



Table Tennis News

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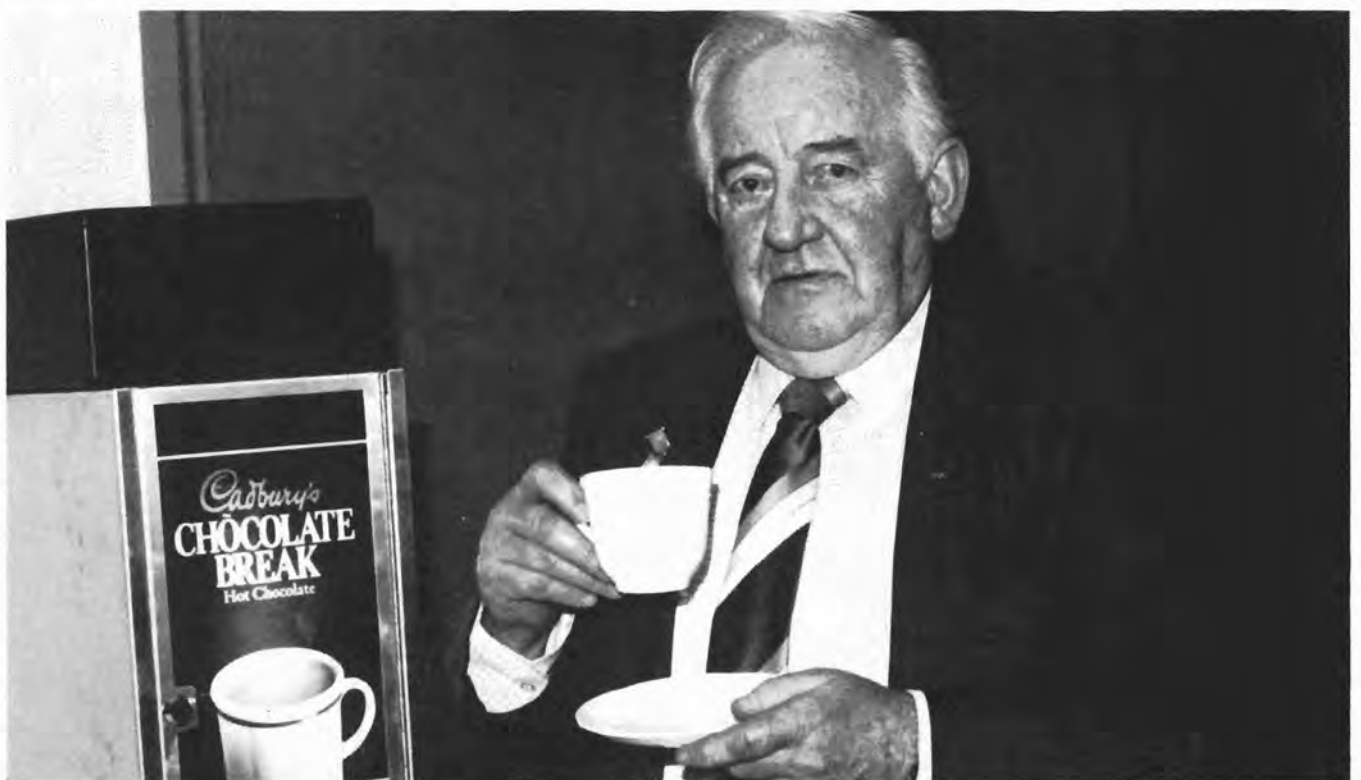
Premier Trophy winners
play on premier tables

Jaques

Memories of the English Open



Three local Birmingham school-children, Emma Wiseman, Liane Graham and Jonathan Reynolds meet the ETTA Chief Executive Elaine Shaw, on the ETTA Development stand



President of the Irish Table Tennis Association, Eddie Limberg, enjoys a cup of Cadbury's Chocolate Break



TABLE TENNIS NEWS
March 1992
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The English Table Tennis
Association

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Front cover: Devon's jubilant County team, who won this season's Premier Division title at St. Neots. (Picture by John F.A. Wood)

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NEXT ISSUE

- * Feature on Milton Keynes' new centre
- * Report on the English National Championships

Editor's Note

GREAT news! Matthew Syed, Lisa Lomas and Alison Gordon, will be joining Carl Prean in Barcelona this Summer for the Olympics Games, following their singles successes in Bolzano (see Alan Ransome's 'Chairman's Report', page 5, for further details).

Sadly, Chen Xinhua will not be joining them due to China's objection.

Why not come and see our Olympic competitors in action at the English National Championships at the Oldham Sports Centre, in Lancashire, on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th March 1992.

This issue also reports the great news for Devon, with their Senior team winning the Premier Division title for the first time in their history. See County Championships, page 14. I expect the cider is still flowing.

On pages 22 and 23 Table Tennis News features the official opening of Grantham's new purpose built centre.

This is truly a fabulous arena, probably the best of its kind in the country. Built, mainly, due to the generosity of the South Kesteven District Council.

I would like to personally welcome Rea Balmford as the new English Schools Table Tennis Association correspondent, and thank Joe Walk for his past, albeit brief, efforts on behalf of English Schools, in Table Tennis News.

Whilst Chris Oldfield and George Yates are recovering, I sadly have to report that Mike Watts has been admitted to Southend General Hospital, on Thursday morning the 20th February 1992, suffering with chest pains.

At the time of going to press Mike was still being monitored, but was stable.

On behalf of Table Tennis News, I wish Mike a speedy recovery.

John F.A. Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1992

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1st April 1992
(Copy date 1st March)
MAY/JUNE
1st June 1992
(Copy date 30th April)

Milton Keynes new centre

MILTON KEYNES new purpose-built table tennis centre, which is part of a huge Tesco shopping and sporting development, in the heart of the City of Milton Keynes, was officially visited in February by Mike Lewis, the ETTA Vice-Chairman (Development).

New Development Officers

Under the ETTA Sports Council Focus Sport programme, the first two full-time Regional Table Tennis Development Officers have been appointed.

Colin Wilson - Greater London and Ray Burch - Yorkshire/Humberside have already commenced their duties. More details in next month's issue.



(Left to right) ETTA Vice-Chairman (Development) Mike Lewis, Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre Managing Director Bill Clark and Milton Keynes Borough Council Recreation Manager David Hildreth

Jackie Bellinger

TABLE TENNIS SERVICES

Ex-England International & National Table Tennis Coach

ELITE TRAINING CAMP

I am pleased to invite you on the Elite Training Camps. These camps have been approved by the ETTA, and the aim of them is to give promising young players the opportunity of an intensive 3 days coaching with some of England's leading coaches and players. Players parents and coaches are welcome to attend.

FURTHER DETAILS

Dates	Fri 24th-Sun 26th April; arrive 6pm depart 4pm
Venue	The National Badminton Centre, Loughton, Central Milton Keynes. This is a superb totally self contained complex with a large sports hall, accommodation, dining room and lecture rooms. It is ideally situated with many other leisure facilities close by.
Meals	All meals are included and will be at the centre and are prepared by a qualified caterer.
Coaching	Play will commence on Friday evening and players will receive a total of 11 hours coaching. With only small numbers on the course close individual attention is guaranteed.
Coaches	for the courses will be 24th-26th April Jackie Bellinger plus another England Snr Player/Coach 29th-31st May Jackie Bellinger Masahiro Machara Current Japanese Snr Coach.
Other Activities	include a lecture on match preparation, Saturday evening visit to the cinema.
Price	£55 each course, inclusive of all meals, accommodation, and coaching. An excellent 3 days coaching at a superb venue.

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Don't throw your votes away

THE CONSTITUTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE (GENERAL) SECRETARY

(required reading for County and League Chairmen and Secretaries).

ALL official communications are sent to the (General) Secretary of a County Association or Local League. It is therefore essential that the ETTA and County Association have on record the name and address of each Local League's current (General) Secretary, and that the ETTA has on record the name and address of each County Association's current (General) Secretary, and that any change is notified STRAIGHT AWAY.

Your organisation must never be without someone fulfilling the functions of (General) Secretary. If there is a vacancy in the Office, somebody must be designated as "acting"

General Secretary and his or her name and address sent to the ETTA and County Association STRAIGHT AWAY.

Not only communications are affected. VOTING RIGHTS may be LOST by not appointing an acting General Secretary. Ballot Papers are sent to whoever is on record as being the (General) Secretary and certain documents, including Ballot Papers and General Meeting Voting Cards, must under ETTA Rules be signed by the (General) Secretary of the organisation - nobody else will do. This includes an "acting" one, provided that the ETTA has been notified.

CHAIRMEN, make sure that a notification is sent STRAIGHT AWAY when appropriate (tomorrow may be too late) - DO NOT LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Tony Wickens
Returning Officer

Success in Bolzano

THE highlight this month has been the success of most of our players representing the British Olympic Association in the European Olympic Qualification tournament in Bolzano, Italy, for places in Barcelona.

Out of our five nominations, three, Matthew Syed, Lisa Lomas and Alison Gordon, will play in Barcelona in the singles, whilst Andrea Holt will be the fourth reserve.

In the Men's event, Matthew Syed's performance was magnificent. Matthew won his first eight matches, which included victories over Stefan Fetzner of Germany, Philippe Saive of Belgium and Zsolt Harczy of Hungary. Matthew fully deserved all of his victories and his place for the Olympic Games.

Our girls also provided some magnificent performances. Lisa Lomas was at her absolute best. Being top seed in her group Lisa won her first three matches easily and then went on to win her second group which included victories over Fliura Bulatova, now of Italy, Jasna Fazlic of Yugoslavia and Gerdie Keene of the Netherlands, to qualify. In the section for the top eight, Lisa went further by beating Alessia Arisi of Italy, Elena Timina of C.I.S. before losing 23-21 in the 5th game to Bulatova in the expedite final.

Alison Gordon also produced some of her best table tennis ever. Alison qualified for the 9 - 16 section, which culminated in a sudden death match against former European Champion, Valentina Popova of the C.I.S. A win would give Alison qualification, defeat the opportunity to play off only for reserve places. In one of the most electric matches that I have ever seen, Alison lost six match points in the fourth game after a brilliant recovery by Popova, but she then saved four match points in the decider to win 22-20 in the fifth game!

Our one casualty in Bolzano was Alan Cooke who was expected to qualify but by losing his first two matches to Robert Smrekar of Slovenia and his bogeyman, Qian Qianli of Austria, did not qualify. Due to a club match in Sweden two days earlier, Alan did not have the same amount of preparation time as the rest of the GB team and this may have made a difference.



Alan Ransome

Andrea Holt came close to qualifying but in the end had to be satisfied with 4th reserve place. She did very well to beat Asa Svensson of Sweden and finished in fourth position in the second stage group. Andrea then had to play English Open Champion, Mirjam Hooman of the Netherlands for a place in Barcelona and found Mirjam in the same good form that she showed in Birmingham.

Overall the preparations for Bolzano was very good. With assistance from the British Olympic Association and the Sports Council, Donald Parker was able to engage a coach for each player as well as a physiotherapist and Sean Gibson as a sparring partner. One of the coaches was Desmond Douglas who helped Matthew Syed to qualify and this could be a role that we see Desmond in more often in the future, as well as being an excellent practice partner for both the senior and junior teams at the training camps. It is good that we were able to take advantage of Desmond's talent and great experience to the benefit of our current and future players.

The results in Bolzano gives us a total of four players out of a maximum of six through to Barcelona, with Carl Preat an automatic entry due to his World Ranking. Chen Xinhua was deemed ineligible by the I.T.T.F. because the Chinese Olympic Commit-

tee refused to give their permission for him to play.

The Doubles Qualification Tournament takes place in Gdansk, Poland at the end of February. We have three pairs participating, Carl Preat and Alan Cooke in the Men's Doubles, Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt and Alison Gordon and Fiona Elliot in the Women's Doubles.

The British Olympic Association and the Sports Council have invested in our preparation training and in Bolzano we repaid that investment with interest. Of course, the biggest test will be Barcelona in July.

The big events in March are, of course, the two leg final of the Joola European League against Austria and the National Championships, supported by Manchester 2000, the British Olympics bid, at Oldham on 7/8th March.

The first leg of the match against Austria will be played in Salzburg on 14th March, and the second leg at home on Friday, 20th March in Hull. Austria have a strong all-round team with two Chinese, Ding Yi, Qian Qianli, plus top defender Dietmar Palini and the up and coming star who did so well against England at Ipswich, Werner Schlager. With Carl Preat, Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed and Skylet Andrew all available, Donald Parker has a very strong squad to select from. Our chances are good, but victory is by no means certain and good support in Hull will be a prerequisite to success.

With the entry of all of our top players, our National Championships at Oldham on 7/8th March have all the makings of a first class event. Several players have a chance of winning the Men's Singles, including Carl Preat, Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua, Desmond Douglas, Matthew Syed and Skylet Andrew, whilst the Women's Singles could be won by any of our leading four players, Lisa Lomas, Andrew Holt, Alison Gordon or Fiona Elliot.

The Referee, Doug Young, has carefully scheduled the tournament to give maximum spectator appeal for the supporters and suitable rest periods for the players. Good matches can be seen from 3pm until 7.30pm on Saturday and from 11.30am through to the finals that commence at 5pm on Sunday.

As well as paying close attention to our senior teams performance, special efforts are being made to give our juniors and cadets every assistance to improve their performance and build up towards the European Youth Championships which are to be played in Topolcanny, Czechoslovakia in July. A programme has been devised which gives our players far more international opportunities for experience than at any time that I can remember in the recent past. This includes a tour in May by the Japanese Junior team for the English Junior Open at Bridlington, two internationals and a round robin tournament. The German national team will participate in both the training camp and the round robin tournament.

The cadets will participate in the Six Nation tournament in Germany in June and the juniors will play in both the Czech and Hungarian Junior Opens. A series of training camps are being planned and this season each of the four squads, junior boys, junior girls,

cadet boys and cadet girls have a single coach/captain, Donald and Jill Parker, Martin Bawden and Jenny Heaton, responsible for their preparation and performance. Over the last couple of years our junior performances have only been moderate. The programme is intended to give our players the opportunity to improve and restore our prestige in Europe in the junior field, as well as provide a strong future senior squad.

The Focus Sport programme continues to make progress. The first two Development Officers, Colin Wilson in London and Ray Burch in Yorkshire and Humberside, started work on 1st February. Negotiations are proceeding with the other eight Sports Council Regions and all development plans should be in place before the end of this year.

Progress is also being made with the appointment of Regional Staff coaches. The finance for this programme will not be as straightforward

as for the Development Officers as, in the eyes of the Sports Council, it does not have the same high priority, but nevertheless we are anxious to establish the coaches, commence their training and create the work for them at the earliest possible date. This programme is being managed by our National Coaching Manager, Jill Parker from whom all information can be obtained.

Following the success of Birmingham, we are looking into the possibility of staging the European Championships in England in 1994. The option to run this championship will be returned by the Yugoslav Association as its venue, Zagreb, is no longer under their jurisdiction. In excess of a million pounds will be required to run the event and we are doing our best to raise that funding in advance of this years European Championships in Stuttgart when the E.T.T.U. Congress will have to decide the 1994 venue for two years time.

Halex hail Champions of the future



NATIONAL age group championships form the backbone of the ETTA Junior events programme as Spring and Summer approach. Halex will, for the second year, sponsor five age group championships, namely Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 18 and Under 21 and their support in encouraging the junior game is warmly welcomed.

Competition begins in the north when Bridlington hosts the Halex National Under 18 Championships on Sunday 3rd May, immediately followed by the Halex National Under 21 Championships on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May.

Both these events were introduced into the calendar for the first time in 1991 and attracted a high quality entry with the current English Senior Women's Champion,

by
Elaine Shaw

Andrea Holt picking up the Under 21 Women's Singles title.

Bridlington has again been selected as the venue and players will be pleased to see progress has been made in the three main areas of teething problems with the introductory event. Firstly a prize fund of over £1,000 will be available this year, so making an additional incentive for success. The other added incentive for victory is the introduction of ranking points in the Halex National Ranking Scheme. Finally, the timing at the end of June last year

proved problematic for many players, hence the use of the May Day bank holiday weekend for the 1992 event.

The following weekend, i.e. Sunday 10th May, the Under 11's get their opportunity to show themselves as the stars of the future in the Halex Under 11 Championships. The prestigious new table tennis centre in Grantham opened by Johnny Leach MBE in January will play host to this event.

The remaining events, the Halex Under 10 and Halex Under 12 Championships will take place in the South Midlands at Bletchley Leisure

Centre, Milton Keynes, on 13th and 14th June.

Mr. Merrick Wolman, Managing Director of Halex commented "Halex are delighted to be supporting Junior Table Tennis again. With the re-launch of the Halex brand we hope to bring further success to this country. I am sure most parents will remember when Halex and England led the world in Table Tennis."

Organisation has already started on each of these events in the effort to make them the biggest and best ever.

Young people considering entering any of these tournaments are invited to ring for further information and entry forms from the ETTA Office, Tel: 0424 722525.

Sweden crash out

ONCE AGAIN Sweden were top-seeded as Swaythling Cup holders to win the second European Nations Cup, again at the plush Rudi Sedlmayer Halls in Munich, again run beautifully by Germany and again Sweden crashed out.

It all happened during the three days January 10, 11, 12, when in my view it was re-confirmed that the fairly old Masters - Jan-Ove Waldner, Mikael Appelgren and world champion Jorgen Persson - are finally running out of steam and are gradually being replaced by the new generation of super-stars - Jean-Philippe Gatien and Jean-Michel Saive are the leaders in this group.

Others are very close to the fringes - Carl Prean, Peter Franz and there are others. Zoran Primorac, now with Croatia, does not appear to have a strong enough team to play with him. The two top players in Munich, the pair with the most wins, were Jorg Rosskopf and Gatien.

**JOHN WOODFORD
REPORTS FROM
MUNICH**

We saw the Swedes beaten in Barcelona at the World Team Cup, we saw them beaten again 3-1 by France - Patrick Chila beat Waldner 17, 13 - in Munich, so whether they can hold onto the Swaythling Cup in Gothenburg a year and a bit from now is a matter of intense speculation.

However, after failing to qualify last year despite beating Hungary and the Soviet Union, England put on a sterling performance to win £6,000 of the £50,000 on offer as prize money and reach the semi-finals after capsizing arch-rivals Belgium 3-2 and Czechoslovakia for the third time in three weeks.

Casting aside memories of losing the first clash to the USSR last year, England went ahead in the opening match as Carl Prean defiantly set about the downfall of the explosive-tempered Thierry Cabrera 13, 17.

During that game the volcanic Belgium was shown the yellow card by the umpire. Later, as he lost the decider to



Action shots of Jorg Rosskopf (top), Jean Philippe Gatien (middle) and Stefan Fetzner

Chen Xinhua, I was mystified how the red card stayed in the umpire's pocket as Cabrera verbally castigated himself for making errors, four-letter words included.

