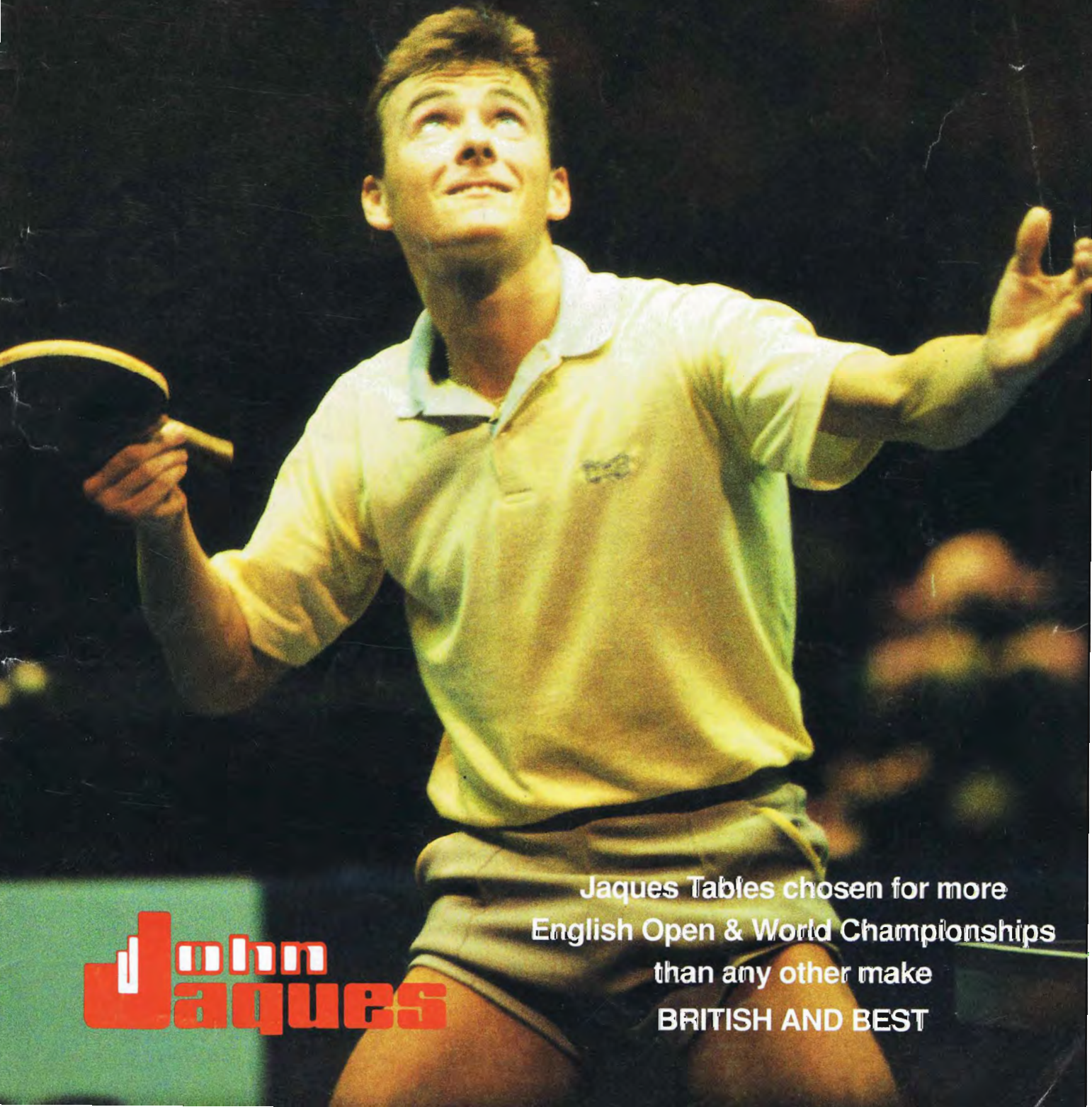




Table Tennis News

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The official magazine of
The English Table Tennis
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Commonwealth Champion

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All this
and more
in your
Table
Tennis
News

CHEN CONSIDERS NEW OFFER

CHEN XINHUA, now resident in England for a period approaching three years is considering his latest offer from Germany. So far, he has resisted offers from where the money lies in bigger piles than anywhere else.

The temptation is masterminded by a former Czechoslovak citizen Daniel Suchanek, who now lives in Munich. He is a private promoter who believes that one of the best exhibition circuits in the world could feature Chen and Guo, another former world cup winner who lives in Germany.

There is also a possibility that if Chen started working professionally in Germany, special arrangements could be made to get him German citizenship in a short time.

Suchanek said in Munich "Guo and Chen must be the best exhibition pair in the world. It might even be possible for Chen to commute".

MERGER

TO tackle a dramatic drop in membership in the Hyde and Ashton Leagues, officials are considering the possibility of a merger. At one time each league could boast at least five divisions. That figure has steadily dropped to the present situation where each league has just two divisions.

Meetings between the two organisations is almost certain to see a new league carrying teams from both leagues next season. One of the suggestions for a new title is The Tameside League.

FILLED

TWO important vacancies have at last been filled at Hastings. The position of General Secretary has been taken over by Rob Sinclair who has been doing the job since Albert Shipley left last year.

Julian Tee has taken on the role of Events Manager and the position vacated by Jenny Hughes earlier this season.

CHINA TRIP

REG Thompson is again organising a trip to China for players wishing to improve their game under some of the world's top coaches. If you are interested then contact Reg on 0634 35865 as soon as possible.

FREE DRINKS

RICHARD SCRUTON, the North-allerton-based candidate for the ETTA chair was in a Boeing 737 bound for Munich out of Manchester on January 18 that was forced to make an emergency landing after being airborne for some minutes.

Apparently, an engine fault was discovered by the pilot. Our candidate had noticed strange noises coming from the port engine.

The passengers were prepared for a full-scale emergency landing, (heads between knees etc.) and all the emergency services were ready on the runway.

Happily, the Boeing landed safely and the passengers left again for Munich some 1½ hours later.

Free drinks were served on the flight and a number of people who do not normally drink when airborne took part in the celebrations, including Ken Lyons, who is Richard Scruton's Joola assistant in the U.K.

ALL CHANGE

According to well-informed sources in Munich, including the ITTF president Ochiro Ogimura the venue for the 1993 World Championships will not be Mexico City.

It seems that the ITTF have lost confidence in the Mexican ability to finish the proposed stadium. The other points against Mexico City are the elevation above sea level, high hotel and transport costs. The new prospect some two hours away is the exotic resort of Acapulco where hotels and transport is cheaper and we assume, there is a suitable stadium.

The new venue in Acapulco has still to be inspected by the ITTF team.

MASTERS

IN STUTTGART from September 27-29 The German TTB, with yet another sponsorship bonanza will be running the first European Masters with a prize fund total of \$100,000, but there is a snag — only the top ten men in Europe will be playing, a fact of life that at the moment, has not sent English table tennis journalists rushing round to their travel agent to book aircraft seats.



● John Hilton — easing down

EASING DOWN

FORMER European singles champion John Hilton who won the title in Berne Switzerland eleven years ago and who is now a veteran, is planning to ease down on his playing commitments. The still very fit Mancunian has a new love — squash and can be seen playing this other racket sport most days. It's also one reason why he will not be defending his singles title at the National Championships in Stourbridge.

CONFLICT

ALAN Cooke, the Commonwealth champion might not defend his singles title in Nairobi next month. The dates conflict with the World Championships in Japan which start only a few days after the Commonwealth finishes.

HAVE BAT WILL TRAVEL

ANYONE taking a holiday in Thailand this year may like to know that an ex-patriot Brit Gary Higgins, a former under-13 champion from Burnley has his own table tennis club in Pattaya Beach. Three good tables, a Newgy robot and a well stocked bar are among the facilities awaiting you.

ROMANCE

CONFIRMATION has now been received from sources in Paris that England women's champion Fiona Elliot and the French champion Didier Mommessin became engaged on January 1.

But the wedding is not planned until summer 1992 after which the newly-weds will live in France.

BOOST

MATTHEW Syed, the Reading 20 year-old, gave his chances of a place in the World Championships a real boost when he beat Calina Creanga in five games to take the singles title at the Czech Open in Presov. And he came from behind to beat the 18 year-old Rumanian, who also plays in the British League for Ormesby. More of Matthews' great win in the April issue of TTN.

New Editor

The final two issues of the season will be in the capable hands of John Wood. John, a photo-journalist and member of the National Union of Journalists will welcome your news, views and comments plus photographs at:

5 The Brackens
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 5OA
Tel: (0442) 44547

HIGHER

ENTRIES for this years National Championships in Stourbridge are higher than last year with 179 men and 66 women competitors. The official view is that the venue is more central for most players.

CLOSING DOWN

FROM the end of this month, the Telecom Information Line, which has provided results and news of our sport for two years, is closing down. Reason — not enough calls were being made to make it viable.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

THE eight days that ended on the 24th of January were not, to use one of my phrases in happier days, "days that shook the world". It was a time when things seemed to have gone thoroughly wrong. This is part of life, something one has to live with. Better days will come. Most of us who play the game know that it has a habit of coming right as well as going wrong at the most unexpected moments. The World Championships are not far away.

Our team arrived at Bletchley in a virtually hopeless cause, having lost the first leg 6-1 having been slight favourites to win! The idea of playing a young, experimental team was considered by Don Parker, but the duty to the hosts and the loyalists who had bought tickets quite rightly (in my view) produced our best team, at any rate as expressed by various ranking lists. Considerable credit is again due to the Borough of Milton Keynes, wonderful supporters of the sport, and our own members who came in good numbers. The organisers did a splendid job. My warm thanks to all of them.

Outgunned

The bare bones of the story are that Alan Cooke defeated Sandor Varga to give us our only singles success just as Carl Prean had defeated the same player in Budapest. That we lost 5-2 rather than 6-1 was due to a reversal of the doubles score. This time Cooke and Carl Prean defeated Varga and Karoly Nemeth. Prean was in poor singles form, which was particularly surprising after his excellent play in the European League for so many years. Last year he won 9 out of 12 in the Super-league.

Lisa Bellinger was outgunned in her first game against Csilla Batorfi, the best loop in European women's table tennis, but had chances in the second. She would have had to land her 'pick hits' on the backhand rather more often in the closing stages to go to three, after which, perhaps, more chinks might have appeared in the Hungarian armour.

I thought Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot were not far off victory in the mixed. I wish Skylet would throw his service up high in doubles as he does in singles. Having often discussed this with him, I know he feels he has to serve tight in doubles. However, by not using his best services in doubles, he sacrifices much of what is best in his game. The statistics confirm my theory.



● John Prean

We were completely outgunned by the Hungarians. I do not think it indicates a long term decline, having often expressed my confidence in our young players. For years it has been said that Desmond Douglas cannot go on forever and the encouragement given to a large squad of young players indicates that Kevin Satchell and Don Parker are dealing with the rejuvenation process inevitable at certain periods in the life of teams in all sports. Record sums have been committed to our international playing and training programmes.

In chats I had with friends and strangers during my stay and before and after the match, some interest was shown, though not as much as I thought would be, in the future of Chen Xinhua.

Chen Xinhua return

Despite rather romantic statements in the press, I have no duties, still less ambitions in the selection field. My view is well known, shared, according to polls conducted, by many members; I believe that only British citizens should play for England. Our National Council over-ruled our Management Committee and decided otherwise. There are now 6 year eligibility periods in both the International Bodies, the ITTF (World) and ETTU (Europe). Chen slipped through the 6 year net of the former but not latter, the 2 year period still applying at that time.

Don Parker has picked him for those events for which he was eligible. In two of the three events, he sat out the team event, which was unfair to other players and in the M & G Classic represented disobedience of selection and instructions and was bitterly

resented by fellow players. By no stretch of the imagination can he be said to have integrated into the England Squad. His inclusion, at best, would be a short term solution since he, too, is near the end of his career.

Players tell me that they felt betrayed by the National Council decision which indicated that they might be replaced by overseas players at any time. One or two wondered about their future in the sport and asked me for my advice as to whether to seek a living either in another profession or another country. I noted an increased exodus of our players this season.

Young team

Above all, the selection of ANY player is ultimately the decision of Don Parker. He picks the team and he was and is free to pick Chen. The above are some of the considerations which will influence his decision one way or the other.

My own inclination would be to go to Chiba with a young team which will stay together for a number of years and will begin to win things in a year or two. I counsel, as I have done for a long time, much greater emphasis and ambitions in doubles play, which is gaining increasing importance in international table tennis. It is not a trend I welcome in spectator terms, but it is one we have to live with in the real world.

In that same real world some setbacks are inevitable, but, if they spur us on towards greater things, failures can be the base from which the high mountains are captured.

My 'weather forecast' (and therefore not necessarily reliable) is that next season will have European Leagues divided into Men's and Women's sections. Our women have already done quite magnificently this season. Three man teams will also suit our men very much better than the present mixed line-ups. They would produce greater rewards for our own depth of talent. Both men's and women's games would be able to grow in their own way. Such a setup would be good for England, good for Europe.

My own faith in the future of our international players is undiminished by the Hungarian experience. The talent is there. I would like to see particular emphasis on discipline and team spirit in support of the playing abilities at our disposal. **Then** England will be able to take on the world, progressing beyond the silver and bronze of the occasional glory days of the present past to even greater things.

TAYLOR MADE

Jonathan Taylor is a new breed of player who has put aside the easy way to earn a living and turned professional. Jim Beckley reports on a young man with a big future.

JONATHAN Taylor (18) is one of the sports newest professionals. Eighteen months ago he turned his back on a bright future with a nationally known company in the North West, to play the wheel of fortune and to try and make a living from table tennis.

It was a decision that he and his family debated for some time eventually turning to Don Parker, the England manager and Ian Marshall who these days looks after the successful Grove side.

When all is said and done after leaving the local high school with seven GCSE's, Jonathan could have fitted into the regular routine of life very easily indeed.

He had a job at British Aerospace and after just 12 months had made the grade as an apprentice. But table tennis was more on his mind than aircraft and when the decision was finally made it was swift and decisive.

He met Parker on a Friday evening, played the Milton Keynes under-21 the following day, won the title and made up his mind to go full time there and then. From a regular 9-5 job and a wage packet at the end of the week, he was now a full time player on the uncompromising and tireless treadmill of the professional routine.

Climb

The signs that he might have a future in table tennis were there from an early age. He first put ball to bat at the age of ten and was soon playing regularly in the 3rd division of the Hyde League. He caught the eye of coach Dave Kinder at the George Lawton Centre in Mossley and from then on it was a steady climb up the cadet and junior rankings.

He played once for Cheshire before turning to Lancashire. Then came his first big break when he was chosen to play for England juniors at the Israel Junior Open where he and another young player Chris Oldfield beat Poland 3-2 to bring the gold medal back home. He recalls winning his two matches and beating a player by the name of Skierski, who in turn went on to beat a certain Jan Ove Waldner a year later.

His progress was being monitored carefully by Kinder and his team of coaches and it soon became obvious that they had a player of real quality. He swiftly moved up the ETTA rankings to become one of the country's top three juniors and last year took his place in the seniors ranks. This season he has reached the final of the Middlesex 3 Star losing to Matthew Syed and then to top seed

Sean Gibson in the Midland Open.

Other good results including a one hundred per cent record for Lancashire in their successful county championship win have helped push him from the season start of No.17 to the current No. 8. His is now on the fringes of an international place and most certainly a player who Don Parker will be keeping an eye on.

But after less than eighteen months he is finding that life on the full time circuit can be tough. Nevertheless he has a contract to play for NFD Grove in the British League and spends one week out of three with Ham in the Belgium League playing in their Premier Division. As well as picking up the occasional cheque on the domestic scene, he manages to keep his head above water — just.

His winnings go towards travel and accommodation. Getting lifts and sleeping on the dining room floor of friends houses helps to balance the books, a necessity of life that he hopes will improve soon.

Bonus

To obtain the right practice he has to travel the length and breadth of the country. Although he has a driving licence he has not yet managed to find a car to go with it — a bonus that only players like Des Douglas and Alan Cooke can demand.

But in May he will pack his bags to take off for two months to practice in China at one of the top coaching centres in the country. Along with Michael O'Driscoll, who has been there before, it could be a turning point in Jonathan's table tennis education.

But to pay his way in this table tennis jungle and have some money over, he requires a sponsor. And thanks to his local council who have watched his progress with interest, he is now one of only a few players to have a permanent record of his playing career so far.

He was recently approached by Thameside Council who offered to make a 15 minute video film of his day to day routine, showing the daily grind of training and the hours he put in as a coach at his local centre. It could play a vital role in his search for financial backing.

Time is on the side of this young Audenshawie player who is now firmly committed to winning a place in the England team. But he also knows that only the very top players can expect to earn a decent living and he is among a growing number, O'Driscoll and Syed are two, who believe that outside qualifications are handy to have if life gets tough.

HANNOVER BECKONS

Having beaten Yugoslavia 6-1 in the second leg semi-final of the Super Division in the European League, the Federal Republic of Germany enhanced their growing reputation by beating Sweden 4-3 in the first leg final in Stockholm!

Karlsruhe provided the venue for the Yugoslav match on Jan 12 in which the only home loss was suffered by Steffen Fetzner and Olga Nemes in the mixed doubles when beaten by Ilija Lupulescu and Jasna Fazlic. Scores:-

J. Roszkopf b I. Lupulescu 12, 12;
S. Fetzner b Z. Primorac -15, 10, 17;
O. Nemes b J. Fazlic 11, 16;
Roszkopf/Fetzner b Primorac/Lupulescu -19, 13, 19;
Fetzner/Nemes l Lupulescu/Fazlic -10, 17, -15;
Roszkopf b Primorac 15, -11, 18;
Fetzner b Lupulescu -13, 9, 19.

Jörg Roszkopf was the man of the match in Haninge, Stockholm on Feb 5 when he figured in four wins accounting for Erik Lindh and Peter Karlsson in singles and partnering Fetzner and Nicole Struse in two doubles successes. Fetzner lost both his singles and Marie Svensson beat Olga Nemes. Scores:-
E. Lindh b Fetzner 17, -21, 21;
P. Karlsson l Roszkopf -15, 18, -15;
M. Svensson b Nemes 14, 21;
M. Appelgren/Karlsson l Roszkopf/Fetzner 11, -12, -16;
Appelgren/Svensson l Roszkopf/N. Struse 3, -14, -18;
Lindh l Roszkopf -19, 16, -15;
Karlsson b Fetzner -15, 19, 18;

Now the stage is all set for the second leg in Hannover on March 13 with two officials from England called into service.

Sweden's advance to the final was at the final expense of Belgium on Jan 16 when a second 5-2 results did the trick. Scores:-
J-M. Saive b Karlsson 16, 18;
T. Cabrera l Lindh -15, -16;
Els Billen l P. Pettersson -18, -13;
Saive/Cabrera l Lindh/Karlsson -12, -17;
Saive/Billen b Lindh/Pettersson 18, 17;
Saive l Lindh -17, 15, -15;
Cabrera l Karlsson -12, -15.

On the same night in Gdansk, Poland were beaten 4-3 by France whose Jean-Philippe Gatien figured in three successes losing only to Andrzej Grubba who also accounted for Didier Mommessin. Scores:-
A. Grubba b D. Mommessin 15, 10;



Olga Nemes

L. Kucharski l J-P Gatien -11, 21, -18;
A. Januszyk l Wang Xiaming -14, -15;
Grubba/Kucharski l Gatien/Mommessin 18, -16, -17;
P. Szafranek/Januszyk l Gatien/Wang -16, -18;
Grubba b Gatien 14, 13;
Kucharski b Mommessin 15, -17, 17.

On Jan 15 in Dordrecht, the Netherlands beat impending demotees, Czechoslovakia 5-2 the scores being:-
P. Haldan b J. Javurek 18, 12;
D. Heister l P. Korbel -13, -17;
M. Hooman b R. Budayova 9, 14;
Haldan/T. Keen l Korbel/T. Janci -17, -18;
Haldan/Hooman b Korbel/Budayova 15, 14;
Haldan b Korbel 11, 18;
Heister b Javurek 17, 20.

In the first final leg in the demotion stakes Poland beat Czechoslovakia 5-2 on their away trip and must be favourites to escape the drop when the return match is played in Poland on March 12.

Purely academic was the first leg win for Yugoslavia over Belgium Feb 5 this by a 4-3



Steffan Fetzner – German winner

margin but, as with the Polish/Czech encounter, no details are yet to hand at the time of writing.

DIVISION 1

Following England's 6-1 crushing by Hungary in Budapest on Jan 16 there was no way back at Bletchley on Jan 24 with the Hungarians again in control winning 5-2 (as reported elsewhere).

Two successive 6-1 victories over Bulgaria carried Austria into the final two

legs against Hungary leaving Finland and promotees Spain to fight out the relegation issue.

REMAINING FIXTURES

Super Division : 1st Leg

Mar 5 Netherlands v France (Huizen)
(Championship decider)

2nd Leg

Mar 13 F.R. Germany v Sweden
(Hannover)
12 France v Netherlands
(Saint-Egreve)
Yugoslavia v Belgium
Poland v Czechoslovakia
(Relegation decider)

Division 1 : 1st Leg

Feb 9 Hungary v Austria
Spain v Finland
Mar 16 Austria v Hungary
(Championship decider)
Finland v Spain
(Relegation decider)

The matches between England and Bulgaria and Turkey v Italy need not be played if mutually agreed by the Associations concerned.

Remaining Fixtures

Feb 16 or 17

Norway v Denmark
Wales v Ireland

Apl 6 or 7

Denmark v Norway (Final)
Ireland v Wales
(Relegation match)

Similarly to Scotland when down to points Switzerland consigned Wales to a relegation battle with Ireland by 632 pts to 594!

ETTU Informal BGM

Friday, April 26th, is the date set for the Informal Biennial General Meeting of the European Table Tennis Union in Chiba to commence at 9am

Cancellation

The Swiss Open, scheduled for Oct 24/27 in Geneva, has been cancelled. A date and venue for the Polish is still awaited.

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Stiga Junior Top 12

(Messima, Jan 26/27)

Boys

- 1 Piotr Szafranek (POL)
- 2 Robert Pagonyi (HUN)
- 3 Radek Mrkvicka (TCH)
- 4 Lucjan Blaszczak (POL)
- 5 Christophe Legout (FRA)
- 6 Mirko Pawlowski (FRG)
- 7** Vladimir Samsanov (URS)
- 8 Radek Kostal (TCH)
- 9** Sascha Kostner (FRG)
- 10 Massimiliano Mondello (ITA)
- 11 Cristian Tol (ROM)
- 12 Thierry Tran (FRA)

Girls

- 1 Alena Vachovcova (URS)
- 2 Vanda Litinskaja (URS)
- 3 Vivien Eilo (HUN)
- 4 Laura Niculae (ROM)
- 5** Tatjana Kulagina (URS)
- 6 Oksana Kusch (URS)
- 7 Ekaterina Tauschkanova (URS)
- 8 Sabina Martincova (TCH)
- 9 Petra Fichtinger (AUT)
- 10 Anna Januszyk (POL)
- 11** Ana Gogorita (ROM)
- 12 Laura Negrisoli (ITA)

** Cadet

DIVISION 2

Denmark and Norway are the likely championship contenders although the second leg semi-final result is not to hand for the match between Norway and Luxembourg the former having won 6-1 in the first leg. Other second leg results were:-

Portugal	0	Denmark	7
Ireland	3	Scotland	4
Wales	5	Switzerland	2

Against Ireland in Limerick on Jan 19 Scotland reversed the 4-3 result that went against them on Dec 8 at the Dumyat Centre, Menstrie equating the set scores at 7-7 and also the games ratio at 16-16 but Scotland nudged home on points by 580 to 577! Home countries results in the second leg semis were:-

Ireland v Scotland (3-4)

C. Slevin b E. Walker 10, -14, 15;
H. Meneely l J. Broe -12, -21;
J. Reid l J. Smith -11, -14;
Slevin/Meneely b Broe/Walker 14, 18;
Slevin/Reid l Walker/Smith 17, -17, -18;
Slevin b Broe 12, 18;
Meneely l Walker -16, -17;

Wales v Switzerland (5-2)

N. Tyler l S. Renold -12, -12;
S. Ward b J. Gurtner 16, 11;
N. Williams b I. Knecht 19, -24, 13;
Tyler/Ward b Renold/Gurtner 13, 17;
Tyler/L. Collier b Renold/Knecht 17, -14, 15;
Tyler b Gurtner 15, 13;
Ward l Renold 14, -6, -13;

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

QUEENSBURY HOUSE, HAVELOCK ROAD, HASTINGS,
EAST SUSSEX TN34 1HF. TELEPHONE: (0424) 722525

England manager, Don Parker explains how routine skills can help improve your game. But it also requires a lot of dedication and many hours of practise to reach the top



Carl Prean

Success doesn't happen overnight, so if you are finding it difficult to get the hang of things, don't worry. Stick at it and keep practising – the more balls you hit, the better you will become.

Practice need never be boring – it's amazing how many different practice routines you can put together from just two strokes.

If you have a friend to practise with, or if you can talk someone into feeding the ball to you, try out some straightforward routine.

Concentrate first on developing the correct technique and try to keep the ball going for as long as possible. Above all, don't fall into the trap of trying to hit the ball too hard, too soon.

Routine play can teach you far more than simple stroke technique – if you keep them realistic. Avoid playing strokes from unnatural situations: for example, a backhand drive from the forehand side of the table. In a match, this would mean that you had left yourself terribly exposed with a wide gap down the backhand side which you could not defend.

BASICS

Let's turn our attention to the other type of basic stroke – the push shots. In these, the ball is played at a much slower pace than in the driving shots. The backhand push is slightly easier to learn than the forehand push but neither is difficult. However, learning to push the ball consistently short and low over the net requires a great deal of control, practice and patience. If all you can do is to push the ball up into the air, you will give your opponent plenty of ideal opportunities to smash it past you.

BACKHAND PUSH

You don't have to be super-smart to work out that this stroke is played with a pushing action. The bat moves only a short distance, and there is virtually no follow-through.

You use almost the same stance you adopted for the backhand

drive: feet in line with your shoulders and about as wide apart. Keep your knees slightly bent and your weight forward. The bat should be held at a very slightly open angle – the opposite to the angle for drive shots. Your elbow should be bent at about 90 degrees, and your bat held in front of your stomach.

"The more balls you hit, the better you will become."

