



# Table Tennis News

No. 204

February 1992 £1.25



Like Jean-Philippe Gatien  
Jaques Tables are winners

 **Jaques**

# CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN



(TOP LEFT) - Johnny Leach is pictured once again on the centre court, playing with a Battledore. (TOP RIGHT) - Jill and Don Parker display the new coaching techniques. Whilst (BELOW) it's time to celebrate a 100 Years of Table Tennis, with a glass of champagne (left to right) Doreen Stannard, Don Parker, Jill Parker, Brian Wright and Mary Wright (nee Shannon)





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## Editor's Note

What a fabulous fortnight of table tennis, starting with the China Tour, then the Cleveland 5 Star, followed by the spectacular Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open, staged in the magnificent National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

The China tour was full of exciting table tennis, watched by packed houses at all seven locations.

One of the England v China test match series, was held at the splendid new custom built table tennis centre in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

This Centre is truly magnificent, a table tennis player's dream come true.

It was the Chinese in fact who dominated the Cleveland 5 Star, where the 1990 English Open Champion Yu Shentong captured the Men's Singles and Canada's Chinese born Lijuan Geng won the Women's title.

However, the European players took control at the Open, with France's Jean-Philippe Gatien taking the Men's Singles trophy, whilst Holland's Mirjam Hooiman was crowned Women's Singles Champion.

England tasted success, with John Hilton, winning the Veterans Men's Singles and Andrea Holt the Women's Under 21 Singles.

Great news! England's men are through to the Joola European League Division 1 finals, against Austria, following their 4-2 victory over Czechoslovakia, in Bratislava.

Finally, I must apologise for the late delivery of Table Tennis News. The reason for the delay, is due to the fact that we decided to include a full report of the Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open, in this issue, rather than wait until March.

John F.A. Wood

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Front cover: Jean-Philippe Gatien of France, the new Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open Mens Singles Champion (picture by John F.A. Wood)

# British passport for Chen

CHEN XINHUA and his wife Jeanette are pictured right celebrating the collection of Chen's British Passport on Tuesday 7th January 1992.

Chen and Jeanette were married on 12th December 1989.

This is great news for Chen, but, at the time of going to press, he was still waiting to hear if he will be allowed to compete in the Barcelona Summer Olympics. He needs permission to play from the Chinese Olympic Committee.

## Good News

GOOD news for all table tennis followers, is that Chris Oldfield has left hospital and is now back home with his parents Jon and Ros.

George Yates, who recently suffered a stroke, is also recovering at home.

Table Tennis News wishes Chris and George a speedy recovery.



Desmond Douglas, 36, is nearing the end of a long career at the top in table tennis during which fair play and honesty have been two of his hallmarks.

He has represented England since 1971 and is eleven times English Champion. He turned professional in 1977 and currently competes for the National League NFD Grove Club in Market Drayton, Shropshire and was European Top 12 Champion in 1987.

Desmond Douglas has won "Fair Play" awards at both the World Championships and the European Championships, boosting Britain's reputation internationally for fair play. He wins a specially created trophy and will be featured on BBC Radio Sport along with Yvette Hague.

The competition was organised by the Sports Councils and BBC Radio to highlight and encourage fair play amongst all sports competitors.

The judging panel included Trevor Brooking MBE, former footballer, now a broadcaster, sports journalist and member of the Sports Council, Anita Lonsborough, former international swimmer, now a sports journalist, Mary Peters CBE, and Olympic Gold Medallist and Sports Council member, Ian Wooldridge OBE, sports feature writer and broadcaster and Mike Lewis, Head of Sport, BBC Radio.

## Fair play award for Desmond

YVETTE HAGUE, Britain's first world class orienteer and Desmond Douglas (left), an English Table Tennis Champion, have won the Fair Play Awards organised by the four Sports Councils and BBC Radio.

The announcement was made by Robert Atkins MP, Minister for Sport, during a ceremony in London.

Yvette Hague, 24, of the Airienteers Club in Leeds, has been involved with the sport since she was six years old. A former World Student Champion and Nordic Champion, she reached 3rd in the world in 1990.

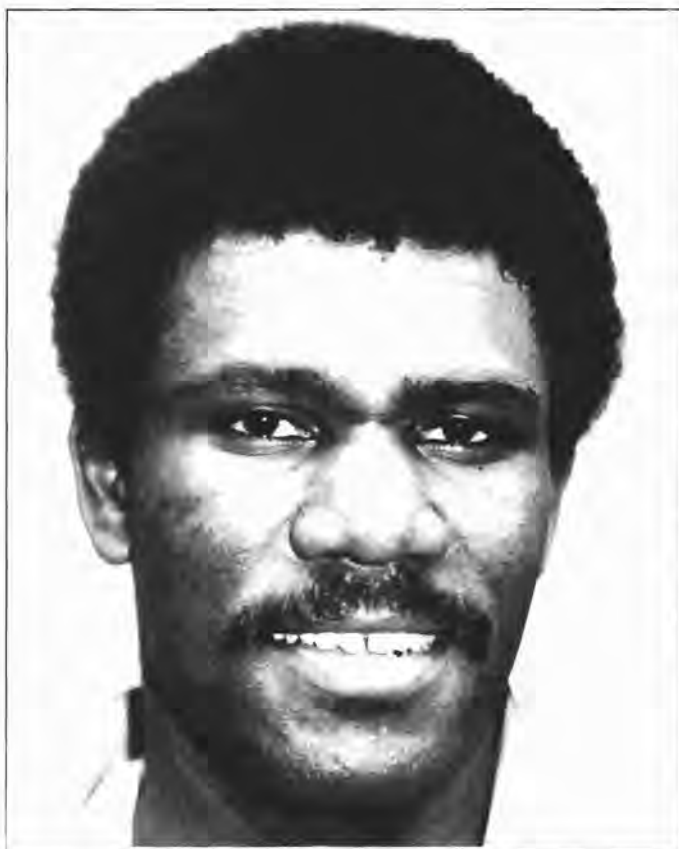
## Stuttgart

IF you are interested in supporting England and spectating at the European Championships in Stuttgart, 10th to 20th April 1992, there are currently two tours on offer.

Teesport have organised a tour and your contact is David Hutchinson on 0642 249000.

Jackie Bellinger Table Tennis Services is also offering a package tour to the European Championships, at only £225.

Jackie can be contacted on 0582 454636.



# Acclaim for Birmingham

THE CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS were described by the International Table Tennis Federation observers, Borje Karlsson of Sweden and Colin Clemett, "As among the best-run International Championships they have ever attended anywhere in the world." It drew the largest crowds reported as 3,500 for the Individual Finals on Saturday afternoon, produced good television with two slots on both BBC Grandstand on Saturday and Sport on Friday, extensive radio and newspaper coverage, both national and local, which was considerably assisted by Carl Prean's win over the World Champion, Jorgen Persson of Sweden, and despite the heavier costs involved in going to Birmingham, should just about break even. To continue Colin Clemett's comments, "The Association is to be congratulated on its achievement."

Thanks and congratulations are due to Tournament Director, Clive Oakman, Referee, Tony Chatwin, Hospitality Director, Mike Watts, Venue Director, Harvey Webb, PR/Administration Director, Mike Holt and to all the other many enthusiasts on the technical, administration and promotional side at the event, plus the Hastings staff who worked well above the call of duty to support the event.

Sponsors, Premier Beverage Products, the manufacturers of Cadbury's Chocolate Break, were happy and the Managing Director, Bill Brodie said at the after-finals reception that this event was a toe in the water with which he was very pleased and he now planned to hold further discussions with the Association next month to consider further investment in the sport.

Birmingham City Council, the owners of the National Indoor Arena, who subsidised the cost of the venue, were happy and are ready to support future major table tennis events at the N.I.A. Overall, the championship was a credit to the sport and to everyone connected with it!

At Birmingham, in conjunction with the VETTS, we were able to make a major presentation to the Swaythling Club's World Vets Committee to stage the World Veterans Championships in 1994. The bid included a tour of the N.I.A. and the International Convention Centre, a video presentation by Birmingham City Council, a presentation by the English Open accommodation agency, Carole Duffy Associates on the 3,000 or so hotel beds within walking distance of the N.I.A., all of which was well received by the Swaythling Club Committee. Although five other major cities from as far afield as Australia and Norway are also bidding for the Championship, the feeling that I had at the end of the visit was that our bid for Birmingham had a good chance of success.



Alan Ransome

## Record crowds at the finals

Another benefit of staging the Open in Birmingham was to provide stands giving full information about the E.T.T.A. activities on the N.I.A. spectator concourse for the interest of our members, and this appeared to prove a major success with so many members from all parts of the country. The exhibits included a Development stand which provided details of our development programmes such as Focus Sport, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts grant programme, Women in Table Tennis and the National Coaching scheme. Many enquiries were received by Mike and Christine Lewis and Diccon Gray who also arranged for about 400 school children from the surrounding area to visit the championships on Thursday and Friday. On another stand the new Halex Ranking Scheme, which is based on the Canadian Ratings System, was on show. The administrator, Doreen Nightingale, was able to explain the finer details of the scheme to interested members. An E.T.T.A. sales stand and a fascinating display of table tennis equipment from the last century provided by Gerald Gurney as part of the 100 Years of Table Tennis promotion completed the general exhibition, but in addition several of our leading table tennis suppliers mounted exhibition and sales stands. Overall, I believe the exhibition proved to be a very good PR exercise for the Association.

On the subject of Development, the Focus Sport Programme is now really

getting into gear. The Sports Council held their own internal Liaison Officers Meeting on 15th January, bringing together their staff from all ten Regions to meet with the National Co-Ordinator, Cyril Villiers and National Table Tennis Liaison Officer, Roger Davis, to discuss table tennis and Focus Sport. By the time you read this article, three full time Development Officers for London, and Yorkshire & Humberside will have been appointed and another five for the West Midlands, Northern, South East, East Midlands and Nottinghamshire all in the pipeline. The benefits to the sport from these appointments can be enormous. The extra input of finance and resources into table tennis in 1992 from the Sports Council and local authorities could be as large as £200,000, and by 1993 could reach £500,000.

The Foundation for Sports and the Arts have awarded their first grant for table tennis to the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association. The sum of £500 was included in the December grants list. Congratulations to the Yorkshire TTA for being so quick off the mark!

The England vs China seven-match test series also proved to be a great success. At most of the venues the tickets were sold out and the quality of table tennis and entertainment was really superb. China ran out winners by 6 tests to 1. The tourists played well, but the difference in standard between the two teams was far closer than the score suggests and our boys, Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed and Carl Prean all did well. The tour, which covered approximately 1,500 miles through from St. Austell, Bournemouth, Hereford, Sheffield, Grantham, Cleveland, Gateshead, Milton Keynes and then finally on to Birmingham, was a heavy schedule. The players at times were fatigued and if a similar tour is undertaken in the future, more than three rest days against 13 playing days need to be introduced.

One high point of the tour was the opening by our President, Johnny Leach, M.B.E. of the South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre in Grantham. The Centre built at a cost of £400,000 provided by South Kesteven District Council, is to be managed by the Grantham Table Tennis League with assistance from the East Midlands Sports Council. This is the type of centre that we really need in every town if the sport is to become as popular in England as it is in Germany and Sweden. Congratulations to all concerned!

All of the China tour sponsors/organisers, five of whom were new to table tennis, were pleased with their investment and are all ready to support another fixture. Many

Continued on Page 6

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2

thanks go to all of those who were involved and who worked very hard to make the tour a success.

One extra benefit of the tour was that it gave us the opportunity to meet with senior officials from the Regional Sports Councils and it gave them an opportunity to see what table tennis is all about. There was a chance at most venues to hold discussions with the Sports Council and to give the Focus Sport programme a boost nationwide.

### European League

To put the icing on the cake for a great month for English table tennis, our Men's team beat Czechoslovakia 4-2 twice in the semi-finals of the Joola European League and will now play another two-leg contest against Austria in the final for promotion back into the Premier Division.

We won the first match 4-2 at Newton Aycliffe in a match sponsored by Sedgfield District Council with wins from Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua and Matthew Syed, plus Prean and Cooke in the doubles on December 19th. This still left a lot to do in

the return leg in Bratislava.

With two singles wins each from Carl Prean and Chen Xinhua, we won again to clinch the tie. Congratulations to Donald Parker and his team! We can all now look forward to the prospect of a great final and a chance to gain revenge over the Austrian team in March.

The final group match in the European Women's League, Super Division, was staged by yet another new sponsor, Solihull Leisure Management at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Solihull on the evening prior to the commencement of the English Open. The fixture against the C.I.S. formally the U.S.S.R. was an excellent match. Wins from Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot and the doubles put us 3-2 ahead, only for us to lose the last two singles for a final score of 3-4 to the visitors. Our girls must now await the final group fixtures and the results of Belgium and France to find out if they will have to play Italy in the relegation play-off. Whilst the results in the league overall this season have been disappointing, our girls did well to reach the final of the team event in the English Open by

beating France Japan and Germany before losing out to the much improved Swedish team.

### Summer Olympics

The main international events in February are the vital European Qualification tournaments for the Summer Olympics. The singles qualification takes place at Bolzano Italy, from 4th to 7th February. At the time of writing the full British squad has not been announced by Donald Parker, but Alan Cooke and Lisa Lomas will be amongst the players hoping to qualify. Carl Prean is already included in the Olympics because of his World ranking, and Chen Xinhua will be provided that permission is given for him to play by the Chinese Olympic Committee as required by the Olympic Charter. The successful players and their partners will have the opportunity of winning a doubles place in Barcelona by competing in the Doubles Qualification in Poland two weeks later. The British Olympic Association and the Sports Council have agreed to meet all the costs of attending the qualification events and we are very grateful to them for this support.

## Regional Staff Coaches

AS part of the Focus Sport initiatives, the English Table Tennis Association, through discussions and co-operation with the Sports Council's ten regions, hope to appoint Development Officers in each of the regions. Progress with this particular initiative has been very good and already appointments have been made.

In addition to the Development Officers, we are anticipating that some of the Sports Council regions will support the appointment of a part time Regional Staff coach plus an Assistant Regional Staff Coach.

In general, the scheme would be for the two coaches, with assistance from the Sports Council, to undertake a total of 80 hours coaching work per month between them. In addition, it is envisaged that the Development Officer would create extra work so that eventually some of the positions may have sufficient coaching work to be full time.

Two other incentives that the E.T.T.A. will provide is for regular high level training for the Regional Staff Coaches and Assistants, and for a campaign to promote their services to local authorities and other potential coaching services

employees.

Whilst we are not yet in a position to commence the assignments, we are confident that some regions will begin their activities in the not too distant future. So as to have the scheme up and running and the personnel in place, we will be looking to actually make the appointments for the Regional Staff Coaches and commencing the training in the near future.

We will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in taking up one of these positions. For further details and application forms please contact:

National Coaching Manager:

Mrs. Jill Parker  
Highfield House  
64 Regent Drive  
Fulwood, Preston, Lancs.  
Tel: 0772 715216

or

National Coaching Administrator:

Mrs. Beth Davies  
E.T.T.A.  
Queensbury House  
Havelock Road, Hastings,  
E. Sussex.  
Tel: 0424 722525.

Closing date for receipt of Application is 29th February 1992.

Jill Parker

## National Development for Veterans

UNDER the National Development Committee for Table Tennis whose chairman is Mike Lewis a new sub-committee has been formed which will be concerned with the development of veterans table tennis in England. The chairman of this new committee is Brian Halliday and other members at this moment in time are Janet Hunt and Ken Lyons. The main purpose of the committee will be to (hopefully) build on past successes and carry the main facets of the veterans game a stage further. It will work in tandem with the views and ideals of the V.E.T.T.S. The committee's functions will include the following aims:-

- To devise and recommend to the National Development Committee programmes aimed at various ability levels.
- To co-ordinate and provide support services for a Veterans British League. On this issue Brian would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in putting a team into a vets league which hopefully will come into effect in the very near future.
- To recommend and support specific veteran events.
- To encourage publicity for, and

promotion of, veterans table tennis.

In addition to the above a number of innovative ideas have already been put forward which include International veteran matches for all age groups, tours abroad and regional veterans leagues.

Brian had preliminary discussions with members of the V.E.T.T.S. including Mike Watts and Derek Schofield who will provide liaison and support to the Veteran Development Committee.

To help plan for the future anyone with any ideas which would contribute to the good of the vets side of the game can forward them to Brian at 2 Rowan Close, Sonning Common, Reading, Berks RG4 9LD. Your views will be most welcome.

Good news for all vets and table tennis enthusiasts in general is that the E.T.T.A. are to apply for the Veterans World Championships to be held in England in 1994. Discussions will be held with the Swaythling Club at the English Open. If this fails I reckon we should suggest a European Veterans Championship with England being the first to hold the event.

Ken Lyons

# Birmingham extravaganza!

THE best yet! That was the verdict of the majority of players, spectators and officials, at the Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open, held at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, from Thursday 9th January to Sunday 12th January 1992.

Birmingham's NIA is a fabulous venue, ideal for the English Open, and perfect for a possible European or World Championships.

Everything, was just about right, except for the weather on Thursday morning, which started with snow eventually turning to heavy rain, but this problem was overcome by running a bus shuttle service from the Holiday Inn Hotel to the NIA, every 15 minutes.

When the weather improved the Holiday Inn proved to be an excellent location, being within easy walking distance of the NIA.

Birmingham's hero Desmond Douglas was unfortunate in meeting an inform Zoran Primorac, losing a round 1 battle, going down narrowly in five.

But Desmond Douglas M.B.E., didn't miss out on the presentations, because he received a surprise silver salver on finals day, for 'Services to English Table Tennis', presented to him by Johnny Leach, the President of the English Table Tennis Association.

Douglas, who was born on the 20th July 1955, has won the English Mens Singles title eleven times, between 1976-90. He also won the Mens Singles in the Commonwealth Games, the European Top 12 and the English Open, twice, 1979 and 1984. Desmond was English Junior Champion in 1972, and European Boys silver medallist in 1973. In 1985 he received the 'Fair Play Award' at the World Championships. Subsequently, in 1988 he was awarded the M.B.E., in the new years honours list. Meanwhile, the icing on the cake for Desmond was the recent announcement that he had been chosen as the 'Fair Play' sportsman of the year, by the Sports Council and BBC Radio.

This Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open, at Birmingham, will also be remembered for the friendly service and assistance it received from the staff at the National Indoor Arena, as well as for the high standard and entertaining table tennis played by the top players in the World.

A truly fabulous four days that will be remembered for a long time, by everyone who witnessed this Birmingham extravaganza!



*Jean-Philippe Gatien and his partner Wing Xiao Ming who retained their Mixed Doubles crown for France*

## First French winner for forty years!

Words by  
**RICHARD EATON  
JOHN WOODFORD, KEN LYONS  
and JOHN WOOD**

Photographs by  
**JOHN F.A. WOOD**

THE Russians went missing, Mirjam Hooman continued an escape from a shadow, Jean-Philippe Gatien became the first French winner for almost forty years, and table tennis made the front page of a major provincial paper.

English Opens tend to be high on drama, but this one was in the Indiana Jones category. The Birmingham Mail seemed to think so too, proclaiming in 72-point capitals that Lost Russians were in City Shops.

Gatien may have felt the same way, volunteering that he was very proud to be the first from his

country since Michel Haguenaer, and there was every reason for Cadbury's Chocolate Break to have similar sentiments.

The company certainly timed its new sponsorship well. Not for many years has there been so many attention-catching stories. Gatien made a magnificent recovery from two games down in the final, underlining that he is an Olympic medal contender; Hooman's victory was something that the great Battine Vriesekoop - her former partner and rival with whom she quarrelled - never managed; and the English involvement in the finals proved they

were good sports.

This was Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt, who agreed to play the women's doubles an hour late after Elene Timina and Irina Palina had taken a trip into the Bullring, not knowing that their match was the first final on.

Had Lomas and Holt felt otherwise the tournament referee might have been hard put not to scratch the pair from Russia (or was it the Soviet Union, or the Commonwealth of Independent States?) "They wanted to play for the sake of the event and for television" explained England's captain Jill Parker.

It probably cost Lomas and Holt their first major title because when their opponents returned, bemused but evidently not confused, they beat the English pair comfortably.

Lest Lomas and Holt should sound like stereotypes from a past age, both of them are, it should be quickly added, good players (and sometimes winners) as well as good sports. After all, in the previous round they beat Hooman and Csilla Batorfi, the top seeds.

Another English success against a top seed was Carl Preen's against

# CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN - 2

world champion Jorgen Persson. The England number one played magnificently to win in four games, especially as the Swede recovered impressively from two games down to lead 16-14 in the fourth. Before that Persson had been spasmodic and disappointing.

Likewise, Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren were beaten early on, which meant that the whole of the Swedish world title winning team had fallen by the wayside, like seeds cast on a rockery.

Partly this was due to the developing skill of Peter Franz and the violent aggression of Chen Hong-Yu. But the great stars were less than twinkling. "It is difficult for players who have been around for ten years to be motivated" said Swedish manager Anders Thunstrom. "It's time these open events had prize money." That time, according to whispers from within the ITTF, may not be all that far away.

No taking away from Gatien's achievement though. He beat the other leading Swede, Erik Lindh, as well as Alan Cooke and Jorg Roskopf on his way to a final with Wang Yansheng, one of the dozens who quit China to make a table tennis living in the West.

Thanks partly to the clever use of long pimples on the backhand side, the adopted Norwegian nearly made it all the way. He only lost by 18-21, 19-21, 21-12, 21-13, 21-4, after the elegantly skilful lefthand Parisian with the matinee idol looks had sussed out the spins and sent half the female spectators into a swoon.

Mirjam Hooman sent herself into delirium. Not surprising because triumph which included victories over the title holder Mika Hoshino and the second seeded Csilla Batorfi, made her the first Dutch woman to win the English Open for thirty years.

Her victory in the final came by 21-13, 21-19, 18-21, 21-19 against otilia Badescu, the Rumanian who ensured that none of the favourites would win this remarkable tournament by bringing down Geng Lijuan, the former world number one from China who now represents Canada.

Geng may have been disappointed to go out in the semi-final but Wang was delighted to reach the men's final, all of which created a feeling of what might have been for England's ex-Chinese star, Chen Xinhua. The demise of Waldner and

*Jean Philippe Gatien (right) and Mirjam Hooman (below)*



Appelgren appeared to have opened up a wonderful path for the man who arrived at the National Indoor Arena with a smile and, for the first time, a British passport.

It looked a happy tournament for him. But those who had seen him enter the press room, place his head on the table and fall asleep, had a fair idea that the weary Chen might not be long for this competition.

He struggled to overcome Thomas von Scheele 21-19 in the final game and then sure enough, the man they nickname 'Speedy' was too fast for him. This was Steffen Fetzner, who won in four games. At least Chen made the best of it, characteristically milking the drama out of the situation by stepping outside the barriers and returning his last shot from beside the umpire on the next court.

That was in the third round, and in the fourth Prean also went out to a

German. This was at the same stage as last time, and to the same opponent, Jorg Roskopf, the world number nine. No wonder the England number one's normally resolute look had the haunted expression of someone who was not destined to make further progress.

Both Germans reached the semi-finals, and a third nearly did so as well when Peter Franz led by two games to one against Wang Yan-Sheng.

Germany is clearly one of the two rising forces in European table tennis. The other? Why, England of course. There were 3,500 people watching the finals - the biggest English Open crowd since the 1950's. Table tennis here is on the way up, make no mistake.

*Continued on Page 11*

# German men are top team

JORG ROSSKOPF, Stefan Fetzner and Peter Franz the current German team, cannot be rated less than No.3 in the world after winning the men's event. The only nation that managed to win two games against them was England.

In the final they proved too strong and too fit for the Chinese touring pair Yu Shentong and Chen Hongyu winning 3-1. In the semi-finals the Germans managed to extinguish old enemies France 3-0; prior to that in an early morning match they squeezed out England 3-2, after hammering Holland 3-1 in the first round.

Although he does not always fire on all cylinders, Roskopf is emerging as one of the world's leading players. In support, both Fetzner and Franz are showing signs of improvement. Fetzner has now beaten Chen Xinhua on the last two, possibly three occasions - once in the Bundesliga - so he is now to be feared as a singles player, whereas not too long ago he was rated especially for his doubles play at world level.

Why China did not field Xie Chaojin in the team event is not known, but it is believed that Xie was the most fatigued of the China quartet. In the final battle, Fetzner took a little time to become accustomed to the penholder style, scrambling the first game 23-21, but racing to the line 21-5 in the second.

Possibly, the only shock of the finals session was the defeat of Roskopf by Chen Hongyu, 16, -15, 21, but the damage was soon repaired when the former world doubles champions Roskopf and Fetzner despatched Yu and Chen 12 in the third game.

Roskopf then made further amends for his earlier errors when he raced to victory 14, 13 against Yu Shentong.

Amongst a small number of surprises in the team competition was when France reached the semi-finals without playing Jean-Philippe Gatien against Sweden who were beaten 3-2.

In another quarter-final England faced Germany having beaten them 3-0 in the World Team Cup in Barcelona. The start was a flyer as Alan Cooke, whose reputation against Germany is mounting, brought down Peter Franz 19, 15. Roskopf produced his usual top form against Chen Xinhua, leaving England and Germany 1-1.

The doubles was a near thing, Cooke and Carl Prean were only beaten 13, -18, -19 by Fetzner and Roskopf.

Cooke then changed into top gear for another splendid win, one of the best of the four days play 9, -23, 13 over Roskopf to level the scores at 2-2, but unhappily for the fans,



Sweden's Ava and Marie Svensson (above) Jorg Roskopf (below)



Chen could not raise himself on a high enough plain and lost 20, 16 to Fetzner.

## Sweden triumph in Women's team final

Marie and Asa Svensson, Sweden's dynamic duo had a lot of trouble over some three hours beating Hungary 3-2 in the semi-finals before emerging as fairly easy winners over England 3-0 in the final.

The Swedish girls have made a lot of progress over the past year and with heavy top-spinner Pernilla

Pettersson in reserve they have a team that could go a long way at Stuttgart in the European championships.

In the final with gallant England only Lisa Lomas looked as though she might score losing -14, -20 to Asa Svensson.

The inspired performances by England came earlier in the day, when they lashed France 3-0. That match included a great win for a young lady who is in need of a few big wins - Andrea Holt. The girl from Ramsbottom, near Bury in Lancashire, defeated Wang Xiao Ming, the

new No.3 in Europe whilst Lisa took care of the other French girl, Emmanuelle Coubat.

Once past that hurdle, England faced another long match, winning eventually 3-2 against Japan, with a magnificent win by Lisa over world No.16 Mika Hoshino. Lisa has a remarkable asset of rarely looking jaded on court. Whatever the score, she seems to fight on regardless, ducking and diving into the corners of the court and then trying to vary the pace with some killing attacking shots.

On a few occasions recently, it seemed from the press box that she was too keen to finished off her opponent with one or more big hits and paid the penalty.

## The future for team events

There are strong possibilities that the nations who run their own open tournaments may have to consider what lies ahead on this question - is it feasible to run team events when there are now a fresh batch of European and world events, specifically catering for teams?

A senior spokesman for Sweden said at Birmingham that basically Sweden are against team events at national open tournaments. Watching the fairly half-hearted efforts by Sweden at Birmingham there seemed to be living proof of the spokesman's words.

Taking the Swedish man as an example, at Birmingham they were

Continued on Page 12



England's John Hilton (above) and Andrea Holt (below)



playing for glory only. At Munich the next weekend they were playing for 80,000 US dollars in the European Nations Cup for the top eight teams in Europe.

Of course, the other side of the argument is that the smaller nations need to get into every event they can afford, team or individual. The subject will be debated in full at Stuttgart, meanwhile it might help to explain to some puzzled fans at Birmingham why there seemed to be no real efforts to win by Sweden - no incentive.

### Holt wins first under-21 title

Full marks to the ETTA for deciding to run Under-21 events for the first time. This gave our younger girls Nicola Deaton and Sally Marling a chance to try their luck against some new and young opponents.