But, things then went the Belgian's way as Jean-Philippe Saive defeated Chen 16, 18 and Belgium followed up with a doubles victory over Prean-Cooke to take an ominous 2-1 lead. Prean lived up to his higher European ranking at No.11 with a gem of a win over Jean-Michel Saive 21, 17 to level the scores at 2-2. With Cabrera of the massive thighs, ear-ring and shock of long black curly hair, pitted against an uncertain looking Chen, it seemed to be anyone's match, especially when the England squad player with the newest British passport lost the first 19.

But Chen, managed to buckle down to his task as Cabrera gradually went downhill cursing all the way, to lose 11, 7.

Nerves of steel seem unknown in the Belgian team - Saive had a fidgety photographer removed from the court! But at least due to fine play by Prean, Chen and Alan Cooke, the proud Belgians (Saive is now No.5 in Europe) were on their way out.

The next morning did not dawn bright and clear - snow threatened and about 5 inches fell during the two final days of the tournament, but fortunately it did not freeze too hard (Munich is not far from the Alps), and the fleet of Opel Senators that whisked players and officials round the ancient city, were still able to move with care.

England saw only Czechoslovakia between them and the semi-finals. The Czechs have never been at ease against the mixture of back-spin and top-spin employed by Chen and he accordingly won the first game 13, 15 against Petr Korbel.

Carl Prean similarly, is not relaxed against Roland Vimi after losing to him once in Chiba and then getting his revenge, but this time Carl kept his grip neatly to win 17, -16, 16, whilst Cooke joined Prean in the doubles and once again the England pair triumphed 15, 19 to give England their place in the last four and the cheque for

EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP - 2

around £6,000.

The second day evening match against Sweden was something of an anti-climax as both teams were through. Alan Cooke was brought into the singles fray whilst Chen was rested. Twice the hard-hitting looper from Derbyshire got to "deuce", once against Persson and once in the doubles, but just lost. Carl Prean maintained his surge of success with a smart win over Mikael Appelgren, still the European champion 12, 14.

The Crunch

Germany seem almost unbeatable in this tournament on their own territory. With something like 4,000 fans urging them forward they certainly provide a most formidable barrier for any other team in Europe, at least in this stadium.

But having said that, Prean was quickly on court, providing all sorts of problems for Jorg Roskopf who lost the first game, winning only eight points, but slowly Roskopf weighed up and coped more often with the Prean onslaught which quickened in pace.

Prean was 17-15 up in the third game, but finally lost 20-

22. Alan Cooke, who seems to specialise in beating Germans - after beating Roskopf and Franz at Birmingham - found an improving Stefan Fetzner just a fraction too speedy.

Finally, in the doubles, England took the first game with Prean and Cooke looking impressive against such illustrious opponents as Roskopf and Fetzner, but again they could not hang on to the advantage and lost -17, -13.

It was the end of a fine England run. Don Parker said "It was a pleasing team effort. To get to the semi-finals is I think a fine achievement we can be proud of."

The Final

France and Germany clashed in the final which continued for well over three hours with Germany winning a memorable battle 3-2. Patrick Chila is another young player making progress. Although he lost both his matches to Roskopf and Fetzner, there is no doubt he is providing excellent support for Jean-Philippe Gatien who provided both French wins over Roskopf and Fetzner.

With the score a 2-2, it was Fetzner who provided the final thrills as he won the first 15 against Chila but was many points adrift in the middle of the second game. "Speedy" Fetzner, bounced back to 20-20 and got home 23-21 that provided pandemonium as the fans expressed their delight at a memorable home victory.

Facilities

The arrangements for the tournament were excellent, the presentation up to the usual high German standards with two professional-sounding "baritone" MCs. The hotels were several miles from the venue - that needed a fleet of Opels, especially when the snow was deep and crisp and even.

A restaurant another two miles distant was the setting for the farewell party where the cheque presentations were made. A fine, well-organised evening of wine, beer, food and laughter, although being an all-male tournament well short of female company, although one of the glamorous young German hostesses was Cindy Scholer, daughter of Diane and Ebbly Scholer"

ENGLAND RESULTS:

ENGLAND 3 BELGIUM 2
C. Prean b T. Cabrera 13, 17
Chen Xinhua l J. Saive -16, -18
Prean-Cooke l Saive-Cabrera 18, -19, -15
Prean b Saive 21, 17
Chen b Cabreara -19, 11, 7

ENGLAND 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0
Chen Xinhua b P. Korbel 13, 15
C. Prean b R. Vimi 17, -16, 16
Prean-Cooke b Korbel-T. Janci 15, 19

ENGLAND 1 SWEDEN 3
A. Cooke l J. Persson -21, -12
C. Prean b M. Appelgren 12, 14
Prean-Cooke l Appelgren-J. Waldner -16, -20
Prean l Persson -11, -17

SEMI-FINALS:

ENGLAND 0 GERMANY 3
C. Prean l J. Roskopf 8, -19, -20
A. Cooke l S. Fetzner -19, -16
Prean-Cooke l Roskopf-Fetzner 14, -17, -13



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Boy player of the day

BOY player of the day Vincent Avery from Essex, who was the No.2 seed, beat the all England ranked No.1 Cadet Stephen Meddings from Warwick in impressive form, both of these lads then joined forces to win the Under 14 Doubles event.

Played at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, over the weekend the above National Junior Tournament which was OPEN to youngsters from all over the Country, celebrated its 25th Jubilee year in great style, and with an overall entry of over 300 participants.

Played on 16 tables in the large main hall the first days play centred around the Under 12's and U14 Cadet Players, which featured six events, it was mainly a day of triumph for players from outside Gloucestershire, as no local player, even made it past the preliminary groups.

The second days play featured four events, the girls U17 Singles and U17 Doubles, and the boys events likewise. Of the four titles that were up for grabs most local (Glo'shire), players were soon dispensed with - with the exception of Jeremy Hyatt the No.8 seed who fought his way successfully right through the groups, but unfortunately lost in the following early rounds - but "Nil Desparandum", there was still one Gloucester 16 year old lad left in, that was Raymond Powell, ranked at No.5 in England (as a Junior), and seeded No.4 Ray played with great authority all through the Tournament and actually made the Semi-Final where he lost to the eventual winner Eddie Hatley from Frimley in Surrey. Powell however, in partnership with Barry Forster from Northumberland got to the Final of



Vincent Avery

the U17's Boys Doubles, where they were beaten 22-20, 16-21, 17-21, by Chris Sladden and Darren Blake.

In full recognition of Powell's performance, he was awarded "The Len Huff" annual trophy for the best local player in the Tournament, an honour that he has won once before.

COMMENT UPON PLAY OF THE DAY

Both respective Boy and Girl Under 17 singles winners namely Sally Marling and Edward Hatley managed to retain the titles that they won here in Gloucester at last years Cotswold Junior, and indeed - are to be congratulated.

The Tournament was well publicised by the presence of Central I.T.V. South on the second day, and BBC Radio Gloucestershire South and West on both days, with professional broadcaster Pete Wilson joining forces with myself on the afternoon of the first days play, to keep a regular half hourly commentary between 2 and 6pm going live to the Saturday sports prog all afternoon, I think we combined somewhere around 50 minutes of reporting.

Finally - I must pay homage to the back room boys and girls whom in many Tournaments seldom if ever, get a word of praise. That is not the case in this Championship - for without

the head Organiser, Mr. Jack Reeves, Chief Referee, Mr. Leslie Smith and his two stalwart helpers, Tim Harris and Dave Nipper, plus the Tournament General Secretary, David Dean, so often playing the role of the Scarlet Pimpernel - popping in here - popping in there and sorting out everybodys problems and many other voluntary workers, in context of Umpires, Stewards etc, some giving up their entire weekend, this Tournament would just not get off the ground.

Thank you all, and of course not forgetting the players and parents for coming.

FINALISTS:

BOYS SINGLES U12:

Christian Thompson (K) beat Ali Subhan (BK) 20-22, 21-12, 22-20

GIRLS SINGLES U12:

Debbie Petska (NG) beat Tracy Davies (E) 18-21, 21-18, 21-16

BOYS DOUBLES U14:

Vincent Avery (E) and Stephen Meddings (WA) beat Owen and Simon Thomas (GN) 21-14, 21-13

GIRLS DOUBLES U14:

Shelly Ruocco (E) and Glenda Ashinson (SY) beat Crystal Hall (K) and Joanne Barham (K) 21-7, 21-15

BOYS SINGLES U14:

Vincent Avery (E) beat Stephen Meddings (WA) 21-13, 21-9

GIRLS SINGLES U14:

Shelly Ruocco (E) beat Joanna Bush-Harris (SX) 21-12, 21-17

BOYS U17 DOUBLES:

Chris Sladden (E) and Darren Blake (SY) beat Ray Powell (GS) and Barry Forster (ND) 20-22, 21-16, 21-17

GIRLS U17 DOUBLES:

Kate Goodall (Y) and Caroline Bentley (Y) beat Sally Marling (Y) and Tracey Garrett (SP) 21-15, 21-17

GIRLS U17 SINGLES:

Sally Marling (Y) holder beat Kate Goodall (Y) 21-16, 21-13

BOYS U17 SINGLES:

Eddie Hatley (SY) holder beat Alex Perry (DV) 18-21, 21-13, 21-19

St. Neots first point

CONFEDERATION LIFE St. Neots held Ellenborough I to a 7-7 draw to start off 1992 and provide the only draw of the season in the Premier. Ellenborough took a 3-0 lead only to see St. Neots take two doubles victories to level the match at 3-3. Keith Richardson later put St. Neots 5-4 ahead with a 16 and 17 win over Grant Solder. On his premier debut John Taylor gained Man of the Match for beating Mick Harper at 19 in the third and for just losing to Steve Moore 17, -15, -23. Team Peniel, in the absence of Matthew Syed, beat Yugo Cars 8-4. Andrew Eden started with wins against Denis Neal, Dave Gannon and Carl Morgan. When NFD Grove I beat Bathwick Tyres I by 8-1 it was Kevin Satchell nominated Man of the Match for a fine doubles performance. In partnership with Paul Lewis he beat Jonathan Taylor and Des Douglas.

DML White Hart Launceston just held on to second place in **Division 1 South** by a draw with Horsham Dolphins. Ritchie Venner chalked up two useful wins against Mike Short and Paul Whiting. Surrey's Mike Hammond lost to Steve Slater -20, -19 and beat Malcolm Green 19 and 18 for Larkhall's sole win against NFD Grove III. Garry Knights beat Brian Garroway and Dave Harding. Victoria Park Mazda were unlucky not to take points from Bathwick Tyres II. They lost 3-5 including two losses at deuce in the third. Andy Creed survived deuce games against Tony Healan and Jeff Morgan. Colley Toyota stayed on top with a convincing 7-1 win over Ellenborough II. John Dennison beat Dave Barr for consolation.



Keith Richardson (top) and John Taylor

Mayur Majithia made short work of Elaine Short and Steve Giles as Horsham Dolphins overcame DML White Hart Launceston II 7-1. Edison stayed on top of **Division 2 South West** with a 6-2 defeat of Amity Generation 2 Fareham. Ramesh Bhalla threatened David Goode's record but lost -12, 18, -20. Cheltenham Saracens collected their easiest two points of the season winning 7-1 at home to Gunnersbury Triangle. Chris Boothby beat Darren Griffin to prevent a whitewash. Kleinwort Benson Gillingham remained in contention with a 5-3 defeat of Colley Toyota II. Mark Brown put the Kent side 5-1 ahead with wins over David Buck and Jeremy Hobbs.

Linda Farrow introduced Costas Papantoniou at No.3 to punish Rejects II 7-1 in **Division 3 South**. Jason Blake beat Paul Jablon for some consolation while veteran Trevor Campbell bagged a duck at No.4 for Rejects. JAGS marched on with a whitewash of NFD Grove IV with Derek Holman at the helm. Ashford (Midx.) beat White Hart Launceston 5-3 as Sean Homer chalked up two wins against Martin Rowe and Adrian Vincent. In **Division 3 Midland** Ashford (Kent) lost 2-6 to OLOPS in a match that was closer than the score suggests. Four games went to three with OLOPS winning three of them, with two of these going to David Reeves who beat Phil Saxby and Justin Goodall. Larkhall II were crushed 7-1 by Thorns, the one being the closest with Steve Davis taking consolation in beating Ken Walton 22, -14, 19. Julian Wootton beat Tom Adams and Surrey's Richard Tanner. Compliments came from Sandra Roden who said it was a pleasant match to umpire with all games played in a sporting manner. Tony Isaacs led Chan Construction II to a 7-1 win over Bathwick Tyres. Lindon Douglas looked convincing. Hugh Dalton beat Andrew Hare to prevent a whitewash.

Up in **Division 3 North** Uxbridge Burton were entertaining away to Lifeline Developments Crusaders. Peter Furneaux started for the visitors, helping them to a 6-2 victory. He did not have things all his own way as he beat Andy Wignall -17, 15, 14 and rod Oglesby -11, 21, 20. John Hope battled his way to two third-game victories, helping Vymura International II to beat Stephens NYSD II 5-3. John Crawford resisted with two wins, but the only other came from Darren Lindley. Borough of Sunderland won 5-3 away to Kingshurst Bribar, thanks in part to an impressive performance from Tony Gelder. Bribar trailed 1-4 before pulling back to 3-4, but then losing the last as Stuart Taylor fell to Lynne Yarnell. David Fewsdale won two for Ormesby against Vale Royal Warrington but Vale won the other six. Terry Turner did well to beat Andrew Wilkinson and Steve Brunskill.

Cockburn's Special

Norwich Foxwood picked themselves up with a 6-2 win against relegation rivals Ruston Marconi Lincoln in **Division 1 North**. Jonathan Cockburn did well to beat Richard Tilford and Dave Skerratt. It was Darren Howarth who recorded Vymura International's only win, against a strong NFD Grove II, at the expense of Nigel Eckersley. Well Connected Menswear now hold second place with a whitewash of Liverpool led by Andy Withers. Leckie jumped up Division 2 South East with a 5-3 win over Pillinger Air Croydon. Adrian Thorp was in form with wins over Henry Buist and Phil Cox. Tony Clayton beat bottom-placed Jolliffe Poole to a draw against Fellows Cranleigh. From 1-3 down the Dorset side pulled back to lead 4-3 before sharing the points. City of Milton Keynes fought off a challenge from BSG Brentwood I. Richard Hyacinth gave them the edge with victories against David Cole and Stephen Rand.

Shock for Thomas

For VRS Fareham Nigel Thomas cruised to victory over Jerome Jonah. However Rejects' Paul Carter must have given him a shock as he was narrowly defeated. This gave Rejects the edge and two much needed points. Further up the country in **Division 2 North** City of Leeds salvaged a point from Yugo Cars II. Richard Smith took a maximum at the expense of Paul Spittlehouse and Lee Hewitt. Stephens NYSD took no chances with Burslem and won all but one game two-straight as Wayne Percival took the first end from Malcolm Corking. Chan Construction dropped a point to Borough of Sunderland as Ian Collier comfortably beat Pete Machin and Lester Bertie. Leicester turned out only two registered players against Bribar Humberside and lost 3-5. Mark Illingsworth beat Gareth Jones and Sally Marling in straight games.

Devon win premier title

THE final series of the Senior Premier Division matches, at St. Neots T.T.C., brought some topsy turvy results, excitement and tension! The championships and relegation issues were not decided until the very last match!

In the final round Devon had to beat Sussex to take the title. After a four and a half hour struggle the Devonians got a 6-4 win and took the title! At a crucial stage Paul Whiting (Dv) beat Adrian Moore 27 and 20! This defeat for Sussex meant they are for relegation. In their last match Middlesex met Lancs and a draw would have made them the Champions. However a disastrous start took them 4-nil down. Middlesex, who did not have the services of John Souter and Lesley Keast, fought back but lost 4-6 and were pushed into 3rd place.

Devon started with a drawn match against Yorkshire. They fought well to come back from 3-5 down to get what proved to be an absolutely vital point. At this stage Carol Giles (Dv) made a great effort to beat Sally Marling 19 and 20. Sue Buddell (Dv) had previously beaten Joanna Roberts at 21 in the 3rd game. Devon later lost to Middlesex and could have felt their chance had gone. But both Lancashire and Yorkshire beat Middlesex. Lancashire was the star team of the final series. They made a great bid to retain the Championship winning all 4 matches, including defeats of Yorkshire and, of course, Middlesex. But starting 3 points down from the first series proved just too much and they finished as runners-up. The Yorkshire team had a big impact on the Championship. They had a win over Middlesex but drew with Devon, for whom Carol Giles won both her matches.

At the other end of the table Berkshire and Surrey played well to move away from the relegation zone. Surrey beat Bedfordshire and Sussex, drew with Berkshire and finished in 5th place. Berkshire also beat Bedfordshire and they drew with Sussex and Surrey. Against Surrey David Barr had a great win over Nicky Mason. In the Sussex match Berkshire won 2 events at deuce in the 3rd game. By such efforts Berkshire survived! Bedfordshire, after a meteoric rise from Division 2, did not get a point and are for relegation. Looking at individual performances Sean Gibson and Andrew Eden (La) were the stars winning all their 8 matches - and only lost once in the Premier programme. Carol Giles (Dv) and Sally Marling (Y) were the very successful ladies, who lost only once after getting 100% in the first series.

RESULTS

Bd	0	Mi	10	Sx	4	Sy	6
Sx	1	La	9	Mi	6	Dv	4
Sy	5	Bk	5	Bd	0	Bk	10
Y	5	Dv	5	Y	4	La	6
La	8	Bd	2	Sy	8	Bd	2
Dv	7	Sy	3	Bk	3	Y	7
Mi	4	J	6	La	6	Mi	4
Bk	5	Sx	5	Dv	6	Sx	4

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dv	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
La	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Mi	7	5	0	2	51	19	10
Y	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Sy	7	2	3	2	34	36	7
Bk	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Sx	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Bd	7	0	0	7	8	62	0

12 Senior 1A matches were played in Sheffield. Derbyshire look intent on returning to Premier Division with John Holland, Bradley



Devon's Carol Giles

Billington and Nicola Deaton in their team they convincingly won their 3 matches. Leicestershire, the other team relegated last season, did not fare so well losing to both Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Staffordshire won their 3 matches and also look strong contenders for Premier status. Jill Harris and Helen Lower won all their events. The Derbyshire/Staffordshire clash in April should decide the promotion issue.

RESULTS

Dy	7	Y2	3	Le	4	St	6
Wa	5	Sk	5	Nd	3	Dy	7
St	8	Sk	2	Sk	2	Dy	8
Dy	6	Le	4	Le	8	Wa	2
Nd	4	Le	6	Y2	2	Wa	8
St	9	Nd	1	Sk	7	Y2	3

In Senior 2A Leicestershire 2 slipped, when without Martin Illingworth and Maurice Newman (on Vets duty) they were beaten 6-4 by Cumbria, for whom Julie McLean and Joanne Burgess won their 4 events. Cheshire had a convincing 8-2 win over Warwickshire 2. Senior 2C Division had Hertfordshire and Essex 2 unbeaten. The teams met at Barnet T.T.C. in a vital match and Hertfordshire would have been well pleased with their 7-3 win. John Taylor and Emma Hurling (He) won their 4 events and Clive Carthy (E) suffered his first defeats of the season. Norfolk beat Suffolk 2nds 8-2.

