



Table Tennis News

No. 207

May/June 1992 £1.25



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**John
Jaques**

Golden England Juniors

A TEAM of 8 players and 5 adults made the trip on Thursday 30 April to Gravelines, just outside Calais, for the Bernard Jeu European Challenge on 1/2 May. 2 boys and 4 girls in under 10, 12, 14 and 17 category were warmly greeted by our French hosts and participated in what was described as one of the best tournaments any of us had been to for a very long time. Added to that, the team which had 5 of the 8 making their England debut, plundered 2 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal to be the top medals nation of these competing, ahead of Netherlands, Belgium, France, France North 2, France North 1, Italy, Peniel Academy and Luxemburg in that order. England had in fact come within a whisker of winning the team event as they lost 3-5 in a pulsating match to France which all hinged on the last two matches.

On arrival we were told that we would be playing the individual competition the next day in two halls, one kilometre away because the table tennis hall was being used for a semi final of the National Basketball league. Play was to start at 8.30am, so no practice was possible. As we were the first to arrive, we suggested a 9.30 start, so we could all have an hours practice beforehand. Our translator, who was part of the organising committee, said this was possible (a word that was used continually throughout the weekend) which we soon realised was used when our friendly hosts did not want to refuse! After an ample meal which was at 7pm possibly but actually started at 8.30, we were told to have breakfast at 7.15am ready for a briefing meeting at the hall at 8am.

The players were split in two groups within their age groups, one of 4 and one of 5. After the group play, four from each group went through to play quarter finals, semis and final and place matches to get a final ranking 1 to 9. Each players received points depending on the position achieved - 1 point for 1st place, 2 for second etc. The total points gained by each team would then decide their group position for the next day's play in the team competition. England finished 1st (32 points) and only 5 points separated 1st and 5th places (Peniel Academy)

In the individual competition, our under 10 boy Scott Friday, one of 5 players making their debut, never lost a match (nor in the team event) to win his category and even though our under 12 boy Ali Subhan lost three in the group, he still went on to win his category! Alex Perry reached the final of the under 17 and was unlucky to lose to Ip Mion of Belgium in the final (a defeat avenged the next day) as was Nicola Deaton who lost in the under 17 final to Veronica Granero of France North. Sarah Stedman (under 14) lost to the Dutch girl Evelin Henstman, the eventual winner, in the semi, but won 3/4 play-off and so received a medal. Although Darryl Meredith (under 14) and Tracy Bloor (under 10) did not get through the groups, they will have gained more experience on their first visits abroad. Debbie



Scott Friday (above), Ali Subhan (below left) and Vincent Avery



Pestka (under 12), also on debut, had to play Tracy Davies (Peniel) in the first round and lost, but still won her play-off matches to get 5th place. Debbie also beat the eventual winner (in her group!) and also beat her the next day in the team event, the only player to beat her all weekend.

England had Belgium, Peniel and Italy in their group and we won all three matches 6-2, excellent performances by all the players with both Trudi and Darryl, who had not played well the previous day, contributing wins. The other group saw France draw with the Netherlands, but win on games difference. Peniel came second in our group and lost to France in the semi, while we managed to beat the Netherlands 5-3 and so had to play France in the Final.

A short break while the arena was set up and we were on. The atmosphere was electric, players and spectators cheering and clapping after every point. We were 4-2 down with the last two games to go (Alex and Nicola). After losing the first, Nicola played very well to win the next two. Meanwhile, Alex reached 18-18 in the third against the French boy who he had beaten the previous day in the semi of the individual, but it slipped away game 18. The defeat was nobody's fault - Darryl had been beaten earlier deuce in the third on an edge ball, which would also have won us the match.

After the prize giving, another super meal of steak and chips (this the players enjoyed the most) followed by ice cream and gateaux. Again the adults stayed on until the early hours finally saying our goodbyes and thank you before retiring to bed.

We were 'probably' being collected about 9.30am for a lift to Calais by 10.45. At 9.50 no one had arrived. As we telephoned the organiser though, our transport turned up.

Finally, the team spirit of the whole party, which included coaches Jenny Heaton and Martin Bawden, was agreed as one of the best at England Junior level for a long time. Peniel Academy also had a team competing. They reach the semi finals of the team event losing to France and achieved 4th place after a play-off with the Netherlands. The top four teams as well as receiving trophies, got superb gifts - England a hand camcorder and Peniel an enormous radio cassette. Their only success in the individual competition was a gold from Vince Avery in the under 14 boys. Vince only lost one match during the while competition.

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	Total
England	2	3	1	6
Netherlands	2	2	2	6
Belgium	2	1	1	4
France	4	1	1	2
France North 2	1	0	1	2
France North 1	0	1	1	2
Italy	0	1	1	2
Peniel Academy	1	0	0	1
Luxemburg	0	0	0	0



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Front cover: The European Women's singles silver medallist. (Picture by John F.A. Wood)

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England's Lisa Lomas who won a European Silver medal in Stuttgart

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- * Report on the Halex/ETTA Under 10, 11, 12, 18 & 21
- * Report on English Junior Open Championships

Editor's Note

GREAT! Great! Great! That was Lisa Lomas, when she won the Silver Medal at the European Championships in the Women's Singles, whilst England's men also put on a fantastic display to win the Silver Medal in the team event.