No. 1 seed Andrea Holt was the winner, with a brilliant final round success 12, 19 over Petra Fichtinger, the No. 3 joint seed from Austria. Earlier, Miss Holt had whipped out Julie Barton (Canada) 14, 19 and earlier still, the improving Sara Williams of Middlesex.

Sally Marling reached the quarters but lost 13, 10 to Kristina Toth of Hungary whilst Nicola

Deaton was a Julie Barton (Canada) victim 19, 13.

### Unseeded player wins from Luxembourg

Surprises galore in the men's under-21 event, won by Christian Schaus from Luxembourg over Wales No. 1 Stephen Ward in the final 15, 21. The seeds fell like nine-pins throughout the event.

What ever happened to Alex Perry? He had an unlucky draw losing 18, -16, 8 to Werner Schlager (Austria) the man who created one of the biggest shocks of the season in the European League this season when he beat Carl Prean at Ipswich.

But the shocks got bigger, as Ward managed to subdue Schlager 19, 18, a result people might have lost money on had betting been allowed. The event was overshadowed by the non-appearance of Matthew Syed the top seed, a casualty of the punishing Chinese tour. This gave Ward and Artur Silva (Portugal) space to move in the top half. Ewan Walker, the young hope of Scotland reached the semi-finals winning 18, 13 over Steven Shaw of Derby, but the Scot got into deep water against Schaus in the semi-finals and was beaten -19, 11, 16.

# Hilton wins the Vets

THE 59th English Open table tennis championships saw the return of a category for vets. The mens event attracted sixty seven entrants and the womens a very disappointing twenty two. The mens singles provided a talking point even prior to play starting with John Hilton seeded only at joint number five. The first round saw a very tough draw for number two seed Mal Corking who was up against Tony Clayton. The game did not live up to expectations and it was Tony who went through in two straight 14, 14. The next seed to fall was in the second round when Mike Short seeded three crashed out to Roger Hampson 17 and 14. The unseeded Brian Reeves beat number five seed Robin Stace -17, 19 and 19 to take his place in the quarters. The quarter finals saw victories for Hilton over

Harvey 13, 14, Hampson against Gunnion 17, 13, Clayton over Collins 14, 11 and Holmay against Reeves 16, 13. In the semi finals Hilton had a straight win over Hampson 14 and 18. In the other, the unseeded Calyton played his best table tennis so far by beating Holman 16 and 16. In the final it was even all the way in the first at 10 all, Hilton then raced away to win game 14. In the second it was all one sided as Hilton took the title two straight by winning game 8.

In the womens event Doreen Schofield progressed to the semi finals with comfortable wins over Marjorie Dawson and Jackie Thomas. Judy Williams also made it with ease beating Lynda Reid 9 and 10 and Penelope Perry 14, 19. In the bottom half of the draw Lesley Radford made no mistake in reaching the

## ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Closing date for applications: 15th February 1992

Job description and application form available from:

Diccon Gray (National Development Manager)  
English Table Tennis Association  
Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HF.  
Tel: 0424 722525 Fax No. 0424 422103

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Note: The position advertised as full time Regional Development Officer and Coach has been amended to the above. Unless otherwise notified, it will be assumed that all previous applications wish to be considered for this post as redefined.

# CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN - 5

semis with straight wins over Sally Bax and Carol Judson. Pat Bassano completed the semi final line up but was made to fight all the way. In the second round she beat Pam Butcher -13, 18, 11 then followed this up with a win over number two seed Gillian Knightley -19, 12 and 21. In the semi finals Judy Williams strolled through to the final with a 8, 10 victory over Doreen Schofield. In the other Leslie Radford won easily against Pat Bassano 6 and 10 in two straight 15 and 10 over Leslie Radford to take the title back to the Netherlands.

The mens doubles almost went according to the seedings up to the semi final spots with Hilton and Corking number one seeds lining up against Sheader and Schofield the number three seeds. In the first Sheader and Schofield took an early lead only to see Corking and Hilton come back to win 17. In the second Hilton and Corking were never in any trouble and won 16. In the other semi final the unseeded pair of Clayton and Burn who had earlier put out number four seeds Stace and Horton faced second seeds Holman and Short. Clayton and Burn claimed a final spot with a 13, -16, 17 victory over the number two seeds. The final was a one sided affair with Hilton and Corking winning 14 and 16.

In the womens doubles the semi final line up was Schofield and Moran against Judson and Bassano and in the other Basden and Williams played Dawson and Radford. Judson and Bassano won easily against the number one seeds 15 and 13 whilst the number two seeds Dawson and Radford also won with ease 13 and 13. In the final Dawson and Radford took the first 15. Judson and Bassano came back to level the score by taking the second 14. The decider was very lose but it was Dawson and Radford who won 19.

## CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN

### RESULTS

#### MENS SINGLES:

Jean Philippe Gatien (FRA) beat Wang Yansheng (NOR) -18, -19, 12, 13, 4.

#### WOMENS SINGLES:

Mirjam Hooman (NED) beat Otilia Badescu (ROM) 13, 19, -18, 19.

#### MENS DOUBLES:

Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren (SWE) beat Jorgen Persson and Erik Lindh (SWE) 17, 18.

#### WOMENS DOUBLES:

Elena Timina and Irena Palina (CIS) beat Andrea Holt and Lisa Lomas (ENG) 11, 14.

#### MIXED DOUBLES:

Jean-Philippe Gatien and Wang Xiao Ming (FRA) beat Zoran Primorac and Csilla Batorfi 19, -9, 13.

#### UNDER 21 MENS SINGLES:

Christian Schaus (LUX) beat Stephen Ward (WAL) 15, 21.

#### UNDER 21 WOMENS

SINGLES: Andrea Holt (ENG) beat Petra Fichtinger (AUT) 12, 19.

#### VETERANS MENS SINGLES:

John Hilton (ENG) beat Anthony Clayton (ENG) 14, 8.

#### VETERANS WOMENS

SINGLES: Judith Williams (NED) beat Lesley Radford (ENG) 15, 10.

#### VETERANS MENS

DOUBLES: John Hilton and Malcolm Corking (ENG) beat Anthony Clayton and Brian Burn (ENG) 14, 16.

#### VETERANS WOMENS

DOUBLES: Majorie Dawson and Lesley Radford (ENG) beat Carol Judson and Pat Bassano (ENG) -15, 14, 19.

#### MENS INTERNATIONAL

TEAM EVENT: Germany beat China 3-1

#### WOMENS INTERNATIONAL

TEAM EVENT: Sweden beat England 3-0.



England's Andrea Holt and Lisa Lomas are pictured with Johnny Leach and Bill Brodie, Managing Director of Premier Beverage Products



Johnny Leach presents Desmond Douglas with his 'Services to English Table Tennis' award



Japanese umpire Yukiko Hiraike



Open Press Officer Brian Spicer



Veronica Jackson Press Administrator

# Women at the Open

by Jose Ransome

FIRST of all, congratulations to the England Women's team of Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon, Fiona Elliot and their captains, Jill Parker and Derek Marples, who all combined to do so well for England over the period 8th to 12th January. With one Gold medal for Andrea Holt in the Under 21 event, and two silver medals for Lisa and Andrea in the Women's Doubles and International team event, overall the England players were very visible in the competitions and notched up some excellent performances in Birmingham.

In fact the Birmingham competitions for the girls started on the Wednesday with a European Women's League Super Division match against the Commonwealth of Independent States, formerly the U.S.S.R. at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Solihull. The match lasted four and a half hours but produced some incredible play between the girls of both teams. Fiona Elliot scored first for England against Elena Timina and this was followed by an excellent doubles win by Fiona and Lisa Lomas, who put England into the lead by 3-2 with another win over Timina. The next set between Fiona and Galina Melnik very nearly provided England with a 4-2 victory, as Fiona caught up and won the first game from 14-20 down, narrowly lost the second at 19, and then did not quite pull off a repeat of the first game in the third. Interestingly, expedite was called in Lisa's two matches, as unusual occurrence in a European League match. Lisa lost the first set against Irina Palina, but made sure of the next set against Elena Timina when expedite was called in the first game.

I would like to express our appreciation to Solihull Leisure Management, to Mike Shuff and Dudley Turner and all the staff at Tudor Grange for their assistance in staging the match, as well as to all the E.T.T.A. personnel who helped in any way to ensure a successful match. We look forward to a future fixture in Solihull, one which will not be overshadowed by another major event close by.

On to the fabulous National Indoor Arena in the centre of Birmingham for the Cadbury's Chocolate Break 59th English Open, an event that England Captain, Jill Parker, commented was noteworthy from the point of view of the general improvement in the women's game from a technical aspect and which also showed greater strength in depth of the women players.

With an entry only slightly smaller than the Men's, the Women's singles included a very strong field, excellent competition and some surprises. Lisa Lomas beat Emmanuelle Coubat of France and Cornelia Faltermaier of Germany before losing in a cliff hanger to Csilla Batorfi of Hungary at 19 in the



Russian Women's Team (left to right) Irene Palina, Elena Timina and Galina Melnik



Women's finalist Otilia Badescu

5th in the last 16. Fiona Elliot took Barbara Puschmann of Germany to five before losing out, whilst Alison Gordon beat Helen Lower and Els Billen of Belgium before losing to the finalist Otilia Badescu of Romania. Andrea Holt beat Natasha Williams of Wales before losing to the Canadian Lijuan Geng, the former Chinese World Doubles Champion.

With a quality quarter final line up of Lijuan Geng, Olga Nemes, Otilia Badescu, Wang Xiao Ming, Mika Hoshino, Marie Svensson, Mirjam Hooman and Csilla Batorfi, who could have predicted a final between Badescu and Hooman? But that was the outcome, with Hooman taking the initiative early in the final and Badescu's bid coming too late despite the support of the crowd.

What a do in the Women's Doubles! After years of trying to get women's table tennis on TV, and our girls the only English players to reach

eventually lost to Sweden in the final. Good individual victories in the team events included: Andrea defeated Wang Xiao Ming of France, and Rie Hatono of Japan, Lisa beat Mika Hoshino and Hatono of Japan and Olga Nemes of Germany. In the final, the sharp Swedish attackers, Marie and Asa Svensson, showed no respect for the England defenders and followed up their 3-2 win over Hungary in the semi final and 3-2 victory over C.I.S. (U.S.S.R.) in the quarters, with a 3-0 victory.

There was also good competition in the Veteran Women's events, with the singles title carried away to the Netherlands by Judy Williams a former Sussex player and Lesley Radford and Marjorie Dawson sharing the Doubles title.

As well as having a good women's entry, women were well to the fore in the running of the English Open in Birmingham and special thanks go to the E.T.T.A. Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, who worked tirelessly throughout the championship. Also to "Lady" Doreen Stannard who, in addition to other duties, was the force behind the most enjoyable 100 Years in Table Tennis reconstruction match which followed the finals, and which featured beautifully attired Jill Hammersley Parker and Mary Shannon Wright with their husbands Don and Brian. Bouquets also to Hilda Watts who worked all hours on hospitality reception at the Holiday Inn, to Dorothy Macfarlane who helped to produce four thousand copies of the draw and daily update, to Veronica Jackson in the Press Room, to Ann Lloyd, Pat Chatwin, Christine Oakman, Linda Reid and Janet Hunt who all helped in several areas, to Christine Lewis on the E.T.T.A. Development stand and to Doreen Nightingale on the E.T.T.A. Halex Ranking Scheme stand. On the technical side appreciation for their services to Yukiko Hiraike and Aiko Watanabe, umpires from Japan, to Nicole Rischard and Colette Gonderinger from Luxembourg and to English umpires Liz Wilson, Karen Tonge, Doris Moors, Sue Gower, Heather Masters and umpire controller, Di Jermyn. And last, but by no means least, our thanks to Carole Duffy the hotel co-ordinator who helped to make our stay so comfortable.

In addition to all these participants and helpers, it was obvious from looking around the spectator seating that there was also a very good percentage of women spectators in the audience, which was also very encouraging. My thanks also go to the Tournament Director, Clive Oakman and to the Referee, Tony Chatwin, who scheduled so many fine women's matches on the show courts without prompting! At the Open, I really felt that Women in Table Tennis came of age....great participation, high quality matches and excellent visibility. Thank you all!

# Reflections of the Open

by Richard Habgood

"JUST a page will do - An alternative view of the Championships. By Tuesday please" Sunday nights parting shot from your Editor to myself was most appropriate for it was the alternative view from the Press Room high above the Arena floor that gave all of us who worked there an unprecedented and unparalleled observation point for the four days of the Championships.

The eighteen court set up below was more than adequate for the majority of the time the Championship events were being staged. Indeed there were so many times that courts were not in use; did we need so many?

It was good that there were four show courts at right angles to the general playing area. These four courts were wrapped around by the horse-shoe seating arrangements. But on Saturday those four courts became one show piece court for the television cameras.

The Referee's table was conveniently and very centrally placed. However, those involved in the collection and recording of results suffered from working in windowless sweat boxes with computer equipment, photocopying machines and the like, and a far too long climb down, and back up again (if not using the lift) to the eyrie of the "Media Centre".

The Tournament Directors' Offices also fell into the category of a steam room, but any heat there was nothing compared to the rumpus that broke on the Saturday.

**'Lost' Russians in City Shops - Table Tennis final held up** was the front page headline news on Saturday 11th January 1992 for nearly 300,000 copies of the Birmingham Evening Mail.

After the story had been published - the "World and



Richard Habgood ETTA's Publicity Officer

his wife" - the Press Association, Reuters, you name it choked all the telephone lines into the N.I.A. all looking for a sensation that did not materialise.

It is a good job that every cloud has a silver lining. I wonder when was the last time table tennis made front page news as a lead story. Talking of "Copy" and my congratulations to the previews and reporting of this years event.

Feature lead stories and picture content was superb from all of the Sports Journalists and Photographers that attended.

So our grateful thanks to Colin Fuller, John Woodford, Richard Eaton, James Leigh, Richard Jago, Bob Brown, John Pike, David Ashdown, Paul Vokes, Ian Bishop et al, and to Desmond Douglas who despite the most demanding of schedules

found the time to do a live 45 minute radio preview and two, two-minute (after editing) television interviews on the Thursday early evening, whilst preparing to play Zoran Primorac in Round 2.

In newsprint; column space and number of words, it was a joy that most of the England players produced performances that featured strongly in copy.

If Thursday belonged to Des Douglas then Carl Prean was Fridays' star. His victory over Jorgen Persson was quite superb and is well reported elsewhere.

Saturday and Sunday saw good coverage given to Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt. Their sporting initiative to allow the Russian pair of Elena Timina and Irena Palina "back into" the tournament was very commendable. In addition

their silver medal team performances created many words.

It was good that Alan Cooke featured on the Sunday. His two fine victories against Germany (in England's 3-2 defeat) was well worthy of the news copy that we created.

If there is a criticism then I'm surprised that the media gave so little attention to the Under 21 and Veteran events. Andrea Holt (U21 Womens Singles) and John Hilton (Veteran Men) were Englands only two successful players that won individual honours. If an event is worthy of being staged then we must market the event until the media become aware of its importance.

Occasionally, those of us in assistance found the 25 seconds or so in between gulps of air, useful to watch some table tennis.

When at times the pressure was raised, humour and tolerance carried most of us through. There are some wonderful moments to recall that cannot be published for fear of censorship.

New International Referee Doug Young has a sense of humour second to none; a prime ingredient in people management and his observation about the Fetzner/Chen Hongyu match was just too much. I think I'm out of court, Doug!!!

And so to the first memories. If there was a regret it was the failure of the Swedish players to perform in the Mens team and individual events; Johnny Leach playing on the centre court again; the award to Desmond Douglas; seeing and meeting up with so many people, old and new friends alike; the incentive given to the Russians to go shopping.

Here is to 1994 and to the next time.

# The flame of yesteryear

by John Pike



THE last time I wrote a column in Table Tennis News was nearly 15 years ago when I covered the World Championships at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. So why now? Well I have just spent the last four days watching the English Open at the National Indoor Arena and it felt like I had not been away.

Except for a 100 Club dinner at Stourbridge last year, I have had very little to do with the sport since 1977, and this, after writing about the game in the Midlands for 25 years.

Before Christmas a press release arrived on the BBC sports desk at Pebble Mill and suddenly the flame of yesteryear was lit again. I am glad it was because I thought the 59th Open must rate as one of the best we have ever held in this country.

The venue was excellent and one can only hope that it will become the new home for the English Open. Coming out of that 15 year time capsule, I was delighted, and I am sure that ETTA were, with the amount of press coverage the event got.

John Woodford, Richard Eaton, and the local press gave us the column inches, we only once dreamt about. The BBC also did well for the game this



John Pike

year with the television coverage on Granstand and then repeated on BBC2 a week later. Radio WM, the local BBC station also gave it more air time than most other major sporting events in the area.

Two days before the event started Richard Habgood, what a good job he did at the championships, and Desmond Douglas were the studio guests in a soccer special, and then on the following event, the ETTA Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, appeared on a late programme. Richard was back at Pebble Mill on the third day of the championships on the breakfast show and then I gave another up date in the Saturday afternoon sports

programme.

Something else that is worth mentioning on the media side was a photograph that appeared in the Sports Argus. It was a picture that captured play on every table, and for me, it should be framed and hung in a prime location at head office in Hastings.

After so many years it was good to see so many old friends at the Open and sitting watching the mens final on the Saturday lunch time, I thought back to the days of Maurice Goldstein and Malcolm Scott and wondered what they would have thought of this magnificent venue.

It was good for Birmingham and certainly good for table tennis and Cadbury's must be delighted with the return they got in media coverage. The press room under the watchful eye of Brian Spicer, offered an excellent service to the media, which included Swedish television, who gave details of their team on the main news bulletin.

For those who didn't make Birmingham this time around the venue was a little bit special as other sports have already found out. Next year the NIA will stage the World Gymnastics Championships and the World

Badminton Championships and then in 1995 the World Netball Championships come to Birmingham. A crowd of 4700 saw the final of the Diet Pepsi Indoor Tennis there last year and 4000 saw the badminton international between England and Japan so the ETTA should be well satisfied with the crowds that came to the English Open.

Already Linford Christie and Pat Cash have rated this venue the best in the world and no doubt a great many table tennis players will now add their voice to that.

The venue was also very good for car parking, food, helpful staff and the nearby hotels must have been most useful for players and officials alike.

I was sorry to hear at the championships that George Yates, a former editor of this magazine, and a good friend of mine over the years, was not well, and I hope by the time this is in print, he is much improved.

I am glad that press release dropped on the sports desk at Pebble Mill, I have just enjoyed four super days watching a game, that once, was such a big part of my life. Hope to see you all there again in two years time for the 60th Open.

# Chip off the old China

CHEN XINHUA, formerly of Fukien and now of Rotherham, was his adopted country's most successfully player as he competed against his former compatriots for the first time during England's 6-1 defeat in the series against China in December and January.

Twice a member of Chinese world title winning teams, Chen could have been forgiven a funny feeling or two as he lined up against a team in the red shirts he himself had worn with such distinction less than five years before.

If he felt them, it did not show. Chen won six of his twelve encounters and might well have had more successes because four times he lost in three games. The whisper was that he was more worried about possible effects upon his Olympic chances if he played too well. (China has been vetoing his representing Britain in Barcelona). But no one could have tried harder than he did.

Although England lost the series, in almost every other respect they were winners. The size of the crowds in all but one of the venues was encouragingly good. The table tennis absolutely brilliant, and the one victory that England did achieve proved that we can, at our best, compete with anyone.

That victory, by 4-3 in the second match at Bournemouth, was achieved on the one occasion when England was at full strength. Carl Prean and Alan Cooke and Chen Xinhua were together and all firing on the same occasion - and a formidable sight it looked. (The best England team since the days of Johnny Leach many people said).

What a pity therefore that Carl could not be available more often, for England would certainly have come closer to the world's most successful table tennis nation, and even might have had a chance of winning. They have never done that.

Carl, it should be said, has run himself down before by attempting too tough a schedule, notably two years ago when he produced a heroic European League victory against Czechoslovakia despite appearing too ill to play. Bit it was a disappointment that England's number one could only play twice.

In his absence Chen Xinhua was not only the most successful Englishman but the most eye-catching. At Sheffield he returned one ball almost from behind the umpire's ear, in Grantham he demolished the scoreboard whilst retrieving, and in St. Austell he landed at the Mayoress feet. His ability to switch from defence to



The Chinese touring party pictured with Chen Xinhua, Diccon Gray and Matthew Syed

**Words By**  
**RICHARD EATON**  
**and**  
**JOHN WOODFORD**  
**Pictures By**  
**JOHN F.A. WOOD**

attack and back again has rarely been equalled. Jacques Secretin possibly excepted, there may never have been a more entertaining player in modern times.

Meanwhile Alan Cooke had five wins, worked incredibly hard, played more matches than anyone else, and was the backbone of the team. He did this, even though he found it difficult because after beating Yu Shentong for the fifth successive time in the opening match, the thoughtful Chinese lefthander discovered a way of playing him. Matthew Syed with one win, had an even more difficult problem because the Chinese are almost always so good against backspin defence.

They were again. Ding Song, who frequently defecated himself, had one of the fastest forehand loops around; Chen Hongyu had a fierce flat pengrip attack,

traditional Chinese-style; Yu is an improved player; and Xie Chaojie was so aggressive and athletic that there were moments when he even reminded us of Guo Yue-hua, perhaps the greatest player of all time. This was not a well-known Chinese team, but it was an outstandingly good one.

A good fightback by England to start the tour. So good, in fact, that they almost started with a win. Early defeats for Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed put England 0-2 down and it seemed that China might run away with it. But Chen Xinhua, playing against namesake Chen Hongyu his first match against his former country, soon changed all that.

Battling to contain the younger man's attempts to hit him from side to side, he found himself 17-18 down in the first game. Four excellent serves helped turn the match.

One Hongyu pushed into the net, the next Xinhua followed with a slow loop which Hongyu pushed off, the next Xinhua followed with a chop which Hongyu smashed into the net, and the last one Xinhua followed with looped defence and a chop which Hongyu hit off. Not surprising rarely can he have played against so much variety as that.

It turned the contest and Xinhua's eventual 21-18, 21-15 win turned the match too. Cooke immediately produced his fifth win in five tries against Yu Shentong, the then English Open champion, again

finding ways with his spinning loops to penetrate the pengrip lefthander's blocked defence.

Had Xinhua then won his next match England would have started with a triumph. But Xie Chaojie's flat attack signalled him as the tour's most dangerously aggressive player, and he took this contest by the scruff of the neck in the third game.

Matthew Syed did well to take advantage of an erratic Hongyu to make the score 3-3, but England's weakness in doubles was always likely to be costly in the decider - and so it was.

## BOURNEMOUTH

A great night. A rare win. And completed against the odds, by a win in the doubles by Alan Cooke and Carl Prean. They delighted another full house of 600 people by beating Xie Chaojie and Yu Shentong 21-16, 14-21, 21-18 after trailing 14-18 in the final game.

The script could not have been better if it had been written in advance. Prean was typically gritty, and Cooke was magnificent, suggesting he may be this country's best doubles player at present.

They never gave up under severe pressure, and at the end Prean made two spectacular retrieving loops and one backhand chop from which Xie, still relentlessly hitting and smashing, made vital mistakes.

*Continued on Page 18*

**RESULTS - TELEPHONE 0891 664300**

*Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times*

The triumph had been set up by two victories from Chen Xinhua. He started off by showing once more that he is equally at home in attacking as defending. He beat Ding Song 21-18, 21-14, although the 21-year-old former Chinese junior champion surprised a lot of people with the power of his forehand loop, especially as he spent long periods of the match chopping.

After defeats for Cooke and Prean Xinhua then levelled the score at 2-2 by beating Yu Shentong 21-15, 21-17. He won all five service points from 9-11 in the second game, and completed the victory with a rousing backhand hit.

Prean then showed how proficient he is against defence. Perhaps Ding Song was unaware of this. He spent much of the time being pegged back by the England number one's steady forehand loop, when he might have done better to take the match to his opponent.

Prean's win set up the great doubles finish - but it was a success that flattered to deceive.

## HEREFORD

There were home hopes after the Bournemouth success that England might take a lead in the series, especially as China decided to rest Xie Chaojie, thus far their most effective player. How different it all turned out. England were walloped 4-0.

Three of the matches went to three games, and England were far closer to China, both in this match and in the series, than the score suggested. The signs of what was to follow - of a fresher, more determined Chinese team - were apparent right from the very first encounter.

In this, the improvement Ding Song was showing at Bournemouth was continued. He forehand looped with tremendous speed and showed increasingly better perception in reading Chen Xinhua's clever serves. At 19-19 in the final game Chen rightly decided that he had to attack Ding's next two serves, to nullify the youngster's own ferocious attack. But one of Chen's forehand loop returns went off and the other went into the net, and England were 1-0 down after a match they thought they might win.

The home team were soon to lose another in a tight finish. Indeed it was even more frustratingly tight, Cooke holding a match point against Yu Shentong before losing 22-20 in the final game. It was the second loss in a row for Cooke against Yu, having won five on the trot.

The Chinese were clearly settling in. They were getting used to English conditions and food, and were recovering from their long journey. Chen Hongyu further proved this point by avenging himself upon Syed in straight games, finding the corners superbly with some short-arm hits.

Then to complete England's stunning demise, Yu Shentong



England's Chen Xinhua

fought off a fine recovery from Xinhua from 11-15 down in the final game to 15-15. Yu did that by blocking his former compatriot around the table with excellent control, to win 21-15, 15-21, 21-17. That gave the visitors a clean sweep for the only time on the tour. England never fully recovered from it.

## SHEFFIELD

Having lost heavily the previous night at Hereford, England arrived in Sheffield, determined to do better and this they achieved with one of three 4-2 losses to the touring side.

Chen Xinhua was extremely hard-pressed to defeat Ding Song, only gaining revenge at 19 in the third game. Matthew Syed then faced an uphill task winning only four points in the first against Xie but almost stretching him to a third game losing 20 in the second.

Alan Cooke, always in with a chance against any of the Chinese lost the first, recovered to win the second but could not quite hold the pace losing at 17 in the decider to Chen Hongyu.

There followed the most spectacular adventure of returning balls from outside the court that we have seen.

Helped by some gaps in the crowd - the crowd was around 300 - Chen retreated behind the barriers in the final game against Xie. Losing the match easily in the third Chen returned three balls from the seating, one of which was a winning smash,

delivered round the net from behind the umpire.

Chen said later "That was the first time I have managed to win a point from the seating in a real match." In exhibitions of course, he has done it many times.

Alan Cooke followed the Chen spectacular with a smart win over Ding, but China sealed the match when Chen Hongyu beat Matthew Syed.

Spectacular play was the feature of the day at the fine Concord Centre. Why Sheffield with its massive population came bottom of the list in terms of crowds, we might leave Sheffield league officials to solve the puzzle.

## GRANTHAM

The Lincolnshire town of Grantham had prepared apart from the usual welcome to the touring sides, a mouth-watering new venue The Grantham Table Tennis Centre, a grand new structure purpose-built for table tennis, a 20 table hall that for this occasion handsomely housed 500 fans, full house, standing room only.

This is the way the sport must go forward were our thoughts as we sipped our soft drinks around the balcony bar and watched play in the arena below.

Alan Cooke and Chen Xinhua who played so many matches on the tour also lost a number of games by the narrowest possible margins. Cooke opened at Grantham with a scintillating display, just losing 22-24 in the third to Yu Shentong.

It was becoming fairly obvious at this stage of the tour that the Chinese knew exactly how to play defence as served up by Matthew Syed, especially handicapped as he was by a groin injury that kept him out of the Gateshead match and the Cleveland Open Butterfly event.

So, with Matthew Syed, playing superb and spectacular table tennis, often retrieving from the corners of the arena he did not win again on the tour.

However, Chen up-ended the other Chen 18, -19, 16 in the first half by just lost 21 in the third to Yu in the second half, the sort of results that left England losing three matches 4-2 on the tour.