Surrey 2 continued their winning ways in Senior 2D with a 7-3 win over Sussex 3. The teams at the bottom end of the table met and Oxfordshire improved their position with a 7-3 win over Dorset. Cheryl Creasey (Do) did well to win her 2 singles, including the 19 in 3rd defeat of Dawn Barnett.

Hertfordshire 3 had a 7-3 win over Huntingdonshire in Senior 3A. The 2 bottom of the table teams, who were without a point, met when Northamptonshire 2 visited Clwyd. Clwyd came back from 3-5 down to get a draw and share the points.

In Senior 3B unbeaten Gwent visited Fareham and recorded another win beating Hampshire 2nds 8-2. Dave Buck and Sian Evans (Gw) retained their 100% records.

Junior 1A Division continues to be dominated by Staffordshire. They beat rivals Northumberland, who were without Barry Forster, by a 9-1 margin. Michelle Martin (St) beat Joanne Donnelly at 24 in the 3rd game and Mathew Brown had a 19 in 3rd win over Andrew Wilkinson. Yorkshire 2 kept up their challenge by beating Northamptonshire 9-1. Durham got their first point when they drew with Derbyshire. Suffolk conceded their match at Clwyd.

In Junior 1B Essex 2, after inflicting a heavy defeat on nearest rivals Hertfordshire, then, perhaps being complacent, lost 4-6 to Glamorgan. However, in their last match they got back on course with a 9-1 win over Oxford. Hertfordshire had an 8-2 win over Devon 2 and, having played 1 more match than Essex, retain the lead. Kent won 6-4 against Surrey 2 and Glamorgan, on their visit to Gloucestershire, came away with an 8-2 win.

Staffordshire 2 lost their unbeaten record in Junior 2A when they visited Lancashire 2. Due to late arrival they had to concede 2 events and lost 4-6. Cheshire 2 improved their situation with a 6-4 win over Leicestershire. Nottinghamshire did not drop a game in applying the "whitewash" to Warwickshire 2.

Two 10-nil wins in Junior 2B. Essex 3 visited Ipswich and beat Suffolk 2. The Essex team has 4 wins and dropped only 4 events! Elizabeth Sibbald (E) beat Katie Green -15, 20, 20! Hertfordshire 2's comprehensive defeat of lowly Cambridgeshire was all in straight games.

In Junior 2D Sussex lost their unbeaten record when defeated 6-4 by Buckinghamshire, who take over the leadership. The Buckinghamshire boys Neil Bigrave, Ian Musk and Cuong Lieu won their 6 events. Surrey 3 got their first points with a 6-4 win over Middlesex 2. Berkshire 2, without a point, lost 4-6 to both Hampshire 1 and 2 teams. Against Hampshire 2 the Berkshire team was 4-5 down and lost the final event when Gareth Scaddan (Ha) beat Anthony Rotunno at 21 in the 3rd game.

Veterans Premier - Cheshire regain the Championship

The final series of matches was played at Ashford. The appearance of John Hilton, the No.1 Veteran, in the Cheshire team was the vital factor in their big to regain the Championship.

The crucial match was going to be the clash between Yorkshire, last season's champions, and Cheshire. It started with John Hilton beating Malcolm Corking at 19 in the 3rd game! Yorkshire came back and led 4-3 when Dennis Neale met John Hilton, who won 21 and 21! With the score 4-4 Roger Hampson (Ch) made no mistake by beating Derek Munt 11 and 12. Doreen Schofield played well to win her 2 events. Cheshire had previously beaten Surrey 7-2, in a hard fought match, and Essex 6-3. In their final match Cheshire met Kent, already doomed to relegation, and won 8-1, to secure the title. John Hilton beat Henry Buist -11, 22, 20 and, in his final event of the series, lost at 17 in the 3rd game to Clive Morris.

Convincing

Yorkshire had convincing wins over Sussex, Kent and Leicestershire and took the runners-up spot. Essex lost to Cheshire and, perhaps surprisingly, to Lincolnshire but again finished in 3rd place. Lincolnshire and Surrey both improved their situation with 3 wins apiece. Both teams had a fight on their hands and each had two 5-4 wins. Winning these vital matches dispersed any thoughts of relegation and took them into 4th and 5th places. The Sussex team was involved in three 5-4 results losing 2 of these matches but getting a vital win over Kent, when Robin Stace beat Paul Beck at 16 in the 3rd game. Leicestershire had bad luck to be relegated after their first season. Leicestershire lost all 4 matches, including two 5-4 defeats. Kent had not gained a point from the first series and had a difficult final programme having to meet Cheshire, Essex and Yorkshire and also suffer relegation.

Continued on Page 16

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

The best performance from the men came from John Hilton (Ch), and Malcolm Corking and Dennis Neale (Y), who each lost only 1 match. Doreen Schofield (Ch) won all her singles events, including a defeat of Lesley Radford (E) at 19 in the 3rd game. This gave her 100% over the whole programme. Eileen Shaler (Le) won the 3 singles events she played. Included in her "victims" was Beryl Voss (Li), which was her only loss - and that came at 21 in the 3rd game.

RESULTS

Y	8	Sx	1	K	4	Sx	5
E	8	K	1	Y	4	Ch	5
Sy	2	Ch	7	Sy	6	Li	3
Li	5	Le	4	E	6	Le	3
K	1	Y	8	Sx	4	Sy	5
Le	4	Sy	5	Li	6	E	3
Ch	6	E	3	Ch	8	K	1
Sx	4	Li	5	Le	3	Y	6

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ch	7	7	0	49	14	14
Y	7	6	1	45	18	12
E	7	4	3	36	27	8
Sy	7	4	3	29	34	8 (73-76)
Li	7	4	3	29	34	8 (67-79)
Sx	7	2	5	22	41	4
Le	7	1	6	27	36	2
K	7	0	7	15	48	0

In Vets 1A Northants, without a point, just failed to get off the mark against Norfolk. Keith Jones and Margaret Maltby (Np) were involved in 4 wins. But at 4-4 Tony Hipperson (Nk) beat Brian Dangerfield -12, 18, 12 to give Norfolk the win. Worcestershire beat Gloucestershire 6-3. There were some close matches despite all events decided 2 straight. Ray Dixon (Wo) beat Roy Morley 22 and 21. Yorkshire 2 just got home 5-4 at Oxford.

Wiltshire got two 5-4 wins in Vets 1B - one a vital defeat of previously unbeaten Berkshire. B. Powell (Wi) beat F. Herry at 19 in the 3rd game for the win. Earlier Bill Moulding (Wi) had beaten Wally Allanson -15, 20, 21! This keeps alive Wiltshire's hopes of immediate return to Premier Division. Wiltshire's other win was against Sussex 2. Middlesex did well to beat Essex 2nds 5-4 and Surrey 2, without a point, beat Sussex 2nds 8-1! Dorset had a maximum win over Kent 2. This leaves Berkshire, Dorset and Wiltshire level on 8 points. In Vets 2A Nottinghamshire did well, on their visit to Vymura International, to beat Cheshire 3rds 9-0. After 2 drawn matches Clwyd got a 5-4 win over Staffordshire. With the score 4-4 Philip Jones (Cw) beat John Taylor at 19 in the decider.

Warwickshire visited Norfolk for a Vets 2B match. The visitors got a 9-nil win, although 2 were achieved at 18 and 19 in deciding games.

The 2 unbeaten teams met in Vets 2C. It was Buckinghamshire who got a 5-4 win over Surrey 3. John Cooper (Bu) beat John Callcut 8, -22, 18 to seal the win. Dave Crowley won 3 events for Surrey. Oxon 2 beat lowly Sussex 3rds 6-3 and Middlesex 2 beat Kent 3rds 7-2. In Vets 2D Somerset continued their unbeaten run with a 6-3 win over Wiltshire 2 - but 2 of their wins were at 19 and 20 in 3rd games. Gloucestershire 2, without a point, put up a good fight against Avon. 6 events went to a decider and Avon got home 5-4. Dorset 2 did well to get a 5-4 win over Hampshire 1.

Top and bottom teams met in Vets 3A. Cambridgeshire went into a 6-nil lead and finished 7-2 up on Northants 3. Hertfordshire 2 beat Huntingdonshire 2nds 8-1 with just 1 event going to a decider.

In Vets 3B Herts continued unbeaten with a 9-nil win over Wiltshire 4. Bill Wilson (Wi) did his best to avoid the "whitewash" but finally lost to Terry Wilson -12, 18, -21! Bedfordshire 2 got their first points with a 6-3 win over Sussex 4.

Hampshire 2 march on in Vets 3C with an 8-1 win over Hertfordshire 5. Wiltshire 3 beat Somerset 2nds 7-2 and Berkshire 3, on their visit to Ledbury, beat Herefordshire 8-1. In the ladies singles event Pam Spooner (Bk) beat Margaret Newcombe 28 and 18.

League tables include all results received as at 14th February 1992

Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

Premier Div.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonshire	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Lancashire	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Middlesex	7	5	0	2	51	19	10
Yorkshire	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Surrey	7	2	3	2	34	36	7
Berkshire	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Sussex	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Bedfordshire	7	0	0	7	8	62	0

Division 1A

Staffordshire	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Derbyshire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Cambridgeshire	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Leicestershire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Warwickshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Suffolk	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Yorkshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Division 1B

Essex	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Avon	7	6	0	1	46	24	12
Sussex 2nd	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Buckinghamshire	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Devonshire 2nd	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Worcestershire	7	2	0	5	24	46	4
Wiltshire	7	0	0	7	17	53	0

Division 2A

Lancashire 2nd	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Cheshire	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Leicester 2nd	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Cumbria	4	2	0	2	16	24	4
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	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	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Worcester 2nd	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

Division 2C

Hertfordshire	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Essex 2nd	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Northampton	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Norfolk	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Cambridge 2nd	6	1	2	3	24	36	4
Suffolk 2nd	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

Division 2D

Surrey 2nd	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Hampshire	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Sussex 3rd	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Oxfordshire	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Dorset	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Division 3A

Nottinghamshire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Hertfordshire 3rd	5	3	1	1	35	15	7
Staffordshire 2nd	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Huntingdonshire	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Northampton 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Clwyd	4	0	1	3	5	35	1

Division 3B

Essex 3rd	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Gwent	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Kent	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Buckingham 2nd	6	1	2	3	27	33	4
Hampshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Cornwall 2nd	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

JUNIORS

Premier Div.	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 (44-23)
Essex	3	2	0	1	20	10	4 (42-23)
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

Division 1A

Staffordshire	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Yorkshire 2nd	6	4	2	0	43	17	10
Clwyd	6	4	1	1	39	22	9
Northumberland	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Derbyshire	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Durham	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Suffolk	6	1	0	5	15	45	2
Northampton	6	0	0	6	17	43	0

Division 1B

Hertfordshire	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Kent	7	3	3	1	38	32	9
Essex 2nd	6	4	0	2	42	18	8
Glamorgan	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Surrey 2nd	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Devonshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Gloucestershire	6	1	1	4	21	39	3
Oxfordshire	6	0	0	6	9	51	0

Division 2A

Cheshire 1st	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Nottinghamshire	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Staffordshire 2nd	6	4	0	2	34	26	8
Lancashire 2nd	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Cheshire 2nd	6	3	0	3	23	37	6
Derbyshire 2nd	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
Leicestershire	6	0	1	5	17	43	1 (49-94)
Warwickshire 2nd	6	0	1	5	17	43	1 (45-89)

Division 2B

Norfolk 1st	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Essex 3rd	6	5	0	1	48	12	10
Lincolnshire	6	3	1	2	33	27	7
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
Suffolk 2nd	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Norfolk 2nd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Cambridgeshire	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

Division 2C

Gwent	5	5	0	0	34	16	10
Cornwall	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Worcestershire	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Somerset	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Avon	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Wiltshire	6	1	1	4	23	37	3
Devonshire 3rd	5	0	1	4	10	40	1
Dorset	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

Division 2D

Buckingham	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Sussex 1st	6	5	0	1	50	10	10
Sussex 2nd	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Hampshire 1st	6	3	2	1	31	29	8
Middlesex 2nd	6	2	1	3	32	28	5
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Hampshire 2nd	6	2	0	4	16	44	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	14	46	0

VETERANS

Premier Div.	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	7	7	0	49	14	14
Yorkshire	7	6	1	45	18	12
Essex	7	4	3	36	27	8
Surrey	7	4	3	29	34	8 (73-76)
Lincolnshire	7	4	3	29	34	8 (67-79)
Sussex	7	2	5	22	41	4
Leicestershire	7	1	6	27	36	2
Kent	7	0	7	15	48	0

Division 1A

Lancashire	7	7	0	42	21	14
Worcestershire	6	4	2	38	16	8
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	3	36	27	8
Cheshire 2nd	7	4	3	32	31	8
Norfolk	5	3	2	24	21	6
Oxfordshire	6	2	4	23	31	4
Gloucestershire	6	1	5	17	37	2
Northampton	6	0	6	13	41	0

ETTA County Supplement

AVON Bob Murray

County Scene

Well, a New Year brings with it a new County Ranking List. Paul Lewis and Varsha Majmudar keep their places at the top of the senior rankings but expect to see Michelle Cohen challenging strongly for the top ladies spot next month. The top five in each list are:

Men

1. P Lewis
2. A Creed
3. D Gray
4. C Holley
5. S Bettison

Women

1. V Majmudar
2. M Cohen
3. H Perrott
4. C Webb
5. D Booy

Veteran Men

1. J Hibbs
2. D Price
3. E Brown
4. M Kimber

* also indicates Cadet Girl

The newly formed Veterans side have certainly had an interesting first season. Their latest fixture, away to Gloucestershire 2nds, was another four and a half hours marathon. Len Upward and Paul Etherington were 11th hour call-ups but with 2 wins and 1 win respectively certainly justified their inclusion. John Higgs took one of his singles and teamed up with Paul for the vital doubles win. I am told that the 40 mile journey have taken almost as long as the match itself with John's car obviously playing for expedite.

County Schools

Avon's school teams are looking to better last year's excellent performance in the English Schools Championships. Brislington are represented in the Under 16 boys, under 13 boys and under 13 girls whilst Holymead will contest the Under 11 boys and Under 11 Girls events at Stroud in the Regional Finals.

Bristol League

Bristol representative sides have once again started well in the Leach Cup and Rose Bowl. The Cadet boys have reached the semi final stage after comprehensive victories over Swindon (7-2), Bridgwater (8-0) and Guildford (9-0). The ladies team have come past their first hurdle with a 5-3 victory over Swindon but will have to be at their best to overcome Plymouth.

Avon sides appear to be well represented in the South West Regional Cadet League. At the recent event played at St Georges School, Bristol, I was pleased to note Bristol and Knowle and Brislington teams in action as well as two from Holymead.

At a recent League game at Portishead I was delighted to play against Charles Leighton-Scott once again. The former Gloucestershire County player tells me he is the oldest current player in the Bristol Premier, admitting to 66. That situation may not last too long as a review of the first division shows me that Aubrey Symond's team Bristol Civil Service, are challenging strongly for a promotion place. Their success

may depend on the form of Johnny Wise who had an excellent first half.

No surprises at the top of the Bristol Premier at the halfway stage with last year's top three (Nailsea Leopards, Knowle and Brislington 'A' and Bristol Club 'B') holding identical places.

Bath League

Bath, in their 60th year, are looking forward to their annual tournament to be played at the Bath Sports Centre between 17th and 21st February. I understand that an entry has been received once again from George Evry which maintains his unique record of having played in every Championships since 1932!

This year sees a Veterans doubles event for the first time, reflecting the growth of interest in table tennis at this age group.

The Premier Division title race looks like being very close. Oldfield 'A' currently hold a slight lead over Longwell 'A' but the latter do have a match in hand.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

Newbury

No real surprises in Newbury's Division 1 with Thatcham A and Woolton Hill A once again involved in their personal dual for the championship. In fact this season Thatcham look like retaining their crown, Dave Barr, Clive Payne and Dave Wise beat the Woolton Hill trio of Dave Reeves, Malcolm Cummins and Darren Jones 7-3 (These top players certainly get around the leagues). Mention must also be made of Terry White and Alan Palaczky who have played several matches for Thatcham and contributed to their success. However Coaching A and Ashford Hill might disagree that it is a two-horse race and Coaching can point out that when they went down 7-3 to Thatcham D they were without Martin King.

Last season Job A ran away with Division 2 and it looks likely that West Ilsley A in the form of Ron Jones, Bob Jones, Clive Mitchell and Terry Wheeler will do the same this season. Two teams from Hurst, the A and B squads are in hot pursuit. The A team went down 8-2 to the leaders but the B team have yet to do battle with them. Steve Morris, Chris Liukilin, Jim Gavin and Phil Davenport make up a useful B team squad.

Division 3 is wide open, three teams are unbeaten to date and two others have only lost one match. Woolton Hill D are the current leaders, closely followed by AWEB and Ash Hill Hikers. Thatcham are currently clear in Division 4, their trio of Geoff Norman, Bob Edwell and Stuart Wise have opened up a three point gap, but they are aware that Litorque are hot on their heels, while Wash Common - Falcons and Upper Bucklebury are ready to take advantage of any slipups.

Division 5 is nicely balanced, this division abounds with promising youngsters, experienced adults, complete newcomers, plenty of enthusiasm and above all much evidence of enjoyment and good sportsmanship. The coaching juniors trio of James Rivers, John Bradford and Mark Roberts remain favourites for the title.

Junior and Cadet Outlook

Derek Langley was disappointed at the turnout of Newbury in the Junior trials. Only five made the trip to Maidenhead for the County trials. However, he was well pleased with the cadets turnout. Youngsters came from Enborne Lodge, Wash Common, Lambourne and Newbury Junior Coaching, making a splendid contribution. Their overall performance was good and it makes for an encouraging future. He would like to thank Ian Langley, Wally Smith and Chris Baker for taking an interest in the players throughout the day.

Counties 2

Qualified Umpires

Bruce McKenzie in the Newbury 'Mini Sphere' highlights the fact that of the nine qualified umpires in Berkshire, three are from the Newbury area; Bill Heath, Ian Langley and Keith Jones. Berkshire are most anxious to increase the tally of qualified umpires, if you consider that you could meet the grade and require further information, John Freeman would like to hear from you. His address is Julis, 29 Haywood Way, Reading, Berks RG3 2HE (Tel: 0734 428697).

Bracknell and District

With the second half of the season underway, the Premier League is still headed by OLOP A. The likely runners up are the small but active SSV squad. It looks seven at this early stage that Bracknell A will grace Division 1 next season. In the closest contest for years only one of seven teams could win Division 1, KWC are the current leaders. Division 2 could well go to Lightwater A or while SSV B look the best bet in the third. The basement battle is between new club Redingensons and the Surrey club Lightwater B.