Gently push the bat out in front of you in a slightly downwards path. You are aiming to hit down and through the back of the ball. As usual, try to make contact with the ball at the peak of its bounce. Both the swing and follow-through should be short – very little power is needed for this shot. The key to success is a light touch and delicate control.

As with the backhand drive, the stroke is produced almost entirely from your elbow. If you find that the ball is going too high, reduce the angle of your bat – it should be almost vertical – and don't fall into the common beginners trap of hitting under the ball instead of down the back of it.

When you have become more adept, you will be able to experiment with introducing some wrist movement into the stroke to put backspin on the ball. However, that comes later: in the early stages just concentrate on keeping the ball as short and low as possible.

FOREHAND PUSH

This is the same short, light pushing action that is used for the backhand but with your hand turned away from your body so that the forehand face of the bat contacts the ball.

Your stance should be slightly side-on, just as for the forehand drive and when you finish the stroke, your shoulders should be facing the part of the table you were aiming for. This is called finishing square-on to the line of play. A useful tip to help you control the flight of the ball is to keep your head and upper body as close as possible to your bat. This means getting as close as possible to the bounce, too.

(Take up Table Tennis by Don Parker is published by Springfield Books.)

Tips from the Top

Bearing in mind that the effectiveness of glue varies with time, make sure you 'glue-up' at the best time for your particular matches. When practising don't keep everybody waiting while you glue, but get to the session ten minutes early otherwise you may struggle to find practise partners.



Remember you can get excellent practise from players below your own standard. For example regular footwork exercises are ideal or irregular footwork exercises with your partner moving the ball about while you play to one target. Players who believe they can only improve against better players will obviously be restricted in who they can practise with, especially as they improve.



If you lose in the early rounds of a tournament, watch your opponent in his future matches and if he loses, watch his opponent etc. This way you will be involved all the way to the final and, of course, you will be learning from other players while at the time analysing their game should you play them in the next tournament.

NEXT: The Smash

This could become a rare picture before very long. With noises along the grapevine of a new all male European League, the days of mixed teams could soon be numbered. Already we have a European League for women in which we have excelled this season reaching the last four. Logically then, a league for men would seem the next step.

Our picture shows: Front Row: Carl Prean and Skylet Andrew; (Middle) Alan Cooke; (Third Row) Fiona Elliot and Lisa Lomas with manager Don Parker.





●Chris Oldfield doubles winner

CHEN DOUBLE

Early start pays off

A feast of table tennis became a Chinese take-away at the Burmah Petrol Wiltshire Five Star tournament.

Chen Xinhua, the former world number four, underlined his challenge for a place in the England team by helping himself to both the men's singles and doubles titles.

It was a triumph for Chen — and for the tournament organisers who refused to allow the worst snow for four years to stop the event.

There was disappointment — top seeds Alan Cooke and Lisa Lomas did not arrive — but those who won their battle with the big freeze became the toast of Swindon town which hosted the event.

And none more so than Chen who was at first torn apart by Desmond Douglas who put together a superb opening game in the final. But then Chen the maestro changed the tempo of the match. His bat became a baton as he orchestrated Douglas's downfall.

He flowed around the show court chopping Douglas down with precision defensive play punctuated with rapier counter attacks to level at game-all.

Douglas, the defending

champion, picked himself up to lead 7-4 in the decider before Chen made him dance to his tune again to lead 18-14. The next three points went to Douglas but, more importantly, the following four gave Chen the championship.

Chen, who started out for Swindon at 5.30am to beat the weather, collected £525 to add to the £2,000 he won three days earlier in a French invitation tournament.

In the semi-finals young hopefuls Chris Oldfield and Michael O'Driscoll were swept aside without bother by, respectively, Chen (31), and Douglas (35).

Chen teamed up with Matthew Syed, who was beaten in a spectacular quarter final by O'Driscoll, to take the men's doubles title against Oldfield and O'Driscoll.

England number two Alison Gordon kept a tight control on the women's singles. In the semi-finals she saved game points in the second against Jill Harris, who had a good tournament, but dealt decisively with Carol Giles in a straight games final.

Alison picked up her second pay slip in the doubles when she teamed with French girl Patricia Aubrey to defeat Canadian international Caroline Sylvestre (correct) and Julie Barton.

Wiltshire's best perform-

ances came from Claire Hunter (Swindon) and Kevin Satchell (Melksham) who won Burmah Shields and £25 for their efforts.

After the event, organiser Bill Willson said: "Nearly half of the 235 entries didn't turn up because of the weather. But when we saw the likes of Douglas and Chen arriving we knew we had a tournament. You could almost hear the sighs of relief going around the hall."

"This is the first of a series of three Wiltshire Five Stars sponsored by Burmah and it would have been very disappointing after all the hard work if it had to be snowed off.

It was a tremendous effort by the committee to brave the weather and keep the tournament going."

But it was a pity that only one of the 20 umpires scheduled to arrive from outside of Wiltshire could make the trip.

The event attracted wide publicity on TV, radio and local and national newspapers. "It had all the ingredients that other Five Stars should try to emulate," said Richard Eaton, one of the journalists who covered the event. "From our point of view it had everything. It was probably the widest publicised Five Star."

But in the event maybe the weather did have the last laugh. Andy Seward was umpiring the finals when his wife rang to say they had a burst pipe.



●Alison Gordon on her way to victory

Results

Men's singles, semi-finals:

Chen Xinhua beat Chris Oldfield 21-13, 21-11; Desmond Douglas beat Michael O'Driscoll 21-12, 21-12.

Final Chen beat Douglas 14-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Women's singles, semi-finals:

Alison Gordon beat Jill Harris 21-14, 25-23; Carol Giles beat Maria Thornley 21-17, 21-11.

Final: Miss Gordon beat Miss Giles 21-13, 21-9.

Men's doubles, semi-finals:

Matthew Syed and Chen Xinhua beat Alex Perry and Edward Hatley 21-11, 21-10; Chris Oldfield and Michael O'Driscoll beat Stephen Dorking and Desmond Douglas 25-23, 14-21, 21-16.

Final: Syed and Chen beat Oldfield and O'Driscoll 21-14, 10-21, 21-11.

Women's doubles, semi-finals: Alison Gordon and Patricia Aubrey beat Maria Thornley and Carol Giles 21-17, 19-21, 21-15; Caroline Sylvestre and Julie Barton walk over.

Final: Miss Gordon and Miss Aubrey beat Miss Sylvestre and Miss Barton 21-17, 16-21, 21-19.

Class 2 men's singles final:

Neil Charles beat Andrew Horsfield 21-11, 21-14.

Class 2 women's singles final: Clare Pengelly beat Maria Thornley 21-7, 21-17.

BIG BUSINESS

S PONSORSHIP these days is big business. Our top sportsmen and women are increasingly involved in a whole range of deals. All aimed, it would seem at giving a better chance of reaching the top.

Each year business pours £millions into sport and without it the world would be a very different place indeed.

Almost every major event in the country — horse racing, tennis, cricket, soccer, golf, snooker and darts are among the biggest recipients — rely on outside help to keep them going.

Not all the companies, of course, actually provide hard cash. Some, mainly to protect amateur status, prefer to give equipment. It provides them with a great deal of media exposure and is a method of indirect advertising that reduces the need for media coverage such as direct television advertising.

Promote

The ideal marketing strategy for any sports company is first of all to identify the product groups in the range which require promotion, ensure that stocks are available and then to promote these products through sports personalities and finally advertise the promotional successes.

Many companies are very closely involved with the governing bodies in sport, with international teams, international stars, major clubs and any other person or organisation who would be able to give a good return on your investment.

And it is fairly easy to decide which sports to support as obviously television plays a major role in any exposure received. Soccer is highly visible both from the spectator point of view and also in terms of media coverage. Other sports which receive little TV coverage, despite often being a large participant sport, are not particularly good promotional vehicles.

Obviously, if a company is putting sponsorship into an individual, team or event, then there needs to be some form of return on the investment.

The business that puts money in 'for the love of game' does not exist!

Any company would expect the following types of return from any promotional input of either a financial or material nature.

- (1) Editorial mention in business publications
- (2) Editorial features in the press.
- (3) Free and paid advertising in publications.
- (4) The use of publicity material such as banners, posters, company logo etc at an



● *Not much doubt who the sponsors are here.*

event.

(5) The company names used in the title of events such as The Leeds National Table Tennis Championships.

(6) Special concessions at an event e.g. tickets, passes.

(7) The name clearly visible on shirts, bags, vests etc.

(8) Personal appearances, particularly where events are covered by TV and/or press.

(9) The spreading of the word of the sponsor by sports people in order to promote sales.

● *'The business that puts money in 'for the love of the game' does not exist'*

Sponsorship is a wholly commercial undertaking in which any company would look for a return on their investment commensurate with the scale of activity and would wish to become involved in events which are well run, well publicised and well attended.

In many respects, an inserted mention in the press is better than an advertisement and good press coverage is very important for the image of the company.

Yet many sportsmen and women together with national sporting authorities still look on enviously wondering how they can get a

slice of this very large cake.

The key to the sponsors door is still very much a mystery to many thousands of well deserving people. Yet, everyone, if it be known, has a good chance if they put forward a convincing case.

Most companies get many letters each week on this very subject. The problem is to find how you can be the lucky one instead of your letter ending up in the waste paper basket.

Rules

Basically there are ten rules to follow along the road to a successful relationship with big business.

1. Always remember that big companies have to plan their activities well in advance. It's no use asking just a few weeks before the event. Try and give as much notice as possible — and a year is not too far ahead.
2. Search out people you know are in business. They may well be looking for someone who is in a position to obtain publicity and the devil you know is often better than the one you do not.
3. Always try and find out who to write to. Do your homework and contact the right person within the organisation. A letter in the wrong hands will not get very far.
4. That letter is very important. All right, you may have to contact several firms before you get what you want, so type the letter each time. It might be a labourous task, but a good impression is worth its weight in gold.
5. Study the firm you are writing to. It's no use trying to interest someone who builds boats if you want them to spend money on your table tennis tournament.
6. Explain what plans you have, especially to publicise the firm. Despite what sponsors might say, they all like to see their name — especially on T.V.
7. Give as much detail as possible about your organisation including financial details. Showing you are well organised and go-ahead will help install confidence.
8. Don't ask for a specific amount. That is taboo. Try to win interest first and talk money afterwards.
9. If you get a positive reaction, don't push your luck too far. Always be prepared to listen to your sponsor and take his views into consideration.
10. Finally, if you get a sponsor, try to keep him. Make sure he is invited to all functions and get a regular supply of press clippings. This way you will have a good chance of getting more money next year.

REELING and DEALING



● Jonathan Taylor

As the British League nears its finish promotion and relegation battles begin to take on a greater significance than ever. Our reporter Mike Loveder keeps you in touch with the latest stories from around the country.

STILL reeling from their result with Ormesby, NFD Grove I had a closer than expected encounter at Ellenborough. Chris Oldfield bagged a duck while Ewan Walker recorded a maximum. Jonathan Taylor dealt Ellenborough a blow by beating Ian McLean in three to help secure the 5 sets they were out for.

West Warwickshire won the first and last games against Bathwick Tyres with Phil Gunn beating Grant Solder 21 & 19 and Andy Rich beating Kevin Satchell at 18 in the third. DML Destroyers were whitewashed by Butterfly Cardiff with the first two games being close. Paul Giles beat Paul Whiting 23-21, 16-21, 21-19 and Tony Taylor beat Mike Short 23-21, 24-22.

In Division 1 South Ritchie Venner helped to secure the first win for Horsham Dolphins. He beat Tony Healan and the still dangerous George Evans for a 5-3 win over Victoria Park Mazda. Against Kleinwort Benson Gillingham he performed similarly to beat Paul Rainford and Andy Cunningham to help set up their second win. Phil Smith also won two.

This 'late start' seems to be becoming traditional for the Dolphins! NFD Grove II flexed their muscles against Colley Toyota and inflicted a rare duck on Dave Barr. Steve Mills beat Helen Lower for their consolation game. VP Mazda scraped a win over Team Peniel as Tony Healan beat Phil Bradbury and Jeff Morgan beat Steve Dettmar — both at 19 in the third.

Clash

An important clash at the foot of Division 1 North saw City of Leeds beat Liverpool 6-2. Star of the day was Mark Stephenson who won in straight games against Neil Gravener and Keith Williams. NFD Grove III cling on to top spot with a 5-3 against Norwich Foxwood despite two from Neil Pickard against Malcolm Green and Alison Gordon.

St. Neots pulled level at the top with a 6-2 win against Ruston Marconi Lincoln. Keith Richardson kept them on course and helped inflict two narrow losses on Stuart Worrell. The progress of Britannia Potters Leisure was dented by Well-Connected Menswear as they drew. John Kitchener played well. City of Leeds just lost out to St Neots as Mick Harper and Keith Richardson were unstoppable.

Bathwick Tyres II pulled clear at the top of Division 2 Midland with a 6-2 win over

White Hart Launceston. Kevin Buddell beat Diccon Gray and Martin Rowe beat Chris Holley. City of Milton Keynes are losing their momentum and they were halted by Colley Toyota II this period. At 2-4 down John Burleton beat Andrew Penduck 21 & 20 but the points were snatched away by Lee Thomas who beat Mark Beaumont at 19 in the third of the last game. Lee also beat Colin Bowler 13 & 13.

Cheltenham Saracens' progress was dented by OLOPS as Edward Hatley took a maximum for a draw. Chan Construction dumped Birmingham Sports Curdworth 6-2 with Lester Bertie beating Mick Browne 12, -12, 24.

In Division 2 South Rejects II took their first point from Fellows Cranleigh. Simon Philipsz beat Paul Sayer and Mark Wicker, but Steve Carpenter lost to John Tandler! AHW (Bletchley) Comets shared the points with TSP Larkhall as Steve Cowley starred in beating Ian Girdler and Dave Harding. Fellows Cranleigh took an early revenge on Rejects winning 5-3 bringing in Alex Abbott to beat Peter Harry 19 & 3 only to later lose to a rusty Mike O'Leary.

TSP Larkhall resecured top spot with a 5-3 win against Gunnersbury Triangle and Ellenborough did the same against Horsham Dolphins II. Jolliffe Poole beat the Comets 5-3. Jonathan Bradbury beat Martin Hughes 8 & 8 but Martin recovered to beat Les Wooding and take the valued points.

No Change

Further north Yugo Cars took no chances with Chan Construction II although Mathew Harvey beat Julian Tee for consolation. Ormesby remain not too far behind them as they beat Vymura International 6-2. Derek Schofield seemed unlucky to lose deuce in the third to Mark Christie and 19 in the third to Stuart Miller. Of course had these narrow margins been reversed the result would have been a draw.

City of Leicester and Burslem shared the points to consolidate their mid-table positions. Martin Pickles and Brian Johns kept the match in the balance with two wins a piece. Extra detail of the third division will be in the next issue. Watch this space!

Results from 3rd February 1991

Butterfly Cardiff	2	6	Bathwick Tyres
Ellenborough	1	7	Team Peniel
NFD Grove	8	0	DML Destroyers
West Warwickshire	1	7	Ormesby
City of Leeds	3	5	Well Conn.Mens.
Britannia Potters Leis	3	5	St. Neots
Ruston Mar Lincoln	5	3	Norwich Foxwood
NFD Grove III	6	2	Liverpool
Chelmsford OC's	7	1	Kleinw.Bens.Gill.
Colley Toyota	4	4	Vict. Park Mazda
Rejects	4	4	NFD Grove II
Humberside Ambro	4	4	Chan Construct.
Vymura Internat'l	6	2	City of Leicester
Yugo Cars	3	5	Ormesby
Colley Toyota II	1	7	Bathwick Tyres
OLOPS TTC	4	4	City of M.Keynes
White Hart Laun'n	2	6	Birm. Sp.Curdworth
AHW (Bletchley) C	6	2	Gunnensbury Triangle
Ellenborough II	7	1	Fellows Cranleigh
Jolliffe Poole	5	3	Rejects II

Bor of Sunderland	6	2	Hoyles Blaydon
SEE SW Durham TTC	8	0	Ormesby
Tigers TTC	5	3	Lifeline Dev's Crus
Vymura Internat'l	6	2	Oldham

BSG Brentwood	2	6	Fellows Cranleigh
Yugo Cars II	7	1	Britannia ACI

Amity Gen Fareham	7	1	Thorns (Dud)TTC
Leckie TTC	7	1	Bathwick Tyres III
Parkside D Newport	3	5	HP & FA Soton.

D Shepherd Rams	3	5	Bribar Ashford
Edison TTC	4	4	Pillinger Air (Croyd)

Linda Farrow	4	4	Rejects III
TSP Larkhall II	7	1	JAGS SC

British League Tables at 30th January 1991

Premier Div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby 1	7	7	0	0	47	9	14
NFD Grove 1	7	6	0	1	48	8	12
Team Peniel 1	7	5	0	2	32	24	10
Bathwick Tyres 1	8	4	1	3	33	31	9
Butterfly Cardiff	8	3	1	4	28	36	7
Ellenborough 1	7	3	0	4	29	27	6
West Warwick's	8	1	0	7	15	49	2
DML Destroyers	8	0	0	8	8	56	0

Division 1 (North)

NFD Grove 111	8	6	2	0	42	22	14
St Neots	8	6	2	0	42	22	14
Britannia Potters							
Leisure 1	8	5	2	1	39	25	12
Well-Conn.Men.	8	4	1	3	36	28	9
Norwich Foxw'd	8	3	0	5	29	35	6
City of Leeds	8	2	0	6	22	42	4
Ruston Marc.Lin.	8	1	1	6	26	38	3
Liverpool	8	1	0	7	20	44	2



● Steve Mills

Division 1 (South)

NFD Grove 11	8	8	0	0	49	15	16
Chelmsford O'C's	8	5	2	1	41	23	12
Vict. Park Mazda	8	5	0	3	36	28	10
Colley Toyota 1	8	4	1	3	35	29	9
Kleinw.Ben.Gill.	8	2	1	5	29	35	5
Horsham Dolph. 1	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Rejects 1	8	2	1	5	18	46	5
Team Peniel 11	8	1	0	7	24	40	2

Division 2 (Midland)

Bathw. Tyres 11	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
City of Mil.Keyn.	8	4	2	2	38	26	10
Chelt. Sarac.SC	8	4	2	2	37	27	10
Colley Toyota 11	8	4	2	2	34	30	10
OLOPS TTC	8	2	3	3	31	33	7
Chan Constr.1	8	2	2	4	26	38	6
White Hart Laun.	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Birm.Sp Curdw'th.	8	0	3	5	23	41	3

Division 2 (North)

Yugo Cars 1	8	6	2	0	48	16	14
Ormesby 11	8	4	4	0	41	23	12
Vymura Int.1	8	4	3	1	37	27	11
Humberside And.	8	3	2	3	32	32	8
Burslem	8	3	2	3	31	33	8
City of Leicester	8	2	4	2	31	33	8
Chan Cons.11	8	1	0	7	17	47	2
Cambridge TTC	8	0	1	7	19	45	1

Division 2 (South)

TSP Larkhall 1	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Ellenborough 11	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
Gunns. Triangle	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Horsh. Dolph. 11	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
Jolliffe Poole	8	3	1	4	28	36	7
Fell.Cranleigh 1	8	1	4	3	28	36	6
AHW (Blet)Com	8	2	2	4	27	37	6
Rejects 11	7	0	1	6	16	40	1

Division 3 (East)

BSG Brentwood	7	6	1	0	42	14	13
Yugo Cars 11	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Fell.Cranleigh11	7	3	2	2	28	28	8
Levi's Westfield	7	2	3	2	28	28	7
Team Peniel 111	6	2	2	2	25	23	6
Britannia ACI 11	7	1	1	5	19	37	3
Uxbridge (Burton)	7	0	2	5	18	38	2

Division 3 (North)

Bor.of Sund. TTC	8	7	1	0	51	13	15
SEE SW.Durham	8	6	1	1	39	25	13
Vym.Intemat.11	8	5	1	2	45	19	11
Hoyles Blayd.YC	8	4	2	2	39	25	10
Oldham	8	3	1	4	31	33	7
Lifeline Dev.Crus.	8	3	0	5	22	42	6
Ormesby 111	8	0	1	7	15	49	1
Tigers TTC	8	0	1	7	14	50	1

Division 3 (South)

Pillinger Air (Croy)	8	5	2	1	43	21	12
Edison TTC	8	5	2	1	38	26	12
Rejects 111	8	4	1	3	35	29	9
TSP Larkhall 11	8	3	2	3	32	32	8
J.A.G.S. S.C.	8	4	0	4	31	33	8
Linda Farrow	7	1	3	3	23	33	5
Bribar Ashford	7	2	0	5	23	33	4
D.Shepherd Rams	8	2	0	6	23	41	4

Division 3 (West)

Amity Gen.2. Fareh.	7	7	0	0	41	15	14
Bathw.Tyres 111	7	4	1	2	33	23	9
Leckie TTC	7	3	2	2	34	22	8
Thorns(Dud)TTC	6	3	1	2	22	26	7
NFD Grove IV	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
Hall,Pain&Fost Alpha	7	1	1	5	21	35	3
Parkside Drags.N'pt	7	1	0	6	19	37	2

For all the latest news, views and tables from the British League read the Mike Loveder column regularly

IT'S LANCASHIRE'S TITLE!

The final series of matches in the Senior Premier took place at Bingley. Lancashire, Middlesex and Yorkshire were favourites for the championship. Lancs were a little ahead, starting with three wins under their belt, whereas Middlesex and Yorkshire had a drawn match each dropping a point.

Lancs started with a vital match against Middlesex, who were without the services of John Souter. Lancs went two-nil down and there must have been vision of things slipping away. However they came back well to win 6-4. Sean Gibson and Andrea Holt were in the Lancs team this time and won their four events.

There followed 8-2 wins over both Leics and Derbyshire and Lancs final match was against Yorkshire. The Yorkshire team without their three top men on the Saturday but did have Michael O'Driscoll for the two matches on Sunday. However he was beaten 18 and 20 by Sean Gibson and Lancs got a 7-3 win. Lancs won all seven matches and became worthy champions.

The Sussex team did well throughout the series — over the weekend they had wins over Surrey and Leics and finished in fourth place. In the Surrey match Adrian Moore (Sx) started with a -23, 20, 19 win over Glen Baker. In the Leics match, with the match score at 4-4, it was Teresa Moore's -22, 12, 17 win over Karen Smith which set up the Sussex win and which really sealed Leicester's fate.

Safe

Surrey pulled themselves away from the foot of the table with wins over Derby and Berkshire. David Hannah was in good form winning all his eight matches. Berkshire beat Derbyshire, who were without the services of Alan Cooke and Bradley and Julie Billington, and drew with Leics to keep them safe from relegation. Jimmy Stokes won his four singles in these matches.

Derbyshire finish at the deep end with just one point and are for relegation. They are joined by Leics, who had to meet both Lancs and Middlesex in this final series. Leics got just one point from the draw with Berkshire to add to the two draws in the first series. Leics have always fought well to remain at Premier Division level but failed narrowly this time.

Looking at individual performances — the only player to go through the full programme with 100% success was Joanne Shaw (Y), with an excellent performance. This included at 16 and 20 defeat of Andrea Holt. Of the men Jonathan Taylor (LA) played in



Sean Gibson

Lancashire claimed their first county championship win ever after three seasons as runners-up. And the Red Rose did it in style finishing unbeaten and with a win over their arch rivals. Middlesex Doug Moss reports.

five matches and was undefeated. Some interesting individual results —

David Barr (Bk) beat Michael O'Driscoll (Y) -16, 21, 16.

Chris Rogers (Le) beat Sean Gibson (La) 18, -16, 20.

Results

Bk	5	Le	5	La	8	Dy	2
La	6	Mi	4	Bk	4	Y	6
Sy	7	Dy	3	Sy	4	Sx	6
Y	6	Sx	4	Mi	7	Le	3
Sx	3	Mi	7	Dy	3	Mi	7
Le	2	La	8	Y	3	La	7
Dy	3	Bk	7	Le	4	Sx	6
Y	6	Sy	4	Sy	7	Bk	3

Final League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancs	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Middx	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
York	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Sussex	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Surrey	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Berks	7	1	2	4	25	45	4
Leics	7	0	3	4	26	44	3
Derbys	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

Senr 1A:

Suffolk 8, Beds 2; Cambs 4, Warwicks 6; Ches. 2, N'berland 8; Yorks II 7; Lancs 2 Warwicks 6; Yorks II 7, Lancs II 3.

Bedfordshire's hope of winning the championship faded when they visited Ipswich, being beaten 8-2. The Suffolk men Stuart Palmer, John Kitchener and Richard Tanner dominated the scene winning their six singles. There were intriguing scores in the Stuart Palmer/Peter Bowler match with Palmer winning 12, -8, 4! Beds suffered the

handicap of having only one lady but that lady was Lisa Robins who won her two matches very easily. Although N'berland beat Ches 8-2 there were some close matches, which mainly went N'berland's way. Jill Schofield lost to Caron Guthrie at -21 in the 3rd game and Rob Bevan lost to Mark Christie at -19 in 3rd. Brian Johns had a good 7 and 19 win over Ian Robertson.

Senr 2A:

Lincs 4, Leics 6; Durham 2, Staffs 8; Warwicks II 7, Cumbria 3

The Lincs ladies — Jane Strawson and Connie Moran — won their four events but the Leics men — Mark Illingworth, Ian Brown and Keith Fellows — were dominant and won their six matches to give Leics the win. Julie McLean had two convincing wins for Cumbria and Jonathan Lowes started the team off with a win. But Lyndon Douglas, promoted to No. 1, and Simon Upson won their four events for the Warwicks win. Another big win for Staffs. Ian Collier (Du) had a good 16 in 3rd win over Craig Bakewell and Jackie Marriott (Du) won two straight against Josie Bongers.

Senr 2C:

Worcs 6, Norfolk 4; Cambs II 8; Suffolk II 2; Herts 7, Beds II 3;

Worcs were without Trevor Washington and Sandra Roden (injured). Norfolk had both Neil Pickard and Philip Logsdon together for the first time so a tough battle was on the cards. However Worcs got another win — this time by a 6-4 margin, with two 19 in 3rd wins. Helen Pogmore (Wo) made her debut for the 1st team and won her matches 13 and 12 and 6 and 8! Malcolm Green beat both Neil Pickard and Philip Logsdon. Keith Samuels, John Taylor and Emma Hurling were unbeaten against Beds II and made a great contribution to the Herts 7-3 win.

Senr 2D:

Bucks 8, Surrey II 2; Essex II 9, Berks II 1.