In the battle between the two Chens at Grantham, the Rotherham-based Chen defended most of the time. Part of his strength is that he can change his game so skilfully from defence to attack, switching so professionally and of course, providing a bewildering armoury of services, that often win his tight matches.

The Grantham match could have started at 6.30pm, but through a misunderstanding long before the day, the start was made at 7.30, the finish at around 11.30, hopeless for those involved in reporting the match for the national press of course and tiresome for fans who had children with them and had to leave before the end.

But, the existence of the venue in its splendour reflected great credit on the sponsors the South Kesteven District Council and the local officials at Grantham.

## GATESHEAD

Michael O'Driscoll was the surprise selection for the match at the Gateshead Leisure Centre, replacing Matthew Syed. The Yorkshireman, now 20, on a four-year physics course at Kings College, London was clearly out of practice, but he put on a brave performance in what could be his last showing for England for sometime, as his studies come first and unlike Syed is unable to easily combine studying with playing at world class.

Our Chen started the match with a win over the more Chinese Chen 16, 11. This fine start was embellished when Alan Cooke gained another helping of revenge against Yu, who is clearly a clever tactician 18, 18.

Three losses in a row followed. O'Driscoll took the middle game from Ding Song, but there was no happy ending as the former Chinese junior champion with the whip-lash loop got home at 15 in the third.

China moved smoothly onto the victory path as Yu beat Chen Xinhua 19, 13 with Chen's final service thrown 25ft into the air and hitting the halogen floodlights.

With China leading 3-2, the stage seemed set for Cooke to defeat Ding Song, but further proof came that there was no passengers in this

## CHINA TOUR - 3

Chinese squad - once they had recovered from jet-lag. Ding lost the first 13, but with his intriguing blend of attack and defence won the match 14, 17 to give China a 5-1 lead on the tour.

Gateshead local officials and the Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council are one of the keenest bunches of people when it comes to promoting sporting events of all kinds. The welcome was as warm as ever and as ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome said at the Mayor's reception, "We shall be returning again soon to Gateshead."

### BLETCHLEY

Milton Keynes, whose new table tennis centre is poised to open, were the hosts for the final match of the tour. The local fans responded with a packed arena seating over 400 fans and we heard and saw a highly successful debut as MC by Diccon Gray.

With Carl Prean playing his second match of the tour, hopes were high that England could win the match, although they were without Chen Xinhua (he played in the first six matches) and Matthew Syed returned from his injury.

Matthew Syed opened for England against Ding Song, possibly the player he might beat if his defences could be lifted a shade higher. But it was not to be, Ding, one of the most interesting characters on court, produced enough penetrating shots to steadily weave his way through the Syed web 15, 18.

Alan Cooke, finished his tour in style, coming from behind to stop Xie Chaojin - 14, 18, 20, probably the best win of the tour for the Derbyshire and Malmo professional.

Prean's first visit to the table, saw a continuous stream of forehand drives, a smaller number of backhand shots against Chen Hongyu who snatched the first game 18. The Isle of Wight player stayed with Chen for most of the second game, but was beaten by an edge ball on the final point.

After Syed had lost to Xie 18, 10, Prean put on another long, arduous and painstaking effort but finally lost out - 19, 19, -17 to Ding Song, who never lost his rhythm.

That left China as worthy 4-1 winners. The team and officials then enjoyed the hospitality of the Milton Keynes Borough Council in the form of a spicy Chinese meal by the Yenz Chinese delivery service, an excellent repast organised by Ken Muhr. The menu was added as an inset item into the programme - an excellent idea for future organisers.

### JOHN WOODFORD'S FOOTNOTE:

Although this was the third tour by a Chinese team in recent years, the fans are still prepared to turn out in



*Chairman of the South Kesteven District Council Mrs. Marjorie Clarke presents the winner's trophy to China's Chen Hongyu, at the Grantham Table Tennis Centre, watched by ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome*



*Two proud young local flag bearers - Darryl Davies (left) 11 years old with the English flag and bill Pang, also 11 years old, with the Chinese flag*

their hundreds to see Chinese players - 600 fans at three of the venues proved the point.

Even with the odd rest day, all players in both teams were extremely tired long before the tour reached Bletchley, the last stop.

Long explanations would be needed on why some of the English players played more matches than the others, but at the start they were all asked how many matches they would like to play in.

The Chinese had their four players on the bench at each match, whichever player pulled out, it still left a very strong side, capable of winning each match.

Not quite the same for England.

It was worrying to see only three players on the England bench at times, although a reserve could have been whistled up quickly, there would have been a real problem if a player had, for example, turned an ankle knocking up.

The standard of play throughout the tour was extremely high, certainly some of the finest table tennis I have seen anywhere in recent years.

The highlight of Chen Xinhua's excursions into the seating when returning shots came at Sheffield as he was losing the last few points to Xie Chaojin.

Having seen him working from the crowd on a number of occasions,

the winning point of the three returns was something to recall for many a day - the first time he has won a point in the seating whilst playing in an international match.

A tour such as this is well worth while for a number of reasons, it gives our players extra experience against Chinese opposition, it is great for the fans and gains valuable publicity.

The one thing I would recommend for future tours is an extra rest day, but, we all know that would cost extra money as the show has to be on the road for another day.

*Continued on Page 20*

# CHINA TOUR - 4

## TOUR SCORES

### ST. AUSTELL

ENGLAND 3 CHINA 4

A. Cooke l Xie Chaojin -19, -11  
M. Syed l Yu Shentong -3, -10  
Chen Xinhua b Chen Hongyu 18, 15  
Cooke b Yu 17, 19  
Chen Xinhua l Xie -19, 18, -13  
Syed b Chen Hongyu 13, 18  
Chen-Syed 1 Yu-Chen -13, -13

### BOURNEMOUTH

ENGLAND 4 CHINA 3

Chen Xinhua b Ding Song 18, 14  
A. Cooke l Yu Shentong 13, -18, -16  
C. Prean l Xie Chaojin -13, 18, -19  
Chen Xinhua b Yu 15, 17  
Prean b Ding 8, 15  
Cooke l Xie -12, -10  
Cooke-Prean b Yu-Xie 16, -14, 18

### HEREFORD

ENGLAND 0 CHINA 4

Chen Xinhua l Ding Song 13, -17, -19  
A. Cooke l Yu Shentong 19, -14, -20  
M. Syed l Chen Hongyu -18, -16  
Chen Xinhua l Yu -15, 15, -17

### SHEFFIELD

ENGLAND 2 CHINA 4

Chen Xinhua b Ding Song 15, -14, 19  
M. Syed l Xie Chaojin -4, -20  
A. Cooke l Chen Hongyu -18, 18, -17  
Chen Xinhua l Xie 21, -16, -12  
Cooke b Ding 15, 14  
Syed l Chen Hongyu -18, -16

### GRANTHAM

ENGLAND 2 CHINA 4

A. Cooke l Yu Shentong -20, 8, -22  
M. Syed l Xie Chaojin -18, -11  
Chen b Chen Hongyu 18, -19, 16  
Cooke b Xie -18, 14, 17  
Chen Xinhua l Yu 17, -13, -21  
Syed l Chen Hongyu -20, -15

### GATESHEAD

ENGLAND 2 CHINA 4

Chen Xinhua b Chen Hongyu 16, 11  
A. Cooke b Yu Shentong 18, 18  
M. O'Driscoll l Ding Song -17, 12, -15  
Chen Xinhua l Yu -19, -13  
O'Driscoll l Chen Hongyu -18, -12  
Cooke l Ding 13, -14, -17

### BLETCHLEY

ENGLAND 1 CHINA 4

M. Syed l Ding Song -15, -18  
A. Cooke b Xie Chaojin -14, 18, 20  
C. Prean l Chen Hongyu -18, -18  
Syed l Xie -18, -10  
Prean l Ding -19, 19, -17



*England's Alan Cooke, who salvaged our only game at Bletchley, beating China's Xie Chaojin*



*China's star of the tour Xie Chaojin*



*Milton Keynes Borough Council Chairman Bill Clark, proudly presents plaques to team captains, Yin Xiao (left) of China, and England's Don Parker*

# ETTA County Supplement

## AVON Bob Murray

### County Championships

Avon played host to the first series of matches in Senior Division 2B of the County Championships. Bath Sports Centre once again provided the venue for some excellent table tennis.

Avon 2nds first match in the morning against Somerset produced a nail-biting 4 hour marathon. Despite victories by Gary Baldwin over Lee Sadler and by Helen Perrott over Tina Sadler, Avon were undeservedly 5-2 down at one stage. However, a rousing finish saw Steve Bettison defeat Sadler, Perrott gain a superb double by outplaying Somerset No. 1 Melonie Carey and Baldwin sensationally coming from a game and 20-15 down to beat the evergreen Brian Reeves and give Avon a well earned 5-5 draw.

With the Avon side in such good form it was going to be a major surprise if Worcestershire 2nds were to pose any serious problems and so it turned out. Baldwin and Perrott continued where they left off in the morning by both winning two each in the afternoon. Maximums were also achieved by Bettison and Hugh Dalton, who both improved as the day progressed and Debbie Bouey also contributed to an emphatic 9-1 victory.

Avon 2nds are well placed behind unbeaten Glamorgan to mount a determined title challenge at the second series of matches to be held at Yeovil in April.

The Avon Veteran side were also in the winning mood when entertaining Dorset 2nds in a Veterans Division 2 fixture at Bath. Victories in the singles from John Higgs (2), Mike Kimber (2), Dave Price and Muriel Lewis with the latter pair teaming up to take the mixed doubles, gave Avon a most satisfying 7-2 scoreline.

It turned out to be an entirely different affair when our Veterans travelled to meet Somerset. Excellent wins by John Higgs over Brian Reeves (expedite, surprise, surprise) and by Dave Price and Mike Kimber over Mike Baker were not enough to give us anything better than a 3-6 scoreline. Higgs' defeat by John Crabtree (again in expedite) and a reverse in the men's doubles were considered to be the 'ones that got away'.

### County Closed

Over 150 players, including the top 8 ranked men in Avon competed in the Avon Closed Championship. Eric Wynn, Chairman of Avon County Table Tennis Association

said "This is the highest number of entries for some years. We were particularly pleased with the large number of entries in the Under 12's category which shows that there is a growing interest in the game amongst young people."

The No. 1 seed, Paul Lewis, won the Mens Singles title in outstanding form, in a closely contested match with Andy Creed. Winner of the Ladies Singles was Michele Cohen with runner up Debbie Phillips.

## BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

THE READING AND District season reaches the halfway stage with Sonning Common and Peppard still undefeated and riding high at the top of Division 1. They have disposed of their two nearest contenders, Polish TTC and OLOP A, the latter by a 10-0 whitewash.

Veteran Allanson was in great form winning games in straight sets. OLOP battled hard but were second best on the night. The Sonning Club also head Division 2 and look odds on for a double top. OLOP head Division 3 in the form of Fred Brewster and his international side.

Reading Juniors almost pulled off a shock result against an Aldershot team which included the England No. 2 Edward Hatley, in the Carter Cup. Star of the team was Ben Johnson, who played some of the best table tennis of his life to give Reading a shock lead. Johnson took the first off the England No. 2, keeping his cool and going for the angles and the backhands with repeated success to take the game 21-18. He made a great start to take a 9-4 lead in the second, but Hatley fought back to win the next seven points and lead 11-9. Johnson then played out of his skin, producing a series of winners to take the match 21-13. Johnson also beat Macken in two and repeated the dose against Gouch to gain a creditable maximum. In the end Reading went down 5-4 in a match where they started as rank outsiders.

In the cadets section, Reading just got the result against Cippenham, Ali Subhan's treble and two wins from Andy Taplin giving them a 5-4 win.

In the Bracknell and District League, OLOP A are well clear at the halfway stage. Head of the individual averages however is SSV star Clifford Putterford, just ahead of the talented Paul Savins. Anyone of ten teams could win division 1

with Camberley B, Ascot A and KWC locked together at the top. Lightwater A look to be a good bet for division 2. Allan and Sylvia Bruton organised the Bracknell tournament and the Junior and Cadets in November. For the first time in the Bracknell League, prize money was at stake.

Newcomer Paul Bickell, a student from Reading University, took the grouping title, ahead of Ian Schwartz, Clifford Putterford who prevented an OLOP whitewash and Japanese player Takashi Takatiara. Top division three/four player was junior Robert Powles, in a creditable 15th place. Bickell, who hails from the Boumemouth area, also won the Under 21 title, beating the champion from last season, Koshif Subhan in the final.

Edward Emptage won the junior title, in a hard fought round robin against cadets Gareth Soden and Andrew Grantham.

### PLEASE NOTE

Due to the fact that it is necessary to reduce the number of 'County Notes' pages to eight, would County correspondents please note that the ideal number of words will be 500. Unfortunately it was necessary to edit some of the more lengthy copy in this month's issue.

John Wood, Editor

### Maidenhead League

Knockout cup matches have provided some exciting clashes and this year was no exception. One of the top encounters saw Premier Division hopefuls Tylers Green A get home by just six points over Altwood Tigers, the leaders of Division 5. The Tigers trio of Matthew Weller, Gareth Evans and Graham Wright, had a 310 point advantage on the handicap. Going into the doubles, the match was in the balance, but Legg and Nansell won 21-5, 21-2 to steal victory by 420 points to 414.

## DERBYSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

THE DERBYSHIRE INTER-TOWN League has been reformed but as a one-evening event at the Derby High School on 21st January, with Chesterfield needing an AGM decision to participate.

Derby and Matlock will be keen participants, with Burton considering an appearance at the last County meeting.

No news of the Derbyshire Challenge Cup which is due to get underway after Christmas with Paul Smith doing the organisation.

Burton - The Burton League Division 1 title chase is between Uttoxeter Old Mill A and Stretton Social Club Red, with Uttoxeter slightly ahead with a better games difference at Christmas.

David Staniforth (Stretton) and Ian Ford (Uttoxeter) are leading their teammates when they meet chasing sides Granville Aces and Robert Sutton Sherpa Orange.

The final table could be affected by the strength of the Doug Foulds comeback after a broken leg. Twenty years after winning the Derbyshire mens singles title, Doug has always produced a high level of play and everyone hopes that Doug's (anti spin) return will be successful.

One team having trouble in Division 1 are newly-promoted Bass Specials, but with the aptly-named Brian Beer in their team they must be looking to improve during the second half of the season.

Division 2 has been dominated by Granville Kings, with Trancher as their nearest challengers.

Division 3 has the closest competition with six teams in promotion contention at Christmas, with two Hill Street teams having their noses slightly in front.

Derby - No sooner was copy written for the last issue when Derby High School 2nd lost (sob, sob) their first match and place at the top of the Derby League Premier division.

We started well with Colin Ambrose beating St Andrews Paul Hamer 22, -22, 27 in a match which would have gone to expedite under last season's rules. Having umpired that, I beat Pete Astley -16, 16, 16 and Keith LeMilliere made it 3-0. Then fatigue set in and St Andrews coasted to a 6-4 victory.

Both Long Eaton teams are doing well and the championship is wide open with high expectations of an exciting second half.

In Division 1, Derby High School 3rd lead the table but unexpected losses by the High team have left Rolls Royce 2nd in a stronger position as they have matches in hand - but a broken leg sustained by Andy Mowles in a football match has not enhanced their prospects.

Another football injury must affect the chances of Derby High School, 8th in division 4.

# Counties 2

Oliver Astley suffered a broken finger when it was trod on by teammate and brother James. Oliver was unbeaten in his first season in the league, but with brothers like James, who needs opponents?

**Matlock** - Over Christmas, I happened to bump into Max Holmes who many will remember as a former County player. Max, looking as young as ever, informed me that he will be retiring from work when his fifty-ninth birthday comes round in March.

Max is still a lively competitor on the lawn tennis circuit despite his premature retirement from the table tennis scene. Good news is that Max is practising during his lunchtimes at work, and will be looking to a return to the competitive table tennis scene in Matlock next season. I predict that some of the younger players will have to look out, and it is difficult to imagine how some of the youngsters will contend with Max's unique(!) style.

## DEVONSHIRE

John Vincent

### Junior Premier Weekend

The Junior County first team made a great start with two 9-1 wins over Warwickshire and Surrey. Both Alex Perry and Adrian Vincent had good wins over Darren Blake of Surrey. Against a strong Middlesex side Devonshire scored a good 6-4 victory to give them maximum points for the weekend. Alex and Adrian lost to the brilliant Richard Hyacinth. Lynsey Heyward recorded a fine win over Sara Williams 21-19, 21-9. Malcolm Francis did an excellent job as coach for the weekend, using his vast experience and knowhow to Devonshire's advantage. Thank you Malcolm.

**South West Regional Final Trials**  
Congratulations to Lisa Morrish who finished second to Rachel Boon (Cornwall) and Peter Thomas (N Devon) who finished 1st in the cadet boys. Both received invitations to the National Trials Finals at Lilleshall.

### Plymouth & District TTL

The Plymouth League was one of the first leagues to be formed in England. It was formed in 1910. This season the league is thriving with 9 full divisions of 14 teams per division.

The Plymouth League headquarters was at the Devonport Guildhall which was rented from

Plymouth City Council but due to an astronomical increase in rent the league was pushed into buying their own premises earlier than expected. Provision had been made for a building fund so with that money plus help from the ETTA, Sports Council and the Plymouth City Lottery, the League purchased their own premises in Desborough Road, Plymouth. The property was a launderette and a lot of work was put in to convert it into a table tennis centre.

### Carter Cup

Plymouth juniors beat Dudley juniors away by 5-2 in the zone final. Jonathan May won 3 and David Heath 2.

## DORSET

Martin Hughes

### Change of Details

At the last meeting of the Dorset TTA it was reported that the General Secretary and Junior Secretary, Dave Beverley, had tendered his resignation. Would all interested parties please note that John Perry has now taken over the role of Junior Secretary and his address is 3 Haworth Close, Fairmile, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2PT (Tel: 0202 401073) and I have taken over as General Secretary. My new address is 8a Anncoat Close, Lychett Matravers, Poole, Dorset BH16 6BN (Tel: 0202 621374).

### The County Championships

The senior first team, struggling in division 2D, lost to neighbours Hampshire 1-9 with Cherry Creasey beating Sarah Turner for our only success. Four other matches went to a deciding third end with Cherry losing at deuce to Sarah Hammond and Martin Hughes losing at 19 to Miki Sinnanan.

The Junior team have taken part in two block weekends and are still searching for their first win in division 2C. They lost 0-10 to both Cornwall and Somerset and 4-6 to Wiltshire, although the late withdrawal of our two girls, Nickie and Heidi Bryson was always going to give the opposition four start.

However, Shaun Kellaway, Laurence Down and Matthew Trotman all performed well and were selected for the second block weekend where they went down 1-9 to Worcestershire and 4-6 to Gwent.

The Veteran first team won their third match 7-2 against Middlesex, but went down 3-6 to Berkshire when Dorset No. 1 Tony

Clayton was unable to play. This loss could stop Dorset from gaining promotion to the premier Division as they now have to rely on Berkshire losing a match.

The second team have lost their three matches to date, going down 2-7 to Avon and 3-6 to Gloucestershire seconds in their last two matches.

The third team have won two and lost two, beating Hertfordshire 5ths 6-3 and losing 4-5 to Berkshire 3rds in their last two games.

### The British League

Jolliffe Poole, sponsored by Peter Jolliffe Bookmaker, are struggling in Division 2 South East at present, languishing in 8th position, with only Tony Clayton having any significant success.

Against BSG Brentwood, who are lying second, Jolliffe fielded their only available players, ie Brian Burn, John Robinson, Jason Creasey and Martin Hughes and to Poole's astonishment went into a 3-1 lead. However, after a mid-match interval, Brentwood fought back to win 5-3.

Against Leckie only Tony Clayton was able to win, comfortably beating Adrian Thorp and Jill Harris in straight sets, as Jolliffe Poole went down 2-6.

## ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

ATLONGLAST the Junior Premier squad got into action at the St Neots weekend. Unfortunately, its opening effort against Yorkshire was far from impressive, and a 3-7 loss was the outcome. Ryan Savill and Paul Hudson struggled against similarly ranked opponents and Ryan's win over Richard Smith was all they had to show for their efforts. Cris Sladden beat Robert Sharp and Darren Lindley but was the first to admit that he had not played well. Sally Marling and Katy Goodall are going to lose very few matches at this level but we had hoped that Linda Radford might repeat her Cleveland win over Sally. This never looked likely as an unhappy Linda lost first to Katy and then to Sally. Shelley Ruocco was predictably out of her depth against these super stars but her time will come as she gains experience.

Berkshire were next up and our team found them much easier meat, although Ben Johnson did us no favours by taking out Ryan Savill in the first set! Thereafter it was plain sailing, only Shelley Ruocco's loss to Gemma Schwartz

interrupting our progress to an 8-2 win.

Despite this win, neither coach Bob Sladden nor I felt that the team had been very convincing. So the way in which it sprang to life on the Sunday morning when Warwickshire's Ian Ferguson (who had looked tremendous against Alex Perry the previous day) was crushed by Ryan Savill, delighted us. Paul Hudson, who had been the most out of form member of the squad, began to look more like his old self in a wonderful battle with David Johnson in which the latter just got home by 24-22 in the third! Cris, Ryan, Linda and Shelley went unbeaten in this match. Paul finally came good with a superb victory over Steven Meddings, 23-21 in the third. The match score was 9-1 and Essex ended the weekend third in the League table behind Yorkshire and Devon.

The other County junior teams have each played two more matches. The second team met Devon II and Herts I at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in back to back encounters on 23rd November. The first match resulted in an easy 8-2 win for Essex, the lost sets being due to David Heath, beating both Vince Avery and Ben Ware, fairly comfortably, it must be said. The second match, against the powerful Herts team ended in a splendid 9-1 win. Peter Worthington and Jenny Coleman were outstanding, both being unbeaten, with Jenny's win over Sarah Seaholme the highlight. Vince Avery and Ben Ware this time kept clean sheets and Sarah Gardner won our other set.

The junior third team with completely different line-ups had 9-1 and 10-0 wins over Herts II and Beds. Andrew Taylor, Kevin Mays, Daniel Yardy, Cathy Sibbald and Elizabeth Sibbald played in the first match, in which Kevin Mays lost his opening set to Kevin Flowerday, but came back well to defeat John O'Leary -20, 19, 19. Another close encounter saw Andrew Taylor beat Kevin Flowerday -17, 14, 20. The girls and Daniel Yardy had no problems in their games.

A very experimental side, including three players making their first ever appearances for the county, namely Wayne Smithies, Stephen Joslin and Michelle King, faced Beds, bolstered by the experienced Karl Grant and Julie Rand. The result was rather astonishing, but highly satisfactory 10-0 win, and I have nothing but praise for both the newcomers and the old hands who took part.

News in from the Clacton League is that the Great Holland squad of Derek Wood, Chris Jacob, David Binns and Brian Cartwright,

# Counties 3

which has won the Division 1 title for 6 out of the last 7 seasons, has broken up. This means that either last year's runners-up, Walton A or new team St Andrews might get its name on the trophy.

The county is hoping to revive its popular Champion of Champions tournament, last held, believe it or not, back in 1982. The format is that each league nominates its Closed champions in the usual categories to take part and a full day's play throws up six overall title holders, true 'Champions of Champions'. It is hoped to stage the first tournament later this season.

The only senior county side which has been in action since my last report was written is the second team, consisting of Martin Cole, Clive Carthy, Mark Wicker, Kate Gower and Ruth Cleminson. This team has beaten Suffolk II by 9-1 and Cambs II by 8-2. Clive Carthy and Kate Gower 100% in these matches.

## GLoucestershire

Alf Peppard

### 1991 Gloucester Closed Championships

Played on 8 tables at the Cheltenham Cricket Club's indoor headquarters, and under the control of the Hon Referee, Mrs Gill Smith from Cheltenham, who was assisted throughout the day by David Dean of Stonehouse and Ken Bridle from Cirencester, despite a slightly less number of entries as per last year, the Championships consisting of 9 events were a great success, all 9 reports as follows, commencing with the mens singles.

Out of a total of 33 entries, Gloucester's William Dawe beat the up and coming County Junior No.1 Raymond Powell in the semi final. Meanwhile the current holder, Darren Griffin beat Sylvester Callum in the other semi final to meet Dawe in the final, meet indeed they did, with Griffin ranked at 54 in England and Dawe by virtue of not playing on the national circuit not ranked at all, when Griffin took the first game at 17, many of us that were present thought of it as a mere formality, we were in for a surprise - in the second game Dawe hit everything - forehands, backhands, the lot and totally dominated it by a winning score of 16, in the third and final deciding game Dawe raced to a 7-3 lead and maintained his lead by 18-14 when it appeared to all and sundry present that he had victory within his grasp, Dawe suddenly stopped attacking and fell back on defence. It was a fatal mistake -

which was to cost him the Championships, Griffin caught up at 19 all and then took the next two points to clinch the title for the fourth time.

It must be said that the late evening of 1st December will haunt Dawe's memory for some time because he played so very well throughout the entire Championships and only lost by the narrow margin of two points in the end, it was a great final, possibly the best that any of us has seen over a 20 year period.

**Coaching** - George Novoth, County and Gloucester City Coaching Officer, has invited 8 or 9 youngsters for specialist coaching. All these young players are in the cadet range, they have already attended sessions two weeks prior to Christmas and George tells me that he hopes to continue with them well into the New Year - providing that they retain their enthusiasm.

George, since taking on the role of Coaching Officer for the county, has pursued a pretty gruelling and hectic schedule as well as his regular weekly sessions for the City at Oxstalls School, he has visited Stroud and Cirencester three times and Cheltenham twice.

I wrote these notes a few days prior to Christmas with about a week to catch the copy date. Now on 28th and 29th December the following Gloucestershire players venture to Lilleshall for the annual National Trials. They are Raymond Powell, Jeremy Hyatt and Leigh Nemes, all in the Under 17 boys events - Kerry Hogarth appears to be the only young lady qualifier, she takes part in the U17 girls and the Cadets events. We wish them well.

And finally to current date - 22nd December - I have presented 14 weekly live radio table tennis broadcast on BBC Radio Gloucestershire South and West dealing with news at club, county, national and international levels. I must thank staff at Hastings head office for supplying me with the latter news - it comes in most useful.

BBC Radio interviews have been carried out this season with Kevin Satchell, Valerie Clack, Roy Morley, George Novoth, Darren Griffin and Judy Morley - all have been broadcast.

## HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

HIGHLIGHT OF DECEMBER was Graham Toole regaining his Hampshire men's singles championship title, previously won

in 1989 when defeating 1990 champion Mark Bleakley in a nail biting final; Toole's journey to the final had been anything but easy having to overcome the holder, Mark Wilding and Southampton's tournament expert Andrew Ely. Toole went on to complete a treble, partnering Wilding and Sarah Hammond in the doubles events. In defeating Sarah Turner in the ladies final and ten teaming up with her opponent to take the ladies doubles, Miss Hammond matched Graham's achievement.

Ramesh Bhalla (Veteran men), Sandra Simpson (Veteran Ladies) and Jeff Giles (Intermediate) completed the winners. Congratulations to Gareth Scadden (Cadets) and Juniors Caroline Newling Ward and Kevin Macken who have qualified for the final National Junior Trials.

Congratulations to Hampshire's expatriates Boumemouth who have at long last matched the achievements of big brothers Portsmouth and Southampton in staging an international - and what a cracker it was - England v China on 29th December with the result in doubt (4-3 England) until the last minute of an outstanding 4 hour encounter excellently staged at the Littledown Leisure Centre. Well controlled, of course, by a trio of Hampshire officials, Harry Spraggs, Mick Strode and Brian Lamerton. Of the county teams, Hampshire Veteran 2nds have a commanding lead in their division; the senior team look to have blown it following a narrow 6-4 defeat at the hands of likely champions Surrey whilst the rest of the teams occupy mid-table positions.

