
I had an aim	I'ts all the same
No talent came	No one to blame
I missed the fame	I played the game
	A. PLAYER

VACANCY

Ransome Sporting Goods exclusive distributors of Butterfly and Schildkrot table tennis, Unsquashable squash, Talbot badminton, Snauwaert tennis and textiles and Babolat VS strings and racket accessories seek to recruit a Trainee Representative to cover the South East of England.

This new position has been created as a result of the company's expansion programme.

As well as having the ability to sell and get along well with people applicants should ideally be aged between 18-30, live in the Essex or Hertfordshire area, have a strong knowledge of table tennis or racket sports, a clean driving licence and a keen ambition to progress in the sporting goods trade.

This full-time position will include a basic salary, commission, a company car and realistic expenses.

Apply in writing with full CV to David Hutchinson, Company Accountant, Ransome Sporting Goods, Wood Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 1JP. Closing date: April 15th 1991

RISING STAR

Rising star Emma Hurling, won the British Polytechnics Table Tennis Championships, women's singles title, at Huddersfield Polytechnic Sports Hall, on Saturday 16th March 1991.

Hurling, who lives in Hertfordshire, attends the Chelsea School of Human Movement, in Eastbourne.



Emma Hurling

PREAN REJOINS

CARL PREAN (23) returns to ATSV Saarbrücken next season after two highly successful years with Zug-brücke Grenzau. He will hope to restore his former club to the glories of his last season with them when they achieved the remarkable treble of German Champions, Cup-Winners and E T T U (European) Cup Winners. Georg Rebmann, the A T S V Club's astute manager, has not yet completed his signings for next season. The Saarbrücken Club has had a poor season by their standards and their place in the 4 team play-offs is not yet assured. These play-offs decide the title regardless of who finishes top at the conclusion of the normal league programme.

It remains a big club, comparable in football terms with Real Madrid and Manchester United, and success is essential. The signing last season of Glen Ost, Coach of Sweden's Worldchampionship winning side (5-0 vs China, Dortmund 1989) is regarded as a vital first step in Rebmann's master plan.

Carl is expected to take the No. 2 spot. Much speculation surrounds who will be at No. 1. Current holder is Chen Zhibin (Chinese National Champion 1989), but his form has been disappointing by Saarbrücken standards. Waldner, who once played for the club, is unlikely to return, but the rumours include some very big names.

Hardest fought election

It was probably the hardest fought election in living memory. I was not around in the Twenties when a distinguished predecessor of mine, the late Ivor Montagu reported that "writs were flying around".

When these notes were written, I did not know who would be your choice, but you will know my successor when you read this.

Many members asked me for my view, a sensible idea, since I knew the two main candidates well. Both had served on the Management Committee which I chair. It would have been an act or irresponsible cowardice if I had suppressed my own views. For this I got much stick and some unpleasantness from one side and some even sought to deny me my democratic rights of free expression. They demand from me an impartiality which is no part of our Rules. They had not asked for impartiality when I supported their favoured candidate for deputy four years ago.

Much was made of the fact that I had changed my mind in the four years. To which I can only reply *inter alia*, that I learned from life and indeed experience and that four years ago Richard Scruton had not stood for deputy.

You should also know that a charge of "bringing the game into disrepute" was brought against me by a supporter of one of the candidates for no greater a sin than supporting another candidate. Nothing was substantiated. What was complained of was a routine election letter, which most of you have seen, which gave you the facts, as I see them. I stand by every word. The fact that I was charged was widely leaked, particularly to sections of the press. Presumably it was hoped that some of the mud would stick. It usually does. Thus it was perhaps hoped to ruin my spotless reputation and record of service. I shall not take this lying down.

I can only express my contempt for those who felt unable to end their unpleasantness during the last few weeks of my chairmanship. I fear for the future of the sport, if such people are part and parcel of it.

Old friends

It was a great pleasure to meet old friends again at our National Championships in the splendid Crystal Leisure Centre of Stourbridge. The rumour referred to above had been widely circulated. Great, that so many took the trouble to thank me for the efforts I had made as chairman and particularly to assure me that I continued to have their confidence. It was a heart warming occasion.

I thought the championships went very well with some enthralling matches which kept a good crowd on the edge of their seats.

The natural pleasure I felt about Carl's success was not allowed to last too long. The leaks to the press about my alleged offences, both unsubstantiated and absurd, took place soon afterwards.

Development plan

I draw your attention yet again to our £100,000 Development Plan which seeks to return to all our local member leagues a sum equal to their affiliation fees for one year. This is subject only to a plan being approved, which is NOT difficult.

If you think it IS difficult, please give me a ring (0983 62747) and I shall try to help you.

A fuller circular went out to Leagues recently. The Plan cannot go on forever and it has been running for over a year now, at any rate was known about. I would regard it as both disappointment and failure if a number of Leagues failed to claim what is due to them and I hope to spend much of the little time I still have in office to help push this money



John Prean

into the grass roots where it will do so much good.

Regard it as your share of the success the Association has enjoyed in recent times. Claim it. Make your own League grow again.

Let's hear from you.

The Smash and return of serve

RETURNING SERVICE

A player who can serve well and create openings is very difficult to beat. Your own skill and reactions will develop with practice, but you can help by paying attention to these points:

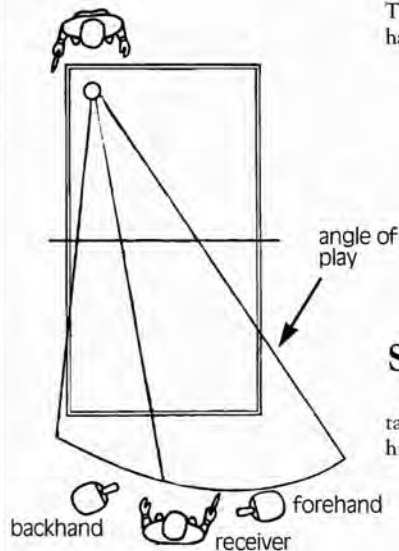
Don't get caught out because of a sloppy stance. Check that you are well poised, with your body weight balanced on the balls of your feet.

As a general rule, position yourself where you are covering about a third of the table with your back-hand and two-thirds with your forehand. For right-handers, this will mean that you are situated slightly to the left of the centre-line.

Line up your feet with your shoulders, and face the area from which the service will come.

As the ball is tossed into the air, keep your eyes fixed on the server's bat and try to anticipate where the ball is likely to go.

Cover about two-thirds of the angle of play with your forehand and the remaining third with your backhand.



RETURN AGGRESSIVELY

If the serve is long enough and you have managed to pick up its direction in good time, don't be afraid to drive it back. Aim either directly at your opponent's body, or wide to a corner. If the serve is short, move your nearest foot under the table towards where the ball seems likely to bounce, and play back low and short with a push stroke. Above all, be positive: only the faint-hearted play feeble returns.

England manager, Don Parker, explains how to execute the smash correctly, and how to improve your return of serve.



The smash by Alison Gordon

SMASH ACTION

The classic smash is a very fast fore-hand drive in which your bat starts

the stroke at a point above the ball. The smash is a stroke which should win the point outright.

SMASH POSITION

You smash from close to the table, in any position where you can hit down onto a rising ball.

SMASH TECHNIQUE

The real skills behind the smash often lie not in the quality of your technique but in your judgement at selecting the right ball to smash! As a guide, you should be trying to pick off balls which bounce halfway down the table and rise to a height of 300 mm or more. You won't have much success trying to smash balls which are lower, or which are bouncing deeper into your half of the table. Balls with too much spin can also be awkward customers to deal with.

Needless to say, your smash needs all the power you can muster. However, because you are trying to put one hundred per cent of your energy into the ball, there is a good chance of losing control: the most common fault is to hit underneath the ball and so to overshoot the far end of the table. Make sure, therefore, that your swing comes down on top of the ball.

After every smash, be ready to respond if necessary. Your opponent might just be able to return your five-hundred-mile-an-hour blockbuster, so make sure that you don't finish your swing exhausted in a heap on the floor, but evenly balanced, with your eyes firmly focused on the action.



Tips from the Top

1. If you are playing in a tournament with a time schedule make a personalised schedule for all your matches up to the finals. Double check this, if necessary with a parent or coach, and then you will be able to plan your day without constantly referring to the programme and turning over several pages. You can then concentrate on who you are playing and not where and when.

2. I often tell the players that one of the most important items they carry around with them is their diary. It is essential not only to plan your competitive programme months in advance but also your practice programme. If you have a free week, school holidays or whatever, then you should be arranging a venue and partners well in advance. Remember a failure to plan is a plan to failure.

3. An important factor in obtaining maximum benefit from practise is to ensure the optimum number of strokes are played. This obviously varies depending on the nature of the exercise but certainly for foot-work, stroke production, building up specific fitness etc. a high number of strokes per hour is desirable. If half of the time is spent picking up balls this is clearly wasteful and therefore if a lot of balls are used so that there is always one nearby or in your pocket the practise session is improved. Remember it is not the number of hours per day but what goes into the hours.

Top man Rosskopf

BEFORE a capacity crowd of 5,000 in Hannover on March 13 the Federal Republic of Germany successfully built on their 4-3 win in Stockholm by beating Sweden 5-2 to win, for the first time, the Super Division title of the European League.

Jorg Rosskopf was the man-of-the-match beating both Mikael Appelgren and Jan-Ove Waldner in singles and, with Steffen Fetzner and Nicole Struse, both doubles. The other win came from Fetzner who accounted for Waldner but, with a strained shoulder, he conceded to Appelgren in the final set. Scores:-

J. Rosskopf b M. Appelgren 15, 17;
S. Fetzner b J-Ove Waldner 18, 19;
N. Struse l P. Pettersson 19, -20, -10;
Rosskopf/Fetzner b Appelgren/Waldner
19, 16;
Rosskopf/Struse b Appelgren/Pettersson
-18, 17, 19;
Rosskopf b Waldner 15, 17
Fetzner conceded to Appelgren

Of the middle table first leg matches in which Yugoslavia beat Belgium 4-3 in Charleroi on Feb 5 and the Netherlands beat France 5-2, and 9-5 overall, the scores were:-

P. Saive l I. Lupulescu -18, -15;
J.M. Saive b Z. Primorac 13, 19;
Els Billen l J. Fazlic -17, 11, -20;
Saive/Saive l Lupulescu/Primorac -15, -14;
J-M Saive/Billen b Lupulescu/Fazlic
-11, 20, 25;
P. Saive l Primorac -15, -19;
J-M Saive b Lupulescu 15, 17.

Because of civil unrest in Yugoslavia the Belgians declined to travel for their away fixture in Novi Sad on March 12. The Yugoslavs won 4-3 in Belgium in the first leg.

In the relegation stakes, first leg, Poland visited Topolcany in Czechoslovakia on Feb 5 and came away with a 5-2 win under their belts the scores being:-

Korbel l Grubba -14, -9;
Javurek b Kucharski 15, 16;
Kasalova l Mikijanic -17, 16, -18;
Korbel/Javurek l Grubba/Kucharski
17, -16, -15;
Korbel/Kasalova b Grubba/Gierage 19, 19;
Korbel l Kucharski -11, -19;
Javurek l Grubba -19, -10.

Poland consigned the Czechs to Division 1 in winning the second leg 4-3.



German ace Jorg Rosskopf

Division One

Hungary and Austria, the contenders for promotion battled out the first leg confrontation in Budapest on Feb 10 with the Hungarians, having established a decisive 4-1 lead, having to content themselves with a final result of 4-3. Scores:-

Harci b Qian-Qianli 16, 19;

Varga l Ding Yi -17, -9;
G. Wirth b Fichtinger 14, 15;
Varga/Nemeth b Ding Yi/Eckel 11, 19;
Harci/Wirth b Ding Yi/Fichtinger
-17, 13, 12;
Harci l Ding Yi -18, 23, -22;
Varga l Qian-Qianli -15, -12.

Inconsequential was Turkey's 5-2 win over Italy in Istanbul on Feb 13 where the

scores were:-

Yaldiz b Mondello 11, 15;
 Eren b Di Napoli -20, 13, 16;
 Dogan l Arisi -18, -9;
 Yaldiz/Cimen b Mondello/Di Napoli 6, 16;
 Yaldiz/Dogan l Di Napoli/Arisi -14, -15;
 Yaldiz b Di Napoli -21, 16, 21;
 Eren b Mondello 17, 11.

In the first leg relegation match played in Madrid on Feb 9 Spain beat Finland 4-3 after leading 4-1. Scores:-

Casares l Ikonen -6, -13;
 Pales b Valasti 16, -13, 19;
 Godes b Komulainen 19, 12;
 Casares/Pales b Ikonen/Valasti 12, 11;

Pales/Godes b Kontala/Komulainen 19, 14;
 Casares l Valasti 15, -13, -18;
 Pales l Ikonen -18, -14;

Division Two

Denmark carry forward an away 5-2 victory over Norway in the promotion battle from the second division the scores in Norway on Feb 16 being :-

K. Strom l L. Hauth -17, -20;
 F. Grini l A. Bentsen -18, -19;
 M. Blikken b P. Toelhoj -13, 20, 16;
 Strom/J. Leiss l Bentsen/Harkamp -14, -17;
 Grini/Blikken l Hauth/Toelhoj 10, -9, -14;
 Strom b Bentsen 19, -16, 19;
 Grini l Hauth -16, -16.

Division Three

Three 7-0 group results against Guernsey, Liechtenstein and Malta placed Israel first and a similar result against Iceland, the runners-up in the other group, carried them into the final in which they defeated Greece 4-3 for the promotion place into Division 2 at the first time of asking.

No less than eight associations participated in this highly successful tournament, played in Athens, over the period Feb 7/9 the final placings being:-

- 1 Israel
- 2 Greece
- 3 Malta
- 4 Iceland
- 5 Isle of Man
- 6 Liechtenstein
- 7 Guernsey
- 8 Jersey

Both Israel and Greece reached the final without a blemish.

German abbreviation

On December 15th., 1990 the membership of the territorial associations of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) became legal. From that date there exists only **one** Table Tennis Federation in Germany, namely the DTTB, and this means at the same time that in future international events the abbreviation for Germany will be GER.



Steffen Fetzner

Sensational Syed



Matthew Syed

OUR party consisted of Skylet Andrew, Matthew Syed, Christopher Oldfield and myself. Arriving at the overnight hotel in London was the first difficulty for Chris and myself, as the main terminal tube stations were closed. We bought a map, walked to Russell Sq., then caught the tube.

Next morning, Wed. 20th Feb. we flew to Prague-Bratislava-Kosice and then by bus to Presov, arriving at the hotel about 7.30 p.m.

Practice took place on the Thursday, with team events starting the next day. We played Poland in the 1st round and won 3-1. Matthew beat Dziubanski and Blaszczyk, Chris/Skylet won the doubles. In the 2nd round we lost 3-0 to the Czech "A" team. Saturday saw the start of the individual events with Andrew/Nolten (FRG) in the mixed losing in the 2nd round. Chris/Skylet lost to the no. 1 seeds Janci/Korbel (Czech) in the second round of the men's doubles.

On to the men's singles. Skylet was seeded and he beat Hauth (DEN), Truksa (Czech), but then lost to Creanga (GRE). Some terrific shots were played by both players but Creanga ran out the winner.

Chris beat Marcella Mondello (ITA) then played Janasek (Czech). This was a tremendous match but after leading he lost on the 5th.

Now to the Pièce de Résistance – Matthew saw off Schmid (SUI), then the no. 3 seed Korbel (Czech). Schlager (SUI) and Marinkevic (URS) both went the same way. The next match was against Germany's latest star player — Torben Wosik. Could he be the one to overcome Matthew's defensive strategy? After a whole series of fabulous forehand drives from Wosik and tremendous backhand chop returns Matthew shewed his capabilities and ran out a comfortable winner.

Into the semi-final against J. Javurek (Czech) the no. 6 seed. The first game was very even between Javurek's forehand drives and Matthew's brilliant returns; this was won on deuce. In the second Matthew took the game to his opponent which enabled him to largely nullify the dynamic forehand and win comfortably three straight.

Creanga (GRE) had beaten Ding-Yi (AUT) in the other semi-final and so we anticipated a very hard match. We were not disappointed. The first game Matthew won comfortably, and so achieved we thought, a commanding position. Creanga had other ideas, unleashing tremendous backhand and forehand drives coupled with excellent drop shots he took the next two games. At this stage Matthew realised he would have to alter the pattern of play. Getting in some

good loop drives to support his excellent defensive returns he put on so much pressure that Creanga had no answer. Two games all. Using similar tactics in the final game Matthew established an early lead, took control, and won the Czechoslovakian Open Champions' Men's Singles.—
CONGRATULATIONS MATTHEW!!

Results

1st Round v Poland won 3-1
 Syed v Dziubanski 18; 7.
 Andrew v Blaszczyk -25; -16.
 Andrew/Oldfield v Dziubanski/Kolodziejczyk 16; -11; 15.
 Syed v Blaszczyk 18; 15.

2nd Round v Czechoslovakia lost 3-0
 Andrew v Korbel -12; -22.
 Syed v Janci -6; -18.
 Andrew/Oldfield v Janci/Javurek -16, -15.

MENS DOUBLES

Andrew/Oldfield

1st Round v Boutte/Bakker (Hol) -18; 21; 19.
 2nd Round v Janci/Korbel (TCH) -14; -10.

MIXED DOUBLES

Andrew/Nolton (FRG)

1st Round v Hoeyers/Kaimic (HOL) 16; -12; 10.
 2nd Round v Szafranek/Januszky (POL) -20; -21.

MENS SINGLES

S. Andrew

2nd Round v Hauth (DEN) 20; 12; 16.
 3rd Round v Truksa (TCH) 20; -17; 14; 14.
 4th Round v Creanga (GRE) -14; -13; -16.

C. Oldfield

1st Round v Mondello (ITA) -16; 9; 18; 18.
 2nd Round v Janasek (TCH) -19, 17; -16; 13; -16.

M. Syed

1st Round v Schmid (SUI) 11; 12; 8.
 2nd Round v Korbel (TCH) 12; 10; 18; 17.
 3rd Round v Schalager (AUT) 13; 16; 9.
 4th Round v Marinkevic (URS) 15; 16; 19.
 5th Round v Wosik (FRG) 18; 16; 15.
Semi Final v Javurek (TCH) 20; 16; 12.
Final v Creanga (GRE) 13; -19; -17; 10; 16.

Prean's devastating display

CARL PREAN (23), is the new English National singles champion after one of the most devastating displays of attacking table tennis seen in this country for a very long time.

As our American friends would say, it was 'awesome'. The Isle of Wight player was in a class of his own throughout the two days losing only one game during his five matches.

Bundesliga

The constant high standards which he is used to playing in the German Bundesliga have obviously paid off and from the moment he stepped into the ring, the winners cheque of £800 and more importantly the title of national singles winner, were as good as his.

This may not have been the view of some of the other players, but watching his progress and mental attitude during the duration of these championships was seeing a professional at work.

Eye opener

This was his third final in a row and it was an eye opener. Not for such a long time can any of that marvellous crowd at the Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge, have witnessed such a display of power. And the player who had to face up to it was local hero Desmond Douglas.

Aiming for his twelfth singles title, he never really had a chance. Perhaps in the second game when he led 15-10 did he seem to be in control. But it didn't last long and the sheer power and speed of the England No.1. swept the Walsall man aside like a leaf in a hurricane.

One might be tempted to look at Desmond's decision to step down from international competition and use it as an excuse, but he had already put out Kevin Satchell, Chris Oldfield and Matthew Syed, so he was still in great shape.

His wave to the big crowd afterwards seemed to say it all — "I did my best, but it just wasn't good enough."

Very special

The final itself was not a classic. Prean's whirlwind tactics made that impossible. The crowd sensed that something very special was happening and the turning point came mid-way through the second game. With Douglas leading by five points it looked as if he might snatch the game and make a real fight of it.

Carl Prean the new champion is pictured with the old England No.1 Johnny Leach



Carl Prean and Andrea Holt, the new King and Queen of English table tennis

But at that point, something went very wrong. He took only four points from the remaining 15 and only six from the next 21.

"I felt good and I put it down to training hard. Everything seemed to have come together at the right time", said the new champion. "I

have beaten Des more times than he has beaten me in recent times, so I was feeling confident."

It was a victory that suggests the Isle of Wight player could hold the title for some time to come. Whether he will ever reach Douglas's record of eleven titles remains to be seen.

Upset

But there had been several battles before the final and one of the upsets was the defeat at the quarter-final stage of Alan Cooke to Matthew Syed.

This has been without doubt the best season in Syed's short career. Victory at the US Open and more recently the Czechoslovak Open and finally to be chosen for the World Championships has given the Reading player a new lease of life. England manager Don Parker has persuaded him to stay on for another year rather than go to University and that must be good for English table tennis.

Syed's favour

Results are running in Syed's favour and against Cooke it was a match everyone will remember for its classic features. A no-nonsense attacker against a defender. The rallies were often long and the winning points brilliant. In essence a match that would have made a cracking final.

To face Syed in this determined mood must be difficult. Whatever shot you let fly, the chances are it will come back. Cooke put some excellent shots away but also had to contend with many more that



**Photographs by
John F. A. Wood**

deserved points but that he couldn't deal with.

The game received the crowds full attention, mainly because it went on longer than most. Cooke won the first 18, lost the second 16, went into a 2-1 lead but then lost out 18 and 22.

Taken the sting

Whether that effort had taken the sting from the younger man is debatable. But in the next match against Douglas he failed to reach those same heights and lost in three.

In the meantime, outsider Chen Xinhua was making steady progress beating Alex Perry 9, 6, 13. The young Devon player took it in his stride and will put it down to experience. He then went on to play No. 4 seed Skylet Andrew winning comfortably and then slipped up by dropping a game against Lancastrian Sean Gibson.

Complex character

Chen is a complex character. He rarely gives anything away and it is difficult to know whether he is playing at his peak or not. However, after beating Gibson he was no match for Prean who by now must consider the England No.1. his 'bogymen'. In a disappointing match, Prean eased home without having to move into overdrive winning 17, 7, 9.

There were no major surprises in the early rounds. Of the twelve qualifiers only John Holland who beat Manchester's Jonathan Taylor and Phil Bradbury who managed a win over Craig Bakewell managed to make it to the second round.

Holt – the toast of Ramsbottom

Andrea Holt was the toast of Ramsbottom when she took the ladies singles title from favourite Lisa Lomas. Andrea, the youngest of the top four women players, won the final that lasted just less than an hour and was full of excellent table tennis.

Popular winner

The young Lancastrian was a popular winner, no doubt prompted by the gritty determination she showed in winning the match from an impossible position. She lost the two opening games easily but knuckled down to win the next three for the title.

It was a performance that showed without doubt that, despite being only 20 years of age, she has the in-built tenacity to take a knock, learn from it and fight back.

There has never been the slightest doubt that she has the ability. But in the sport, especially at this level, the unseen factor, a player's mental approach and character, can be difficult to judge — until it is put to the test.

Flying colours

Andrea passed that test with flying colours. To be two games down against someone like Mrs Lomas, to know you have to win the next three, can be mind blowing. Her answer was classic. With help from her corner she and her father Wilton, talked it through, put the negative thoughts behind them and got on with the job in hand.