Bucks were well on top against Surrey II and went into a 7-0 lead. At this stage Edward Hatley (Sy) had a good 13 in third win over John Burleton. Hatley had a good match against Philip Bradbury before losing at 15 in third. Essex II well in command against Berks II with a 9-1 win and continue to dominate this Div. The one Berks win was hard earned — Clive Payne beat Mark Wicker -14, 22 and 25!

Senr 3A:

Essex III 8, Herts III 2; Northants II 3, Ches II 7.

Just one event went to a decider in Essex/Herts match when Richard James (E)

beat Graham Witchalls -6, 9 and 16. For Herts Ian Black won the first event against David Cole and Lindsey Booth had a good 14 and 19 win over Sarah Gardner. Ches II continue their winning ways with a 7-3 win over Northants 2. The Northants girls — Sally Russell and Caroline Perkins — got the three wins. Sally beat Anne Greenhough 22 and 21.

Senr 3B:

Dorset II 4, Bucks II 6;
Herts II 8, Hants II 2.

Bucks II were 3-4 down against Dorset II. They fought back well to take the last three events, won by Jon Bradbury, Dawn Robins and Colin Luscombe, to gain a win. Herts II went into a 7-0 lead against Hants II. Jeff Giles stopped the rot with a 13 and 18 win over Rob Liquorish and Mark Thorne (Ha) beat Glen Wilkes 19 and 19 in the last event.

Junr 1A:

Suffolk 5, Yorks II 5; Clwyd 1, Warwicks 9;
N'berland 7, Derbys 3; Lancs II 0, Lincs 10
(Conceded).

Suffolk did well to get a draw with Yorks 2; The Suffolk girls, Emma Corbett and Katie Green, contributed well with four wins. Emma beat Keeley Walton 19, -17, 24! Barry Forster and Andrew Wilkinson won their four events in the win over Derbys. Warwicks continue on top of this Div with a 9-1 win over Clwyd. Menir Davies got the one Clwyd win and she lost her other match at -21 in third game.

Junr 1B:

Herts 8, Glam 2; Worcs 1, Oxon 9;
Berks 10, Glos 0.

Herts had a convincing 8-2 win over Glam. Stephen Gill (Gn) suffered his first defeat of the season, and heavy one at that, when Duncan Taylor won 14 and 14! In the first event of the Berks/Glos match Marc priddle (Bk) beat Jeremy Hyatt at 19 in the third game but after that only one other event went to a decider and Berks won 10-0. Glos team was without the services of Robert Powell. Oxon were well on top against Worcs with just two events going to a decider. Carrie Hunt (Wo) had a very good 19 and 18 win over much higher ranked Sally Hughes.

Junr 2A:

Staffs 6, Staffs II 4; Ches 10, Leics;
Derbys II 9, Lancs III 1.

Staffs II did very well against their 1st team. They took the first two events and fought well to win two other matches at 21 and 19 in the third game. M. Brown and Alison Taylor held firm in winning their four events in the 1st team's 6-4 win. In the Derby II Lancs III match all events were won in two straight games. Andrew Halford got the one win for Lancs in the final event. Ches won 10-0 against Leics but there were some close matches. Mark Newns (Ch) beat Martin Brunning -20, 19 and 19.

Junr 2B:

Bucks 4, Northants 6; Wilts 2, Herts II 8;

Essex II 7, Middx II 3; Warws II 6, Berks II 4

Essex III continue well on top in this Div with a 7-3 win over Middx II. This was a great match with five events being decided at 19 in the 3rd game, three going to Middx. James Sprackling (Mi) was in great form winning both his matches at 19 in third against Ben Ware and Peter Worthington, both with much higher rankings. Karl Grant (E) making his debut had quite a baptism. He beat Simeon Zeffert -15, 15, 19 and, in the last event, lost to Robert Wear 18, -11, -19! Alex Collar won his two singles for Wilts in the 8-2 defeat by Herts II. Isabel Walker and Caroline Goatly won the four events for Berks II against Warwicks II. Caroline beat Jenny Allen -22, 21 and 19 and against Kim Brison won 18, -15, 20!

Junr 2C:

Ha II 7	Av 3	Dv II 8	Som 2
Do 6	Dv III 4	Ha 7	Av 3
Dv III 0	Gw 10	Ha II 4	Dv II 6
Dv II 10	Dv III 0	Gw 6	Ha 4
So 4	Ha II 6	Dv III 1	So 9
Do 3	Gw 7		
Gw 8	Ha II 2		
Ha 8	Do 2		
Av 5	So 5		
Do 5	Av 5		
Hal 5	Dv II 5		

Sixteen matches played at Bridgwater to complete the fixtures. A very interesting situation with Hants and Devon II unbeaten from the first series. But it was the Gwent team that 'ruled the roost' this weekend with four wins and, importantly, including the 6-4 defeat of Hants 1. This paved the way for Devon II who had previously beaten Gwent. The last match was Hants v Devon II and if Hants could force a win three teams would finish on 12 points. However Devon II got a draw with their No. 1 Jon May winning both his matches. Devon II are the Divisional champions. Congratulations also to the teams in this Div. in getting together on two dates to play all the fixtures.

Junr 2D:

Surrey II 6, Kent 11 4; Sussex 5, Surrey III 5.

There were some close games in the Surrey/Kent clash. Glenda Ashion was the most successful Surrey player winning her two events. Sussex led 5-4 against Surrey III and it was left to A. Gray (Sx) to play D. Dyer in the final event. Gray won the first at 18, Dyer snatched the second at 20 and went on to win the decider at 12 to earn a point for Surrey III.

Vets 1A:

Lancs 2, Leics 7; Worcs 3, Essex II 6;
Herts 4, Yorks II 5; N'berland 5, Norfolk 4.

Lancs suffered their first defeat and Leics, who lost their first match of the season, go from strength to strength with a 7-2 win. Maurice Newman again got two wins and spoilt Phil Blake's unbeaten record. In his other event Phil beat Tony Kinsey -8, 20 and

20! Essex II won the 2 doubles against Worcs and, with No. 3 Derek Wood winning his two singles, helped Essex to a 6-3 win. There was a well contested ladies singles with Marjorie Dawon (E) just beating Janet Hunt -15, 19 and 19. Essex, Lancs and Leics lead the Div with eight points with Essex narrowly ahead on sets won.

Vets 1B:

Middx 5, Oxon 4; Dorset 4, Surrey II 5;
Bucks 6, Hants 3; Kent II 5, Berks 4.

In Middx 5-4 win over Oxon Bill Brookman beat Alf Davies -20, 7, 22. Earlier Alf, partnered by Nat Richardson, won the mens doubles at 20 in the 3rd; At 4-4 Gordon Chapman got the Surrey win when he beat Howard Davies (Do) 17 and 13. John White remedied a 19 in 3rd loss to Peter Bradley to beat Dave Streak 18 and 20 in the final event to get the win for Kent.

Vets 2A:

Yorks III 8, Lincs II 1; Warwicks 5, Lancs II 4.

Yorks III won their first match in no uncertain manner with the 8-1 defeat of Lincs II. Kath Fisher got the one event for Lincs with a 19 in 3rd win over Louvaine Smith. Lancs II lost their unbeaten record to Warwicks. The Midlanders won the two doubles events and Bryan Belcher sealed the win with the 19, -20, 15 defeat of Jon de Pledge.

Vets 2B:

Northants 1, Essex III 8; Hunts 2, Beds 7;
Norfolk II 6, Notts 3

Northants suffered their first defeat, and to some tune, with Essex III losing only one event, although three wins were quite close in the 3rd games. Essex take over at top of the table. Norfolk II did well to get their first win at the expense of Notts. Les Rayment (Nk) had narrow wins over both Alf Saunders and John Ellis.

Vets 2C:

Glos 5, Middx II 4; Hereford 2, Bucks II 7.

Glos inflicted the first defeat on Middx II. It was quite a match with seven events going to a decider. The closest contest was Frank Jones (Gs) v Tony Taylor (Mi) — Frank winning -24, 18, 21! With the match score, inevitably at 4-4, John Fannin beat Tony Taylor to get the Glos win. Seven events also went to a decider in the Herefords/Bucks II clash. Neville Meredith and Margaret Newcombe got a win each for Hereford.

Vets 2D:

Dorset II 6, Somerset 3; Somerset 3, Sussex II 6;
Herts II 3, Berks II 6;

Somerset suffered their first defeat at the hands of Dorset II, who were without a point. For Dorset Cyril Bush won his two singles and the mixed doubles with Jean Smith. Somerset played Sussex II later the same day and the Sussex 6-3 win puts them in the lead in this Div. Brian Reeves (So) won his six events in these two matches.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

Vets 3A:

Northants II 3, Ches III 6; Beds II 2, Herts V 7; Hunts II 6, Norfolk III 3;

Hunts II continue unbeaten with a win over Norfolk III. The respective No. 1's had quite a match with Terry Darby (Nk) beating Sid Burgess 21, -17, 23. Roger Moss (Ch) won his two singles in the win over Northants II. Eileen Edwards (Ch) beat Joyce Porter 19 and 17 and won the mixed with Terry Donlon.

Vets 3B:

Kent III 8, Berks V 1; Sussex III 7, Northants III 2;

Kent III continue to dominate this Div with an emphatic win over Berks V. Sussex III had a good 7-2 win over Northants III but have already lost to the Kent team. Gerry Batt-Rawden and Keith Jackson (Sx) won their singles and doubles against Northants.

Vets 3C:

Herts IV 5, Glos II 4; Wilts V 5, Somerset II 4

Herts IV got their first win at the expense of Glos II. Len Flowers and June Nelson (He) each won their singles matches and combined to win the mixed doubles. It was John Nash and Gwen Hazell who were responsible for the two wins in Wilts V defeat of Somerset II.

as at 29th January 1991

SENIORS

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancs	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Middx	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
York	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Sussex	7	3	1	1	34	36	7
Surrey	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Berks	7	1	2	4	25	45	4
Leics	7	0	3	4	26	44	3
Derbys	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

Division 1A

Yorks 2nd	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Bedford	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Suffolk	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Warwick	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
Northumber	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Cambs	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Lancs 2nd	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	12	32	0

Division 1B

Sussex 2nd	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Devon	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Avon	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Glos	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Wilts	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Middx 2nd	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

Division 2A

Staffs	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Warwick 2nd	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Leics 2nd	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Lincoln	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Durham	4	0	3	1	17	23	3
Cumbria	5	1	1	3	17	33	3

Division 2B

Avon 2nd	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Hants	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Cornwall	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Somerset	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Devon 2nd	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Glamorgan	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Dorset	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

Division 2C

Worcester	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Herts	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Beds 2nd	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Cambs 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Norfolk	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	11	29	

Division 2D

Bucks	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Essex 2nd	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Surrey 2nd	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Northants	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Berks 2nd	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Oxford	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Division 3A

Cheshire 2	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Essex 3rd	4	2	2	0	26	14	6
Worcs 2nd	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Herts 3rd	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Northants 2	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Clwyd	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Hunts	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

Division 3B

Sussex 3rd	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Herts 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Hants 2nd	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Glos 2nd	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Bucks 2nd	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Dorset 2nd	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

JUNIORS

Premier Division

Yorks	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Devon	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Essex	3	2	0	1	12	18	4
Surrey	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Middx	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Lancs	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Kent	3	0	0	3	12	18	0
Durham	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Division 1A

Warwick	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Northumber	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
York 2nd	5	3	1	1	37	13	7
Derby	5	1	3	1	26	24	5
Suffolk	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Clwyd	5	2	0	3	19	31	4
Lincoln	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Lancs 2nd	5	0	1	4	9	41	1

Division 1B

Berks	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Oxford	6	5	0	1	45	15	10
Herts	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Glamorgan	6	3	0	3	30	30	6
Essex	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Glos	6	1	1	4	19	41	3
Wores	5	0	1	4	15	35	1
Cornwall	5	0	1	4	15	35	1

Division 2A

Staffs 1st	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Cheshire 1	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Cheshire 2	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Notts	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Derby 2nd	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Leics	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Lancs 3rd	5	1	0	4	12	38	2
Staffs 2nd	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

Division 2B

Essex 3rd	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Northants	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Bucks	5	3	0	2	33	17	6
Middx 2nd	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Herts 2nd	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Warwicks 2nd	4	1	1	2	12	28	3
Berks 2nd	5	0	0	5	14	36	0
Wilts	4	0	0	4	2	38	0

Division 2C

Devon 2nd	7	6	1	0	52	18	13
Gwent	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Hants	7	5	1	1	52	18	11
Hants 2nd	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Dorset	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Avon	7	1	2	4	29	41	4
Somerset	7	1	1	5	24	46	3
Devon 3rd	7	0	0	7	5	65	0

Division 2D

Norfolk	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Kent 2nd	6	4	0	2	39	21	8
Sussex	6	3	1	2	38	22	7
Surrey 2nd	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Sussex 2nd	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Surrey 3rd	4	0	3	1	18	22	3
Suffolk 2nd	5	0	2	3	16	34	2
Norfolk 2nd	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

VETERANS

Premier Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yorks	3	3	0	20	7	6
Essex	3	2	1	17	10	4
Cheshire	3	2	1	14	13	4
Sussex	3	2	1	13	14	4
Lincoln	3	1	2	13	14	2
Surrey	3	1	2	13	14	2
Wilts	3	1	2	9	18	2
Kent	3	0	3	9	18	0

Division 1A

Essex 2nd	5	4	1	29	16	8
Lancs	5	4	1	28	17	8
Leics	5	4	1	28	17	8
Yorks 2nd	5	2	3	22	23	4
Northumber	5	2	3	19	26	4
Norfolk	5	2	3	18	27	4
Herts	5	1	4	22	23	2
Worcester	5	1	4	14	31	2

Division 1B

Kent 2nd	5	5	0	27	18	10
Surrey 2nd	5	5	0	26	19	10
Middx	4	3	1	24	12	6
Dorset	5	3	2	25	20	6
Oxford	5	1	4	25	20	2
Berks	4	1	3	16	20	2
Bucks	5	1	4	17	28	2
Hants	5	0	5	11	34	0

Division 2A

Lancs 2nd	4	3	1	26	10	6
Warwick	4	3	1	22	14	6
Cheshire 2nd	3	3	0	15	12	6
Yorks 3rd	4	1	3	19	17	2
Clwyd	4	1	3	11	25	2
Lincoln 2nd	3	0	3			

ETTA County Supplement

AVON Bob Murray

County Scene

Despite an excellent performance from Barry Fudge (7 wins out of a possible 8) and good support from Colin Butterworth, (4 wins) Avon County's Junior team were unable to gain maximum points from any of their four matches in the final round of County Championships Division 2C matches held at Bridgewater.

Two superb wins by Colin and one from Barry in a narrow 7-3 defeat by a very strong Hampshire side on Saturday was followed by a 5-5 draw with Somerset, a game in which 12 year old Rachel Rosewell on her County debut gained a decisive win. Barry (2), Colin (1) and Kelly Harris (1) provided the other winning sets.

On Sunday a creditable 5-5 draw with Dorset was achieved with Barry and Lee Attwood winning two sets each and Colin taking the fifth. The weekend's fixtures concluded with a disappointing 7-3 defeat at the hands of the Hampshire II side, only Barry (2) and Kelly winning sets.

These result left Avon Juniors in sixth place in the division, a final position which disappointed team captain Peter Butterworth. The indications are however that this side will be challenging strongly for honours this time next year. The top ranked players will still be available next season and are currently under pressure from a number of improving cadet players.

Bath League

I have been admonished by my Bath and District League friends for suggesting in the February issue of ETTA News that the Premier Division title was a two horse race. It was obviously wishful thinking on my part, being a Mayfield player. In fact this is the most open league title chase in recent years.

	Player	Points
Mayfield A	10	77
Longwell Green A	11	75
Oldfield A	10	73
Oldfield B	11	70

At the time of writing the Bath Executive are currently preparing for their excellent Closed Championships which takes place during February. Illustrious previous winners of the men's singles title include Chris Sewell, Tony Clayton and Kevin Satchell. Current singles champions Gary Baldwin and Brenda Lee will be striving hard to repeat last year's triumphs although Chris Holley and Debbie Booy amongst many will undoubtedly have other ideas. Full report in next month's issue.

Weston Super Mare League

Congratulations are in order for Bill Lavis, one of the stalwarts of the Weston League, who has recently been presented with the Woodspring Sports Administrator of the Year award for 1990. This is fitting recognition for Bill who works extremely hard not only in his executive functions but also in coaching the Weston youngsters. He is particularly pleased that Lee Attwood, Scott Newton and Claire Gifford have represented the County side this year and that the Weston youth policy is now paying handsome dividends. The top of the 1st Division is as follows:

	Played	Points
Weston YMCA A	8	16
Cleeve & Claverham Tigers	9	15
Worle B	8	11
Tropicana Tigers	8	10

Bristol League

Sun Life sponsored Bristol Ladies have certainly got an extremely strong squad together for their Rose Bowl assault. In the Zone Final against Swindon, they fielded Michelle Cohen, Helen Perrott and Melonie Carey and came away with a resounding 6-0 win. They are looking forward to a home tie in the National quarter finals when they will presumably have India's No. 2, Varsha Majmudar available.

The Bristol Junior side can be well pleased with their efforts in the Carter Cup. They travelled to Kingsteinton for their tie with South Devon and

Torbay and recorded a 5-1 win. Arrangements had been made for the Plymouth side to travel up to Kingsteinton to tackle the winners on the same day. Although going into an early 2-1 lead, with excellent wins by Barry Fudge against Adrian Vincent and by Colin Butterworth over Jonathan May, Bristol could not sustain the effort and Plymouth ran out 5-2 winners.

Bristol's Cadet squads have been busy this past month. In the Leach Cup they have gained excellent victories over Swindon by 6-0 and Reading by 5-4 to win their zone. Martin Smith, Jon Thorn and Graham Long who make up this team must have high hopes of progressing beyond the National quarter final stage they have now reached. Bristol have also entered two sides in the South West Regional Cadet League. They will be pleased to see the A team, unbeaten after four matches, heading the table and the B team in second place having lost only once - against the A's.

The Bristol League, now well into the second half of the season, is beginning to have a familiar look at the top of the Premier Division. Leading positions are:

	Played	Points
Nailsea Leopards	12	24
Knowle & Brislington A	14	24
Bristol Club B	13	23
BAWA Brigands	15	21

I know it will be March before these appear in print but I must offer through this column my congratulations to our extremely hard working County Treasurer Pete Sandford who became a grandfather of triplets on 25th December. Christmas will never be the same again.

As many of you will know, Pete is tournament Organiser for the highly successful Sun Life Bristol 2 Star Senior Open to be held once again at Thornbury Leisure Centre on Saturday 27th April. Entry forms are available from Pete at 63 Malmaims Drive, Frenchay, Bristol BS15 1PX. An

additional event on the programme this year is an Under 21 mixed singles which, together with the Class 2 mixed singles, will surely make this an extremely popular tournament. Entries must be in by 28th March.

BERKSHIRE Bob Adams

THE BERKSHIRE SENIOR First Team had to work hard to survive in the Premier Division of the County Championship, but nevertheless managed it. Without No.1 Matt Syed, Jimmy Stokes and Dave Barr had to move up a place, with Martin Adams coming in at No.3. A true team effort with Jimmy scoring 8, Dave 6, and Martin 5 wins overall and strong contributions from Julie Norman, Lisa Crick and Nicola Cracknell was enough to see off the challenge of near rivals Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

According to correspondent Tony King in the excellent publication "TT Reading", the race for the coveted First Division title is all but over even with eight matches to play. This is not because the lead of current holders Polish A is particularly large (4 points), more the manner in which they got there. This includes an outstanding match in which Sonning Common and Peppard, TT residence of Terry Hayley and Adrian Dixon, tried to put one over on Polish. However, Dave Reeves and Clive Payne both won their key matches against Adrian and Terry, and with able support from Graham Kemp, came away with a Polish 6-4 win.

There seems to be considerable rivalry for second place between Kingfisher A and B (two of the four Kingfisher teams in the top division), but since they are in the habit of taking points off each other, the chance of either of them catching, let alone beating Polish look slim.

Counties 2

Again from the pages of "TT Reading" I note another outstanding match, the Handicap tussle between the Royal Berks Hospital J and H teams, with the appearance on opposite sides, of John Gatward - on his birthday - and wife Barbara. Having resolved their own domestic troubles on the table things got really nasty, when John's tactic of supplying the opposition with mince pies to slow them down was countered by Linda Davis (in Barbara's team) playing in tinsel and black stockings, winning the first leg (left or right we are not told) by over exposure occasioned by generously offering to pick up the ball at every opportunity. At 19-16 to John in the third Barbara, obviously concerned at the possible outcome, decided to assist her team mate by tying John's shoe laces together. Examination of the rule book to determine if interfering with an opponent's dress (i.e. shoelaces) is allowed even if belonging to one's husband, failed to find anything to the contrary so the umpire declared it all perfectly legal. John Freeman, Reading President, International Umpire and expert on rules in general and dress in particular, may be approached for a definitive ruling.

Berkshire Juniors continue to have success outside the county - with teams from Maiden Erlegh (Reading), The Holt (Wokingham) and Windsor Boys in the ESTTA Regional Finals. Ali Subhan has won the U-11 at the Cleveland Select and U-12 at the South of England 2 Star, where Gemma Schwartz won the U-14 girls. Gemma also reached the semi finals of a number of major events, and with Sally Marling is now East Yorks Junior and England Closed Cadet Doubles Champion. After winning the Kent Junior 2 Star Martin Adams reached the final of the Cotswold Select by beating England No.2 Junior Garry Knights. These examples will illustrate the gratifying way in which incoming talent takes over as others move up to the seniors - not a fluke - a concerted effort by clubs and parents, not least one "ex-parent" Jim Stokes, to

whom Berkshire and yours truly owe an especial vote of thanks.

CORNWALL Denzil Penberthy

WITH THE SEASON in Cornwall now in full swing there has been considerable activity both internally and externally of late. Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the Cornish season has been the sudden loss of membership in the North Cornwall League and the premature retirement of the County's leading player Neil Bevan. North Cornwall is at present down to just one division with many of the League's leading players not playing although a slight recovery has been taking place of late. Hopefully the recovery will continue so that North Cornwall can at least regain some of its credibility as one of the Premier League's in the West Country. For the time being at least Bevan remains off the table tennis scene and only time will tell whether he returns to the County, British League and tournament scene that made him one of the nations leading junior player.

Cornwall's other two leagues are currently thriving, however. The Mid Cornwall League is currently flourishing in membership with a particular boon in the Mevagissey area. West Cornwall, too has increased in membership considerably and remains by far the strongest league in Cornwall. With several leading players coming back into the fold this season the West Cornwall League Premier Division has taken on a whole new dimension. Lanner, who operate from the suburbs of Redruth look to be favourites at present with Cambourne and Falmouth Docks leading the chasing pack.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Lanner					
(Redruth) A	9	9	0	0	82
Camborne A	7	7	0	0	60
St. Ives A	9	5	1	3	52
Falmouth					
Docks A	6	6	0	0	47
Redruth					
Highway A	8	4	1	3	45
Truro					
Palace A	9	4	0	5	45
Cambourne B7	2	0	5	3	30
Falmouth					
Docks B	8	2	2	4	28
Truro A	5	1	1	3	22
Helston					
Godolphin A	8	1	1	6	20
Camborne C8	1	0	7	1	19
Redruth					
Highway B	8	1	0	7	18

Leading Averages:

J. Williams (Fal Docks A) 100%,
G. Reed (Lanner A) 96%,
J. Bassett (St. Ives A) 93%,
M. James (Camborne A) 90%,
M. Peters (Lanner A) 89%,
N. Reed (Cambourne A) 85%,
M. Rushton (Lanner A) 85%,
S. Lobb (Redruth A) 79%,
J. Pocock (Camborne A) 75%,
G. Lobb (Redruth A) 73%,
D. Williams (Fal Docks A) 72%,
M. Trebilcock (Fal Docks A) 67%,
P. Tripp (Helston A) 67%,
R. Jacobs (Truro A) 64%

The West Cornwall league recently held its Annual Divisional Championships on eight tables at Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Redruth, which attracted a very healthy entry of more than eighty competitors. The later stages of the Premier Division events transpired as follows:

Premier Singles

Quarter Final

M. James (Camborne) bt
P. Tripp (Helston) 13,8
B. Reed (Lanner)
bt S. Lobb (Redruth) 15,16
M. Peters (Lanner) bt
M. Rushton (Lanner) 17,-19,13
J. Williams (Falmouth) bt
R. Jacobs (Truro) 16,9

Semi Final

James bt Reed -16,19,18
Williams bt Peters 18,21

Final

Williams bt James 14,-15,17

Premier Doubles

Final

M. Peters/M. Rushton bt
G. Reed/D. Williams -18,17,15

Due to financial restrictions which will hopefully be soon alleviated, Cornwall were only able to enter one senior and one Junior team in the County Championships for this season. The seniors have made a fairly indifferent start to the season in Division 2B following relegation from Division 1B. A 7-3 defeat of Dorset followed by a 7-3 defeat by Somerset still leaves considerable work to be done to regain Division 1 status. The Juniors commenced the season in Division 1A with only Jonathan Pocock and Rachel Boon having experience at that level. A promising opening draw at home to Worcestershire was followed by subsequent defeats at the hands of Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire which has all but doomed them to relegation.

Cornwall 1 Devon 7

There can be no doubt about the best county match in Cornwall this season so far, that being the long awaited clash between Cornwall and Devon which was held in the village of Mevagissey on the south coast to promote the game in the area. Cornwall selected a team comprising Jeremy Williams, John Bassett, Martin Rowe and Mark James to take on Paul Whiting, Mike Short, Gary Lambert and Kevin Buddell. The fixture pulled in a crowd of over 100 which was an achievement in itself. Predictably, Devon won the match although Mark James prevented a total whitewash by beating Kevin Buddell in the very last set. Long rallies and a superb atmosphere meant that the real winner on the day was the game of table tennis.

Jonathan Pocock and Rachel Boon both from the progressive Camborne Club did well to reach the National Trials in December. Pocock won four out of eight games whilst Rachel Boon won three out of six. Neither player qualified from their groups but they battled well against strong opposition.

Counties 3

Finally on to the British League scene where it is pleasing to report a more successful season for White Hart Launceston, competing in Division 2 Midland. Secretary Peter Hancock has done well to maintain the very high standards of presentation for so many seasons now. His decision to incorporate some Devon players into the squad have paid dividends and a more successful season has resulted. Wins over Cheltenham, Milton Keynes, plus a draw at Birmingham have ensured a current mid table position.