Still early days in the inter-town leagues but a Tony Duffield/Clive Payne inspired Basingstoke look destined for the mens title and Boumemouth should take both Veteran divisions.

The ever popular Redbridge Sports Centre was host to a total of 19 Cadet and Junior inter-town matches early in the month; leading teams at present are Southampton A (Junior 1), Isle of Wight A (Junior 2) and Portsmouth (so long in the doldrums Cadets).

Tragedy of the month was the sudden death, playing table tennis, of 59 year old Doug Balchin. Although playing for his Southampton club, 4 T's, at the time of his death Doug was known, not without real justification as 'Mr Table Tennis' of Winchester, having held numerous offices in the Winchester Association continuously for a far greater period than the 20 plus years of handbooks

to which I have access and he had been presented with an ETTA merit award in recognition of this. At the time of his death Doug was also Hampshire League Secretary and secretary of his home club St Cross, many times Winchester champions. Whilst never an outstanding player, he was himself still turning in 50% plus 1st Division records. Many Winchester league matches were played at the Balchin home not to mention committee meetings of both county and city. Few will be missed more than Doug and many have yet to realise the extent to which he will be missed. Our sympathy goes to wife Doreen, his son and his daughter who is living in New Zealand.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

NORTH HERTS RISING star Darren Humber won the Junior Boys singles crown, when he defeated his rival and last year's champion, Justin Skinner from Cheshunt 17, 13 in the final at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in December.

More recently Humber once again triumphed over Skinner, when he beat him 20 and 17 in the Hertfordshire Junior Inter-League competition, helping his side North Herts, to say on top of the table.

The Junior Girls Singles trophy was once again won by Watford's young star Sarah Seaholme, when she overcame the challenge of Hemel Hempstead's Marie Masters in the final 11, -20, 12. Seaholme's class was evident in the first and third games, but in the second leg she was put under extreme pressure by the 12 year old lass from Hemel Hempstead, which saw Masters square the match with power and aggression.

Kevin Flowerday and Tim O'Leary are the new boys doubles champions following their -19, 25, 16 narrow victory over Darren Humber and Justin Skinner in the final.

The girls doubles crown was won by Barnet's Talya Greenberg and Sarah Seaholme, when they beat St Albans' Caren Harber and Helen Rose, 12 and 12. Kevin Flowerday partnered Sarah Seaholme in the mixed doubles final and won for themselves a second doubles crown when they defeated Barnet's Tim O'Leary and Talya Greenberg 19 and 15.

John O'Leary won the boys under 14 title when he beat North Herts' Alun Dhar, 19 and 18 in the

# Counties 4

final.

The girls under 14 singles crown was won by Hemel Hempstead's Marie Masters, when she powered her way to victory in the final over her old rival Lesley Moorhead, from Watford, beating her -17, 17, 16. Michael Common from Hoddesden won the boys under 12 title, beating Hemel Hempstead Paul Higgins, 12 and 7.

Watford's Anna Warren took the girls under 12 singles trophy, when she beat Avril Brooks, 13 and 12 in the final.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

John Preat

QUITE A LARGE contingent of us travelled across the water to support England against China in Bournemouth on 30th December, particularly our Isle of Wight player Carl Preat. We braved wind, water and the high charges of the ferry operators ('the most expensive strip of water in the world') to good effect as England won 4-3 after a stirring 4 hour epic before a full house. All those who worked to make the match such a success deserve every credit.

I was particularly impressed with the Chinese No. 1 Xie Chaojie, a penholder with short pimples, who made one understand the meaning of the words 'greased lightning'. If he (No. 21 in the world) really has 20 peers, they must be very good players! However, our man Carl had him (-19 in the third) but not quite. At 3 all Carl went on the table with Alan Cooke against Xie and Yu Shentong (winner of the English Open in 1990) and no one gave our players the slightest chance against what seemed an ideal left hander/right hander combination, but they did it after 3 pulsating games and all the excitement we need and more.

Doubles have not been our bright spot for some years. Perhaps the start of better days? With the Olympics near, a good time to hit form and winning ways. I endured some amusing leg pulling about my 'unbeaten record'. As I exclusively predicted it was not to last long and looked better than it was because the magazine was rather late in appearing. Once I lost my first, two further defeats quickly followed. However, as Dr Johnson might have remarked, the miracle is to play at all, not to win. You may recall the story of the man playing his dog at chess. On being complimented on having such a clever dog, he replied "Not at all. I also win sometimes."

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Our B team travelled for 'experience' rather than in great expectations, but Lorna Dutch's 3 wins, playing against boys, generally three years older, has to be a good performance, encouraging hopes of future successes.

Our Juniors opened with two 10-0 wins, unfortunately in Division 2. Escape/promotion may not be easy for all that, as Bournemouth are well placed with two wins and a games average of 19-1. With only one team going up, there will be much to play for. Our standard should remain high next season when Greg Burns leaves the Cadet age group. Our B side went for experience which included 19 defeats out of 20. However, they now know what it is all about. They will do better.

Our Veterans are holding their own in the 2nd division of the Hampshire veterans league with Alan Hulbert winning three out of 4 with Pete Urry and Joe Daly winning half their matches, as indeed did Heather Wykes.

Pete Urry made further history when he inflicted his first defeat of the season on Steve Barsdell but Wroxall A remain on top of our First Division.

I hear our team in the Southern Regional League is doing better. Last season was one to forget. I shall ferret out the details for you in time for the next issue. Good to see entire cadet team in Bournemouth where they learned a lot and had a fantastic evening. I enjoyed meeting many old friends. At one time it seemed as if I had played half the audience at one time or another as old 'enemies' appeared to remind me of many happy days. It was a great pleasure to see Carl play in a town where I had had so much fun before so many good friends. It seemed to be what table tennis should be - and only sometimes is - about; the spanning of the generations, a sport than can and should be fun.

## KENT Adrian Hall

### National Under 12 Squad

Kent's development at the younger end of the age group continues with the inclusion of Scott Friday and Christian Thompson in this season's National Under 12 squad. We wish both players from the Medway area a successful season.

### Kent Reliance Building Society

It is without doubt that the continuation of the ambitious development programme set out by the Kent Committee cannot be met without the valued aid of sponsorship and I am pleased to announce that the Kent Reliance Building Society have agreed to sponsor our senior closed Championships which will in future be known as the Kent Reliance County Championships. In a statement to the committee Kent Reliance Managing Director, Mr Ian Robinson said "As the county's only local building society, it is fitting that we should support sportsmen and women in Kent."

### Rochester upon Medway Year of Sport

Rochester upon Medway City Councils Year of Sport came to an end with a weekend of coaching by England international Skylet Andrew at the new Sterling Centre sponsored by Black Horse Financial Services. Black Horse spokesperson Julie Miskimmin made special mention of Leisure Services Cllr Mrs Julie Shaw and Principal Sports Officer Maggie Antoniou who had contributed to give a great weekend of sport to so many youngsters.

**National Trials** - Five Kent players qualified from the regional trials to represent Kent at Lilleshall. They are Lesley Hollingworth, Joanne Barham, Alison Smith and Crystal Hall. Maidstone's Martin Hewett (Jun Boys) ranked 61 in England won through with six wins including victories over Vincent Avery, Wayne Mitchell, Peter Worthington and Paul Duke, his lone defeat being at the hands of Ben Ware who went through as champion. In the Cadet boys Glen Ritchie won through as champion and was joined by Medway's Christian Thompson who both did extremely well to defeat Essex's Stephen Joslin. Ritchie only just managed to hold off the challenge of the young Thompson to remain unbeaten and inflict the only defeat on Thompson. Tonbridge's Nicola Duke was unbeaten in the Girls under 17 event including splendid victories over

international cadet Shelley Ruocco and Natasha Barham.

**Journey of a Lifetime** - I feel I cannot close these county notes without a word of thanks to our three Chinese guests, Coach Wang DaZhi and Junior players Meng Qing Yu and Xu Kai who have now returned to China following their three month visit. They stay in the county as the house guests of Reg and Carol Thompson has done much to kindle an enthusiasm that has not previously been present in the county during my time, and how refreshing it was to see such great players giving their time so graciously to so many lesser players in the county, even to the extent of setting up tables for the Kent Junior Open on the Friday evening and moving tables and barriers prior to the finals which they dominated. From me personally and from the whole of Kent I am sure - MANY THANKS.

Nine members of the Northborough Maidstone Cadet Elite Squad have received personal invitations to spend a month in China next August and Kent have a formal invitation to send a squad during the same period - indeed a journey of a lifetime.

## LANCASHIRE George Yates

ONLY AGAINST PROMOTEES Berkshire did Lancashire salvage a point from the Junior Premier Weekend of the County Championships played at St Neots over the weekend of November 30th/1st December.

In the opening engagement when Surrey won 7-3 only Darryl Meredith of Oldham managed a set for the boys while Tamar Connolly of Blackpool was twice a winner in accounting for Glenda Ashison and Diana Chan.

A subsequent 8-2 thrashing by Middlesex had the brakes temporarily applied when Liverpool's Emma Fletcher beat Joanne Weare and Meredith notched up another single in beating Dov Katz.

A division of the spoils was achieved against Berkshire, Meredith again winning one, beating Ali Subhan who also lost to Mathew Coombe of Oldham and Rod Mainwaring of Preston recorded his first win in beating

# Counties 5

Robert Dawson. One each for Miss Fletcher and Miss Connolly, against Caroline Goatly, brought about the draw.

In the Senior Division 2A Lancs 2nds recorded their third successive win in beating Cumbria 8-2 at Liverpool where Graham Clarke, Paul Hutchings and Chris Ford were all unbeaten, both Tamar Connolly and Brenda Buoeoy beating Fiona Harris but losing to Julie McLean.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are hereby afforded Graham Clarke and more especially Mandy Goodwin who were involved in a car accident on their return from the Midland Open in Birmingham.

On the veteran front, Lancashire's runs of success by both teams continues with the first team beating Worcestershire 5-4 and Gloucestershire 8-1 and the 2nds accounting for both Notts and Clwyd by 6-3 margins.

Six wins in a row for the first team finds them with only one match remaining, away to Norfolk, to complete their season and four wins in a row has the second team at home to Cheshire 3rds and away to Yorkshire 3rds to round up their season.

Away to Worcestershire Phil Blake was Lancashire's trump card in beating Roy Norton and Ray Dixon and sharing a doubles success with Tony Rigby who also accounted for Dixon, Brian Clements putting the icing on the cake with a win over Mervyn Wood. Against Glos the three Lancastrian men carried all before them and although Alwyn Burrough lost to Judy Morley she shared a mixed doubles success with Clements.

Lancs Vets II had a double winner in Ken Jackson against Notts with Norman Thewlis and Derek Watmough contributing one each as did Mabel Neary with Watmough and Jackson winning the doubles. Thewlis was a double winner against Clwyd, Watmough and Keith Ward winning one each as did Mrs Neary and the doubles was won by the Watmough/Ward pairing.

News from the Blackpool League, together with a most splendid Diamond Jubilee edition of their handbook, forwarded by Secretary Paul Bentley, giving most credit to former Secretary Martin Ireland, ends on a sad note with the death just before the season's start of their President, Geoff Parker. Geoff had been a true stalwart for many years and was a much respected and popular member of the local table tennis community.

Blackburn, with three successive wins to their name top the men's division 1, their most

recent win being 7-3 against Wirral with both Graham Clarke and Dr Sharrad Pandit both trebling and winning the doubles.

Meantime Warrington, the defending champions, dropped another point in drawing 5-5 with Liverpool after leading 5-3. Keith Williams and Steve Green both won two for Liverpool with Stuart Richards contributing one while Mal McEvoy was a double winner for Warrington, Peter Flint winning one, as did Terry Turner with McEvoy and Flint winning the doubles.

Stockport were held to a 5-all draw by Blackpool whose Steve Bevan was a treble winner and Bolton achieved their first success in three outings by beating fellow promotees Oldham 8-2 with David Carse and Nigel Hallows both trebling, winning the doubles and Graham Hoy beating Wayne Renton.

In the women's first division Liverpool, the defending champions having beaten, to date, Barrow, Halton and Preston. In this latter engagement both Mathew Coombe and Darryl Meredith trebled, combined to win the doubles while No. 3 Andrew Halford beat John Pilkington having lost to Rod Mainwaring and Andrew Bottoms.

St Helens are also unbeaten after three matches having seen off Bury, Preston and Blackpool, Philip Musgrove spearheading the side with nine singles to his credit and Kevin Dolder dropping just one set to Preston's Rod Mainwaring.

Bolton top the Vets Division 1 having beaten Trafford, Halton and Macclesfield, the only set to escape them being when K Hartley of Halton beat John Mason whose teammates Barry Crook and Derek Watmough have yet to taste defeat.

Liverpool have dropped out of Junior Division 2A as have Macclesfield from Junior 2B. Oh for the enthusiasm of the veterans!

## LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

IN DIVISION ONE of the Leicester TTL we find Loughborough Kingfishers I in the driving seat at the halfway stage, they remain unbeaten and one point clear of Knighton Park I. Mark Illingsworth has been outstanding for Kingfishers, being unbeaten in 29

games. Chris Kinsey is giving him plenty of support having won 26 of his 29 games. Knighton Park I look strong in second place with the trio of Keith Fellows, Karen Smith and Les Baker all having a good season and are all in the top eight of the individual averages.

In the Cup competitions we have got to the semi final stages in three events. The Corral Cup semi final draw: Great Glen YSC v British Shoe; Knighton Park v Thurnby Northwood. The Saracen Cup. The semi final draw: Knighton Park v British Shoe; New Braun Goons v Thurnby Northwood or Great Glen.

The Frith Trophy Semi final draw: British Shoe v Leicester Electricity; New Braun Goons v Royal Mail.

On to the coaching scene and Soar Valley is still going great guns and I have heard that a couple of tables have now arrived and the promise of more on the way, so the complex at the Mary Linwood School could be a reality in January, let's hope so anyway.

## Back to the Leicester TTL

1911 was a special year both nationally and locally. The coronation of King George V and Queen Mary took place on 22nd June and the birth of Philip W Smith took place later on 23rd December. Of course nobody knew at the time what an impression Phil was going to have on the local table tennis scene in a few years hence, in fact at the time of Phil's arrival, I doubt if there even was a table tennis scene. Phil was raised in the St James area of Leicester, close to Victoria Park and he was one of two sons but unfortunately his brother died when he was just thirteen and a half years old. He was educated at Illyggeston Boys Grammar School and on the completion of his education he pursued a working career in accountancy. Phil's first encounter with our game of table tennis came in 1928 when he was 17 years old at a church social club on Saturday evenings. Friendly matches were arranged and at this point the table tennis bug had bitten. In 1930 Frank Cooper Watson who at the time placed at the Illestcoates Church Social Club, in his infinite wisdom called a meeting of the social club secretaries.

At this meeting where Phil was present it was decided to form a league and affiliated it to the ETTA and so the embryo of the Leicester League as we know it today had been born. As a dashing young blade of the thirties Phil was selected as reserve for the Leicester League's very first representative match against Birmingham in 1932, Phil went on to represent the League in

every match until 1939 when the war intervened. 1939 was also the year that Phil married his wife Rita, indeed a marriage which continues to this day. They have three children and seven grandchildren. During the war when a massive 'let' was enforced on all sport, Phil, like hundreds of thousands of young men all over the country, did his stint in the war effort and it was on the continent after D Day that Phil says he could have been killed on five occasions and reckons after that he should at least live until he is 100.

After the war Phil served on the Committee as Treasurer for many years. 1951 saw Phil reach the ripe old age of 40 and with it played in representative matches a few time for the Veterans. He has played continuously in the Leicester League ever since and is now in his 61st season. What an achievement to say the least. Phil has played for just five clubs in all and currently with Leicester Electricity in Division 10. Not surprisingly, like many of the more seasoned hard bat players in our league, Victor Barna had the greatest influence on Phil's table tennis career, a career he still enjoys although he says 'My attack is not quite as powerful as it used to be.'

Phil has also been the League's appointed auditor for something like 40 years. In 1980 Phil was appointed as a very worthy President of the League until a difference of opinion forced him to resign in 1989. Phil is still a Vice President of the ETTA.

At the ripe old age of 80, you could forgive anyone for putting their feet up and calling it a day, but not Phil, he still runs his own office (part time) and with his wife Rita has taken up the sport of indoor bowls.

Phil is currently playing for his club and leading the Division 10. He is lying joint 4th in the averages with 83% and could be picking up some silverware at the next presentation dance.

Well that is Philip W Smith the man. Would you all join me and congratulate an octogenarian who truly is Mr Table Tennis of the Leicester League.

## MIDDLESEX Iris Moss

I UNDERSTAND THAT the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships went well although I did not see very much of them myself as I was stricken with a virus. But our team were very capable of carrying on without me and

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everything went smoothly. There should be a full account of the event elsewhere in this edition so I will just put on my Treasurer's hat and thank Butterfly UK Ltd, the Federation of Middlesex Sports and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for their financial support. Our gratitude also goes to the officials and umpires, without whom the event could not be run.

Our Junior 1st team did well over their first weekend with comfortable wins over Lancashire and Berkshire. We were a little disappointed to lose to Devon despite Richard Hyacinth beating Alex Perry, but their overall strength was greater than ours. Joanne Weare made a promising debut in the first team; we have great hopes for her in the future.

Our Richard also won the boys singles title in the English Junior Closed Championships, beating Edward Hatley in the Final. Well done, Richard.

Our congratulations go to Colin Wilson who has been appointed to the full time post of Development Officer for London. As the whole of the official Middlesex area comes into London, we will be watching his progress with great interest. Who knows, he might even get what was once a very successful Schools Association going properly again. But whatever he does, it is bound to help Middlesex Leagues in the long term.

## NORFOLK Ray Hogg

FINALLY RECEIVED COUNTY handbooks on 3rd December but still have not seen the address list. These used to be properly printed in little books on glossy paper but now seem to be photocopied on recycled paper. Would counties who do not phone match results in please do so as I like to update league tables from results on the sheet issued promptly after these matches and I find many blank spaces.

Our County Championships were well supported this season with almost all ranked players entering except in the Veterans singles which I was most disappointed with as that is the one time there is an opportunity to compare players abilities. Neil Pickard as expected won the mens singles without too much trouble, being able to go up a gear if needed. Ruth Acourt ladies singles; Mick Broughton Veterans singles for the 9th time; Ruth Acourt and Mary Christie ladies doubles; Neil Pickard and Katie Longbottom mixed doubles; Jon Cockburn and

Mick Broughton, a scratch pairing, beat Neil and brother David Pickard in mens doubles at 19 in the third. In the quarter final of this event Jon and Mick played David Lee and Pat MacLoughan in the match of the tournament. It went to 37-35 in the 3rd game and all other 9 tables stopped to watch.

Sympathies go to Phil Logsdon who had to scratch after one round of singles. It is taking him longer than expected to recover from illness.

Junior Championships brought some more unknown but talented players to the fore, particularly in the Under 11 mixed singles where Daniel King defeated all the other fancied players to win comfortably. Gary Hewitt again defeating Shaun Parsley for the Under 17 title. Strange that Gary is ranked below Shaun. Leighton Chipperfield won the Under 15 as expected but did not enter the Under 17. Surely this rising star needs the opposition if he is to come up to expectations. Daniel King also won the Under 13's, beating Daniel Vertigan from KL who was favourite.

In the girls events Jennifer West from Diss league won the Under 17 singles, doubles with Helen Woods and runner up in the mixed doubles. This is an achievement for the Diss league as Jennifer actually lives within their area and is one of a family of 5 who all play.

Lindsay Chaplin was the most proud player on the day, displaying aloft her Under 13 and Under 15 trophies. Big sister Melanie had a runners up day in Under 17s, mixed doubles and girls doubles.

All in all a good Championships with as I have said, an entry from most of the ranked players finishing not too late for the organisers who after 2 days of 12 hours headed for the local Little Chef on the way home.

We have held these Championships at Long Stratton for 4 years now and thought is being given to moving to Kings Lynn for the next one, so if anyone out there has any views as to whether players from the south of the county would travel, please let me know.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

ONCE AGAIN THE Northants County Closed tournament produced the unexpected, when the final of the men's singles was

contested by Andy Trott and Brian D'Hooghe.

For Trott it was his 4th final in 5 years but the unseeded D'Hooghe was making his very first appearance at this stage, having accounted for Terry Luxton, No. 4 seed Chris Handshaw and No. 2 seed Kieron Dabbs along the way. In the semi final his all round game enhanced by his skillful use of a combination bat made light of Dabbs' ability, nullifying the Daventry players high thrown service and finally presenting problems that Dabbs was unable to solve.

The final was a close encounter, with D'Hooghe posing problems in the first, mixing attack and defence to good effect, and looking likely to become the first unseeded player to lift the trophy since Northampton's Doug Gwillim in 1968. Then halfway through the second end, Trott found a rich vein of form, attacking brilliantly to dominate the exchange and sustaining an incessant array of shots to take the match with consummate ease, and add the title to the one he won in 1988/89.

The ladies event was equally entertaining in the later stages with the top four seeds all reaching their allotted places and producing semi finals of high drama and obvious quality.

Alison Boxall and Kristina Cox also fought out a tense duel, with Miss Cox on top in the early stages but the nationally ranked Miss Boxall fighting back to level in the second and then narrowly gaining victory at 21-19 in the third.

The final protagonists were also equally matched but a worried Miss Boxall finally inched ahead to take the first, only for Miss Russell, the only one of the semi finalists never to have taken the title, to level with a scintillating attacking display in the second. However, the experience of Boxall paid off in the decider and she coasted to victory.

There was a consolation prize for Sally, who teamed up with Donna Furniss to retain the ladies doubles after another marathon encounter with Boxall, now on the losing side, partnered by Clem Little, while Margaret Maltby gained her reward, when she and Keith Jones just mastered Michael Edwards and Miss Furniss in the mixed doubles to add to their previous wins in 1983, 1985 and 1987.

The men's doubles was another triumph for Andy Trott, playing for the first time with his beaten singles opponent Andy Edmonds. Only once were they extended, and that in the semi final by the Steve Brown/Mark Nannerv

duo, who finally went down by the narrowest of margins. In the final, the flair of Trott and the efficiency of Edmonds proved too great for Michael Edwards and Richard Bashford, who after some terrific early successes were by this time a spent force.

One of the most entertaining events of the day was the Class 1 singles with the 12 singles seeded excluded. Brian D'Hooghe was again in fine form, eliminating David Tobin, Mike Pond, John Palmer and Paul Rowan to reach the final, while in the bottom half of the draw, the fast improving Gordon Shaw had some difficulty in coping with Alison Boxall and Richard Bashford, before crushing Steve Brown in the semi final. The final outcome was never in doubt, with Shaw making light of D'Hooghe's bat, and then changing his customary defence to attack. Shaw raced to a comfortable straight games success.

Shaw, in company with Steve Silk, also took the Over 30/ Under 40 doubles.

The Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy (17-21 years) was retained by Kieron Dabbs, but not until he had subdued a quick starting Matthew Rowe in the final, while Mike Pond who had suffered a rare defeat at the hands of Steve Brown in the first round of the men's singles went through to beat Donna Furniss in the final of the consolation singles.

The second stage of the Closed provided a field day for top veterans Keith Jones and Margaret Maltby, and leading juniors Julian Marshall and Sally Russell, with Jones having the most to celebrate when he earned his ninth over 40 singles title in the last ten years, with loser on this occasion being Geoff Atkinson, having won the one that escaped Jones' clutches in 1985/6.

Jones then combined with D'Hooghe to take the Over 40 men's doubles, again without dropping an end throughout, and finally teamed up with Margaret Maltby to add the Over 40's mixed doubles to the senior title they had already won.

Mrs Maltby produced a similar performance, for once taking Joyce Porter apart in the Over 40's ladies event and then joining her victim to take the doubles.

Greg Dobrowski retained the Over 50's Open crown by accounting for Northampton's Brian Bond, who has only just returned to the game after 15 years on the sidelines. Bond, who won the men's singles in 1955 and in partnership with Colin Hogg had won the men's doubles on 9 occasions from 1954 to 1971 had found his best form in the semi final,

# Counties 4

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Kent's development at the younger end of the age group continues with the inclusion of Scott Friday and Christian Thompson in this season's National Under 12 squad. We wish both players from the Medway area a successful season.

### Kent Reliance Building Society

It is without doubt that the continuation of the ambitious development programme set out by the Kent Committee cannot be met without the valued aid of sponsorship and I am pleased to announce that the Kent Reliance Building Society have agreed to sponsor our senior closed Championships which will in future be known as the Kent Reliance County Championships. In a statement to the committee Kent Reliance Managing Director, Mr Ian Robinson said "As the county's only local building society, it is fitting that we should support sportsmen and women in Kent."

### Rochester upon Medway Year of Sport

Rochester upon Medway City Councils Year of Sport came to an end with a weekend of coaching by England international Skyler Andrew at the new Sterling Centre sponsored by Black Horse Financial Services. Black Horse spokesperson Julie Miskinmin made special mention of Leisure Services Cllr Mrs Julie Shaw and Principal Sports Officer Maggie Antoniou who had contributed to give a great weekend of sport to so many youngsters.

National Trials - Five Kent players qualified from the regional trials to represent Kent at Lilleshall. They are Lesley Hollingworth, Joanne Barham, Alison Smith and Crystal Hall. Maidstone's Martin Hewett (Jun Boys) ranked 61 in England won through with six wins including victories over Vincent Avery, Wayne Mitchell, Peter Worthington and Paul Duke, his lone defeat being at the hands of Ben Ware who went through as champion. In the Cadet boys Glen Ritchie won through as champion and was joined by Medway's Christian Thompson who both did extremely well to defeat Essex's Stephen Joslin. Ritchie only just managed to hold off the challenge of the young Thompson to remain unbeaten and inflict the only defeat on Thompson. Tonbridge's Nicola Duke was unbeaten in the Girls under 17 event including splendid victories over

international cadet Shelley Ruocco and Natasha Barham.

Journey of a Lifetime - I feel I cannot close these county notes without a word of thanks to our three Chinese guests, Coach Wang DaZhi and Junior players Meng Qing Yu and Xu Kai who have now returned to China following their three month visit. They stay in the county as the house guests of Reg and Carol Thompson has done much to kindle an enthusiasm that has not previously been present in the county during my time, and how refreshing it was to see such great players giving their time so graciously to so many lesser players in the county, even to the extent of setting up tables for the Kent Junior Open on the Friday evening and moving tables and barriers prior to the finals which they dominated. From me personally and from the whole of Kent I am sure - MANY THANKS.

Nine members of the Northborough Maidstone Cadet Elite Squad have received personal invitations to spend a month in China next August and Kent have a formal invitation to send a squad during the same period - indeed a journey of a lifetime.

## LANCASHIRE

George Yates

ONLY AGAINST PROMOTEEES Berkshire did Lancashire salvage a point from the Junior Premier Weekend of the County Championships played at St Neots over the weekend of November 30th/1st December.

In the opening engagement when Surrey won 7-3 only Darryl Meredith of Oldham managed a set for the boys while Tamar Connolly of Blackpool was twice a winner in accounting for Glenda Ashison and Diana Chan.

A subsequent 8-2 thrashing by Middlesex had the brakes temporarily applied when Liverpool's Emma Fletcher beat Joanne Weare and Meredith notched up another single in beating Dov Katz.

A division of the spoils was achieved against Berkshire, Meredith again winning one, beating Ali Subhan who also lost to Mathew Coombe of Oldham and Rod Mainwaring of Preston recorded his first win in beating

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Robert Dawson. One each for Miss Fletcher and Miss Connolly, against Caroline Goatly, brought about the draw.

In the Senior Division 2A Lancs 2nds recorded their third successive win in beating Cumbria 8-2 at Liverpool where Graham Clarke, Paul Hutchings and Chris Ford were all unbeaten, both Tamar Connolly and Brenda Buoeu beating Fiona Harris but losing to Julie McLean.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery are hereby afforded Graham Clarke and more especially Mandy Goodwin who were involved in a car accident on their return from the Midland Open in Birmingham.