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

CUMBRIA'S CAPTAIN JULIE McLean has maintained consistent form this season. The Carlisle school teacher can usually be relied upon to win her sets, and so it was against Cheshire.

But her victories over 17th ranked national junior Zoe Buchanan and the seasoned Denise Conroy were not enough to prevent the visitors from registering an 8-2 triumph at Cleator Moor Civic Hall.

No. 2 woman Fiona Harris of Barrow who, herself, has figured prominently as a junior, made her senior county home debut and did not disgrace herself. She took Zoe to three games, losing the first 14-21, winning a tight second 25-23, before succumbing 6-21.

Steve Green scored valuable points for Cheshire with a deceiving, but perfectly legal serve, drawing his arm across the ball to shield from view the type of spin being used. He sailed home without dropping a game all afternoon but the Wheatseaf's No. 1 Brian Johns was courageously taken to three by his counterpart Kevin Hodgson. The Barrow lad who was 23rd in the Cadet Boys ranking list in 1989 produced some magnificent shots which had the 38 year old Johns baffled. But the veteran gradually wore Kevin down in the third 21-14.

DERBYSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

THE RETURN TO Derby of the Derbyshire Closed Championships attracted the best entry for some years at the Derby High School, the Derby League headquarters.

The Championships proved a triumph for youth with Stephen Shaw and Nicola Deaton taking the major titles.

In the men's singles Martin Kinsella was hoping to retain his title but was outmanoeuvred by Jason Bamford 13, 19 in the semi finals. Stephen Shaw beat leading junior Jack Boulton 15, 15 in the semis and went on to a well deserved title with a 19, 10 victory over Bamford. Bamford gained revenge in the men's doubles when he teamed up with Neil Slater to beat Shaw and Kinsella 16, 14.

Nicola Deaton retained her women's singles title with an easy 9,

11 victory over Rose Haggard, but the women's doubles title went to Haggard and Jane Vickers 10, 17 over Cheryl Fisher and daughter Michelle.

The singles winners teamed up to win the mixed double in the best final of the day by 22, -20, 12, over Martin Kinsella and Jane Vickers.

Eric Hall gained his expected veteran singles title with a 15, 18 victory over Mick Fisher, having struggled to come through his semi with Steve Blackshaw by 14, -15, 14.

The Derbyshire Association are grateful to Trancher Engineers of Burton who once again sponsored the trophies.

The first stage of the Derbyshire Inter-Town League featured Derby and Matlock with honours finishing even.

Matlock won the senior match with Geoff Gill winning his 3 singles and combining with John Davies to win the doubles in a 7-3 victory. Derby gained revenge in the junior match with Matthew Orchard winning his 3 singles and combining with Russell Winfield to win the doubles.

Congratulations to the Derbyshire senior team who won their opening four county matches at Lodge Moor, Sheffield with John Holland, Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton going unbeaten. Glad to see you back Brad.

The county Junior 1st team were hammered 1-9 by Staffordshire Junior 1st at Hill Street, Burton. The county junior 2nd team travelled to Holmes Chapel, with Michelle Fisher and Sarah Milnes winning all the girl's singles, but ended up on the losing side when the boys failed to score in a 4-6 defeat.

Burton League

In the schools division, de Ferrers Plus and Granville A are leading the way in this interesting competition. Scott Ferris is doing particularly well for Granville, being the first defender to emerge from this hotbed of table tennis talent.

Uttoxeter A and Stretton SC Red are locked at the top of Division 1 with Granville Aces and RH Sherpa Orange their nearest challengers. Granville Kings have run away with Division 2, leaving Trancher, Hill St Red and Granville Jacks to contest runners up spot. Hill St Black lead Division 3 with unbeaten Hill St Green leading the chasing pack.

ESSEX Alan Sheperd

AN EXTREMELY TRAUMATIC weekend took place in January for the Junior second and third teams following the receipt by me of withdrawal symptoms from all of our players who attend the Peniel Academy in Brentwood. This necessitated our digging deep into our fortunately ample reserves and coming up with the name of Stephen Joslin (our No. 13 junior) to face Suffolk in Ipswich as a member of our third team. There followed (and I expect that all team secretaries have experienced this scenario) the gathering of all members of the team in the carpark of the Post House Hotel. At the time when we should have been setting off it was discovered that we were one short! Frantic phone calls ensued, a diversion to Chelmsford was decided upon, and a fairly keen (although flu ridden) Wayne Smithies (County No. 12) was prised from his afternoon siesta and informed that he was now playing in the match. I am very pleased to say that our much changed team left the 'Dome' with a 10-0 win, a terrific outcome to a very trying day.

Meanwhile, back at South Hanningfield, our second team lacking Vincent Avery and Jennie Coleman called up Peter Worthington and Michelle King (County No. 8) to face Oxfordshire. One must rather feel sorry to our visitors, as last season they annihilated us with Martin

Counties 3

Adams, Martin Haycock, Matthew Sims, Dawn Barnett and Sally Hughes in their lineup. This season the sole survivor was Matthew. The Oxon boys actually fought very hard and were no push-overs but their girls were weak, and the result was 9-1 win. The next match for this team will be a much sterner test (against Kent) and success cannot be guaranteed. Report next month!

I was at Lilleshall at the end of December for the National Ranking Trials. One does wonder what is the purpose of this tournament and I feel very strongly that Donald Parker should consider making some revisions to the system. We now have the Halex Ranking Scheme which, of course, produces day to day variations of the ratings of the different players. That being so, are the Ranking Trials necessary? Players qualify for them by struggling through the Regional events and try desperately hard to achieve good results at Lilleshall. The rewards for their efforts do not seem to justify the travelling, the expense of an overnight stay, and the blood, sweat and tears expended. In my view, if this event is to be retained in anything like its present form, a substantial award of points must be given (a) for qualifying (b) for any wins secured in the initial groups and (c) on an upwards sliding scale for any wins secured in the knockout section. I have said it before and I will say it again, it is essential that a full squad of qualified umpires be seconded to the event, bearing in mind that it is a National event, and that the careers of the players taking part are in the balance.

A few days after these Notes are being written, our County first team will be hoping to come away from their weekend of matches at Chelmsford against Middlesex, Wiltshire and Avon in Division 1B, with sufficient points to give them promotion back to the Premier Division. It has been too long since Essex has regularly played in the top flight and surely even the northern strongholds of Yorkshire and Lancashire must see the Premier Division without Essex on a par with the Barclay's Division 1 without Arsenal or Liverpool. I hear that Skylet Andrew has been tempted from his television appearances, overseas commitments and other involvements, to turn out once more for the county, a wonderful news that is. With Steve Dorking, Grant Solder, Des Charlerly, Linda Radford and Alison Gower as backup, surely we cannot fail? Again, see this column next month to learn what happened!

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

BY THE TIME that this report arrives to the attention of readers, Leagues all over the country will most likely be participating in preparation for the end of season (perish the thought - where has this season gone?) Championships, leading up to a series of Finals nights, the Interfold Systems Gloucester TTA are completely breaking with tradition and after some 14 or 15 years of running their tournament at the Gloucester Leisure Centre have this season decided to take the preliminary rounds to the little market town of Newent on 1st March. Newent boasts an excellent sports complex, but I personally expect mixed feelings, not only by some members of the Gloucester Committee, but possibly by some of the players as well with regards this move of venue.

One factor is certain - finance will undoubtedly be less by going to Newent but what about the effect on actual entries? Could well be that they may be less as well, only time will tell. I am however pleased to report that the Cities finals night on Tuesday 7th April at Nuclear Electric HQ at Barnwood does not coincide as it did last season with Stroud's finals night. Stroud's FN is on Friday 10th April at the Maidenhill recreation Centre at Stonehouse and Cheltenham's big do after the preliminaries could be Tuesday 31st March OR Wednesday 1st April at the time of writing Cirencester have not released a finals night date.

Although this year sees the Jubilee year of The Cotswold Junior Select Tournament at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, it now appears that this is the sole tournament of national standard to be held in Gloucestershire at all, much hard work and careful planning goes into the Cotswold as indeed it does in any tournament anywhere, few people really appreciate what immense pre-thinking is involved, therefore fellow Gloucestershire, join me in a toast to the head organiser - Jack Reeves; the Chief Hon Referee - Leslie Smith and the County Secretary David Dean, plus many others who annually formulate the nucleus of this tournament's success for indeed, without them, some 300 or so youngsters would have to go elsewhere.

Our only hope in the English Open at the Birmingham Indoor Arena, namely defending Veteran champion, Cheltenham's Dave Harvey, fought his way gallantly into the third round and then met the formidable John Hilton, alas it was curtains for Dave but I am sure that he enjoyed his year's reign of being England's No. 1 Veteran.

I try to cover most of the Cheltenham Saracens British League home matches in Division 2 South West region, at the time of writing Saracens have only played one match this year of 1992, that was against the Acton (London) based team of Gunnersbury Triangle, Saracens romped home the winners 7-1 in this encounter, the visitors, Chris Boothby played extremely well to beat the home side's No. 1 Darren Griffin -18, 15, 16. Saracens' next match will be a tough one v top of the table Edison TTC whom Saracens held to a draw in the first half.

One young lady in the county, well worthy of a mention is 12 year old Kerry Hogarth from Newent who plays in the Gloucester League Division 2 at a recent Cotswold Ladies match and playing for Gloucester against Cheltenham ladies, Kerry beat ALL OF THE TOP RANKED CHELTENHAM LADY PLAYERS and deservedly so, made her senior Gloucester debut, in fine form.

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

FOLLOWING DECEMBER'S SENIOR Championship, the top item on January's agenda was the Junior Championship played in Southampton from which Andover's Jeremy Wilson emerged as a surprised boys winner after defeating 4 year old Gareth Scadden (Gosport and Farcham) in the final. Gareth was just delighted to be in the final having disposed of favourite Kevin Macken (Basingstoke) in the semis. Scadden retained his under 14 title and Tim Clark, one of a small number of Bournemouth players retaining allegiance to Hampshire won the under 12 event. Girls winners were two from Portsmouth, Heidi Wheaton (Under 17) and Donna Granville (Under 14) and at under 12 another Bournemouth youngster Georgina Poulton. Staying with the juniors the three who qualified for the final national trials, Kevin Macken, Gareth Scadden and Caroline Newling Ward found the going tough. There is a school of thought which is saying does an impossible mission justify the cost; I personally believe that as with World Championships and Olympics whatever the odds your own best are entitled to compete.

With the men's league joining the cadets and juniors in playing on the block system most life in the inter-town leagues is generated by the Veterans, and most of that is blown in by the sea air of Bournemouth with their A and B teams leading Division 1 and the C's leading Division 2. Nice to see the Isle of Wight back in the fold and with 2 wins out of 3 again, sea air is paying off (or is it sea sickness by their opponents!).

The Veterans appear to hold the honours hopes in the County Championships, with the second string having 100% record with one match to go and a sets average of 38-7 but with the first team likely to hold their place, will the Pompey squad of Norman Stagg, Ken Burton, Bob Cox, Rav Lush and Marv Barron be allowed to take un their earned

Counties 4

promotion.

Last month I congratulated Andover on their golden Jubilee handbook, this month I am still wading through Basingstoke's second newsletter of the season which runs to 22 A4 sheets of closely typed or neatly written detailed information - also some witticisms such as 'the league has purchased a robot - we've given it a funny face, not much table tennis ability, made it chairman and called it Jim Smith'. Well, I don't know about Jim's playing ability but as Chairman he is certainly making things buzz. Some things though don't change, Tony and Alan Palaczky lead the averages in Division 1 and Louis tops Division 3 with a 100% record.

This year's Southampton's Championships were dominated by members of the Snows and Alpha clubs; 5 players from each being the entire playing personnel present on finals night. Alpha with Andy Ely (5th time) and Sarah Turner (2nd) took the singles honours and Snow's Chris Shetler in winning the veteran title equalled Don Cartridge's record in becoming only the second player to win Junior, Senior and Veteran titles. To give the lesser lights a deserved mention the division winners were David Dobson (Division 1), Kevin Muldowney (Division 2) Keith Caws (Division 3) and Mike French (Division 4).

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

GREAT NEWS! HERTFORDSHIRE'S two first teams Seniors and Juniors, should, if hopes are realised, win their respective County Divisions and gain promotion.

On Saturday 8th February 1992, the Senior 1st team of John Taylor, Pete Harris, John Lennon, Emma Hurling and Maria Williams, beat Cambridge II 7-3, thus setting themselves up for promotion when they play their last game at Norfolk, where a draw will be good enough to win them the title.

The Junior team of Craig Millwood, Justin Skinner, Darren Humber, Sarah Seaholme and Caron Harber, beat Surrey II's 8-2, virtually ensuring their promotion, whilst Hertfordshire's Veteran 1st and 2nd teams also have a good chance of promotion, with both teams undefeated with two games to play.

Meanwhile in the Senior Inter-League competition, North Herts have got their noses in front, after the first Sunday of tournament held at Barnet Table Tennis Centre on 2nd February 1992.

North Herts team, Dave Hyde, Jimmy Walsh and Sandra Harper, firstly beat Watford 6-1 then went on to beat the highly fancied Barnet 4-3, to take a vital lead in these popular championships.

Barnet actually led 3-2 and looked favourites to take this top of the table clash when Barnet's Duncan Taylor stepped onto the arena to face North Herts' Dave Hyde. But Hyde emerged the winner, following a tough three setter -10, 18, 12. Then North Herts' Sandra Harper completed the victory by beating Lynne Flowers 13 and 16. Barnets are in joint 2nd place with Hemel Hempstead, who will meet North Herts in the second Sunday, on 12th April in the last match of the day.

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Preat

OUR MEN'S TEAM which plays in the Southern Regional League, are enjoying an excellent season, improving greatly on last season's modest form. So far they are showing promotion form with 5 wins from 6 outings.

Roger Hookey has remained the mainstay of our revival. His last success being a 6-3 win in Frimley vs OLOP where he contributed another hat trick. Chris Angus won 2 and Mike Turner 1. A big 'well done' to these three and also Steve Barsdell who has played more than well in these Southern Region matches.

At the time of writing our Juniors also look well placed in the Hampshire Inter-Town Junior Leagues at both under 17 and under 14 levels. The Under 14 side is in second place with two draws and one victory. Greg Burns was by far their best player with 7 wins from 9 outings. Stuart Dover won 4, a little triumph after two stomach operations and one broken wrist in one year. So that was quite a comeback. Danny Burns also won and is only 11. All three doubles were won. Lorna Dutch was the best of the B team. She has a bright future if she can add speed of foot to her excellent reflexes and what the Germans call 'a good hand'.

The Under 17 side has not so far been tested with two 10-0 wins. I pay due tribute to the Hampshire county which calls this 2nd division what it is, ie Division 2. Promotion may not be too easy for our team, as Bournemouth B also look strong with a games average of 19-1. However, so far the lineup of Alex Rorke, Marcus Garman, Ali Hulbert and Claire Waghorn has not tasted individual defeat.

Our Veterans have won one and lost one in Division 2 of the Hampshire Veterans League. Alan Hulbert has won 3 from 4, Pete Urry and the evergreen Joe Daly (not to be confused with his brother Jim) 2 from 4. Heather Wykes has won one and lost one, ladies being accorded fewer singles. It is the first time for some years that we fielded a Veterans team. The last time we had Jim Daly at No. 1 and me at No. 2. We qualified for the newly formed National Premier section, but were, for various reasons, unable to take our place, but it was a season to remember. We did not lose until the last match of the season when Dorset defeated us and took the title. We were not too unhappy with second place.

I have endured entirely justified leg-pulling as a result of my own comeback briefly noted in these columns. However, it proved that I have a few readers outside the Island. I continue to try not to make these notes too parochial in the cause of writing about matters of interest outside our county in addition to recording what happens here. One fellow joker suggested that I was about to become a 'media darling' yet again as a result of my sterling (?) efforts in our Division 2, which despite international examples we refuse to call Division 1 and this despite my presence! I had to disillusion my friend. I only make the local press when I lose or so it seems. However that provides plenty of media opportunities.

The experiment to make our first division an 8 team event, the teams playing each other three times over the season, seems a success. It has certainly made the second division stronger as I am able to discover almost every week. The two leading teams in the premier section, Wroxall and Sandown, parted after a 5-all draw with the issue still undecided and the fate of the Championship will not be known until much later in the season, which is as it should be. Wroxall, with stronger reserves, looks favourite. Alan Hulbert has certainly worked hard to build a strong team and club and few will begrudge them their success if indeed it comes.

Less happy the news that Rookley, one of our larger clubs, have lost their premises, a blow to them and the whole league. One hopes that the problem will lead to solutions which will keep an excellent club alive in the interest of Island table tennis.

KENT

Adrian Hall

THE KENT RELIANCE Senior County Championships held at the Sterling Centre Rochester on 18th January produced play of the highest level and as usual was superbly run by Referee Trevor Openshaw.

Counties 5

Top seed in the mens singles Andy Cunningham progressed comfortably to the semi final but then in an exciting match was finally beaten by Paul Rainford. Reigning champion Joe Kennedy reached his allotted semi final place and in perhaps the best match of the day just lost to second seed Justin Goodall. Service dominated the final but on this occasion it was Goodall that could not contain the Rainford serve.

Juliet Houghton as expected retained her Ladies Singles title for the 9th occasion. A semi final victory against Julie Thorne put her in the final against Maidstone's Alison Pearson. Pearson never found her touch in the final, Houghton winning 2, 17.

Matthew Vardy/Neil Highams upset the seedings in the first round of the mens doubles putting out 5th seeds Dave Davies/Dave Griffiths but could not get past No. 1 seeds Phil Cox/Cunningham. The bottom half of the draw proved more straightforward until the semi final where the 4th seeds Joe Kennedy/Ian Kenyon beat 2nd seeds Mark Brown/Paul Rainford and went on to win the final.

Top seeds and reigning champions Houghton/Caroline Brown retained their womens doubles title.

In the mixed doubles 4th seeds Mark and Caroline Brown beat the top seeds Rainford/Thorne in the semi finals and in the bottom half of the draw 2nd seeds Spencer Thompson and Lesley Hollingworth lost to Harris/Houghton. In a most entertaining final the Brown's overcame the odds for a splendid championship winning performance.

Both top seeds went out of the Veterans singles at the quarter final stage, No. 1 Henry Buist to Keith Clarke and No. 2 Dave Kellard to Adrian Hall. Tom Adams beat Clarke to reach the semi final against Dave Emery who outplayed Hall. Emery beat Adams in the final.