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

WEDDING BELLS RANG on Saturday January 5th for Cumbria county women's player Lynne Hadfield, of Whitehaven. She married Sellafield nuclear power station colleague Stephen Blackburn at Arlecdon Parish Church, near the town.

Lynne played in Northallerton, Yorkshire, before arriving in Cumbria, where she is one of the Whitehaven League's county committee representatives. In Whitehaven, she had played most of her table tennis at the YMCA. This season she has been playing for Windscale, where she has been helping with coaching youngsters.

A co-coach at the club is the experienced ex-county man Bernard Hand, who must be congratulated on receiving the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. Bernard, aged 61, runs a youth club at Drigg, near his home, a junior golf club, and is a long-serving staff-union representative for the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists at Sellafield, where he is a shift

supervisor. He works for British Nuclear Fuels, with which he started at Capenhurst works in Cheshire.

The current county team finished the season with a win and a draw from five matches in the County Championship Division 2a. The final match was a 7-3 reverse against Warwickshire 2nd at the Kingshurst Club, Birmingham.

But it was an encounter they could have won with a bit of luck. Carlisle school teacher Julie McLean showed a real captain's example in winning eight of her 10 sets throughout the season. It was a season when Cumbria introduced Jonathan Lowes to the side in his first year as a senior. He hung on to number one spot, which he looks like keeping for some time to come.

He was the only men's winner in the Warwickshire game and played extremely well to take opposing number one Lyndon Douglas to three games.

Journalist Joanne Burgess has established herself as number two lady and in Birmingham she was involved in two close matches that could have gone either way.

Warwickshire 7, Cumbria 3 (Warwickshire names first): Lyndon Douglas beat Neil Yardley 21-17, 21-15; beat Jonathan Lowes 21-17, 17-21, 21-12.

Chris Leach 1
lost to Lowes 12-21, 20-22; beat Nicky Hill 21-7, 21-14;

Simon Upton beat Hill 21-11, 21-13; beat Yardley 21=16, 21-15.

Joan Humphrey-Middlemore beat Joanne Burgess 18-21, 21-19, 23-21; lost to

Julie McLean 19-21, 14-21.

Kate Ryan lost to

McLean 16-21, 11-21; beat

Burgess 10-21, 21-19, 21-13.

The county tournament is at Millom Sports Centre on Sunday March 3rd.

DORSET Martin Hughes

The County Championships

Dorset senior seconds put up a brave fight against Buckinghamshire seconds recently when they kept the score level after eight games, but lost the last two singles to lose the match 4-6.

Joanne Le-Neve-Foster put Dorset on the score sheet in the third match when she beat Miss Shanmuganathan 21-1, 21-6, and Martin Hughes made the score 2-2 when he beat Colin Luscombe 21-17, 21-8. Captain Dave Sharples then levelled the match again at 3-3 when he saw off the challenge of Danny Baxter at 21-17 in the decider.

Dorset then took the lead for the only time in the match as Bev King beat Miss Shanmuganathan 21-8, 21-6, but this was to be their last success.

The veteran first team played host to Surrey seconds and in a match they desperately needed to win, went down by four games to five. Joyce Coop was as dependable as ever, winning her match, whilst Barry Hill beat Gordon Chapman, Taffy Davies beat Brian Simmonds and the mixed doubles went Dorset's way. Chris Pickard was unable to get his name on the scoresheet.

The British League

Jolliffe Poole sponsored by Peter Jolliffe Bookmaker, turned a 2-6 defeat in the first half of the season into a 5-3 victory in their recent home match against AHW (Bletchley) Comets from Milton Keynes in the second division south of the British League.

Jolliffe Poole came into this match with high expectations following a victory in their last match, and their dependable number one, ex England International Tony Clayton, played his usual immaculate game as he easily defeated Keith Samuels and Steve Cowley in straight sets to set them on their way.

Mark Werner, re-ranked down to number four in the squad due to a disappointing first half, finally sparked into life as he

secured his first double of the season, seeing off the challenges of Steve Cowley and Les Wooding in straight sets and this earned him the man of the match award.

Martin Hughes sealed the victory for Jolliffe Poole in the battle of the administrators as he defeated Les Wooding 21-19, 21-17 in the last game of the day when his topspin attack overcame the stout defence of Wooding.

ESSEX Alan Shepherd

DURING JANUARY OUR various County teams won all five matches played. The Senior second team still has an unblemished record in Division 2D, which they lead, after beating Berks Seconds 9-1. Our third team is also unbeaten, and has shot to the top of the Division 3A after beating previous leaders Herts Thirds by 8-2.

The two Veteran's sides which played were the seconds, who came back from Worcestershire with a 6-3 win, while the Thirds also had to travel up the M1 to Northants, who were beaten 8-1. This team had a hilarious time fulfilling its December fixture with Norfolk Seconds as Phyllis Lauder tells the tale:

The meeting with Norfolk 2 was beset by difficulties, but, as the saying goes "all's well that ends well". At 24 hour's notice we heard that the venue at the Police Station, Southend, had become unavailable (due, I gather, to some football arrangements) and our local team member, Peter Ballard, got busy and managed to procure the premises of the Invicta Club at Westcliff. He waited in the cold at Southend for Norfolk's arrival, to lead them to the new address, while our two cars drove on to Invicta. On arrival it was found that the key we had been given did not fit the lock of the

Clubhouse. Fortunately, someone had a Southend Handbook, and the address of the Club Secretary was found. Luckily, this was not too far away and the correct key was obtained. Then Norfolk arrived with Peter, and after a short knock Peter, freezing from his exertions in the cold, played his opening set, and had then to return to the Police Station, since one of the Norfolk wives had gone shopping and was unaware of the change of venue! He later returned without her, but had left a message for her to get a taxi when she got back. He then proceeded to take part in his doubles, which he lost, and his singles, which he won. He will doubtless remember this match without too much fondness. All this brought the match score to 4-4 when Steve Willis went on and won 21/19 in the third to secure the spoils".

The only Junior team in action in January was the table topping Third team, which took on its toughest opponents yet in the form of Middlesex Seconds. A pulsating match resulted in a 7-3 win for Essex, with no fewer than five of the sets being decided at "19 in the third" I must say that I was extremely proud of all of our players, who fought so hard for victory. Singled out must be Karl Grant, making his County debut, and starting with a gutsy last ditch win over the talented Simeon Zeffert. He almost did the trick in his other set, but this time Robert Weare was the one who just edged it.

Peter Worthington and Ben Ware both had solid wins, yet each suffered one of the knife-edge defeats at the hands of James Sprackling. Our ever reliable girls, Julie Rand and Shelley Ruocco notched the usual four sets - wouldn't a few Counties just like to have them in their first teams, never mind their third teams?

The Essex Closed for Seniors, Junior, and Veterans, will be staged on May 18th/19th 1991 at the Harlow Sports Centre, and there will be 30 separate events!

In a deal worth nearly £25000 over the next three years, clinched by the entrepreneurial skills of Dick Roffe, we have

secured the future of our Open Tournament until 1994. This emerged a few days ago when Barclays Bank announced that they are to sponsor our Five Star event following the very successful Three Star which they supported last season.

At a launch meeting with the Press when the announcement was made our Chairman, Laurie Darnell expressed the County's gratitude for the Barclays generosity and referred to the superb facilities which the tournament will enjoy at the Brentwood Centre. As Barclays are also sponsoring our Closed Event and our Senior County First Team their support is quite exceptional.

Now back to the Juniors for a few final items. Having received details of the results at the English Junior Closed, congratulations to

(a) Linda Radford on reaching the semi-final of the Girls Singles and on winning the Girls Doubles with the assistance of Sally Marling,

(b) Alison Gower, quarter finalist in the Girls Singles, joint runner up in the Girls Doubles with Maria Thornley and ditto in the Mixed Doubles with Garry Knights and

(c) Cris Sladden who lost -17,10,-17 in the quarter-final of the Boys Singles to No.1 Seed Edward Hatley.

In the Regional Finals of the English Schools Team Event at the George Green Centre, Isle of Dogs, Peniel Academy won the Boys Under 19 and Under 16 events, while Eastlea Community School won the boys Under 13 event. All qualified for the area Finals at Croydon in February.

Continuing our policy of arranging friendly matches for these juniors who do not yet figure in our three county teams, we played Surrey in two very enjoyable games in December at New Malden and in January entertained Suffolk II at Rayleigh as a warm-up match before the official game against Middlesex. Our grateful thanks to Gail McCulloch of Surrey and Ian Davis of Suffolk for their co-operation.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Alf Peppard

DENNIS HOLLAND FIRST appeared upon the table tennis scene in 1958 - a young fresh faced Junior playing for the well known Gordon League Club in Gloucester. He soon made an impact upon local table tennis by winning the 3rd Division Singles in 1960. From then on and at this period of time, it appeared that Dennis was riding high on the table tennis roller-coaster of future fame.

During the early 1960's, Gloucester won the much valued Wilmot Cup - and Dennis was often chosen to play in this team, in the 1961-2 and in the second half of the season he was honoured by being selected for the England Juniors.

One of the highlights in an unforgettable spell was beating the then "English Closed" and "Welsh Open" Champion - Bobby Stevens in the Bucks Open. But once out of the Juniors, 'life' becomes more difficult and despite serious playing set backs Dennis beat Chester Barnes 18,11, in the Newbury Open, then in season 1972-3, through family pressure's and perhaps a self admitted lack of enthusiasm Dennis, like so many before him QUIT TABLE TENNIS.

Now local readers will of course know that this is not the end of the Dennis Holland Saga, because I am delighted to say - from the commencement of this season, "Holland is back", playing League Table Tennis again and of course now a sturdy Veteran, after his self - imposed 17 - 18 year lay off.

I understand however that he is having problems coping with the funny bat syndrome, but as one well known former English International breathed in my ear a short while ago - if you can't beat em, then best to join em.

I am interviewing Dennis Holland for BBC Radio Gloucestershire on February 23rd, I'm sure that much more interesting news will come my way.

I attended a local British League match recently in which

Cheltenham Saracens playing in Division 2 (Midlands), were home to OLOPS (Our Lady of Peace), the result of this match was a much deserved draw, but that is perhaps not so important. However, what is relevant about this match was perhaps displayed in the very first and last games that were played.

The first was a classic example of YOUTH v AGE & EXPERIENCE, the players, England's No. 2 Veteran Dave Harvey, and his opponent England's No. 1 Junior 15 year old Edward Hatley, and the result - Eddie won 14 and 17.

And now, the last match - Darren Griffin was ill with flu, so veteran Frank Jones was called in to play, with the score standing at 4-3 to OLOPS, Frank much to my surprise beat his much younger adversary 19,-19,14, to force a well deserved draw - Frank got a standing ovation which nearly lifted the roof off the Saracens Club room.

Bits and Pieces.

Hearty congratulations to Glynn and Wendy Lloyd from Newent, upon the birth of a daughter - Marisa, born on the 27th December (a nice after Christmas present). Both parents are severely disabled table tennis players and Marisa is their first born.

Dave Harvey, Cheltenham County Senior No.2 won the Cleveland Veterans Championship singles beating Plymouths Mike Short 19,-19,19, in the final, I understand that John Hilton was not present.

HAMPSHIRE David Cosway

The Southampton Closed Table Tennis Tournament

No real surprises in the early rounds of the Mens Singles with the organiser, international umpire Brian Lamerton, well in control. Andy Ely, although beaten 7 times in the first half of the Southampton Premier

Counties 5

Division has always reserved his best form for his home town tournament, emerging champion in 4 of the last 5 years. He came through a difficult quarter of the draw to reach the semi, despite his lowly number 8 seeding. Top seed and Hampshire number 1, Mark Bleakley, was extended to a third game by his 4 T's club mate, Richard Morgan, to reach his allotted semi place. At the same stage Jeff Giles, the emerging county star, put out the near veteran and six times winner of the title, Chris Shetler.

In the semi's Mark trailed 6/9 to Jeff in the first game, but drew level at 11 and went on to win at 17. The second was all Jeff to 15/6 and, although Mark came back later in the game, Jeff levelled at 17. Serves dominated the third with, at one stage, the game going from 5 all to 11/9 in Mark's favour with only one point against service. Jeff faded in the second half of the final game, going down at 13/21 to put Mark into his second successive final. Andy Ely looked very tentative in the first game of his semi and former Junior Champion, Alan Charles, took it at 18. Alan led 4/1 in the second, but Andy began to show a little of his form in taking the second at 11.

The third game was a very scrappy affair with mistakes rather than good play dominating the match up to 14 all. Andy then took the next 7 points and the set. So to the repeat of last years final, but this time Mark Bleakley dominated to win the first game at 9. Andy's touch was completely deserting him with a string of unforced errors giving Mark few problems. He pulled himself together for the second and led 20/13 and, with his serve to come, looked odds on taking it to a third. Mark however won the next 8 points and although Andy saved 2 match points, he lost 22/24 to give Mark his first Southampton title.

In the Womens Singles unfortunately County No. 1, Sarah Hammond, did not enter, but top seed, Sarah Turner, knocked out last years champion, Tina Caws, in the semi.

In the other half, Suffolk county player and former England Top 20 Junior, Andrea Ambrose, now studying at Southampton University, reached the final. Sarah, although now down the national rankings at No.39, was always in control of the final to win her first title at 10 and 17.

Jeff Giles took both the Mens and Mixed titles. In the Mens, paired with Chris Shetler, he beat Mark Bleakley and Alan Charles 21/16, 19/21,21/15. He retained the Mixed with Tina Caws when they beat 'Charlie' Childs and Sarah Turner comfortably in straight sets 14 and 7.

The Veterans Final was a battle of the two types of veteran - the 'old fashioned' hard bat player - Maurie Shave - and the 'modern' long pimple/sponge rubber combination bat player - Graham Lynch. Lynch, last years finalist and 1989 champion, was the favourite having never lost to Shave and the first game went to form with Lynch winning at 13. After taking the second at 18, Maurie began picking up his hits well. There was only one player in the third with Maurie winning his seventh veteran title - but his first since 1984.

This year Southampton are running a separate Junior event to be held at Cantell School on March 3rd.

Brain Lamerton was absent for the finals Night - he had a good excuse - he was umpiring at the European Top 12 Tournament in Holland. In his absence the Association president, Vic Nuttall, stepped in as MC and to present the trophies, while Keir Donaldson umpired all 7 sets. Again the earlier rounds and the final were held at the excellent Redbridge Sports Centre premises.

Southampton TTA 52th Annual Championships 1991

**Saturday 2nd February 1991 at 6.30pm
Redbridge Sports Centre**

Mens Singles S/F

Mark Bleakley (4 T'S) v Jeff Giles (SNOWS) 21/17,17/21,21/13

Mens Singles S/F

Andy Ely (ALPHA) v Alan Charles (4 T'S) 18/21,21/11,21/4

Mixed Doubles

Sarah Turner (ALPHA) v Tina Caws (ALPHA)
Keith Childs (ALPHA) Jeff Giles (SNOWS) 14/21,17/21

Veteran Final

Graham Lynch (4 T'S) v Maurice Shave (SNOWS) 21/13,18/21,10/21

Mens Doubles Final

Jeff Giles (SNOWS) v Alan Charles (4 T'S)
Chris Shelter (SNOWS)
Mark Bleakley (4 T'S) 21/16,19/21,21/13

Ladies Singles Final

Andrea Ambrose (EAST POINT) v Sarah Turner (ALPHA) 10/21,17/21

Mens Final

Mark Bleakley (4 T'S) v Andy Ely (ALPHA) 21/9,24/22

Division 1 Champion

Richard Morgan (4 T'S)

Division 2 Champion

David Praine (ALPHA)

Division 3 Champion

Colin French (ESSO)

Division 4 Champion

Jeremy Howard (TELECOM)

Ladies Doubles Champions

Sarah Turner & Tina Caws (ALPHA)

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

HERTFORDSHIRE'S SUPER STARS, Keith Samuels and Emma Hurling, once again won their respective singles titles, at the closed championships, held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in January.

Samuels, from North Herts, equalled Terry Densham's record of seven Men's Singles wins, when he beat

Barnet's John Taylor in the final, -19, 19 and 5. But it was in the semi-finals where the real drama took place, when Samuels met his old rival Richard Russell from Barnet, the combination bat twirling ace.

Samuels took the first set 21, lost the second -15, and was 15-20 down in the third, before he staged his great escape act, pulling off a superb win to beat the man from Barnett 24-22 with a display of nerve tingling attack against the super defence of Russell.

Taylor beat his team mate Rob Liquorish in the other semi-final.

Samuels paired up with Taylor against Taylor's son Duncan and Robert Barrasso from Watford in the Men's Doubles final. The young lads actually took the middle game - 12, before being narrowly beaten 22-20 in the third.

Emma Hurling from Hemel Hempstead won the Ladies Singles crown for the second time in only her second year as a senior, beating Watford's Caroline Seaholme in the final, 24 and 19. Seaholme bounced back though in the Mixed Doubles with her partner Rob Liquorish, this time turning the tables on her pal Hurling, who played with Glen Wilkes from Hemel Hempstead, to take the trophy, 16,-23,15.

With one cup a piece the two girls Hurling and Seaholme teamed up in the Ladies Doubles, overpowering the challenge from the North Herts pair of Karen Morton and Lindsay Booth, winning in two.

Barnet's John Taylor, who had a long tiring day, bounced back to take the Men's Veteran title, beating Alan Lamprell from Cheshunt.

Whilst that old war horse of Hertfordshire table tennis, Keith Hartridge from Welwyn Garden City, once again beat his old rival Geoff Bax from Watford, in a repeat final of the last few years, winning the Senior Veteran's Cup, -12,13,10.

The Ladies Veteran trophy was won by North Herts super defender Sue Felstead, who won a round robin competition.

Counties 6

KENT Adrian Hall

OUR VETS II CONTINUE their winning ways and now lead Division 1B. However, the recent 5-4 win over Berkshire was done the hard way, coming back from 4-2 down with our men winning the last three singles. John White's 21-18, 24-22 deciding match went to expedite against Berkshire's Dave Steak. For Kent, Graham French (2), Keith Clark (1) and John White (1), plus the mens doubles, gave us the victory. Not so good for our Junior II going down 4-6 away to Surrey II. Matt Vardy (2), Kevin Read (1) and Natasha Barham (1) were Kent's winners.

Bromfield Trophy Zone Final Carly Riggs was again in splendid form as Maidstone overcame the odds to defeat Hastings 5-2 in the zone final of the Under-17 girls' national team event. Hastings, who included three nationally ranked players, were hot favourites to win the match, but Maidstone made the best possible start when Crystal Hall beat Claudine Wilson 21-9, 21-14. Alison Smith then had match point against the older and higher ranked Natasha Wilson before losing 21-15 in the third.

Riggs beat Nicola Evans 21-14, 21-9 before Hall continued the good work with a nerve racking 24-22, 21-18 victory over Natasha Wilson. Riggs then came back from the brink of defeat to give Maidstone a 4-1 lead as she overcame Wilson 18-21, 21-19, 21-8. Nicola Evans beat Smith 21-11, 21-11, before Riggs established a 5-2 winning lead for Maidstone as she comfortably beat Natasha Wilson 21-13, 21-17.

Schools Area Team Finals.

Maidstone Grammar School (Boys U-19) and The Norton Knatchbull, Ashford (Boys U-16) are Kent's lone survivors and go forward to the regional finals later this month. Maidstone Grammar team of Matthew Vardy, Gary Waters, Paul Wheeler and Bill Wrapson beat Hayes 8-0, Eastbourne 7-1 and Purley, who included former

Junior Schools International Paul Carter, 5-3.

The Norton Knatchbull team of Craig Hastie, Colin Quinn, Tom Filmer and Tim Pichowski beat St Beades, Hailsham 8-0, Oathall College, Haywards Heath 7-1 and Kings College, Wimbledon 6-2.

Otford U-11 Boys beat Blacklands, Hastings 5-3, but lost 8-0 to Cumnor House, Croydon. Highworth Girls, Ashford U19 Girls beat Coombe, New Malden 5-3, but went out on count back to The Grove, St Leonards-on-Sea, with whom they drew 4-4 after beating Coombe 7-1.

My apologies to Tunbridge Wells GS Boys U-13 for whom I have no results.

The Kent League is in full swing and in Mens I Medway 'A' and NW Kent 'A' still have 100% records.

League Table Mens I

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Medway 'A'	5	5	0	0	44
NW Kent 'A'	4	4	0	0	35
Maidstone 'A'	5	2	2	1	26
NW Kent 'B'	4	1	1	2	15
Canterbury 'A'	2	1	1	0	13
Medway 'B'	3	0	0	3	8
Woolwich 'A'	2	0	0	2	6
Thanet 'A'	3	0	0	3	3
Ashford	2	0	0	2	0

For further information contact Adrian Hall 0732 844756 (home), 0634 687141 (office).

LANCASHIRE George Yates

HAVING BEATEN SURREY 10-0, Berkshire 9-1 and Sussex 6-4, last October the Red Rose county followed up at the second County Championships Premier weekend at Bingley with yet another clean sweep.

They accounted for Middlesex 6-4, Leicestershire 8-2, Derbyshire 8-2 and, finally, the old enemy Yorkshire 7-3. The

victories secured the Premier Division title for the first time ever thanks to the efforts of Sean Gibson, Jonathon Taylor, Tony Taylor, Nigel Eckersley, Andrea Holt and Amanda Winskill.

Both Gibson and Miss Holt had returns of seven wins to one loss at Nabs Wood Sports Centre, Sean losing to Chris Rogers and Andrea to Joanne Shaw. Nigel Eckersley, who stood in for the absent Jonathon Taylor on the Saturday, had a 2-2 return with Jonathon taking over on the Sunday, returning 4-0. Tony Taylor (4-4) and Mandy (5-3) completed the sextet under the non-playing captaincy of Stan Clarke. Well done Lancs!

The previous weekend saw the demise of Lancashire's five other teams with the senior seconds losing 7-3 to Yorkshire seconds with one each for Paul Hutchings, Doug Mayall and Graham Clarke. The junior seconds were forced to concede their match at home to Lincolnshire due to a double booking at the Delph Club and no alternative venue being available despite the frantic efforts of Peter Aspin to find one.

9-1 was the defeat suffered by the junior thirds away to Derbyshire at Heanor, the whitewash being saved by Andrew Halford of Oldham in the final set against Glenn Hoggard. The veterans first team lacking the services of Norman Thewlis, went down to their first defeat of the season when beaten 7-2 by Leicestershire at Wharton, the two successes coming from Phil Blake of Blackburn and Tony Rigby of Preston.

Away to Warwickshire at Coventry, the vets 2nds, also lost for the first time when beaten 5-4, Rochdale's Jon de Pledge losing in the final set 15 in the third to Bryan Belcher. Brian Clements of Manchester was a double winner for Lancs with one each from reserve Derek Watmough of Bolton and Alwyn Burrough of Blackpool.

Lancashire and Cheshire

Warrington are still on course for the men's first division title and brought off their fourth win in five matches by beating

Stockport 6-4 at Hyde where Malcolm McEvoy had a treble in accounting for Roger Hampson, Steve Horsfield and Derek Schofield as well as figuring in a doubles success with Peter Flint, the latter also winning a singles against Schofield and Terry Turner accounting for Hampson. Second placed Blackpool had an 8-2 victory over Liverpool Business Houses with Steve Bevan trebling and both Dave Bunting and Martin Ireland losing only to Chris Ford.

Blackburn are also in the picture and currently are in dispute with Bolton who failed to travel on February 1 alleging bad weather conditions prevented them. The would be hosts allege other reasons!

Liverpool's women continue to reel off the wins and Warrington became their fourth victims being beaten 9-1 with Alison Blackwell stopping the rot by beating Paula French. Otherwise Justine Thomas and Brenda Buoeay carried the Mersey tide, with Justine and Paula winning the doubles against Caroline Hemmings and Denise Convooy.

LEICESTERSHIRE Terry Brown

THE PHILIP REID MEMORIAL TROPHY

New Years evening at Knighton Park TTC heralded the start of the 1990/91 staging of the Philip Reid Memorial Trophy Handicap Competition. The general format for the preliminary round was 8 groups of 5 players playing each other with the top 2 progressing to the final play-offs at the same venue on Sunday 13th January.

Tuesday 1st January Groups A and B

Group A turned out to be the Veterans group as the abundance of grey hair - and in one case hardly any at all - verified. Glenys Odams beat her all male opponents to top the

Counties 7

group and Hinckley's Jim Burrows qualified in second place losing only to Glenys.

Result:

1st Glenys Odams 4/4;
2nd Jim Burrows 4/3;
3rd Peter Gerdes 4/2;
4th Peter Cruse 4/2;
5th Tony Pickles 4/0.

Group B saw Harry Ward (Leic) win all before him to easily top the group. Second place was not so clear cut but Irene Burrows (Hinck) won it after a one game play-off against Steve Pratt (Leic) went her way 21-11.

Result:

1st Harry Ward 4/4;
2nd Irene Burrows 4/2; Steve Pratt 4/2;
4th Laura Smith 4/1;
5th Mike Smith 4/1.

Wednesday 2nd January Groups C D and E

Electricity's Dave Greasley turned out to be the dark horse this year, winning Group C despite some stiff opposition. Mick Allsopp (Hinck) came second only losing to Dave.

Result:

1st Dave Greasley 4/4;
2nd Mick Allsopp 4/3;
3rd Doreen Bramhall 4/1;
4th Tim Lucas 4/1;
5th Stuart Jones 4/1.

Group D was the disaster of the competition with only two players reporting for duty. We would have had three players if Alan Hornbuckle's (Hinck) gallant attempt to find Knighton Park had been successful. Eileen Shaler (Hinck/Leic) qualified in first place with a 21-17, 22-20 win over Park's Liam Moorehouse who received a 14 points start. Although qualifying for the finals, Liam had to scratch from the tournament. Hinckley's Kevin Clarke won all of his Group E matches without dropping a game but had to scratch from the finals due to work commitments. Mark Smith (Leic) made it through as winner with County Secretary Keith Boulter qualifying in second spot.

Result:

1st Kevin Clarke 4/4 (scratched);
2nd Mark Sith 4/3;
3rd Keith Boulter;
4th Alan Passingham 4/1;
5th Helen Griffiths 4/0.

Thursday 3rd January Groups F, G and H

Alan Hornbuckle slotted in to Group F after a non-appearance and there followed ad three-way tie that saw Alan Tyler (Leics) go through in top spot on sets over Alan. Norman McLean filled in the vacancy in Group D as the best third placed player. This group also saw the demise of the defending champion, Matthew Hobday, who found this very strong group a bit too hot to handle.