On the veteran front, Lancashire's runs of success by both teams continues with the first team beating Worcestershire 5-4 and Gloucestershire 8-1 and the 2nds accounting for both Notts and Clwyd by 6-3 margins.

Six wins in a row for the first team finds them with only one match remaining, away to Norfolk, to complete their season and four wins in a row has the second team at home to Cheshire 3rds and away to Yorkshire 3rds to round up their season.

Away to Worcestershire Phil Blake was Lancashire's trump card in beating Roy Norton and Ray Dixon and sharing a doubles success with Tony Rigby who also accounted for Dixon, Brian Clements putting the icing on the cake with a win over Mervyn Wood. Against Glos the three Lancastrian men carried all before them and although Alwyn Burrough lost to Judy Morley she shared a mixed doubles success with Clements.

Lancs Vets II had a double winner in Ken Jackson against Notts with Norman Thewlis and Derek Watnough contributing one each as did Mabel Neary with Watnough and Jackson winning the doubles. Thewlis was a double winner against Clwyd, Watnough and Keith Ward winning one each as did Mrs Neary and the doubles was won by the Watnough/Ward pairing.

News from the Blackpool League, together with a most splendid Diamond Jubilee edition of their handbook, forwarded by Secretary Paul Bentley, giving most credit to former Secretary Martin Ireland, ends on a sad note with the death just before the season's start of their President, Geoff Parker. Geoff had been a true stalwart for many years and was a much respected and popular member of the local table tennis community.

Blackburn, with three successive wins to their name top the men's division 1, their most

recent win being 7-3 against Wirral with both Graham Clarke and Dr Sharrad Pandit both trebling and winning the doubles.

Meantime Warrington, the defending champions, dropped another point in drawing 5-5 with Liverpool after leading 5-3. Keith Williams and Steve Green both won two for Liverpool with Stuart Richards contributing one while Mal McEvoy was a double winner for Warrington, Peter Flint winning one, as did Terry Turner with McEvoy and Flint winning the doubles.

Stockport were held to a 5-all draw by Blackpool whose Steve Bevan was a treble winner and Bolton achieved their first success in three outings by beating fellow promotees Oldham 8-2 with David Carse and Nigel Hallows both trebling, winning the doubles and Graham Hoy beating Wayne Renton.

In the women's first division Liverpool, the defending champions having beaten, to date, Barrow, Halton and Preston. In this latter engagement both Matthew Coombe and Darryl Meredith trebled, combined to win the doubles while No. 3 Andrew Halford beat John Pilkington having lost to Rod Mainwaring and Andrew Bottoms.

St Helens are also unbeaten after three matches having seen off Bury, Preston and Blackpool, Philip Musgrove spearheading the side with nine singles to his credit and Kevin Dolder dropping just one set to Preston's Rod Mainwaring.

Bolton top the Vets Division 1 having beaten Trafford, Halton and Macclesfield, the only set to escape them being when K Hartley of Halton beat John Mason whose teammates Barry Crook and Derek Watnough have yet to taste defeat.

Liverpool have dropped out of Junior Division 2A as have Macclesfield from Junior 2B. Oh for the enthusiasm of the veterans!

## LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

IN DIVISION ONE of the Leicester TTL we find Loughborough Kingfishers I in the driving seat at the halfway stage, they remain unbeaten and one point clear of Knighton Park I. Mark Illingsworth has been outstanding for Kingfishers, being unbeaten in 29

games. Chris Kinsey is giving him plenty of support having won 26 of his 29 games. Knighton Park I look strong in second place with the trio of Keith Fellows, Karen Smith and Les Baker all having a good season and are all in the top eight of the individual averages.

In the Cup competitions we have got to the semi final stages in three events. The Corral Cup semi final draw: Great Glen YSC v British Shoe; Knighton Park v Thumby Northwood. The Saracen Cup. The semi final draw: Knighton Park v British Shoe; New Braun Goons v Thumby Northwood or Great Glen.

The Frith Trophy Semi final draw: British Shoe v Leicester Electricity; New Braun Goons v Royal Mail.

On to the coaching scene and Sear Valley is still going great guns and I have heard that a couple of tables have now arrived and the promise of more on the way, so the complex at the Mary Linwood School could be a reality in January, let's hope so anyway.

## Back to the Leicester TTL

1911 was a special year both nationally and locally. The coronation of King George V and Queen Mary took place on 22nd June and the birth of Philip W Smith took place later on 23rd December. Of course nobody knew at the time what an impression Phil was going to have on the local table tennis scene in a few years hence, in fact at the time of Phil's arrival, I doubt if there even was a table tennis scene. Phil was raised in the St James area of Leicester, close to Victoria Park and he was one of two sons but unfortunately his brother died when he was just thirteen and a half years old. He was educated at Illyggeston Boys Grammar School and on the completion of his education he pursued a working career in accountancy. Phil's first encounter with our game of table tennis came in 1928 when he was 17 years old at a church social club on Saturday evenings. Friendly matches were arranged and at this point the table tennis bug had bitten. In 1930 Frank Cooper Watson who at the time placed at the Illestcoates Church Social Club, in his infinite wisdom called a meeting of the social club secretaries.

At this meeting where Phil was present it was decided to form a league and affiliated it to the ETTA and so the embryo of the Leicester League as we know it today had been born. As a dashing young blade of the thirties Phil was selected as reserve for the Leicester League's very first representative match against Birmingham in 1932, Phil went on to represent the League in

every match until 1939 when the war intervened. 1939 was also the year that Phil married his wife Rita, indeed a marriage which continues to this day. They have three children and seven grandchildren. During the war when a massive 'let' was enforced on all sport, Phil, like hundreds of thousands of young men all over the country, did his stint in the war effort and it was on the continent after D Day that Phil says he could have been killed on five occasions and reckons after that he should at least live until he is 100.

After the war Phil served on the Committee as Treasurer for many years. 1951 saw Phil reach the ripe old age of 40 and with it played in representative matches a few time for the Veterans. He has played continuously in the Leicester League ever since and is now in his 61st season. What an achievement to say the least. Phil has played for just five clubs in all and currently with Leicester Electricity in Division 10. Not surprisingly, like many of the more seasoned hard bat players in our league, Victor Barna had the greatest influence on Phil's table tennis career, a career he still enjoys although he says 'My attack is not quite as powerful as it used to be.'

Phil has also been the League's appointed auditor for something like 40 years. In 1980 Phil was appointed as a very worthy President of the League until a difference of opinion forced him to resign in 1989. Phil is still a Vice President of the ETTA.

At the ripe old age of 80, you could forgive anyone for putting their feet up and calling it a day, but not Phil, he still runs his own office (part time) and with his wife Rita has taken up the sport of indoor bowls.

Phil is currently playing for his club and leading the Division 10. He is lying joint 4th in the averages with 83% and could be picking up some silverware at the next presentation dance.

Well that is Philip W Smith the man. Would you all join me and congratulate an octogenarian who truly is Mr Table Tennis of the Leicester League.

## MIDDLESEX Iris Moss

I UNDERSTAND THAT the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships went well although I did not see very much of them myself as I was stricken with a virus. But our team were very capable of carrying on without me and

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everything went smoothly. There should be a full account of the event elsewhere in this edition so I will just put on my Treasurer's hat and thank Butterfly UK Ltd, the Federation of Middlesex Sports and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for their financial support. Our gratitude also goes to the officials and umpires, without whom the event could not be run.

Our Junior 1st team did well over their first weekend with comfortable wins over Lancashire and Berkshire. We were a little disappointed to lose to Devon despite Richard Hyacinth beating Alex Perry, but their overall strength was greater than ours. Joanne Weare made a promising debut in the first team; we have great hopes for her in the future.

Our Richard also won the boys singles title in the English Junior Closed Championships, beating Edward Hatley in the Final. Well done, Richard.

Our congratulations go to Colin Wilson who has been appointed to the full time post of Development Officer for London. As the whole of the official Middlesex area comes into London, we will be watching his progress with great interest. Who knows, he might even get what was once a very successful Schools Association going properly again. But whatever he does, it is bound to help Middlesex Leagues in the long term.

## NORFOLK Ray Hogg

FINALLY RECEIVED COUNTY handbooks on 3rd December but still have not seen the address list. These used to be properly printed in little books on glossy paper but now seem to be photocopied on recycled paper. Would counties who do not phone match results in please do so as I like to update league tables from results on the sheet issued promptly after these matches and I find many blank spaces.

Our County Championships were well supported this season with almost all ranked players entering except in the Veterans singles which I was most disappointed with as that is the one time there is an opportunity to compare players abilities. Neil Pickard as expected won the mens singles without too much trouble, being able to go up a gear if needed. Ruth Acourt ladies singles; Mick Broughton Veterans singles for the 9th time; Ruth Acourt and Mary Christie ladies doubles; Neil Pickard and Katie Longbottom mixed doubles; Jon Cockburn and

Mick Broughton, a scratch pairing, beat Neil and brother David Pickard in mens doubles at 19 in the third. In the quarter final of this event Jon and Mick played David Lee and Pat MacLoughan in the match of the tournament. It went to 37-35 in the 3rd game and all other 9 tables stopped to watch.

Sympathies go to Phil Logsdon who had to scratch after one round of singles. It is taking him longer than expected to recover from illness.

Junior Championships brought some more unknown but talented players to the fore, particularly in the Under 11 mixed singles where Daniel King defeated all the other fancied players to win comfortably. Gary Hewitt again defeating Shaun Parsley for the Under 17 title. Strange that Gary is ranked below Shaun. Leighton Chipperfield won the Under 15 as expected but did not enter the Under 17. Surely this rising star needs the opposition if he is to come up to expectations. Daniel King also won the Under 13's, beating Daniel Vertigan from KL who was favourite.

In the girls events Jennifer West from Diss league won the Under 17 singles, doubles with Helen Woods and runner up in the mixed doubles. This is an achievement for the Diss league as Jennifer actually lives within their area and is one of a family of 5 who all play.

Lindsay Chaplin was the most proud player on the day, displaying aloft her Under 13 and Under 15 trophies. Big sister Melanie had a runners up day in Under 17s, mixed doubles and girls doubles.

All in all a good Championships with as I have said, an entry from most of the ranked players finishing not too late for the organisers who after 2 days of 12 hours headed for the local Little Chef on the way home.

We have held these Championships at Long Stratton for 4 years now and thought is being given to moving to Kings Lynn for the next one, so if anyone out there has any views as to whether players from the south of the county would travel, please let me know.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

ONCE AGAIN THE Northants County Closed tournament produced the unexpected, when the final of the men's singles was

contested by Andy Trott and Brian D'Hooghe.

For Trott it was his 4th final in 5 years but the unseeded D'Hooghe was making his very first appearance at this stage, having accounted for Terry Luxton, No. 4 seed Chris Handshaw and No. 2 seed Kieron Dabbs along the way. In the semi final his all round game enhanced by his skillful use of a combination bat made light of Dabbs' ability, nullifying the Daventry players high thrown service and finally presenting problems that Dabbs was unable to solve.

The final was a close encounter, with D'Hooghe posing problems in the first, mixing attack and defence to good effect, and looking likely to become the first unseeded player to lift the trophy since Northampton's Doug Gwillim in 1968. Then halfway through the second end, Trott found a rich vein of form, attacking brilliantly to dominate the exchange and sustaining an incessant array of shots to take the match with consummate ease, and add the title to the one he won in 1988/89.

The ladies event was equally entertaining in the later stages with the top four seeds all reaching their allotted places and producing semi finals of high drama and obvious quality.

Alison Boxall and Kristina Cox also fought out a tense duel, with Miss Cox on top in the early stages but the nationally ranked Miss Boxall fighting back to level in the second and then narrowly gaining victory at 21-19 in the third.

The final protagonists were also equally matched but a worried Miss Boxall finally inched ahead to take the first, only for Miss Russell, the only one of the semi finalists never to have taken the title, to level with a scintillating attacking display in the second. However, the experience of Boxall paid off in the decider and she coasted to victory.

There was a consolation prize for Sally, who teamed up with Donna Furniss to retain the ladies doubles after another marathon encounter with Boxall, now on the losing side, partnered by Clem Little, while Margaret Maltby gained her reward, when she and Keith Jones just mastered Michael Edwards and Miss Furniss in the mixed doubles to add to their previous wins in 1983, 1985 and 1987.

The men's doubles was another triumph for Andy Trott, playing for the first time with his beaten singles opponent Andy Edmonds. Only once were they extended, and that in the semi final by the Steve Brown/Mark Nannery

duo, who finally went down by the narrowest of margins. In the final, the flair of Trott and the efficiency of Edmonds proved too great for Michael Edwards and Richard Bashford, who after some terrific early successes were by this time a spent force.

One of the most entertaining events of the day was the Class 1 singles with the 12 singles seeded excluded. Brian D'Hooghe was again in fine form, eliminating David Tobin, Mike Pond, John Palmer and Paul Rowan to reach the final, while in the bottom half of the draw, the fast improving Gordon Shaw had some difficulty in coping with Alison Boxall and Richard Bashford, before crushing Steve Brown in the semi final. The final outcome was never in doubt, with Shaw making light of D'Hooghe's bat, and then changing his customary defence to attack. Shaw raced to a comfortable straight games success.

Shaw, in company with Steve Silk, also took the Over 30/ Under 40 doubles.

The Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy (17-21 years) was retained by Kieron Dabbs, but not until he had subdued a quick starting Matthew Rowe in the final, while Mike Pond who had suffered a rare defeat at the hands of Steve Brown in the first round of the men's singles went through to beat Donna Furniss in the final of the consolation singles.

The second stage of the Closed provided a field day for top veterans Keith Jones and Margaret Maltby, and leading juniors Julian Marshall and Sally Russell, with Jones having the most to celebrate when he earned his ninth over 40 singles title in the last ten years, with loser on this occasion being Geoff Atkinson, having won the one that escaped Jones' clutches in 1985/6.

Jones then combined with D'Hooghe to take the Over 40 men's doubles, again without dropping an end throughout, and finally teamed up with Margaret Maltby to add the Over 40's mixed doubles to the senior title they had already won.

Mrs Maltby produced a similar performance, for once taking Joyce Porter apart in the Over 40's ladies event and then joining her victim to take the doubles.

Greg Dobrowski retained the Over 50's Open crown by accounting for Northampton's Brian Bond, who has only just returned to the game after 15 years on the sidelines. Bond, who won the men's singles in 1955 and in partnership with Colin Hogg had won the men's doubles on 9 occasions from 1954 to 1971 had found his best form in the semi final,

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when he had accounted for Cliff Bull, but in the final he failed to cope with Dobrowski who has spent the early part of the season playing in France.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SENIOR TEAM maintained their winning run with a 7-3 home victory over Staffordshire 2nd, with Tim Sheppard, Junior Stoddart and late replacement Richard Tilford winning all the men's singles.

Angela Bretell gained a victory over Allison Taylor to put us 3-0 up, but that was the sum total of the ladies successes with Janet Dunning particularly convincing in her victories.

The Junior team suffered a defeat by 1-9 to Cheshire 1st at Holmes Chapel. No team changes were made despite two players being under par owing to illness and the loss of wisdom teeth (Kevin Green's brain transplant did not work!) and five sets being lost in the third game conspired to end the winning run.

Further mishap to Kevin Green in the Regional Trials, when having got through his group to meet Barry Forster in the knockout stage, his glasses developed metal fatigue - he promised me lots of publicity material this season, but what further mishaps can he have. Sometimes he plays like an accident looking for a place to happen?

The Nottinghamshire County Closed takes place at Sycamore on the 23rd February and hopes of a good entry were dashed when Mansfield booked their league championships for the same day as they were able to negotiate a good price at Mansfield Leisure Centre.

Cooperation with the Notts Leisure Services has resulted in planning expansion of the training scheme and the employment of a Development Officer specifically for table tennis should provide scope for plenty of new initiatives and opportunities.

**Mansfield League** - The slippery floor at the Mansfield League headquarters at Berry Hill is causing concern but hopes are high that a replacement has been found. With 15 teams playing at Berry Hill a loss of playing quarters is not a happy prospect.

Having written in the last issue that the Nottingham 'Table Talk' was one of the best newsletters

in the country, I received the Mansfield League Christmas Newsletter. This impressive publication is a jolly good read, and a front cover which put many Christmas Cards to shame. Well done Graham Stent.

**Newark League** - There are some encouraging signs of growth in the Newark League this season with an increase from 10 to 12 teams, two of which comprise junior members. There is some thought that a junior league may be started next season comprising teams of 2.

Sponsorship for the league has been obtained from 'National Power' for the second year running and the League are seeking help for one of their clubs from the ETTA Development Fund.

Press coverage of the league remains good with weekly reports in the Newark Advertiser and Nottingham Evening Post.

**Nottingham League** - An unbeaten Mark Illingsworth keeps Dayncourt at the top of the Premier Division, ahead of Mapperley. Despite the travel from Burton, Gary Knights (Sandfield) and Steve Shaw (Royal Ord) are well up the averages. At the bottom of the division, Raleigh and University are struggling.

**Workshop League** - A senior doubles championship attracted 30 entrants with Phil Bamet and Ken Monks emerging the winners. The League's success in providing competition for all ages can be gauged from a flourishing junior division with teams meeting each other three times during the season, and a friendly veterans match against Retford have been arranged.

**Schools** - The Nottinghamshire Schools Individual Championships take place at Wellows School on Friday 25th February.

## SOMERSET Andy Seward

THE COUNTY SENIORS made their first appearance of the season with the usual team and performed extremely well. A creditable draw (should maybe have been a win?) against Avon 2 was followed by a comfortable win 8-2 against Glos. The division is set up nicely for the second session at Westlands, Yeovil on 4th April.

Brian Reeves did his usual 'have bat will travel' routine and drove to Yeovil after the senior session at Bath and guided the veterans to another victory, 7-2 v

Berkshire 2. Brian had two wins. Mike Baker also two and John Crabtree with one win (losing to David S'Treak in expedite). The Veterans 1 won again against the rejuvenated Avon team 6-3, the highlights of which were John Crabtree beating John Higgs in expedite, Brian Reeves losing likewise. Another win for Shirley Dark and the two doubles (amazing) sealed another victory.

The Vets 2nds got truly ..... beaten at Reading, the only redeeming feature being Wendy Pryce's victory over Pam Spooner. A 9-0 whitewash over Hereford Vets should prevent relegation (to Division 4?). Alan Maidment, Martin Rumary and George Philpott were the performers.

**Bridgwater League** - The Bridgwater League has followed the national trend with a reduced entry for this season. The Premier Division has been hardest hit with the non-entry of the champions Weston Police. Together with other withdrawals, this has left the division with just eight teams. With Division 1 having only nine teams, the Committee have decided to run a team handicap competition over 5 weeks in mid-season to fill out the fixtures.

At the halfway point in the season, the Premier Division leaders are the 'Carpetbaggers'. Where do they get their names? They, along with three other teams, are continuing in the League despite the withdrawal of their venue at British Cellophane Sports Club. Their only rivals appear to be the Weston Vets, the only Weston team in the league.

In division one, the Old Timers are title favourites but this ex-Premier Division team will be closely chased by West Huntspill A.

Next month, news from another of the local leagues and a report on the next County Veterans matches.

PS - in reporting the 1991 County Closed results in Table Tennis News a couple of issues ago, I omitted to inform all you eagle-eyed readers (from Yeovil) that the ladies doubles was won by Shirley Dark and Judy Craig who beat the defending champions Mel Carey and Tina Sadler.

## SURREY Terry Vance

IN THE THAMES Valley League Division 1 Neil Charles and Graham Bateman head the individual averages at the halfway stage. Spicer 1 and Rosehill 1 lead the

division after 11 matches. There are still a lot of games outstanding that could alter positions in the table whilst also earning some fines. In division 2 the joint leaders are inseparable having played 10, won 8, lost 2 and points scored 59. When the two teams met Rosehill 3 beat Chessington 3 7-2! Top of the averages is John Brandon followed by John Garland.

The Thames Valley Championships have had a low entry and the ladies events have been cancelled. Results next magazine.

The second issue of the Surrey Newsletter has now been published - please let me know if you would like a copy.

At the Surrey Senior Championships held on 29th December to get rid of Christmas excesses, the results were: Mens Singles Jerome Jonah; Ladies singles Janearella; Vets Singles Derek Holman; Restricted Singles Stuart Wilford; Mens doubles Paul Carter/Simon Philipsz; Ladies doubles Michele Hams/Debbie Simmonds.

As with other tournaments the perpetual trophies seem to have gone astray. If any ex-champions have them or know where they might be, please let Gail or myself know? In the Wandsworth League the loss of David Bangerter has not stopped Earlsfield 1 from topping the table. Steve Holloway heads the averages. St Pauls are trying hard to avoid relegation with John Hall winning a third of his matches. Three teams, XXIV A, S Mitcham Casuals and Crescent are vying for promotion in Division 2 with Providence A and XXIV B battling against relegation. Top of the averages with 100% is Richie James. Vale C have not lost in Division 3 with St Pauls B and C trying to avoid the drop! Another 100%, Victory Tyc, heads the averages. Division 4 has 3 players from S Mitcham Aces, Len Tsang; Mark Burman; Peter McLoughlin, topping the averages so it is not surprising that they look certain promotion candidates.

Bottom strugglers are Clapham Deaf and Earlsfield C. Division 5 Goldshore A seem certain to go up whilst S Mitcham Spartans and Earlsfield D try to miss relegation. The Averages are topped by Ashley Hird yet another with 100%. Goldshore B in Division 6 are emulating their A team as certain promotion candidates with Chelsea BC in demotion trouble. John Hadykyriakos heads the averages. Division 7 is headed by XXIV D one point ahead of Magdalen C whose B team are a further 2 points behind. Undefeated Jim Carpenter heads the

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averages with Wilton B looking the wooden spoon in the face.

The Dulwich League are holding their Championships on 29th February (is this the start of a 4 year tournament?). The ladies, juniors and cadets events are open to non-Dulwich players. Contact Anthony Topp, 251 Ivydale Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DY for further details.

## SUSSEX

John Woodford

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL local league or association I have come across is Hastings. It may be a coincidence that the offices of the ITTF and the ETTA are situated in that town.

Hastings have organised the Sussex Open for over 50 years - a 3 star event in all but name - and the administration of the local league is second-to-none in Sussex.

International umpire and Sussex Chair Colin Hyland and local stalwart Ron Spencer are two of the people behind the efficiency at Hastings.

I recently came across the Sussex junior ranking list. In contained from 19 names on the list, 7 juniors from Hastings. How do they do it? was the question that came from neighbouring leagues. A probe showed that Hastings and Bexhill have about five clubs, including Hollington and Bexhill YC where regular coaching takes place, they have 5 local coaches and lucky for them, a group of 5 or 6 strong players of county class - Stephen and Adrian Moore, Dicon Gray and others who help with the coaching of the youngsters, a recipe for success that makes Hastings the envy of other Sussex towns, even normally powerful Crawley, who are currently struggling to find class juniors, although they possess the strongest men's team in Sussex - Ritchie Venner, Mike Hammond and Ian McLean.

At the last meeting of the Sussex TTA, the Chairman, Colin Hyland, waved a wad of correspondence concerning the arrangement that all the Sussex teams should be wearing 'Sussex' emblazoned shirts by courtesy of Express Sports of Uckfield. By early December this had not happened, but the Sussex representatives are hoping that by the next meeting in February, Malcolm Francis may have an answer to this problem.

Despite assurances by the ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome, that the new computer points system

penalising losses, gives no advantage to players in the Shropshire area, Sussex are unhappy with the Grove club's monopoly of lower-star tournaments - for one reason that parents of juniors have to keep digging deeper and deeper in their pockets to try and get their offsprings winning computer points - not easy with the 400 mile jummies to Market Drayton on a regular basis.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Ken Walton

AS AN HONEST, hard working official, I was disappointed to read Bob Murray's comments in December/January edition of the magazine, mainly because of his mis-interpretation of my words. My personal gripe is with the ETTA for encouraging these weekends and was not aimed at Avon officials, as Bob was implying.

I do not intend to enter into a slanging match with Bob, or indeed anyone, on this, or any other county matter, because there are other matters to include in the column. However, I would just like to make the following points. We obviously disagree on certain items on how county matches should be played although we agree on re-structuring the divisions, to become more regionalised. Therefore, next time we meet, let's talk about it. Over to you Bob.

No real shocks at the Junior Closed tournament, except that complaints were made about cigarettes being stubbed out in the foyer, a no smoking area. Luckily Doug Moss and the Headmaster sorted the matter out before another venue disappeared out of the window, thanks to a thoughtless few!

On the playing side, Lee Horton and Carrie Hunt retained their titles without too much trouble in the Junior Boys/Girls singles respectively. Entries were about level with last years, taken overall, and thanks go to all concerned for their efforts with organisation, umpiring refreshments etc.

International table tennis came to Hereford Leisure Centre on 30th December, when England met China as part of the seven match Chinese tour. At the time of writing these notes (Christmas Eve) the result was now known, surprise, surprise.

County Junior and Veteran matches have been played recently with John Smith's Juniors recording

9-1 victories over Dorset and Somerset. Lee Horton remained undefeated and Keith Dean performed admirably also in both fixtures.

In the crunch Vets 1A fixture between Lancashire and Worcestershire, victory went to the Red Rose county 5-4, perhaps thwarting promotion hopes. Surprisingly, Ray Dixon lost both singles and despite beating Yorkshire II 8-1 since, the team could be struggling to top the division.

In the Yorkshire match, Trevor Washington made his veterans debut and easily won both singles, despite dropping his bat on the floor, just at the commencement of his first match! Mervyn Wood, recently back from injury, and evergreen Janet Hunt, made up the rest of the team.

Congratulations are in order for Mandy House, who defeated Sandra Peakman in the ladies final at the local Woodfield tournament. Nice to see the hardworking Mandy back to something like her old form, well done. Managed to have a lengthy chat with John Hilton at the Midland Open where he was once again displaying his brilliant skills, for all to see. Despite everything he has already achieved, John retains his love of the game and in particular and infectious enthusiasm for practice and yet more practice.

In this day and age of serve and loop tactics, it is so nice to watch someone with variety, especially in his light hearted antics, that never fail to brighten up a tournament. What a shame that the hierarchy of our game cannot find a use for the talents of such a knowledgeable character (Oops, sorry, there goes another personal opinion).

Finally, just to say that a full report of the Senior Closed Tournament will be given in the next edition.

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

A BIG PUSH is going in the field of coaching in the county with Ray Burch and Bevan Walker getting round to visit as many leagues as possible to facilitate exchange of ideas not only between County and Leagues, but also between the different leagues in England's largest shire.

So big, in fact, that, with the addition of a small slice of Lincolnshire on South Humberside, Yorkshire is in itself a Sports Council region, and the county is

looking ahead to the appointment during the current month of a full time Development Officer under the Sports Council's Focus Sport initiative.

With the added possibility of the appointment of a part time Coaching Officer and the interest which has been shown by Leeds City Council in getting up a table tennis in the city following the success of the England v Japan match, progress in the development of our sport is certainly moving ahead.

By the time these notes appear in print, Humberside Council could well have finalised the appointment of its own Development Officer who will, of course, work closely with his Sports Council colleague.

One of his first tasks, surely, will be to sort out the problems which have arisen in connection with the Advanced Training Centre at Hessle and resulted in its temporary closure, so that all the young and promising players from the region can get the sort of training which they need.

At the beginning of the season, every registered player in each of the 20 plus leagues in Yorkshire received a copy of the current County Umpires Test Paper from County Umpires Secretary Ron Wilson, but the response so far has been disappointing.

The object of the exercise was not primarily to increase the squad of umpires available to officiate at events across the county, but more to try to encourage players in the local leagues to know, play to, and discriminate knowledge of the laws of the game, and thus raise the standards at that level.

So come on, you don't need to buy a blue blazer, you don't need to travel across the county, just to encourage a standard among your 'mates' - have a go and give Ron some work to do.