Bob Groves - Obituary

It is with regret that we learnt recently of the death of one of the stalwarts of Kent table tennis. Bob, who had been ill for a number of years had served on the Kent Committee for 23 years and for his tremendous services to the county was made a Life Vice President in 1989. As well as being both Chairman and Treasurer to the NWK league for many years he also held various posts for Kent, including Vice Chairman, Kent League Secretary, Handbook Editor and until his death Trophy Secretary. All members of Kent share the grief of his wife Jean - he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Tournament

The combined tournament organised by Paul White was held recently at St Gregory's School, Southborough. Michael Harrison reached the final of the mens singles with a semi final win over last year's champion Michael Cripps. Paul Crisp won the other semi final with a good win over Mark Henderson. In the final Paul Crisp came back from 7-3 down in the third for a fine win. Cripps and Harrison teamed up to take the Open doubles title against Paul Duke and Henderson. Paul White became Veterans champion with a win over Albert Crisci, but Crisci got his revenge in the doubles when partnering Mike Sefton they defeated Whit and Malcolm Cole. With many of the Juniors at a Kent training camp, it was left to Paul Duke to retain his junior singles title, beating Heidi Steers and with Daniel Cheeseman won the junior doubles against Steers and David Richardson..

Cotswold Junior Select

Medway's Christian Thompson won the Boys under 12s when he beat No. 1 seed Ali Subhan (Berks) in the final. Dominated by fierce looped topspin drives, it was Thompson (No. 2 seed) who executed the better return of serve to deprive Subhan of the third ball attack, even so the match was evenly and most sportingly contested with Thompson finally winning. No. 1 seeds Shelley Ruocco (Essex) and Glenda Ashison (Surrey) won the under 14 doubles, beating the unseeded Crystal Hall and Joanne Barham who had already beaten the second seeds in the second round.

Scott Friday won the Under 10 and Under 12 at Elmbridge and won the Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 boys singles and Under 13 doubles at Grove Tern Hill. Alison Smith won the Under 14 girls event at Elmbridge.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

IN DIVISION ONE of the Leicester TTL Loughborough Kingfishers I lead the way still unbeaten and they look odds on to lift the Championship, but maybe someone will prove me wrong. For the Kingfisher's Mark Illingsworth has so far to be beaten and has good support from Chris Kinsey who has lost only four so far.

Great Glen are having a good season with Maurice Newman at the helm and are at present in third position.

Meanwhile in the remaining divisions there seem to be many close divisions, both in promotion spots and equally in relegations. But already a few divisions have almost certain winners at this stage of the season.

The Phil Reid Memorial Trophy has been played this month and it turned out to be another very good event. Player over four days, the early stages played with eight groups, all played on a round robin basis, and the top two from each went on to the finals on the Sunday at Knighton Park. The quarter finals produced some very exciting matches and close (credit to the handicapper) four groups with four players in each again played a round robin and the winner of each group went into the semi finals.

Group A was won by Tony Walker. Group B was also won quite comfortably by Steve Pratt. Group C was close with Matthew Hobday coming out on top on sets average over Martin Bolton. Martin previously had beaten Matthew. Group D was another very close encounter with Lisa Hobday having to beat Derek Butt two straight to go into the semi final on sets average, this she just managed.

The semi finals produced some good table tennis. Steve Pratt overcame Tony Walker mainly due to his spin services. The second semi final produced one of the closest in the tournament with Matthew Hobday beating sister Lisa. The final was an exciting match and the first game was close, going to Matthew 23-21, the second was not quite so close at 21-16. So Matthew Hobday was this year's champion.

Coaching at the Soar Valley Community College is still progressing smoothly with a regular attendance every Saturday morning. I know the organiser is happy and tells me that he is hoping to have a couple of teams playing in the league next season. The Eyres Mansell project has still not got off the ground yet, but it is still on the cards.

The Leicestershire Schools Championships are to be held at the Soar Valley College on 15th February, there are four events for boys and girls under 11, 13, 16 and 19. Last year was a big success. Let's hope that there is a large entry this year.

The Leicestershire Inter-Towns competition is taking place on Sunday 5th April at the Parklands Leisure Centre with teams from Loughborough, Hinckley and Leicester.

The Closed Championships entry forms have gone out and this event will be held at the Leicester Leys Leisure Centre on 22nd March.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

FIRST THE GOOD news. When I last reported on the County Championships, I was unable to report a single victory. Now, ten weeks later, the senior firsts can boast of three successive wins, coinciding with an unbeaten run

Counties 6

from Kieron Dabbs, and the continuing fine form of Graeme McKim who has yet to be defeated this season.

The Veteran seconds have won both of their recent matches by a 6-3 margin with the points being shared between Michael Edwards, Brian D'Hooghe, Dave Marsh, Mike Pond and Joyce Porter, and who between them have ended up on top in all the doubles encounters.

The senior seconds finally got off the mark with an away draw against Clwyd, with the bonus in this department coming from the fine form of Mick Spear, while Steve Brown and Joanne Abbott have also made useful contributions.

Unfortunately the Veteran firsts, the Veteran thirds and the juniors have failed to record a victory, despite some consistent displays from Keith Jones, Margaret Maltby and young Sally Russell whose sequence of eight wins was broken only when the juniors faced Yorkshire.

At British League level, Well Connected Menswear continue to maintain a mid-table position in Division 1 North with Andy Edmonds producing the best individual results but in Division 3 East, Levi's Westfield, fielding an all local side, have now registered three consecutive wins in comprehensive style, with BSG Brentwood 2, Fellows Cranleigh 2 and Peniel 2 heavily defeated. In these matches, the flair of Andy Trot has enabled him to remain unbeaten, while Kieron Dabbs and Richard Elliott have lost only once and Ian Hawes twice.

The St Neots invitation League is also providing the county's representatives with their usual success story, Wellingborough holding the lead at both Senior and Junior level, with the Veterans First Division again dominated by Northampton. If the good news is about quality, the bad news concerns quantity, and in particular the low entry at the recent County Closed tournament, which provided scant reward for the originality of, and the enthusiastic application by, the appropriate county sub-committee. To some degree the blame must be attributed to a congested table tennis calendar at national level, with two consecutive county championship weekends at the end of November. This necessitated the County Closed taking place on the first two Saturdays in December and in this material world, it proved an unacceptable choice for many of the would be participants.

Further changes in the national calendar have now determined that the three major league closed event s- Kettering, Northampton and Wellingborough will have to take place on successive Saturdays from 22nd February, and with some players normally involved in all three, it will be interesting to see if the usual fine entry is maintained. It does appear however that the grass roots end of table tennis doesn't always get a fair deal.

Following the demise of the Pennine County computer ranking scheme, the Wellingborough League has become the first in the area to adopt its own computer system with the crucial criteria for all five divisions being those of previous achievement, quality of activity, consistency, current form, endurance and peak ability. These criteria do tend to reward those players who represent their clubs on a regular basis, and therefore the scheme has much to commend it and could eventually help to counter the current trend of teams carrying large squads of players to the general detriment of table tennis in general and local leagues in particular.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

THE COUNTY SENIOR team clinched the Division 3A Championship with a 6-4 victory over Herts when Tim Sheppard, Junior Stoddart and Richard Tilford won all 6 mens matches to ensure the victory and the Championship with one match still to play. With Linda Collins coming out of retirement to play and coach in the Notts training scheme, the

county could do well in the higher division next season.

The county junior team gained a 7-3 victory over Staffordshire with Mark Short and Sarah Smith each winning 2 singles; and Kevin Green, Gary Pestka and Debbie Pestka each contributing a singles victory apiece.

The Veterans team suffered a 3-6 defeat from a strong Lancashire team, but the withdrawal of Alf Saunders weakened the Notts team and their chances. However, spirits recovered in time for a 9-0 win over Cheshire 3rd which keeps hopes high of a runners up position ahead. Our best wishes to Ron Bolton and John Ellis to the World Veterans Championships in Dublin.

Nottingham won the Carter Cup Zone 3 Final by 5-2 against Chesterfield with Gary Pestka winning his 3 singles.

On the tournament circuit, congratulations to Anne Marie and Michelle Haynes who, I am told, made a clean sweep at the British Gas tournament at Grove; and Debbie Pestka on winning the Under 12's at the Cotswold Select - one of the few tournaments NOT at Grove this season.

Mansfield - The Mansfield Championships, sponsored by Opencast, attracted a very large entry which meant many of the finals having to be held over until a future date.

A new venture was the John Collen Cup, a competition for under 14's not competing in the league. Matthew Thompson won this event which attracted an extremely good entry of players who are now interested in competing in the League. Especially pleasing was the interest from parents of these players, and two extra divisions could result from the players attracted to this initiative. Well done Mansfield.

Newark - The Committee, whose time has been taken up running the league, have been boosted by the addition of John Williams, who has many new ideas upon development and promotion which he is working on.

Nottingham - A recent doubles match in Division 1 claimed combined ages of 226 years. Ron Bolton 69, John Ellis 58, John Slater 53 and young Ken Philpson 44 (please note it was not my addition!) Can anyone beat that?

Retford - The National Power sponsored League Championships were very well attended, but details not yet to hand. A friendly match against Gainsborough will be an annual event despite a 4-5 defeat.

Schools - The county were pleased that two winners emerged from the Regional Schools competition, High Pavement College (under 19 boys) and Redlands Primary (under 11 boys).

SOMERSET

Andy Seward

THE COUNTY VETERANS first team attained yet another 6-3 win in the chase for the Championship, this one against Wiltshire 2nds. The usual double from Brian Reeves, two also from John Crabtree, a ladies singles victory for Shirley Dark plus the men's doubles and Somerset were home and dry. The seconds were not so successful, losing 2-7, wins here for Alan Maidment and Martin Rumary.

nice to see Brian Reeves enter the charts at No. 31, a new entry in the Veterans national ranking list. Whether he will make No. 1 in the Top of the Pops we will have to wait and see but he did reach the last 8 of the Veterans at the English Open which must lift him a few more places.

Counties 7

Mendip League - The Mendip League has a very familiar look about it at the halfway stage of the season. Dunkerton, Champions last season lead the table again. They have a powerful squad in Jerry Musselwhite. Paul Hewitt and Phil Ware are a little ahead of the B team at Henton, that mecca of table tennis in Somerset. Rumour has it that the famous 'hut' is in danger. Pilgrimages will be arranged.

Richard Jones now leads the Mendip rankings, having inflicted two defeats of Jerry Musselwhite - Jerry's first ever defeat in Mendip. A meteoric rise for Rob Millard, reaching the top 6 in his first season in Division 1. The top 6 rankings are:

1. Richard Jones (Newbridge)
2. Jerry Musselwhite (Dunkerton)
3. Mike Baker (Henton B)
4. Mark Paul (Dunkerton)
5. Colin Butterworth (Blagdon A)
6. Robert Millard (Godney)

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to two of our top county juniors, both of whom play in the Mendip League. Andrew Hewitt suffered a cracked kneecap and Andrew Rummy an ankle injury, both requiring a lengthy spell in plaster. It should be added that neither injury was sustained play table tennis!!

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

STAFFORDSHIRE

Tony Clift

THE COUNTY CLOSED Championships took place on 26th January at the Whitehall Community Junior School, Walsall. This was a change of venue following several years at Lilleshall Sports Centre and was somewhat of a gamble. With easy access from the M6 motorway travel proved easy and more importantly the playing conditions proved to be superb, ideally housing the 8 table requirement, and receiving many complimentary comments from the players.

A late hiccup saw the loss of the top 4 men's seeds due to a change of County Championship weekend date. Despite the necessary adjustment to the draw, all 11 events saw excellent competitive table tennis. The men's singles became a very open event and after a number of exciting matches the final saw Tony Isaac overcome Mark Evans in one of the best finals for years. With both players attacking on both wings most points saw long but fast rallies with Tony finally coming out on top despite being well behind in the second game.

Tony Isaac also contested the men's and mixed doubles finals, losing (with partner Eddie Wilkes) and 3 setter to Mark Evans and left handed John Hancock. He came good in the mixed with Jan Dunning, winning a comfortable straight sets match.

The county league is progressing well with Division 1 having completed 4 fixture dates and Division 2 completing 3 fixture dates. Wolves Ladies became leading Division 1 having recorded wins of 10-0, 9-1 and 8-2 with the strong team of Jan Dunning, Helen Lower, Jill Harris and Jose Bongers. In Division 2 West Bromwich are presently leading the way with 2 wins of 6-4.

In the County Championships, the Vets beat Cheshire II Vets 6-3 and lost a close match to Clwyd 5-4. The team for both matches included John Riley, Martin Pickles and Shirley Boone who each recorded wins. The Junior A team continue their winning ways with a 7-3 win at Clwyd and a 9-1 win following the long trip to Suffolk. Matthew Brown, Paul Tomlinson and Richard Tilley recorded 11 out of 12 wins. The girls also played their part with Nicky Meddings and Vicky Fox both doing well, and

this was further supplemented by Michelle Martin in the latter match who overcame illness and injury to record 2 wins. The team appear well on course for promotion to the Premier League.

At local league level, Wolverhampton ladies continue defence of the Rose Bowl. Wins against Leicester and Burton see advancement to the quarter final stage. The absent Sandra Roden has now had an operation on her troublesome knee injury and is on the slow road to recovery.

Congratulations to Brian Watkins on his advancement in the umpiring circles. A recent visit to Europe saw him testing his knowledge with 3000 spectators, very successfully apparently, although he had some difficulty calling for silence from a partisan crowd. Perhaps you have whetted my appetite Brian.

SURREY

Terry Vance

BEST WISHES TO Emil Emezc on a swift recovery from his back operation and our congratulations on refereeing the Hungarian Open.

County Championships

Nicky Mason proved yet again what a stalwart he is for Surrey when at the Senior Premier Weekend in January he put county before ranking points. Suffering from a nasty dose of flu, with the majority of his 8 matches going to 3, he only lost 1. The team of Nicky, Nigel Thomas, Mike Hammond and Jane Barella took along our latest recruit from Vietnam (via Derbyshire) Zung To. She won 2 of her 8 matches one of which enabled us to draw with Berkshire.

Alexandra 2 have withdrawn from the Thames Valley League division 2 and all results have been amended. Chessington 3 lead this division by 13 clear points, but Rosehill 3 are in second place with 2 matches in hand.

In the Wandsworth League Division 1 York Gardens were the champions, beating Earlsfield A's 9 year winning sequence. In Division 5 Triangle A have withdrawn. Crescent A in Division 2 set a record for most points to a team who gained to gain promotion. South Mitcham Aces scored most points in winning Division 4.

By the time this is printed, the draw for the South of England 3 Star tournament will have taken place. Please come along to the new venue at Westcroft Sports Centre, Carshalton, Surrey on 14/15th March to watch some really exciting table tennis.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

SUSSEX WERE AMONG several teams who were for various reasons unable to field their strongest players at the County Championships Premier Weekend at St Neots on 25/26th January.

Without Stephen Moore who was expecting an addition to his family and Janet Smith who was not selected, Sussex were relegated, which means that the other two senior teams will each slide down one division.

Trying to get the top players to play for their counties amongst a mass of other commitments is an ever-increasing major problem for counties. That is why Devon, all credit to them, without international players but with two high rankers - Paul Whiting and Carol Giles - managed to win the trophy for the first time.

Counties 8

Trying to work out whether or not Sussex could have been saved had Miss Smith been chosen is not easy. Losing Stephen Moore was a crucial blow. All Sussex can do now is to fight their way back up next season - at least they will not have to play Devon - their stumbling block on a number of occasions in the past.

Butcher Strikes - Paul Butcher, 15 just, lived up to his name in the Sussex Junior Championships at Worthing Leisure Centre in January, run for the first time with a huge entry by the Worthing TTA.

106 players took part, many without much experience, but to get that number playing in a superior venue was a development breakthrough, the sort that National Council and Management are looking for.

Butcher dominated the tournament, beating Paul Ciccilli in the final, whilst Sarah Stedman from Arundel broke a record by winning all six titles, three in both age groups.

Watching her play for half an hour, I came to the conclusion that her left-handed forehand loop is so fast that few opponents had any idea how to get it back, but coach Pat Ginnaw agrees that there is a lot of work still to be done with the rest of her game. Malcolm Francis played a large part in promoting the tournament and doubling the entry.

Worthing Leisure Centre is a splendid hall for a table tennis tournament, but to run a tournament there means the players paying extra entrance fees. Some, including me, would say the value is there, but there are others who would still opt for less impressive arenas.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Ken Walton

THE 40TH COUNTY Closed Championships were held once again at the Thorns Community Centre, on 26th January with an entry similar to that of the previous years.

With ladies champion Sandra Roden sidelined through injury, a new name would be finding its way onto the trophy and so it proved, with Mandy House defeating Alison Westwood in the final and then combining together to collect the ladies doubles award, defeating Sue Horton and Joanne Hill in 3 games.

Not to be outdone, Sue then teamed up with husband Steve to collect the mixed doubles title, at the expense of Helen Pogmore and Mark Roden. Nice to see Mark back in action again after several years absence, and playing well, reaching the men's single quarter finals before losing to a powerful looking Lewis Siket, also playing very well on the day. At this stage of the proceedings, County No. 1 Malcolm Green, clearly the best player in the county, and on view, demolished Lewis, 11, 7 whilst in the other semi we had a repeat of last year's final, with defending champion Lee Horton taking on yours truly.

Thankfully for me Lee's backhand was not firing on all cylinders and I managed to reverse last year's result with a 18, 20 victory, leaving me with the dubious honour of facing Malcolm in the final. Scores of 6, 15 to Malcolm tell their own story, although at 15 all in the second I felt a glimmer of hope! However, it was no disgrace to lose to such a good consistent player, and congratulations all round to a deserving county champion. In partnership with Nicky Mytton, Malcolm collected the men's doubles title, defeating Mark Brookes and Ken Walton at 19 in the third, from 19-16 down, a second consecutive title for Nick, well done.

Ray Dixon and Janet Hunt took the veterans singles titles, defeating Roy Norton and Linda Reid respectively, and Roy and Mervin Wood took the Veterans doubles.

Other news from within the county, starting with Junior Regional Finals, held at Lilleshall, where Lee Horton, Carrie Hunt and Zoe Evans took part. All found the going tough and failed to progress far. Peter Birds county competitions are progressing with the handicap down

to the last 8, and the scratch competition down to the last 4. Looks like a Thorns/Bromley final once again although Worths A and SEJ Rubber will be doing their best to prevent that happening.

Finally a thank you from Sandra Roden to everyone who has phoned her, spoken to her, wished her well, sent her cards, visited her etc, etc, during her long layoff from the sport, due to severe knee injuries. Obviously when she is back in action, Sandra will be only too pleased to buy us all a drink! But until then, she wishes it to be known, that she really appreciates everyone's concern.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

A LETTER FROM John Caton, the Secretary of the Scarborough League informs me that if information is not forwarded, League's cannot expect a mention - all Leagues take note!

But where better to begin than at the popular North Yorkshire resort where the League's official title is the Scarborough and District McCain Table Tennis Association and they are to be congratulated on gaining the support of the major local business who are also heavily involved with Scarborough AFC and newly formed Rugby club Scarborough Pirates.

Last September a three year development plan got underway and results have exceeded all expectations. With the support of the Sports Council and the North Yorks County Youth Service 'Come and Try It' coaching sessions have been established for beginners, covering an area from Filey in the south to Whitby on the margins of Cleveland.