Result:

1st Alan Tyler 4/3;
2nd Alan Hornbuckle 4/3;
3rd Norman McLean 4/3;
4th Dot Tudoro 4/1;
5th Matthew Hobday 4/0.

Hinckley's Martin Hobday won Group G with a one game advantage over Bill Newbold (Leic) after both had won three matches out of four.

Result:

1st Martin Hobday 4/3;
2nd Bill Newbold 4/3;
3rd Ken Garratt 4/2;
4th John Gayton 4/1;
5th Marjorie Goodman 4/0.

Hinckley's Lisa Hobday won Group H by one game over Rachel Griffiths. Rachel subsequently scratched from the tournament and second place was awarded to Terry Bown (Leic) who pipped David Croucher for the honour by one game.

Result:

1st Lisa Hobday 4/3;
2nd Rachel Griffiths 4/3 (scratched);
3rd Terry Bown 4/2;
4th David Croucher 4/2;
5th Tony Walker 4/0.

Remarkably, eight out of ten Hinckley representatives made it through to the play-offs but this became seven after Kevin Clarke withdrew.

Sunday 13th January Groups A, B, C and D Round Robin

Winner of Each Group Through to Semi Finals

Group A

Gas's Norman McLean won all before him beating Lisa Hobday (+5) in three, Glenys Odams (-4) in three and Keith Boulter (+4) in two.

Group B

Martin Hobday beat off the challenge of club-mate Alan Hornbuckle (+5) in two to win this group. Martin also accounted for Mick Allsopp (-8) in three and Harry Ward (+5) in two.

Group C

In topping this group Dave Greasley lost his only game so far when he beat Alan Tyler (+1) in three. Irene Burrows was beaten in two as was Bill Newbold. Group D proved to be the closest of the afternoon with three players gaining 2 wins each. Eileen Shaler won it on games F5 A2 over Mark Smith F4 A3 and Jim Burrows F4 A3.

1st Semi Final

Norman McLean (+7) v Martin Hobday

Martin went through to the final despite losing the first game, after which he managed to overcome Norman's 'funny' left hand style.

2nd Semi Final

Dave Greasley (+10) v Eileen Shaler

Giving a 10 point start to anybody is always going to be difficult and Eileen did tremendously well to take the first game 21-17, but in the end the handicap proved too much for her with Dave winning the remaining games 21-13, 21-18.

Final

Dave Greasley (+5) v Martin Hobday

After winning the first 21-15, Martin looked well on the way when he pulled up to 15-16 in the second game but it suddenly went wrong and Dave levelled the match. The third went Dave's way 21-17 despite Martin's fighting performance. Dave was presented with the

brand new trophy by the donor, John Rogers, to whom we bestow our thanks.

MIDDLESEX Iris Moss

SO MIDDLESEX DID not quite manage to retain the County Championships title this year, but if my arithmetic (and the results in the paper) is correct, we came in as runners-up. I have not had any details to date so I cannot say who did what. All I can say is that the results show that our girls and boys did well under the new captaincy of Mark Mitchell. Well done, all of you.

By the time this article is published, the Ballot Papers for the election of ETTA officers will have been issued and some will already have been returned. Needless to say, Middlesex will be whole-heartedly behind Doreen Stannard for Deputy Chairman. No-one knows more than we do the amount of work Doreen has undertaken, and is still undertaking, at club, league, county and national levels. She has been on the Middlesex Committee for 25 years and has proved her value over and over again. Whoever is elected as Chairman can rely on a dedicated and loyal Deputy if Doreen is elected to the post; and what's more, one that is always ready to listen to the other person's point of view and is not afraid to accept responsibility. Good luck, Doreen.

On 12th April the ETTA 100 Club is holding a Dinner at the Carnarvon Hotel, Ealing Common, basically in honour of Len Pilditch and the victorious 1989/90 County team. We are hoping to get as many as possible of the players who represented the County under Len's captaincy. We have worked out that there were 38 of them and ideally we would like to get them all there. But we have not kept in touch with them all, so if you are

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one of the 38 and have not yet heard from me, please contact me without delay. We are limited to 70 places, so please do not delay (to save you the bother of looking it up, my address is 7 Hillside Court, Holders Hill Road, Hendon, London NW4 1EL, Telephone: 081 203 4476).

All goes well with the Inter-League competitions and after the first two periods the leading Leagues are: Victoria Barna - North Middlesex; Norman Pegg - Willesden (on games average); D W Birmingham - North Middlesex I; Ted Connell Premier Division - Willesden I, Ted Connell Division 2 - North Middlesex II (on games average).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

THE SECOND STAGE of the Pitney Bowes sponsored County Closed Table Tennis Tournament provided an exceptional mix of players from across the full table tennis spectrum, with veterans and juniors of all ages, together with a sprinkling of over thirties, converging on Wellingborough's Weavers Sports Centre on the second Saturday in January. Sixty years separated the youngest competitor from the oldest, and the interest engendered is perhaps best illustrated by Mary Hearn who was heard to say to Ken Marchant "It must be 20 years since we last met" and this despite both players being stalwart supporters of the Wellingborough League. Yes, it was most definitely a unique occasion.

In the event, the large entry, the special atmosphere and the quality of play were due reward for the vision of a tournament committee which had worked hard to ensure another successful venture and further irrefutable evidence, that the upsurge of interest within the

county boundaries, originally sparked off by the Pennine Computer Ranking List, is here to stay.

The main honours of the day went to a quartet of Northampton players who dominated their particular events without real encroachment from other parts of the county and Margaret Maltby, Joyce Porter, Keith Jones and Brian D'Hooghe could be justly proud of their achievements on a day that will be long remembered by those who were present. Standing head and shoulders above all others was Keith Jones, winning the over 40's mens title for the 8th time, without conceding a single end. In the final his vast experience at all levels, and his ability to adapt his game to the problems posed by his varied opponents, proved too formidable a barrier for his doubles partner. D'Hooghe and Jones won comfortably 21-15, 21-12. Earlier in the day it had been D'Hooghe who had done most to confound the ranking lists when he had included Geoff Atkinson, Greg Dobrowolski and Gerald Finney among his unwilling victims on the way to an unrewarding encounter with the perennial champion.

Jones and D'Hooghe, long time colleagues in the Northampton League's Nomads, then teamed up to add the over 40's doubles to their growing list of achievements, but this was not as easy as their top seeding suggested. They had no trouble in their semi final but then had to wait while Geoff Atkinson and Phil Slade fought out an arduous battle against Mick Edwards and Dobrowolski. Atkinson and Slade finally emerged to face the eventual winners in a superb final which proved the most enthralling match of the day. The underdogs took the first, only for the Northampton pair to level in the second. The third ebbed and flowed with Atkinson hitting some spectacular attacking shots, only for Jones to defend heroically, and at the last it was defence that won the day at 23-21.

Jones went on to complete a superb treble when

he joined Margaret Maltby to take the mixed doubles, to add to the senior title they had won in December. Mrs Maltby also enjoyed a day of high drama and completed her personal hat-trick by beating her doubles partner Joyce Porter in the final of the over 40's women's event, and then adding the Veterans restricted singles with a close victory over Wellingborough's Tom Kelly, who was making a welcome return to the tournament scene.

Kettering's John Palmer, the most consistent of players, also returned after a long absence, but had the misfortune to suffer a calf injury in his second match and was never again a force to be reckoned with, although in typical fashion he battled on to the bitter end. This involved the final of the Over 50's singles where he was no match for defending champion Greg Dobrowolski, and the Over 50's doubles where together with Dennis Millman, a repeat performance of 1977's senior doubles success was not forthcoming and the pair had to admit defeat in the face of an inspired performance from Mrs Porter and Bill Lupton.

Millman did have the satisfaction of winning the inaugural singles for over sixties, before the Northants County, and Kettering League Press Officer joined his Wellingborough League counterpart Ken Marchant, to become the first winners of the Over Sixties Doubles competition.

Steve West was another player to enhance his Pennine ranking, with excellent wins over Steve Brown and No.1 seed Chris Handshaw, but in the final he met that talented left-hander Rafe Miller, and after a stirring contest, it was Miller who emerged as the first Over 30's champion. West also ended on the losing side in the corresponding doubles, when he and John Moloney went down in the final to the tenacity of Steve Brown, allied with the doubles experience and expertise of Chris Handshaw.

Matthew Rowe was at the centre of the action in the Under 17 Junior Boys event, first

clawing his way back from the brink of defeat to account for Northampton's Paul Smith, and then surprising County No.1 Julian Marshall, as he again came from behind to win in the decider, and so confirm his recent improvement, particularly when under pressure. However Marshall and Stephen Atkinson took the junior doubles, with Rowe and Sally Russell narrow losers, but Sally, unspoiled by her outstanding early success, won both the Under 17 and the Under 14 Girls Singles for the third time in succession, to equal Valerie Feakin's threesome from 1974 to 1977.

Joe Trippett, Paul Adams, Andrew Thomas and Ruth Hickman were other juniors well rewarded for their considerable efforts, while a special mention must be made of eight year old Gabrielle Evans, the very first winner of any Under 10 event held in Northants.

If success breeds success, Pitney Bowes has a sure winner on its hands, and next year's entry should reach unprecedented heights. However, amidst all the euphoria, spare a thought for that doyen of tournament organisers Phil Slade, who now runs five closed tournaments and four Top Twelves, giving each one the same detailed care and precise attention to their growth and ultimate well-being. Long may he continue.

SOMERSET Andy Seward

THE COUNTY JUNIOR weekend for teams in Division 2C was held at Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater over the weekend of 26/27 January. The fixtures could not have worked out better with the top two teams, Devon 2 and Hampshire 1 playing each other in the final match. As a result of gaining a 5-5 draw, Devon 2 became champions.

Counties 9

Of the Somerset performances, a meritable 5-5 draw against local rivals Avon and a comprehensive 9-1 win over Devon 3 were the highlights. Mark Smith recorded 3 wins including a notable one over Colin Butterworth (Avon). Rob Millard won four matches and Christian Garland five in his best performance for the County.

With Kate Gent out injured all season, Julie Ashcroft took on the No.1 position and recorded 6 wins out of 8, her defensive style proving to be quite disconcerting to the plethora of rollers. Claire Shobrook, just 12 years old, made her debut over the weekend and encouragingly emerged with a couple of wins.

The team finished seventh overall. However, all of the players except Christian Garland are eligible for next season which should augur well.

Mendip League

The Mendip League goes from strength to strength both in the number of teams and players, and the standard of play. Dunkerton currently lead Division 1. Their top player, Jerry Musselwhite remains unbeaten and with the support of Phil Ware and County Veteran Paul Hewitt look set to take the title. Division 2 is by contrast a very close affair. Wells B, led by Matthew Lockyer, are just ahead of Godney, led by Matthew's father Alec Lockyer and includes brother David. A real family battle.

Next month, news from the Bridgewater League and a report on the County Veterans.

SURREY Terry Vance

WILL THE ENGLAND selectors please note that Nicky Mason won the Midland 3 Star tournament and is now gaining more experience by playing in

Sweden. Sorry I am a bit biased but I feel he might be forgotten.

In the County Championships, Surrey Senior team have again managed their usual nail biting attempt to stay in the Premier division. Edward Hatley & Maria Taylor-Woodward marked their debuts with good wins. It now seems that all the premier sides have difficulty in fielding their top players due to other events taking place at the same time and to illness or injury.

The national rankings are topped by Edward Hatley in the Juniors and by Darren Blake in the Cadets.

Surrey Junior Closed resulted in Darren Blake winning 3 events and being runner up in two others. He won the Cadet title for the 3rd year running. Glenda Ashison showed her improvement by also winning 3 titles. The Karalleide brothers also proved their worth to Surrey with Janaka winning 2 events and being runner up in another. Diana Chan won the Junior Girls Singles and Doubles for the first time.

Results:

U17 Boys

Janaka Karalleide bt Darren Blake;

U17 Girls

Diana Chan bt Miranda Markham

U14

Darren Blake bt Stephen Lampkin; Glenda Ashison bt Rachel Forster

U12

James Furner bt Gerry Ashison; Sarah Lane bt Anna McNamara

U17 Doubles

Janaka/Dhammika Karalleide bt Darren Blake/Paul McNamara

U14

Stephen Lampkin/Darren Blake bt Stephen Hayde/Sean Russell

Mixed

Darren Blake/Glenda Ashison bt Janaka Karalleide/Diana Chan

U17 Girls

Miranda Markham/Diana Chan bt Karen/Claire Ashley

U14

Glenda Ashison/Rachel Forster bt Sarah Lane/Erica Fogg

Elmbridge Christmas tournament was held over 4 days and had 260 entrants.

Results:

U10 Boys

Scott Friday bt Sajid Khimje

U12

James Furner bt Gerry Ashison

U12 Girls Winner

Tina Beaney,

Restricted Winner

Daniel Tanner

U14

Sarah Steadman bt Glenda Ashison,

Mixed singles

Stephen Lampkin bt Kevin Doyle

U14 Doubles Winners

Kevin Doyle & Sarah Steadman, Restricted

Glenda Ashison bt Wendy Barlow

U17

Sid Karalleide bt Marc Burman, Girls

Desira Joseph bt Diana Chan, Mixed Singles

Janaka Karalleide bt Cris Sladden,

Doubles

Cris Sladden/Linda Radford bt Paul Hudson/Damian Abrahams

Surrey Junior Development League has begun with 2 Divisions. Top of Div 1 is Frimley Sparks on games difference from the Hot Shots. Division 2 is headed by Frimley with the Big Boss Men 2nd.

A coaching course for existing and prospective coaches will be held at the Graham Spicer Club on 4th/5th May 1991. Please contact Gail McCullough (0483 728069) if interested.

SUSSEX John Woodford

DAVE BERRIMAN, THE Sussex coaching secretary quite rightly, has informed me that Sussex juniors are doing much better than I had reported in the

last issue of "Table Tennis News", that coaching is at a high level in Sussex, that we currently have many more youngsters playing on the junior circuit and in general things are looking up.

I am of course, please to hear the good news. I suspect, most county press officers wish they were getting more information in on the junior scene in their counties. Up to now and Dave Berriman's one thousand word report, I was receiving information from only one coach.

Not many coaches have the time for long reports of course, but it needed my prompting - 'things could be better' - I hinted in the last edition and lo and behold things are better, now we know what is going on in Sussex junior circles!

Dipping into the Sussex junior scene report: Coaching sessions on a regular basis are happening at Brighton, Hasting, Burgess Hill, Horsham and Arundel plus weekly training sessions for the county at Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, home of the Horsham Dolphins British League teams, but not for much longer unless they can find £1,000 within the next few weeks.

Mr Berriman reports "I am confident that the next few years will see Sussex become a force to be reckoned within junior table tennis. There is more potential amongst our young players than at any time since the junior days of the Moores, Graham Gillett and Malcolm Francis."

"No longer do we rely on two or three players from one coaching centre to fill the county teams, they are drawn from all parts of the county" he wrote.

We have agreements between coaches and the Press that Sarah Steadman and Joanna Bush-Harris are making excellent progress at the under 14 level - both will still be cadets next season. But Sussex have four other girls in the top 31 in the cadet rankings including Claudine Wilson who reached the quarter-finals of the cadet girls at the Junior Nationals.

Not long ago, an average of three Sussex juniors would appear in junior tournaments,

now the number has increased dramatically, sometimes up to twenty, amongst the younger players on the way up - Paul Hancock (Chichester), Robert Abbotts (Hastings), Paul Cunningham (Burgess Hill) and Tina Beaney (Hastings).

Sussex players travelled in force to Market Drayton for the Grove Cadet 2 Star, January 26/27 and some positive, encouraging results were recorded. The best was Sarah Stedman winning the final of the Under 14 girls against Emma Fletcher from The Wirral.

The semi-finals of that event, saw an amazing clash between Miss Stedman and Joanna Bush-Harris of Brighton. It was the match-of-the-day at Grove with the Arundel girl winning 21/19,19/21,23/21, but all credit to the Brighton player for a sterling performance.

Paul Garner, on his way to the final. Played in a competitive and sporting manner, Lee emerged victorious with a 21-12,18-21,21-18 victory, showing a good temperament for the "big occasions".

Top Ladies seed Sandra Roden, despite some severe knee problems, retained her title once more with a final win over Janet Hunt who also lost in the Ladies Veterans final to County Colleague Linda Reid. In the group matches Linda had lost to Joanne Hill, a county second team player. A good win this for the young Bromley player. Nice to see Alison Westwood competing again, although Mandy House, another county player had a disappointing day, losing in her group matches.

With Ray Dixon unable to compete, due to injury, top mens doubles seeds Paul Garner and Ray were unable to defend their crown leaving brothers Lee and Steve Horton to progress to the final where they were beaten by the scratch pairing of Eric Hardman and Nick Mytton. Eric's sharp, crisp hitting and Nick's big forehand loops proving decisive here.

An upset in the ladies doubles final when Sue Horton and Alison Westwood defeated top seeds Sandra Roden and Mandy House in 3 games, having had the chance to win 2 straight. There was, however something for Mandy to smile about, when, in partnership with brother Nick Mytton she defeated Adrian Tottey and Janet Hunt in the mixed doubles final.

Victories for Mervyn Wood (veteran singles), Roy Norton and John Stafford (veteran doubles), and Linda Reid (consolation singles) concluded the event, with proceedings coming to a halt around 7.30pm. Thanks go to all, for their involvement with the event, and especially to Eileen Tasker, from the Kiddersminster League, who, as guest of honour presented the prizes to winner and runners-up.

WORCESTERSHIRE Ken Walton

THE 39TH WORCESTERSHIRE County Closed Championships, were held on Sunday 6th January at Thorns Community Centre, with an entry roughly the same as in previous seasons.

In the Mens Singles Competition a 3-4 man group system was used with the winner and runner up progressing to the last sixteen knockout stage, thus ensuring several games for each entrant.

Defending champion Lee Horton, from the Bromley club, Dudley, despite losing in his group to Eric Calver from Kiddersminster, won his way to the final once again, defeating Adrian Tottey, Eric Hardman, and club colleague Jason Thompson en route.

In the other half of the draw 1986/7 champion Ken Walton defeated Ron Butterson, Alex Westwood and

YORKSHIRE Rea Balmford

FIRSTLY A TRIBUTE to the squad who represented our County at the second Premier Division Weekend at the Nab Wood Sports Centre in our own city of Bradford.

With five of the top seven men missing, including the top three on the Saturday, the men who came into the side turned in a typical battling performance to run out winners in the matches against Sussex and Surrey.

No Criticism of the missing players is implied - they are professionals and, like us all, have a living to earn - and their loyalty to the county was exemplified by Michael O'Driscoll, who dashed back from Belgium to join the line-up on Sunday.

He figured on a 6-4 victory over Berkshire, and Yorkshire were in a title decider against Lancashire which went the way of the Red rose squad 7-3. Well done Lancashire - and who better to win the championship if we don't!

A particular accolade to our girls, who kept us in contention from the off - Joanne Shaw, who returned a 'full house' of eight wins from eight outings, including the defeat of Andrea Holt, and 14 year old Sally Marling, who won six out of eight.

But the men, thrown in at the deep end, also earned the plaudits of the whole of Yorkshire with their fighting spirit - take a bow Michael Stead, Tim Dyson, Mark Stephenson and Dave Indriks.

Development is the name of the game at Dewsbury where officials have been taking a long hard look at the structure of the League, with particular attention to two areas - a lack of premises where table tennis can be played and the shortage of rising young players who will keep the sport moving forward as they add vitality and 'sparkle'.

An ambitions project sees the League seriously looking to rent, buy, or even build its own premises where players of all ages can come together for practice, coaching

and competition and where major events can be staged.

Workers - tradesmen or just willing 'handymen' are already being called for to do the physical work of preparing the building, then players of all categories - male, female, young and older - plus, of course, coaches, both qualified and otherwise to encourage and advise those with little experience of our sport.

The League are looking to fill the vacuum left by the demise of the old church/chapel linked Youth Clubs which gave a start to present England No.12 Michael O'Driscoll, now making his way on the professional circuit at the tender age of 19, and Rachael Brook, back in the game after a short absence, who played in the Yorkshire Junior team which brought the County title back to Yorkshire when only 16 years of age.

Equally important, however, is the aspect of the scheme which will bring together enthusiasts from those who want an evening of keen, but friendly, sport to those who are hoping to scale the ladder to national recognition.

So, congratulations to Dewsbury on their forward looking move and, with assistance in all forms more that welcome, anybody with an interest in sport in the West Riding town who can help in any way is invited to contact Les Wood on 0924 404407. Remember the words of the Newsletter put out by Dewsbury - 'The future of Dewsbury table tennis is in your hands. Don't throw it away'.

Perhaps a work with Hull Development Officer Steve Hopkins would pay dividends, for the East Yorkshire league have this season established just such a set-up on Friday evening at the Hull Indoor Cricket Centre.

18-20 tables are in use every week - certainly more than the 4/5 envisaged by Dewsbury, but this is a one evening a week facility which encompasses almost every table tennis activity.

'Come and try it' is one of the themes with both adults and youngsters able to borrow from a stock of bats and go on to a table,

Counties 11

while the attendance of a number of boys and girls who have 'tasted' the game elsewhere, from at school to in Dad's garage, is very encouraging.

This grass roots participation is a feature, and from there the standard moves up through all levels of the sport with players from different clubs

coming in for practice, tables available for teams to fit in postponed matches, and three teams using the Centre as a 'home' venue.

A 'coaching of coaches' course will be under way before these notes appear in print, tables are in use for formal and informal coaching each week, while the Humberside Table

Tennis League, which involves sides from as far afield as Selby in the west and Lincoln in the south, shares its match programme between the Cricket Centre and the Grimsby Leisure Centre, which falls within the province of the Lincolnshire TTA.

Even bigger things are in the offing with the Hull Closed

Championships in April already booked in and an International match in prospect, and Hull certainly regard this type of Centre, where players from different clubs and from outside the 'main stream' can come together, as an important part of the way ahead.

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PREAN, O'DRISCOLL BEAT WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

WHO would back against Sweden at full strength in a European tournament? This was a new tournament with £50,000 prize money, a large chunk of which seemed certain to go to Stockholm.

But surprise, surprise it did not – Sweden were knocked sideways on the first day by France and at the end of the second day, Yugoslavia crunched the Swedes again, both scores were 3–2.

The format was Corbillon cup, two men on each side playing two singles and fresh players for the doubles if required. Not a bad formulae, but it did not suit the Swedish trio of Swaythling cup holders Jan-Ove Waldner, Mikael Appelgren and Jorgen Persson.

Looking at some of the young and improving youngsters in Europe – Jean-Philippe Gatien, Jean-Michel Saive, Dmitrij Mazunov, Zoran Primorac and Ilija Lupulescu, it could be that we have now seen the best of Appelgren and possibly Persson.

Time will tell – the Chinese and Koreans will hear the results from Munich with great interest and will fancy their chances of bringing the Swaythling cup back to Asia via Chiba City some two months from now.

My only correct forecast in the journalists competition to predict the result was that the host country would be in the final. They went one better and won it with a stunning 3–0 win over surprise finalists Yugoslavia at the end of an exciting three days play in front of nearly 3,000, mainly German fans, each day.

ENGLAND'S MIXED FORTUNES...

England started the tournament with a disaster losing to the USSR. We were the only nation with four players, all the rest had only three. Don Parker travelled from Budapest with Carl Prean and Alan Cooke, direct from a bigger calamity, the 6–1 European league semi-final defeat by Hungary. However, Skylet Andrew and Michael O'Driscoll came in from London and it seemed although with our good record against the Mazunov brothers, we might just start with a win against the Soviets.

However, things did not work out. Take a peek at the current European list and you will see the Moscow brothers as a pair are well above Prean and Cooke as a pair – in other words on paper the Russians would win comfortably. They did it with reasonable comfort although Cooke was only beaten 18 in the

Has England at last found a double partnership to take on the world? Carl Prean and Michael O'Driscoll seem to have the qualities necessary. John Woodford reports from Munich.

third by Andrei, whilst Carl Prean is certainly not fond of playing young Dmitrij. Soviets went on to the semi-finals by hammering England 3–0, as three teams finished in the top position in Group B, but England's 3–0 defeat left them in the non-qualifying third spot, but at least with £3,750 prize money.

Before the money was handed out however, England bounced back into the fray, knocking out Hungary 3–2 and then a splendid win over Germany 3–2, although the German team knew that England were in qualification trouble through the Soviet defeat.

I was extremely impressed to see Alan Cooke take out Bohm with the astonishing scoreline of -17, 21, 21. Both teams made surprise changes, at least for the fans – Germany relegated Roskopf to the doubles and Don Parker did the same with Carl Prean. So it was the man from Stratford East who stepped into the cauldron of noise, losing to Fetzner but only just losing to Bohm 19 in the third. Not a bad performance for Skylet Andrew who certainly needs to impress the England captain at this stage.

The biggest shock of the tournament in the doubles matches came when Prean and O'Driscoll beat without too much trouble in the third game the world champions at doubles Jorg Roskopf and Stefan Fetzner, 17, -15, 15.

Three hours earlier in the doubles against Hungary, the Sheffield "apprentice" had me close to tears as for a spell he lost his range completely and lost a whole batch of vital points. What a complete change of fortune to come back from such a sad performance to beat the world champions, a day young O'Driscoll will never forget!

The biggest shock in terms of match results came at the end of the second day when Sweden were knocked out 3–2 by Yugoslavia. Waldner, although losing on the first day to Gatien performed more like a world champion against the Yugoslavs.

Zoran Primorac was the star as he played the final match beating Jorgen Persson -13,

15, 14. A Swedish journalist told me that Sweden were not pleased with the efforts of Mikael Appelgren and Jorgen Persson in Munich.

TOUCHES OF CLASS

The tournament was superbly arranged by the German Tisch Tennis Bund. Touches of class everywhere, first class hotels, Opel cars to transport the players and officials and a magnificent venue – the Rudi Sedlmayer Hall, a round 8,000 seater venue, the sort of hall so badly needed in Britain. Munich has been chosen to host this annual event for the next five or six years, although the venue will be changed within the city.

Don Parker, after England's morale-boosting win over Germany said "I am disappointed not to qualify after beating both Hungary and Germany. It was a bad start against the Russian but all four members of the team responded by bouncing back with two victories."

Readers may well ask why Don Parker dropped Carl Prean against Germany? The answer could be that the Germans know Carl's game too well and it left Carl fresher for what proved to be an historic mens doubles victory. That win over Roskopf and Fetzner could signal a doubles partnership between O'Driscoll and Prean that could prove to be highly successful in future years.