No doubt last years meeting in the semi-finals at Oldham helped her maintain a grip on the situation. Then Andrea lost the first and third



What a wonderful Mother's Day present for Maureen Holt when her daughter Andrea won the singles trophy



Lisa Lomas, losing Women's singles finalist.



Desmond Douglas

Men's Doubles winners Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew, being presented with their trophy by new chairman Alan Ransome and Councillor John Simpson, Chairman of Dudley Leisure Services





Stuart Sneyd, the new Deputy Chairman, is pictured with young fan of Desmond Douglas, 4½ year old Leon Barrett, who had come with his father Barry, who plays in the Walsall League.



Fiona Elliot, who lost her Women's singles crown, losing to Lisa Lomas in the semi-finals.



Women's Doubles Champions Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot

games but came back to win in the end.

At the age of 20 she has a great deal going for her and, like Prean, could stay in charge for some time to come.

Her aim is without doubt to move up the English rankings. She has had a great season so far, but still remains in the 3/4 position. The top English rankings are, of course, controlled by results in Europe, a bone of contention that Andrea and her faithful following have made clear on many occasions.

Education

Sally Marling, preparing for her first Commonwealth Championships next month, continued her table tennis education with a win over Jill Harris. Miss Harris, a player with considerable experience, could easily have upset the progress of the Hull girl and very nearly did.

Miss Harris started by taking the first game, lost the next two, drew level by picking up the fourth but lost the fifth. It was a good performance from the Humber-side youngster and must have pleased England manager Don Parker who was watching.

Disappointment

But disappointment for Chesterfield's young hopeful Nicola Deaton. After receiving her letter to say she had won a place in the Commonwealth Championships, she failed to qualify. After receiving a bye into the second round of the qualifiers, she then lost surprisingly to Hillingdon's Sara Williams ranked 15 places below her.

Other early victims were Helen Lower and Carol Hewitt. Helen went out to Oldham's Amanda Winskill (an appropriate name) ranked only 73, compared with Helen's 11, who then followed up by beating Sara Williams before going out to No. 2 seed Alison Gordon in the first round of the competition proper.

The Andrew/Mason partnership was firing on all cylinders and looks to have considerable potential. They waltzed through every round of the

doubles not dropping a game and even winning the final in two games 9,11.

Their opponents Sean Gibson and John Holland struggled to beat the Devon pairing of Whiting and Giles; then helped by a walk-over and a win over No.1 seeds Douglas and Cooke, finally made it only to find the power of Andrew and Mason too hot to handle.

There were no problems for the seeding committee in the ladies doubles. Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot won through to the final without raising a sweat and took the title against Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt 11, 13. It was the shortest and easiest win of the two days and helped the event get back on to schedule.

In the mixed doubles Chen Xinhua along with Nicola Deaton picked up the winners medal for beating the holders Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot. Chen becomes the first non British player to take a title at these championships and for little Miss Dynamite it was a first senior national title.

Former England player Linda Radford made a successful comeback beating Doreen Schofield (Stockport), a losing finalist last year, in the final of the ladies veterans event. David Harvey, the firm favourite to win the mens singles title vacated by Manchester's John Hilton, beat Tony Isaac 19, 19.

Man in charge

The overall view of these championships was that they had gone off very well. The organisation seemed to flow quite smoothly with the man in charge Clive Oakman giving it a cautious 7 out of 10. But journalist Richard Eaton, who has been reporting this event for more years than he cares to recall, was clear in his judgement.

"These were the best championships I can remember", he said afterwards. "The sheer level of skill and excitement of the matches was far higher than all the previous years I have been coming".



Providing the comic relief at this year's championships were journalist Richard Eaton (left), who obviously has a nose for a good story, and Brian Spicer the Public Relations committee secretary.

RESULTS

Mens Singles

Quarter-finals:

Carl Prean bt Nicky Mason
14, -16, 16, 13.
Chen Xinhua bt Sean Gibson
17, 7, 9.
Des Douglas bt Chris Oldfield
15, 18, -18, 18.
Matthew Syed bt Alan Cooke
-18, 16, -19, 18, 22.

Semi-finals:

Prean bt Chen Xinhua
12, 17, 13.
Douglas bt Syed 12, 20, 16.

Final:

Prean bt Douglas 14, 19, 6.

Womens Singles

Quarter-finals:

Lisa Lomas bt Carol Giles
10, 14, 16.
Fiona Elliot bt Kath Goodall
8, 17, 16.
Andrew Holt bt Juliet Houghton
12, 7, 7.

Alison Gordon bt Sally Marling
9, 11, 16.

Semi-finals:

Lomas bt Elliot 16, 15, -19, -11, 10.
Holt bt Gordon -12, 13, 19.

Final:

Holt bt Lomas -10, -14, 16, 19, 18.

Men's Doubles

Quarter-finals:

D Douglas/A Cooke bt S Dorking/A
Eden 18, 10.
S Gibson/J Holland bt C Rogers/D
Gannon 14, 11.
M O'Driscoll/C Oldfield bt G
Solder/J Taylor 11, 22.

S Andrew/N Mason bt S Moore/A
Moore 14, 15.

Semi-finals:

Gibson/Holland bt Douglas/Cooke
16, 14.

Andrew/Mason bt
O'Driscoll/Oldfield 19, 20.

Final:

Andrew/Mason bt Gibson/Holland
9, 11.

Women's Doubles

Quarter-finals:

L Lomas/F Elliot bt H Lower/L
Radford 15, 17.
J Harris/C Giles bt K Goodall/C
Hewett 11, 17.

J Barella/A Winkill bt J
Houghton/J Shaw W/o.

A Gordon/A Holt bt T Moore/S
Weston 7, -13, 9.

Semi-finals:

Lomas/Elliot bt Harris/Giles 8, 19.
Gordon/Holt bt Barella/Winkill
14, 10.

Final:

Lomas/Elliot bt Gordon/Holt 11, 13.

Mixed Doubles

Quarter-finals:

S Andrew/F Elliot bt G Sandley/M
Thornley 9, 16.
S Dorking/A Holt bt A Moore/T
Moore 7, 19.

J Holland/A Gordon bt G
Knights/A Gower 15, 17.

Chen Xinhua/N Deaton bt J
Souter/H Lower 15, -19, 11.

Semi-finals:

Andrew/Elliot bt Dorking/Holt
19, 16.

Chen Xinhua/Deaton bt
Holland/Gordon 16, 14.

Final:

Chen Xinhua/Deaton bt
Andrew/Elliot 18, -15, 20



Mixed Doubles Champions, diminutive Nicola Deaton and Chen Xinhua, being presented with their trophies by Peter Hillier (left), the Hon. Treasurer of the ETTA, and the Mayor of Dudley, Cyril Woodall.

Veterans Mens Singles

Quarter-finals:

David Harvey bt Andy Meads W/o.
John Taylor bt Maurice Newman
16, 17.

Mervyn Wood bt Walter Allanson
20, 10.

Tony Isaac bt Keith Horton 9, 10.

Semi-finals:

Harvey bt Taylor -20, 14, 16.
Isaac bt Wood -10, 15, 17.

Final:

Harvey bt Isaac 19, 19.

Veteran Womens Singles

Quarter-finals:

Doreen Schofield bt Joan Beadle
13, 19.

Pam Butcher bt Janet Hunt W/o.

Lesley Radford bt Margaret Dignum
8, 7.

Marjorie Dawson bt Margaret
Willson W/o.

Semi-finals:

Schofield bt Butcher 8, 18.
Radford bt Dawson 10, 13.

Final:

Radford bt Schofield 11, 6.

Veterans Mens Doubles

Quarter-finals:

Ralph Gunnion/D Holman bt R
Stace/K Horton 16, 20.

Matt Sheader/Derek Schofield bt D
Harvey/D Holland 6, -9, 19.

Malc Corking/B Allison bt L
Pratt/N Stagg 19, -15, 17.

Paul Collins/Norman Thewlis bt Pat
Glynn/Tony Isaac 19, 21.

Semi-finals:

Gunnion/Holman bt
Sheader/Schofield 19, 15.

Collins/Thewlis bt Corking/Allison
16, -12, 17.

Final:

Gunnion/Holman bt
Collins/Thewlis 12, -21, 13.

Veterans Women's Doubles

Semi-finals:

C Moran/D Schofield bt J Thomas/J
Coop -16, 15, 22.

M Dawson/L Radford bt J Beadle/P
Butcher 17, 11.

Final:

Moran/Schofield bt
Dawson/Radford 19, 12.



Dudley & District Table Tennis League's Secretary David Roden concentrates on the game in hand.



Chen Xinhua, who was swept aside by Carl Prean in the semi-finals.

Comfortable cushion

WITH a comfortable cushion at the top of Division 1 South NFD Grove II ventured down with John Souter and three youngsters only to find tougher than expected resistance from Rejects I who took a point largely thanks to Paul Carter. He beat Helen Lower 18 & 6 but she beat Jerome Jonah! Unbeaten Grove recorded a draw which gave the Rejects a much needed lift. Chelmsford OC's maintained their challenge for promotion by beating Kleinwort Benson Gillingham 7-1. Mark Brown beat Tommy Cutler for some consolation and TC beat Andy Cunningham! Colley Toyota and Victoria Park Mazda shared the points as the latter's Mark Simon was on form — beating John Bult and Dave Barr. Brian Jeanes proved to be a strong No. 4 although he struggled a little against Tony Healan. Team Peniel II put a strong team together in the form of Lisa Lomas, Joey Kennedy, Phil Bradbury and Stuart Gibbs. Despite this they only came away with a 5-3 win over Horsham Dolphins. Joey Kennedy secured the points with wins against Ritchie Venner and Peter Bartram.

In the Premier Division Bath drowned any threat from Butterfly Cardiff. Grant Solder turned in an inspired performance beating the Pauls — Lewis & Giles. Steve Ward beat Chris Rogers but lost 24-26 in the third to Adrian Moore. NFD Grove I carried out a straightforward trouncing of DML Destroyers (who must be saying frigate!) with just one set going the distance. Ormesby stayed on top with a 7-1 win over West Warwickshire although this was dangerously close to a draw! Andy Rich lost 16 in the third to John Broe and 22 in the third to Nigel Eckersley who lost to Adrian Dixon. Phil Gunn almost caused an upset just losing at 19 in the third to Michael O'Driscoll. In contrast Chen Xinhua barely raised a sweat conceding an average of less than 10 points a game.

Stitched together

Stuart Palmer kept St Neots on course in Division 1 North with wins over John Kitchener and Phil Logsdon of Britannia Potters Leisure. Mick Harper lost 5 & 6 to Phil but beat Russell King to give his team a 5-3 victory. Stuart Richards achieved one win against Liverpool which gained him the Man of the Match nomination as NFD Grove III romped home 6-2. Well-Connected Menswear stitched together a 5-3 win over the City of Leeds. Mick Stead provided most of the resistance as he beat Mark Randle and Graeme McKim. Craig Pender beat Andy Edmonds for Leeds' other win.

Comets Show

Down in Division 2 South the despair of Rejects II continued as they were beaten 5-3 by Jolliffe Poole despite a maximum from Mike O'Leary. Tony Clayton was the man in form beating Simon Philipsz 11 & 15 and Percy Collino 1 & 19 (yes, one!). TSP Larkhall shared the points with Horsham Dolphins II. Mike Hammond played well but his effort was offset by Alan Cole who beat Clive Morris and Dave Harding. Ellenborough crunched Fellows Cranleigh 7-1 as Paul Sayer beat John Lennon. Jason Tendler was perhaps a little unlucky to lose to Nicky McKay -22, 15, -23. AHW (Bletchley) Comets produced a show of strength in defeating west London's Gunnersbury Triangle 6-2. Keith Samuels lost deuce in the third to Neil Charles but beat David Goode. Mike Levene comprehensively beat Lee Middleton and Chris Boothby.

Shock absorbers

Humberside Andro dropped a point to Chan Construction in Division 2 North. Mike



Joey Kennedy

Harrison kept his team on the map but it was not a good day for Lee Hewitt. Vymura International and Leicester battled out a 3½ hour marathon with the former winning 6-2. Five of their six wins needed a deciding game. Mark Illingsworth started for Leicester winning the two against Darren Howarth and Graham Clarke. Yugo Cars became shock absorbers as they were beaten 5-3 at home to Ormesby. Denis Neale beat Mark Christie 9 & 5 and Stuart Miller 9 & 7 but this was not enough! It was Bennie Robertson who seemed to decide their fate with wins over Lindsay Taylor and Dave Gannon. Eddie Smith also beat Dave together with Keith Rodger. Mark Owen made a major contribution to the Cheltenham Saracens' 6-2 win over Chan Construction. Pete Machin and Steve Bertie took two from Darren Griffin although Steve only just won -10, 21, 22.

Greg Bridgett starred in White Hart Launceston's Division 2 Midland match with Birmingham Sports Curdworth. He beat Chris Leach and Mick Browne for his team's only two wins on the day. Dhuru Parmar secured the points with wins over Jeremy Williams and Carol Giles. Alex Perry helped lead Bathwick Tyres to a 7-1 crushing of Colley Toyota. Andy Creed played well in this match with straight game victories against Jeremy Hobbs and David Buck. Stephen Bagaley was Man of the Match for Milton Keynes against OLOPS with two losses. About time too! You don't have to win two to be Man of the Match if you play well. He was 7-17 down in the third against Martin Adams only to eventually lose 21-23. In the same match Edward Hatley beat John Burleton but lost to Peter Bowler. An even contest with a draw probably the fairest of results.

Whitewash

In Division 3 East Yugo Cars II made up for their first teams performance to a certain extent — by dealing a 7-1 blow to Britannia ACI. Richard Hutchinson beat Chris Bryan for consolation. The match was closer than the score suggests as Malcolm Davis must have gone home feeling rather depressed having lost 19, -18, -19 to Chris and then -17, 19, -23 to

Jimmy Brewster. Team Peniel III welcomed two wins from their No.4 Matthew Reid which helped them to a whitewash of Uxbridge Burton. He beat Stephen Thomas -15, 18, 17 and Steven Shaw -9, 23, 20 which goes to prove that perseverance pays off. Talking of perseverance BSG Brentwood came unstuck against Fellows Cranleigh, losing 2-6. In a local derby of the Radfords and the Coles it was the Radfords who triumphed with a win from Peter and two from Linda. Chris Sladden chipped in with two useful wins.

Steve Horsfield starred in Vymura International's 6-2 win over Oldham in Division 3 North. He beat Norman Thewlis 16, -13, 4 and beat Doug Mayall to give his team an irretrievable 4-1 lead. Keith Whittaker finished off the match with a convincing 12 & 4 win against Billy Russell. SEE South West Durham bullied Ormesby III into a whitewash. Ormesby's No. 4 Robert Evans found himself somewhat out of his depth as he lost to Steve Cooper -7, -8 and Keith Bell -6, -3. In contrast Steve only beat Jimmy Nicholson 20, -16, 20 and Keith just beat Carl Shaw -19, 12, 18.

Loveder's birthday

Geoff Davies punished Burslem on return from illness for Cambridge. He and Andy Withers defeated Brian Johns to help set up a 6-2 win. Further south Bribar Ashford secured a 5-3 win over Dick Shepherd Rams. However it was far from straight forward as three games were decided at deuce in the third. Paul Amos pulled it together to beat 'Junior' Alex Facey -9, 19, 22 and Matthew King beat Kayoade Orheva 17, -20, 23. Rejects III coped quite well with a strong challenge from Linda Farrow as the points were shared. Max Crimmins was erratic but unstoppable and Trevor Campbell recorded a particularly useful win over Dave Tan to gain himself the Man of the Match nomination. Mike Loveder (that's me) thought all of his birthdays had come at once as he found himself playing against two defenders. He won in straight games against Duncan Taylor and Dave Seaholme, beating the latter 13 & 14. Jason Blake was a little disappointing on the day losing to Duncan Taylor -16, -5 having beaten him earlier this season. JAGS SC were hoping for a point or two from TSP Larkhall II. They must have therefore been pretty disappointed to lose 1-7! Surrey veteran Frank Hams defended well to beat Neville Miller and Farhat Rasul, the latter by scores of -11, 17, 26. It was not to be Neville's day as he also had to play Gordon Chapman and lost 19, -10, -20. It clearly was not one of Selwyn Campbell's better days as he lost in straight games to Steve Davis and Derek Holman. Pillinger Air Croydon were held to a draw at Edison before a crowd of about 80 spectators. Ian Black played well for Edison while another veteran, Emil Emecz, dealt Simon Rockall a severe blow beating him 12 & 11.

Alpha Southampton travelled west to take on Parkside Dragons Newport and came away with two points in the bag. Andrew Ely put Southampton 4-1 ahead with wins against Laura Collier and Paul Jones. Tony Catt contributed well by beating Paul and Sian Evans. The result was not too bleak for Mark Bleakley led Amity Generation Fareham against Thorns. Eric Hardman beat Graham Toole for Thorns' sole win of the day. Jill Harris led Leckie to a 7-1 win against Bathwick Tyres III. She beat Chris Bridges and Steve Bettrison for a 5-0 lead. Chris took consolation in beating Keith Baker. Adrian Thorp looked impressive in this match.

BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

Premier Division Tables as at

1st March 1991	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby I	9	8	1	0	58	14	17
NFD Grove I	9	8	0	1	63	9	16
Team Peniel I	9	6	1	2	43	29	13
Bathwick Tyres I	10	5	1	4	40	40	11
Butterfly Cardiff	10	4	1	5	36	44	9
Ellenborough I	9	4	0	5	36	36	8
West Warwicks	10	1	0	9	18	62	2
DML Destroyers	10	0	0	10	10	70	0

Division 1 (North)

St. Neots	9	7	2	0	47	25	16
NFD Grove III	9	6	2	1	45	27	14
Britannia Potters							
Leisure I	9	5	2	2	42	30	12
Well-Conn.Mens.	9	5	1	3	41	31	11
Norwich Foxwood	9	3	0	6	32	40	6
Ruston Marc.Lin.	9	2	1	6	31	41	5
City of Leeds	9	2	0	7	25	47	4
Liverpool	9	2	0	7	25	47	4

Division 1 (South)

NFD Grove II	9	8	1	0	53	19	17
Chelmsford O'C's	9	6	2	1	48	24	14
Vict. Park Mazda	9	5	1	3	40	32	11
Colley Toyota I	9	4	2	3	39	33	10
Rejects I	9	2	2	5	22	50	6
Kleinw.Ben.Gill.	9	2	1	6	30	42	5
Horsham Dolph.I	9	2	1	6	27	45	5
Team Peniel II	9	2	0	7	29	43	4

Division 2 (Midland)

Bathwick Tyres II	10	8	1	1	58	22	17
Chelt. Sarac.SC	9	5	2	2	43	29	12
City of Milt.Keyn.	9	4	3	2	42	30	11
Colley Toyota II	9	4	2	3	35	37	10
OLOPS TTC	10	2	4	4	35	45	8
Chan Constr.I	9	2	2	5	28	44	6
Birm.Sp.Curdw'th	9	1	3	5	29	43	5
White Hart Laun.	9	2	1	6	26	46	5

Division 2 (North)

Yugo Cars I	9	6	2	1	51	21	14
Ormesby II	9	5	4	0	46	26	14
Vymura Internat I	9	5	3	1	43	29	13
Humberstide And.	9	3	3	3	36	36	9
Burslem	9	3	2	4	33	39	8
City of Leicester	9	2	4	3	33	39	8
Cambridge TTC	9	1	1	7	25	47	3
Chan Cons.II	9	1	1	7	21	51	3

Division 2 (South)

Ellenborough II	9	7	1	1	50	22	15
TSP Larkhall I	9	6	2	1	47	25	14
Horsham Dolph.II	9	3	3	3	37	35	9
Jolliffe Poole	9	4	1	4	33	39	9
Gunns.Triangle	8	3	2	3	32	32	8
AHW (Blet) Com.	9	3	2	4	33	39	8
Fellows Cran.I	9	1	4	4	29	43	6
Rejects II	8	0	1	7	19	45	1

Division 3 (East)

BSG Brentwood	8	6	1	1	44	20	13
Yugo Cars II	8	5	1	2	39	25	11
Fellows Cran.II	8	4	2	2	34	30	10
Team Peniel III	7	3	2	2	33	23	8
Levi's Westfield	7	2	3	2	28	28	7
Britannia ACI II	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
Uxbridge (Burton)	8	0	2	6	18	46	2

Division 3 (North)

Bor.of Sund.TTC	9	8	1	0	57	15	17
SEE SW Durham	9	7	1	1	47	25	15
Vym.Intern.II	9	6	1	2	51	21	13
Hoyles Blayd.YC	9	4	2	3	41	31	10
Oldham	9	3	1	5	33	39	7
Lifeline Devl.Cru.	9	3	0	6	25	47	6
Tigers TTC	9	1	1	7	19	53	3
Ormesby III	9	0	1	8	15	57	1

Division 3 (South)

Pillinger Air (Croyd)9	5	3	1	1	47	25	13
Edison TTC	9	5	3	1	42	30	13
TSP Larkhall II	9	4	2	3	39	33	10
Rejects III	9	4	2	3	39	33	10
J.A.G.S. S.C	9	4	0	5	32	40	8
Bribar Ashford	8	3	0	5	28	36	6
Linda Farrow	8	1	4	3	27	37	6
D.Shepherd Rams	9	2	0	7	26	46	4

Division 3 (West)

Amity Gen.2 Fare.	8	8	0	0	48	16	16
Leckie TTC	8	4	2	2	41	23	10
Bathw.Tyres III	8	4	1	3	34	30	9
Thorns (Dud.)TTC	7	3	1	3	23	33	7
NFD Grove IV	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
Hall,Pain & Fost.							
Alph S'ton	8	2	1	5	26	38	5
Parkside Drags.N'pt.	8	1	0	7	22	42	2



Alex Perry

Championships title aspirations

WITH no matches between mid-January and end March I review the situation, the championship aspirations and the best personal performances in each Division.

Senr 1A: There is an interesting situation in this Division. Yorks 2nds lead and look favourites for the Divisional championships but their visit to Warwicks in the next Round could well have an influence. Yorks, 2nds not being eligible for promotion, gives Suffolk and Bedfordshire the chance of Premier Division status next season. Suffolk receive Warwicks and Bedford visit Northumberland so these results will be vital. Warwickshire, who have the hardest matches to come, are certainly not out of the running for promotion.

Phil Gunn (Wa), Stuart Palmer and John Kitchener (Sk) each have 100% wins. These players have to meet so someone's record will go. Lisa Robins (Bd) is the only lady unbeaten.

Senr 1B: 12 matches were played way back at end of September, when Devon had 3 wins, but the subsequent withdrawal of the Kent team has effected the League Table. A further 12 matches are to be played 23/24 March. Sussex 2nds lead, but dropped a point to Avon. Devon are unbeaten so their matches with Sussex 2nds and Essex — already beaten by Sussex — should decide the championship.

Paul Whiting (Dv), whose one defeat by Andrew Dodd (K) is now "scrubbed" is the only man with 100%. Of the ladies Varsha Majmudar who came on the scene for Avon, made a very good impression and may well finish the season with 100% wins.