Richard, at the age of 41 took over the long standing record of Maurice Pitts, who claimed the last of his fourteen men's singles when he was 37 and the new champion is the oldest man to hold the title after overcoming the challenge of top seed Tony Bottomley in a straight sets final.

Caroline, a familiar figure on the Junior tournament circuit, came past Helen Shields in the singles final, after collecting the ladies doubles (with Helen) and the junior mixed singles.

At Sheffield long service John Hatfield who has also joined the Yorkshire Management Committee, has taken over the secretaryship following the resignation of Alan Batty. Like myself, John has been around in table tennis for a long time, but this is his first venture into county affairs. A very sincere welcome John.

Still in the steel city, super division leaders Dial House A retained their undefeated record with a 6-4 win over World of Sport but it was the end of the road for Sheffield Closed Champion Clive Guest whose 39 game unbeaten record came to an end when he fell to 15 year old Nicola Deaton, England No. 3 ranked junior girl and already at No. 12 among the ladies. Dewsbury are, like Scarborough, making excellent progress on the Junior front with the news that the first winners of the new GB Securities Junior League are the aptly named Ballbashers for whom Dominic Sciafe was unbeaten, while 15 year old David Robinson (Joe Bloggs) proved too steady for 12 year old Andrew Gettings of 'The Gildi Mob' in the individual competition.

!Stop Press! - At just 72 hours notice Yorkshire's top girl Katie Goodall was invited to fly out to Istanbul to compete in the European Top 12. The Leeds girl, ranked 13 in Europe, earns a place following the withdrawal of the players from the CIS.

Yorkshire are delighted to learn of the appointment of Ray Burch the county Coaching Secretary from Huddersfield to the post of Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Development for table tennis under the Focus Sport initiative. Further details next month.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

Division 1B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Dorset	6	5	1	40	14	10
Berkshire	6	5	1	36	18	10
Middlesex	6	4	2	33	21	8
Wiltshire	6	4	2	27	27	8
Essex 2nd	6	3	3	32	22	6
Kent 2nd	6	2	4	21	33	4
Surrey 2nd	6	1	5	18	36	2
Sussex 2nd	6	0	6	9	45	0

Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Lancashire 2nd	5	5	0	35	10	10
Nottinghamshire	4	3	1	24	12	6
Northumberland	4	2	2	19	17	4
Staffordshire	4	1	3	15	21	2
Clwyd	3	1	2	11	16	2
Cheshire 3rd	4	0	4	4	32	0

Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	23	4	6
Warwickshire	4	3	1	23	13	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Northamp. 2nd	4	2	2	18	18	4
Huntingdonshire	4	1	3	12	24	2
Norfolk 2nd	4	0	4	8	28	0

Division 2C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Buckingham.	5	4	1	31	14	8
Surrey 3rd	5	4	1	29	16	8
Essex 3rd	5	4	1	29	16	8
Middlesex 2nd	5	3	2	22	23	6
Oxfordshire 2nd	6	2	4	21	33	4
Kent 3rd	5	1	4	17	28	2
Sussex 3rd	5	0	5	13	32	0

Division 2D	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Somerset	6	6	0	36	18	12
Hampshire	5	3	2	28	17	6
Dorset 2nd	5	3	2	22	23	6 (53-52)
Avon	5	3	2	22	23	6 (53-61)
Wiltshire 2nd	5	2	3	17	28	4
Berkshire 2nd	5	1	4	19	26	2
Gloucester 2nd	5	0	5	18	27	0

Division 3A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Warwickshire	4	4	0	24	12	8
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	3	1	28	8	6
Cambridgeshire	5	3	2	26	19	6
Hertfordshire 4th	4	2	2	17	19	4
Huntingdon. 2nd	5	1	4	13	32	2
Northamp. 3rd	4	0	4	9	27	0

Division 3B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 4th	4	4	0	31	5	8
Hertfordshire 3rd	4	3	1	26	10	6
Berkshire 4th	4	2	2	17	19	4
Sussex 4th	5	2	3	20	25	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	1	3	10	26	2
Wiltshire 4th	3	0	3	4	23	0

Division 3C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire 2nd	5	5	0	38	7	10
Wiltshire 2nd	5	4	1	25	20	8
Berkshire 3rd	5	3	2	27	18	6
Dorset 3rd	5	3	2	26	19	6
Somerset 2nd	6	2	4	22	32	4
Hertfordshire 5th	5	1	4	16	29	2
Herefordshire	5	0	5	8	37	0

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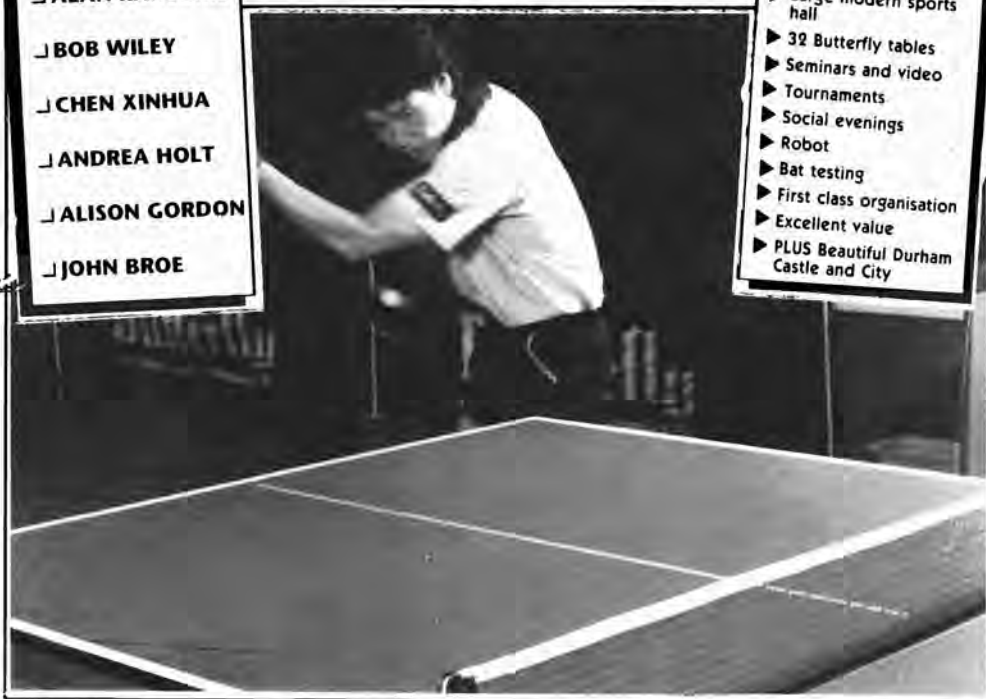
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Telephone Information Line

THE table tennis information line was re-established in December and, since that time, a considerable amount of effort has gone both into providing a quick, up-to-date accurate service and into promoting that service.

The purpose of this article is to request your assistance in ensuring that standards are maintained and that the information given out is always topical and varied. The line contains three sections as follows:

- News Update (general information)
- British League
- County Championships

The information on British League and County Championships is handled by the Press Officers responsible for those areas of activity.

The 'News Update' however covers a vast range of other activities - everything really which is not covered by the other two subjects. Mrs. Jose Ransome has agreed to be responsible for the News Update section but she MUST be fed with the information to be able to undertake this enormous task with the minimum of effort. EVERY reader of this article is in a position to provide Jose with information for the line. Could you please therefore keep her informed fully and promptly so the message on the line can be updated frequently.

Jose can be contacted as follows:

Conifers, Church Lane, Ormesby,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland Tel: 0642
322223 (H) or 0642 223333 (B) or fax on
0642 226000.

FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

TELEPHONE 0891 664300

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

Bridlington the resort for sport

BRIDLINGTON boasts the title the Resort for Sport and for good reason. It is proud of its place in the table tennis calendar which each year sees at least one major event held usually at the magnificent Spa Royal Hall.

Now they have brought a brochure aimed directly at attracting those sporting thousands who have yet to experience brilliant Bridlington.

Besides our own sport they will be holding cycle racing, national yachting, volleyball, windsurfing, jet-skiing and even dominoes.

Just so that you can make a date in your diaries, the English Junior Open Championships and the English U21 and U18 Championships will be taking place again in May.



The Spa Royal Hall at Bridlington



SPORTING UPDATE



ATTENTION all you coaches. The National Coaching Federation have introduced a subscription service which they claim is second to none. For an annual sub of £20 you get a Coaching Focus magazine, the opportunity to buy products at reduced prices, regular information on courses, seminars and products.

Free copies of SuperCoach, a news and information bulletin as well as offers on sports goods all come for that annual outlay. And that's not all. You receive automatic coaching liability insurance as well as entry into prize draws for tickets to major sporting events and a lot more.

Table tennis is included as part of a series of their Update titles and covers all the latest coaching ideas in racket sports.

Details from Information Centre, National Coaching Federation, 4 College Close, Becketts Park, Leeds LS6 3QH.



Olympic Games

WITH the Olympic Games around the corner what better way than to have your own portable TV set to keep in touch with the action. By portable I mean real portable, like 2.5 inches screen.

Casio have launched an exciting new model - the TV-570 which is the ultimate in portability. You can carry this around in your pocket and

simply tune in wherever you are.

It is so small you can sit it in your hand. So on your way to work in the train or bus you could bring it out and become an instant favourite with your fellow travellers.

The set is battery powered as standard and includes provision for optional mains or car batter power. The cost just £119.99.

World gymnastics

SPORTS PR who handle advertising for this magazine, has been appointed to manage media relations at the World Gymnastics Championships in Birmingham next year.

This latest assignment follows a similar role at the World Student Games in Sheffield last year.

The event in April 1993 is the showcase of the gymnastic calendar with over 800 journalists and photographers from all over the world attending.

TV coverage will be beamed to over 50 countries to an estimated audience of 250 million viewers.

Recurring injury problems

FOR table tennis players recurring injury problems can ruin a tournament, season or even a career. So any help must be seriously considered.

In our sport it is the repetition of certain strokes that can give cause for concern, hence the increase in use of sports supports. Seaton Healthcare have developed the ProSport range and tell us that their products are particularly effective for common injuries such as sprains, strains and pulled muscles.

They claim they give maximum support to joint structures and help you to play on ensuring an uninterrupted fitness route.

Free banking

WITH most banks now charging clubs up to seventy pence a cheque to operate their accounts, Yorkshire Bank continues to provide them with free banking as long as the account is in credit. The bank will also pay a generous rate of credit interest on current account balances.

This package is offered to all sports clubs including table tennis clubs.

Toothbrush

THE humble toothbrush is coming to the aid of local sports clubs. In a recent batch of post, landing on the desk of Trade Page is an idea which is claimed will boost club funds.

At least that is what a marketing company feel who have just tested their idea on local schools with overwhelming response.

The idea is that you have your association or club emblem printed on the brush handle. You could have a table tennis bat, your club logo or club name, you then order a minimum of twenty dozen (240) and sell them to friends taking the mark-up price as your profit. Something, perhaps, to get your teeth into.

Coaching

THE National Coaching Federation are hoping to sort out Britain's sporting future - in just five hours.

That is the title of their annual conference being held in Nottingham in March and that is how long it will last. The main topic of debate will concentrate on after school sport, its past, its present, and future. A subject worthy I would of thought of more than five hours.

They point out that the conference is not just for coaches but everyone who is concerned about the future of young people in Great Britain. The Minister of Sport Mr. Robert Atkins will be attending.

FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS TELEPHONE 0891 664300

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



Bigger and Better

NOT often that we receive news from a sports trophy supplier but it seems Colbourne have taken on a PR firm and one of the first things they did was to send us details of their new range of trophies.

David Brown, managing director of Colbourne Trophies describes his silverware as bigger and better than ever. Well he would wouldn't he.

But Colbourne have not got where they are today by hiding behind one of their trophies. They claim to be Britain's leading mail order trophy and

awards specialists and have just mailed out 5000 copies of their new catalogue.

The Wiltshire based company has paid particular attention this year to glassware, adding a number of totally new high quality items including boxed decanters and other presentation items.

But what will interest table tennis followers most will be their excellent choice of cups, medals, shields, trophies and a bonus they have announced, a new scale of charges for engraving.

Travel bags

YOU could hardly have missed those vast sports/travel bags that almost every player lugged around during the English Open. The smaller the player the bigger the bag, it seemed.

Some were big enough to carry the proverbial kitchen sink and naturally they came in all shapes and colours.

Some of the more colourful are produced by Joola ranging from the small but compact Spring, the Trophy, Nation Cup and finally the jumbo version entitled the Travel.

All neat, hard-wearing and very colourful and shown in Joola's new brochure.

Corbet Arms Graded Singles

TEN year old Trudie Bloor proved to be NFD Grove's most successful player in the February Corbet Arms Graded Singles Tournament held at Grove School on Sunday 2nd February 1992.

The diminutive NFD Grove player continued her domination of Under 10 events as she won the age group singles tournament in the morning ahead of Chester based duo Michael Matthias and Thomas Kennedy, whilst she reached the final of the Grade C Singles competition in the afternoon at her first attempt, before losing to Keith Parton of Stone in an excellent contest.

There were to be further honours for the Parton family as father Dave reached the

final of the consolation event in Grade A1 before losing to Burton on Trent's Mick Fisher. Meanwhile, daughter Michelle Fisher clinched gold in the Junior Singles finishing in top spot ahead of Potteries youngster Richard Mounsey. There was to be further success for the Potteries as Gary Pickford won Grade A2 beating NFD Grove's John Goodall in the final and brother Paul clinched Grade B with success over NFD Grove's Philip Parton at the same hurdle, whilst Norton veteran Dennis Butcher finished runner up to Newcastle's Jane Barnett in the Consolation A2 event.

The Senior Singles saw success at the first attempt for Bolton's Bill Russell over

Worcester's Lewis Siket with Burton's Mick Fisher the consolation winner over NFD Grove's Claire Marshall. Meanwhile, the Under 12 Singles saw success for the Chester camp as Mark Ryder beat clubmate Adam Burns in the final, whilst Helen Kerr of NFD Grove won the consolation with a final win against Mark Kennedy of Chester.

Victory in Grade A1 went to NFD Grove's hard working Mark Jackson who overcame Worcester's Lewis Siket in the final, while newcomer to NFD Grove Mark Bush clinched the consolation event in Grade B at the final expense of Newcastle's Claire Shipley. Meanwhile, the Grade C consolation event saw Potteries junior

Matthew Mounsey beat Chester's John Simm to gain final victory, whilst further success came to the City of Chester as Adam Burns beat Stockport's Helen McConniff for the title with NFD Grove's Carrie-Anne Thurland the consolation winner ahead of Leamington's Llyern Brockelhurst.

The Grade E event saw the usual high number of hard fought matches with Stockport's Anthony Sadoo the eventual winner beating Newcastle's Philip Yates in the final, whilst the rapidly improving NFD Grove girl Layla Shaw reached the consolation final before David Matthews of Leamington clinched success in a hard fought match.

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Qualified for Phyllosan

WHEN I recently took part in my local league's Closed Championships I was struck by the "maturity" of the competitors. I have qualified for Phyllosan for a number of years yet I apparently was not much above the average age of all those in the hall.

Projecting forward I wondered whether in ten years time I would still see the same faces or whether the infusion of young blood which is so vital to every sport will have arrived on the scene.

I do not know whether my inevitably local impressions are reflected elsewhere but certainly there is a need in the sport to attract young players.

This item is being read by the "converted", you wouldn't subscribe to Table Tennis News without a certain degree of commitment; we need to get out and sell our "product", otherwise as we go into the 21st Century it will wither away.

There are a number of ways in which this problem could be and is being tackled. Coaches are doing stalwart work up and down the country, cultivating and nurturing talent and the Sports Council "Focus Sports" initiative will soon be showing results.

However there is one body which has the structure and organisation to promote Table Tennis among the young people of the country - the English Schools Table Tennis Association. This provides an ideal way for youngsters at all levels of ability to experience competitive play as members of a team and later in the season as individuals. For many pupils (and teachers) the county championships are an introduction to what competitive Table Tennis can offer and as the more experienced

players move towards the national finals they are involved in matches at the highest level.

At the time of writing the team championships for 1991/92 are well under way, county championships have been played and Geoff Gardiner (Team Competition Secretary) tells me that entries for the Area Finals are "holding their own", this means that 212 teams were entered, 76 from the North, 79 from the South and 57 from the Midlands and West. Certain areas continue to flourish, 12 counties have entered teams into all categories, while others are much more sparse - only one team from Merseyside and none at all from Cornwall.

As usual certain establishments are represented in strength in the Area Finals - Peniel Academy from Essex have teams in six age groups (they are leaving others to take over the mantle of national champions in Boys U19 and Girls U11). Grove School (Market Drayton) also provide six teams and defend the Girls national U19 title. Parkview School (Barrow in Furness) send four teams, Brislington School (Avon) defend the boys U13 crown and Archbishop Cranmer (Leeds) include defence of the Girls U13 title among their three representatives.

There is a wealth of untapped talent in schools, the ESTTA and others are promoting the sport through all channels available to them; however there is another avenue which merits consideration. Many youngsters being coached do not take part in ESTTA competitions, they should be encouraged to take part themselves and also to act as publicists in their schools so that the sport can look forward to a healthier and more successful future in the new millennium.

Joe Walk (ESTTA)

LION SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

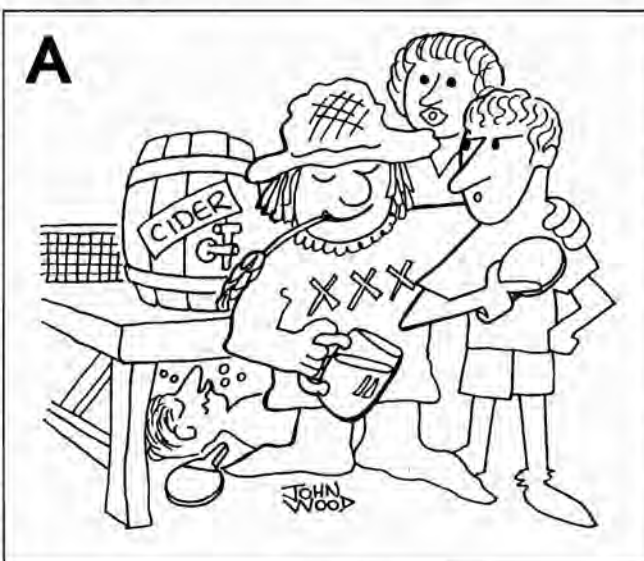
THE first three correct entries drawn from the hat will win, 1st a Lion insulated bat case, 2nd a Lion bat case and 3rd a box of Lion 3 star balls.