Commonwealth champion Alan Cooke, the best top-spin exponent away from the table that we have seen in recent years played four times for England in five days. In the first two matches, against Hungary in Budapest and against the Russians he held winning leads but failed to hold the advantage on at least three occasions.

Happily the Chesterfield top-spinner slowly became more devastating. He finished off Hungary, a real revenge win, by out-gunning Sandor Varga and against the host country, hit a new high level by beating both Bohm and Fetzner. A few more wins of that calibre and Alan might be offered a place in a Bundesliga club team? Cooke's value to the England team has increased and it now seems almost certain that he will be unable to defend his Commonwealth title in Nairobi because of the almost overlapping dates with the world championships in Chiba City.

NFD GROVE UNBEATEN

Champions NFD Grove are not going to give up their title lightly. In the opening salvo at the Crystal Leisure Centre, they dropped only one set to go to the top of the Premier Division. But there were also some fine performances lower down the ranks as our reporter BRIAN LAMERTON found out.

ALISON Gordon, Andrea Holt and Helen Lower played unchanged throughout to give NFD Grove a commanding premier division lead at the conclusion of this season's Womens British League first week-end at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge.

In five matches Grove lost but only one set, this by Helen 21-17; 21-11; to Jill Harris the lone English girl in the Commonwealth All Stars team who finished in second place.

Grove's success included a 6-love drubbing of the Lisa Lomas led Peniel Academy; Lisa losing a close encounter with Andrea, 21-16; 19-21; 21-18; and then in the battle of the giants Alison demolished Lisa 9 & 16. Despite the importance of this latter set to both players with far bigger things than team points at stake it was played, as was the whole weekend, in excellent spirit.

At the lower end of the Premier the two leading Cadets, Sally Marling (Hull) and Nicola Deaton (World of Sport) stood up well in the 'big time' with Sally winning their own personal battle 22-20; 21-17.

Fellows Cranleigh (Lesley & Linda Radford, Ellen Meddings & Elaine Sayer) opened with a 4 sets to 2 win over Welsh Ladies and from then on both teams had identical records leaving them both poised for promotion to the Premier. This division, always the last to finish, was the most keenly contested of all; Amity Generations match with Welsh Ladies going to 17 games with two 20's; and one each 19, 18 & 17 scores in the third game. A titanic struggle for a Sunday morning after a late night in the Disco!



● Above: Alison Gordon who was unbeaten for champions Grove

● Right: Andrea Holt who had a good win over England No.1

● Below: Sally Marling, improving all the time



Wide Open

Kate Goodall turned in a 100% performance for Bayer Bradford but with her colleagues managing just 4 sets between them 4th. position was their lot in Division 2. Samantha Marling with 8 from 10 led Hull Sandhill's 2nd's to the top but after that this division is wide open.

The disabled girls travelled all the way from Durham to do battle with both Newcastle & Sunderland in Division 3A. Joanne Donnelly, Debbie Jackman & Valerie Beck all won a set during the week-end for this ever cheerful, very independent bunch of girls; it was great to see them competing with their able bodied colleagues.

One set divides Grove 2nd's and Vymura at the top of this division after they drew 3 sets all in the final match. Liza Robbins for Vymura was a hundred per center including inflicting Jose Bonger's only defeat.

The return to tournament play after 3 years absence by Claire & Helen Potts was the feature of Division 3B. Representing Andro Ladies from Stockport under the watchful eye of Len Elias, between them they were responsible for all of their teams 14 sets and could be



a force to be reckoned with come the second week-end.

A vote of thanks in the division to the hastily gathered Worcester Ladies who filled a late (very) vacancy; led by County No. 1. Janet Hunt they performed creditably with three draws and their inclusion at Bletchley won overwhelming support from Conference held on Saturday evening. Amongst other items discussed were the advisability of more than one team from any one club in the same division and a possible restriction on the number of foreign players.

Award

Welsh Ladies (Natasha Williams, Justine Thomas & Laura Collier) were pronounced 'Team of the Week End' — an award made by the organising committee taking into account all aspects from submission of entry form to appearance and demeanour on the table

(A richly deserved honour girls and by no means a bribe but what about an invitation to the principality — this would truly make it a British League).

From a similar criteria Regina Stevens of 'City of Newcastle' took the 'Player of the Week End' award.

All in all a great weekend; considerable credit to the organisation of Mike Lewis and his team; grateful thanks to Kay Higman and her staff at the Crystal Leisure Centre and to the support from Dudley Metropolitan Borough whose Mayor and Deputy Mayor, together with their wives attended the opening ceremony — we reconvene at Bletchley on June 1st. See you there!



A good performance by Reiko Morita of Cheltenham in the Cotswold Ladies League who gained a hat trick in the match against Worcester and denied Helen Pogmore her 100% record. This game (being the last of the match) gave Worcester a well deserved draw with Julie Taylor adding one and Julie and Reiko taking the doubles. Meanwhile Worcester are still the favourites for the Division one title but with strong opposition from Cheltenham.

Worcester took the game 6-4 against Gloucester in a very close match. Janet Hunt and Helen Pogmore had two very long hard games against Judy Morley and Janet was unlucky to lose after being 18-15 up in the third (Judy drew level with two nets and an edge!) Helen was lucky to win after being one game down and 17-20 down in the second. Nicola Jones for Gloucester played well and had some close games.

Division Two saw a good match between Leamington and Evesham with Kate Ryan and Tracey Green (Leamington) both scoring decisive hat-tricks after seeing off determined challenges from Dot Macfarlane to secure another victory for Leamington. Kate and Tracey again took their doubles (although close at 19 in the third) against Dot Macfarlane and Jenny Williams. Joan Parfitt, Evesham's new member had a good two-straight win over Lorna Nield and the match score was 7-3 to Leamington Spa. The match was rounded up by a much welcomed and well presented tea.

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

Premier					Sets		Games		Pts
	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A	
NFD Grove	5	5	-	-	29	1	58	9	10
Commonwealth Allstars	5	4	1	-	18	12	38	28	8
Peniel	5	2	2	1	14	16	32	34	5
Hull Sandhill	5	1	3	1	11	19	26	39	3
Playline Sovereigns	5	-	2	3	10	20	23	45	3
World of Sport	5	-	4	1	8	22	24	46	1
Division 1									
Fellows Cranleigh	5	5	-	-	22	8	44	24	10
Welsh Ladies	5	4	1	-	20	10	44	30	8
Graham Spicer	5	2	2	1	18	12	42	30	5
Newcastle	5	1	3	1	12	18	32	40	3
Mission Impossible	5	1	4	-	8	22	23	47	2
Amity Generation	5	1	4	-	10	20	31	45	2
Division 2									
Hull Sandhill	5	4	-	1	22	8	47	23	9
Sun Life Bristol	5	3	2	-	18	12	40	30	6
Playline Sovereigns	5	2	2	1	15	15	32	33	5
Bayer Bradford	5	1	2	2	14	16	33	33	4
Oaks Club	5	1	3	1	12	18	30	40	3
Ormesby	5	1	3	1	9	21	22	45	3
Division 3A									
NFD Grove 2	5	4	-	1	26	4	53	8	9
Vymura	5	4	-	1	25	5	52	12	9
Sunderland	5	3	2	-	19	11	38	24	6
Newcastle	5	2	3	-	11	19	24	42	4
Oaks Club	5	1	4	-	6	24	16	49	2
B.S.A.D.	5	-	5	-	3	27	8	56	0
Division 3B									
Fullerians	5	4	-	1	20	10	43	25	9
NFD Grove	5	2	2	1	16	14	38	36	5
Milton Keynes	5	2	2	1	15	15	35	35	5
Andro Ladies	5	1	2	2	14	16	34	36	4
Pavillion Ladies	5	1	2	2	14	16	34	37	4
Worcester Ladies	5	-	2	3	11	19	26	43	3

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WATCH and LEARN

Though interrupted by a number of meetings, I was able to see a great deal of the National Junior Champions and the next generation in action.

My first impression was that so few remained for the finals. I understand that in the disappointment of having been knocked out one's first thoughts concentrate on the journey home. However, is there not a duty also to support the sport? Should not players WATCH their rivals occasionally to LEARN? These thoughts did not figure very high.

I was particularly disappointed that so few cadets stayed on. It was by no means a late finish and there was much to learn and admire. My warm thanks to Referees and Organisers, indeed all concerned in the event which I thoroughly enjoyed and they deserve all our admiration not only for giving up their time, but for their efficiency.

Remarkable

We certainly saw some remarkable finals. Some players returned from 'dead', others froze on the threshold of victory. We saw, as was to be expected two Marling-Deaton clashes, both lost by the Hull girl, the first in the Q/F's of the Junior Girls, the second the Final of the Cadets. So our No. 1 girl returned without either title.

I did hear that some older girls, or at any rate their mentors, felt that we had offered too much encouragement to the two younger girls. If so, Ellen Meddings and Maria Thornley certainly made their point by reaching the final. This was doubly creditable, since they came back from disappointing European Youth Championships to try again this season.

They seem better equipped now, having turned disaster into triumph. Ellen had gained in consistency, but still needs to work on that. Defenders must not make any enforced errors! She hits well for a defender. Maria always was talented. Perhaps with Lloyd Lewis in her corner, she will add hard work and an iron will to her repertoire. If so, who knows? Sky's the limit.

Medals

I shall not add to Sally Marling's disappointments. All good players have bad days and she had two. I hope to see medals from her and Nicola Deaton in the "European Youth", because both are outstanding cadets. I express limitless astonishment that these two girls do not play doubles together. Not only are they bright EUROPEAN medal hopes, success in doubles is vital in the TEAM events. I can only guess at the reasons, probably rather accurately, and I ask their mentors to search their souls and tell me whether this furthers their charges' careers or whether success in English junior events is the limit of their ambitions.

When I was a junior parent, we were very much an under-class. Indeed a high official told my wife: "We do not really want you parents around!" In my time, and also in part perhaps as a result of my efforts, parents are now regarded as an indispensable and honourable part of the junior scene, as are mentors and coaches. However, greater freedoms require greater responsibilities and sometimes restraints in spreading and believing gossip. One is reminded of the reported situation in the Soviet Union where perestroika has led to lower productivity and near-national disaster!

It seems to me that there is too much 'politicking' in the junior game and not enough eyes are being kept on the ball. I have never enjoyed comments that standards are not as high as they were once upon a time, but one can look at the results of European Youth Championships and one may not be happy with the results. I attribute much of this to players and their elders, who should know better, getting side-tracked by outside issues, some of a highly imaginary nature.

"There is too much 'politicking' in the junior game and not enough eyes being kept on the ball"

The players and camps who keep their eye on the ball have the best chance of success. The gossipers and excuse-makers undermine their own players and so perpetuate and rationalise failure. The biggest crime is to create a situation in which the young no longer enjoy the sport. I have often deplored the lack of regard for the sport within the sport. I have often got very angry about this. Our silent majority has much to answer for.

Again I heard stories of good officials who had called it a day, because they had been treated badly by their members and fellow officials. I worry about the sport and the suicidal tendencies within it, the glorious victories in self-destruction (to quote the late Malcolm Muggerridge) and the willingness to shoot ourselves in the foot. Here we were in the middle of a wonderful junior tournament, all those eager young faces so full of enthusiasm and hope, and a few middle-aged sourpusses were doing their best to ruin things for the young, and frankly, it showed in some of the results.

Team

I can no longer accept stories of a villainous ETTA, because we have a team of people, headed by Kevin Satchell, which is

utterly and totally devoted to the cause of young players. We have earned and spent large sums in that cause. I beg our members not to ruin this wonderful game of ours and I beg our silent majority to let the spoilers know what they think of them.

Having blown some steam, let me move to the Boys' Finals. The Cadet one was quite remarkable, since Darren Blake, having lost the first game, came back to near-victory against Adrian Vincent when his hand seemed to freeze at vital moments! However, great credit to the Devon boy, who now did what Gary Lambert also did for Devon. They still produce fine juniors!

I thought Garry Knights would win the Junior Boys, since he seemed in full charge in his semi-final against Alex Perry with good backhands (long pimples) and excellent forehands. He led 15-11 and then 16-14 in the final game and never made another point, an astonishing turnaround. This set the scene for last season's leading cadets, now juniors, Perry and Edward Hatley and again Hatley seemed 'frozen', playing well below his usual standard. Perry, on the other hand, to whom some temperament problems have been attributed, played almost nervelessly and kept things going, relying mainly on his backhand and an error-free game from half-distance.

Much to prove

Some said that this was a game that could not take him much further. I could not agree. One recalls the admirable, much under-rated Trevor Taylor and more recently Mikael Appelgren, the European champion, who were highly successful with a mobile, generally steady game from half distance. Both Hatley and particularly Perry have, of course, much to prove in European terms and still have to gain selection, but if they do, they have three years to make a mark.

Perry completed a famous double for Devon and his temperament was excellent and he was all the better for it. Against Knights he fought back from losing positions and always gave the impression that he thought he would win. In the end it was a notable victory not only for himself but against himself, at any rate against the player he was last season.

There was no shortage of those who reported lower standards. I always decline comparisons with the Prean era (Carl, not John!) which I know best. Others said that the present crop were not up to the Sandley/Wilson era. I think the present crop may surprise us in Granada, though heat will be a big factor there. I hear good reports about our U-12 Squads. It takes many years to build international players and many, too many fall by the wayside. Two for the future: Mark Smith and Vincent Avery.

STARS OF TOMORROW

OUR future England stars of the next century will all hopefully be on their way to being part of table tennis history in April and June this year.

The Halex National U11 Championships, now in its fifth year will be staged at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Sunday 28th April and is to be sponsored for the first time by "HALEX", who also support the ETTA Ranking Scheme and are the ball sponsor of our County Championships.

It is hoped for an even larger entry than last years record 168 entrants who started the tournament at the same venue last year.

It is certainly a growth area which the Association is actively encouraging, and this year will also see the first ever National Championships for the U10 and U12 age groups. This again will be sponsored by "HALEX". These championships

will be staged at the Bletchley Leisure Centre near Milton Keynes on Saturday and Sunday 15th and 16th June. It is proposed to play the U10's on Saturday and the U12's on the Sunday. There will also be U12 doubles events.

Donald Parker, the England National Team Manager will be in attendance. Plans for Donald to run a small coaching clinic in connection with the event are underway. It is hoped all players who entered the U11's last year will compete for the U12 Halex title at Bletchley this year and this innovation will give the opportunity for new players to compete at this level.

Entry forms are available from the ETTA office, just complete the coupon below, sending the SAE. Further information regarding these events can be obtained from either Julian Tee or Rob Sinclair at the ETTA on (0424) 722525.



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Queensbury House
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East Sussex TN34 1HF

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26th April 1991
Mansfield Leisure Centre

English Junior Open
25th/26th/27th May 1991
The Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington

Halex Nat. U10/U12 Championships
15/16 June 1991
Bletchley Leisure Centre

Nat. U18/U21 Championships
22/23 June 1991
The Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington

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USA TO GET DOUBLES EVENT?

What are the chances of the second World Doubles tournament going to the USA? If Hikosuke Tamasu, head of the giant Butterfly organisation in Japan has any say in the matter then expect Atlanta, scene of the 1996 Olympics, to get the official nod.

After a meeting with Danny Seemiller, President of the USTTA Mr. Tamasu came out strongly in favour of taking the event across the Atlantic.

"We think it is best if the sec-

ond tournament be held in Atlanta. I have written to the ITTF to explain my thinking and intention," he said. Adding: "if not this time, then we can wait until they are ready."

"Since the first tournament was held in Asia, in order for the event to become international, it is best if the second went to America and the third to Europe."

If the event does find its way across the Atlantic, can it expect the same response as it got in Seoul? There it attracted 21,000 spectators over the four days and TV coverage of 16 hours.

Even in a country weaned on television, it is unlikely that the US would get anywhere near those figures. Nevertheless the views of Mr. Tamasu are now in the hands of Mr. Ogimura, president of the ITTF who will eventually decide if America is to be the next stop for this successful tournament.

Although TV was there in some force, and watched by millions of Koreans, it was not viewed outside that country. To put that situation right, an hour long video tape of the finals is being sent to interested Associations worldwide free of charge.



UMPIRES STATUS SYMBOL

Are umpires the forgotten men and women of our sport? According to Ken Wilkinson, the ITTF vice-president they are.

On the subject of fashion and all the latest designs that were on show at the Butterfly World Doubles Cup, he picked out the blue of the English umpire (?) as being out of contrast with the rest of the colour scheme.

He says that the red coats worn by the Japanese and Korean umpires looked right, but the blue of England and Oceania failed to compliment this colourful tournament.

"We have to move away from the partisan choice to find a uniform that is immediately recognised as one worn by international umpires," he says.

"Such a design would be accepted by the individual concerned as a status symbol be it at a local tournament, a national or international event."

Mr. Wilkinson favours the red coat, fawn trousers or skirts worn by the Far Eastern Officials.

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EVENTS 1991

Apr	14-21 Com. wealth Champs(Nairobi)
	24-6 World Champs(Chiba, Jap)
May	
	8-11 China Open (Dairen/Beijing/Shanghai)
	12-14 Hong Kong Open (H.Kong)
	18-19 Deutschland Cup (Trier FRG)
	Australian Open
	21-14 Nittaku All Stars World Circuit (Eur, Afr, Americas)
	28-1 Nigeria Open (Lagos)
June	Brazilian Open US Open
Aug	
	28-6 N. Zealand Open(Auckland)
Sept	
	1-3 IOC Presidents Cup (Matsumoto, Japan)
	5-8 ANA Japan Open (Hokkaido, Japan)
	10 Nittaku All Stars World Circuit (Japan)
	27-29 European Masters Cup(FRG)
Oct	
	24-27 Swiss Open (Geneva)
Nov	
	14-17 Hungarian Open (Budapest)
	5-10 Barcelona 1991 Tournt(Spain)
	28-1 Swedish Open(Sundsvall)
Dec	
	5-8 Finlandia Open

THE SHOW GOES ON

Injury and illness played havoc with plans for the European Top 12 in Holland. But the show must go on and for the home crowd there was plenty to cheer about as our man in s'Hertengensbosch George Yates reports.



Above: Erik Lindh

Left: Mirjam Hooman

What better incentive for a Sunday outing than one that beckoned the good folks of s'Hertengensbosch to witness a women's semi-final clash between Mirjam Hooman (nee Kloppenburg) and former winner, back in 1985 in Barcelona, Bettine Vriesekoop? Double Dutch if you please!

And what a clash this was played in front of 3,000 spectators in the Sportcentrum Maaspoort Den Bosch with Mirjam fighting back from a 2-1 deficit to triumph 18, -13, -13, 18 and 18. In the other semi, played on an adjoining table, Gabriella Wirth of Hungary, the title holder, only just made it to the final as she too from being 2-1 down scraped home -13, 19, -19, 11 and 23-21 in the decider against Marie Hrachov of Czechoslovakia.

But it was anti-climax for Gabriella in that final encounter as she succumbed to the Dutch girl, now with the bit between her teeth, Mirjam cantering home 11, 13 and 11 to the acclamation of a joyous crowd.

Sweden's Erik Lindh was the winner of the counterpart men's event with a final victory over his compatriot Jan-Ove Waldner the scores being 12, -17, 23 and 17 in the final. Prior to, in the semis, Lindh had beaten Jean-Philippe Gatien of France (15, 20 and 12) while Waldner had eliminated Jorgen Persson, also of Sweden, 14, 13, -18, 16.

In the play-offs for positions 3 and 4 Bettine had a win of 17, 20, -19, 12 over Marie while, in a mutually agreed best of three, Persson cruised home 17 and 13 against Gatien.

Message

On the Wednesday evening prior to my departure to Holland a 'phone message was received from Sweden withdrawing Mickael Appelgren, due to injury and, on arrival in Den Bosch, there was a fax message from Poland withdrawing Andrzej Grubba.

England's Carl Prean having turned down the invitation to attend as the reserve, with the likelihood of sitting on the bench, was then recontacted at his home on the Isle of White. But, having gone there from Germany for a period of rest and having left his playing gear in Grenzau the answer was again in the negative at such short notice.

Then the chase was on to locate Poland's Leszek Kucharski eventually located in the vicinity of Stuttgart to where a car was despatched through the night to pick him up at his home at 6 a.m. Armed with an official invitation in case of being stopped at the border proved of no value when the car was the one in a hundred to be halted. Then ensued a dash to Frankfurt to obtain a visa.

Meantime Ding Yi had been summoned from Vienna and duly arrived in Den Bosch with time to spare being hopeful that Kucharski would not put in an appearance thus enabling him to participate. Eventually a deadline of 3 p.m. was set as play was to commence at 4.10 p.m. and at 2.57 p.m. precisely Kucharski arrived!

Furthermore, due to illness, Daniela Guergueltcheva of Bulgaria, having travelled from Sofia with a high temperature, was declared unfit to play and confined to bed by the doctor on site. Thus Jasna Fazlic of Yugoslavia, having travelled as the reserve to attend, got her chance.

Despite all adversities the show must go on, and it did, superbly well, with due acknowledgement to the capabilities of the Netherlands Association who were not found wanting. Well done!

GROUP RESULTS

Men Group A

No.	Player	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd5	Res
1	Jörgen Persson (SWE)	1	2	3	3	3	2
2	Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA)	0	1	2	3	4	1
3	Jean-Michel Saive (BEL)	1	2	2	3	3	3
4	Andrei Mazunov (URS)	0	0	0	0	1	5
5	Ilija Lupulescu (YUG)	1	1	1	2	3	4
6	Paul Haldan (HOL)	0	0	1	1	1	6

Men Group B

7	Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	1	2	3	3	4	1
8	Jörg Rosskopf (FRG)	1	2	3	3	3	3
9	Zoran Primorac (YUG)	1	1	1	2	3	4
10	Dmitrij Mazunov (URS)	0	0	0	1	2	5
11	Leszek Kucharski (POL)	0	0	0	0	0	6
12	Erik Lindh (SWE)	0	1	2	3	3	2

Women Group A

1	Gabriella Wirth (HUN)	1	2	2	3	3	2
2	Wang Xiamong (FRA)	0	0	1	1	2	4
3	Tu Yong (SUI)	0	1	1	1	2	5
4	Mirjam Hooman (HOL)	1	2	3	4	5	1
5	Valentina Popova (URS)	1	1	1	1	1	6
6	Alena Safarova (TCH)	0	0	1	2	2	3

Women Group B

7	Csilla Batorfi (HUN)	1	2	2	3	4	3
8	Olga Nemes (FRG)	0	0	0	0	0	6
9	Otilia Badescu (ROM)	0	1	2	2	2	4
10	Maria Hrachova (TCH)	1	2	3	3	4	1
11	Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL)	1	1	2	3	4	2
12	Jasna Fazlic (YUG)	0	0	0	1	1	5



● *Dave Travis (centre), Director of Coaching for the Sun Life Sportschool with part-time coaches Kevin Satchell (left) and Graham Norris who will be responsible for the development of table tennis and orienteering respectively.*

KEVIN'S AIM

Dave Travis, Director of Coaching for the Sun Life Sportschool project has appointed Kevin Satchell to help him in his aim to encourage Avon's youngsters to aspire to international status.

The three year project launched in November of last year is a joint initiative by the Sports Council, University of Bristol and Avon County Council and has the financial backing of Bristol based financial services group Sun Life. Its aim is to encourage and develop so far untapped talent in Avon's secondary school age youngsters in the four selected sports of athletics, table tennis, orienteering and tennis.



● *NATASHA Williams was voted Welsh Junior Sportswoman of the Year by B.B.C. Wales/Western Mail. She was presented with the Carwyn James Trophy during the hour long T.V. programme by former Olympic Long Jump Champion Lynn Davies at the National Sports Centre for Wales, Cardiff.*

The 14 year-old is the first table tennis player to win the trophy following in the footsteps of Nigel Tyler who was the Young Sportsman of the Year winner in 1984. This honour going to Monmouth's Neil Winter this year.



● *Photo shows: Richard, Alan and Andy*

TALENTED TRIO

FORMER junior school headmaster Alan Birks realised one of his ambitions when a team of Birks, Birks and Birks represented Skegness Grammar School in the Mablethorpe and District Table Tennis League.

Alan, the former head of Skegness County Junior School, has been involved in table tennis for over 40 years. During that time he has represented four different towns, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Skegness and Mablethorpe, and has coached his two sons, Andy and Richard to success with the bat.

Now he has just reached the pinnacle of his career by playing in the same match as his two sons against Louth.

"It was perhaps unique," he said. "And it is unlikely ever to happen again. Andy works nights now and Richard will soon be going on to higher education of some sort."

It was obviously a proud moment for Alan and put the result, a 10-0 win for Skegness, in the shade. The team are still unbeaten in the premier division of the league and has won the top division for the last three years under Andrew's captaincy.

(Courtesy Skegness News)

CIPPENHAM SLIP-UP

by BRIAN LAMERTON

OUTSTANDING league win of the month was that of Amity Generation over Cippenham 'A' in the Premier division; Sarah Hammond & Phil Watson each won two sets for Amity — this was Cippenhams first defeat in the four seasons of the competition other than by Kingfisher.

Three wins by League Secretary Graham Trimming enabled Cippenham 'B' to reverse the score when they took on Amity 'B' in Division 1.

Premier Division

Cippenham 'A'	7	5	2	38	25	14
Kingfisher 'A'	7	4	3	32	31	11
Pyestock	6	4	2	32	22	11
Amity Gen. 'A'	6	3	3	26	28	9
Burnham	6	2	4	23	31	6
KCD (Stiga)	6	1	5	20	34	6

First Division

OLOP	6	5	1	38	16	14
Cippenham 'B'	7	5	2	36	27	12
Merton	6	4	2	32	22	12
Kingfisher 'B'	6	3	3	26	28	9

Amity Gen. 'B'	6	1	5	20	34	6
Isle of Wight	7	1	6	19	44	4

Ladies Division

Cippenham	7	6	1	26	9	16
Kingfisher	6	4	2	23	7	13
OLOP	6	4	2	18	12	11
Aldershot 'A'	6	2	4	13	17	7
Aldershot 'B'	6	2	4	10	20	6
Isle of Wight	7	1	6	5	30	4

Congratulations to Gemma Schwartz, Nicola Cracknell, Ben Johnson and Martin Adams (all Berks), Mathew Greenwood (Bucks) and Gavin Yates (Oxon) who all won through their groups in the final Junior/Cadet National trials, particularly to Ben Johnson who went on to the Cadet quarter final and the star performance goes to Gemma Schwartz who qualified in both Cadet and Junior competitions and reached the Cadet semi-final.