Senr 2A: Staffs seem invincible with 3 wins and dropping only 2 events! Staffs returned to the Championships last season in Div 3, won promotion and look well set for Div. 1 next season. In their final match Staffs meet second in the Table Warwick 2nds, who have already dropped 3 points.

Staffs have the only players who are undefeated — Andy Rich, Stephen Slater, Adrian Thorpe and Helen Lower. Lyndon Douglas has done well for Warwick 2nds having lost only 1 match.

Senr 2B: 7 matches were played at the start of the season. Avon 2nds and Hampshire were both unbeaten, with Avon in the lead by 1 set. 14 matches to decide the championship are to be played in Cornwall on 23/24 March. Avon 2nd and Hants must be favourites to win the title and they have to meet. Looking at national rankings Hants seem to have the edge, with the services of Mark Bleakley, Rhamish Bhalla, Sarah Hammond and Sarah Turner. Rhamish Bhalla and Sarah Hammond are both unbeaten.

Senr 2C: Worcs are unbeaten and look set for an immediate return to Div. 1. Herts are second in the Table but were beaten 7-3 by Worcs in the first match of the season.

The player of the Division is certainly John Taylor (He), who has won all 8 singles matches. Malcolm Green (Wo) has been beaten only once — by John Taylor. Trevor Washington and Sandra Roden (Wo), who have played in 2 matches have won all their events.

Senr 2D: Bucks lead in this Div. having lost only once in 5 matches. But their defeat was at the hands of Essex 2nds, who have played only



Hertfordshire's John Taylor

3 matches, but which have been in convincing style. Essex 2nd should win the championship but, unless their 1st team gains promotion to the Premier Div, which seems unlikely, they will have to continue at Div 2 level. Bucks recent win over Surrey 2nds gives them a great chance of promotion to Div. 1.

The Essex team has Clive Carthy, Kate Gower and Debbie Taylor who are unbeaten. For Bucks John Burleton has lost just one match — to Edward Hatley — and Philip Bradbury also beaten only once — by Clive Carthy.

Senr 3A: The lead is shared by Cheshire 2nds and Worcs 2nds, who have the same number of points and sets ratio. The teams both have matches they should win in the next Round. Essex 3rd team have the same sets ratio as Ches. and Worcs. and made a draw against both teams. So all looks well set for a vital match in April when Cheshire 2nds visit Worcs.

The only unbeaten men in this Div. are 2 Cheshire players — Derek Schofield and Tony Vaughan. Sally Russell (Np) is also unbeaten.

Senr 3B: Sussex 3rd team is well in the lead and have dropped only 5 events over their 4 matches. Herts 2nds are second in the Table but have already been beaten 7-3 by Sussex.

The most successful men are Peter Bartram and Andy Walker (Sx), who are unbeaten and Maria Williams (He2) also has a "clean sheet".

Junior Prem: Yorks are back on top of the Junior scene and head the Table with Devon as closest rivals. The fixtures are completed at end of March when Yorks and Devon will meet.

The players so far unbeaten are Karen Richardson (La), Edward Hatley (Sy) and Gareth Jones and Andrew Nicholls (Y).

Junr 1A: Warwicks lead with 9 points from their 5 matches. Nearest rivals Northumberland and Yorks 2nds have already been convincingly beaten by the Midlanders. Warwickshire look destined to make an immediate return to the Premier Div.

The leading player is Barry Forster (Nd), who is unbeaten, followed by Stephen Shaw (Dy), Richard Smith (Y) and Darren Lindley

(Y), who have each lost only 1 match.

Junr 1B: Berkshire have swept all before them and dropped only 9 events over 5 matches. They are followed by Oxon, who have a strong all-round team, but were beaten 7-3 by Berkshire.

The leading player is Nicola Cracknell (Bk), who is unbeaten. Players, who have suffered just one defeat are Martin Adams and Mark Priddle (Bk), Stephen Gill (Gn) and Dawn Barnett (Ox).

Junr 2A: Staffs 1st team lead having dropped only 1 point — to Notts. Staffs are followed by Cheshire 1st and 2nd teams. Staffs have already beaten Ches 1 and still have to play Ches. 2.

Zoe Buchanan (Chl) is the only player with 100%. But a number of players have only lost once — Gary Pickford (Chl), Ian Eaton (Ch2), David Purdy (Dy2), Barry Pestka (Ng), Sarah Smith (Ng), Mathew Brown, Richard Tilley and Alison Taylor of Staffs 1st team.



Edward Hatley

Junr 2B: Essex 3rd team lead having won their 5 matches. They are followed by Northants, who have dropped 2 points, but meet Essex 3 in the next Round of matches.

3 players who have done well to retain 100% records are Mathew Greenwood (Bu), Julie Rand (E3), and Helen Barnard (He2).

Junr 2C: I reported last month on the completion of fixtures which resulted in Devon 2nds being Champions and due for promotion to Div. 1. Play was very competitive in this Div. and no player came through the programme unbeaten. 3 girls were beaten only once — Lisa Morrish (Dv2), Claire Brettell (Gw) and Clare Woodham (Hal).

Junr 2D: Norfolk are the leaders having dropped only 1 point — to Sussex 2nds. The only team with a chance of upsetting Norfolk is the Surrey 3rd team, which has suffered just 1 defeat. The teams meet in April.

Norfolk boys — Shaun Parsley and Gary Hewitt — have played well to remain

unbeaten. Sussex girls — Natasha Wilson and Tracy Cole — have had similar success. J. Wakefield, who has played just 2 matches for Surrey 2nds, has won his events.

Vets Prem: After the first series of matches the Yorkshire team was unbeaten and are well in the lead. In the final series Yorkshire have to met Essex, who are 2nd in the Table, although having been beaten by Cheshire.

Players so far unbeaten are Stuart Gibbs and Lesley Radford (E), Beryl Voss (Li) and Denis Neale (Y).

Vets 1A: A very interesting situation in this Div. with no team unbeaten. At the top of the Table is Essex 2nds, who have equal points but a 1 set lead over both Lancs and Leics. Essex 2 and Lancs have to meet, whereas Leics have beaten both teams and must be favourites. Leics may well gain Premier Div. status, which may provide recompense for the demotion of their team from Senior Premier Div.

No players have 100% in singles. The leading players, who have each lost 1 match, are — John Taylor (He), Phil Blake (La), Maurice Newman (Le), Marjorie Dawson (E) and Eileen Shaler (Le).

Vets 1B: 2 teams are in contention for the championship. Kent 2nds and Surrey 2nds are both unbeaten — both teams came from 2-4 down in their last matches to keep their record! The Kent team leads by 1 set. These teams meet in the last Round of matches so all is set for a grand finale. Just 2 players with 100% in singles are Joyce Coop (Do) and Mary Sawyer (Mi). 2 Middlesex men have been beaten only once — John Holland and Babs Adedayo.

Vets 2A: 3 teams at the top with 6 points — Lancs 2nds, Warwick and Ches 2nd. Ches 2nds, who have played one less match, are unbeaten but have to meet Lancs 2nds. Warwicks have the easiest match to finish the programme. With 9 event matches either Lancs/Ches will get 2 points. It may well be sets ratio to decide this Div.

Players, who have kept a "clean sheet" are Derek Schofield (Ch2), Brian Clements (La2) and Norman Thewlis (La2). Of the ladies only Alwyn Burrough (LA2) is unbeaten.

Vets 2B: Essex 3rd team lead with 6 points. Northants also have 6 points but were soundly beaten by Essex in the last Round. Beds., who have a good team, could have a say in the championship. They have been beaten by Northants but have to play Essex 3 in the final Round of matches.

Sylvia Coombs (Bd) is unbeaten and the most successful player. Les Rayment (Nk2) and D. Randall (Bd) have played just 2 matches without a defeat. Brian Mayfield (Bd) and Sue Carroll (E3) have lost only 1 singles event.

Vets 2C: No team with full points. Middx 2nds and Glos lead having each lost 1 match. There are 3 teams with 4 points and Bucks 2nds are in the best position having their points from 3 matches. 2 vital matches to be played are (Mi2 v Wi2 and Gs v Bu2) and the results of these could decide the championship.

The most successful players are Alan Giles (Gs) and Dave Crowley (Sy3) who are unbeaten.

Vets 2D: Sussex 2nd is the only unbeaten team in this Div. Berks 2nd follows Sussex and seem to be the only team who could upset Sussex. The teams meet in the next Round of Matches.

The leading player is undoubtedly Brian Reeves (So) who is unbeaten. I would expect that to be the situation at the end of the season.

Vets 3A: There are 2 teams with full points — Hunts 2nds and Warwicks 2nds. The teams meet in the final Round of matches and Warwick also have to meet the Ches. 3rd team.

The most successful players are Eileen Edwards (Ch3) and Dave Wilson (He4) who each have 100% in singles.

Vets 3B: Kent 3rd team dominates this Div. with 4 good wins and seem certain to win the championship.

The leading player is undoubtedly Pam Butcher (K3), who is unbeaten in singles and doubles. 2 players, who have played just 2 matches without defeat are Mike Watts (Sx3) and Dave Sinden (Sx4).

Vets 3C: Wilts 3rd team are in the lead with 6 points from 4 matches. But the Berks 3rd and Wilts 4th teams have played 3 matches with one defeat. Wilts 3rd team should certainly win their last match and must be favourites. The result of a clash between Berks 3/Wilts 4 may have an influence.

Pam Spooner (Bk3), Mike Harris (Bk3) and Royston Smith (Wi3) are players with 100% singles success.

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South West Region

by Alf Pepperd

Somerset Melonie Cary from Puriton now studying at Cardiff University, won a Silver Medal in the British Student Games Federation Table Tennis Championships at Warwick University, beating Linda Hood (Scotland) in the quarter final, also Helen Perrott (Avon), but eventually losing to Allison Evans in the Final.

Bathwick Tyres (Closed) Championships on 22/2/91 at the Bath L.C. resulted in the following results:

Final's Chronicle Cup S/F — Gary Baldwin (Longwell Green) bt Chris Holley (Oldfield Park), 15, 20.

Martyn Smith (Longwell Green) bt Mike Bridgeman (Longwell Green), 17, 20.

Final: Smith bt Baldwin 10, 19.

Mens Singles Final: Chris Holley bt Marc Cotton (Oldfield), 12, 16.

Vets Final: Paul Eatherington (M'fld) bt Alan Duke (West'se), 13, 15.

Mens Doubles: Holley/Cotton bt Murray/Lloyd (Mayfield) W.O.

Mens Singles H/C: Peter Mott (Bath University) bt Jon Marsh (Timsbury), 8, -19, 11.

Junior Singles: Andrew Hewitt 19, 16. (both Oldfield)

Comment: There was a lower entry than last season with four juniors playing a round robin, Martyn Smith returned after a seven year lay-off to win the "Chronicle Cup" after experiencing a tight Semi with Mike Bridgeman.

No. 1 seed in the Vets — Mike Oxley (West'se) of Calne lost to Andy Butt another Westinghouse player, but Butt lost to Eatherington in the evenings best game at 19 in the third.

The Trophies were presented by Mr. Henry Whitmore MBE, Chairman of the Bath & District Table Tennis Association.

Finally, nice to note that Super Senior Veteran Charlie Dawes after an absence due to injury is still playing for "The Moonrakers" and apparently still very much with it.

South West Cadet League

Positions as at 25th February 1991

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol "A"	6	6	0	52	2	12
N Cornwall	6	5	1	35	19	10
Yeovil	5	3	2	27	18	6
Bristol "B"	6	3	3	30	24	6
Ferndale "A"	5	1	4	12	33	2
Ferndale "B"	4	1	3	5	31	2
Gloucester	6	0	6	10	44	0

Results received since 6th February.

Bristol "A" 9 Yeovil 0, N.Cornwall 2 Bristol "A" 7, Yeovil 8 Bristol "B" 2, Bristol "B" 4 North Cornwall 5, North Cornwall 8 Gloucester 1.

Outstanding Matches

Ferndale "B" v Ferndale "A" and Yeovil v Ferndale "B".

L. J. Smith League Organiser

Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

A quiet month with only two matches in each of the three divisions, but with a 6 sets to 3 win over K.C.D. Stiga, Pyestock (Graham Green, Graham Outrim and Andy Nash 2 sets each) mailed a very distinct challenge to the Cippenham/Kingfisher domination of the Premier division.

Stiga recovered when with young Mathew Roberts winning a couple on his debut they defeated Burnham 7-2.

Merton appear to have blown their chance of promotion from Division One when losing to a Paul Savins inspired OLOP.

Despite a second season of non-sponsorship it has been decided that a total of £335 prize money will be awarded with the top prize that of £150 to the winners of the Premier division.

A first Regional tournament (M.S., L.S., M.D., L.D., X.D.) will be held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton on Sunday, May 5th. — further details from Competitions secretary, Mick Strobe.

Premier Div	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cippen'm 'A'	7	5	2	38	25	14
Pyestock	7	5	2	38	25	13
Kingfisher 'A'	7	4	3	32	31	11
K.C.D. Stiga	8	2	6	30	42	10
Amity Gen 'A'	6	3	3	26	28	9
Burnham	7	2	5	25	38	6

First Division

OLOP	7	6	1	45	18	17
Cippen'm 'B'	7	5	2	36	27	12
Merton	7	4	3	34	29	12
Kingfisher 'B'	7	4	3	33	30	12
Amity Gen 'B'	7	1	6	22	41	6
Isle of Wight	7	1	6	19	44	4

Ladies Division

Kingfisher	7	5	2	28	7	16
Cippenham	7	6	1	26	9	16
OLOP	7	5	2	21	14	13
Aldershot 'A'	7	2	5	13	22	7
Aldershot 'B'	7	2	5	12	23	7
Isle of Wight	7	1	6	5	30	4

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ETTA County Supplement

AVON Bob Murray

THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY nothing to report on our County Championship sides this month. The juniors' season is already complete and the senior sides have a ridiculous 25 week gap between their fixtures - the second weekend's matches in Divisions 1B and 2B being scheduled for 23/24 March.

However, the Avon Schools teams have been in action with pride of place going to Brislington School in the Boys Under 13 section and Holmead in the Girls Under 11 section, both having won through the Regional Finals at Cirencester. The Brislington team of Graham Long, Tom Orlik, Matthew Pullin and Ross McDonald had good wins over Combe Dean, Devon and Woodfield, Staffs but undoubtedly saved their best performance for an excellent 5-3 victory over the traditionally strong Grove School side from Shropshire. Holmead will provide Avon's first ever National finalist in the Girls under 11 section at Matlock on 16 March. You will notice that the squad of Emma Price, Lizzie McDonald, Jessica Orlik, Claire Smyth and Andrea Long bear some strong family ties with the Brislington boys.

There is excellent news already for next season's County Closed Championships. Ford Farrow & Partners Ltd have decided to continue their generous sponsorship of the event which has certainly added to its stature.

Bath League

The highlight of the month in Bath has been another successful Closed Championship. Chris Holley regained the Mens Singles title with a comfortable win over his Oldfield team mate Marc Cotton in the final and Westinghouse's Brenda Lee retained her Ladies Singles crown with a 3 set victory over back-to-form Debbie Booy. The Junior Championship went to fast improving Andrew Hewitt who had a good win over

Jason Papierz and this year's Veteran's title was deservedly won by Mayfield captain Paul Etherington following a superb display of attacking table tennis against Wiltshire ranked Alan Duke. One of the highlights of the week was the impressive form shown by former Bristol and Avon No.1 Martin Smith in winning the Chronicle Cup, a restricted Open event which unfortunately does not attract the entry it deserves. But the Bath Championships is more than a tournament for the top players, it has always attracted entries from all standards of player. Results in full:

Chronicle Cup

M Smith bt G Baldwin 10,19

Mens Singles

C Holley bt M Cotton 12,16

Ladies Singles

B Lee bt D Booy 18,-18,13

Veterans Singles

P Etherington bt A Duke 13,15

Junior Singles

A Hewitt bt J Papierz 19,16

Mixed doubles

B Lee/G Baldwin bt D Booy/

M Cotton 15,-17,22

Mens Doubles

CHolley/M Cotton w/o T Lloyd/

R Murray

Junior doubles

A Hewitt/J Papierz bt J Beer/

S Dowding 17,16

Mens H'cap Winner

P Mott

Mens H'cap Doubles Winners

P Mott/J Kempton

Ladies Team H'cap Winners

J Higgs/S Blacker

Lucky Pairs Winners

D Booy/J Beer

Divisional H'cap Winners: Prem

G Baldwin

1 - J Marsh

2 - S Tanner

3 - P Hewitt

4 - D Matthews

5 - J Beer

Weston Super Mare League

Little to report on this month from our friends in Weston. I am informed that both the league and the Archdale Cup are progressing nicely and that these two competitions should be in their final stages for next month's report.

Weston seem to be suffering the same fate as many other leagues regarding the hire of a

venue for their closed championships. Excessive charges imposed by the local authority have ruled out their preferred Tropicana venue and they are now looking elsewhere. RAF Locking would be an excellent alternative but the war in the Gulf may prohibit this.

Bristol League

Sun Life Bristol Ladies looking stunning, I am informed, in their new pink and grey tracksuits, (compliments of their sponsor),, produced a fine all round performance in the British League and finished the first round of matches in second place in Division 2. Seven wins out of a possible ten for Helen Perrott and five each for Melonie Carey and Michele Cohen gave Bristol three victories from their opening five matches. A similar performance in Round 2 should give them a promotion place.

Following another series of matches in the South West Regional Cadet League, Bristol A, with resounding 9-0 victories over North Cornwall and Yeovil, remain firmly on top.

On the administrative front, the Bristol executive are understandably delighted to have been awarded an ETTA Development Grant equivalent to their annual affiliation fee. This will enable England's largest league to initiate an ambitious major development programme under the direction of Kevin Satchell.

Also from Bristol comes news that they are to restructure their league with effect from the 1992/93 season. A move towards two sections per division instead of the current four is intended to enable players from the lower echelons to play within a narrower ability level - currently there can be quite major variations in ability between the top and bottom of divisions.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of popular local player Derek Nicholas. Derek has been the driving force behind the progressive Longwell Green club for many years. He played

in both the Bath and Bristol leagues and has served on numerous Bath League committees. He will be sadly missed by all those who have enjoyed his company.

BERKSHIRE Bob Adams

AFTER LAST MONTH'S bit of Christmas nonsense, we now have the really serious stuff, in the shape of the Bracknell and Reading Championships, plus a few words on a subject which must be troubling a lot of clubs, namely the sudden increase in the cost of hire of school premises. I had better not call this one a fiendish Government trick - last time I used that phrase (this column January) I got my knuckles rapped! It appears that the Bracknell Table Tennis Club, who have had a variety of premises over the last few years, including a Scout hut, a village hall, and most recently Kennel Lane School, had found themselves with a hire charge of £6.60 per hour. With room for two matches, playing at home on alternate weeks, I calculate that to be about £2 per player per night, averaged over the season. Then the charge went up to £11.10 per hour, at which point both Bracknell and Winkfield, which latter also play at Kennel Lane, declared this sum beyond their means. I suppose that with the various running costs which a Table Tennis Club carries and which have to be passed on to the members, this brings the cost of a night's play to around £5 or £6. Seems a lot when compared to the half a crown I used to collect from members when I was Club Treasurer a few years ago, but is it and should these costs really be enough to drive playing number down? (I better stop before this drifts into a discussion on players who don't see why they should spend thirty odd pounds on a couple of sheets of rubber when their double sided blue job has been their weapon for the last twenty years).

Counties 2

On to the Reading Tournament - which usually looks remarkably like the Berkshire but which isn't going to happen this year. Gemma Schwartz picked up her usual bundle of trophies, the U15 and U17 Girls one might have expected, and even the mixed doubles with uncle Ian Schwartz and the ladies doubles with Ruth Purseglove. But on adding the ladies singles to make it a clean sweep, then that was something special. The nearest on the male side came from Jimmy Stokes, with both the mens doubles with Sid Montgomery, and the mens singles which he captured by beating holder Martin Adams in the semi and Paul Savins in the final. However, Martin hung on to his U17 trophy for the 4th successive year and the U17 doubles with Marc Priddle for the 2nd, whilst Ben Johnson (who had had a great win over Marc in the U17 boys) took the U15 boys and another fine performance for the Division 1 Restricted, which only excludes the four seeds from the main mens singles event.

The Reading Chronicle "Best Performance" trophy went to veteran Pete Slatford for a fine two sets win over Dave Wise, the 1990 Veterans Champion, whose title was grasped for the first time by Dave Streak. The Senior Veterans was recaptured by Colin Dyke by beating holder Brian Halliday, who must be really old, since I notice he first won this in 1986! Not as old of course as Tournament Referee John Freeman who took his first of three Senior Veteran titles as long ago as 1978. Organised by John with Robin Lockwood and a stalwart band of helpers this tournament all went along swimmingly which just shows that the old firm can still do it!

Not really enough room for the Bracknell results, they can go in next month after their second tournament, still to come.

DORSET Martin Hughes

JOLLIFFE POOLE, SPONSORED by Peter Jolliffe

Bookmaker, achieved their highest ever league position in the British League when a 5-3 victory over Rejects II saw them notch up their third straight victory and climb up the second division south league table to third place.

Jolliffe's number one, ex-International Tony Clayton, received the man of the match award for the third time this season as he defeated Percy Collino and Simon Philipsz in convincing fashion.

Clayton started the match with a straight sets victory over Philipsz, winning 21-11, 21-15, before John Robinson and Mark Werner both lost in the deciding third end to Percy Collino and Mick O'Leary respectively. Martin Hughes then levelled the match again with a victory over the higher ranked Peter Harry.

With the match score standing at a tense 2-2, the opposition then provided some light relief when they literally threw in the towel as Clayton powered into a 19-1 lead against Rejects number one Percy Collino.

Clayton went on to clinch the game 21-1, but the second end saw a more realistic performance from Collino before Clayton eventually ran out the winner at 21-19 and avenge his first half defeat.

Mark Werner and John Robinson then both won their second games in straight sets against Philipsz and Harry, to give Jolliffe Poole an unbeatable 5-2 lead, before Martin Hughes lost the final game 19-21, 18-21 to defender Mick O'Leary.

With no other representative matches played during the preceding month, it is an opportune moment to look ahead to next season.

Dorset will have their strongest ever line up for their veteran first team next season. Tony Clayton who was ranked at England number three at his peak, and still a formidable force in the senior ranks, recently turned the magical age of 40 and therefore becomes eligible for all veteran events next season.

He will be backed up by another player of excellent pedigree. Brian Burn, ex

England number six and former England trainer/coach, has announced that he will be residing permanently in Dorset next season, having returned from a 15 year spell in Saudi Arabia as a university PE coach. Brian is still an excellent player who is very fit and looking forward to renewing challenges of bygone days.

The third man in this team will be Barry Hill, the current Dorset number one veteran. Barry was a top county player in the 70's, representing Surrey for over 10 years. With Joyce Coop, one of the top five veteran lady players in the country backing up these three, we will indeed have a strong team.

We therefore give all Counties due notice, look out for us next season, we are hoping for great things.