All entries must be received by 15th March 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 February 1992 competition:

- 1st: J. Evans, 8 Three Pools, Crossens, Southport. PR9 8RA
 2nd: Mrs. P. Lyon, 20 Coates Road, Exeter, Devon. EX2 5RW
 3rd: D. C. Holme, 12 Upper Hitch, Carpenders Park, Watford. WD1 5AW



Name : _____

Address : _____

A dream to reality



in just over two years



THE South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre is an example of what can be achieved in a very short time. In just over two years, the Centre became a reality. It was in 1989 that a possible Centre plan was put forward by the Plamore Table Tennis Club to the Grantham League, original drawings were supplied by Michael Sims. Shortly afterwards an open meeting was called by the league to get the feeling of all the clubs. Although some members expressed doubts about such a large undertaking, it was voted unanimously that all clubs would support the new centre. Meetings with South Kesteven Council followed and with the help of Herbert

Pacey, plans were soon underway for the first purpose built centre of its size in the U.K.

Various fund raising events were organised, ranging from cycle rides to raffles and discos to help with the finance of running

**WORDS AND
PICTURES
BY
JOHN F.A. WOOD**

the new centre. Over the past few years, table tennis has become one of Granthams premier sports. With the dedication of individuals such as John

Four trustees of the Grantham Centre are (left to right) (back row) Malcolm Simms, Peter Chalk. (Front row) John Mapletoft and Peter May

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

Mapletoft on the coaching front and the success of Playline Sovereigns in National Competitions, Grantham is firmly on the table tennis map.

This fabulous purpose built centre, which is probably the best of its kind in England, is a fourteen table arena, big enough for 5 star, and European events.

The centre cost £442,000 to build and furnish. The South Kesteven District Council paid £400,000, the East Midland Sports Council supplied £35,000 and the Grantham Table Tennis League raised the remaining £7,000 and it's on a 30 year renewable lease from the Council.



Councillor Jeffrey Thompson (left) of the South Kesteven District Council and Johnny Leach President of the ETTA, officially open the Grantham Centre

**HALEX ETTA NATIONAL UNDER 11
CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE HELD AT
GRANTHAM ON SUNDAY 10th MAY 1992**

Isle of Man Table Tennis Association

Easter Festival of Sport

Saturday & Sunday 18th - 19th April 1992

*** * * * £500 in Prize Money * * * ***

Saturday: Team Tournament. This event will be for teams of 2 (two) players, any age, group and sex. Full details are available on request. Plus: Open Junior Singles Under 14 (Boys and Girls) and Under 12.

Sunday: Open Tournament of Men's Singles and Doubles, Women's Singles and Doubles, Veterans over 40 and 50, Mixed Doubles, Junior: Under 17 and Under 21 Mixed.

Transport available, if needed, to venue in Ramsey Grammar School (50p per journey)

Closing date for entries: 23rd March 1992 Age restrictions as at 30th June 1991

Maximum of 4 events may be entered plus team event.

Enquiries for travel and accommodation should be addressed to:

Festival of Sport,
Isle of Man Department of Tourism,
13 Victoria Street, Douglas,
Isle of Man
Tel: 0624 674323

Entry forms available from:

Mrs. M. Mulhearn,
"Burnkbank"
Main Road, Higher Foxdale,
Isle of Man
Tel: 0624 801795

Some of the highlights

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

IN taking over this column from Joe Walk, to whom go the Association's sincere thanks for his work in recent issues, I hope to touch on some of the highlights of the Area Finals of the E.S.T.T.A.'s 1991-92 Dunlop National School Team Championships, which covered a spread of no less than 37 counties (based on Local Education Authorities) from Kent and Devon in the South to Cumbria and Tyne & Wear in the North.

Inevitably some of those highlights will have escaped my notice, and my apologies go to those who may feel that they have been passed over but, although in the end the glory goes to the winners, the real inner satisfaction comes from playing as a TEAM and the individual giving his or her best for that team. Well done, all of you.

Honours were well shared, with 31 of those 37 counties due to be represented at the three Regional Finals scheduled for mid-February - full details next month.

Familiar names were again prominent, with Grove (Market Drayton) and Peniel Academy, both of whom embrace T.T. from Schools level right up to the Premier Division of the British League, each providing six of eight finalists in the Regional Finals, while no less than six title holders - Peniel (G16, B11, G11), Grove (G19), Brislington (Bristol) (B13) and Archbishop Cranmer (Leeds) (G13) - will be battling for the right to move on to the National Finals and defend their titles.

There was a real thriller up in the North West where the B16 holders from the host school, Parkview (Barrow), with both Kevin Hodgson and Jamie Harris from that title winning side in their ranks, needed a draw from their final match to qualify.

Opposition was the St. Helens quartet from Sutton High, who led 4-3 with just the two No. 1's, Hodgson, the winner of the 'Boys' Best Performance' award at the 1991 Finals, and Saints' Philip Musgrove to do battle.



Rea Balmford

Only two places separate the pair in the national Junior rankings, and this time it was the turn of Musgrove to come out on top and lead his side into the North Regional Finals.

A four team competition in the South East left Croydon High to take on The Grove, St. Leonards on Sea, with a 4-4 draw allowing the Metropolitan school to go through on sets ratio, but the G13 from the same school were not so fortunate when they faced opposition from the south coast, a doubles decider putting St. Andrews (Eastbourne), the only other contenders, into the next stage.

Another East Sussex team, Thomas Peacock (Rye), also needed a doubles victory to move on at the expense of Nonsuch Girls High (Cheam) in the G19, while crossing to the North of the Thames, Wanstead High, who shared the points with Colchester 6th Form College, topped the table by virtue of a better result against the third side in the group, Enfield Grammar.

In the Midlands a closely fought Under 11 competition

saw Leasowes Junior (Stafford), regular competitors in the age group over recent years, but often overshadowed by the powerful Market Drayton Junior, take both Boys and Girls places, while pleasing news from Area 10 was the first Girls competition for a number of years.

Joanne Barratt showed up well for G16 winners John O'Gaunt (Hungerford), while outstanding for G13 winners Cavendish (Hemel Hempstead) was T.T.N. cover girl Marie Masters.

Still in the same area St. Andrews (Pangbourne), in their first year in the competition, beat Wallop (Weybridge) in the B13, but the lads are faced with a different decision - all the quartet are due to take part in a Rugby Union tour of the Netherlands which clashes with the Regional Finals.

And a final word from Area Organiser Ian Langley - a big thank you to the Basingstoke League for the loan, at a moment's notice, for surrounds.

The East Midlands competitors enjoyed the experience of playing in Lincolnshire's brand new 14 table Kesteven T.T.

Centre, which has already staged a match in the England v China Test series and has been promised a full international - good to see T.T. at all levels integrated under one roof.

And, to conclude this round-up where we began, on the fringes of the Cumbrian Lake District, it is back to the G19, often the Cinderella event, with teams breaking up as a result of the school leaving age. Runshaw Tertiary College (Leyland) led by Junior International Maria Thornley, beat Barrow 6th Form college with top Cumbrian girl Caroline Watt, a familiar figure on the schools' T.T. scene over recent years, in their ranks.

REGIONAL FINALS LINE-UP

NORTH

B19 - Monkwearmouth 6th Form College; Hulme G.S. (Oldham); Birkenhead 6th Form College; High Pavement College (Nottingham).

G19 - Fulneck Girls (Leeds); Runshaw Tertiary College (Leyland); Kesteven and Grantham Girls.

B16 - Grangefield (Stockton); Warneth (Stockport); Sutton High (St. Helens); Dronfield.

G16 - Acklam Grange (Middlesbrough); Kettlethorpe High (Wakefield); Parkview (Barrow); Dronfield.

B13 - Dame Allan's Boys (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Archbishop Cranmer C.E. Middle (Leeds); Parkview (Barrow); Dronfield.

G13 - Northfield Comp. (Billingham); Archbishop Cranmer C.E. Middle (Leeds); Parkview (Barrow); Kesteven and Grantham Girls.

B11 - West Jesmond Jnr; Holy Rosary R.C. Primary (Oldham); Christleton C.P. (Chester); Redlands Primary (Workop).

G11 - Archbishop Cranmer C.E. Middle (Leeds); Yarlside (Barrow); St. Mary's R.C. (Grantham).

SCHOOL REPORT - 2

MIDLANDS and WEST

B19 - Grove (Market Drayton); Wollaston Comp. (Northants); Hele's (Plymouth); Barton Peveril College (Eastleugh).

G19 - Grove (M.D.); Kineton High; Wellington.

B16 - Grove (M.D.); Wheelers Lane Boys (Birmingham); Wells Blue; Brislington (Bristol).

B16 - Grove (M.D.); North Leamington; Wellington.

B13 - Grove (M.D.); Smestow (Wolverhampton); Chilton Trinity (Bridgewater); Brislington (Bristol).

G13 - Grove (M.D.); Newent (Gloucs.); Chilton Trinity (Bridgewater); Brighton Hill Community (Basingstoke).

B11 - Leasowes Jnr (Stafford); Warstones Primary (Wolverhampton); Torrington Jnr; Holymead Jnr (Bristol).

G11 - Leadows Jnr (Stafford); Warstones Primary (Wolverhampton); Holymead Jnr (Bristol).

SOUTH & EAST

B19 - Beford Modern; Hitchin Boys; Wanstead High; Maidstone Gr.

G19 - Peniel Academy; Thomas Peacock (Rye).

B16 - Bedford Modern; Stantonbury Campus; Peniel A. Whitgift (South Croydon).

G16 - John O'Gaunt (Hungerford); Peniel A; Croydon High.

B13 - Bedford Modern; St. Andrews (Pangbourne); Peniel A; Cumnor House (South Croydon).

G13 - Cavendish (Hemel Hempstead); Peniel A; St. Andrews (Eastbourne).

B11 - Bedford Modern; St. Georges College (Jnr) (Addlestone); Peniel A; Downside (Purley).

G11 - Peniel A.; West St. Leonards C.P.

Jackie Bellinger

TABLE TENNIS SERVICES

Ex-England International & National Table Tennis Coach SUMMER SCHOOLS 1992

This year due to a demand I have expanded the summer school program to 3 weeks. As usual we are running the ever popular week at Norwich, but have added 2 weeks at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes. This is a superb totally self contained complex.

WEEKS 1 AND 2

Dates	Week 1 - Mon 27th to Fri 31st July Week 2 - Mon 3rd to Fri 7th Aug Both courses, arrival is at 12.30am on Mon, departure at 1pm on Fri.
Venue	The National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes. In a lovely setting, this centre is a superb complex with a large sports hall, good accom., cafeteria, gym and seminar rooms.
Meals	All meals are supplied and are at the centre. A qualified caterer will be preparing your meals making sure you never go hungry!!!
Accom.	will be at the National Badminton Centre and is good. There is a boys and girls dormatory.
Coaching	There will be at least 5 hours of coaching each day, therefore with only small numbers on each course, close individual attention is guaranteed. Each player will be videoed and also receive a written analysis on their game.
Coaches	Week 1 - Jackie Bellinger - Course Director Bradley Billington - England Jnr and Snr Int Plus another England Snr Player/Coach Week 2 - Jackie Bellinger - Course Director Lisa Lomas - England No. 1 Women. Plus another England Snr Player/Coach
Other Activities	Include videos, quiz, visit to the cinema, last night party/barbeque, tournament and T.T. seminars. There will also be the opportunity to play other sports in your free time. Lots of prizes to be won!!!

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GREATER LONDON CLOSED TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

at

Waterfront Leisure Centre Woolwich, SE18 Saturday & Sunday 30/31 May

Total Prize fund £2,000, Medals for placings 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Events for Men, Women, Boys and Girls

Singles: Under 14, Under 17, Senior and Veteran. **Doubles:** Senior only

Entries are invited from competitors with Greater London qualifications of birth, residence, work or full time education.

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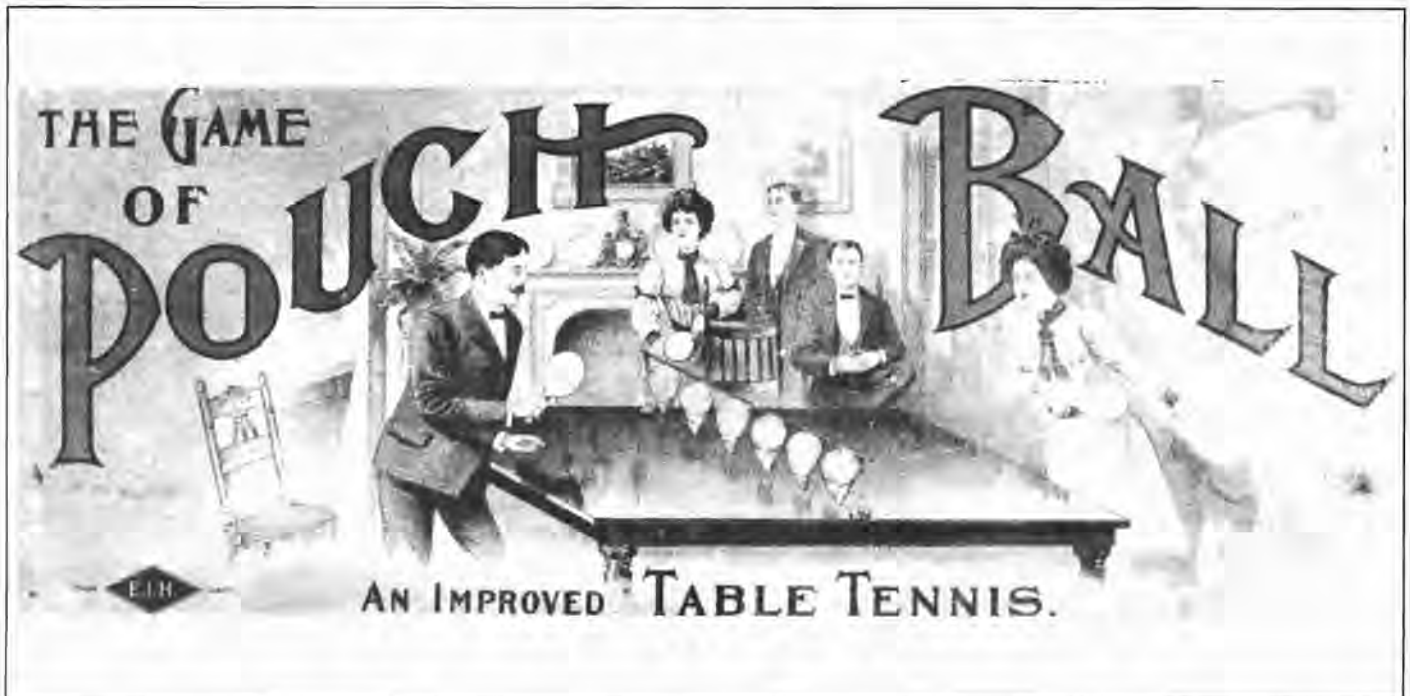


Closing Date for Entries 15 May 1992

For further details and an entry form telephone 071-798 2209



"To ping or not to ping - that is the question"



IN ENGLAND, the old vellum battledore was now abandoned in favour of a solid wooden racket. Arnold Parker recommended that this should be covered with cork, but often the wood was plain or corrugated - or covered with rubber, emery paper or leather.

Henry Essex - supported by the Perry Mason Advertisements - states that 99 per cent of games were played "upon that familiar article the dining-room table", but it seems to have been almost universally accepted that for tournament play a table 9 feet by 5 feet was needed. Arnold Parker raised a solitary voice in favour of a table 9 feet by 6 feet.

The immense popularity of the game led inevitably to one or two variations. 'Pouch Ball - An Improved Table Tennis' manufactured by Horsman, employed a table, rackets and a ball, but introduced a highly original net. This consists of a pole on which six 'pouches' are fixed, three facing each end of the table. The only set which is known to survive does not, unfortunately, include any rules, but presumably the main idea was to gain such control over the ball that it

could be hit into a pouch and thereby win the point outright. The principle of this goes right back to the 'grille' of real tennis, a square metre section of the wall which constitutes a 'hazard' or outright winner.

The extraordinary vogue for table tennis in the United States around 1900 is nowhere better displayed than in *A Little Book of Ping-Pong Verse* published in 1902. This bizarre collection of over eighty 'pieces' ('poems' would be a misnomer) was compiled from nearly a thousand entries to a competition organised by the *San Francisco Examiner*. We are not told who won the cash prize of 10 dollars which was offered. Entries are reprinted from English journals such as *Punch* and the *Sketch*, and from American journals as widespread as *Spokane* in the north west; *San Francisco*, west coast; *Denver*, Rocky Mountains; *Chicago*, *St. Louis*, *Columbus*, *Omaha*, the mid west; and *New York*, *Pittsburgh*, *Boston*, *Baltimore*, *Buffalo*, *Washington*, the East.

The verses give many examples of pastiche based, for example, on Shakespeare, "To Ping or not to Ping that is the question..." and "If Ping-Pong be the food of love, play on...." or,

on Ben Johnson "Ping to me only with thine eyes/And I will pong with mine...." Nearly all would qualify for *Verse and Worse*, but perhaps one example should be quoted; this, although no doubt much exaggerated, will also serve to show how the game was commercialised.

PING - PONG POSERS

If up-to-date you'll advertise,
Ping-Pong shoes and Ping-Pong ties,
Ping-Pong cakes and Ping-Pong clothes,
Ping-Pong pills and Ping-Pong hose,
Ping-Pong crackers, Ping-Pong soap,
Ping-Pong cocktails, Ping-Pong "dope",
Ping-Pong cigarettes, Ping-Pong cigars,
Ping-Pong motors, Ping-Pong cars,
Ping-Pong tea, Ping-Pong brew,
Ping-Pong ice cream, soda too,
Ping-Pong couches, Ping-Pong beds,
Ping-Pong hats for Ping-Pong heads,
Ping-Pong gowns for Ping-Pong girls,
Ping-Pong irons for Ping-Pong curls,
Ping-Pong shirts and Ping-Pong stocks,
Ping-Pong watches, Ping-Pong clocks,
Ping-Pong curtains, Ping-Pong rugs,
Ping-Pong remedies for bugs,
Ping-Pong hairpins, Ping-Pong nails,
Ping-Pong carpets, Ping-Pong veils,
Ping-Pong plasters for your corns,
Ping-Pong whistles, Ping-Pong horns,

TABLE TENNIS The Early Years - 2

Ping-Pong goods and Ping-Pong trash, Why, then, you'll Ping-Pong lots of cash!

*LA TOUCHE HANCOCK
Torrington (Conn.) Register*

It is astonishing to discover that no fewer than eighteen pieces of music - comic and marching songs, barn dances and polkas, are to be found in the US Library of Congress - all dating from 1901-1903 and all with 'Ping-Pong' in their title.

Table tennis even found its way into commercial relations - at least if we are to believe the anonymous author of *Table Tennis - A Description of the Game...* published in New York in April, 1902. He describes how, "on the other side of the water" the craze for the game had invaded country houses and hotels. "If you play table tennis well you are *persona grata* anywhere; if you don't, and you are expecting to put through some company deal in England, you had better learn the game before you start."

Then, to prove this point, he recounts a personal experience when he was visiting England on business. Entering the boardroom he finds himself interrupting a heated argument between the president and the underwriter, one at each end of the directors' table with racket in hand. The dispute having been settled, the three enthusiasts took over an hour to play one another before completing their

business within five minutes, the underwriter remarking that he would agree terms if only the visitor would "teach him how to put a right screw on the ball when returning the service with a backhand stroke." This was possibly the first, but certainly not the last, occasion that table tennis has fostered Anglo-American relations.