BILL'S AWARD

by ALF PEPPERD

Hearty congratulations to Weston-S-Mare's General Secretary for the past 6-7 years Bill Lavis — upon being awarded "The Mercury Sports Administrator" of the year award. This award was presented to Bill by the Chairman of Woodspring Council for special services to sport in general.

Bill Lavis, I understand, is a County table tennis umpire, and also takes a great delight in coaching youngsters, (and anybody that comes along) at the YMCA at Weston every week. Well done Bill — the award is richly deserved.

I was delighted to see a Somerset county report in January's TTN by a former Glo'shire colleague of mine Andy Seward. Digging into my county TT archives, I discovered the last time Somersetshire had a County mention in TTN was in the May 1989 magazine No. 183.

That sure was a long time ago — go to it Andy and does it really matter that as you say, **we do not pick cider apples all the time here in Somerset?** Well, Well — it appears that somebody has been doing just that at least in the publicity stakes.

FINEST PLAYER

TRAGEDY struck the Oxford & District League match between British Rail and Morris Motors 'A' on Monday 28 January, when B.R.'s Stan Hahn collapsed and died during his second game of the evening.

Many of the country's players will remember Stan for his achievements and tireless backhand and forehand looping displays in Open Tournaments and county matches for Oxfordshire and later for Bucks in the Premier Division.

Pleasure

Stan was arguably the finest player that Oxfordshire has ever produced and both Dave Harse, his team mate for over 20 years and myself who travelled with him to so many of the Open Tournaments during the mid-sixties, will always remember the enormous pleasure he gave in his determined efforts to succeed.

Stan was buried at St. Mary's Church, Kidlington, Oxford on Tuesday 5 February and leaves his wife Avelina and 13 year old daughter Victoria.

Stan was 45 when he died.

Brian J. Hamilton

ASIAN GAMES 1990

Players using JUIC Table Tennis equipment achieved a remarkable 17 medals at the Asian Games held recently in Beijing.

For full information on all JUIC products contact:

Racket Sports

22/24 West End Arcade

Nottingham

Tel: 0602 411695

Fax: 0773 520161

TITLE WINNER

The Shrewsbury Built Up Felt Roofing Grove School Cadet Open Table Tennis Championships must be one of the longest tournament titles on the current scene, however the title was to prove a blessing as local Radio Station BBC Shropshire covered the events of Sunday morning live taking great care to give the sponsor due promotion.

The two day cadet tournament saw the home club successful in the boys' events as Stephen Meddings overcame Bradford's Mark Smith and Essex man Paul Hudson in the final stages of the cadet boys' singles whilst Adrian Cadman narrowly overcame clubmate Robert Rowson in the second round of the Under 13 boys singles before gaining semi final success over Stockton's Matthew Bartlam and final victory against Marcunian Richard Jones who had earlier ousted top seed David Smith of Yorkshire.

Meanwhile the NFD Grove duo of Meddings and Cadman won the vital points to clinch the cadet boys' doubles over top seeds Smith and Hudson the latter duo having been extended to three games in the opening round by NFD Grove's Welsh duo of Paul Robertson and Matthew Hopwood. However, there was to be success for Hopwood who won a tense Restricted Cadet Boys 'A' final over Manchester's Akash Kapoor whilst the sporting boy from the north had to be content with runners up spot in Restricted Cadet Boys 'B' with Leeds Boys; Tony Hudson the victor.

Meanwhile, Hudson was to create school history as he clinched the Under 12 boys' title over Paul Hancock of Sussex to become the first boy from Archbishop Cranmer School in Leeds to win an open title, the girls in the guise of Joanna Roberts and Katharine Goodall having been gold medallist on many occasions in the past decade. Not to be outdone by illustrious former pupils, Nicola Smith won both Under 12 and Under 13 girl's titles whilst the runner up in the former Debbie Pestka clinched the Under 11 event and the silver medalist in the latter Sarah Stedman of Sussex beat Berkenhead's Emma Fletcher to win the Cadet Girls Singles.

In the Under 10 girls singles Stockport's Woodley Junior School took the honours as Tracey Hunt beat schoolmate Helen McConniffe in the final whilst Kent's talented Ross Friday clinched both Under 10 and Under 11 boys titles, in similar vein. It was to be a good tournament for the small Rhonda Valley village of Blaenaven as a determined Welsh girl Stacey Thomas beat Tina Beaney of Sussex and Michelle Fisher of Staffordshire to win both Restricted Class A and Class B titles.

Results

GIRLS Under 10 G.S.

Runner Up: Helen McConniffe (Stockport)

Winner: Tracey Hunt (Stockport)

Under 11 G.S.

Runner Up: Catherine Corkill (Barrow)

Winner: Debbie Pestka (Nottingham)

Under 12 G.S.

Runner Up: Debbie Pestka (Nottingham)

Winner: Nicola Smith (Leeds)

Under 13 G.S.

Runner Up: Sarah Stedman (S.W. Sussex)

Winner: Nicola Smith (Leeds)

Under 13 G.D.

Runners Up: Nicola Smith (Leeds), Nicola Silburn (Leeds)

Winners: Sarah Stedman (Sussex), Vicky Fox (NFD Grove)

Restricted Cadet Girls 'B'

Runner Up: Tina Beaney (Hastings)

Winner: Stacey Thomas (Blaenaven)

Restricted Cadet Girls 'A'

Runner Up: Michelle Fisher (Burton-on-Trent)

Winner: Stacey Thomas (Blaenaven)

Cadet Girls Singles

Runner Up: Emma Fletcher (Wirral)

Winner: Sarah Stedman (S.W. Sussex)

Cadet Girls Doubles

Runners Up: Michelle Martin (NFD Grove), Sian Jenkins (Wakefield)

Winners: Emma Fletcher (Wirral), Claire Newns (Wirral)

BOYS Under 10 B.S.

Runner Up: Paul McCann (Newcastle)

Winner: Scott Friday (Medway)

Under 11 B.S.

Runner Up: Gareth Brown (Newcastle)

Winner: Scott Friday (Medway)

Under 12 B.S.

Runner Up: Paul Hancock (S.W. Sussex)

Winner: Tony Hudson (Leeds)

Under 13 B.S.

Runner Up: Richard Jones (Manchester)

Winner: Adrian Cadman (NFD Grove)

Under 13 B.D.

Runners Up: David Smith (Huddersfield), Tony Hudson (Leeds)

Winners: Matthew Bartlam (Stockton), Kevin Doyle (S.W. Sussex)

Restricted Cadet Boys 'B'

Runner Up: Akash Kapoor (Manchester)

Winner: Tony Hudson (Leeds)

Restricted Cadet Boys 'A'

Runner Up: Akash Kapoor (Manchester)

Winner: Martin Hopwood (NFD Grove)

Cadet Boys Singles

Runner Up: Paul Hudson (London)

Winner: Steven Meddings (NFD Grove)

Cadet Boys Doubles

Runners Up: Mark Smith (Bradford), Paul Hudson (London)

Winners: Adrian Cadman (NFD Grove), Steven Meddings (NFD Grove)

At one time sponsors names added to the event they were backing were often blue pencilled by the Press. But all that has changed as the organisers of the Grove School Cadet tournament found out to their credit.

EDWARD'S GRANT

A new face at NFD Grove Table Tennis Club of Market Drayton is that of Edward Wismayer from Malta who has won a two year scholarship to attend the Grove School and receive table tennis coaching.

Edward is the top junior player in Malta and has gained the grant through a fund set up by the International Olympic Committee. The recently introduced scheme is designed to help promising sportsmen and sportswomen from developing countries to further their sporting prowess.

The Maltese Table Tennis Association gained the support of the Olympic Committee to effect a grant from Olympic Solidarity who administer the grant from their headquarters in Lausanne, France; furthermore approval was given by the ITTF and Edward was able to join NFD Grove in September 1990.

The young man from Malta studies 'A' levels at Grove School in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and General Studies where he is proving to be a very strong student whilst the personal attention of John Souler is helping the young man from the Mediterranean island develop his potential in the sport of table tennis.



● There were no losers in the recent Isle of Dogs Ranking tournament only happy faces as it shown in our photograph

SALLY'S DOUBLE

by ALF PEPPARD

FEMI TAKES OVER NO.1

For the fourth year running Barclays have sponsored the Isle of Dogs ranking tournament. The Barclays in Docklands personal sector manager Chris Day presented trophies to over thirty young players, and expressed his pleasure to be involved with the club's continuous progress.

Club coach Laurie Laken who pioneered the venture in 1987 observed that three of the original ranked players were still involved — Ian Hall taking the No. 1 ranked cadet shield for the second time, Peter Clipson No. 4 junior, and Paul Runham now the club's qualified ETTA assistant coach and the No. 1 ranked man on the Island.

Delighted with the club's present healthy state, Laurie is now hoping that a really talented player will emerge with the dedication and motivation to stamp the local identity on the County and National scene.

Results on page 35

PLAYED at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, the Cotswold Junior Select attracted 347 entries and was played on 16 tables.

On the first day play centred around the U17's — and local entries took a bit of a hammering. Spearheaded by Englands No. 19 ranked junior Jeremy Hyatt from Tibberton, he only made it to the third round and then went out to Martin Adams of Ascot who proceeded to the final.

Gloucestershire's other hope, Alison Cox from Cheltenham failed to get past the groups. The general standard of play was high and therefore no surprise that Englands No. 1 junior Edward Hatley took the U17's singles title in somewhat devastating form, beating Martin Adams 10, 11, in the final.

The girls U17 singles title went to Sally Marling of Hull — Sally beat Maria Thornley from Chorley - 14, 11, 14. Other events on the day were the junior boys doubles in which Garry Knights (Burton-on-Trent) & Barry Foster (Whickham) beat Gavin Yates (Thame) & Martin Adams (Ascot) 17, 19.



● Sally Marling

The junior girls doubles was won by Katherine Goodall & Ellen Meddings a stalwart Yorks combo who beat Sally Marling & Linda Radford -13, 16, 16. On the second day, play commenced at 8.30am — with the Mayor & Mayoress of Gloucester present for the finals.

Those Finalists were:
Boys Singles — U12. David Purdy (Derby) beat Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) 17, -17, 15.
Girls Singles — U12. Nicola Smith (Y) beat Nicola Silburn (Y) 15, 17.
Boys Doubles — U14. Adrian Vincent (DV) & Darren Blake (SY) beat Mark Smith (Y) & Andrew

Wilkinson (ND) 19, 22.
Girls Doubles — U14. Gemma Schwartz (BK) & Sally Marling (Hull) beat Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield) & Michelle Martin (Burton on Trent) 17, -13, 15.
Girls Singles — U14. Sally Marling beat Nicola Deaton 15, 16.
Boys Singles — U14. Phillip Neal (Hull) beat Vincent Avery (Brentwood) 15, 19.

The tournament was well publicised by the presence of Central ITV South on the first day — and BBC Radio Gloucestershire South & West on both days. Thanks are also due for the success of this annual T. T. tournament to the immense amount of voluntary work undertaken by a whole legion of umpires, stewards and officials, for whom without their help this tournament would never take place.

Finally — player of the tournament? Well my choice would be 14 year-old Sally Marling from Hull. Not only did she take the Under 14 girls singles crown — but the Under 17 girls singles as well, a very worthy champion.

SILVER LINING FOR SCHOOLS

by DAVID LOMAS

Lea Green, Matlock will again be the venue when the 25th annual Dunlop National School Team Championship Finals take place on Saturday, March 16th.

Main contenders for honours are expected to be the multi-challenge from teams from Barrow-in-Furness (north region) and Peniel Academy, Brentwood (South & East region). At the time this column was being prepared no doubt the three Regional organisers were hoping that the arctic weather conditions would moderate so that the qualifying events could take place at Pontefract, Cirencester and Croydon, to determine the line-up for Lea Green.

It will be interesting to see how the experiment of playing the finals on only one table per event (eight tables) will work out. Certainly, there is a danger that the new format might add to the already intense pressure on players — especially the younger ones — but this could well be offset by the extra space that will be created, although it is doubtful that parents and other interested parties will naturally curb their exuberance which has been a unique feature of these championships since the late Jack Carrington blazed the trail in 1967 at Birmingham.

It is interesting to note that the winners of the Under-17 events 25 years ago were Malory School, Lewisham (Kent) (Boys), and Rectory Manor School, Newham (Essex) (Girls).

The glory days of the early years when school teams from the London Borough of Newham lifted no fewer than 23 national titles are but a fond memory. I well recall a certain Wally Read (one of the Newham coaches with a cockney knack of seizing any opportunity) politely but rather loudly bemoaning his misfortune when confronted with three of his teams playing at the same time at a regional event at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

I also remember well the occasion when Geoffrey Boycott made the presentations at Lea Green (yes — he wore a cap then!) and former Table Tennis News editor, George Yates, captioned the front cover photograph of the magazine with "Conquering Cumbrians" marking Millom Schoolmaster John Reed's proud moment when son Chris was amongst the quartet that won the Boys' Under-19 title

— one of nine such titles that went Millom's way in another golden period.

I think it was Charles Dickens who said "Lord, keep my memory green". But times change not always for the better and it would be more appropriate if we looked ahead.

Millom's mantle is now assumed by Parkview and Yarlside — also from Cumbria but nearer civilisation, being situated in Barrow-in-Furness. Parkview could well take the Boys' Under-16 title, especially as holders Whitgift School, Croydon have fallen by the wayside.

Another well-known source of national 'gongs' — The Grove School, Market Drayton, were expected to go for a national record of four successive titles in defending the Girls' Under-16 title but somewhat surprisingly their entry at the county stage didn't materialise. Perhaps Parkview will grasp that nettle. It would be a happy outcome, especially for Caroline Watt who is now fully recovered from a car accident that she and others were involved in when returning from Lea Green last year with runners-up awards.

There will undoubtedly be the battle royal amongst the Under-11 contenders and Richard Hudson's Archbishop Cranmer School, Leeds, will take some stopping in the Girls' Under-11 category.

On my own "patch" Cumnor House (Croydon) have three out of their winning side of last year left to aim for an impressive tally of four Boys' Under-11 titles in the last six seasons, whilst neighbours Downside School, Purley, will have not forgotten that they were the first Croydon winners of that event in 1984. Play is due to commence at 9.30 a.m. with the winners due to collect their just rewards by 5 p.m.

Good News

There is good news concerning the Dunlop Schools International Championships, due to return to Stockland Green Leisure Centre, Birmingham, on July 5-7th., 1991. Ireland, Scotland and Wales have intimated that they will be sending six teams, the Isle of Man — who staged last year's championships — will be represented by four teams, and the grapevine says that Schools teams from Belgium and Czechoslovakia are showing interest.

It could well culminate in the best-ever Schools International Championships and the 30-strong English squad could face their stiffest challenge yet in team and individual events. It has long been ESTTA selection policy that only players from affiliated schools who have taken part in the team or individual championships (at any stage) are considered for selection. This welcome news should boost the competition at Mansfield where good performances could secure a place in the squad.

New Date

Plans are going ahead to explore the possibility of an International School Sport Federation — approved International Schools Championships in this country in April, 1993. If sufficient resources and funding are forthcoming up to sixteen countries could be involved. In 1978 the ESTTA competed in the World Schools Games in Izmir, Turkey, where Sally Midgley and Malcolm Green won the Gold medal in the Mixed Doubles against the People's Republic of China. Diccon Gray (now ETTA Development Officer) was non-travelling reserve on that occasion.

There was to have been an inaugural ISF table tennis event in Israel this month but the Gulf crisis has meant its cancellation.

Many county schools associations have staged their qualifying events for the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships which take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 27. Entries are due in to Competitions Secretary, Paul Birch (23 Kestrel Road), Bedford (0234 341988) by no later than March 22nd. Entry is only via counties.

The ESTTA are making every effort to send a strong team to compete in the British Primary Schools Championships at Dumfries on April 5-7th. In the inaugural event last season Ireland won both team events although James Furner (Cumnor House) won the Boys Individual title.

Best wishes to ESTTA Chairman, John Blackband, General Secretary, Chuck Henry, and Life Members Tom Matthews and Ed Mitchell who have been under the weather in recent weeks.

NICKY'S SOS

IN response to many friendly enquiries and also recent newspaper speculation, can I please confirm that Nicky Mason is still alive and kicking.

At the end of last season Nicky decided to take up a contract offered by a Swedish club as he considered the experience would benefit his table tennis education.

He discussed the situation with, among others, Donald Parker and was happy to be given his blessing. His decision to live in Sweden was one of finance as well as the belief that the training and practice at the club would be superior to that which he would experience 'at home'.

When he came home in November he admitted that the training and practice coupled with the adjusting to living in Sweden had been hard and he did not feel he was playing well. He very much appreciated everyone's encouragement at The Midland Open and despite a tentative start kept himself under control particularly during the semi-final against Chris Oldfield, to win the title and return to Sweden in a much happier frame of mind.

At Christmas he was in a good mood as his Swedish results had improved and although I cannot read Swedish the newspapers he had brought home clearly showed by pictures and headlines, that 'Mason' was keeping the local fans happy.

The papers published some sort of ranking order, which showed Nicky ahead of Matthew Syed but below three oriental (?) names.

Nicky is now hoping to be home for the English Championships and probably the Essex Open, but is in need of some sponsorship to make the journey possible. Perhaps the Great Britain Olympic Fund or John Prean's Development Fund could give him some help?

Like those friendly enquirers, I cannot believe that a player of 25, firmly established as the number four in England at the end of last season, who has been overtaken by only one player to date (and that by virtue of a new ranking system); a player who won his only tournament in this country this season 'always in control' can be overlooked by anyone.

Is this a case of 'out of sight, out of mind' or do they have some information that I am not aware of?

Incidentally, I have not retired but it will probably need a dedicated young person, like Nicky Mason, to get the metal hips greased up!

We all need encouragement.

Mike Kercher
Carshalton, Surrey

GOOD NEWS

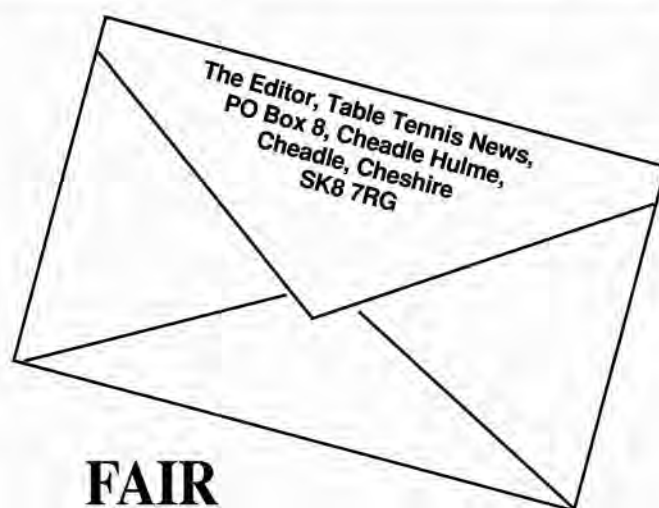
Elections are good news, for they create a focus for reflection and for a re-affirmation of faith. Sadly they are not always good publicity, as the dirty washing gets aired. My post today contained some of the dirtiest washing I have met in recent years. How sad for Richard Scruton who is trying to project a 'Mr Clean' image that those around him see fit to throw the dirt around so freely.

The past few years have seen an overbearing figure at the helm lashing out at anyone who dared to challenge his view of the world. Table Tennis News has been filled with 'Prean's Pronouncements', while many letters have been followed by the gripping appendix — "John Prean comments". I cannot have been the only person who turned over the page with a groan. Now we cannot even have an election without being told from the top how we should vote. Indeed John Prean seems almost to be running a 'scorched earth' campaign as he advises sponsors to pull out of the sport — at the same time as ETTA advertises for a Chief Executive with proven ability to seek out sponsors! We shall certainly need that.

My instinct drives me to back the man with the proven marketing flair, for ETTA needs nothing more urgently than this. We hear much of our strengthening financial position, but it will take a marketing man to lead us on to glory from this solid base. Table tennis has loyal support from an earlier generation which grew up with the league and county structure. It also has strong support from the younger generation brought up on tournaments and individual play. However it has lost the middle ground, without which it can never hope to flourish.

In the harsh world of today, difficult choices must be made and, as in trade, the market is king. If the public need games ending at 15 points, if nets need to be higher or tables smaller, then we must be prepared to act. It is a time for bold decisions, imagination and flair. I am sure that either Richard or Alan could look after the day-to-day running of the Association, and could do so with distinction, but for me the decisive factor is the marketing experience. I support Alan Ransome for Chairman; some people clearly see his trade background as his 'Achilles heel'; I consider it to be his greatest strength.

Geoff Twiss, Woore, nr. Crewe



FAIR COMMENT

I recently attended a meeting at the Derbyshire County Committee as a representative of the Derby League when the nominations for ETTA Officers was discussed.

I put forward Richard Scruton as the nomination for Chairman, having been unanimously agreed by the Derby Committee. Other members wished the County Committee to nominate Alan Ransome. Fair enough in our democratic sport.

The Derby Committee had been unanimous that the trade interests of Alan Ransome precluded him from their consideration for nomination and I put forward that view. Three of Alan's strongest supporters were a Butterfly-sponsored international player, the father of that player, and the mother of two Butterfly-sponsored players. They could not, or would not, accept the argument that even the selection of international teams could be called into question over trade interests.

I have been a strong supporter of Don Parker as sole selector, and had last year helped to stem similar rumours but pointed out that the critics would have even more ammunition with Alan Ransome for chairman.

I have since learnt that some of those present at the meeting reported to members of the National Press that a member of the ETTA Management Committee had stated that Don Parker was influenced to select Butterfly-sponsored players.

I wish to point out that my comments at the Derbyshire Meeting were made as a representative of the Derby League and their views. I did not state that Don Parker would be influenced by Alan Ransome in the position of Chairman. What I stated was the impossibility or proving that criticisms of that nature were untrue.

The integrity of Don Parker has never been questioned by either myself or any member of the Management Committee. It is a shame that trouble-makers try to make an issue of my comments when representing the Derby League at Derbyshire County Committee by taking those comments out of context and reporting them to the National Press as the views of a member of the Management Committee.

Malcolm Allsop
ETTA Vice Chairman
(Administration)

COLD COMFORT

PLAYERS and officials alike are hardy breeds! The County Premier weekend was organised and run roughly to plan and each county went home tired but with all the matches played and down in black and white.

So Lancashire are champions and Leicester and Derbyshire are relegated. All concerned worked hard and played hard. Thanks for all the effort.

But could it not be so much better? What I am talking about is **atmosphere**. The hall was freezing with ten or less spectators at any time. Sadly the 'old village hall' days are still with us and at top level.

I was ashamed to bring people along to watch. Frankly, it is a constant source of amazement to me that the country's top talent don't boycott unpromoted and inhospitable events. And this is no personal complaint — this is the tradition of English table tennis throughout.

I want to play in events which excite both myself and the people who I come in contact with. A useful starting point is "how can I make this a memorable weekend for all comers?"

There are lots of ideas, often requiring only a little thought, but not necessarily masses of time or money. I have written with many ideas to the County Chairman. Now I ask the readers to search their brains and experience and speak out with your views.

Surely the object is to make table tennis competitions 'an exciting spectacle for the enjoyment of all' — not merely a vehicle for getting results on match sheets.

Table tennis organisers need to believe that their sport has something of value to offer. We can offer value, but we don't. So jointly we deserve little. What are your ideas? Please write to the magazine and make a lively debate which will lead to improvements on all sides.

Colin Wilson
(Middlesex)

ABSENT BLUECOATS

THE organising committee of the Burmah Petrol 5-star Wiltshire Open at Swindon deserve some support when they are critical of the 35 per cent of players and 95 per cent of the "bluecoats" — the international, national and county umpires who failed to make the journey to Swindon on February 9 and 10 because of the threat of bad weather.

Since the Hurricane in 1987 there is no doubt that weather forecasting has in general become more pessimistic. The result of that is that many events in sport and other events outside sport have been adversely affected; this was an example of that theory.

Most of the snow was in the eastern half of the country, the further we travelled west on the M4 the better the conditions. Having travelled from the south-east via the M25, M3 and M4, I could see no reason why motorists could not have travelled from the London area and the home counties without any problems.

Happily for we writers, the two players the crowds most wanted to see — Desmond Douglas and Chen Xinhua made the journey and were duly locked in a memorable final round battle. Their presence gave us the story we were looking for. But I have sympathy for the organisers who were faced with a nightmare situation on umpiring having to pull in a group of local people, some unqualified, to arbitrate the smaller number of games.

Although I accept that umpiring is often a thankless and expensive way to spend a week-end, I am willing to wager that if the twenty or so umpires living not too far from Swindon had attempted the journey they would have made it without trouble and also made the return journey comfortably.

Similarly, there were top players absent who cried off, despite living not all that far from Swindon. One can only assume they do not need the substantial prize money. I can understand many of the other players not wanting to make the journey, but a lot of ranking points were lost by the absentees and some of the braver players reaped the benefit.

It could have been a disaster for the organisers who are grateful to those who travelled to Swindon. The cancellation of most of the outdoor sport that week-end gave table tennis coverage five times greater than if the weather had been more amenable.

JOHN WOODFORD

RECORD

Recent articles by John Prean and Donald Parker in the November and December issue of Table Tennis suggest that Centres of Excellence have not been a success. The ETTA have decided therefore to stop funding the centres and concentrate their coaching funds at National level.

The Yorkshire and Humberside centre was the first to be formed back in 1977 and since that time have achieved no less than 120 medals at National and International level. 53 of these have been gold, two at European, one Commonwealth and 15 International open championships. Our players have been no. 1 in the National Ranking list at junior or cadet level on 15 occasions. Four players who spent many years training at the centre are in the current top 10 of the National Senior Ranking list.

No mention was made of the success of Michael O'Driscoll's and Chris Oldfield's successes at the 1986 European juniors when reviewing Englands past successes. Space does not permit me to give more details of the centres other successes.

It is appreciated that in a short article not every success can be reported and that decisions on how best to use limited resources will always be controversial. We think our successes speak for themselves and that with the current policy the ETTA is in danger of "Cutting down the tree rather than pruning out the dead wood".