ESSEX Alan Shepherd

IN THE JANUARY issue I complained mildly at the lack of copy coming in from local leagues. Well, surprise, surprise, stuff has started pouring in from all corners of the county, not least from Tony Oswick, Clacton League's Press Officer, who thought I was being provocative! However, he did come up with the goods, as follows:

"At the half-way point, Great Holland A, champions for 5 out of the last 6 season, have opened up a small but significant gap at the top of Division 1, having lost but once. Their squad of Derek Wood, Darren Jones, Chris Jacob, David Binns and Brian Cartwright, forms the basis of the Clacton A side that won Division 1 of the Veterans Inter League Competition last season. That one defeat was inflicted by Walton "A" - Ian Graham, Peter Burrows and Fred Dove.

Clacton has organised 4 tournaments so far this season with singles, doubles and team events. Now they are about to hold their closed

Championships at the Clacton Leisure Centre on April 13th/14th".

Over at Waltham Forest, I have received a report from my old friend Ron Pack about what happened at their Closed tournament, which incidentally I was supposed to referee had I been given more notice than 7 days! County player John Dennison won the Mens Singles, having last done so in 1982, while Maggie Pavitt, who now plays for Herts, won the Ladies Singles for the sixth time in the last seven years. Tim Hobley won the Veteran's title and Paul Hudson took the Junior event.

Now I will report from my recent travels. Most recently I was at Farnborough, Hants, for the South of England 3 Star. I was delighted to witness the successes of several Essex players, not least Steve Dorking, who reached the Final with a splendid win over John Holland, of Derbyshire, but who is actually based in Essex! Grant Solder profited by some absent seeds also to reach the semi-final where he put up an excellent fight against England No.1 Carl Prean, the eventual winner of the tournament. Little Linda Radford looked in the verge of a sensational win when she led England No. 1 Lisa Lomas for a long way in their singles match, but the experience of Lisa eventually saw her through.

In February, the Junior third team had a wonderful 7-3 win over Middlesex II at Rayleigh, with five matches being decided at "19 in the third". Karl Grant, on debut, had a very important win against Simeon Zeffert, while Ban Ware, Peter Worthington, Shelley Ruocco and Julie Rand all gained supporting victories. One the same day an "Extra Thirds" team took on Suffolk II, who were good enough to visit us for a friendly, and a splendid match resulted, giving good experience to some of our lower ranked players.

At Maidstone, a week later, Kent played hosts to Essex and Sussex, for a series of cadet matches, which were keenly contested, and enjoyed by all who took part. Congratulations to Bob Taylor for this initiative.

Counties 3

The ESTTA Regional Finals of their Team Event took place at Monks Hill, Croydon on the next day, and Peniel Academy, Brentwood, got 6 of their teams through to the National Finals (out of only 8 categories).

I regret having to end on a sad note by announcing the death recently of our former Chairman, Bob Gingell.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Alf Peppard

THE SECOND ANNUAL Newent Junior T.T. Tournament was held on a bitterly cold day in February at the Newent Sports Complex, and played on five tables.

The Organisers were disappointed that inclement weather unfortunately was the cause of entries being unable to attend from the Stroud and Cheltenham area's.

Ten year old Ann Humble from Highnam, was named the most improved player over the past year receiving the Edward Mortimor Scroll. Ann also reached the final of the Girls U14 singles before losing to Michelle Hogarth, while she won the U17 doubles in partnership with David Ramford.

Sisters Kerry aged 11 and Michelle Hogarth 13, met in the girls U17 Final, the result was a win for Kerry 9,9, in a match watched by their Mother Julie, who organised the Tournament. At the time of writing Kerry Hogarth is ranked at 45 as a Cadet on the National ranking list.

Final Results:

Handicap Singles:
Aaron Mortimor - beat
Ann Humble 18,19

Boys U17 Singles:
Jamie Day beat Peter Dupree
14,11

Girls U17 Singles:
Kerry Hogarth beat Michelle
Hogarth 9,9

Boys U14 Singles:
Aaron Mortimor beat Richard
Smith 18,14

Girls U14 Singles:
Michelle Hogarth beat Ann
Humble 16,9

Under 17 Doubles:
Ann Humble/David Ramford
beat Martin Elliot/Ben Geeson
-19,16,20

**Special Non - League U17
Singles:**
Melanie Garlick beat Emma
Wellington 15,11

Under 12 Non - League Singles:
Ann Humble beat Melanie
Garlick 12,14

Newent Schools U13 Girls T.T. team returned triumphant after travelling to Cirencester recently to play in the Regional Final's of the Dunlop Schools Team Championship.

Having already been successful in the area Final's against Northamptonshire and the West Midlands Newent pupils, Kerry Hogarth, Melanie Garlick, Rachael Dunn and Emma Wellington showed both determination and enthusiasm when faced with their next set of rivals - The Grove School, Shropshire.

Half way through the match Grove and Newent were tying at two each but the Newent Girls pulled all the stops out to gain a lead of 4-3, the last match relying on the talents of Emma Wellington who came through the ultimate victor by beating Katie Reed 15 and 14, thus giving Newent a 5-3 well deserved win.

This success means that Newent Community School Team now go on to the National Final's on March 16th at Matlock in Derbyshire to play the two other Regional winners in the Country, the North and the South/East Regions.

Results:

Kerry Hogarth beat Emma
Ferguson 13,16

Kerry Hogarth beat Rebecca
McCarthy 15,18

Melanie Garlick beat Alice
Gleeson 7,9

Melanie Garlick lost to Rebecca
McCarthy 12,21

Rachael Dunn beat Katie Reed
14,8

Rachael Dunn lost to Emma
Ferguson 14,8

Emma Wellington beat Katie
Reed 15,14

Emma Wellington lost to Alice
Gleeson 7,-20,-11
Final results of the Gloucestershire (Closed) Under 14 & 12 Singles and Doubles, held at St Benedicts School Arle Road, Cheltenham.

Boys U12 Singles:

Peter Dupree (Glos) beat
Aaron Mortimor (Glos)
11, -12, 16

Girls U12 Singles:

Kerry Hogarth beat Emma
Wellington 10,11

Boys U14 Singles:

Martin Cheung (Ciren) beat
Jamie Day (Glos) 19,11

Girls U14 Singles:

Kerry Hogarth (Glos) beat
Melanie Garlick (Newent)
16,20

Cadet U14 Doubles:

Martin Cheung/Aaron Mortimor beat Jamie Day/Peter Dupree 17,20

And finally, older members will no doubt remember Dennis Holland, I had the pleasure of interviewing him for BBC Radio Gloucestershire recently, and what an interesting interview it was - after 17 or 18 years out of the game he's now back and well coping with the funny bat syndrome.

HAMPSHIRE Harold Albery

THE ABSENCE OF any news from Hampshire so far this season, due to P.R. problems, has prompted me to furnish a few details of events that have taken place since September.

First, the Senior Closed Championships. In the Mens Singles there were a few early casualties. Mark Wilding, choosing not to play League or County matches this season, created the big surprise taking out, first Ramish Bhalla in the semi final and going on to beat Andrew Ely (Southampton) 14,19 to take the title for the first time. Sarah Hammond defeated her County team mate, Sarah Turner, to regain the Ladies title she last won 6 years ago.

The Intermediate Singles (under 23) proved to be a real battle royal with Jeff Giles County No.4) narrowly beating Mark Shutler (Junior No.1) 24-22 in the third game. Thrilling stuff! Jeff then teamed up with Chris Shetler (now about to become a Veteran) to take the Doubles title from the holders for the past two years, Graham Toole and Mark Wilding.

The Junior Closed Championships saw a clean sweep of all the Boys events by Gosport/Fareham League players. A very determined Mark Shutler, in his last year as a Junior defeated Matthew Roberts (Portsmouth) to clinch the Under 17 title. What a splendid ambassador Mark has been to Hampshire since he first started playing. Little brother Paul Shutler, not to be outdone was unbeaten in the Under 12 event and proudly received his trophy. A very jubilant Shutler family that evening!! Gareth Scaddan, their Club mate was also relentless and showed no mercy to Kevin Smith (Portsmouth) in the final of the Under 14 event.

Surprise winners of the Under 14 Doubles were the scratch pairing of Carl Richards (Bournemouth) and Kevin Smith. Clare Woodham (Aldershot) was unbeaten in the Under 17 Girls for the second year running. Caroline Cook (Southampton) who has been making rapid progress was also unbeaten in the Under 14 Girls. Wanda Hutchinson (Aldershot) took the Under 12 Girls but not before Erica Hatley (Aldershot) had given her an awful fright in the third game.

Moving on to the Inter-Town Leagues, Basingstoke seem to be the major contenders in both the Junior and Cadet Divisions: their team of Kevin Macken, assisted by Tony Reynolds, Andrew Liu Kilin and Nicola Baker would appear to hold the balance of power in the Junior Division, with one session of block matches to go.

The Hampshire Schools Individual Championships held at Redbridge Community School produced a record number of entries with 40

schools taking part. This proves that there is a vast amount of untapped talent in the schools if events are laid on for them. We must go out of our way to encourage them.

Edward Hatley (Aldershot) the National Under 16 winner last year paid a fleeting visit from the South of England Tournament to commence the defence of his title. Many of our younger players were thrilled to see the England junior in action. Edward defeated Mark Giles (Southampton) 9,16 in the final. Other results - Under 19 Girls, Clare Woodham (Aldershot), Under 14 Girls, Caroline Cook (Southampton), Under 13 Girls Donna Granville (Portsmouth), Under 11 Girls Carli Scaddan (Gosport/Fareham), Stephen Crouch (Aldershot) emulated his older brother John's feat of last year narrowly beating Matthew Roberts 21-19 in the third game to win the Under 17 Boys. To complete a great day, Mark Wilshere won the Under 13 Boys and Chris Butt the Under 12 Boys.

Sadly our Advanced Training Centre at Redbridge has closed temporarily because of the resignation of our Coaching Officer, Ken Giles. We had achieved such a lot in the last two years and the improvements and team spirit were evident in our two County Junior teams. The Junior results, this season, were evidence that we were doing the right thing. Both teams were in the same Division which meant a considerable saving in finance, and matches were played at two venues, Gwent and Somerset.

In the second block both teams played 4 matches over the two days in Somerset in January.

Our 1st team beat Dorset 8-2 and Avon 7-3 but drew with Devon 2nd and narrowly lost to Gwent. This defeat cost them the chance of winning that Division. The 2nd team had two excellent results against Somerset 6-4 and Avon 7-3 but lost to Gwent 2-8 and Devon 2nd 4-6. Nevertheless, all good performances.

It looks as though the county will be heading for problems soon and will be searching for new faces to take

over posts that become vacant at the end of this year. At the moment, we have no Coaching Officer and no Press Officer. Ray Yates, who has looked after all our County teams for many, many years has decided to call it a day because of all the unnecessary 'hassle' he receives. Paul Wilding, our worthy Treasurer is emigrating in the near future.

It is sad to see officials like Ray Yates giving up but I appreciate his views - you can only take so much and goodness knows, we have had too much 'hassle' this year altogether.

Who knows, perhaps at our next AGM we might get a few younger members volunteering and presenting constructive ideas for the benefit of table tennis in Hampshire.

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

THE GOLDEN OLDIES of the Cheshunt League, look all set to take the Veterans Inter-League title, following their two victories on Sunday, 17th February 1991.

Cheshunt's four mature gentlemen, Alan 'Digger' Lamprell, Derek Balding, Carl Nelson and Tony Teff, saw off the challenge of Welwyn and Hatfield 4-3 and St. Albans 5-2, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

With three wins already tucked under their belt, back in January, Cheshunt, who are the only unbeaten League in the competition, face the likes of Hertford, North Herts I and North Herts II, on Sunday 19th May 1991, where if they keep their nerve, and play to form they should capture the much coveted trophy.

Another team with an excellent chance of winning a title this season are four ladies of Fullarians, Angela Smith, Maria Williams, Caroline Seaholme, and Emma Hurling, who sit proudly on top of the Womens

National League, Division IIIB, and if hopes are realised the Watford based ladies should gain promotion to Division Two, when they play the concluding games in June at the Bletchley Leisure Centre.

Hitchin Boys School have once again done the county proud, by reaching the Dunlop National Schools Team semi-final where their Under 16 and Under 13 teams sadly missed out on reaching the finals at Matlock, Derbyshire, on 17th March 1991.

The Under 16 team, of Craig Millwood, Darren Humber, Colin McCarthy and Andrew Wilden, came closest to reaching the finals, losing narrowly to Bedford Modern 3-5, in their opening match, where Darren Humber almost swung the match Hitchin's way when he narrowly lost in the third 22-24. They also lost 3-5 to Norton Natchbull, but bounced back to beat Peniel Academy 8-0.

That man from Barnet, John Taylor, has flown the flag really high once again for Hertfordshire, by reaching the Veteran's Final at the South of England 3 Star Championships, held at Farnborough in February, where Super Veteran Taylor lost once again to Dave Harvey of Gloucester.

Watford's Sarah Seaholme, did really well at this tournament too, beating the Bedfordshire No.1 Lisa Robins, 14 and 12, in the Women's Consolation Singles.

Sister Caroline Seaholme went out in round two, as did Sarah, of the Women's

Consolation, losing to Carol Hewitt of Sussex.

Father Dave Seaholme, reached round one of the Mens' Singles and the third round of the Veterans Singles.

Cheshunt's Maggie Pavitt, also lost to Carol Hewitt, in the Women's Consolation, but at the Quarter Final stage.

John Lennon of Barnet did really well, picking up lots of ranking points, before losing to finalist Steve Dorking of Essex, in the second round of the Mens' Singles.

KENT Adrian Hall

Maidstone Closed Championships - Finals Night - Larkfield Wednesday 20th February 1991

A crowd approaching 150 attended the ever popular finals night hosted as usual by the Larkfield Club. The finals were the culmination of two weekends of knockout play at Leybourne Grange and saw the favourites take all the titles except the Mens Doubles. In the most entertaining game of the evening equal 5th seeds Allen Cooper (back after a break of a couple of years following a heart attack) and Bruce Benge (West Malling) past champions on many occasions kept the ball consistently on the table to beat the youthful petulance and power of No.1 seeds Matt Vardy and Darren Boyce (Sutton Valence) 21/14, 12/21, 21/15.

In the mens singles semi-finals Mick Ling (Larkfield) overpowered the defence of Gordon Harris (MWMC) 21/17, 21/16 and Darren Boyce (Sutton Valence) never produced his league form and was easily ousted by team mate Matt Vardy (Sutton Valence) 21/16, 21/14. On a slow table that benefited the combination play of Ling, Vardy was never able to get to grips with the wide angles and clever changes of pace forced on him by the experience of Ling and faded somewhat disappointingly 21/7, 21/15.

Alison Pearson (MWMC) was made to struggle a little more than expected as she overcame Bernadette O'Gorman (Larkfield) in the Ladies Singles final, in the end class told 21/9, 22/20. It was similar story in the Junior Boys final with nationally ranked Martin Hewett (MWMC), with all to lose, struggling to overcome the local favourite Gary Waters (Larkfield) 21/19, 21/15.

The Veterans Mens Final produced solid defensive table tennis for which both players are renowned, interspersed with flashes of good old fashioned attack and defence. With both

giving their all Gordon Harris (MWMC) just defeated last seasons champion Ted Tydeman (West Malling) 27/25, 21/13.

Alison Pearson dominated the Mixed Doubles when partnered with brother Paul Woollven (MWMC) they comfortably beat the wily skills of Bob Hawkins and Bernadette O'Gorman (Larkfield) 21/16, 21/11. Tina Stewart and Gloria Dowding (Larkfield) just managed to defeat the mother/daughter combination of June Woollven and Alison Pearson (MWMC) in the Ladies Doubles 21/19, 21/18.

Results:

Mens Singles semi-finals

Mick Ling (Larkfield) beat Gordon Harris (MWMC) 21/17, 21/16

Matt Vardy (Sutton Val) beat Darren Boyce (Sutton Val) 21/16, 21/14

Final

Ladies Singles

Alison Pearson (MWMC) beat Bernadette O'Gorman (Larkfield) 21/9, 22/20

Veterans Mens Singles

Gordon Harris (MWMC) beat Ted Tydeman (West Malling) 27/25, 21/13

Veteran Ladies Singles

June Woollven (MWMC) beat Bernadette O'Gorman (Larkfield) 21/14, 21/9

Junior Boys Singles

Martin Hewett (MWMC) beat Gary Waters (Larkfield) 21/19, 21/15

Junior Girls Singles

Carly Riggs (Larkfield) beat Crystal Hall (Larkfield) W.O.

Mens Doubles

Bruce Benge/Allen Cooper (MWMC) beat Matt Vardy/Darren Boyce (Sutton Val) 21/14, 12/21, 21/15

Ladies Doubles

Tina Stewart/Gloria Dowding (Larkfield) beat Alison Pearson/June Woollven (MWMC) 21/18, 21/19

Mixed Doubles

Paul Woollven/Alison Pearson (MWMC) beat Bob Hawkins/Bernadette O'Gorman (Larkfield) 21/16, 21/11

Kent Schools Individual Championships

The Kent Schools Table Tennis

Individual Championships cancelled on the 9th February, due to the weather are now being played at various venues throughout the county to miss commitments already made by the players. The U16 Girls and U13 Girls were played at East Malling on Sunday 17th February.

The U16 Girls final was a tense affair that at times produced play of the highest standard in the end it was Aylesford High School's Carly Riggs that triumphed over Nicola Duke of Bennett Memorial (Tonbridge) 11/21, 21/12, 21/14.

Although there were only five entrants for the U13 Girls, all five are national squad players from the Maidstone League. All the girls played each other on a round robin basis, the favourite Crystal Hall (Maplesden Noakes) eventually meeting Alison Smith (Astor of Hever) in the final. Hall won the first nervy leg 21/19, Smith then held a 15/5 second leg lead only to be pulled back to 17/17 as she lost her nerve, but she held on to win 20/22, the battle of Halls backhand loop against the power of Smith went Hall's way 21/13 in the third.

Results:

U13 Girls

Crystal Hall beat Alison Smith 21/19, 20/22, 21/13

U16 Girls

Carly Riggs beat Nicola Duke 11/21, 21/12, 21/14

Carly Riggs and Crystal Hall go onto Mansfield as their Schools and Kents representatives for the Dunlop English Schools National Finals on April 27th.

Maidstone Grammer School, Kents Schools U19 team champions who recently won through the Area Finals competed in the Regional Finals of the Dunlop Schools Team Championships at Monks Hill Sports Centre on Sunday 17th February. However, their run of success came to an abrupt end when they were well beaten by Peniel (Brentwood) 8/0, Bedford Modern 7/1 a win for Gary Waters and Winsor Boys (Bucks) 7/1, with Matt Vardy winning the only game.

Tournament successes on the Junior Circuit

Nine year old Scott Friday (Medway) came home from the Grove 2* Cadet tournament with the U10 and U11 titles to his credit, in the finals he beat Paul McCann 21/10, 21/6, and Gareth Brown 21/13, 21/17 respectively.

Nicola Duke (Tonbridge) had a splendidly successful day at the West Midlands 2*. First she won the cadet class 2 with a 21/23, 21/15, 21/17 win over Vicky Fox and then in the main event beat No.1 seed and England International Michelle Martin in the semi-final 21/19, 21/18, but with the final following immediately she could not regain her composure and unfortunately went down to 21/14, 21/6 to Vicky Fox. Nicola then teamed up with Michelle Martin to win the doubles against Alison Smith (Maidstone) and Michelle Haynes (Mansfield) who had a remarkable run of wins to reach the final but could not maintain that form and lost 21/15, 21/13. Alison had earlier been beaten in the U12 final by Michelle McGreevey (Ireland) 17/21, 21/14, 21/17.

County Championships

Our Vets 111 continue their winning ways with an 8/1 win over Berkshire IV, for Kent, Dennis McConkey, Mel Dixon and Pam Butcher were unbeaten, Berks lone scalp was that of Ted Tydeman.

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LANCASHIRE George Yates

NO COUNTY MATCHES to report on in this issue but good to see a fair sprinkling of Lancastrians in the men's singles draw for the English National Championships at Stourbridge.

Sean Gibson spearheads the thirteen participants, backed up by the two Taylors, Jonathan and Tony, Nigel Eckersley, Graham Clarke, Andrew Eden,

Darren Howarth, Stephen Scowcroft, Neil Gravener, Stuart Richards, Paul Hutchins, Martin Ireland and the veteran Norman Thewlis.

The ever improving Andrea Holt heads a Red Rose trio in the women's singles, being seeded at No. 4, with Mandy Winskill and Maria Thornley having to contest the qualifying competition.

Tuesday 21st May is the date set for the AGM's of both the Lancashire County and Lancashire and Cheshire League at the Thames Board Mills premises at Warrington.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Warrington, in accounting for Bolton 6-4, thanks to an unbeaten performance from Malcolm McEvoy, look set to claim the men's first division title for the very first time their one remaining match being against Liverpool Business Houses on 12th March and the LBH League are still searching for their first point, having suffered five defeats.

Liverpool with an unblemished record from five matches, look all set to retain their women's first division title having seen off Oldham, their nearest challengers, 7-3. Justine Thomas figured in three singles successes and, with Brenda Buoey, won the doubles, the latter also accounting for Marjorie Riddle and Karen Richardson.

Oldham's reply came from Mandy Winskill, her only loss being to Justine and Karen beat Paula French who suffered two defeats. But in the Junior first division Oldham are well on course to succeed Barrow as champions, their latest result to hand being a 10-0 thrashing of Bolton with Matthew Coombe, Darryl Meredith and Chris Whitehead in total command.

Could well be Stockport to retain the veterans first division title with Preston, as last season, the runners up. A missing scorecard following Stockport's home match against Warrington is causing a slight problem as confirmation is awaited on a 10-0 home win which has to be verified.

Counties 6

NORFOLK Ray Hogg

I HAVE TO be very careful what I say about unregistered players being invited to play against fully paid up members. Be it that they are only under 12 and can just about hold a bat doesn't seem to come into it.

Enough said about that as I could end up in prison with the Wymondham League who recently held their championships in the sports hall of Wayland prison. Dennis Whitham apparently has contacts with the underworld and as he said the players cannot disappear when required to play as they are all confined to the hall. Young Shaun Parsley won the mens singles and now holds that with the Dereham title. Decisions will have to be taken shortly as Norwich and Dereham Championships are on the same day and I can envisage some keen types rushing up and down the A47 the 12 miles between venues.

We must look to the future and the offspring of several leading players are beginning to show through like Justin Rolfe, Mark Wortley, Adam Brewer, Ben & Kelly Thomson and I hear the first of Steve Howletts brood Ian is now practising. The Norwich Junior Championships should reveal some more talent, let us hope there are some girls.

Stop press - County Championships 1991 Long Stratton December 7/8th

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

SURPRISES WERE FEW in the early stages of the Veterans Top Twelve competition, but there were signs towards the end of the long day that things might not stay that way and in the final an irrepressible Mick Edwards shocked the hitherto unbeatable Keith Jones to take the title.

Jones had reigned supreme in Group One after twice being put to the test, with Gerald

Finney first holding an opening end game point before collapsing and going down with just a solitary point to show in the second.

Geoff Atkinson dropped his opener against Jones 25-23, before winning the second, but with a shock on the cards, Jones recovered to take the decider.

In Group Two, Edwards was in flowing form, but even so was fully extended by Mike Pond, before edging home at 19 in the third.