Still with umpires, it was good to see Harrogate Chairman Lewis Ward, a long service umpire who has not been enjoying the best of health, back 'in the chair' at the Yorkshire and Humberside 2 Star.

To close, can anyone solve a mystery for our County Championships Secretary Albert Dawson? Shortly after my previous notes had been submitted, Albert received a letter postmarked Tonbridge containing - one blank sheet of blue notepaper!

Probably this should go into the Kent notes but if anyone reading this has not had a reply to a letter, Albert would be delighted to hear from them on 0742 657617.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

# All set for first week



England's No.1 Woman Lisa Lomas

ALL is now set for the first weekend of the fourth season of Womens British League Table Tennis at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge on February 29th/March 1st.

Again 30 teams will compete in 5 leagues; very few changes, other than promotion and relegation, but additional casualties since my last notes include Peniel (nobody else has moved for Lisa Lomas as yet) and Andro Ladies which saw, last season, the return to competitive table tennis of the Potts sisters.

Newcomers include Launceston Ladies led by Carol Giles and the London Electricity Sports Association.

Last seasons runaway victors, N.F.D. Grove, have further strengthened their team by adding Fiona Elliott to Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon and Helen Lower. Play, although divided into five sessions, will be near continuous from 11am to 6pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

The second meeting will be in Cardiff (National Sports Centre) on May 16/17th and next seasons provisional dates take a step further in the desire to contain within the 'domestic' season, February 20/21 and April 24/25.

## PROPOSED DIVISIONS 1991/2

### PREMIER

NFD Grove  
Commonwealth All Stars  
Hull Sandhill 1  
Playline Sovereigns 1  
Fellows Granleigh  
Welsh Ladies 1

### FIRST

Graham Spicer  
Shoestrings  
Launceston Ladies  
Amity Generation  
Hull Sandhill 2  
Bristol Ladies

### SECOND

Playline Sovereigns 2  
Bayer Bradford  
Oaks Club 1  
City of Newcastle  
Vymura  
City of Milton Keynes

### THREE A

Welsh Ladies 2  
Olivetti Leeds  
N.F.D. Grove 2  
Sunderland  
Oaks Club 2

### THREE B

Fullerians  
B.S.A.D.  
L.E.S.S.A.  
N.F.D. Grove 3  
Worcester Ladies  
Pavilion Ladies

## WOMEN'S COACHING WEEKEND

In response to popular demand, a Women's Coaching Weekend has been arranged and is open to players of all ages and standards.

**DATES:** Friday, 1st May - Sunday, 3rd May, 1992  
Arrival at 8pm and departure at 3.30pm

**VENUE:** Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre

**HOTEL:** Wayfarer Hotel, Willen Lake, Milton Keynes.  
An excellent hotel overlooking Willen Lake.  
Accommodation in twin rooms.

**MEALS:** Breakfast is included in the cost. Other meals are available at the Centre.

**COACHES:** JACKIE BELLINGER and LISA LOMAS

**COST:** £61.00 each inc. coaching, hotel and breakfast.

Places are limited to 16 women on a first come, first served basis, but requiring a minimum of 12 registrations to be confirmed.

A great opportunity to improve your game and learn advanced stroke techniques with Ex-England International and National Coach JACKIE BELLINGER and former England Champion and England No. 1 LISA LOMAS.

To Register, contact the E.T.T.A. Coaching Administrator at English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HF  
Telephone 0424 722525

# Hyacinth and Goodall new Junior Champions



Richard Hyacinth (left) and Kate Goodall, the new National Junior Singles Champions

RICHARD HYACINTH and KATE GOODALL are the new National Junior Champions, winning their crowns in style at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge, in December 1991. Hyacinth defeated Surrey's Edward Hatley in the Boys Singles Final 17 and 22, with power and aggression. Middlesex's young star Hyacinth has improved over the past few months, and is now proving to be a definite bright prospect for the future. The Girls Singles Final was an all Yorkshire affair, with Goodall, the lass from Leeds, coming out on top after a tremendous battle with Sally Marling 20, -11, 17. Goodall added another trophy to her shelf when she took the Junior Girls Doubles crown, in partnership with Yorkshire's Caroline Bentley, defeating Sally Marling and Essex's Linda Radford, -19, 18, 14 in the final.

## Words and Pictures by John Wood



Vice Chairman of Competitions Tony Chatwin (centre) presents the Junior Mixed Doubles trophy to Sally Marling (left) and Edward Hatley

Yorkshire's Goodall was on a hat-trick, competing also in the Junior Mixed Doubles Final, but she fell at the last hurdle with her partner Hyacinth, losing out to singles finalists Hatley and Marling, who won a tight battle 23, -11, 17. The Junior Boys Doubles trophy was won by Northamptonshire's Barry Forster and Gloucester's Ray Powell, when they defeated Surrey's Darren Blake and Essex's Chris Sladden 20, 16 in an all action final. Steven Meddings of Warwickshire won the Cadet Boys Singles, beating Essex's Vincent Avery 9 and 20, whilst Kathryn Woodward from Cheshire chopped big hitting Shelly Ruocco, of Essex, off the table to take the Cadet Girls Singles crown, after a long fought battle 20, -19, 14. The Cadet Boys Doubles trophy was won by Darryl Meredith of Lancashire and Derby's David

## ETTA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

Purdy, who beat Vincent Avery and Steven Meddings in the final 17 and 20.

Sussex's Joanne Bush-Harris and Nicola Massingham of Lincolnshire took the Cadet Girls Doubles crown, beating Surrey's Glenda Ashison and Shelley Ruocco 19 and 16.

The real star of the Cadet competition though, was Middlesex's Joanne Weave, who was a revelation knocking out seeds in Cadet Girls Singles like

a true superstar.

Weave's first victim was Yorkshire's Nicola Smith, whom she beat 19 and 11. Next, in the quarter-finals she knocked-out the No.2 seed Joanne Bush-Harris -21, 13, 17. However, Weave's national title dream came to an end in the semi-finals when she met the eventual winner Kathryn Woodward, losing 16 and 8, to the long-pimpled combination bat player from Cheshire.



Mike Holt, the Vice Chairman of Public Relations presents the Cadet Girls Doubles awards to Joanne Bush-Harris and Nicola Massingham



Winners of the Cadet Singles trophies, Kathryn Woodward (left) and Steven Meddings

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# Yorkshire lead Junior Premier

THE first series of Junior Premier matches was played at St. Neots Club. It was the current champions, Yorkshire, who came out on top with 3 wins - dropping only 5 events. But Devon, the runners-up last season, were hard on their heels - also with 3 wins and dropped just 1 more event.

Essex and Middlesex share 3rd place. Essex got wins over Berkshire and Warwick. Middlesex made a good improvement on their situation in this Premier Division with convincing wins against Lancs and Berks. Middlesex narrowly lost 4-6 to Devon. There were surprise results in this match with, first, Lynsey Heyward (Dv) beating Sara Williams (Mi) 19 and 9 - and, later, Richard Hyacinth (Mi) struck back to beat Alex Perry (Dv) 12 and 15!

Lancs seem to have dropped down on the Junior scene gaining just 1 point over the weekend - and they still have to meet Yorks, Devon and Essex! Lancs got their 1 point from a drawn match with Berks - each of the 5 Lancs players getting a win. For Berks Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz won their 4 events.

Players deserving a special mention for winning all their matches were Lynsey Heyward (Dv), Chris Sladden (E) and, inevitably the Yorkshire girls Caroline Bentley, Kathryn Goodall and Sally Marling - Yorks again unbeaten in this department. It seems, as last season, it will be the Yorks/Devon clash in the final series which will decide the championship. Matches which could have an influence are Yorks v Middlesex and Devon v Essex.

**RESULTS**

Y 7 E 3 Mi 8 La 2 Y 9 Sy 1  
 Dv 9 Wa 1 Sy 1 Dv 9 La 5 Bk 5  
 La 3 Sy 7 Wa 1 Y 9 Dv 6 Mi 4  
 Bk 2 Mi 8 E 8 Bk 2 E 9 Wa 1

**LEAGUE TABLE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Y	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Dv	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Mi	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
E	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Sy	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
La	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Bk	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Wa	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

**Maurice Goldstein Trophy**

This Trophy match, between the Champions and runners-up of the Premier Division last season, brought Lancashire and Middlesex in opposition at Salford. This was a repeat of the match last season. Middlesex, fielding their strongest team, won 6-0 to retain the Trophy. Graham Sandley registered 2 wins and John Souter, Nigel Taylor, Lesley Keast and Angela Smith each had a win.

Championship matches were played over the weekends 23 and 30 November - Lancs 2nds continued their unbeaten record in SENR 2A with an 8-2 win over Cumbria to head the Table. Events were all



Richard Hyacinth

2 straight except for Julie McLean (Cu) beating Tamar Connolly at 21 in the 3rd game. Leics 2nds got 2 wins beating Lincs 10-0 but had a harder fight against Warwick 2nds before winning 7-3. Mark Illingworth and Maurice Newman won their 4 singles. Lincs suffered another heavy defeat from visitors Cheshire who won 8-2.

Six SENR 2B matches were played at Bath Sports Centre. Glamorgan was the most successful team with two 7-3 wins - over Worcs 2nds and Cornwall. Mark Simon, Laura Collier and Joanne Lee won all their matches. Avon 2nds beat Worcs 9-1 but had a tough battle against Somerset. Avon were 2-5 down but with wins by Steve Bettison, Helen Perrott and Gary Baldwin forced a draw! Somerset beat Glos 8-2. There was quite a tussle between Graham Slack (Gs) and Brian Reeves (So) with Brian winning at 27 in the 3rd game! Glos also suffered a 3-7 defeat at the hands of Cornwall. Darren Griffin (Gs) won his 2 events.

Herts 10-0 win over Suffolk 2 took them to the top of SENR 2C Table. But Essex 2nds are also unbeaten. They also played Suffolk 2 having a 9-1 win and beat Cambs 2nds 8-2. In the latter match Gary Jordan (Ca) did well to beat Martin Cole (E) - 15, 17. Cambs 2nd did better against Beds 2nds with Tim Ashman (Ca) beating Jimmy Walsh in the final event to get a draw. Northants had two 6-4 wins - against Beds 2 and Norfolk. Graeme McKim and Kieron Dabbs (Np) won all their matches - both doing well to beat Neil Pickard (Nk).

Surrey 2nds 6-4 win, over nearest rivals Hants, game them the lead in SENR 2D. Paul Carter and Dave Harding (Sy) won all their matches. Berks 2nds did well to beat Sussex 3rds 6-4 getting 2 wins at 19 in the

3rd game. Gemma Schwartz (Bk) again made a good contribution by winning her 2 matches. Oxon put up a good fight against Surrey 2nds but lost 4-6. Simon Phillips (Sy) was certainly a thorn in their side beating Gavin Yates at 19 in the 3rd game and Martin Haycock, in the last event, at 21 in the 3rd! Hants had a resounding 9-1 over Dorset. There was a close match between Sarah Hammond (Ha) and Cheryl Creasey. Sarah won 20, -15, 20!

Notts kept up their unbeaten record in SENR 3A with a 7-3 win over Staffs 2nds. For Staffs Janet Dunning won her 2 events and Alison Taylor won one of her matches, and lost to Angela Brettell -13, 20, -19. Staffs 2nds did better against Hunts. They lost the first 2 events but went on to win 6-4. Herts 3rds visited Clwyd and got a 10-0, all 2 straight, victory. And they followed this with a 9-1 win over Northants 2nds. Mick Spear got the 1 win for Northants.

Gwent got an 8-2 win over Herts 2nds in SENR 3B. Jane Hunter (Gw) won both her matches at 18 in the 3rd game. And Gwent kept up their unbeaten record at Camborne when they beat Cornwall 2nds 8-2. Steve Ward and Jeremy Hobbs (Gw) were undefeated in these 2 matches.

In JUNIOR DIV 1A Staffs are well in the lead with 4 wins. In the last Rounds the beat Clwyd 7-3 and Suffolk 9-1. Matthew Brown and Richard Tilley (St) were undefeated. Yorks 2nds have not lost a match - they had a good 8-2 win over Derbys. But Yorks had their 2nd draw of the season when they met Clwyd. The Clwyd girls - Natasha Williams and Joanna Bastin - won their 2 events and Martin Hopwood (Cw) beat Jeremy Hazelhurst. Northants lost 4-6 to N'berland with Barry Forster and Andrew Wilkinson again unbeaten! And Derbys beat Northants 7-3 - 2 of the Northants wins came from Helen Watts and Sally Russell at 23-21 and 26-24 in the 3rd games. N'berland beat Durham 8-2 - there were 2 easy wins for Jackie Marriott (Nd). Herts won 9-1 against Glos and 8-2 against Kent in JUNR 1B. But when Herts met Essex 2nds the tables were turned - Essex won 9-1. Essex 2nds also beat Devon 2nds 8-2 - they were unbeaten and seem invincible. Devon 2nds forced a draw with Kent. They were 3-5 down when Lisa Morrish (Dv) beat Natasha Barham 15, -13, 19 and then Simon Dilkes won the first event. Oxon are struggling this year after 4 of their very good players went out of the Junior ranks. They lost 3-7 to Glamorgan and 1-9 to Kent. Surrey 2nds visited Glos and came away with an 8-2 win.

Cheshire, 1st team consolidated their position at top of JUNR 2A with wins over Lancs 2nds and Notts 8-2 and 9-1. Staffs 2nds are also unbeaten their latest victims being Leics and Ches 2nds - both losing 3-7. Sanjeev Clair and Julie Bickerton (St) won their 4 matches. Derbys 2nds had mixed fortunes with a 7-3 win over Leics but suffering a 1-9 defeat at the hands of Notts. Warwick 2nds visited Ches 2nds and lost 4-6 with Lisa Hobday their best player winning her 2 singles.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

Warwicks received Lancs 2nds in their next match and, with all events decided 2 straight, lost 2-8.

In JUNR 2B Norfolk 1st is the leading team - unbeaten after 4 matches. In the recent Rounds they beat their 2nd team 10-0 and followed up with a 9-1 win over Cambs. But Essex 3rds are also unbeaten after 3 matches having 1-0 and 9-1 wins over Beds and Herts 2nds. Essex always have a good number of talent juniors and 11 players have already played and contributed to the 3rd teams success. Lincs had 2 wins beating Cambs 10-0 (all 2 straight) and Suffolk 2nds 6-4. Dominic Stokes (Li) had a "clean sheet" in these matches. Herts 2nds recovered from their 9-1 defeat by Essex to inflict a similar defeat on Norfolk 2nds. The Suffolk 2nds/Beds match was close - match scores 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 and finished a draw! A vital event was Clare Lowe (Sk) beating Nico!a Copperwheat -17, 25, 20.

Cornwall lead in JUNR 2C with 9 points from 5 matches with recent 6-4 wins over Somerset and Wilts. Rachel Boon is their star player being unbeaten this season. But Gwent are unbeaten after wins over Dorset 6-4 and Wilts 7-3 - and have 6 points from 3 matches. Stacey Thomas and Toby Eckley are their most successful players. Worcs played well to beat both Dorset and Somerset 9-1 but had lost to Gwent in their first match of the season.

Sussex 1st team dominates JUNR 2D. They received the Hants 1st and 2nd teams at Hove and won 9-1 and 10-0. This gives them 4 wins and dropped only 4 events. Sarah Stedman and Joanna Bush-Harris (Sx1) are both unbeaten. Sussex 2nds also played the Hants teams and although they beat the 2nd team 10-0 they lost 4-6 to Hants 1st team. Sussex 2 also played 2 other matches beating Middx 2nds 6-4 and Surrey 3rd team 8-2. Surrey 3 also entertained Bucks and, with all events 2 straight, lost 1-9. Bucks have played 3 matches without defeat. Middx 2nds, playing at Ashford, beat Berks 2nds 10-0.

Lancs lead VETS 1A being unbeaten after 6 matches. They had a comfortable 8-1 win over Glos but it was a harder match, and a vital one, when they met Worcs. Lancs went into a 3-0 lead, Worcs came back but Lancs got a 5-4 win. Phil Blake (La) got 2 vital wins but had a fight to beat Ray Dixon (Wo) 16, -20, 16. Glos got their first win when they visited Northants and won 6-3. Roy Morley (Gs) was involved in 3 wins. The Oxon/Ches 2 match score stood at 4-4 and T. Taylor (Ch) then beat Dave Harse 19, -19, 20 to get 2 points from Ches. Oxon suffered an 8-1 defeat at Norwich with Janet Brown getting their 1 win. Yorks 2nd had 2 matches and, receiving Worcs at York Railway Institute, were surprised to find themselves 0-6 down - Worces won 8-1. Janet Hunt (Wo) is unbeaten in singles

and doubles. Yorks 2nds had a number of close games against Norfolk but got a 7-2 win.

Unbeaten Berkshire lead in VETS 1B. Against Sussex 2nds 6 events went to a decider but Berks won 8-1. Berks also won what was a vital match against Dorset by a 6-3 margin. Dorset was without Tony Clayton. It was a good match between Gill Knightley and Joyce Coop with Joyce winning 20, -19, 19! Dorset fared better against Middx 1sts with a 7-2 win. Kent 2nds got home 5-4 against Surrey 2nds after Frank Hams (Sy) had levelled the score to 4-4 when he beat Tom Adams 20, -19, 21! But Kent 2 just failed against Middx 3-6 with Middx getting wins at 19 and 20 in the 3rd games. Wilts played very well to beat Essex 2nds 7-2 but the Essex team retaliated with a 9-0 win over Surrey 2nds.

Lancs are doing very well on the Veterans scene with their 2nd team also being unbeaten and leading VETS 2A. Lancs 2nds had 6-3 wins over both Notts and Clwyd. In the Notts match the mens doubles was close with Derek Watmough/Ken Jackson (La) beating John Ellis/Ron Bolton -17, 14, 20. Staffs visited Ches 3rd team and came away with a 6-3 win. John Riley (St) won both singles and the mixed with Shirley Boone.

Herts is the unbeaten team leading VETS 2B. Herts did very well to get an 8-1 win over Warwicks. The only event to go to a decider was when John Taylor (He) beat Pat McCabe -17, 18, 13. And Herts, without the services of Taylor, beat Norfolk 2nds 8-1. Norfolk 2nds fared better against Hunts



*Hertfordshire's No.1 Veteran John Taylor, who won the Middlesex 3 Star Veteran Singles Crown*

but lost 4-5, after winning the last 3 events. Warwicks atoned for their heavy defeat with an 8-1 win over Hunts. The closest match was the mixed doubles which Pat McCabe/Joan Humphrey-Middlemore won -17, 17, 20. Northants 2 visited Luton and, despite Brian Mayfield (Bd) winning his 2 singles, had a 6-3 win over Beds.

In VETS 2C Surrey 3rds had 2 good wins - 8-1 against Sussex 3rds and 7-2 against Oxon 2nds. Ron Langheim (Sy) won all his singles events. Bucks have played just 2 matches and without loss. Against Kent 3rds, with the score 2-2, they won the 2 doubles and went on to get a 6-3 win. There were two 5-4 results for the homesters in the Middx 2/Sussex 3 and Essex 3/Oxon 2 matches.

Somerset continue unbeaten in VETS 2D. They had a 7-2 win over Berks 2nds. It was a hard match against Avon before Somerset won 6-3. John Higgs (Av) was involved in 2 expedite matches. In one of these Higgs beat the redoubtable Brian Reeves (So) 22, -10, 14! Higgs was also involved in an expedite event when Avon beat Dorset 2nds 7-2. Glos went 2-0 up when visiting Dorset 2nds but Dorset recovered to win 6-3. Wilts 2nds played 2 away matches and lost 1-8 to Hants. But against Berks 2nds, with the score 4-4, Mike Oxley beat Graham Outrim 25 and 13 for a Wilts win. Cambs were involved in two 5-4 matches in VETS 3A. They beat Herts 4 but, although leading 4-2, were beaten by Warwicks 2nds, with Barry Hunt (Wa) involved in 3 wins. Hunts 2 got their first win when they beat Northants 3rds 6-3 with Brian Spittlehouse and Michael Peacock winning 5 events.

In VETS 3B Essex 4 beat Beds 2nds 9-0 to continue unbeaten after 4 matches. Herts 3rds got their 2nd win when they beat Sussex 4th team 7-2. In the clash of the No.1's Geoff Bax beat Brian Keeley 19, -14, 24! But Sussex 4ths did better with a 7-2 win over Berks 4ths. Berks 4ths followed this with a match against Beds 2nds. At a vital stage Peter Slatford (Bk) beat Steve Coleman -14, 25, 20 and the team went on to win 6-3. Hants 2nds consolidated their position at top of VETS 3C with 9-0 and 8-1 wins over Herefords and Wilts 3rds. Nearest rivals Berks 3rds beat Dorset 3rds 5-4 with Pam Spooner (Bk) involved in 2 wins. Dorset 3rds did better against Herts 4ths with a 5-4 win by virtue of 2 wins at 21 in the 3rd games! For Somerset 2nds Wendy Pryce and Martin Rumary had wins at 19 and 18 in the 3rd games but that was the extend of the teams success and Berks 3rds won 7-2. But Somerset 2nds had a 9-0 win over Herefords. There was one very close match when Alan Maidment beat Neville Meredith 24, -20, 19! Ring the Table Tennis Information line (0891) 664300 to keep up-to-date with County Championships news.

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# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

## LEAGUE TABLES INCLUDE ALL RESULTS RECEIVED AS AT 7th DECEMBER 1991

### SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Lancashire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Sussex	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Surrey	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Berkshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

**Division 1A** - No matches played yet

### Division 1B

Avon	4	4	0	0	31	9	8	(66-26)
Essex	4	4	0	0	31	9	8	(65-26)
Buckinghamshire	4	3	0	1	21	19	6	
Sussex 2nd	4	2	0	2	18	22	4	
Devonshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3	
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	12	28	2	
Middlesex 2nd	4	0	1	3	16	24	1	
Wiltshire	4	0	0	4	12	28	0	

### Division 2A

Lancashire 2nd	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Leicestershire 2nd	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Cheshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Cumbria	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Warwickshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Lincolnshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

### Division 2B

Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Avon 2nd	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Somerset	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Cornwall	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Worcestershire 2nd	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

### Division 2C

Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Essex 2nd	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Northamptonshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Cambridgeshire 2nd	4	1	2	1	18	22	4
Norfolk	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Suffolk 2nd	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

### Division 2D

Surrey 2nd	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Hampshire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Berkshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Sussex 3rd	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Oxfordshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Dorset	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

### Division 3A

Nottinghamshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Hertfordshire 3rd	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Staffordshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Huntingdonshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Northamptonshire 2nd	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Clwyd	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

### Division 3B

Essex 3rd	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Kent	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Gwent	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Buckinghamshire 2nd	6	1	2	3	27	33	4
Hampshire 2nd	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

### JUNIORS

#### Premier Division

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Surrey	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Berkshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Warwickshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

(44-23)  
(42-23)

#### Division 1A

Staffordshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Yorkshire 2nd	4	2	2	0	27	13	6
Northumberland	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Clwyd	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Derbyshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Northamptonshire	4	0	0	4	14	26	0
Durham	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

#### Division 1B

Hertfordshire	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Essex 2nd	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Kent	5	1	3	1	26	24	5
Surrey 2nd	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Devonshire 2nd	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Glamorgan	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Gloucestershire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Oxfordshire	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

(31-35)  
(34-38)

#### Division 2A

Cheshire 1st	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Staffordshire 2nd	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Nottinghamshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Lancashire 2nd	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Derbyshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Cheshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Warwickshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Leicestershire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

#### Division 2B

Norfolk 1st	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Essex 3rd	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lincolnshire	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	2	1	22	18	4
Hertfordshire 2nd	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Norfolk 2nd	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	6	24	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

#### Division 2C

Cornwall	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Gwent	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Worcestershire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Somerset	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Avon	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Devonshire 3rd	3	0	1	2	7	23	1
Dorset	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

#### Division 2D

Sussex 1st	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Sussex 2nd	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
Buckinghamshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Hampshire 1st	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Hampshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	9	31	2
Surrey 3rd	5	0	0	5	10	40	0
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4

## VETERANS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	23	4	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	19	8	6
Essex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Leicestershire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Surrey	3	1	2	11	16	2
Lincolnshire	3	1	2	10	17	2
Sussex	3	1	2	8	19	2
Kent	3	0	3	8	19	0

## Division 1A

Lancashire	6	6	0	36	18	12
Yorkshire 2nd	6	3	3	31	23	6
Worcestershire	4	3	1	28	8	6
Cheshire 2nd	6	3	3	25	29	6
Norfolk	3	2	1	16	11	4
Oxfordshire	4	1	3	14	22	2
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	12	24	2
Northamptonshire	5	0	5	9	36	0

## Division 1B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire	4	4	0	24	12	8
Dorset	4	3	1	23	13	6
Essex 2nd	4	2	2	23	13	4
Wiltshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Middlesex	4	2	2	20	16	4
Kent 2nd	4	2	2	17	19	4
Surrey 2nd	4	0	4	9	27	0
Sussex 2nd	3	0	3	3	24	0

## Division 2A

Lancashire 2nd	4	4	0	27	9	8
Nottinghamshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Staffordshire	2	1	1	8	10	2
Clwyd	2	0	2	6	12	0
Cheshire 3rd	1	0	1	3	6	0
Northumberland	2	0	2	4	14	0

## NATIONAL JUNIOR AND CADET RANKING TRIALS

by Doreen Nightingale

THE final weekend of 1991, December 28/29, saw the gathering of some of the finest of England's young table tennis players at Lilleshall for the National Ranking Trials.

It was unfortunate that few higher ranked players failed, or were unable to put in an appearance for a variety of reasons but the players who qualified for the last 16 demonstrated an impressive standard of play.

Two players are deserving of a special mention, Simon James unexpectedly beat his brother Michael, in the first round of the Cadet Boys Knock-out and preceded to the semi-finals before succumbing to the skills of the eventual winner, Darryl Meredith.

Wayne Mitchell also overcame superior opposition to reach the last eight in the Junior boys before falling to the eventual winner Richard Hyacinth.

The competitive spirit shown on the table was equalled by the friendly atmosphere which was felt amongst the players during this enjoyable weekend.

### Results:

#### Cadet Boys:

Winner Darryl Meredith (La)  
R/U Stephen Lampkin (Sy)

#### Cadet Girls:

Winner Shelley ruocco (E)  
R/U Katherine Woodward (Ch)

#### Junior Boys:

Winner Richard Hyacinth (Mi)  
R/U Edward Hatley (Sy)

#### Junior Girls:

Sally Marling (Y)  
R/U Katherine Goodall (Y)

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# USA imports table tennis

THERE are conflicting accounts of how table tennis reached Japan. One version says that it was imported, about 1897, by Dr. T. Kinoshita who later became President of the Japanese Association. Another version gives the credit to Tsuboi Gendo, a professor of gymnastics who was studying in Europe about 1902. He returned to Japan with equipment and a copy of the Laws before initiating the game, particularly in the universities. It is said that table tennis spread to China when Wang Dao-Ping, manager of a shop in Si-Ma-Lu Street, Shanghai, bought some equipment in Japan and demonstrated the game to his customers.

However, it was almost certainly the United States of America which first imported table tennis commercially from England. As early as 6th August, 1901, Hamley Brothers, the famous retailers of games and toys, had registered their 'Ping-Pong' trademark with the United States Patent Office. The same boxed sets which had been made by John Jaques and Son for some time and widely distributed in Great Britain, were simply over-printed 'United States, America, Trade Mark 36854/6/8/01'.

These sets were sold in the United States by Parker Brothers (no relation to Arnold Parker) until this company went into production with its own box and label - though still jealously preserving the title 'Ping-Pong'.

Cornelius G. Schaad in his book, *Ping Pong* (Boston and New York, 1930) suggests that indoor tennis, which could be played either on the floor or on a table, was devised in the United States and then distributed through "the London house of the makers" and thereby led to the origin of the game as we know it today. Perhaps there is a connection with Ayres here?