This issue of Table Tennis News heralds the news that we will be staging the next Europeans at the fabulous NIA Centre, in Birmingham, in 1994 (see Chairman's Report).

The other great European news is that our juniors won three gold medals at the Bernard Jeu European Challenge in France in May.

Our three young gladiators were Scott Friday, Ali Subhan and Vincent Avery.

Well done lads! England has a bright future in World table tennis with the likes of these three.

Sadly, as this season comes to a close, Table Tennis News will be losing its British League correspondent Mike Loveder. On behalf of this magazine I would like to thank Mike for all his past services to table tennis.

This issue sees a new regular page for 'Wheelchair Table Tennis' commence, written by David Russell.



David Russell

'Vetts Voice' has a new writer, Paolo Beck, who writes under the name of just 'Paolo'. Have a great summer.

John F.A. Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1992

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1st September 1992
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Powerful gift

KEN ELIOT has successfully negotiated a promotion with National Power.

This is a breakthrough for sport, because National Power have their sponsorship money tied up in the arts and education.

So National Power choose table tennis for their first venture into sport.

To promote their company with a sporting organisation they gave 55 executive folders to ETTA National Councillors at their meeting held on 25th April at the Open University, Milton Keynes.

New table tennis centre

THE ADT College at 100 West Hill, Putney, London, has recently purchased 5 new Stiga tables and they have them constantly set up in their sports hall.

This ADT club is a "practice" club which is open to players of every age and ability, everyone is welcome.

The plan is to be able to open the club every night of the week from 7pm to 10.30pm and to also provide practice facilities on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am to 12.30pm.

At the moment the club is only open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday morning.

For further details ring 081-870 3600, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Anniversary

NORTH Middlesex Table Tennis League will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary this coming September.

Is it the oldest League in Great Britain? Formed in 1932 the League consisted of one division playing a match of twenty five single sets (five a side). This system was scrapped just after the war and replaced by a three person team, nine sets, best of three, "Swaythling Cup" style match.

By early seventies the League had expanded to nineteen divisions boasting over one thousand registered players. In the current season there are only eight divisions which reflects our game's falling numbers.



Some of the National Councillors with their folders

Britain beats Olympic numbers quota

BARCELONA'S Olympic Games Organising Committee (COOB) will not be able to look at Britain for help in reducing its overcrowding problem. An estimated total of 391 competitors look set to represent Great Britain at the Games from 25 July - 9 August - just ten more than in 1988.

"It is impossible to be precise", said a British Olympic Association spokesperson, "because qualifying events are still continuing in many sports. But we estimate relatively static total numbers despite the new sport of badminton and the addition of events in women's judo and canoe slalom. This reflects our moves towards tougher qualification standards."

Four years ago Britain took 381 competitors to Seoul to compete in 19 sports. In 1992 badminton (12 competitors), women's judo (7 competitors), and canoe slalom (15 competitors) have swelled numbers.

Britain waits, too, to see whether its men's basketball team will qualify. This would boost the overall total to 414 - still within Barcelona's 10% guideline for increases above the 1988 figures.

England have succeeded in qualifying six players in table tennis. They are:

Men's Singles - Carl Prean and

Matthew Syed, Men's Doubles - Carl Prean/Alan Cooke, Women's Singles - Lisa Lomas and Alison Gordon, Women's Doubles - Lisa Lomas/Andrea Holt.

This is a 50% increase in table tennis participants compared with Seoul four years go.

Umpires tournament and social weekend

WE have received sufficient indication of support to enable us to go ahead with the weekend. Tournament to be played on Saturday start time 11am, and is open to ALL qualified umpires, you don't need to play we will need helpers.

Dinner at the hotel Saturday evening, you do not need to stay overnight to come along to the dinner.

Costs: Entry £5.00, Hotel £21.00 per person sharing twin/double, Dinner £10.00, you are responsible for your travel costs. Entry forms from Geoff Taylor, 75 Glendower Avenue, Whoberley, Coventry CV5 8BD, Telephone 0203 678632. ENTRY NO LATER THAN JULY 1st 1992.

British Paralympic team

A STRONG BRITISH table

tennis team is going to the first ever Paralympics for People with Mental Handicap in Madrid.

The Paralympics are the "Parallel Olympics", for competitors with a learning difficulty, and will start on 15th September, going on to the 22nd. Britain will be "Going for Gold" against 70 other countries. Members of the Table Tennis Team come from all over the United Kingdom. They get together every six weeks for training in Westview Leisure Centre in Preston, under Head Coach David Hewitt, writes Raj Sacranie.

There are 8 members on the squad. Female players are Brenda Addis, from Epsom, Sandra Carrick and Linda McDade, both from Glasgow, and Morag Murdoch from Stonehaven. The male team is Kenny Dale and Warren Tipling, both from Sunderland, David Evans, from Ilford and Herbert Thomas from London.