There were no great upsets in the second phase, but Edwards was again involved in the closest encounter before beating Atkinson.

Then in the final it was the quick hitting of Edwards that proved too much for the usually immaculate defence of Jones and the younger veteran took the first end with ease but with Jones making a valiant effort to get back in the game, Edwards faltered with victory in sight but he finally regained his composure to take the second to 19 and so lift the trophy for the first time.

Results:

Final

Mick Edwards bt Keith Jones 10,19

3rd & 4th Positions

Geoff Atkinson bt Phil Slade 13,20

5th & 6th Positions

Mike Pond bt Gerald Finney - 20,16,18

Other placings:

7th Cliff Bull

8th Alan Ashberry

9th Margaret Maltby

10th Joyce Porter

11th Bill Lupton

12th Dave Cross

Graeme McKim returned to title winning form when he won the Northampton league's Closed Men's title against Andy Edmonds but he was under greater pressure as he attempted to take the corresponding Kettering event for a ninth consecutive time.

The task was not an easy one, for his later round opponents - all well prepared by their British League experience - were eager to become the first player to beat McKim since he

entered the tournament for the first time in 1982-83. Richard Elliott was the first to test the champion but after clinching the opening end 25-23, he fell away against McKim's superb attacking display and was easily eclipsed.

The talented Ian Hawes lay in wait in the semi-final, after a narrow escape in his clash with Electric team mate Steve West and with an early season verdict against McKim to his credit, Hawes started confidently but to no avail as McKim's spasmodic brilliance was enough to take the first and then after Hawes had levelled in the second, to apply the coup de grace in the decider.

Meanwhile the resourceful Andy Edmonds, the current county champion was moving remorselessly through the field, with no-one able to offer a serious challenge as he quickly reached the final for the third time.

This produced a feast of table tennis for the large early evening crowd. McKim's artistry earned the first, but his opponent's nerve and determination held firm and he saved several match points before evening things up at one all.

Things looked black for McKim when he lost all five of his first set of services in the final end and Edmonds eased into a nine seven lead, but then McKim dug deep into his reserves, moved up a gear and produced some magnificent sustained play to retain his title yet again.

McKim then turned his attention to the Men's Doubles where he and Richard Elliott survived a tense semi final battle with Hawes and West. Joint top seeds Edmonds and Chris Handshaw had no such trouble on their way to the final, but at the crucial moment they failed to cope with the pace and power of McKim and Elliott who became champions for the first time.

This was McKim's seventh doubles success however, and his dominance over the last ten years is perhaps best illustrated by the five different partners he had guided to victory in the past

five seasons.

Nor was this the finish for McKim, for he and his wife Joanne went on to take the Mixed Doubles, with Joanne's sister Suzy Hunt together with Ian Hawes occupying the Runners Up spot.

The late withdrawal through illness of top seed Muriel Cox left the ladies events wide open, and in the end it was Rothborough's Cathy Fleming, in her first Kettering League season, who took the main honours.

After a tense semi-final win over Ann Woolston, she just held on to beat her team captain Helen Watts in the final, while Mrs Woolston and Miss Watts were rewarded when they teamed up to take the doubles.

Gerald Finney elected not to enter the men's singles and the move paid off when he gained a narrow win in the veteran over 40 singles against previous holder Geoff Atkinson, and then earned a major bonus when he and Alan Ashberry deprived Atkinson and Phil Slade of the corresponding doubles title.

Dennis Millman, who won the first ever Kettering veterans event in the 1970-71 season, also got among the honours when in the over 50's singles he dethroned last year's winner Bill Lupton.

The Under 21 Singles, an event to test the current crop of juniors against their predecessors produced two of each category in the semi-finals, with top junior Julian Marshall emerging as winner to compensate him for his under 17 removal at the hands of young Tom Rowe, who lost narrowly in the final to his older brother Matthew, with no quarter asked or given.

The remaining events were won by Colin Judd - Under 15's, Stephen Woolston - Under 13's, Terry Luxton - Consolation Singles, John Smith and Stewart Abraham - Mystery Doubles, Stephen Atkinson and Matthew Rowe - Junior Doubles, Atkinson again in the Premier Handicap, with Chas Allen, Paul Smith and John Gandolfi taking the remaining handicaps in descending order. However as

competitors and spectators left the centre after fourteen hours play, admirably controlled by organiser Phil Slade, the thought uppermost in their minds was 'can Graeme make it ten?'

SOMERSET Andy Seward

THE COUNTY VETERANS first team played twice in March, one of which was a rearranged match at Bournemouth, for which thanks go to Dorset.

However, all the best plans go awry as the team duly lost 3-6 in Dorset, travelled back to Yeovil only to lose 3-6 again to a strong Sussex 2 team. four wins from Brian Reeves and two men's doubles wins were the only redeeming features.

The Vets second team, although losing 4-5 in an enjoyable close fought match in Wiltshire, again won the mens singles 4-2, including two notable wins for farmer Terry Millard, but got no return from the doubles. more doubles practice lads!

Bridgwater League

From Bridgwater in the south west, north to Weston-Super-Mare and east along the Mendips to the beautiful City of Wells, the 21 teams of the Bridgwater League travel many miles for their table tennis pleasure.

The Premier Division is led by Hinkley Point, who have county Senior Philip Payne, currently with a 100% record as their no.1. Two other teams with a chance of the title are British Cellophane 'A' captained by County Veteran John Crabtree and Weston Police who have been champions for the past two seasons. Surprise strugglers are Millfield School 'A' with father and son, Ray and Adam Gallop, as their leading players.

In Division 1 the leading teams are Sydenham 'A' and British Cellophane 'c' who were both relegated last season and thus illustrates the gulf between the two divisions.

Junior player development is currently centred on a Junior

League of eleven teams competing at Chilton Trinity School and also on the regular coaching sessions of Les Bridges and his helpers who will hopefully be providing the players so needed by the league and the county teams in the future.

Next month, news from the Taunton League, a report on the County Senior Weekend held in Cornwall and why 1991 will be a fine year for cider apples! Good drinking!

SUFFOLK Andrew Doshier

AFTER A COUPLE of seasons' absence, hopefully Suffolk can regularly contribute to the County Notes. I must thank my predecessor Paul Hutchinson who has not always had the time to put pen to paper. Onward to matters. Many things have happened since September in both the national, league and county, so I will have to summarise.

In October Britannia hosted the Premier Top 16 tournament, inviting the cream of players from the Ipswich League. It was based on the 555 World Cup format: four group of four then play off stage, and the bottom two playing off for positions 9-16. Here everybody was assured of six games, with the spread meaning one was bound to play players of varying quality and styles. Briefly in the groups Nigel Howe and Richard Hutchinson both took a set off Richard Tanner. Likewise Andrew Warner and Chris Nicholls did the same with Mick Broughton. In the semis Richard Nelhams accounted for Tanner and John Kitchener did for Broughton. The final went to Kitchener 12 and 17. The final placings were:

1. John Kitchener
2. Richard Nelhams
3. Richard Tanner
4. Mick Broughton
5. Andrew Doshier
6. Richard Hutchinson
7. Graham Watts
8. Charles Fulcher
9. Andrew Warner
10. Fred Dove

11. Dave Halliday
12. Nigel Howe
13. Chris Nicholls
14. Barry Thain
15. Michael Wright
16. Andrew Holmes

Britannia 1 have held their own in Division 1, with Kitchener, Logsdon, Tanner, King and Nelhams. The same cannot be said of the second team. With just a victory and draw to date. In their last Chris Bryant and deuce in the third to Jimmy Brewster. At Brentford four of the games went to three which we lost.

The County first team are in with a chance of promotion, with Palmer, Kitchener and Tanner all contributing though I am afraid I don't have details on their matches; I will give this some space next time. I hear it said time and time again that the key to success at county level is having strong women in your team; this appears to be the case in our second side. We visited Cambridgeshire in January without Karen Perkins or Tracy Ward and lost 8-2, Fulcher accounting for Smith, Doshier for Livermore. Rosemary Bullock and Janet Scoulding did their best. Janet particularly is improving, having had a useful win recently in the Stowmarket League. We lost 6-4 against Norwich, getting 1-4 in the women's singles.

Late last year Chen Xinhua came to Ipswich to help launch the Sport 2000 scheme. He gave coaching to some youngsters and played John Kitchener in an exhibition. John admitted rather modestly afterwards that Chen had been generous in the second set which Chen took at deuce.

May I take this opportunity to ask all participants in our sport within Suffolk to let me know of anything going on that they consider important and worth mentioning. I can be contacted at 91 Rectory Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 8EQ and by phone on Ipswich (0473) 601331.

SURREY Terry Vance

At the Wilts 5* Tournament, despite the snow and ice, Gordon Chapman arrived to play Alex Perry of Devon. This was unquestionably the oldest against the youngest. The youngster eventually winning in the 3rd. Glenda Ashison of Bacon School won the U13 Girls and was runner up in the U16 Girls at the Inner London Schools Tournament, but from Dulwich College the Karralleide brothers came and conquered. Syd won the U13 Boys and was runner up to Damika in the U16 Boys who himself was runner up to Janaka in the U19 Boys.

In the National Ranking Lists Edward Hatley and Darren Blake have dropped to number 2 Junior and Cadet respectively since they were both runner up in the National Championships.

The Thames Valley League Division 2 is led by Chessington with New Malden, NPL and Alexandra joint 2nd. Propping up the division is Civil Service 1 and Elmbridge 1. Top of the Averages are J Garland, S Duggan and R Cullers.

SUSSEX John Woodford

HORSHAM DOLPHINS, THE only British League club in Sussex for most of the last years, is in danger of sinking. Office Angela the London recruitment company were their saviours for the past two seasons, but they are now disappearing from eight and with them Andy Dodd who has pulled out of the Dolphins set-up for reasons as yet unexplained.

Meanwhile the club continues to operate at Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, where I am sure visiting teams will agree, playing conditions are excellent. In the last programme notes it was said "We need sponsorship, now, a total of £1,000 is needed by April if we are to continue."

By the time these notes appear possibly benevolent people may have been found to help Dolphins with the "up-front money" - the Crawley League have donated £50 and the Eastbourne League £20, leaving just £930 to go! If the Dolphins die, there could be a scramble by the Sussex players to play in other British League teams next season.

Paul Butcher, 14, is making waves in most events he plays in. After reaching the men's semi finals at the Eastbourne Championships he went to Derby and only lost 18 in the third game to the No. 3 Cadet, Philip Neil.

Readers of national newspapers and this magazine may have noticed that I have not commented on the election battles for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the ETTA. Whilst votes were being cast, I think it important that journalists remain impartial, even after the count, the laws of defamation, even in elections, are very clear and always have to be carefully considered.

WORCESTERSHIRE Ken Walton

AS THE COUNTY Season reaches the final matches, both Worcestershire 1sts and 2nds are in the hunt for honours. A 6-4 win over Norfolk at the Bromley Club in Dudley, kept the firsts unbeaten record intact, despite some player problems.

Trevor Washington, playing very consistently as usual, this season, fell victim to an eye infection, on the night before the fixture. With the second team away at Huntingdonshire, and 'reserves' otherwise engaged, Adrian Tottey stepped into the breach, literally with hours to spare, making his county debut in the process.

Needless to say, Adrian found the opposition a little too good for him, but gave of his best, and for that alone, deserves praise. Malcolm Green was in great form, defeating Neil Pickard and Phil Logsdon, whilst Helen

Pogmore, standing in for the injured Sandra Roden also won 2. One win each for Eric Hardman and Mandy House, completed a fine all round team performance.

The seconds playing at St Neots club, recorded a 6-4 victory with Joanne Hill and Sue Horton both recording 2 wins apiece. Ken Walton and Steve Horton chipped in with one win each, and the league could now rest on the final match of the season, at home against Cheshire 2nds, also unbeaten, and with an identical games for/against record.

After several seasons of struggling at County level, the Seconds are not producing excellent team performances, most probably due to having a settled team, coupled with excellent spirit fighting.

Latest results from the County League, as supplied by Alex Westwood are as follows: Bromsgrove 5 v 4 Malvern, Kidderminster 2 v 7 Dudley, Dudley 8 v 1 Bromsgrove, Worcester 5 v 4 Kidderminster, Worcester 6 v 3 Evesham.

The match between Worcester and Dudley will probably decide the league.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Chairman John Preat all the best for the future, and to thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the sport. It is never easy being in the firing line, but John coped well, considering all the 'flak' that flew around. Might see you on the 'Island' in August John.

Finally, Peter Bird's County Knock Out Tournaments are reaching a climax, with favourites and holders Bromley and Thorns TTC set to meet in the scratch final once again. In the Handicap Competition, Crackpots, Worcester LTC, Stockport Workmans, and either O.E.'s or Manor Park Poachers, will contest the semi-finals.

YORKSHIRE Rea Balmford

AT HALIFAX YMCA I, who call upon Dave Bottomley, Alan Dickinson, Barry Snowden and Brian Cadman, are again

making the running in Division 1 as they stretch an unbeaten record which goes back to September 1989.

Bottomley is still the man to beat as he carries his last season's form - unbeaten from the New Year until the end of the season in both League and Lindley Adams Scratch Cup, plus the 'Closed' Men's singles title - into the new campaign to help put his side a massive 46 points clear in their bid for a third successive League title.

And the champion picked up yet another honour when, in partnership with George Cross (PBI) he won the Yorkshire Rider Mystery Doubles tournament, although it was not until the score reached 22-20 in the third that teammate Alan Dickinson and Ken Scott (Freudenberg) gave best.

The Lindley Adams Handicap Cup is proving more popular than ever with a new format in which each individual, rather than the team as a whole, is handicapped.

Two 'giant killing' performances have already been noted with Freudenberg 2 from Division 2 ousting top division outfit Wellesley Park by just three points, while even closer was the clash between Firths Carpets (Division 3) and Grasshoppers, another of the Division 1 sides.

With both teams, incredibly, level on 348 points after nine games had been played, the players who had taken part in the final game returned to the table to play out a 'deuce' to decide the match and, with the excitement at fever pitch Kevin Longbottom took the first two points against Roddy Wilson to steer Firths home.

The Huddersfield 'Closed' Championships proved a triumph for the teenage Smith brothers, Richard and David, who took the event by storm as they hopped up four major titles.

Pride of place went to 16 year old Richard, a regular in the Yorkshire Junior 2nd team, as he toppled holder and favourite Tim Dyson in the mens singles after earlier taking the Junior Boys Singles at the expense of Darren Lindley.

Smith thus became only the third player in the history of the Huddersfield League to win both Junior and Mens events in the same season, following in the illustrious footsteps of John Kedge (1966) and Michael O'Driscoll (1985).

A victory over Jonathan Inglesfield in the Handicap Singles brought Richard a 'hat-trick' while younger brother David also chalked up a 'treble' as he claimed the Under 12 Singles honours for a third successive year and followed up with a success over Jonathan Wilby in the Cadet Singles.

Other winners were Dyson - Steve Brailsford, who retained their men's doubles title, and county Veteran Ken Burgess, reclaiming the Veteran crown he last held in 1980.

It was also 'Closed' time at Selby where the Fasprint Closed was again dominated by the teenagers from the Sturge club, who made a clean sweep of mens and ladies titles. Craig Smith was the mens winner for the third time in the past four years, his final victim being Chris Nicholls who, 24 hours previously, had beaten Smith in the final of the Under 21 event of the Youth Championships.

The pair then joined forces to overcome Mick Wilcockson - Nigel Thorn in the mens doubles, while another Sturge youngster, Debbie Newman, notched up a hat-trick of ladies singles wins as she beat Sarah Williamson in the final.

The forward looking Selby League are to be congratulated on two other 'pluses' which emerged from the 'Closed' - both of which reflects the enthusiasm for table tennis which pervades the area. The Youth Championships, involving youngsters from Under 10 up to those about to come of age at 21, not only attracted a good entry, but evidenced a deep reservoir of talent, many of whom have still to make their debut in the League. And a tip for the future - watch for the name of Catherine Tomkies (repeat TOMKIES) who could burst on to the scene in the none-too-far-distant future.

English Ambassadors

by John Woodford

THE ENGLAND TEAMS CHIBA CITY NAIROBI

Carl Prean
Alan Cooke
Chen Xinhua
Matthew Syed

Skylet Andrew
Michael O'Driscoll
Chris Oldfield
Nicky Mason

Lisa Lomas
Fiona Elliot
Andrea Holt

Alison Gordon
Sally Marling
Nicola Deaton

THERE are always surprises when World and Commonwealth teams are chosen. This year was no exception, although most of the players knew what was in Don Parker's mind much earlier than the two official announcements — medical injections have to be made in advance for Africa. Players were "sworn" to secrecy and their word was their bond.

We all get our forecasts wrong at times. Up till a few weeks ago it seemed as though Michael O'Driscoll would make the Chiba squad and when he landed two wins over Matthew Syed in a row, but who can argue with Matthew's amazing victory at the Czechoslovak Open in Presov?

A fortnight earlier, Chen Xinhua played his trump card in the Parker strategy when he easily won the French Invitation Event at Nimes in Southern France, although Paul Haldan's win over Jan-Ove Waldner and then his collapse against Chen in the final proved to be vital factors.

Awesome task

So, Parker, with his awesome task of deciding players futures in the sport, elected to take to Chiba the two obvious candidates Carl Prean and Alan Cooke and combine their strengths with the two recent tournament winners Syed and Chen.

That left the Preston household with the very difficult task of who to leave out for Chiba and no doubt after much deliberating it was that great England stalwart Alison Gordon, a decision that few people would have staked money on, especially those in the Berkshire area.

All four girls in the England squad — all credit to captain Jill Parker — are fighters. It seems not long ago in Dortmund at the last world championships we were



Carl Prean



Alan Cooke



Chen Xinhua



Matthew Syed



Lisa Lomas



Fiona Elliot



Andrea Holt

cheering Alison after she had beaten Olga Nemes, the darling of the home crowd.

In Dortmund, where England men finished in ninth position in the Swaythling Cup, we writers were proudly proclaiming that we had the strongest team in 30 years and only last May when England finished third in the World Team Cup in Japan, we again wrote of the powerful England team, without Carl Prean.

It seems that we are again in a position of high hopes that we can improve on the men's finishing spot in Chiba, fielding what I see as our strongest possible team — our two top players Prean and Cooke and the two "choppers", although both defenders are well aware they will have to vary the pace in Chiba, all-out defence these days can be a recipe for disaster. I can recall in Delhi, Matthew Syed beaten comprehensively by an 'unknown' hitter, that was before he learned to attack.

Prean's prospects

What are the prospects for Carl Prean in Chiba? In the Bundesliga for Grenzau he has scythed down a huge stream of opponents from the No. 3 spot alongside Andrzej Grubba the world No. 4 who could be thinking of returning to England next

season when the change of administration takes effect.

He seems currently stuck on the No. 13 European ranking, which he might have improved upon had he played in the European Top-12 in Holland in January, when the players above him dropped out too late to get him in the line-up.

In less important tournaments, Carl looks every inch a professional. In Lyons at the French Open he overcame Calin Creanga, but fell to the Chinese player Wang Yong-gang.

When Carl was 15 he created a sensation by reaching the last eight at the world championships in Tokyo, eight years later it will be interesting to measure his progress in Japan.

It is unfortunate that Alan Cooke is unable to defend his Commonwealth title, but his power is needed more in Chiba. The three-day gap between the two events is an absurdity — no problem perhaps for the majority of the Commonwealth teams who are unlikely to get very far in Chiba, but an impossible situation for teams in contention in Japan.

Alan is apparently in a situation where he has got to look for first-class practice facilities with first-class players. Next season with Des Douglas taking more time off, with Chen, Prean and Nicky Mason all playing abroad, the Chesterfield player needs a real eyebrow-raising performance (like Chen in Nimes) and he might just get an offer from somewhere abroad, where day-by-day first-class opposition is available for practice.

England's women

England women in Chiba — Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt will need all their skills as semi-finalists in the European League and maybe some luck if they are to improve on the No. 10 Corbillon Cup place achieved in Dortmund.

Above them were of course, China, two Koreas, Hungary (Fourth), Japan, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and the USSR. This time there will be only one Korea, so every team will step up one place.

Nairobi

Kenya is well above sea-level, so it will be interesting to see how altitude and mid-spring heat will



Skylet Andrew



Michael O'Driscoll



Nicky Mason



Chris Oldfield



Alison Gordon



Sally Marling



Nicola Denton

effect the players. It appears the African players will be at home and the Europeans perspiring profusely!

Skylet Andrew, Michael O'Driscoll, Chris Oldfield and Nicky Mason — the two oldish

campaigners and the two apprentices are quite capable of coming back with Alan Cooke's title. In the Cardiff finals in 1989, Cooke crushed Atanda Musa, 13, 11, 13 in the mens singles finals.

Mason and Andrew will be defending their Commonwealth mens doubles title, whilst second England seeded pair, O'Driscoll and Oldfield stand a chance of reaching the final stages.

There was a womens singles Commonwealth triumph in Cardiff for the Hongkong pair Chan Tan Lui and Chai Po Wa, who should not have been allowed to play anyway. Now they are "legitimate" they could again be in the hunt but Alison Gordon has the experience to beat them, if only to show England supporters that she should have been picked for Chiba and not Nairobi.

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Gossimer 1891 – 1991



IN a previous article (Table Tennis News, April 1988) I wrote that the first patent for table tennis (under the title 'Gossima') was registered by John Jaques & Son in 1891, but that there was no evidence that this was ever put into production.

Now — after a search lasting over a period of 30 years and extending over a wide field including Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Japan and the United States — I have found a 'Gossima' set. Most remarkably, this turned up in a local auction room.

The wooden box is bigger than the later ones for 'Gossima or Ping-Pong' and 'Ping-Pong or Gossima', and has a simulated mahogany finish. The label is the familiar fantasy scene with the full title "The new Table Game of 'Gossima' — causing immense excitement and healthy exercise and is the nearest approach that can be to the Game of Lawn Tennis as played out of doors." Unfortunately, the box is distressed, and the lid is severely split from end to end.

The contents are very interesting in several respects; A pair of hollow, parchment battledores, 17½ inches overall. These, in immaculate, unused condition, were borrowed from the game of battledore and shuttlecock (which developed into badminton) but later gave way to purpose-made battledores of a more practical length.

A pair of very well made mahogany posts. No doubt in order to avoid any damage to the

dining-table, these were held in place by a webbing strap fixed under the table.

A small-meshed net, 36 inches long and, astonishingly, about 12 inches deep. None of the many early references to the game make any mention of such a high net. And three people would be needed to put it up, one to hold each post and one to lie on the floor and tighten the strap to the necessary tension.

One ball, 2 inches in diameter and weighing nearly an ounce. This has cork base and is covered with soft, green netting — no doubt with the idea of preventing too much damage to the Victorian bric-a-brac. Its very unsatisfactory bounce accounts for the fact that 'Gossima' did not catch on with the public until the introduction of the celluloid ball several years later.

It would be interesting to know whether the 'Gossima' service was direct over the net and what method of scoring was used, but no copy of the laws is known to have to have survived.