Schaad, a copy of whose book was presented by Parker Brothers with each of their sets in the 1930s, was clearly under contract to them. He argues vainly - against all the evidence to the contrary - that ping-pong is "not to be confused with table tennis, a game of often conflicting rules, miscellaneous sources and non-standard equipment." In fact, except with regard to the service, the two 'codes' were practically identical and Schaad's interest was largely a commercial one. It is impossible to estimate what damage was done to the development of the game in the United States by this conflict of interests.

The game - under whatever title - seems to have taken off in the United



Magazine cover showing an unusual end-on view of players in action, U.S.A., 1902. The Gurney Collection

States just as it had in England. Henry Essex, writing in the *National Magazine* Volume 17 of 1902, under the title of 'Ping-Pong - the Greatest of Indoor Games', rather over-enthusiastically claims that table tennis "will doubtless reach the greatest point of popularity that a game has ever attained". His article covers much the same ground as Schaad covers much later, but he states very positively that "the game is purely of English derivation." Its popularity he puts down to the demands which it makes for ability, strategy and physical skill, and the development of cork-covered rackets plus a ball with the essential qualities of strength, lightness and roundness.

The other manufacturing houses in

the United States were determined not to let Parker Brothers have everything their own way in dominating the market. At least seven produced their rival versions, carefully avoiding use of the 'Ping-Pong' title. These included: Milton Bradley ('Royal Game or Table Tennis'); E.I. Horsman ('Table Tennis'); McLoughlin Brothers ('Table Tennis'); Wright and Ditson ('Pom-Pom'); Perry Mason ('Table Tennis'); Carrom - Archarena, and F.A.O. Schwarz ('Table Tennis').

Reproduced by kind permission of the publishers - The International Table Tennis Federation, 53 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6AY, from whom this interesting book is available.

# Syed usurped by Mason

NICKY MASON's determination saw him take the Men's Singles honours, defeating Matthew Syed in the final of the Middlesex 3 Star Open, whilst Alison Gordon proved her class by retaining the Women's Singles crown.

Over the weekend of the 7th and 8th December the 35th Middlesex 3 Star Open took place at the Picketts Lock Centre, Edmonton. The Association was grateful for the help it received from Butterfly UK, The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Federation of Middlesex Sports who sponsored the Mens Singles prize fund.

With no weather problems to report their were still however a number of top seeds who didn't make it to the 3 Star for one reason or other; Chris Oldfield, our number two seed, who was seriously injured in a road accident, the Association wishes him a speedy recovery and hope that it is not too long before



Nicky Mason

he's back playing table tennis again, Sean Gibson our number four seed was called for international duty and there was no news of David Hanna, our number five seed. Among the top five seeds only Matthew Syed (1) and Nicky Mason (3) were able to make it to Edmonton.

The entry for this season's tournament compar'd favourably with most other tournaments around the UK and was marginally down on the previous season, 203 entries for Men and 66 entries for Women. There were also international entries from Germany and Nigeria, as well as entries from in the Mens and Womens singles from Scotland and Wales.

The top three seeds all made it, so there were no problems to contend with there. On then to the competition proper.....

The Mens singles had seen the progress of Essex's Steve Dorking make it to the last eight with a notable win over our number nine seed, A. Eden before being defeated in three games by Surrey's Mike Hammond to 14 in third, Welsh number one Steve Ward also made it to the quarter finals before losing to Nicky Mason but not without giving the number three seed a fright when taking the second game at 18 in great style. A shock looked to be on the cards but Mason fought his way back in the third game to run out a comfortable winner in the end.

The pride of Middlesex, Graham Sandley pushed his way into the last eight with some fine wins and overcame Lancashire's John Taylor in the quarters in straight games. Next was Nicky Mason!

Meanwhile Matt Syed was progressing to the Finals without too much difficulty and had not dropped a set up till the semi finals.

The surprise of the last eight was the Saturday Group qualifier winner, Surrey's Mike Hammond who made his way to the semis with a storming win over the Essex man Steve Dorking winning in three games and Mike's next opponent was Matt Syed....

So the semi's. The line up was Syed v Hammond and Mason v Sandley. Syed showed his class

when easily defeating a nervous Mike Hammond at 11 and 10 in straight games. Then it was Mason against local hope Graham Sandley. Shock number one, Sandley won the first game at 20. The number eleven seed then lost his way a little as Nicky started putting the pressure on and ran out a convincing winner in the end at 8 and 13 in the last two games. The final then was between the top two seeds who arrived for this event, Syed and Mason.

Syed's agility won him the first game with some superb athleticism and it looked as though the defending champion was going to hold on to his title. Then Mason started a rally with some brilliant counter-attacking play and was getting used to Matthew's agility around the table. Nicky took the second game at 14. Mason then quickly took charge of the final game and although still in with a shout Matt had no answer to Nicky's determination and will to win.

In the Women's singles the last four looked like this: Alison Gordon v Helen Lower and Alison Gower v Maria Thornley. To get to this stage Lancashire's Maria Thornley had not dropped a game and really had too

much control over Alison Gower. Alison Gower mean time also had not had a game taken off her as she progressed with a comfortable despatch of Staffordshire's Helen Lower our number four seed. The final of the Women's Singles then, was between Alison Gordon and Maria Thornley. Unfortunately for Maria and as hard as she tried she was no match for the former English number one Berkshire's Alison Gordon once again proving her class and retaining the title she won last season.

The Men's doubles saw a little re-partnering with the non appearance of some entrants and the Final saw Lancashire's A. Eden and Derbyshire's John Holland defeat Phil Lewis and Steve Ward in three, 8, -14 and 19.

The Women's doubles with a new pairing of Alison Gordon and K. Owolabi from Nigeria comfortably take the final over Joanne Roberts and Joanne Shaw by 16 and 7 in an easy straight games win.

The Veterans singles provided something of a surprise when John Taylor of Hertfordshire beat last year's winner David Harvey from Gloucestershire in three games.

## SELECTION CONFUSION

There appears to be a little confusion among young players and their coaches as to what is an official E.T.T.A. training camp or an official E.T.T.A. selection as opposed to a private venture. Very simply if the invitation is on E.T.T.A. headed paper then it is an official invitation and the E.T.T.A. take full responsibility. If not then it is a private venture and the organisers take full responsibility for the welfare of the participants.

Don Parker  
England Team Manager

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This is an Equal Opportunities Post jointly funded by The Sports Council for Wales and The Table Tennis Association of Wales



# All to play for in second legs

ALL four first leg men's matches in the second stage of the JOOLA European League, Super Division, resulted in 4-3 wins for the home associations making for exciting return encounters.

None more so than Germany's home fixture against France who, in Poitiers on December 17th, defeated the defending champions when, in the last set with the match score poised at 3-3 Christophe Legout beat Peter Franz.

Patrick Chila, Nicolas Chatelain, Oliver Marmurek and Damien Eloi had all been drafted into the French Army and from December 11th for 15 days they were confined to barracks hence the approval of the ETTU for Legout to play alongside Jean-Philippe Gatien and Didier Mommessin - and to what effect!

#### Scores:

J-P Gatien bt P. Franz 17, 16;  
D. Mommessin lt to J. Roskopf 19, -11, -15;  
C. Legout bt S. Fetzner -18, 17, 16;  
Gatien/Mommessin lt to Roskopf/Fetzner -15, 13;  
Gatien bt Roskopf -17, 14, 17;  
Mommessin lt to Fetzner -18, 22, -17;  
Legout bt Franz 15, -14, 19.

Sweden at home to Belgium in Olofstrom, on the same night, had Peter Karlsson, to thank for their narrow victory when in the last set he accounted for Philippe Saive having earlier beaten Thierry Cabrera.

#### Scores:

J-O Waldner bt P. Saive 17, 10;  
M. Appelgren lt to J.M. Saive 17, -19, -12;  
P. Karlsson bt T. Cabrera 19, 14;  
Karlsson/P. von Scheele lt to J-M Saive/Cabrera 18, -20, -20;  
Waldner lt to J-M Saive 9, -16, -16;  
Appelgren bt Cabrera -21, 8, 14;  
Karlsson bt P. Saive -21, 17, 15.

Yugoslavia, playing in Budapest also on the same night, brought off their first win of the season in edging home in the last set when Zoran Kalinic beat Peter Paul de Vrind who was standing in for Paul Haldan.

#### Scores:

I. Lupulescu bt P.P. de Vrind 10, 13;  
S. Grujic lt to D. Heister -16, 20;  
Z. Kalinic lt to T. Keen -9;  
Lupulescu/Grujic bt Heister/Keen 20, -14, 19;  
Lupulescu lt to Heister -13, -19;  
Grujic bt Keen 23, -17, 19;  
Kalinic bt de Vrind 15, 14.

And, to complete the fourth match on December 17th, Hungary brought about the fourth defeat of the season for Poland who, in Budapest, fell at the last hurdle when Sandor Varga beat Lucjan Blaszczyk.



Jean-Philippe Gatien of France, the new English Open Champion

#### Scores:

Z. Harczy bt L. Blaszczyk 9, 19;  
K. Nemeth bt A. Grubba -14, 16, 11;  
S. Varga lt to P. Skierski 14, -15, -18;  
Nemeth/Varga lost to Shierski/Blaszczyk -17, 13, -19;  
Harczy lt to Grubba -14, -17;  
Nemeth bt Skierski 15, 13;  
Varga bt Blaszczyk 19, 18.

#### DIVISION ONE

Austria, playing in Traisen on December 21st, accounted for Denmark 4-1 in their first leg the only set to escape them being the second singles when Werner Schlager lost to Lars Hauth.

#### Scores:

Ding Yi bt J. Harkamp 15, 16;  
W. Schlager lt to L. Hauth -18, -17;  
Qian Qianli bt A. Bentsen 6, 12;  
Qian Qianli/K. Jindrak bt Hauth/K. Hogsberg 17, -18, 11;  
Ding Yi bt Hauth -16, 20, 13.

England's 4-2 first leg win against Czechoslovakia (reported elsewhere in this issue) points to a final 2-legged confrontation with Austria provided all goes well in the away match on January 15th in Dunakaska Streda.

Spain, recovering from their 4-0 mauling at the hands of England in Barcelona, beat Bulgaria 4-3.

#### DIVISION TWO

Israel and Finland agreed to play both the legs in Israel on December 14th and 16th and on both occasions Israel



Peter Karlsson of Sweden

# EURO REPORT - 2

advanced their cause by winning both matches 4-3 and could well make preparations to travel to Norway who, in their home encounter with Luxembourg won 5-2.

## NEW MEMBERS

In addition to Latvia and Lithuania, the Associations of Estonia and Albania have also been given special permission for their players to participate in international events before the next ITTF Council meeting. Their applications to become members of the ETTU has been provisionally approved being subject to ratification at the Stuttgart BGM.

## ZORAN PRIMORAC

The Yugoslav Association have agreed that Zoran Primorac, a Croatian, can participate in the individual events of international open championships but not in the colours of the Yugoslav Association nor those of the Croatian Association.

## TOURNAMENT

The Italian Federation advise that the date of the next Italian Open has been fixed for October 29th/November 1st, 1992.



Zoran Primorac

## EUROPEAN RANKING LIST - JANUARY 1992

MEN		WOMEN	
1. Jan-Ove WALDNER	SWE	1. Csilla BATORFI	HUN
2. Jorgen PERSSON	SWE	2. Otilia BADESCU	ROM
3. Jean-Philippe GATIEN	FRA	3. WANG Xiaoming	FRA
4. Andrzej GRUBBA	POL	4. Marie HRACHOVA	TCH
5. Jean-Michel SAIVE	BEL	5. Bettine VRIESEKOP	NED
6. Mikael APPELGREN	SWE	6. Daniela GUERGUELTICHEVA	BUL
7. Jorg ROSSKOPF	GER	7. Gabriella WIRTH	HUN
8. Erik LINDH	SWE	8. Mirjam HOOMAN	NED
9. Zoran PRIMORAC	----	9. Jasna FAZLIC	YUG
10. Ilija LUPULESKU	YUG	10. Olga NEMES	GER
11. Carl PREAN	ENG	11. Elena TIMINA	GUS
12. Peter KARLSSON	SWE	12. Asa SVENSSON	SWE
13. Andrei MAZUNOV	GUS	13. Alena SAFAROVA	TCH
14. DING Yi	AUT	14. Marie SVENSSON	SWE
15. CHEN Xinhua	ENG	15. TU Yong	SUI
16. Dmitriy MAZUNOV	GUS	16. Renata KASALOVA	TCH
17. Steffen FETZNER	GER	17. Gordana PERKUCIN	YUG
18. Paul HALDAN	NED	18. Lisa LOMAS	ENG
19. WANG Yangsheng	NOR	19. Irina PALINA	GUS
20. Calin CREANGA	GRE	20. Valentina POPOVA	GUS
21. Georg-Zsolt BOHM	GER	21. Galina MELNIK	GUS
22. Zoran KALINIC	YUG	22. Emilia CIOSU	ROM
23. Alan COOKE	ENG	23. Pernilla PETERSSON	SWE
24. Petr KORBEL	TCH	24. Edit URBAN	HUN
25. YANG Jianhua	LUX	25. Emmanuelle COUBAT	FRA
26. Thierry CABRERA	BEL	26. Alessia ARISI	ITA
27. Leszek KUCHARSKI	POL	27. Nicole STRUSE	GER
28. Patrick CHILA	FRA	28. Karien BOGAERTS	BEL
29. Tomas JANJI	TCH	29. Gardie KEEN	NED
30. Thomas VON SCHEELE	SWE	30. Alison GORDON	ENG
31. Philippe SAIVE	BEL	31. Polona FRELJH	----
32. Nicolas CHATELAIN	FRA	32. Emily NOOR	NED
33. Damien ELOI	FRA	33. Andrea HOLT	ENG
34. Zsolt HARCZI	HUN	34. Krisztina NAGY	HUN
35. Olivier HARCZI	HUN	35. Lotta ELRMANN	SWE
36. Peter FRANZ	GER	36. Maria BOGOSLOV	ROM
37. Didier MOMMESIN	FRA	37. Ni Xiali	LUX
38. Roland VIMI	TCH	38. Fiona ELLIOT	ENG
39. Piotr SKIERSKI	POL	39. Marta POLJAK	YUG
40. Trinko KEEN	NED	40. Alena VACHOVCOVA	TCH
41. Danny HEISTER	NED	41. Veronika WIRTH	HUN
42. Petr JAVUREK	TCH	42. Maria LUNESCU	ROM
43. Vasile FLOREA	ROM	43. Krisztina TOTH	HUN
44. Skylet ANDREW	ENG	44. Katja NOLTEN	GER
45. QIAN Qianli	AUT	45. Jaroslava MIHOCKOVA	TCH
46. Massimo COSTANTINI	ITA	46. Elke SCHALL	GER
47. Matthew SYED	ENG	47. Vivien ELLO	HUN
48. Gurhan YALDIZ	TUR	48. Elis BILLEN	BEL
49. Jiri JAVUREK	TCH	49. Agnes LELANNIC	FRA
50. Lucjan BLASZCZYK	POL	50. Katalyna VITCHEVA	BUL

## EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS QUARTER-FINALS

### MEN

Borussia Dusseldorf (GER)	5	Malmö FF (SWE)	2
Sporting Club de Portugal (POR)	2	STK "Partizan" Belgrad (YUG)	5
"La General" de Granada (ESP)	2	ATSV Saarbrücken (GER)	5
C.T.T. "CRAA" Ferentino (ITA)	4	Levallois U.T.T. (FRA)	5

### WOMEN

Statistika Metalloglobus (HUN)	5	ATUS Judenburg - Z (AUT)	0
A.C. Boulogne Billancourt (FRA)	5	Diszkret Kecskemet (HUN)	2

The match between DT Strassen of Luxembourg and A.S. TT Vittoria Ragusa of Italy has been postponed until 13.1.92 and an appeal has been lodged by Halmstads BTK of Sweden against the awarding of their match, at home, to SpVg Steinhagen (GER).

# +

## OBITUARY GEORGES ROLAND

It is with sadness that I have to relay the news of the death of the former Belgian champion Georges Roland who died on October 26th, 1991 at the age of 69. He was Belgium's top player in the fifties, winning during this period an overall total of 15 titles including the men's singles title in 1954, 1956 and 1957.

He participated in six World Championships and in three European Championships and won a bronze medal (the first one for Belgium) in the European Championships of 1960 in Zagreb being partnered with Walter Dugardin in the men's doubles. At the end of his playing career, he became national coach keeping this function for twenty years.

Besides several functions in national committee, he was also appointed as member of the ITTF and ETTU Technical Committees on which he served for more than fifteen years. As far as his professional life was concerned, he was an executive at the Royal Belgian Observatory and he became world famous when, in 1956, he discovered with his colleague Professor Arend a comet known as the Arend-Roland Comet. He was a founding member of the Swaythling Club and was Chairman of the Belgium Section. Among many other distinctions he was awarded the Gold Medal of National Sport Merit, the highest distinction in Belgian Sport, and was a recipient of the ITTF Gold Award.

# £4,635 Prize Fund

MANAGEMENT Committee has now agreed the Prize Fund for the season. The top two Premier teams will receive £2,075 of the £4,635 Prize Fund with £1,300 going to the winner and £775 to the runner up. The other 18 winners and runners up in the League will receive an average of about £142 each ranging from £80 to £425. NFD Grove look poised to bag 37% of the fund (£1,725) for their top two teams - but it cost them about £1,500 just to enter their five teams into the League! The money won't go far if it's shared between their 40 registered players.

While NFD Grove and Team Peniel strolled to comfortable victories in the **Premier** Division it was left to Yugo Cars to earn their points against St. Neots. The former won 8-5 but I have no further details.

John Souter led NFD Grove II to yet another win in **Division 1 North** with Norwich Foxwood on the receiving end. Geoff Davies put up a gentlemanly fight and squeezed home at 19 in the third against Helen Lower. Neil Pickard beat Craig Bakewell 19 and 19 to inflict his first loss. Ruston Marconi Lincoln pinched a valuable point from Well Connected Menswear with Phil Vickers demolishing Andy Withers and Mark Randle. I hear that West Warwickshire walloped Vymura International which helps to keep the runners up spot open.

## Out of Order

Horsham Dolphins' 5-3 win over NFD Grove III became an 8-0 when it was discovered that the latter played out of order in **Division 1 South**. Therefore Ritchie Venner secured no points for his two wins including one against Steve Slater. DML White Hart Launceston's average of four wins per match somehow keeps them in second place. This period they beat Ellenborough II 5-3. Colley Toyota celebrated Christmas early with a "sporting" 7-1 thrashing of Victoria Park Mazda. Steve Ward gained his fourth Man of the Match award.



NFD Grove II's John Souter

## VRS crush CMK

VRS Fareham must have been in festive mood after knocking City of Milton Keynes into second place with a devastating 7-1 victory. Miki Sinanan was the star with straight-game wins against John Burleton and Steve Baggaley. He must have been glad not to have drawn Colin Bowler. Mike Levene chipped in two wins to strengthen his new Mens' ranking of No. 57 - but there is also a Michael Levene at No. 219 on the list!

It was BSG Brentwood who went to the top of **Division 2 South East** with a win against Pillinger Air Croydon. Richard Darnell scraped revenge from Martin Lowe by -17, 19, 18. BSG trailed 1-3 before storming to victory. Leckie left Jolliffe Poole in trouble with a 6-2, their first win, as only Tony Clayton took consolation. Poole lost four games at deuce which included Tony Jeynes beating John Robinson 20 and 25. Fellow Cranleigh hold on to third place by virtue of a 5-3 win against Rejects. Steve Cowley and Cris Sladden were unbeaten.

## Christmas Carol

In **Division 2 South West** an unregistered Peter Law travelled with Gunnersbury Triangle to Hambledon where they were whitewashed by Amity Generation Fareham. Mark Bleakley struggled on the day beating Steve Gennari at 22 in the third and Lee Middleton -18, 18, 19. Edison just stayed on top with a 5-3 against Horsham Dolphins. John Trussler enjoyed his umpiring as the Dolphins salvaged some respectability by recovering from 1-5 down. Kleinwort Benson Gillingham kept White Hart Launceston at bay inflicting a 7-1 defeat. Carol Giles beat Neil Harris at the end of the day to stop a white(wash) Christmas. Cheltenham Saracens ensured that the division was cut into two clear halves by beating Colley Toyota 6-2.

Burslem picked up a useful point from Chan Construction as Wayne Percival beat Steve Bertie and Pete Machin. However his effort was offset by that of Phil Gunn who beat Mark Evans and Brian Johns. Also in **Division 2 North** top-placed Stephens NYSD played bottom-placed City of Leeds and just scrambled a 5-3 win in 3 hours 50 minutes. Leeds' Dave Indriks beat Malcolm Corking and Bennie Robertson. In the last game of the day John Crawford secured victory over Tony Bottomley by the scores of -18, 18, 21. City of Leicester moved in to third place with an 8-0 crushing of Yugo Cars II. Phil Smith led with victories over Ian Brown and Julian Tee.

## Shepherd leads his flock

Vale Royal Warrington stayed on top of **Division 3 North** with a 6-2 win over bottom-placed Kinghurst Briar. Ormesby led 2-0 against Uxbridge (Burton) but then lost the next six games. Newcomer Tim Shepherd put the Burton flock on track with comfortable wins against Kevin Docherty and



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Stephen Brunskill. Borough of Sunderland and Vymura International halted each others progress with a draw. Dave Robson fared well beating John Hope and Howard Whewell. At Newton Aycliffe Steve Cooper led Stephens NYSD to a 6-2 win against Lifeline Developments Crusaders Lincoln.

Ellenborough III celebrated their first win 5-3 at the expense of Norwich Foxwood who were prevented from going top as a result in **Division 3 East**. Fellows Cranleigh lost 2-6 to Levi's Westfield to leave only two points separating the top six teams. I have that the leaders, Chelmsford League, drew with Britannia Ipswich. Two wins a piece from Alison Gower and Keith Buers enabled Team Peniel to beat BSG Brentwood II 5-3. Paul Stephens resisted with two of BSG's wins.

### Colts kicked

Once again Justin Goodall won the only games for Ashford, this time against Thorns Dudley who beat the Kent side 6-2. Matt Vardy scored two near misses against Julian Wootten and Eric Hardman. Also in **Division 3 Midland** Surrey's Larkhall II beat Bathwick Tyres III 6-2. Steve Davis and veteran Tom Adams won two each. OLOPs kicked off their heels the Grove Colts 7-1 with Clive Payne providing the backbone from the No.3 position. Trevor Manning beat Paul Savins for some consolation.

The James Allen Girls School (JAGS) took Alpha Southampton by storm with a comprehensive whitewash in **Division 3 South**. Selwyn Campbell at last appears on the Mens' ranking list - and at No. 148 - above his team mates! Rejects in third place, one point behind Linda Farrow, improved on their first half performance against Ashford Middlesex (without yours truly!) and shared the points. Young Darren Blake beat Andy Shepherd and Matthew Boon convincingly while Sean Homer gained revenge over Gordon Holmes. NFD Grove IV trailed 1-2 and led 3-2 against DML White Hart Launceston III before going down 3-5. In the final game DML's No.13, Jonathan May, beat NFD's No.34, Jun Tsuji, with scores of -16, 14, 20 (with an edge says the scoresheet!).

Bienvenue a 92....

**BRITISH LEAGUE  
RESULTS RING  
0891 664300**

*Calls are charged at 36p per minute  
cheap rate and 48p at other times*

# Wedding Bells for John and Naomi Holland of Team Peniel



CELEBRATING the wedding of John and Naomi, on Saturday 14th December 1991, were 470 guests, who attended the service and the meal afterwards. Included amongst the table tennis players were Sean Gibson, Andrew Eden, Steve Dorking, Skylet Andrew, Nicky Mason, Jackie Bellinger, Clive Carthy and ex-England Men's Singles Champion Bobby Stevens. The happy couple were married by Michael Reid at The Peniel Academy.

# Geng wins three titles



Pictured (left to right) are Alan Ransome ETTA Chairman, Yu Shentong of China, Men's Singles Winner, Geng Lijuan of Canada, Women's Singles Winner and County Councillor Ted Wood, the Chairman of Cleveland County Council

FORMER world champion Geng Lijuan, from Canada, won three titles in the Cleveland 5 Star Open Table Tennis Championships at Thornaby Pavilion with the honours being widely spread among several of the competing nations.

In the Cleveland County Council supported event players from China, Japan, Canada, England and Scotland were all event winners while the Danish players enjoyed their best ever Cleveland with two semi-finalists in the men's singles and the mixed doubles silver.

Lijuan the former Chinese and now Canadian world class star won the women's singles title beating Mika Hoshino of Japan in straight games in the final.

Geng's toughest match was in the semi-final when she beat the English No.1 Lisa Lomas in three sets. Lisa won the first game 22-20 but Geng's world class became evident as she won the next two games 21-11, 21-7.

Geng won the women's doubles with her Canadian team mate Julie Barton beating the Japanese pair Mika Hoshino and Yoriko Takahashi in the final. Geng completed her treble by winning the mixed doubles with her husband Horatio Pintea of Canada beating Danes Allen Bentsen and Trine Schou.

The men's singles was dominated by the Chinese players with former English Open champion Yu Shentong beating Xie Chaojie 21-17, 21-14 in the final.

Yu's toughest match was in the quarter final when he gained revenge for his team event defeat by beating Desmond Douglas 15-21, 21-14, 21-17.

The English bid for the men's title was weakened by the withdrawal of two of the leading players Chen Xinhua and Alan Cooke who were suffering from fatigue after the recent England-China Test Series.

Douglas's turn for honours came when he partnered John Broe in the men's doubles. They won the title beating the Chinese pair Ding Song and Chen Hongyo in the final.

The England men's team comprising of Chen, Cooke and Skylet Andrew won the Butterfly International Team Event beating China's Ding

and Chen in the semi-final 3-1 and Desmond Douglas's club NFD Grove by 3-1 in the final.

In the quarter final the Grove Club beat the top Chinese team with Douglas in brilliant form winning both his sets against Yu Shentong and Xie Chaojie. In the semi-final Douglas and Nicky Mason had a straight sets victory over Denmark.

Japan's title came in the women's team event when they beat England by 3-1 in the final with Mika Hoshino winning two sets.

To reach the final Japan defeated the Air Canada team 3 sets 1 with Mika Hoshino winning 2 sets inflicting the only defeat on Geng Lijuan during the weekend. In the other semi-final England beat Denmark also by 3 sets to 1 with Lisa Lomas winning two sets.

The prizes were presented by The Chairman of Cleveland County Council, County Councillor Ted Wood.