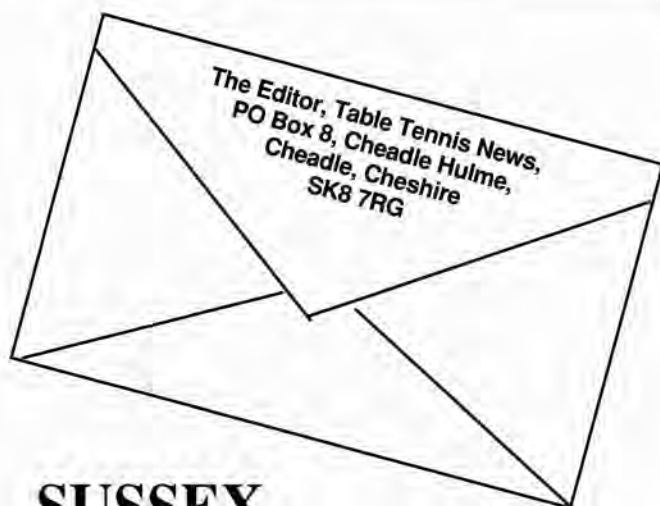
Colin Morath, Administrator
Yorkshire & Humberside
Centre of Excellence

GRANT

It is my pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Weston-Super-Mare and District Table Tennis Association and Bill Lavis our very hard-working secretary.

We thank you most sincerely for your letter of the 19 December 1990 enclosing a cheque for £231.84 as a grant to our Association, helping in the most meaningful way towards recovery after the devastating effect both on people and property following the recent floods.

John M Burtenshaw
President
WSMDTTA



SUSSEX SUCCESS

THANKS to the ETTA Development Grant and the work of local league players Brian Taite and Michael Amor, The Haywards Heath and District Table Tennis League have managed to get off the ground a Junior League comprising of eight teams and involving a total of thirty players.

The league have hired a local sports hall in Burgess Hill on Sunday evenings between October and April. Four matches comprising of nine singles are played on four tables every Sunday and a further three tables are also available to allow the youngsters not involved in the matches facilities to practise.

The players range from seven years of age to thirteen and the project has managed to attract six girls amongst their numbers. None of the players had previously played competitively and it is interesting to note that a number of the players had developed their skills by playing on a table in their homes but had been unable to progress further, which shows that the interest is there if the facilities are available to play.

In addition to the league a coaching evening was organised on one Sunday in November and on another Sunday Father Rowley attended with top junior, Edward Hatley. At the end of the season it is intended to organise a tournament for the players in the Junior League.

The hope is that if the interest shown to date continues the youngsters will be able to progress into the senior divisions of the Haywards Heath league thereby ensuring table tennis will not decline in the future in the Mid-Sussex area.

Phil Harvey
Hon. Gen. Secretary

COACHING

I WOULD like to appraise John Prean's chairmanship but space permits a look only at his 'Achilles heel', coaching.

What has happened? Dismissed and non-replacement of professional coaches, reorganisation, a spirit of complacency — is heartbreaking. Much less is spent, in real terms and proportionately of the total budget, on coaching (including salaries) now, than when he took office.

An annual inventory would have revealed a massive decline in activity; fewer coaches being trained and supported, fewer sessions, fewer pupils, fewer recruits to the game.

There is a time lag before the knock-on effects of grass roots deficiencies become apparent in the higher reaches of the junior game, but this is already happening. Whilst entries to junior tournaments remain high, mainly owing to a largish cohort chasing computer points, average standards of play are lowering.

Not enough players suitable to attend Centres of Excellence are coming through and some 'quality' individuals stay away because the general standard is low.

It was no coincidence, no 'blip', that we got our worst ever results in the European Youth Championships in Hollabrunn last year (lack of medals is not the issue). Our overall poor performance is the result of structural weaknesses and is likely to be repeated and weaker juniors (tend to) become weaker seniors.

Exceptionally gifted individuals like Nicola Deaton come through whatever the system, but strength in depth is the long term product of a sound structure.

Yes, there have been worthwhile initiatives but the current piecemeal approach does not address fundamental problems. Sort out the basic structure first.

Ken Muir
Milton Keynes

BRILLIANT STEVE

Having read Martin Hollands report of the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships it made me wonder whether he actually watched the event or just reported it from an in-accurate draw sheet.

He seems to have done a grand job in mentioning nearly every top player in the U.K. who did or did not play because of the inclement weather conditions, but totally overlooks the most exciting and certainly the most overlooked player in England.

I refer of course to Steve Dorking who with Matthew Syed contested what was undoubtedly the outstanding match of the championships. Steve played brilliantly against our best and most experienced younger international player and I would say that Matthew was more than just a little relieved to have won a great game after trailing 13-18 in the third especially as he only scraped home at deuce in the second game.

Dorking unlike your reporter says was the only player to extend Syed who beat every other player he met two straight fairly comfortably.

Having watched Steve Dorking on several occasions this season it makes me wonder how Don Parker can continually overlook him when others seem to be picked far more regularly with less success. Perhaps he makes his team selections from a drawing board instead of actually watching these matches on a more regular basis as an England manager should.

L. Sawyer
(Disgruntled Essex T.T. fan)

OLDEST TEAM?

Last season six table tennis enthusiasts attending the 'Over 50's' sessions at the Northgate Arena in Chester, entered a team in the Chester League. Not having played league table tennis for several decades they struggled a bit combating the new techniques and age differential.

Nevertheless, the enthusiasm was such that this year two teams play in the third division of the local league, one is challenging for the top position and the A team are doing reasonably well.

The average age of the A team is 70+ and it often fields a team whose ages total 219 years. I do not know whether it is the oldest team in the country but would submit it might be the oldest to be formed and accepted to play in league table tennis.

It would be interesting to hear from any other teams in this category.
Peter Powell
Chester

CHOICE

Alan Ransome for Chairman! Thank heaven the county associations and leagues have an alternative in the person of Richard Scruton.

Having read Mr. Ransomes manifesto it would appear that he wishes to see his sport grow at local level in the clubs. Well 10 out of 10 for ingenuity. We all want that!

Maybe he should have done that in his local area over the last ten years. Middlesbrough and Cleveland have declined in unison and the standard of the former in particular has sunk quicker than the Titanic.

Alan has years of experience, true, but since his commercial connections began his region has gone downwards because he cannot possibly give his time voluntarily like he used to.

There are no Cleveland County teams and his national leaguesides barely include any local players. His 2nd team is basically a Northumberland county side and his premier league side is full of non-English people.

Point 9 of his manifesto states he would like to see more English players in the National League or should it say on the proviso that he can have a Chinaman, a Scotsman and a Rumanian.

No one in this country is denying that Alan was a top player, Coach and Team Captain — these are not necessarily the qualifications for an ETTA Chairman.

We need an administrator with a proven track record like Richard Scruton who will be able to make decisions without any commercial inhibitions which might impair his judgement.

If Alan was going to be new Messiah of English Table Tennis why does our outgoing chairman paint him so black.

Therefore vote for continuity, growth and sincerity. Vote Scruton.

J. Crawford, Darlington

CHANGE

If Alan Ransome loves the sport as much as he tells us, why does he allow the England Team which he sponsors to play in such shoddy, old-fashioned clothing? That particular "trade matter" seems to have been settled by opting for the cheapest material for the England team, which, he tell us elsewhere, will help "win World and European titles" under his inspiring leadership.

I commend another saying to him: "If you look like a gardener, you play like a gardener" or as Confucius may have said: "Man from Garden Centre does not become World Champion".

England Supporter"
(Name and address supplied)



DISMISSED

The February issue of Table Tennis News had a number of letters from supporters of Alan Ransome for the position of chairman of the English Table Tennis Association.

All are aware of the trade interests of Alan Ransome but dismissed them as a problem which would be overcome by virtue of Alan's abilities and past performance.

I hope the membership will take more notice of the current chairman and treasurer's views upon this matter than these supporters of Alan.

The trade interests are substantial, a fact which the chairman and treasurer are aware — so please do not be blind to the facts.

Mike Lewis states that Alan "will be very capable of leading the association in these difficult times."

These are not "difficult times", we have money in the bank thanks to sponsorship from the trade. Times may become "difficult" if the trade allocate their funds elsewhere.

So please heed the words of the chairman and treasurer, whose advice has served us so well previously. This is not the time to alter course.

Yours in Sport,
Malcolm Allsop

L. Howick,
Ware, Herts.

DYNAMIC

I note from the National Press, that the Chairman of the ETTA for the last four years, John Preat, will not be standing again. He has proved to be the most dynamic Chairman of at least the post 1945 period, having together with his Management team achieved an incredible turnaround of the financial position from being heavily in debt, and carrying the liability of the old headquarters, to being in credit with modern HQ facilities and to have increased media coverage of the sport.

It is to be hoped that with his departure we will not see a return of the deadwood and self seekers that allowed the Association to get in such a mess in the first place.

My thanks to John Preat for what he has done for Table Tennis during his period in office.

QUOTE

May I quote from Alan Ransome's Election Leaflet:

"My main ambitions are to see our sport grow at local club and league level throughout the country..."

Let us examine how these noble ambitions fared in Alan's own backyard. There are four local leagues. Tiny Ormesby has held its own with 18 teams. Middlesbrough is down from 44 to 39 teams. Stockton is down 25 to 21. Hartlepool is down from 33 to 27. Still, Sriver is up to £20 per sheet.

May I add that in the same time, the Isle of Wight League has increased from 48 to 54 Teams. It can be done, but it means going out there and working for it not composing lofty leaflets.

Alan's county ambitions are not

mentioned. Just as well, since Cleveland has not run a county team for years, not even a Junior one. At club level, also the subject of his 'ambitions' (viz election leaflet) his own British League Club has sported Chinese, Rumanian and Canadian players, but only one English player (Michael O'Driscoll). The other English player (Nigel Eckersley) was dropped for the key matches.

Alan (real life) and Alan (Election leaflet) are, however, two different persons. The latter promises us that he will "help lift the standard of our England teams to win World and European titles". The former signs mainly foreign players in order to win the BRITISH League.

J. Preat, Isle of Wight.

BARCLAYS BANK ON ESSEX

AS TTN announced in the last issue Essex County Table Tennis Association has secured the future of its Open tournament until 1994. Barclays Bank PLC (London Eastern & South Essex Region) have announced they are to sponsor the Essex Five Star Open Table Tennis Championships following the highly successful staging last season of the Essex Three Star at the Brentwood Centre, also sponsored by Barclays.

This is a tremendous highlight in the history of Essex table tennis in securing such a superb sponsorship deal. Without doubt Essex is regarded as having an organising committee second to none and the previous year's three star was regarded as one of the best organised events seen in England for many years.

On the Friday evening of the Essex 5 star weekend, in addition to the veterans competitions taking place, promising youngsters in the sport will have the opportunity to attend a coaching clinic being held by some of England's top players. Details of this event will appear in the local press but any young player interested should contact Phil Gower, the County's Coaching Officer, Tel. 0277 353174.

The venue at Brentwood Centre must be equal to any playing conditions in England, with superb seating facilities, catering and centre staff who go out of their way to please. The players who were at last season's three star and who stayed at the Hilton Hotel, Hornchurch will also confirm that the superb accommodation being offered is good value in these days of escalating expenses. What a better way to spend Easter — come and join us in Essex.

At this point, we would like to thank our advertisers, without whose help we could not produce such a high quality programme. We would also like to thank our old friends the umpires, not only those from Essex, but those who return annually because, of course, the events could not carry on without them.

We are extremely fortunate in finding so many umpires who are prepared to give up their time for what seems to be so little in return. With all this in mind, let us look forward to a first class tournament played in the spirit it is meant — sport. We in Essex look forward to seeing you in our County and hope you enjoy the weekend. If any problems arise — do not hesitate to contact me during the weekend.

Dick Roffe
Tournament Organiser



● Picture shows — Back row (left to right): John Turburville, Personal Sector Manager, Barclays Bank, Brentwood; Dick Roffe, Tournament Organiser; Jackie Bleeze, Public Relations, Barclays LESE; Gareth Young, Manager Small Business Sector, Barclays Bank, Romford.
Front Row (left to right): Pat Ward, Public Relations Manager, Barclays Bank PLC; Laurie Darnell, Essex County Chairman

OLYMPICS

THE British Olympic Association has named Carlsberg as its latest sponsor for the 1992 Olympic Games to be held in the French Alps and Barcelona. Carlsberg has guaranteed a minimum of £200,000 towards UK team funds.

Support activities will be staged in pubs, clubs and other licensed premises throughout 1991 and in the run up to the Olympic Winter and Summer Games in 1992. Competitions will also run in off-licences and supermarkets offering consumers aged 18 and over the opportunity to win holidays in Spain combined with visits to Olympic events.

Carlsberg products will carry the official British Olympic Association symbol from the Spring until the conclusion of the Games in August 1992.

Carlsberg's Managing Director Ebbe Dinesen said: "The British team increases in number with each Olympic Games and so with it the phenomenal cost of preparing them and then sending them to the Games.

Along with other sponsors, our job is to help make sure the British Team has the best possible chance of bringing home the medals. We are extremely proud to have been invited to participate as a sponsor," says Dinesen.

WATCH THAT HEART

This year is the British Heart Foundation's 30th anniversary, and has been designated "Exercise for Life" year. Within the North of England, September has been selected as "Exercise for Life" month. During this month, a series of exercise events are planned to persuade the public to take exercise on their own — eg walking to work, going for a jog or a swim, taking the dog out etc. — and hope to achieve this with media publicity. Athletes Steve Cram and David Sharp, together with "Last of the Summer Wine" star Bill Owen, have promised their support.

Leisure Centres and Sports Clubs are opening their doors to the public free of charge for a day or half day of their choosing in September to allow the public to use their facilities for the good of their hearts.

Many clubs are already enthusiastic about the idea, seeing it as a way of attracting new members.

In order to raise money, there are plans to have heart shaped badges to stick on sleeves on a "Wear your heart on your sleeve theme". These will be the public's pledge to take exercise on their own; they will also be the entrance ticket to those centres and clubs taking part. They will be on sale at BHF branches and all branches of the Northern Rock Building Society in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham Cleveland and Cumbria.



JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 1300 Perry Alex (Credition)
- 2 1223 Hatley Edward (Frimley)
- 3 992 Knights Garry (Burt.on-Tr)
- 4 953 Howarth Darren (Droyls.)
- 5 830 Hyacinth Richard (Harls.)
- 6 806 Adams Martin (Ascot)
- 7 767 Jones Gareth (Riccall)
- 8 702 Sladden Cristoph. (Sthend)
- 9 675 Bevan Neil (Bude)
- 10 649 Thompson Spencer (Rainh)
- 11 589 Collier Ian (Sunderland)
- 12 564 Hyatt Jeremy (Tibberton)
- 13 554 Forster Barry (Wickham)
- 14 549 Blake Jason (S.Croydon)
- 15 535 Powell Raymond (Glouc.)
- 16 535 Taylor Duncan (Gold.Gr.)
- 17 531 Yates Gavin (Thame)
- 18 506 Greenwood Matth.(Amer.)
- 19 501 Priddle Marc (Maidenh.)
- 20 499 Mileham Brian (Margate)
- 21 486 Blake Darren (S. Croydon)
- 22 478 Vincent Adrian(Plymouth)
- 23 471 Willey Miles(Bexleyheath)
- 24 446 Haycock Martin (Didcot)
- 25 413 Coverdale Steph. (Gatesh.)
- 26 408 Nicholls Andrew (Selby)
- 27 405 Katz Dov (Stanmore)
- 28 384 Brown Matth. (unknown)
- 29 382 Shaw Steven (Burt.on Tr.)
- 30 381 Hudson Paul (Wanstead)
- 31 378 Baker David (Heston)
- 32 369 Saville Ryan (Chelmsford)
- 33 362 Lindley Darren (Huddersf)
- 34 359 Shipman John (Plymouth)
- 35 351 May Jonathan (Plymouth)
- 36 334 Mason James (Newport.)
- 37 329 Ferguson Ian (Birmingh.)
- 38 329 Sharp Robert (Northall.)
- 39 321 Smith Richard A (Hudd.)
- 40 317 Wilkinson Andrew (N.Sh.)
- 41 313 Musk Ian (Milt. Keynes)
- 42 308 Horsfield Karl (Selby)
- 43 284 Boulton Jack (Chesterfield)
- 44 280 Meddings Stev.(Sutt.Cold)
- 45 279 Heath David (Newt.Abbot)
- 46 277 Butler Mark (Bournemth)
- 47 263 Hodgson Kevin (Barrow)
- 48 255 Yardy Matthew (Maidst.)
- 49 252 Horton Lee (Pensnett)
- 50 251 Johnson Ben (Reading)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 1492 Meddings Ellen (Harrogt)
- 2 1316 Marling Sally (Hull)
- 3 1303 Thornley Maria (Chorley)
- 4 963 Radford Linda(Upminster)
- 5 930 Deaton Nicola (Chesterf.)
- 6 923 Goodall Katherine (Leeds)
- 7 815 Williams Sara (Hillingdon)
- 8 754 Pengelly Clare (Paignton)
- 9 741 Gower Alison (Ingatest.)
- 10 537 Meddings Nicola (S.Coldf)
- 11 529 Creasey Sarah (M.Drayt.)

- 12 471 Hollingworth Lesl.(S'brne)
- 13 444 Cracknell Nicola (Read.)
- 14 442 Bentley Caroline (Bradf.)
- 15 426 Barnett Dawn (Brackley)
- 16 426 Creasey Eliz. (M.Drayton)
- 17 419 Marshall Claire (M.Drayt.)
- 18 416 Heyward Lynsey (N.Abb.)
- 19 366 Newman Debbie (Selby)
- 20 361 Coleman Jennifer(Brentw.)
- 21 358 Seaholme Sarah (Watford)
- 47 141 Wilson Natasha(Guestling)
- 48 139 Challis Catherine (Granth.)
- 49 138 Walker Isabel (Reading)
- 50 138 Barham Natasha(Rotherh.)

CADET BOYS

- 1 998 Vincent Adrian (Plymouth)
- 2 939 Blake Darren (S Croydon)
- 3 755 Neal Philip (Hull)
- 4 654 Avery Vincent (Brentw'd)
- 5 527 Heath David (Newt.Abb.)

Alex Perry (14) from Credition in Devon who in January became the youngest National Junior Champion since Carl Prean eight years ago has leaptfrogged three places to gain the top spot in the new Halex ETTA National Junior Ranking List.

Perry, who earlier in the season won the National Junior Ranking Trials has now won both major titles open to juniors (U17).

Ellen Meddings (Harrogate) is rewarded for successfully defending her national title and claims the No. 1 position in the junior girls from Sally Marling (Hull) who slips to No. 2.

Marling however, retains pole position in the U14 (cadet) list ahead of close rival Nicola Deaton of Chesterfield.

- 22 354 Martin Michelle (B.on Tr.)
- 23 353 Schwartz Gemma (Read.)
- 24 351 Buchanan Zoe (Stockport)
- 25 323 Kottasz Emese (Chelsea)
- 26 312 Richardson Karen (Oldh.)
- 27 308 Watt Caroline (B.in Furn.)
- 28 296 Gardner Sarah (Chelmsf.)
- 29 291 Hughes Sally (Banbury)
- 30 278 Wright Helen (Plymouth)
- 31 278 Barthee Nadine (Brentw.)
- 32 275 Boon Rachel (Camborne)
- 33 268 Marriott Jackie (Bold.Coll)
- 34 248 Garratt Tracey (M.Drayt.)
- 35 229 Smith Sarah J. (Worksop)
- 36 227 Markham Miranda(N.Mal)
- 37 219 Baggaley Est. (M.Keynes)
- 38 217 Joseph Desiree (Rotherh.)
- 39 187 Cole Tracy (Crawley)
- 40 183 Russell Sally (Kettering)
- 41 182 Connolly Tamar (Blackp.)
- 42 173 Sibbald Catherine (Ilford)
- 43 173 Weil Anna (Brentwood)
- 44 169 Chan Diana (Weybridge)
- 45 156 Groves Joanne (Birmingh.)
- 46 156 Fletcher Emma (Wirral)
- 6 520 Meddings Stev.(S.Coldfld)
- 7 458 Hudson Paul (Wanstead)
- 8 452 Eaton Ian (Northwich)
- 9 438 Smith Mark Rich.(Bradfrd)
- 10 438 Wilkinson And.(Nth Sh'ds)
- 11 359 Meredith Darryl (Oldham)
- 12 349 Johnson Ben (Reading)
- 13 345 Butcher Paul (Hayw.Hth)
- 14 313 Lampkin Steph.(Sanderst)
- 15 306 Pestka Gary (Mapperley)
- 16 281 Yardy Daniel (Brentwood)
- 17 273 James Michael (Bridlingt.)
- 18 273 Zeffert Simeon (London)
- 19 261 Purdy David (Dronfield)
- 20 250 Thornton-Allen Gary(Wir)
- 21 225 Karalliedde Sidantha(Surr)
- 22 213 Tilley Richard (Bur. on Tr)
- 23 205 Jablon Simon (London)
- 24 200 James Simon (Bridlington)
- 25 166 Smithies Wayne(Chelmsf.)
- 26 163 Dolder Kevin (St. Helens)
- 27 160 Whitehead Chris.(Oldham)
- 28 159 Jackson David (Selby)
- 29 147 Doyle Kevin (Arundel)
- 30 138 Lidstone Christian (B.in F)

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.

- 31 131 Harris Jamie (Barr.in Furn)
- 32 129 Smith Martin Neil (Brist.)
- 33 110 Cadman Adrian (M.Dray.)
- 34 99 Hazlehurst Chris.(Harrog.)
- 35 93 Marsh Wayne (Hull)
- 36 89 Tresadern Gary (Granth.)
- 37 85 Orlik Thomas (Bristol)
- 38 84 O'Leary Timothy(London)
- 39 78 Ritchie Glen (Folkstone)
- 40 77 Subham Ali (Reading)
- 41 77 Cook Edward (Chelmsf.)
- 42 75 Smith David (Huddersfd)
- 43 74 Bartlam Matthew (Stockt.)
- 44 72 Linnekar Ben (Brentwood)
- 45 70 Long Graham (Bristol)
- 46 66 Abbotts Robert (Hastings)
- 47 63 Tilley David (Burt.on Tr.)
- 48 63 Friday Ross (Rpswham)
- 49 58 Owen Paul (Ipswich)
- 50 55 Brown Gareth (Gateshead)

CADET GIRLS

- 1 1542 Marling Sally (Hull)
- 2 1384 Deaton Nicola (Chestfld)
- 3 731 Heyward Lynsey (N.Abb.)
- 4 615 Schwartz Gemma (Read.)
- 5 562 Martin Michelle (B.on Tr.)
- 6 433 Coleman Jennifer (Brentw)
- 7 429 Stedman Sarah (Arund.)
- 8 386 Sibbald Catherine (Ilford)
- 9 364 Russell Sally (Kettering)
- 10 333 Ashison Glenda (London)
- 11 308 Massingham Nicola(Gran.)
- 12 305 Smith Nicola (Leeds)
- 13 294 Ruocco Shelley (Hornch.)
- 14 284 Wilson Claudine (Guest.)
- 15 240 B-Harris Joanna(Brighton)
- 16 234 Barham Joanne (Rotherh.)
- 17 232 Fox Vicky (Stoke on Tr.)
- 18 224 Fletcher Emma (Wirral)
- 19 209 Duke Nicola (Sevenoaks)
- 20 198 Brown Claire (Sussex)
- 21 196 Smith Alison (Maidst.)
- 22 175 Hall Crystal (East Malling)
- 23 171 Silburn Nicola (Leeds)
- 24 162 News Clare (Birkenhead)
- 25 157 Weare Joanne (Staines)
- 26 150 Fisher Michelle(Bur.on Tr)
- 27 132 Coggan Sara (Sussex)
- 28 125 Pestka Debbie(Mapperley)
- 29 121 Youldon Tracy (Swindon)
- 30 109 Barlow Wendy (Langley)
- 31 106 Walton Keeley (Leeds)
- 32 92 King Michelle (Harlow)
- 33 82 Rowlands Claire (Brentw.)
- 34 82 Davison Sarah (Grt.Yeldh)
- 35 63 Thornton Lindsey (Bury)
- 36 62 O'Leary Caroline (Edgew.)
- 37 60 Woodward Kathryn(Gloss)
- 38 59 Thomas Johann Mary(L'h)
- 39 59 Goatly Helen(Wokingham)
- 40 56 Harber Caron (St. Albans)
- 41 54 Green Katie (Lowestoft)
- 42 51 Hobday Lisa (Hinkley)
- 43 46 Sampson Kelly (Swindon)
- 44 40 Thomas S (Derbyshire)
- 45 40 Beaney Tina (Sussex)
- 46 36 Woollven Rachel (Tonbr.)
- 47 36 Price Emma (Bristol)
- 48 35 Barnard Helen (Barnet)
- 49 34 Frith Victoria (Dronfield)
- 50 33 Jenkins Sian (Wakefield)

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.

CITY OF DERBY SELECT JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 1991

at Moorways Sports Centre, Derby

Prize money - £640

Details from: M J Payne Tel: 0332 557162



ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge

Tel: 0384 442543

Sat/Sun 9/10 March 1991

From 9am Sat - Qualifying events: MS, WS, MD, WD, XD Final, Vets

From 9am Sun - MS, WS, MD, WD Finals start 5pm

Tickets: Sat £1.50, Sun £2.50, Rover £3.50

Further information: ETTA Offices Tel: 0424 722525

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Sat/Sun 23/24 March 1991

BATLEY SPORTS CENTRE,
Windmill Lane, Batley

Further details:

Stan Parr: 0203 385580

ESSEX 5 STAR

Sat/Sun 30/31 March 1991

The Brentwood International Centre
Doddinghurst Road
Brentwood, Essex

Further details:

D. Roffe. Tel: 04024 72341

Attention is drawn to additional ranking points attached to 5 Star status which is X 5

CHESHIRE JUNIOR TWO STAR

Sat 30 March 1991 - U12 and Cadet events

Sun 31 March 1991 - Junior events

The Sports Centre, Grange Road West, Birkenhead, Wirral

Tel: 051 652 9336

Entries close 6 March 1991.

details: S.J.Cant 051-645 5753

**BP ESSEX JUNIOR 2 STAR
SELECT**

13/14 April 1991

Harlow Sports Centre,
Hammar skjold Road, Harlow

Finals: Sat 5pm & 8pm; Sun at 6.30pm

Entry forms:

B.Granger. Tel: 081 590 0653 (after 7pm)

SUN LIFE

Bristol Two Star Senior Open

£1230 Prize Money

Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill,
Thornbury, Bristol.

Tel: 0454 418222

27/28 April 1991 9am start

Entries close 28 March 1991

Further details:

Peter Sandford Tel: 0272 569381