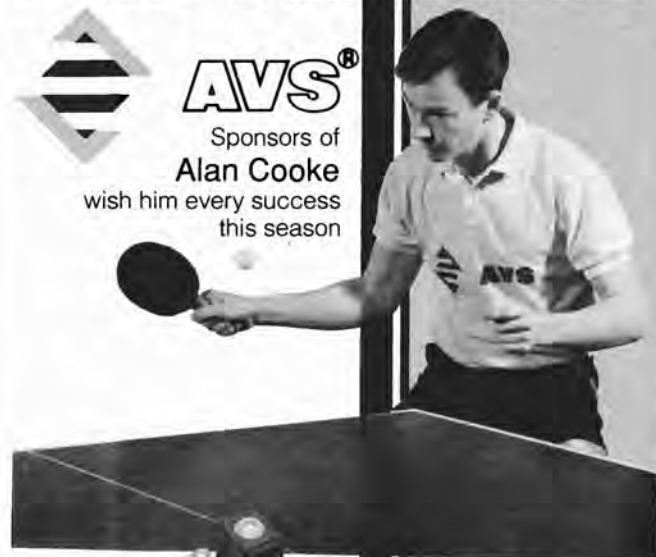
The discovery of this set is important not only from the point of view of a collector; it is important in the history of the game. There can be little doubt that this — the first manufactured form of table tennis — dates from 1891, so perhaps we should now be making plans to celebrate the centenary this year.

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Easy win for awesome Prean – but Five Star reward



Jubilant
Carl Prean

CARL PREAN, with a display of awesome professionalism made his opponents seem like novices as he won the mens singles event, almost without towelling down at the South of England Open at Farnborough Recreation Centre, Westmead on February 23-24, with £2,185 at stake.

The crowds gathered on the Prean court throughout the day, hoping no doubt, that someone would give him a test. Before the Bundesliga player could organise his game, the Sussex champion Adrian Moore, managed to gather 19 points in the first game in a second round battle.

But once Carl became accustomed to the prevailing conditions, Moore had the door firmly shut on him and the crunching winners started to flow. Prean's remaining opponents achieved an average of less than nine points a game including a final round challenge from Steve Dorking who like the rest went down fighting, but lost 12, 11.

Dorking is without doubt an improved player. Taking note that the other three players in the semi-finals apart from Prean are based in Essex, seems to suggest that day-in day-out practice for the Essex group based at the Peniel Academy is improving the standard of all the players there.

The organisers suffered two blows from players pulling out — Matthew Syed the No. 2. seed (who amazingly won the Czechoslovakian Open in Presov) and Chris Oldfield who was also in Presov.

That left Sean Gibson, effectively the No. 2. seed, but Sean was not at his best and was defeated in a classic battle 15, -14, 18 by local player David Hannah, who it appeared at the time might advance to the final and give Prean a run for the prize money.

But in the quarter-finals Dorking having knocked out Mike Hammond, stopped the Hannah run -12, 15, 18.

Welsh international Stephen Ward was another young player who made an impression. He scrambled home 20, 18 against Jonathan Taylor in Round 3 but John Holland stepped in with a fine victory in the quarters 17, 13 against Ward who went on to reach the mens doubles final, partnered by his Welsh teammate Paul Lewis.

Yet another Essex Player Grant Solder must rate a mention for reaching the semi-finals although his draw was enhanced by the absence of Oldfield. Solder went through to the last four with a 19, 17 success against Darren Howarth of Lancashire, a pupil of the well-known Liverpool coach John O'Sullivan.

by John Woodford

Cheers for Syed!

Due to a rather fortunate communications link with Czechoslovakia, before the Farnborough finals, referee Doris Moors was able to announce over the public address system that Matthew Syed had completely shattered the opposition in Presov. The responding applause seemed to suggest that the spectators forgave him for choosing Presov rather than Farnborough.

Are Butterfly Europa tables "faster" than say Jacques or Dunlop? That is a thorny subject, especially delicate at this time, but events in the womens singles competitions seem to indicate that the hitters, or those that strike the ball harder (perhaps at greater risk) were winners and those that do other things, did not survive.

All four members of the England elite squad — Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt are streets ahead of their rivals and which ever player has not been chosen to go to Chiba City, deserves sympathy.

As expected, all four reached the semi-finals and it was there that the shocks emerged. Fiona produced one of her best displays of the campaign, 12,14 against the England

No. 1. Lisa Lomas, showed that despite the fact that in 15 months time Fiona will be living in France having become Madame Didier Mommessin, she still wants to play for England as much as ever.

In the other semi-final, Alison Gordon's vast experience nearly upset the Andrea Holt bandwagon. Sitting some eight feet from the table, I was extremely impressed by the speed of shot engaged by Andrea. So few women players have the ability to strike the ball so hard and change the pace so quickly by defending. It is a combination so rare that anything seems possible and there is really no way that Andrea as the young player of the elite squad could be left out of Don and Jill Parker's plans.

The final saw another fine win by Andrea over Fiona, with both girls going for their shots but again, Andrea's ability from top-gear attack to low-gear back-spin gave her a well-deserved 15, 15 win that must surely take her to Chiba City.

A glance at the earlier women's matches shows that Juliet Houghton is doing well to be at No. 6 on the England list but on this occasion she was swept aside 9, 12 by the Scotland No. 1. Janet Smith, who advanced to

**Photographs by
John F.A. Wood**



Triumphant
Andrea Holt



Ladies doubles champions Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot, pictured with the Mayoress of Rushmoor, Sandra Ferrier

the quarters as Sara Savesha (Sweden) had to catch a coach and a boat back to Sweden and conceded at a game apiece.

That gave the Scottish champion another crack at Lisa Lomas, but the England No.1. survived a game point in the second before winning 13, 20. Joanne Shaw is also doing well to hold the England No.5 spot. She even took the first game against Andrea Holt, but lost the next two 19, 6 as her challenge tapered away.

There were no real surprises in the doubles events as the entire England squad reached the semi-finals; Dorking and Hannah finished worthy winners in the mens doubles, with the Welsh pair Ward and Lewis, worthy runners-up.

The ladies doubles final was won by Lomas and Elliot, beating Gordon and Holt in three.

Dave Harvey of Gloucestershire took the trophy in the veterans singles, who once again beat his old rival John Taylor from Hertfordshire, 17, 12.

Harvey appears to have his mark on Taylor, whom he beat two straight at the Middlesex 3 star veterans final.

CREDITS

ORGANISER Terry Vance was the man who bore the brunt of the problems the tournament produced and there were plenty. Referee Doris Moors stood no nonsense as always and the tournament team of Norman Hooper, Phil Goacher, Gail McCulloch, Mick Strode and Margot Fraser lived up to the high reputation enjoyed by members of the Surrey TTA.

Surrey president Ron Crayden said "I should like to thank and record a special debt of gratitude to our sponsors who have helped considerably to soften the financial blow we faced when relocating this event. We in Surrey are fortunate to

have these valued benefactors — Carpenter & Co. (Solicitors), Clive Oakman (Butterfly Equipment), Vic Oddens (Photographic) Ltd. and P. & J. Plumbing, also the Hilton Hotel, Bracknell for concessionary rates."

● The Surrey TTA remain unhappy with the ETTA over financial loss suffered by Surrey who had to switch the tournament from Woking to Farnborough when the ETTA Tournaments Committee decided to run the English Nationals on March 9-10, the original Surrey date at Woking. The ETTA responded by trying to get some concessions from Farnborough Centre. Slight help was received, but not enough to please the Surrey organisers.

● The reference seems to refer to the 'English National Championships' getting a date previously occupied by

the 'South of England'. Once the Marketing Committee (for very good reasons) made that request, the Calendar Working Party quite properly agreed to this, as the National Championships have priority.

The matter is still being considered. The basic problem remains that there are far more events than can be accommodated and too few dates. Clashes therefore remain inevitable. This has been pointed out many times and members have been asked time and time again for their opinion.

Should there be fewer events? If so, which do they wish to see discontinued? Should there be a longer season? If so, which events will accept the perceived unattractive dates too early or late in the season? In the absence of an answer the Calendar Working Party under its Chairman Cyril Burden, who has won my admiration over the years, labours manfully with an impossible problem.

John Prean

Mens doubles winners David Hannah and Stephen Dorking, with sponsor Noel Carpenter of Carpenter & Co., solicitors..



Full results at a glance:-

RESULTS

Mens Singles:

Semi-finals:

C. Prean (IW) b G. Solder (E) 12, 15;

S. Dorking (E) b J. Holland (Dy) - 16, 19, 17.

FINAL: PREAN b Dorking 12, 11.

Womens Singles:

Semi-finals:

F. Elliot (St) b L. Lomas (Bd) 12, 14;

A. Holt b A. Gordon 19, -17, 15.

FINAL: HOLT b Elliot 15, 15.

Mens Doubles:

D. DORKING (E)/D. HANNAH (SCO) b S. Ward (WAL)/P. Lewis (WAL) 14, 19.

Womens Doubles:

LOMAS (Bd)/ELLIOT (St) b Gordon (Bk)/Holt (La) -18, 13, 17.

Mens Consolation Singles:

Semi-finals:

A. Cunningham (K) b

J. Kennedy (K) -16, 21, 9;

C. Ford (La) b A. Horsfield (Y) -21, 6, 11.

FINAL: CUNNINGHAM b

Horsfield 19, -18, 20.

Womens Consolation Singles:

Semi-finals:

N. Cowley (Np) b C. Hewitt (Sx)

-5, 18, 13;

E. Sayer (E) b S. Turner (Ha)

17, -19, 17.

FINAL: SAYER b Cowley -4, 15, 17.

Veterans Singles:

Semi-finals:

D. Harvey (Gs) b D. Holman (Sy) 13, 17;

J. Taylor (He) b R. Stace (Sx)

-17, 15, 10.

FINAL; HARVEY b Taylor 17, 12.

Ladies lose in Budapest



Hungary's No.1 Csilla Batorfi

ENGLAND ladies lost their second leg European league match 2-5, to Hungary in Budapest, on the 3rd March.

Our journey to Budapest went without any problems, apart from my luggage not arriving at our destination. It was sent to Bucharest instead and to this date, it has not been returned to me. Unfortunately, the England pendant was in this bag and therefore we were unable to exchange them at the beginning of the match. The Hungarian captain fully understood the situation. It was very lucky that I was able to borrow clothes from the other girls as we are all similar sizes.

The Hungarian team of Csilla Batorfi, Gabriella Wirth, and Kristina Nagy played against Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Alison Gordon, with Andrea Holt playing doubles with Lisa. Obviously, with the Hungarian team with two

strong players in the top five in Europe it was a very difficult task.

Close encounter

I felt the England team had played extremely well to have reached the semi-final of this league. With excellent wins over Czechoslovakia and France and a very close encounter with Hungary in our home match in Leeds of 3-4.

Strong topspin

Our return match, started with Fiona playing against Batorfi, the high toss server, who causes many a problem for her opponents. If it isn't her service, there is always the worry of a very strong topspin from a loose receive of serve. I felt Fiona coped very well with Batorfi's service, as she did in their other previous encounters. Unfortunately, Batorfi's power was a little too much for Fiona to control. Alison then had a

comfortable win over Nagy, the player who replaced Urban for the number three spot. When the game got close, Nagy was unable to contain herself for nerves. Lisa again had a mammoth game against Wirth, losing 13-21 in the third. However in the doubles, this was the game we should have won. 17-12 up in the first game and then winning the second, this should have been a 2-0 victory, but at 1-1 all, Lisa and Andrea had to start all over again. In the third at the change of ends and 10-5 up it was looking hopeful again, but it was not to be, we went down 1-2 at 19-21 in the third. Alison came on again to play Batorfi, but as Fiona, was unable to contain the speed and direction. Fiona, looking somewhat nervous, could not get things together and was outplayed by Wirth. Our last

match of the evening was Lisa against Nagy. A very patchy game indeed and again, Nagy up in the second game by three points only to be pipped at the post 21-18. She just seems to go to pot at the end and become very nervous.

Good crowd

There was a good crowd watching this match which was played at the famous all women's club Statistika. Excellent conditions and a venue envied by all who have played there and trained.



Gabriella Wirth

Bongers & Sandley



Men's singles winner Graham Sandley (right) and runner-up Colin Wilson

N.F.D. Grove's Dutch Star Jose Bongers and the vastly experienced Ellenborough man Graham Sandley took the major honours in the Corbet Arms Open Table Tennis Championships played at Grove School on Saturday March 2nd 1991.

The hard hitting Miss Bongers upset the seeding as she accounted for former New Zealand international Nikki Cowley at the semi-final stage before beating Yorkshire's Cathryn Johnson in a hard fought final, with the latter having won a three set semi-final against county compatriot Helen Shields.

Meanwhile, the power of the determined Graham Sandley clinched the verdict in a three set men's singles over club colleague Colin Wilson, who had given a superb display to oust top seed Jonathan Taylor of the home club in the quarter-final, before beating the talented Scottish international Ewan Walker at the penultimate stage. In similar vein Lancashire's Steve Scowcroft captured past form to oust N.F.D. Grove's fourth seeded Craig Bakewell in the round of the last sixteen before beating Steve Slater in the quarter-final to face Sandley in the semi-final with a match of high calibre going to the man from North London.

It was to be a busy day for Mancunian Phil Bowen who clinched both the Class Four and Class Three Mixed Singles titles with a model display of controlled topspin play combined with shrewd serving and wide angles from the backhand. Bowen was to be involved in the closest of encounters, with match points saved against Liverpool's Bernard Wentworth in the semi-final of the Class Four event and further match points saved in opposition to N.F.D. Grove's John Ellis in the final of the Class Three event. The talented

Ellis was again to be the runner up at the hands of the experienced Brian Johns in the Class Two event with the Cheshire man giving a fine display of controlled tactical play, whilst the role of the runner up was to be the lot of the N.F.D. Grove players as the busy Steve Green fell in a three set final to Bowen in Class Four.

Results

Mens Singles:

Semi Final: C. Wilson (Ellenborough) bt Ewan Walker (Ellenborough) 12, -13, 13.
Semi Final: G. Sandley (Ellenborough) bt S. Scowcroft (Manchester) 14, 20.
Final: Sandley bt Wilson 16, -13, 14

Ladies Singles:

Semi Final: J. Bongers (N.F.D. Grove) bt N. Cowley (Milton Keynes) 23, 18.
Semi Final: C. Johnson (Leeds) bt H. Shields (Bradford) 13, -23, 17.
Final: Bongers bt Johnson 12, 22.

Class Two Mixed Singles:

Semi Final: B. Johns (Northwich) bt Chris Ford (Liverpool) 18, 11.
Semi Final: J. Ellis (N.F.D. Grove) bt G. Clarke (Blackburn) 20, 18.
Final: Johns bt Ellis 16, 16.

Class Three Mixed Singles:

Semi Final: J. Ellis (N.F.D. Grove) bt S. Harris (N.F.D. Grove) 13, 20.
Semi Final: P. Bowen (Manchester) bt M. King (Kent) 19, 15.
Final: Bowen bt Ellis 11, -13, 24.

Class Four Mixed Singles:

Semi Final: S. Green (N.F.D. Grove) bt M. King (Kent) 15, 22.
Semi Final: P. Bowen (Manchester) bt B. Wentworth (Liverpool) -21, 12, 20.
Final: Bowen bt Green 13, -18, 17.



Ladies singles winner José Bongers (left) and runner-up Cathryn Johnson, pictured with umpire Derek Sherratt.

New Chairman



Alan Ransome

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Counties and Leagues who voted in this election and Tony Wickens and his assistants for the very efficient and fair way in which they conducted the voting.

I am very proud to be the next Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association. My first task will be to unify the sport and then to introduce the measures which will bring about expansion.

John Preat's team have left the Association in a very solid

financial state. My main aims will be to give the sport wider exposure and greater prominence and to expand its popularity throughout the country. It is my intention to give the Regions, Counties and Leagues the opportunity to play a vital role in the promotion and will be contacting them with proposals before the start of the next season.

In the three months lead time before I officially take over the reigns, I plan to bring together a strong, motivated Management team to lead the sport forward. I encourage any member who feels they are able to contribute to the development of table tennis to contact me with their suggestions.

Table tennis is a great sport and it has a tremendous future. I look forward to working with everyone towards a new era.

Alan Ransome
20th March, 1991

ELECTION RESULTS

Chairman: A.Ransome 191, R.Scruton 128., R. Gunnion 14.
Deputy Chairman: S.Sneyd 219, Mrs.D.Stannard 57, G.Yates 48

Thankyou Jim



Jim Beckley

THIS month's T T News is the first edited by our new Editor, John Wood.

It is the time to say a big "thank you" to Jim Beckley, who has edited the first six issues of the season.

It had been our intention to take the Magazine 'inhouse', but the departure of Ted Wallbuton (to "International Squash") also squashed that idea.

Jim stepped into the breach to produce the "first two or three issues" and then stayed for six! In the meantime the needs of Jim's expanding P R business grew more insistent and Jim gave us a great deal of the time he should have devoted to his own business.

He deserves warmest thanks not only for the work on the Magazine, but for the time he gave us well in excess of what we had a right to expect and in the end to ensure a smooth handover to the new editor.

Jim improved the Magazine in many ways in his quiet way. All innovations are soon taken for granted. I hope they will not be forgotten.

Jim is one of the quiet men in Table Tennis, which is one reason he may not always get the credit he deserves.

He has been a member of our Management Team throughout my term of office. He did and is doing a super job and deserves every praise for the much greater media exposure which has resulted in his time as Vice-Chairman in charge of Publicity and P R.

As my term nears its end I can only say yet again "Thanks, Jim, for a terrific, unfussy job. It was a pleasure to work together".

I hope to write about other members of the team in the next issue — people who have worked so hard and well to bring the Association to its present prosperity and progress.

John Preat

Oldfield and Hewitt take the honours



Top seed Chris Oldfield

THE entry for Yorkshire's 2★ Graded Championships held at the Huddersfield Sports Centre were slightly down on last year's numbers, with just over 100 players competing — a sign of the times, perhaps — but there was still plenty of play for all comers.

Many of the competitors were able to compete in all four categories, and with every event played in groups, the eighteen tables were busy for most of the day.

The Top seeds, Chris Oldfield and Carol Hewitt, came through to take the Mens and Ladies honours, with the England No. 7 dropping only one game — to Michael Browne in the semi-final — before chalking up a comfortable straight sets win over Brian Johns, who had taken over the final spot left vacant by the absent Tony Taylor.

Another missing seed, was Stephen Slater, and Conrad Stoddart, who had earlier battled through to take the Class 4 title, won the depleted group and recorded an excellent victory over Kieron Dabbs before falling to Browne.

Outstanding clash in the Ladies Singles, which had to be completely re-drawn when non-arrivals left the numbers in the groups varying between 2 and 4, was the semi-final meeting of the two Yorkshire players, Joanna Roberts and Samantha Marling, both in their first season in the senior ranks.

Each came through a stiff group and the semi-final clash brought a renewal of the

thrilling rivalry which had marked games between the pair in the junior ranks. The higher ranked Joanna ran out the winner 17, -24, 21 to line up against top seed Hewitt, who had come past Paula French, and there were hopes of a 'home win' when the Leeds girl levelled after dropping the first game, but the top seed regained control to claim the title.

The Lancastrians dominated the Class 2 Singles, with Paul Hutchings taking out the only 'interloper', Andy Walker from Sussex, and Graham Clarke getting the better of a titanic battle with Neil Gravener in the semis with the first named moving on to a straight sets final success.

The Class 3 title went the way of Dave Indriks who, after coming through a difficult group, only once enjoyed the luxury of a straight sets win en route to the final — note the -23, 18, 17 victory over Yorkshire colleague Tim Dyson in the semi — and the Bradford man was again pushed the distance by scratch entrant Stuart Green at the final hurdle.

The Class 4 Singles belonged to Stoddart, who removed the two Welshmen, David Chan and Byron Davies, before overcoming the challenge of Tony Isaac.

Results

Mens Singles:

Chris Oldfield (Y) bt Michael Browne (Wa) -19, 6, 5;

Brian Johns (Ch) bt Graham Clarke (La) 17, 17. Oldfield bt Johns 12, 7.

Ladies Singles:

Carol Hewitt (Sx) bt Paula French (La) 11, 18;

Joanna Roberts (Y) bt Samantha Marling (Y) 17, -24, 21.

Hewitt bt Roberts 21, -13, 13.

Class 2 Singles:

Paul Hutchings (La) bt Andy Walker (Sx) 16, 15;

Clarke bt Neil Gravener (La) -15, 12, 21. Hutchings bt Clarke 20, 14.

Class 3 Singles:

Dave Indriks (Y) Tim Dyson (Y) -23, 18, 17; Stuart Green (Ch) bt Norman Thewlis (La) 11, 14.

Indriks bt Green -12, 18, 15.

Class 4 Singles:

Conrad Stoddart (Ng) bt Byron Davies (WAL) 15, 17;

Tony Isaac (St) bt Ian Mayall (La) 22, 12.

Stoddart bt Isaac 17, 10.



Back row:- (left to right) (U/11 boy) Tristan Newman, St.Lukes (Isle of Dogs); (U/16 girl) Natasha Barham, Notre Dame (Southwark); (U/13 girl) Glenda Ashison, Bacon (Southwark); (U/11 girl) Stacy Mockus, St.John Baptist (Tower Hamlets)
Front row: Don Wall, Dockland area Manager B.T.; (U/16s, U/19s, U/13s) Dhammika, Janaka and Sidantha Karralliede, Dulwich College (Southwark); Berny Cunningham, Acting Chair, I.L.S.T.T.A.

participated in the event making it the largest entry ever.

On a less positive note, unless the Association can attract more teachers over the next couple of months to join the London Schools Committee, this will be the last year in which Inner London compete as a separate body.

If you feel able to help please contact Berny Cunningham on 071 231 5132.



Tristan Newman

Island Champions

INNER London Schools Table Tennis Association, British Telecom Individual Championships, were held on Monday 18th February 1991 at the George Green Centre, Manchester Road, E14.

A record entry of 140 children was received this year and things looked set for a memorable day on the Isle of Dogs.

Unfortunately a damper was placed on the event by the bombings that day at Paddington and Victoria train stations. This in turn reduced the turn out to 90 entries, with many apologies from people in West London unable to travel to the East London venue because of the disruption.

However, the tournament went on and the day was a great success. Many thanks are due to British Telecom for sponsoring the event for the second year running and to Tower Hamlets Council for providing the venue free of charge.

An outstanding feature of the day was the success of the Karalliede family. Three brothers recently arrived from Sri Lanka and attending Dulwich College in the Borough of Southwark, swept all aside to take three of the 4 boys age groups Sidantha the youngest U/13's Dhammika U/16 and elder brother

Janaka winning the U/19's. We wish them success at the National Finals.

The turn out from South East and East London was particularly

encouraging – the two clubs in Docklands George Green and Time and Talents sharing over 50% of the entry. In total 15 London schools

British Telecom's Head of Docklands, Don Wall, presents 'Best boy player of the day' trophy to Peter Clipson



Bradford juniors sponsored



Pictured left to right are; Bradford's lucky juniors Mark Smith, Caroline Bentley, Darren Wright and Phillip Chapman (Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Yorkshire Post Newspapers)

BAYER FIBRES Group UK based in Bradford are sponsoring four Bradford Juniors in the National tournament circuit. The sponsorship is towards their travelling expenses.