## RESULTS

### Mens Singles

Semi Final	Yu Shentong (CHN) bt Allen Bentsen (DEN) 14, 8
	Xie Chaojie (CHN) bt Kim Hogsberg (DEN) -16, 18, 13
Final	Yu (CHN) bt Xie (CHN) 17, 14

**Womens Singles Final** - Geng Lijuan (CAN) bt Mika Hoshino (JPN) 18, 18

**Mens Doubles Final** - Desmond Douglas (ENG) & John Broe (SCO) bt Ding Song & Chen Hongyo (CHN) 21, 22

**Womens Doubles Final** - Geng Lijuan & Julie Barton (CAN) bt Mika Hoshino & Yoriko Takahashi (JPN) -9, 20, 15

**Mixed Doubles Final** - Horatio Pintea & Geng Lijuan (CAN) bt Allen Bentsen & Trine Schou (DEN) 14, 14

**Veterans Singles Final** - John Hilton (La) bt David Harvey (Gs) 17, 17

**Class 2 Mens Singles Final** - Brian Johns (CH) bt Darren Howarth (LA) 18, -19, 20

**Class 2 Womens Singles Final** - Alison Gower (E) bt Joanna Roberts (Y) 14, 21

## BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT

### MENS TEAM

#### Semi-Final

NFD Grove	bt Denmark	3-0
Nicky Mason	bt Allen Bentsen	-15,19,17
Des Douglas	bt Jan Harkamp	17,13
Mason/Douglas	bt Bentsen/Harkamp	19,17

#### Semi-Final

England	bt China	3-1
Skylet Andrew	bt Chen Hongyo	19,-14,21
Chen Xinhua	bt Ding Song	-15,19,10
Cooke/Andrew	lt Hongyo/Ding	-15,14,-12
Skylet Andrew	bt Ding Song	10,13

#### Final

England	bt NFD Grove	3-1
Chen Xinhua	bt Nicky Mason	15, 18
Alan Cooke	bt Desmond Douglas	17,-11,17
Cooke/Andrew	lt Mason/Douglas	-16,25
Chen Xinhua	bt Des Douglas	15,14

### WOMENS TEAM

#### Semi-Final

Japan	bt Air Canada	3-1
Yoriko Takahashi	lt Geng Lijuan	-16,-8
Mika Hosino	bt Julie Barton	7,10
Takahashi/Hoshino	bt Geng/Barton	14,11
Mika Hoshino	bt Geng Lijuan	21,19

#### Semi-Final

England	bt Denmark	3-1
Lisa Lomas	bt Trine Schou	9,15
Andrea Holt	lt Pia Toelhoj	-18,13
Lomas/Holt	bt Schou/Toelhoj	12,9
Lisa Lomas	bt Pia Toelhoj	14,10

#### Final

Japan	bt England	3-1
Yoriko Takahashi	lt Lisa Lomas	-19, -15
Mika Hoshino	bt Andrew Holt	19,11
Takahashi/Hoshino	bt Lomas/Holt	15,15
Mika Hoshino	bt Lisa Lomas	13,-13,25

# South West Region

by Alf Pepperd

ALTHOUGH unquestionably Devon's Alex Perry from CREDITON is the star of the family, it does seem apparent that his young sister Lucy is perhaps - hot upon his heels, she has qualified for the Final National Trials at Lilleshal, and although (at the time of writing) it appears that Lucy has yet to break into the National Cadet Rankings, I suspect that once she does, especially with the well established name of Perry behind her, she will take off like a rocket.

Whilst discussing the talents of the Perry family, it would be completely remiss of me not to mention Penelope Perry, Alex's and Lucy's Mum, although having met Penny twice, until I read Laurie Selbys (Wilts) County Report in last month's T.T.N., I was totally unaware that the family originated from Wiltshire in the 1960's. Ah well Wilts loss is certainly Devons gain, and to top it all - Penny Perry is currently ranked at No.2 in the Ladies Veterans section, for a mother that cannot be bad!

The ET'TA, certainly exercised discretion in the fair way that the recent Chinese Internationals were

equally shared around the Country, although in this region, venue's such as St. Austell in Cornwall and the Littledown Centre at Bournemouth featured prominently, I have a sneaky suspicion that the Hereford venue was most favoured by T.T.; Supporters from Gloucestershire, as travel wise it was the nearest to get to.

News from Englands most Westernly County - Cornwall, and my thanks to Fred Ingram their stalwart Secretary General for this info.

The Annual County Closed: Hopefully to be held in Mid-Cornwall this season, with Bodmin Tennis Centre as the possible venue, the provisional dates booked for this event are - the 11th and 12th of April 1992.

The Cotswold Junior Select Tournament at the Gloucester L.C. on February 1st and 2nd 1992, last year we had Central T.V. present on the first day, and BBC Radio Gloucestershire did excellent reports upon both days of the Tournament. Hopefully, both will be in attendance this year.

# Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

CONGRATULATIONS to the following who have qualified for the National trials as a result of successful appearances at the final regional trials at Reading and Southampton.

**Cadets:** Stephen Munson (Bu), Gareth Scadden (Ha), Terry Young (Bk), Wendy Barlow (Bu), Joanne Barrett (Bk).

**Juniors:** Caroline Newling-Ward (Ha), Wendy Barlow (Bu), Lucy Templeton (Bu), Ian Musk (Bu), Neil Bigrave (Bu), Kevin Macken (Ha) and Cuong Lieu (Bu).

Kingfisher 'A', Amity Generation 'B' and Amity Generation Ladies lead the various regional leagues at the present but in all cases it is 'very tight'.

### LEAGUE TABLES

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
<b>PREMIER DIVISION</b>						
KINGFISHER 'A'	5	4	1	26	19	9
MERTON	4	3	1	21	15	8
OLOP 'A'	4	3	1	20	16	8
KCD (STIGA) 'A'	4	2	2	18	18	6
CIPPENHAM 'A'	4	0	4	15	21	4
AMITY GENERATION 'A'	4	1	3	14	22	4
BURNHAM 'A'	3	1	2	12	15	3

<b>FIRST DIVISION</b>						
AMITY GENERATION 'B'	5	4	1	26	19	9
ISLE OF WIGHT	4	3	1	20	16	7
KCD (STIGA) 'B'	4	2	2	18	18	7
BURNHAM 'B'	5	1	4	20	25	7
CIPPENHAM 'B'	3	1	2	13	14	4
KINGFISHER 'B'	4	0	4	11	25	2

<b>LADIES' LEAGUE</b>						
AMITY GENERATION	5	3	2	15	10	9
CIPPENHAM	3	3	0	11	4	7
OLOP	3	3	0	11	4	7
ALDERSHOT 'B'	5	2	3	12	13	7
ASH	3	1	2	7	8	4
ISLE OF WIGHT	4	1	3	5	15	3
ALDERSHOT 'A'	3	0	3	4	11	2

# LION SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

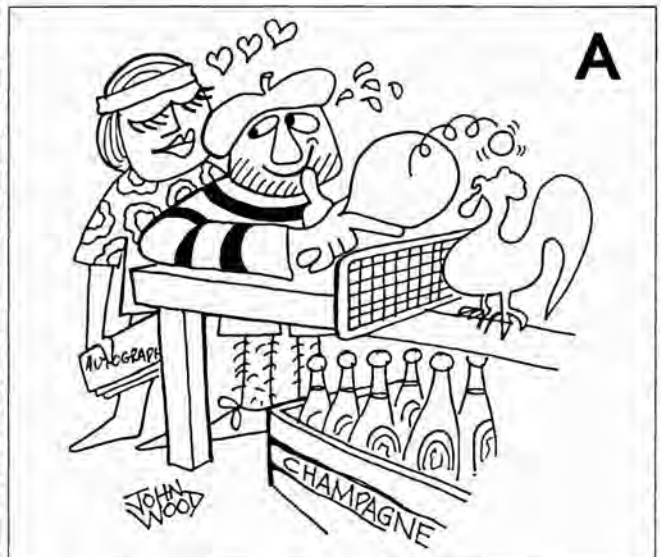
THE first three correct entries drawn from the hat will win, 1st a Lion insulated bat case, 2nd a Lion bat case and 3rd a box of Lion 3 star balls.

All entries must be received by 20th February 1992 addressed to Bethan Davies at Hastings (Editor's decision is final).

In this issue's 'Lion Spot the Difference' competition you are required to circle with a pen the 10 deliberate differences in Cartoon B.

Below are the lucky winners in the December 1991/January 1992 competition:

- 1st: Howard Willis, 17 Chancer Close, Nailsea, Bristol.
- 2nd: Carmel Yeomans, 20 Jamestown Ct, Inchichore, Dublin.
- 3rd: Geoff Scruton (again!), 53 Manor Dv, Knaresbgh, Yorks.



Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

# Our fame is spreading

REFERRING to our article in the December/January issue, re. assistant umpires, we have always thought that it is the umpire who is in the hot seat.

## Feedback

Our fame, or otherwise, is spreading. We have received a letter from Jose Pacheco, an international umpire from Portugal, saying that he finds the umpires page interesting, and that he agrees with us on the question of the volley law (see the October issue).

He writes:-

"I think that two minutes is too much time for players to practice, as usually most of them do not use it. Maybe the time could be divided into two periods of one minute each, first for practice and the second for coaching. Another possibility, to save time, is to forbid players to practice wearing track suit trousers, because it is easier to take the jacket off. Anyhow I agree that the actual situation must be changed."

It seems to us that this would be an extra complication. It is a recognised procedure (see Handbook for Officials - Appendix C paragraph 5) that the coach has his say before the two minute practice period, prior to the start of the match, so that the match starts promptly. The coach always has the opportunity to say more in the interval between games. But at least this period of coaching is within a defined period of time, whereas it can go on a bit if allowed after the two minute practice.

Further Jose suggests that players should leave their bats on the table between games. We agree with this because if a player takes his bat away, we would recommend it be re-inspected before the start of the next game.

More comments and opinions would be appreciated, and should be sent to the editor.

## Racket covering

In the Handbook for Match Officials 1991 (page 15) it states, "The covering material must extend to the limits of, but not beyond, the striking area of the blade...", and later, "The covering is seldom of exactly the same size as the blade and it is reasonable to allow a certain amount of tolerance in



Umpire Dave Perry

the interpretation of the requirements..."

In some countries it is not uncommon for this tolerance to be allowed with the rubber either overlapping or finishing short of the edge of the blade. A number of players have asked why rubbers are not allowed to be slightly undersize, when an oversize is allowed.

Nevertheless, the NURC recommends that English referees should continue to allow a small overlap as defined in the Handbook, but not undersize except for missing pieces caused by wear and tear. The gaps should be coloured in appropriately.

## Cycling shorts

The question of cycling shorts was discussed recently at a meeting of the NURC, and it was decided that cycling shorts may be worn only under normal shorts provided they are both the same colour and extend no lower than the knees.

## Knotty point

Roy Franklin writes from Braintree:-  
"At a recent British League match, during a rally, the ball ran along the net and touched the assembly upright on the receiving player's side and fell to the floor."

There was a difference of opinion amongst those present as to who had won the point. If the ball has not touched the surface of the table on the receiver's side then the striker has lost the point. Even if it touches that part of the net assembly which forms the clamp that covers a portion of the table surface, if it does not touch the table surface it is still "off". The umpire was correct in awarding the point to the receiver.

So, a) if the ball hits the clamp and drops onto the floor the receiver has won the point. b) If the ball hits the clamp and drops, without hitting the table surface, and is then struck by the receiver, it is a volley. c) If the ball hits the clamp and the table surface, it must be returned by the receiver because it is not a double bounce.

*This was the subject of an appeal at the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham, when it was confirmed by the I.T.T.F. that the net, posts and clamp are all part of the net assembly, and do not form part of the table.*

## Recruitment

We need more umpires so that the commitment does not

always fall on the same few volunteers.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide qualified umpires at local events. Once qualified as a county umpire one can progress through national to international grade, with the chance to see the top players at close quarters and also travel abroad.

If you are interested, you should contact your county umpires secretary who will send you a test paper which you can answer at home in your own time. If successful you will need to umpire 2 singles and 2 doubles matches in the presence of 2 examiners, who judge you on control, presentation, audibility and accuracy. If no expedite has occurred during the test, a short simulated expedite situation will be set up.

If you do not know who your county secretary is you should contact the ETTA General Secretary at the address given at the front of this magazine.

## Umpire selections

Selections have been made for forthcoming events as follows:-

### English Senior National 7/8 March

P. Gower, T. Openshaw, G. Sopp, R. Wilson, D. Roden, P. Ryalls, R. Douglas, W. Spencer, E. Emecz, B. Weston, D. Edwards, B. Watkins, Miss D. Moors, Mrs. H. Masters, D. Sherratt, Mrs. K. Tonge, L. Ward, A. Harwood, D. Perry and Mrs. E. Wilson

### VETTS Eastern Masters 21/22 March

R. Bayliss, P. Williams, E.A. Pentland, Mrs. A.P. Archdale, L. Ward, K.A. Armson, R. Douglas  
**Junior Premier Weekend**  
D.A. Poultney, A. Harwood, T. Vance, T. Darroch, B. Watkins, J. Melnick, K.A. Armson and G. Taylor

### VETTS Northern Masters 25/26 April

E.A. Pentland, Mrs. A.P. Archdale, L. Ward, K.A. Armson, R. Douglas, R. Bayliss, S. Sherlock and P. Williams

## Dave Perry - A self portrait

A relative newcomer to umpiring - only 20 odd years. Only half the time of some, but those who know me also know I love every minute of it. With

two very good mates like the Jacks, how could it be anything else.

I am 55ish, married to Sylvia, and recently celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. We live in West London to be near another of my loves, Queens Park Rangers. My current employment is as a warehouseman for a Company selling fine china, crystal, top range cutlery etc. I've been there for 8 years. Previously I was with United Dairies for 23 years, where I met my wife and where she still works.

It was at the U.D. I picked up my first TT bat and learned to play, at the ripe old age of 26. Past it before I even got started, some say. I have played in the North Acton, Acton & District, Harrow & Wembley, Willesden, Central and Westminster Leagues over the years with a modicum of success. I have also served on the North Acton and West Middlesex committees for 23 years.

My other hobby is a regular contribution to the profits of Mr. Hill and Mr. Ladbroke. I always have liked a good bet.

### Uniform for match officials

A number of umpires have asked what constitutes the official umpires uniform. The NURC published this information at the end of last year, and it is repeated here.

1. The formal uniform for umpires consists of a blue blazer and grey trousers or skirt, with a white shirt and the current ETTA tie for men, or a V-neck blouse for women; an ETTA scarf may be available later as an option for women. Socks should be grey and shoes black. The uniform for referees is similar, except that they should wear a pale blue shirt or blouse when on duty. Teams of umpires selected to officiate overseas may also opt to wear shirts or blouses of this colour, as some associations forbid the wearing of white clothing in the playing area.

2. For less formal use, such as officiating at local events, a long-sleeved blue pullover with a blazer badge may be worn instead of a blazer, and on an occasion a blue pullover may be worn under a blazer. The new name badges are to be worn on the right lapel of the blazer or on the right hand side of the sweater. On the left lapel of the blazer, only a single badge of the appropriate type - CU, NU, IU, TR, NR - should be worn.

# JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE

by  
**John Woodford**

CRISIS poured in on England for the first hour of this match at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Some of the spectators were watching international table tennis for the first time - at 8pm they were disappointed - wishing they were at home watching Spurs playing Liverpool on the TV, instead of seeing England eventually defeat Czechoslovakia 4-2.

But there followed one of the finest rearguard actions I can recall. It was special, spectacular at times and very professional as England miraculously some would say as all four England men helped to turn the tables to record a victory that would certainly put the pressure on the Czechs in the second leg of Division 1 semi-final at Dunajska Streda four weeks later.

Carl Preat opened for England against an opponent - Roland Vimi - whom he had beaten twice and also lost on one or two occasions. Hopes were high in the first game that the Saarbrücken No.2 might overcome a player whose style was not to his liking.

Vimi's tactics against Preat contained an element of disguise in the direction of his shots. Those apparently aimed at the Preat backhand, were suddenly delivered down the line with considerable success. Vimi delighted his team by winning 17, 11.

Matthew Syed, winner of the Czech Open last February entered this arena confident that he could put on another show that would startle the Czechs.

But the Czech No.1 Petr Korbel proved that he was not easily subdued by backspin, winning the first and third games comfortably against the Oxford University student.

At that point with England reeling against the Czech power it looked as though some of the spectators might have thought of cutting their losses and getting home in time to see the second half of the soccer match at White Hart Lane.

But, the England show was set to take off. Spurred on by some encouraging words, from Don Parker, England returned from the brink to win 4-2.

As my 9pm story headline in the Daily Telegraph said "Chen gives England hope". Even the Chinese ace trailed lamentably in the first game against Janci. But, suddenly, with a series of world-class services, a real mixture of chop and float that completely bamboozled Janci, the Rotherman resident, playing his first game for England as a British citizen, came through 21-19, with his usual wry smile.

Janci never recovered from the shock. He only scored ten points in the second to put England back in the match.

The second part of the revival was a pleasant surprise - a doubles win by Alan Cooke and Carl Preat over Vimi and Javurek, 21-18, 21-19 to level the match score at 2-2.



The spotlight then fell on the man from the Isle of Wight. Facing a complete change of style, Preat took the initiative with some of the best of his crunching drives to win 21-15, 21-12, against the speedy Korbel.

With the Durham crowd buzzing with anticipation, Syed took the driving seat with yet another spectacular victory, 22-20, 15-21, 21-14 against Janci who obviously did not enjoy his visits to the table on this trip.

Syed defended for most of the time, except for the vital third game. Often driven back, but frequently making the most dramatic returns, he rushed in on three occasions to hit winners that totally demoralised the Czech player, to give England a 4-2 success against the odds at 8pm.

The match demonstrated that both England and Czechoslovakia deserve to be in the vital third game. One of three teams from Austria, England and Czechoslovakia is going to win promotion, but there is a move coming in discussions at Stuttgart to increase the number of teams in the men's top division and like the women's league, possibly groups of six followed by semi-finals and final legs.

### The Credits

If our sport had another hundred local dynamos like Keith Wilson grass roots development would be much further forward than it is at present. This was the first match played in this part of County Durham and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre provided an excellent venue.

The hosts were the Sedgfield District Council - a body committed to promoting table tennis. They have recently initiated "come and try" sessions at the Newton Aycliffe centre.

The Darlington-Durham area is not that densely populated compared with bigger cities and towns and I have no doubt that one reason why they have only just got onto the table tennis map for international matches is because they did not believe they could draw the crowds. As a first effort, 300 fans was commendable - having seen England's brilliant revival I am sure they will be back for more and the ETTA will be pleased to play other events at Newton Aycliffe.

I am certain Keith Wilson would also like me to add that to put on a match of this importance it is a team effort - his team of young people gave the players, the spectators and the press a welcome to be remembered.

### The Scores

England 4 Czechoslovakia 2  
C. Preat 1 R. Vimi -17, -11  
M. Syed 1 P. Korbel -14, 15, -12  
Chen Xinhua b T. Janci 19, 10  
Preat & A. Cooke b Vimi & Javurek 18, 19  
Preat b Korbel 15, 12  
Syed b Janci 20, -15, 14

## English Open

The above competition cannot be allowed to pass without justifiable praise.

Being only able to attend on Sunday and then not for all events I sat enthralled for some seven hours from 10am having driven 130 miles in dense fog. The junior I brought with me must be a table tennis convert after what he saw at the Tournament.

The outstanding, comfortable venue, excellent facilities, slick discreet organisation and generous sponsors made the immaculate talented players respond magnificently to the delight of an appreciative audience.

May I give a personal thank you to all connected with the event. It was a privilege to attend.

Presentation is the way to attract media attention and this event "was the business".

The time must be right for some substantial TV coverage rather than the disappointing brief Saturday afternoon offering.

The drama and excitement of Lisa Lomas' win at expedite over Olga Nemes to clinch the ladies team semi final win over Germany had me leaping out of my seats at match point. Alan Cooke's skill and fighting qualities in overcoming both German men were inspirational in the team quarter final.

Whilst savouring such delights, the seating arrangements and layout were such that I could also watch the Veterans displaying their considerable talents on other tables.

How TV can fill screens with, for example, pedestrian darts coverage when table tennis offers speed, skill, athleticism and entertainment as an alternative is beyond my comprehension.

On the N.I.A. experience parallels can be drawn with the major athletics meetings which are also superbly presented and as a result attract major TV coverage regularly whereas in the old days poor presentation did little to enhance that sport.

The day was outstanding value. Thank you once again.

*David Humble  
Chigwell, Essex*

## Propellants

We have become aware of concerns regarding the use of pain relieving sprays that use CFCs as propellants.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances which Deplete the "Ozone Layer" phases out the supply of CFCs by 2000. Within the EC supply is to be phased out by July 1997, with possible exemptions until the end of 1999. Exemptions are not to be agreed for some time, but will only be allowed where no alternatives are available. After 2000, there will be no exemptions.

The use of ozone depleting substances is not controlled by the Protocol or in the EC. However, we obviously wish to discourage the continuing use of CFCs, where suitable alternatives are available. In the case of these pain relieving

sprays, we believe that there are other CFC free sprays on the market.

Any action that you can take to discourage the use of these sprays would be most helpful. I am writing in similar terms to the British Medical Association, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, the Pharmaceutical Society and the Royal College of Nursing.

*John Harries  
Global Atmosphere Division.*

## Delighted!

I was delighted to read in your November edition of the introduction of the Halex National Ranking Scheme. I have a particular interest in the scheme because I introduced the computerised Canadian system in the 70's and was the Canadian National Ratings Chairman for several years. I set it up first in my own province of Newfoundland and within a couple of seasons, extended it to the four Atlantic provinces and then to the whole of Canada.

Results of league matches as well as tournament play were included in the scheme so that, in a relatively short time, virtually all Canadian players had obtained ratings. The Canadian system was actually based upon the existing US system and results of matches between Canadian and US players were used to modify ratings in both countries.

We found, in Canada, that ratings motivated players very considerably and gave the game a great boost. I am sure that the ETTA will be pleased with the scheme and I wish you every success in this endeavour.

*Alan Cornish  
Thame, Oxon*

## Election

No one would dispute the ability of ETTA Chairman, Alan Ransome, and the Management Committee to deal with the affairs of the Association at the top-strata of the Sport. Since the news that Stuart Sneddy would not be standing for re-election as Deputy Chairman I have been approached by numerous people to stand for that position.

I am currently Chairman, Secretary and Press Officer of the Nottinghamshire County Table Tennis Association; Press Officer of Derbyshire County, and Match and Press Officer of the Derby League.

I help at coaching sessions every Saturday morning, run evening coaching sessions every fortnight at a local Junior School in addition to playing in the Premier Division of the Derby League and representing the League in the Midland League.

Since 1964, I have been on the Committee of five local leagues. My capacity of work on behalf of table tennis has meant always combining duties on more than one local league and/or County Committee. One season I was the Match and Press Officer for three Local Leagues as well as running the County Inter-town League - a total of 17 divisions writing weekly reports every seven different newspapers every week of the season.

In addition, I am on the ETTA

Rules Committee for the fifth consecutive year. Despite the fact that meetings of this Committee involved a 280 mile round-trip car journey, I have only missed one meeting during my time on this Committee.

I believe that I can provide Alan Ransome with the support of my experience during four years on the Management Committee in charge of Administration (1987-1991), and provide the voice of the grass-roots with my experience and understanding of the problems at this level.

If you want to ensure that the problems of your League/County are fully appreciated when decisions are being made, then nominate and vote for me for the position of Deputy Chairman in the coming elections.

*Malcolm Allsop  
Allestree, Derby*

## No. 1 Player in England?

I would like to be the first to offer congratulations to my friend Mike Levene on achieving what I am sure has long been his ambition, namely the ranking - or more correctly the "rating" - as the No. 1 player in England. Nevertheless, I cannot entirely applaud the method he has adopted to reach this goal. By Mike's standards, he has been unduly modest.

If one studies the December 1991 Halex listings one sees that Mike, described as being a Herts player, has come from completely unnoticed to No. 57 in England, with a "rating" of 2518. Where Mike has been slightly clandestine, however, is to enter certain events under his correct name of "Michael Julien Levene" and to admit to being a Bedfordshire player. In such guise he has earned a second rating of 1886 and the lowly position of No. 219. The compiler of the ratings must have been a little suspicious, because he has given Mike the dreaded "I" flag. This is possibly akin to the Timeform squiggle for racehorses, although it might indicate that Mike is of Indian or (more likely) Israeli origin.

Reverting to the serious, it is clear that Mike's combined or aggregate rating of 4404 puts him well ahead of Carl Prean and the other players whom we have hitherto regarded as the best in England. I hope that Donald Parker is aware of

this position and will not forget our No. 1 when making future selections.

*Alan Shepherd  
Southgate, London*

Thanks, Alan! Mike and I had already talked this one through. He will only appear once in future and not with a 'combined' rating. I can assure you! -  
*Doreen Nightingale, Ranking Administrator.*

## Little atmosphere

For me one of the most exciting tournaments of the year is the Cleveland Junior International, because of the other countries taking part. But what a sad event this year, there seemed to be little atmosphere due to fewer countries taking part and also the quality of table tennis seems to have diminished.

Under the Prean administration we may well have saved monies by cutting out training camps and centre of excellence for the juniors, but we really are paying for it now in the levels of our ability to play. Our standards have dropped below an acceptable level. If we are to be taken as a serious table tennis country in the future, the input into the junior scene must be far greater. The talent is there, so come on the ETTA, let's have your backing to produce better players in depth.

*B. Sladden  
Southend-on-Sea*

## PLEASE NOTE

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

Your letters that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome as are replies.

Only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**TABLE TENNIS INFORMATION LINE 0891 664300**

*Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times*



### **ENGLISH NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**(Supported by Manchester 2000 - the British Olympic Bid)**

*Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th March 1992*

**OLDHAM SPORTS CENTRE, LORD STREET, OLDHAM,  
LANCASHIRE. TEL: 061-678 4090**

Play commences at 09.00 hours both days - Finals at 17.00 hours on Sunday 8th March

#### **EVENTS**

Men's Singles • Women's Singles • Men's Doubles • Women's Doubles • Mixed Doubles • Veteran  
Men's Singles • Veteran Women's Singles • Veteran Men's Doubles • Veteran Women's Doubles

**LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES: Saturday 8th February 1992**

**Contact: ETTA Office for entry form (Tel: 0424 722525)**

FULL DETAILS OF ENGLISH NATIONAL RESULTS WILL BE GIVEN ON THE TABLE TENNIS INFORMATION LINE 0891 664300

*(Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times)*

### **WILTSHIRE 5 STAR OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

*15th and 16th FEBRUARY 1992*

*(Saturday and Sunday)*

Play commences at 09.00 hours both days  
LINK CENTRE, WHITEHALL WAY,  
WESTLEA, SWINDON, WILTS. TEL: 871212  
*Organiser: W. Willson 0793 536498*

### **BARCLAYS BANK ESSEX 5 STAR TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

*28th and 29th MARCH 1992*

at the

BRENTWOOD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
BRENTWOOD, ESSEX. TEL: 0277 215151

*Organiser: R. Roffe, 54 Curtis Road, Emerson Park,  
Hornchurch, Essex.*

*Last date for receipt of entries: 12th February 1992*

**TOTAL PRIZE FUND: £3,300**

### **WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE**

*29th FEBRUARY and 1st MARCH 1992*

at the

CRYSTAL LEISURE CENTRE  
STOURBRIDGE

*Further details from: ETTA Office*

*Tel: 0424 722525*

### **BUTTERFLY YORKSHIRE OPEN 2 STAR SINGLES TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 1992*

HUDDERSFIELD SPORTS CENTRE

Tel: 0484 535231

*Organiser: Rea Balmford 0482 821279*

### **CITY OF DERBY SELECT 2 STAR JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*14th and 15th MARCH 1992 (Sat & Sun)*

at the

MOORWAYS SPORTS CENTRE, DERBY

*Organiser: Mr. R.D. Collins, 11 Steeple Close,  
Oakwood, Derby. DE2 2DE Tel: 0332 833164*

*Last date for receipt of entries: Sat 8th February 1992*

### **ESSEX 2 STAR JUNIOR SELECT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*29th FEBRUARY and 1st MARCH 1992*

at the

HARLOW SPORTS CENTRE, HARLOW, ESSEX.

TEL: 0279 635100

*Organiser: B. Granger, 14 Galsworth Avenue, Romford, Essex. 081-590 0653*

*Last date for receipt of entries: 3rd February 1992*

### **MEN'S JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

**1st DIVISION FINAL (2nd Leg)**

### **ENGLAND v AUSTRIA**

Date and Venue to be advised

*Full details will be given on the Table Tennis  
Information Line as soon as possible*

Tel: 0891 664300 (calls cost 36p per minute  
cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times)

### **IF THEY DON'T KNOW, THEY WON'T GO!**

Would organisers of any event who would like to have details of their event included in this section of Table Tennis News please send details to Forthcoming Events, Table Tennis News, c/o ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

It is also useful if you could send us a copy of the entry form - it helps us to help you by being 'on the ball' when asked questions about your events.....many thanks!