FOUR: THE TOURNAMENT SCENE

"Ping-Pong is, in spite of its name, a serious sport. It has risen to the dignity of a tournament or two, and it is even said that in some places it has ousted billiards. That is a pity because, after all, it is not an exhilarating spectacle to see companies of athletic, modern young women and strapping young men knocking a tiny tennis ball with a dwarf racket to an irritating accompaniment of unmusical taps."

So writes a reporter of the first Queen's Hall Tournament in the *Daily Graphic* of 27th December 1901. He is clearly not an enthusiast for the game, but he is forced to admit that it has to be taken seriously. He goes on to describe the players as "ping-pongists" a name which, fortunately, did not catch on. A few weeks later, in rather similar tone, the *Field* expressed surprise that "an adaptation of lawn

tennis to the dining-room table should ever attain to the dignity of a popular game."

The Queen's Hall Tournament, organised by the Ping-Pong Association and refereed by its Secretary, Mr. Washington Gray, was not, in fact, the first open tournament played in and around London. This distinction - according to the table tennis notes in *Lawn Tennis and Croquet* goes to a tournament played at Chiswick Town Hall in October 1901, but the magazine also quotes a correspondent who puts the view that inter-club matches provide the better play and that tournaments are for "pot hunters". No details of the Chiswick tournament seem to have survived, nor of a - presumably smaller - tournament at the Institute, Upper Clapton, London, at the end of November.

The first major open tournament was played at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, from 11th to 14th December 1901. The second day of the tournament was marked by a highly important event - the formation of the Table Tennis Association, beating the formation of the Ping-Pong Association by a mere four days. Trouble was, inevitably, to follow.

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.



VOU Kurt Doerry

Applying all the rules

Strictness

HOW strict should an umpire be, and should the same level of strictness be applied at all levels of the game?

An interesting question, with probably many different answers from law makers, players, organisers, coaches and umpires etc.

No qualified umpire, at any level of match, ought to think of ignoring a volley or a blatantly bad service. However, an interesting example came in a letter from Geoff Scruton, from which we quote:

"In our local league (Harrogate and District) many times the shout goes up 'Bat rule', whenever a volley occurs. I usually stop and say 'Are we applying all the rules or just that one.' 'All' is the reply, especially as I am a qualified umpire. So next service I fault as the ball is thrown up from the fingers, backwards on to the bat and struck as it rises. 'Nay come off it Geoff, its only a game.'

This is interesting, especially in view of the letter in the December/January issue from Derek Tyler in relation to our suggestion of abolishing the volley law.

How many umpires do not penalise a player for moving the table only a small amount?

How many players would argue with the umpire if he penalised them for catching the ball before it has passed the end line of the table, not having passed over any part of the table since being struck by their opponent, especially if, when caught, the ball is below the table surface?

About 18 months ago, the National Coaching Foundation organised, in Leeds, a meeting of match controllers.

Representatives from Rugby, Soccer, Cricket, Ice Hockey, Table Tennis, Hockey, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball attended.

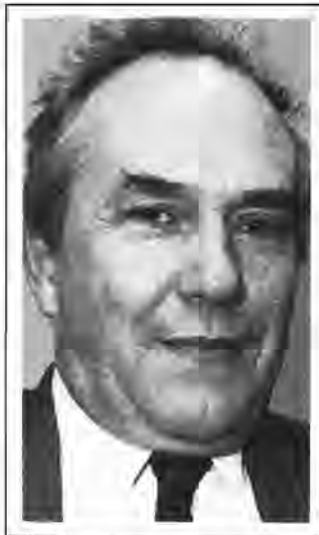
There was surprisingly large support for the view that a highly qualified umpire or referee should not be expected to officiate at low class events where the standards are less exacting. This was because there is a difficulty in not sticking rigidly to the letter of the law which is an ingrained habit for top officials, but as far as the lower players are concerned would merely spoil the match. Also, any failure by the referee/umpire might be noted and quoted against him on a subsequent occasion.

It does seem to us that the right way for qualified umpires is to stick to the rules, and if they don't like it, somebody else must officiate. So.....

Are we strict enough?

As a group we are accused of being inconsistent. What can be done to improve this?

Some views please from interested readers.



Fred Groom

Thoughts on the Chiba World Championships

The regulations for international competitions lay down the guidelines within which these competitions should be run. They state that the officials should be an umpire and an assistant umpire whose positions are fixed and duties defined. At Chiba, there were two assistant umpires, each positioned in line with an end of the table, with one of them acting as timekeeper, and stroke counter when required for expedite. They were also used as end line judges, to determine whether the ball, in service, was struck behind the body.

These features find no basis in the rules and regulations current at the time of the World Championships.

Equipment

At the Midland Open in November the tables had a low horizontal bar between the legs at each end, parallel to the end of the table. Players remarked to some umpires that this could be potentially dangerous. If a player runs in to get at a short ball and slips so that his foot slides under the end of the table, the bar could injure the player's shin. Was this considered by the Equipment Committee who presumably had approved this design of table?

Expedite

At the recent English Open the question was raised as to whether expedite could be brought in by agreement between the players, even though both had scored 19 points.

This was discussed with the Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee who said that the idea behind the change was that once both players had scored 19 points, expedite could not be brought in under any circumstances for that game, thus confirming the Referee's ruling.

Umpire selections

Selections have been made for forthcoming events as follows:-

Halex U18/21

May 3/4 Bridlington

E.A. Pentland; D.A. Poultney; S. Clarke; D. Sherratt; Mrs. H. Masters; B. Foggin; D. Edwards; W. Moran; K.A. Armon; G. Tyler; W. Spencer; R. Douglas; P. Ryalls; M. Strode; G. Lynch; R. Wilson.

English Jnr. Int. Open

May 23/25 Bridlington

Mrs. E.J. Wilson; E.A. Pentland; D.A. Poultney; S. Clarke; T. Vance; Mrs. H. Masters; F. Groom; W.F. Lavis; Miss D. Moors; B. Watkins; M. Payne; B. Foggin; G. Tyler; E. Emecz; W. Spencer; R. Vardon; D.A. Young; J. Randall; S. Sherlock; P. Williams; G. Parkes; D.J. Miller.

VETTS National Masters

May 23/24 Bracknell

D. Perry; Mrs. A.P. Archdale; T. Darroch; T. Carpenter; D. Edwards; J. Melnick; P. Gower; Mrs. S. Gower.

This month's pen picture is of Fred Groom, written by his wife.

Fred Groom

After playing table tennis in the Beckenham league for 2 years Fred first became interested in umpiring in 1952 after attending the English Open Championships at Wembley, and thinking, "I can do that." He became a County umpire the following year, and subsequently took the first International Umpires exam to be held. His 38 years of umpiring have taken him to various European countries including Germany, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, as well as numerous events in all parts of the United Kingdom.

A basically introverted character, he only comes out of his shell when among the table tennis fraternity. He has been Kent umpires secretary, a member of the umpires selection panel and is currently a member of the National Umpires and Referees Committee. He has refereed one International Match, but is not interested in qualifying as a referee.

For 33 years he worked in the Patents department of a large engineering company engaged in the manufacture of cigarette machinery, security printing presses and corrugated board machinery. He was made redundant at the end of 1986

and has since taken part-time work at a residential home for the elderly, and still carries out a certain amount of work at home for his old company.

Since his enforced 'retirement' he has taken up bowls and for the first time in his life, won a competition. He is actively engaged in woodworking projects, has started a model train layout and landscaped a rather precipitous garden. At 37 he decided to do something musical, so he taught himself to read music and took up the oboe, because he liked the sound it made. For several years he played in a classical wind band and a small orchestra in Chatham. Prefers music of the classical composers.

Married with a son, 28, and a daughter, 26, he lives at Rainham in Kent.

READERS' REPLY

Your recent observations on the volley

By coincidence I had drafted a letter to the ETTA regarding the volley and enclose a copy.

"I have enjoyed playing league table tennis for over 45 years and a league official for over two decades. I am coming more and more to the conclusion that one of the laws is totally unfair.

One of the most frustrating situations in Table Tennis is perhaps one is losing twenty - nineteen, you hit a glorious forehand winner to save the game. Your bat is well above your head but your opponent in a fit of desperation smashes desperately at the ball which flies through the air, well clear of the table and hits your out stretched bat. A game you had just saved has been quite unfairly lost.

When you return the ball beyond the end of your opponents half of the table, you have lost the point, it should not make any difference that the ball then accidentally strikes your opponents bat. No one would relish winning a point in such a way. I have seen players deliberately serve off the end of the table to compensate an opponent when having earned a point by volley.

In football the referee is given the authority to say if a hand ball is accidental; the same applies to when and where the ball is obstructed in Table Tennis; could not an umpire be allowed to give a let if a ball is accidentally volleyed well clear of the table.

As one suggestion perhaps rule 10.1.8 could read:

If a player fails to make a good return and the ball accidentally hits an opponent's bat, the umpire may call a 'volley let' if in his opinion the point could not have been won by the player returning the ball, other than by the accidental volley of his opponent."

Bert Powis, Chairman South West Sussex T.T.L.

South West Region by Alf Pepperd

S.W. Regional Table Tennis day for players with disabilities and able bodied Players and Coaches

THE Sports Council (SWR), as part of their "Going for Gold" project, have arranged a regional workshop aimed at providing some top level coaching for table tennis players with disabilities, the day is also designed to prove an insight for able bodied players and coaches into working with and coaching players with disabilities.

The workshop will be held at the Blackpool Sports Centre, at Taunton in Somerset, on Saturday the 14th of March when the chief coach will be Dave Hewitt, an ETTA Senior coach, from Preston in Lancashire, Mr Hewitt has considerable experience in working with table tennis players with disabilities.

It is also hoped to provide the

able bodied players and coaches with detailed information on coaching players with disabilities.

The day starts at 10.30am and ends at 4.30pm, details have been sent to all League and County secretaries in the South West Region, together with a number of coaches.

The "Going for Gold" project manager is Ed Leverton, "Going for Gold" is a scheme designed to assist sportsmen and women with disabilities in the South West, and to help them integrate into the able bodied sports scene.

Attendance at the day is by application only and anyone interested should contact Edward Leverton at 17 Southview Road, PAR, Cornwall PL24 2HJ or tel. 072681 3671.

Yorkshire & Humberside Region by Ray Burch

THE appointment of a full time Table Tennis Development Officer for Humberside County Council has been completed and the post is to be filled by Steve Hopkins, who had a similar position with the Hull Table Tennis League.

At a meeting of the Selection Panel, held on Monday, the 20th January, at The Sports Council Offices, Leeds, the appointment was offered to Mr. Ray Birch, for the post of Development Officer for Table Tennis in the Yorkshire & Humberside Region.

Both are members of the Management Committee for Yorkshire Table Tennis Association and are to be congratulated on their respective appointments.

Members of the Yorkshire Sub-Committee for Coaching are in the process of visiting leagues throughout Yorkshire in order to stimulate interest for the 'Focus Sport' programme.

Due to internal re-organisation within Leeds City Council, there will be a delay in the setting up of a Table Tennis Centre at Armley Sports Centre, Leeds.

London and South East Region by John Woodford

A FLYING START has been made by the London and South East Regional Committee, brought about by the boosting of the regional organisations by the ETTA and Regional Sports Councils.

Michael Close (Middlesex) and Brian Spicer (Sussex) are the two respective chairmen, with Mr. Close in the chair for combined meetings, the first of which has now taken place, with a large attendance.

The definition of the areas is:

The London Region will consist of the area covered by the 33 London Boroughs namely Middlesex and those parts of Essex, Kent and Surrey which are within London Boroughs. The South East Region will consist of the area covered by Sussex and those parts of Kent and Surrey which are not within London Boroughs. That part of Essex which is not within the London Boroughs is included in the Eastern Region.

For E.T.T.A. coaching purposes the London and South East is divided differently and includes the part of Essex which is not within the London Boroughs. The two coaching regions are "West" consisting of Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex

and "East" consisting of Essex and Kent.

The most important step forward is the forthcoming appointment of a full-time London Development Officer for a three-year period with the chosen candidate taking up the post as quickly as possible.

The South East would also be making an appointment - a combined coaching and development post. The target date for the South East Plan is the end of the summer.

E.T.T.A. Development Officer Diccon Gray re-confirmed that the Sports Council has chosen Table Tennis and Netball as national Focus Sports; the E.T.T.A. had responded with a programme with these main elements - National Development Programme, National Coaching Programme, Excellence Training, Facilities Programme, Join a Table Tennis Club campaign.

He told delegates that all regions would need to prepare and implement a Regional Plan and that Cyril Villiers, Director of the Sports Council for Yorkshire and Humberside had been appointed as co-ordinator of the ten Regional Plans.

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Thank you

I should like to thank both the Association and the many individual umpires who contributed to the amount raised to mark the end of my 40 years membership, 35 years as Chairman, of the National Umpires and Referees Committee. Some silver has been purchased and I am very grateful to all - the gesture has been much appreciated.

*Geoff James
Dover, Kent*

Recently retired

Having recently retired and therefore having more time on my hands, I have become interested in competing a little more in competitions outside the local league.

However, it appears the information required to assess tournaments available, and particularly where to send for entry forms, is not readily available, even though I have subscribed to the season copies of Table Tennis News. Now this lack of information may only apply to our local league, or maybe it is more general, but for what it is worth, I would like to make the following suggestion.

If a small number of handbills were distributed with the magazine, I for one would see to it that these handbills were distributed to players on match evenings, and ask they display one at their club premises. The cost may be more than justified by increased attendances at big matches and tournaments, and I am sure more readers of Table Tennis News would also be only too pleased to see that local players received the information, and distributed like myself. We can't expect to burden local league secretaries with more work, as they have enough on their plate. I recall a couple of seasons ago, being informed, fortunately, and by word of mouth, that the Chinese were playing against England, in the nearby town of Halifax. My wife and I went along, and had an enjoyable evening's T.T. spectating, but were rather disappointed that the hall, which only seats perhaps a 1,000, was only half full. Perhaps lack of information had something to do with this.

*Geoff Wadsworth
Huddersfield*

English Open

I shall leave it to others to comment on the locational and organisational aspects of the Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open on 9-11 January. Although not particularly spectacular, the play generally was of a high technical standard and I was pleased to have seen it. And I quite enjoyed my free samples of Cadbury's Chocolate Break!

But back to the play. I thought the English women performed very well, particularly Lisa Lomas -

moving so fluently - and Andrea Holt. They must have hoped to take the team event final, but the Swedish women sensationally turned on the power to storm them out. Of the English men, I was most impressed with Alan Cooke, who stuck to the task with sustained athleticism and nerve. And it was good to see Desmond Douglas still (almost) there amongst the best. The Germans maintained a high standard and workrate throughout, and thoroughly deserved their team event victory - Franz looks a name for the future.

The talking point and big disappointment was the singles failure and apparent indifference of the Swedish men. One can understand that for the world champions, probably more concerned with the European Nations Cup and the All Stars World Circuit, the English Open was little more than a warm up or practice session. There was marginal financial incentive, and besides, top players, particularly flair players, cannot perform well all of the time. And it was not that the Swedish stars 'threw' games but that they did not seem to have their hearts in it. Against this, I feel that they must have some responsibility (and in their own long term interests) in promoting the sport wherever they are playing. People who came to Birmingham (or watched TV) to see their idols/the world's best play, must have felt somewhat let down or unimpressed.

The other disappointment to me was Chen Xinhua. I felt that Chen should have been eligible for selection for England, and now that he has British citizenship there can be no argument. And he has recently shown that he can still beat the world's best. But he does not have to be chosen for every match. At Birmingham he lacked something of the slick acrobatics and craftsmanship with which it is associated. At his age had he been playing too much, what with the Chinese tour? Was he jaded? Or do the Germans know (from the Bundesliga) how to play him? Is he getting past it? Was he fully fit? Does he have an attitude problem? Or was he simply off form?

England has a bad tradition of knocking players when they are down. Chen deserves our support, and the support of his colleagues - no good will come from barbed comments behind his back. Nevertheless, his performance at the English Open did raise slight question marks over his future international career. I hope that, like the Swedes, he will come bouncing back when it really matters.

*Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes*

A kick in the teeth

The treatment received by my son Darryl, from the persons responsible for selecting an England Cadet Training Squad, can only be described as a 'kick in the teeth'.

Darryl is currently ranked No.3 in Cadets and No.28 at Junior level and has this season reached five finals



out of seven tournaments entered. This includes the winning of the recent National Cadet Ranking Trials.

The 'Powers' that be obviously do not recognise the National Trials or indeed the Ranking System as a guide to capabilities, as they have not selected Darryl as part of a squad containing five or possibly six other Cadets.

This is obviously a good incentive for young players on the circuit, who are aiming to achieve a top three place in the country; when others ranked somewhat lower are chosen.

Could anyone please explain to Darryl the point in holding the ETTA National Trials or the Ranking System for that matter; because I cannot!!!

*Stuart Meredith
Garden Suburb, Oldham*

Development Fund

Further to our recent telephone conversation herewith is a report of how my club in Thurrock has benefited from the development grant recently awarded to us:- East Thurrock have started a table tennis section at the football club bearing the same name. The club itself has some 1200 members on its books and has made a hall available on Thursday nights for the purpose of table tennis for its members. So far in its first season ten people have commenced to play competitively, with entries of two teams in the Thurrock Table Tennis League. There are also a handful of people using the facility on an occasional basis.

Whilst otherwise an excellent venue it was clear from the more serious players that the existing hall lighting would not be suitable for match nights. With the hopeful growth through the close season coaching programme it was decided to make an application, which was duly accepted, to install proper table tennis approved lighting. The club benefited to the tune of £245 from the development fund and now has hopes of continued growth in the forthcoming season by bringing new faces to local table tennis.

*Graeme Dale
Stanford Le Hope, Essex*

Barren seeds?

At the English Open I overheard someone say that the No.2 seed in the Veterans event, Malcolm Corking, shouldn't have played Tony Clayton (a highly rated senior player in his 1st year as a veteran) in the 1st round. The inference being that Tony should have been seeded. But why? Surely now that losses count when calculating computer points seeding should be abolished, because it gives the seeds an unfair advantage. I suggest by taking this action everyone would have an equal and fair chance to lose as well as gain computer points. It could rejuvenate tournaments and perhaps allow more chances to unfancied players to reach the later stages. This would not weaken a tournament. After all, the odds of all the good players being drawn together or in one half are inestimable. The interest of 2 potential tournament winners playing each other in an early round/group would be high (as in the case of Malcolm and Tony) and more spectators/players could watch. By retaining seeding the "points" gap between seeded players and others would get bigger, which with the new computer ranking system is unfair. Remember, the seeds of today, protected by the present system, will not be the seeds of the future. Surely it would be fairer for all players to be subject to the "luck of the draw".

*Frank Hams
Morden, Surrey*

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

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Bridlington, Humberside

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