All are members of the Leeds based Centre of Excellence Squad. Bayer also are sponsoring Bradford based Ladies team in the British League this season again.

Michael O'Driscoll

So far the benefits from Bayer Fibres Group UK to Bradford players and teams have been very rewarding.

I am delighted with the latest sponsorship to the four players.

Bayer sponsored our men's team in the British League first and Premier Divisions where Michael O'Driscoll got his first chance to play amongst the top players 1988-89, now sponsoring the ladies team as well as the four players this season.

Exeter Junior Open

THE arctic weather conditions did its best to ruin the Exeter Junior 1 Star, sponsored for the first time this year by British Coal, West of England. As a result of the weather only about one-third of the original entrants arrived, with even the referee stranded by the snow.

However, with a lot of hard work by the organisers the event took place and produced some very good Table Tennis.

Both the girls' and boys' Under 11 events were re-arranged on a 'round robin' format with Graham Worth of Devon coming out on top in the boys' and Lucy Perry, obviously keen to capture some of the lime-light from big brother Alex, picking up her first trophy in the girls' event.

The remaining girls' events produced a clean sweep for Lynsey Heywood (Devon) beating Zoe Warren (Devon) 21-9, 21-11 in the Under 14's, Rachel Norris (Wales) 21-8, 21-8 in the Under 17's and teaming up with Helen Berry (Devon) to beat Lucy Perry and Liz May (both Devon) 21-8, 21-14 in the doubles.

In the other boys' events, Alan Russell (Somerset) beat Kevin Worth (Devon) 21-14, 21-17 to win the Under 14's, Simon Dilkes (Devon) beat Phillip Lord (Devon) in a close final 21-17, 21-18 to pick up the Under 17's and then Simon teamed up with Nick Hams to beat Alan Beal and Sean Parish 21-16, 19-21, 21-9 in an all Devon doubles final.

The Trophies were presented by Mr. Ian Nottingham from British Coal, West of England.

Isle of Dog's Daily Telegraph Shield winner

EIGHTEEN year old George Green player/coach Paul Runham (pictured right) won the Daily Telegraph Shield as the No.1 ranked player on the Isle of Dogs. West Ferry Printers' General Manager David Wiltshire presented Paul with his trophy, at the George Green Table Tennis Centre recently.





West Midland Junior Open - Junior Girls Doubles (left to right) runners-up Amanda Cooke and Zoe Buchanan, with the winners Natasha Williams and Caroline Bentley.

Irish eyes were smiling

IRISH eyes were smiling at the Tern Hill Hotel West Midland Junior 2 Star Open Table Tennis Championships, held at Grove School on 23rd/24th Feb. as the talented Jonathan Cowan from the Emerald Isle ousted NFD Grove's England Junior International Garry Knights in a three set final to clinch the boys' singles title.

The talented Irishman had ousted Nottingham's Mark Green, Yorkshire's Philip Smith and Lincoln's Peter Furneaux to reach the semi final stage where a straight sets success was recorded against Welsh international Jonathan Allen whilst at the similar stage Derbyshire's Steven Shaw had fallen victim to Knights in straight sets. Meanwhile, there was to be further success for the Irish as Pat Keane and Michael Lehane clinched the Boys Doubles title over colleagues Ryan Glass and Brian McRandall with the latter duo having ousted top seeds from NFD Grove, Kevin Hodgson and Garry Knights in the quarter final stages before beating the talented Yorkshire duo of Darren Lindley and Philip Smith in the semi-finals.

Further success was to come for the Irish camp in the Under 12 Girls Singles as an impressive Michelle McGreevey beat Kent's Alison Smith to take the title whilst the home international flavour was maintained in the Junior Girl's Singles as Rhyl's regular visitor to Grove School, Natasha Williams beat the English challenge of Michelle Martin in the semi final and Caroline Bentley in the final with a hard hitting display in three set encounters. The standard and style of play in the girls events was a pleasure to see as Tracey Garratt of NFD Grove used her topspin play to good effect to beat clubmate Nicola Meddings in the quarter finals before losing in three sets to Bentley and Miss Garratt was to reach the final of the Class 2 Girls event before Manchester's Zoe Buchanan clinched

success in a thrilling final.

NFD Grove's Steven Meddings kept the Market Drayton club's banner flying in the Cadet Boys' singles reaching the final before losing to the splendid Mark Smith of Bradford who had accounted for the home club's talented Adrian Cadman at the semi final stage. Meanwhile, the cadet boys' doubles final was to see Yorkshire and NFD Grove players in opposition as Steven Meddings and Philip Neal beat Adrian Cadman and Mark Smith for the title, predictably there was to be further success for Meddings who beat Chichester's much travelled Paul Hancock to win the Under 12 Boys Final, whilst more success came for the NFD Grove Club as Kevin Hodgson clinched the Class 2 boys title over luckless Philip Smith of Yorkshire.

The cadet girls events were to see the fortunes of Nicola Duke and Vicky Fox fluctuate as Miss Duke won the class two event at the latter's expense and ousted top seed Michelle Martin of NFD Grove in the main event before losing to Miss Fox in the final whilst the duo combined to beat the pairing of Mansfield's Michelle Haynes and Kent's Alison Smith in the doubles final.

NFD Grove versus Ireland

HONOURS were showed in the NFD Grove versus Ireland matches played at Grove School on Friday 22nd February with the in form Jonathan Cowan leading the Irish side to victory by the margin of 6-3 as the top Irish junior beat the Market Drayton based trio of Garry Knights, Kevin Hodgson and Matthew Brown with Knights accounting for Pat Keane and Michael Lehane whilst Hodgson beat Cowan for NFD Grove's further success. The second team junior boys' match saw further success for Ireland with the trio of Ryan Glass, Brian McRandall and Scott O'Connor

winners by the impressive margin of 7-2 against the home club trio of Edward Wismayer, Matthew Alexander and Steven Cadman with the latter duo the successful NFD Grove players.

However, success came the way of NFD Grove in the girls match as the trio of Nicola Meddings, Claire Marshall and Tracey Garratt beat the team of Amanda Cooke, Emma Turner and Dioreann Sheridan 7-2 with Miss Meddings unbeaten. Meanwhile at cadet level success came the way of NFD Grove with the first team boys' match going to the Market Drayton side 11-5 with Steven Meddings unbeaten whilst the second team match saw further success with an emphatic 9-0 win. The 9-0 scoreline was to be reversed at Under 12 level with Ireland victorious whilst NFD Grove's cadet girls clinched a close 9-7 success but in the two-a-side boys' match Allister Corfield and Adam Twiss fell 4-1 to the in form Irishmen.

Farmers Garage

THE Farmers Garage Junior Tournament held on February 21st at Grove School saw NFD Grove's Adrian Cadman in top form to clinch the title at the expense of Malta's Carl Wismayer with the class two event going the way of Claire Marshall with wins at the latter stages over clubmate Vicky Fox and Kent's Nicola Duke. Meanwhile, the Class 3 title went to Tim Wildman with a final success over Piers Bond and Fraser Murray gained success in Class 4 over the rapidly improving Kelly Bond all of NFD Grove.



West Midland Junior Open - Junior Boys Doubles (left to right) winner Philip Neal, runner-up Adrian Cadman, winner Steven Meddings, and runner-up Mark Smith

Wizard Harris and Watkins

by C. T. Bayliss

Wrexham Lager's Mr Bernard Asquith congratulates the ladies singles winner Christine Watkins.

Left to right: Susan Lees, Justin Evans, Christine Watkins, Bernard Asquith, Spencer Harris, Malcolm Bucklo (umpire)

Wrexham Lager

Closed Table Tennis Annual Tournament — 1990/91

SPENCER HARRIS from Coedpoeth retained his Mens Singles Title for a second year when he beat in the Final Justin Evans 21-13, 21-13.

In the Ladies Singles Final Wrexham League's popular Secretary Christine Watkins took the Title beating in the Final Susan Lees with a 21-16 and 21-13 win.

Melpas player Phil Jones won the Veteran Singles title with a win over Ken Roberts in the final, 21-18, 21-13.

In the Junior Boys Singles Final Andrew Jones Clwyd Junior player beat Martin Hopwood 21-18, 22-20.

The Junior Girls Singles title went to the beaten Ladies Finalist Susan Lees with a 21-18, 21-16 win over Meinir Davies.

Cadet Boys Singles winner Martin Hopwood with a win over Danny Harris 21-12, 21-11 and in the Girls Cadet Singles Final young Jennie Brown beat Julie Furber in the third game of her set, winning the first game 21-11, then losing the second 20-22 and taking the third 21-13.



Godfrey Parry Cup

Final played at McAlpine Quarries Social Club, Borras

on Friday 22nd February 1991

IN an exciting Final Groves/B.Team just won the Godfrey Parry Cup 5-4. The result of the winners was in doubt until the very last set of the match. For Groves their star player was Justin Evans who won his three singles with Darren Bagnall two. Susan Lees their third player was very unlucky not to get on the score sheet.

For Malpas Arthur Jones two and both Phil Jones and Ian Woolley one win each.

With much regret

IT was with much regret that the Wrexham League had to give the sad news of the death of one of its players Arthur Walker who was a member of Wrexham Old Boys/D.Team and was taken ill while playing for his team in a match and died shortly after being admitted into the local Wrexham-Maelor Hospital. Arthur who played in both Wrexham and also the Oswestry League was aged 61. His loss will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Arthur and his two daughters Anne and Beaty and son Ernest had all been members of the local League.



Wrexham - Victoria Youth Centre Old Members & Friends Association

Presentation of Awards Night at Credington Arms, Llan-y-Pwll near Wrexham.

Winners with 'Sports Person of the Year' Charlie Bayliss in centre, players and guests.

Tremendous interest

I am writing to say what a splendid article that was in the February TTN re. Alex Perry.

It's of tremendous interest to my son Rod (and myself) because Penny his mother was a fellow player in Rods Exeter team. They won the championship back in 1985 and Desmond sent them personal congratulations and a card signed by all his England Team — a lovely gesture (by a super bloke).

We are all very proud of Alex's achievements, and wish him continued success. I am sure he is destined for very great things, and what a super picture of him on the cover!

I enclose this snap for you taken by my son, the venue was Templemeads Bristol and the first meeting between Des and Alex, the latter was some proud to have his picture taken with his idol! He actually played a 'match' with him. Afterwards Des told me "he will go far he has the right look in his eyes".

Now I come to a more sober and sad subject "Des retiring?" I am grieved about this and the game will lose it's most talented player ever, certainly the most exciting one to watch. I am his greatest admirer and that goes for Rod too, and I feel Table Tennis will never be quite the same again, but then I think of young Alex starting on his climb to fame, which certainly looks pretty rosy at the moment. Incidentally his young sister Lucy (9) is now getting in on the act and last Saturday in Exeter won an Under 11 tournament! His elder brother Simon is also a fine player, as of course his mother and grandmother! Runs in the family. But the young man in question, I feel, is something 'very special' and over the past couple of years has achieved fantastic results. All power to his T.T. arm!

Queenie Smith
Withycombe Raleigh
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3AZ



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Grievances

EVERY four years Great Britain sends teams of Jewish athletes to compete in the European Maccabi Games. The games will next be held from 12-19 July 1991 in Marseilles.

On the 12th February 1991, I received the enclosed letter from the selection committee stating that I had not been selected for the games on the basis of personality and not playing ability.

I believe the contents of the letter to be a result of personal grievances between Stuart Greenberg and myself going back to 1985, indeed should the contents of the letter bear truth, I could not expect the support I have received from several of the selected players, my County Organisation, British League Club and other teams which I represent on a regular basis.

I would still like to know, that given the contents of the letter why I was invited to attend the trials, and why I have not been contacted previously by the selection committee to discuss my alleged problems, as this would seem the professional way for such a committee to behave.

I understand that having written this letter, that it is unlikely that I will ever be selected to represent Great Britain Maccabi again, however if it helps in any way to ensure that future selectors are more professional in attitude, and select players on the basis of playing ability and not personal preferences then I am happy to make this sacrifice.

Mike Levene
Bushey, Hertfordshire

Mike Levene did enclose a copy of the letter he received from Maccabi selectors, but due to its length there just isn't space to publish it. In essence it recognises his exceptional technical ability, but it criticises his personal attitude and behaviour. — Editor.

Disgust

MAY I please express my disgust at the writings of Mr. Woodford and Mr. Eaton in various papers. I understand the latter writes for several papers under different names.

Their nasty attacks on our Chairman John Prean have been going on for nearly four years and seem to be increasing now that, at the age of 66, he has decided to stand down.

You have had our confidence throughout, John, and you have done a fantastic job for English Table Tennis. Have a good retirement. No-one has earned it more.

Don't take any notice of these pathetic scribblers!

I. Barrington
Wharcliffe Gdns
London NW8

The Editor
Table Tennis News
5 The Brackens
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP2 5JA



Groups

What a pity that the Wiltshire 5 star tournament changed last years excellent format of groups of 4 with 2 going through to the first round, to this years 3 and 1. How progressive, therefore, was the South of England's 3 star whose 4 to a group with 2 going through and an option for the losers to enter a consolation event at no extra cost. Surely this should now be the minimum criteria for all tournaments. But is there an alternative? Would 5 to a group without a consolation event be better? Every set would have something at stake — computer points! Long delays between events would be finished. Each group would be a mini tournament creating atmosphere in the hall.

It is alleged that at the S of E certain players deliberately lost in the main event in order to play in the consolation event where prize money was at stake. This would be more sets to be played but based on the average entry at the Wiltshire and S of E tournaments there would only be about 50 extra sets — about 1 hours playing time on 12 tables. Based on those numbers all groups — mens and Womens would be completed on day 1. The 1st rounds and other events would begin on day 2.

A system telling everyone how many sets had been played in the group would also be worthwhile — this should help the referee get the next group on immediately the last game is finished. So how about it you referee's — let's make 3 to a group a thing of the past and give value for money for the vast majority of players who play in the tournaments.

FRANK HAMS
Morden, Surrey

Thankyou friends

I should like to send my warmest thanks to all my table tennis friends who visited me, sent get well cards or letters or telephoned following my recent cardiac surgery.

After a few set backs I am now feeling much better and whilst I do not expect to be very active for the remainder of this season I hope to

meet you all next season to thank each of you personally.

John Jermyn
Baldock, Herts.

It's really good to hear from you John, your presence once again on the tournament circuit will be very welcome. Get well soon! — Editor.

Snow

Re. Burmah Petrol—Wilts 5 Star
OUR Press Officer, Laurie Selby has written the report on the above, which you should have by now, but I would, if I may, like to add to this as follows:-

Organiser Attendum

Because of the weather many of the players failed to arrive for our Tournament. Although players from most parts of the country made it O.K. it seemed that those who made the effort were rewarded with a good weekend of Table Tennis.

The Canadian girls were amused to see how a few inches of snow brought the country to a standstill.

The non arrival of players did cause a 'few' headaches, mainly of course for the referee, Alan Duke, and his ladies on the control table, namely:- Brenda Lee, Tracy Watkins and Niki Wildman.

They all did an excellent job over the weekend to ensure that everyone who came had a few games at least. This was achieved by re-drawing groups etc. thus no-one was scratched for arriving late.

My thanks also to the umpires controller, Maggie. She had the job of finding umpires, when only one, Andy Seward of the 20 tournament umpires came. She 'persuaded' many of the local players etc. to assist. My thanks to them, all, including the local 'blue coats' who had a very busy time.

Alan and the girls saved the tournament from falling into chaos. I thank them all, and do appreciate all the hard work they put in over the weekend, plus all the normal helpers who had extra duties.

Bill Willson
Organiser
Swindon, Wilts, SN2 1NW.

Justice

Having just read the March issue of the Table Tennis News I felt that I had to write to you with regard to the report on the Striga Top 12.

I didn't think that George Yates' report did justice to a fine event.

I and 3 friends travelled from Kings Lynn to watch the whole 3 days of the competition.

Having read George's report, half of it was given over to the problems of fielding the full Top 12 men and women.

It would have been nice to see some of the individual scores and comments of some of the excellent games etc., like the excellent match on Friday between Olga Nemes and Bertine Vrieskoop won at 22-20 fifth end by Vrieskoop, like the tremendously popular Jasna Fazlic going down 19-21 fifth end to Marie Hrachova (a game which had the whole stadium enthralled), like the excellent and confident way that Mirjam Hooman went through the whole competition unbeaten.

Like the way that Eric Lindh, after being demolished 0-3 by Jan-Ove Waldner in his opening game, came back to win overall, including his tremendous semi-final win over Gatién, who after also losing his opening game 0-3 had looked a potential winner, winning his next 4 games including a 3-0 win over Jorgen Persson, like the entertaining table tennis played by the two Yugoslav players Lupulescu and Primorac and to see World Champion Waldner going down 1-3 to the younger Mazunov. Also it would have been nice to have seen some photos from the competition. Neither of the two pictures used were from Holland, Hooman and Lindh never played in Butterfly shirts all weekend.

There were plenty of photographers around all weekend (some of mine taken from the stands would have been better used!) as after all this was the premier European Competition before the Worlds later this year.

Jim Defty
Kings Lynn, Norfolk

P.S. Thanks however to George Yates for at least giving us some coverage.

Facts wrong

It is very sad that Mr Prean has to be confrontational to the very end. Only he could respond to my criticism of his conduct by accusing me, in sneering terms, of having my facts wrong. Since my letter contained no facts whatsoever, this was just a cheap gibe. He failed to justify his letter to the National Press and it is clear that he cannot do so.

Alan Shepherd
Southgate, London N14

Belittle

As a member of the Middlesbrough & District Table Tennis League Management Committee and the Cleveland County Management Committee, I would like to respond to two recent letters in Table Tennis News from John Crawford and Keith Wilson.

Firstly, I would like to advise readers that Alan Ransome is only one of the members of the Middlesbrough and Cleveland Committees. There are many others who are involved and working, like Alan, on a voluntary basis for table tennis in the area. The comments from these two gentlemen belittle the work of all of us and I am disgusted that the pages of the Association's magazine are used to undermine the efforts of local volunteer members.

With regard to the comments that Alan's achievements were only in the 70's, I would like to point out that Alan led the table tennis organisation of both the Europe Top 12 in 1983 and the Euro Asia in 1988 which were enjoyed by so many people from all parts of the country and are still regarded as two of the best tournaments played in this country in recent times. Although most of Alan's time in the last 15 years has been spent mainly on national activities, he has still worked hard on the administration of the game in the county and has acted as a great motivator for many of us, including myself.

The Cleveland Committee decided four or five seasons ago not to spend the members affiliation fees on a small group of players, but to give as many youngsters as possible the opportunity to benefit from the county's activities. The money previously spent on the county teams has been used to finance a summer coaching programme that has not only helped players from the immediate area but also some from Darlington and Northallerton as well, the home areas of Mr. Crawford and Mr. Wilson. How the County spends its funds is a matter of the committee and our members. Criticism of this kind from outsiders who have no knowledge of the discussions or decisions is most unwelcome.

Pam Richmond, Hon. Treas.
Cleveland C.T.T.A.
N. Region Panel Coaching Chairman

Praise

I wrote a letter recently to John Prean expressing my praise for what he has achieved for English Table Tennis.

We did correspond before he took office — so I am a disciple of his from the early days.

I always enjoy reading TT News, although lately I definitely need my reading glasses!

Vic Elston
Match Secretary, Ilford League

Shooting!

Talk about shooting the sport in the foot! CHANGE - Mailbox March 1991.

Whilst sponsors have not been exactly lining up to support the ETTA of late, the December 1990 issue of T.T. News did contain an item announcing the continuation of the Butterfly sponsorship for the England team for the next four years, valued at £100,000. In addition to this it was noted that Butterfly also provide equipment and financial support for many of England's top players and young prospects. Butterfly also support many British League teams, the Women's British League, many tournaments as well as ETTA News with regular advertising revenue.

In the December item John Prean commented, "It gives me great pleasure to renew our contract with Tamasu Butterfly... It is an act of faith for us to give our sponsors excellent value."

The "England Supporter's" criticism of a major sponsor's product will hardly help to encourage others to come in to support the Association in future and hopefully Mr. Tamasu will overlook this one lapse in etiquette. Such destructive rather than constructive criticism hardly provides sponsors with 'excellent value' for their investment.

In the March issue of the magazine in which the England Supporter took a bite out of one of the hands that is prepared to assist the ETTA and players, Jim Beckley recommended in his article "Big Business" — "Finally, if you get a sponsor, try to keep him...!"

May I suggest that we take this advice seriously and in future try to concentrate on "playing the game" in all its connotations.

Jose Ransome
Cleveland

We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Mailbox.

Your letters are always welcome as are replies, but only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

During the election period TTN has tried to maintain a balanced view. We have had many letters both for and against candidates and nothing has been suppressed, which we believe is as it should be. So we wish to point out, that reference in the last issue to Alan Ransome Sporting Goods was clearly the personal view of a particular correspondent and was published in all good faith.

Ball Licence

HOW many readers and table tennis players were caught holding supplies of Nittaku balls last October when a bombshell arrived from the ETTA — the licence for their use had been withdrawn? Certainly the two largest clubs in the Slough and Maidenhead area had just issued Nittaku balls to their team captains — a whole season's supply to forty teams! Rule 32.11 made hundreds of balls unusable without notice. No doubt this was repeated many times around the country.

What initiated this untimely piece of bad news? The distributor of the ball had failed to honour an "agreement", which turned out not to be enforceable, to pay royalty fees to the ETTA. When did the 'agreement' commence? 1st July. When was the money due? 1st September.

In the Slough League we think that balls ought to be licensed for a year — say from 1st July. And we think the ETTA should issue a list of those approved balls and send a copy to counties, leagues etc. by 30th June. The ETTA would probably wish to have legally enforceable contracts with distributors in place before issuing that list. There is a belief in some ETTA management circles that, for our idea to work, payment would need to be made before this and that would be unpopular with the distributors. We think this can be overcome in other ways — e.g. by the acceptance of a Bill of Exchange or Letter of Credit maturing any date the parties like.

If you would like to know that, in future, you will be allowed to use the balls you buy, please support the Slough League at the AGM in July with its proposed change to Rule 32.11. Then we will all know where we stand.

Graham Trimming
Chairman,
on behalf of Slough League
Management Committee.

Without the benefit of a crystal ball we had no means of knowing that the distributors of the Nittaku ball would not renew their ball licence. We notified leagues with little delay of this situation. This is, as I have told Graham in letters, far more complex than he thinks. It is not a good ideal to conduct commercial negotiations in public or by legislation, particularly difficult ones. The ball licence scheme is one my team inherited, but for many years it had worked well and without problems. We had no reason to anticipate the present situation. Neither could we act in any other ways, since Rules have to be kept and that is what we did.

We shall try to resolve the situation to our members' satisfaction before I step down in early July.

John Prean.

Lion of Stourbridge

ALAN HYDES of Lion Sport (UK) Ltd was delighted to learn from the country's leading players at the National Championships that the quality of the Lion Tournament 3 Star ball was up to their required standards of excellence.

The new Lion Tournament 3 Star ball is now the official ball over a 4 year period with the English Table Tennis Association for the 1991 and 1993 English National Closed and the 1994 English International Open

Lion are happy to provide league closed tournaments with balls free of charge. Contact Alan Hydes 0903 67599 for details.

Alan Hydes is greeted by John Preat at the Nationals at Stourbridge



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NICKY JARVIS (Former England No.1, captain and coach)

DAVID FAIRHOLM (Course Director, STTA Director of Coaching)

JULIET HOUGHTON (England Internationalist, ETTA coach)

COLIN WILSON (England Internationalist, ETTA coach)

PLUS: Guest internationalists and ETTA coaches GILLIAN BLANCH and STEVE TUCKETT

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Butterfly take the titles

Players using Butterfly equipment captured all the main titles at both the English national Senior and Junior Table Tennis Championships recently.

At the English National Senior Championships at Stourbridge in March Carl Preat from the Isle of Wight won the mens' singles and Lancashire's Andrea Holt won the womens' singles. Carl uses Butterfly Sriver L (red) 2.2mm on his forehand and Butterfly Feint Soft (Black) 1.5mm on his backhand. Andrea's choice is Tackiness D (Black) 1.5mm and Long Feint (Red) 0.5mm.

At the National Junior Championships earlier this year the boys' singles title was won by Alex Perry of Devon who uses Butterfly Sriver rubber on both sides whilst the Junior girls singles title was captured by Ellen Meddings of Yorkshire who uses Tackiness D (Red) 1.5mm and Long Feint (Black) 1.5mm.

The cadet boys singles

(under 14) in the same championship was won by Adrian Vincent of Devon who uses Sriver L (Red) 2.0mm and Sriver S (Black) 2.0mm. The cadet girls singles winner was Nicola Deaton of Chesterfield who uses Sriver L (Red) 2.0mm and Sriver L (Black) 2.0mm.

The Scottish National Championships also played in March were won by Butterfly players with John Broe who uses Sriver L (Black) 2.1mm and Sriver L (red) 2.1mm taking the mens' singles Janet Smith who plays with Sriver L (Red) 2.0mm and Sriver L (Black) 2.0mm winning the womens' singles.

All the above players use Butterfly blades and wear Butterfly Salvo shoes and clothing.

For further information regarding Butterfly products please contact Norma Bonson at Ransome Sporting Goods, Wood Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 1JP Tel: (0642) 224444 Fax: (0642) 226000. Telex 587171 ARANSM G.

RESULTS & TABLES

Willesden and District Closed Championship results held on 3 March at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Mens Singles

Bill Bridgeman bt Melvyn Waldman 16, -12, 16.
Bill Bridgeman an unseeded player beat Costas Papantoniou the number one seed in the first round, went on to win the mens singles title in a thrilling match against the number three seed Melvyn Waldman.

Ladies Singles

Miss Joanne Solley bt Miss L Kaplan 18, 9.

Joanne Solley did not have much opposition reaching the ladies final as Lisa Kaplan also did not have much trouble reaching the final.

The only tough match was against Mrs. Molley Prowen. Joanne beat Lisa quite easily in 2 games.

Boys Singles

J. O'Leary bt T O'Leary 15, -19, 6.
John beat his elder brother Timothy in an out and out hitting match, John proving himself too strong in the third game.

Minors Singles (Division 2 and below)

Peter Kaptur bt Lawrence Blaston 16, 17.

Peter the number one seed beat Lawrence the number two seed.

Veterans Singles

Mike O'Leary Snr bt Albert Wood -7, 5, 20.

A real swings and roundabout game with Albert winning the first game easily then Mike winning game 5 in the second the only equal game was the third, Mike winning it on deuce.

Mixed Doubles

Joanne Solley/Joel Roodyn (No. 2 seed) bt Karen Tiller/Melvyn Waldman (No.1 seed) 9, 16.

Ladies Doubles

Joanne Solley/Lisa Kaplan bt Karen Tiller/Molley Prowen 10, 14.

Mens Doubles

Jeremy Banks/Graham Gorb bt Ray Raymond/Costas Papantoniou 17, 19.

Wrexham & District Table Tennis League

Wrexham Lager Closed Table Tennis Tournament - 1990/91

The annual tournament was held at Castell Alun Sports Centre, Hope, Nr. Wrexham, on Sunday 3rd February 1991.

Tournament Secretary: Charles Bayliss. Committee: S.V. Williams, A. Harris.

Mens Singles Final

Spencer Harris bt Justin Evans 21-13, 21-13.

Ladies Singles Final

Christine Watkins bt Susan Lees 21-16, 21-13.

Division Two Singles Final

Mike Jones bt Jack Hutton 16-21, 21-11, 21-7.

Division Three Singles Final

George Liemanis bt Lee Maher 21-14, 21-15

Open Handicap Singles

Mark Pugh (-4) bt Ken Roberts (X.3) 42-38.

Veterans Singles Final

Philip Jones bt Ken Roberts 21-18, 21-13.

Cadet Boys Singles Final

Martin Hopwood bt Danny Harris 21-12, 21-10.

Cadet Girls Singles Final

Jennie Brown bt Julie Furber 21-11, 20-22, 21-13.

Junior Boys Singles Final

Andrew Jones bt Martin Hopwood 21-18, 22-20.

Junior Girls Singles Final

Susan Lees bt Meinir Davies 21-18, 21-16.

Mens Doubles Final

Justin Evans/Spencer Harris bt Phil Jones/Ian Woolley 21-10, 21-16.

Ladies Doubles Final

Delyth Davies/Meinir Davies bt Chris Watkins/Joyce Jones 21-15, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles Final

Joyce/Arthur Jones bt Susan Lees/Darren Bagnall 21-15, 11-21, 21-15.

Veteran Doubles Final

Don Wragg/Harold Furber bt Dennis Pryde/Ken Roberts 21-18, 21-15.

Junior Doubles Final:

Martin/Andrew Hopwood bt Andrew Jones/Danny Harris 21-12, 21-19.

R.D.C. Cup (Two Player Team Event) Final

Spencer Harris/Justin Evans bt Mark Pugh/Harold Furber 3-0.

Ormesby Cup Competition Results - Zone Finals

Zone 1

Trafford (Timperley CS) bt Blackburn (H & S Plumbers) 5-1.

Zone 2

Leeds (Yorkshire Bank) bt York (Railway Institute) 8-1.

Zone 3

Potteries (Burslem) bt Sheffield (Wadsley Bridge) 5-0.

Zone 4

Cambridge & Dist. (Cambridge) v Watford (Fullerians) W/O to Cambridge.

Zone 5

Thames Valley (Ashford) v N. Middlesex (Ellenborough) result to come.

Zone 6

Crawley (Ifield) bt Slough (Burnham) 6-0.

Zone 7

Dagenham (Fellows Cranleigh) bt Ilford (St. Marks) 5-2.

Zone 8

Cornwall (Falmouth Docks) v Reading (Sonning Common) to be played on 10.3.91.

Quarter Finals - to be played by 7th April 1991

- (a) Trafford v Leeds
- (b) Potteries v Cambridge
- (c) Zone 5 v Crawley
- (d) Dagenham v Cornwall or Reading

Change of address for Club Secretary: Cambridge - Mr. M. Livermore, 34 Windsor Gardens, Somersham, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 3DZ. Home Tel: No: 0487-8740453

Roll of Honour: Juniors

Class 2 Junior Boys' Singles:

Runner Up: Richard Smith (Huddersfield)

Winner: Kevin Hodgson (NFD Grove)

Class 2 Junior Girls' Singles:

Runner Up: Tracey Garratt (NFD Grove)

Winner: Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)

Junior Boys' Singles:

Runner Up: Garry Knights (NFD Grove)

Winner: Jonathan Cowan (Ireland)

Junior Girls' Singles:

Runner Up: Caroline Bentley (Bradford)

Winner: Natasha Williams (Wales)

Junior Boys' Doubles:

Runners Up: Ryan Glass (Ireland)/Brian McRandall (Ireland)

Winners: Pat Keane (Ireland)/Michael Lehane (Ireland)

Junior Girls' Doubles:

Runners Up: Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)/Amanda Cooke (Ireland)

Winners: Caroline Bentley (Bradford)/Natasha Williams (Wales)

North Wales Counties Closed Table Tennis Championships

Held on Sunday 6th January 1991 at Castell Alun Sports Centre Hope. Tournament Secretary: Mr. Ron Davies

Mens Singles Final

Spencer Harris (Wrexham) bt Simon Jones (East Flint) 21-16, 21-14.

Ladies Singles Final

Natasha Williams (Prestatyn) bt Susan Lees (Wrexham) 21-11, 21-14.

Mens Singles Plate Final

Malcolm Burrell bt Barry Robertson 21-19, 19-21, 21-11.

Ladies Singles Plate Final

Meinir Davies bt Christine Watkins 21-12, 21-18.

Under 12 Singles Final

Danny Harris bt Delyth Davies 21-13, 22-20.

Cadet Boys Singles Final

Martin Hopwood bt Paul Robertson 21-17, 21-25, 21-17.

Cadet Girls Singles Final

Joanne Bastin bt Delyth Davies 21-12, 21-10.

Junior Boys Singles Final

Paul Robertson bt Martin Hopwood 21-18, 24-22.

Junior Girls Singles Final

Natasha Williams bt Susan Lees 21-7, 21-10.

Mens Doubles Final

Simon Jones/Ivor Jones bt Justin Evans/Spencer Harris 22-20, 16-21, 21-13.

Ladies Doubles Final

Natasha Williams/Meinir Davies bt Natalie Hughes/Joanne Bastin 21-11, 21-15.

Junior Doubles Final

Meinir Davies/Natasha Williams bt Danny Harris/Andrew Jones

Veteran Mens Singles Final

Phil Jones bt Karol Harrison 21-9, 21-11.

Veteran Mens Singles Plate Final

Ivor Jones bt Simon Williams 21-12, 21-15.

Over 50's Singles Winner — Don Hobbs.

Over 60's Singles Winner — Don Hobbs.

Veteran Ladies Singles Winner — Christine Watkins.

DISCIPLINARY

At a Hearing held on 16th February 1991, the Association's Disciplinary Committee found allegations of breach of Rules proven, and decided that the two members concerned should be suspended forthwith from the privileges of membership of the E.T.T.A. until and including 30th April 1991. The members are Martin Gunn who played under an assumed name for the Kent County 2nd Team in the match against Oxfordshire on 20th October 1990, (breach of Rule 32.15), and Ted Houghton (Kent County Senior Match Secretary) who having knowingly allowed M. Gunn to play under an assumed name, thereby encouraging him to be in breach of Rule 32.15, was himself in breach of rule 32.14.

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Veteran Mens rankings up to and including the Wiltshire 5 Star (excluding Veterans Society Results)

Pts	Player
1	1050 Harvey Dave (Cheltenham)
2	1019 Hilton John (Manchest.)
3	724 Short Mike (Plymouth)
4	691 Corking Malc. (Stockt.)
5	655 Gibbs Stuart (Basildon)
6	629 Holland John (Basildon)
7	602 Radford Peter (Upmins.)
8	563 Taylor John (Gold. Gr)
9	548 Holman Derek (Tooting)
10	533 Buist Henry (Orpington)
11	528 Meads Andy (Crawley)
12	492 Shearer Matt (Grimsby)
13	434 Warren Connie (Lond.)
14	424 Stace Robin (Brighton)
15	409 Horton Keith (Burg.Hill)
16	385 Allison Brian (Louth)
17	382 Hampson Roger (Manch)
18	368 Judson Clive (Wakefield)
19	366 Morris Clive (Teynham)
20	354 Hams Frank (Morden)
21	353 Dixon Ray (Moxley)
22	348 Wood Derek (Colchest.)
23	346 Gunnion Ralph (Birm.)
24	327 Newman Maur. (Verdon)
25	325 Simmonds Brian (V.Water)
26	312 Schofield Derek (Stockp)
27	311 Chapman Gordon (Worcester Park)
28	299 Neale Denis (Towcester)
29	290 Rigby Tony (Preston)
30	280 Seaholme David (Watf.)
31	277 Solman David (Buckh.H)
32	274 Norton Roy (Dudley)
33	270 Timewell Alan (Wirral)
34	270 Herrity Eddie (Old Windsor)
35	270 Bradley Peter (Reading)
36	265 Richardson Nathaniel (Faringdon)
37	265 Watts Michael (Rochf'd)
38	263 Powell Keith (Poynton)
39	261 Lynch Granham (Warsash)
40	260 Kean Brian (Manchest.)
41	259 Chilvers Arthur (Didcot)
42	254 Langheim Ron (Ashford)
43	253 Adedayo Babs (Catford)
44	246 Crowley David (Tadw.)
45	239 Lockwood Fred (Basild)
46	237 Collins Paul (Hyde)
47	227 Wood Mervyn (Halesow)
48	224 Earis Frank (Taplow)
49	222 Bhalla Ramesh (Guildf.)
50	221 Millward John (Sandh.)
51	218 Thewlis Norman (L.Bor.)
52	216 Hobley Jim (Essex)
53	216 Hill Brian (Nr Boston)
54	216 Blake Phil (Lancashire)
55	214 White John (Sitt'brne)
56	213 Hartridge Keith (WGC)
57	213 Oxley Michael (Calne)
58	211 Liffe John (Barwell)
59	209 Bartle Douglas (York)
60	208 Adams Thomas (Coulstd.)
61	208 Broughton Michael (Gt Yarmouth)

62	207 Hoyles Peter (Unknown)
63	204 Mayfield Brian (Dunst.)
64	201 Wilson Terence (Cuffley)
65	201 Watson Alec (Aylesbury)
66	200 Montgomery Syd (Read.)
67	200 Moulding William (Salis.)
68	199 Glynn Patrick (Edbaston)
69	198 Taylor Anthony (Ruislip)
70	198 Wooding Leslie (Dunst.)
71	198 Savies Alf (Wantage)
72	194 Fannin John (Glouc.)
73	193 Jacob Chris (Colchester)
74	193 Clark Keith (Ramsgate)
75	193 Kinsey Tony (Leics.)
76	192 Giles Alan (Stroud)
77	190 Halliday Brian (Reading)
78	189 Allanson Walter (Shillingf)
79	188 Smith John (Pinner)
80	186 Battrick Stan (Dagenham)
81	184 Bruce Terry (Salisbury)
82	181 Stagg Norman (Cowplain)
83	179 Davies Howard (Bourmem.)
84	179 Jones Frank (H.Leaddon)
85	177 Randall Dave (Barry)
86	171 Short Fred (Sth Shlds)
87	171 Brookman Bill (Heston)
88	170 Jones Keith (Boothville)
89	170 Murry Raymond (Stan.le-H.)
90	165 Hill Barry (Poole)
91	164 Streak David (Illehurst)
92	164 Sliokin Norman (Ashford)
93	163 Clements Brian (Beds)
94	158 Giles Kenneth (Winchester)
95	157 Jackson Keith (Burgess Hill)
96	157 Edwards Michael (North'ton)
97	156 Reeves Brian (Failand)
98	155 Harris Michael (Read'g)
99	153 Watmough Derek (Bolt.)
100	153 McCabe Pat (Warwicks.)
101	152 Hipperson Tony (Norw.)
102	153 Jones Peter (Macclesf'd.)
103	150 Cox Bob (Gospot)
104	150 Rayment Leslie (Thetf'd)
105	147 Lush Ray (Portsmouth)
106	146 Tyler George (Finchley)
107	145 Brook Geoff (Huddersf.)
108	145 Burgess Sid (Needingwth)
109	145 Batt-Rawden Gerald (Ditchling)
110	144 Bush Cyril (B'nemouth)
111	142 Stennett Malcolm (Carl.)
112	142 Burgess Kenneth (Huddersf.)
113	141 Thompson Basil (Swind.)
114	141 Duke Alan (Swindon)
115	130 Keeley Brian (Crawley)
116	128 Atkinson Geoffrey (Ethersbury)
117	128 Wheattley Neil (Warwicks)
118	128 Bache Terry (Birm'ham)
119	127 Wines Geoff (Feltham)

Veteran Women Ranking up to and including the Wiltshire 5 Star (excluding Veterans Society Results)

1	605 Schofield Dor.(Stockp'tr)
2	541 Bassano Patricia (Hudd.)
3	395 Dignum Margaret (Maidstone)
4	385 Judson Carol (Wake'ld)
5	340 Coop Joyce (Bourmem.)
6	310 Knightley Gillian (F'well Heath)
7	281 Shaler Eileen (Hinkley)
8	277 Sawyer Mary Hendon
9	274 Beadle Joan (Ashford)
10	274 Radford Lesley (Upmin)
11	271 Hunt Janet (Worcester)
12	251 Neary Mabel (Liverp'l)
13	229 Basden Christine (B'field Common)
14	223 Moran Connie (Grimsb)
15	219 Bax Sally (Watford)
16	194 Reid Lynda (Pershore)
17	194 Lloyd Ann (Solihull)
18	185 Carroll Shirley (Gt.Badd)
19	181 Steel Pauline (Worthing)
20	175 Fisher Kathleen (Louth)
21	173 Butcher Pamela (Neoph)
22	172 Felstead Sue (Letchw'th)
23	167 White Jean (Spalding)
24	165 Thomas Jackie (Slough)
25	161 Waters Kay (Slough)
26	139 Stafford Mary (Maidenh)
27	131 Spooner Pamela (Maid.)
28	125 Tyler Sylvia (Cheshunt)
29	119 Coombs Sylvia (Weston Underwood)
30	113 Pilfold Julie (New Elth.)
31	97 Garlinge Marion (Sittin'b'n)
32	96 Dawson Marjorie (Lond.)
33	92 Vass Jennif. (Sheerwat.)
34	90 Bayford Patric. (Chesh.)
35	86 Gloster Jeanne (Maidenh)
36	84 Willson Margaret (Swin)
37	81 Hazell Gwen (Marlbor.)
38	77 Anker Pamela (Ilford)
39	76 Burrough Alwyn (P.Lefylde)
40	72 Edwards Eileen (Chesh.)
41	71 Nunn Kathleen (Whitt.)
42	68 Hammond Patric. (Wilf.)
43	68 Voss Beryl (Unkn.Vett)
44	67 Brooks Patric.(St.on Tr.)
45	66 White Patric. (Cheshire)
46	65 Porter Jennifer (Sheerw.)
47	64 Cox Muriel (Wellingb.)
48	56 Brown Janet (Eynsham)
49	56 Morse Sylvia (Swindon)
50	53 Long Pauline (Gosforth)

51	51 Smith Jennifer (Sheerw.)
52	51 Newcombe Marg.(Heref)
53	43 Maltby Jennif (Sheerw.)
54	42 Parker Linda (Alwoodl.)
55	41 Allison Sue (Louth)
56	41 Newton Jean (Sheffield)
57	40 Allchurch Maureen (Berks)
58	38 North Jackie (Hertfords.)
59	36 Malthy Marg.(Northampt)
60	36 Porter Joyce (Northants)
61	34 Wales Pat.(Angmoring)
62	33 Rogers Paula (Ch.Heath)
63	33 Matthews Sheila (Yorks.)
64	32 Lodge June (Surrey)
65	32 Abraham Ann (Fareham)
66	32 Carrington Elsie (Bn'mth)
67	28 Davies Christine (Soton)
68	27 Jackson Val.(Hay.Heath)
69	26 Curtis Janice (H.Wycombe)
70	25 Squier Gillian (Canewdon)
71	25 Winn Barbara (Ashtead)
72	24 Sheward Dorothy (Solih.)
73	24 Bayford Barbara (Unkn.Vet)
74	23 Wotherspoon Ann (Eyns.)
75	21 Wakefield Doreen (Blunh.)
76	20 Fletcher Edna (Gorleston)
77	20 Pilford Julia (Surrey)
78	19 Johnson Diane (Prestbury)
79	18 Everett Hazel (Grimsby)
80	18 Leak Pauline (Hunts)
81	18 Borrough Alwyn (Unkn.Vet)
82	18 Smith Jean (Dorset)
83	18 Hogg Ruth (Norfolk)
84	18 Moulds Janet (Unkn.Vet)
85	17 Eyers Elizab.(Salisbury)
86	16 Pringle Jane (K. Lynn)
87	15 Barron Mary (Portsm'th)
88	12 Lypnckyj Myra (Stockp.)
89	10 Waters Avril (Basingst.)
90	10 Holland Shelley (Huntingst.)
91	10 Hamblet Lilian (Macclesf.)
92	10 Pryce Wendy (Bridgew.)
93	9 Smith Louvain (Ripon)
94	9 Rayford Barbara (E.Prest.)
95	8 Hession Shelagh (Hainsh')
96	7 Kershaw Ivy (Yorkshire)
97	7 Robinson Audrey (Alicsh)
98	5 Mayson Jean (Leight.Buzz)
99	5 Lyne Kathleen (Portshire)
100	5 Albon Christine (Hunts.)
101	5 Bruton Sylvia (Weymouth)
102	4 Penny Doris (Ripley)
103	3 Rodwell Joan (Gt.Yar.)
104	3 Harvey E (Ms) (Unkn.Vet)
105	3 Gilltham Ann (Billericay)
106	3 Cook Irene (Hailsham)
107	3 Wilson Maureen (Nor.)
108	2 Pemberton M(Ms)(Canv.lsl)
109	2 Harris Margaret (Enf'ld)
110	2 Clegg Mary (Fleet)
111	2 Bruton J (Ms)(Finchamst)
112	2 Bonner Elizabeth (Street)
113	2 Lenton A (Ms)(Northants)
114	2 Hand Joan (Basildon)
115	1 Rose Mary (Solihull)
116	1 Hooker Muriel (Mar.Bott.)
117	1 Fox M (Ms) (Ilford)
118	1 Gillam V (Ms) (Hove)
119	1 Britton Dorothy (Femdown)
120	1 Britton E (Ms) (Ruislip)

Ranking Lists may be obtained from ETTA (Hastings) by sending a stamped addressed envelope which should state which list is required, i.e. Senior, Veterans, Junior, Cadet and any queries and complaints should be stated in writing. Information cannot be given on the telephone. Often research is needed, which requires a great deal of time or staff are taken from urgent work. Hope you will understand.

Whilst every care is taken that the data inserted into the computer are accurate the occasional error is inevitable. The E.T.T.A. accepts no responsibility of any kind for such errors and their consequences. Any mistake discovered will be investigated and a full audit trail posted to the player. Proven errors will be rectified in a subsequent list. Any queries from the Ranking List should be directed to Rob Sinclair, E.T.T.A., Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, TN34 1HF and be accompanied by a payment of £5 plus s.a.e. to cover cost of administration.

**BP ESSEX JUNIOR 2 STAR
SELECT**

13/14 April 1991

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ETTA

**HALEX U11 NATIONAL
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Sun 28th April

Mansfield Leisure Centre,
Mansfield

ETTA

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

Sat/Sun/Mon

25th/26th/27th May

The Spa Royal Hall
Bridlington

ETTA

**WOMEN'S BRITISH
LEAGUE**

Sat/Sun 1st/2nd June

Bletchley Leisure Centre
Bletchley
Milton Keynes

ETTA

**HALEX U10/12 NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Sat/Sun 15th/16th June

Bletchley Leisure Centre
Bletchley
Milton Keynes

ETTA U18/21 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd June

The Spa Royal Hall
Bridlington

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING ANY OF THE ETTA EVENTS, CONTACT:

*JULIAN TEE, EVENTS MANAGER
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
TEL: 0424 722525*