The Paralympic Table Tennis Team have had help from table tennis players and coaches, Jill Hammersley, the former European Champion, and Don Parker, her husband, the Director of Coaching of the English Table Tennis Association have also coached the Paralympic Team. When Don was asked about the Team's medal prospects, he was enthusiastic: "The Team will be prepared to the best of their ability. I'm sure that given the breaks that any player must have, they have got a very good chance of returning with medals."

Europeans for Birmingham!

ENGLAND enjoyed important success both on and off the table at the European Championships in Stuttgart. First of all, I would like to congratulate our players and captains on a first class championship! Lisa Lomas played perhaps her best table tennis ever to reach the final of the Women's Singles and win the Silver Medal. Lisa's performances during the season have improved month to month. The England men produced some excellent displays to take the Silver Medals in the team event, losing to the mighty Swedes in the final. Carl Prean and Chen Xinhua both produced class performances, whilst Mathew Syed made a terrific impact on the tournament with several exceptionally good wins. Our doubles pair, Carl Prean and Alan Cooke, played an important role winning the majority of their sets. In the singles, Chen Xinhua went the furthest after beating the holder Mikael Appelgren of Sweden, before losing to the eventual winner Jorg Roskopf in the quarter finals. The whole story of the European Championships are published elsewhere in this issue.

Off the table, our bid to host the European Championships in Birmingham at Easter 1994 was successful, but only after a strong campaign both in Stuttgart and beforehand to raise the funds and put the necessary arrangements into place.

It only became known at the end of January that the Yugoslav Association were planning to return their option of running the 1994 Championships to the E.T.T.U. because of the political situation in Croatia, so leaving just ten weeks to find the funds and put the bid together. The Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, and I arranged meetings with Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield, the Sports Council and the BBC. Birmingham offered the facilities at the National Indoor Arena, the Sports Council financial support, the BBC television coverage, but even with all this support there was a significant shortfall. The Foundation for Sports and the Arts Sports Committee gave their support with a limited underwriting of the event, but this information only came through right at the last minute. In fact, the information reached me as I was in the Departure Lounge at Birmingham Airport ten minutes before catching the flight to Stuttgart!

Birmingham City Council agreed to



Alan Ransome

support the bid with a first class brochure and a promotion in Stuttgart for the delegates of the 40 countries participating, with one of their key staff members, Brian Stocks, taking an active role in the presentations. Budapest (Hungary) and Zagreb (Croatia) were also bidding. Zagreb had already been awarded the Championship by the Yugoslavian Association and then had them withdrawn because of the political situation. Zagreb through the new Croatian association still wished to go ahead. Budapest withdrew, but Zagreb fought just as hard as we did. Our brochure and presentation were well received by all the delegates. At the E.T.T.U. Congress the Croatian President, Munivrans Ivo Goran, delivered a powerful speech. Johnny Leach, Brian Stocks and I presented the Birmingham bid and in the vote we were successful by 21 votes to 16.

The E.T.T.U. Congress heralded the dawning of a new era in European table tennis affairs as the President, Mihovil Kapetanic, and Vice President, Ella Zeller-Constantinescu, stood down and Germany's President, Hans Wilhelm Gab, was elected as the new President. Congress agreed to the introduction of a full time Secretary and a professional office for the European Table Tennis Union as well as a new Executive Committee increased from four to five persons consisting of a President, three Vice Presidents and the Treasurer. George Yates, the retiring Hon. General Secretary, was able to attend the Congress with his

wife, Doreen. George suffered a stroke in January and is making a slow but positive recovery. At the commencement of the proceedings George was awarded Life Membership of the E.T.T.U., a just reward for his valuable contribution to European table tennis.

George's retirement left the possibility that, for the first time since the formation of the E.T.T.U., there would be no British member on the Executive Committee. Recognising this, the E.T.T.A. Management Committee decided that I should stand and with substantial support in Stuttgart from Johnny Leach, I was elected as one of the three Vice Presidents along with Nils Bergstrom of Sweden and Christos Christolatos of Greece. George's illness also left open the prospect of the loss of one of the British members on the I.T.T.F. Council at the B.G.M. next year. I stood in the election and was successful in keeping the strength of our representation at this level (subject to final ratification at the B.G.M.). Colin Clemett is also a current member of the Council in his position of Chairman of the I.T.T.F. Rules Committee.

In fact, our representation on European Committees has never been stronger as, in addition to my election to the Executive Committee and the Calendar Group, Tony Chatwin was elected as a member of the Umpires and Referees Committee, Jill Parker to the Ranking Committee, Brian Spicer as Secretary of the PR committee and Donald Parker as the Deputy Chairman of the Teaching and Training Committee. Scotland's Denis George, was re-elected to the Technical Committee as Deputy Chairman...overall, a very strong British representation.

One objective that was not achieved in Stuttgart was the bid to bring the World Veterans Championships to Birmingham in the Summer of 1994. Australia were the chosen hosts. Again, our team of Johnny Leach Brian Stocks, Elaine, Shaw, Clive Oakman and myself worked hard to put forward a strong bid, but the fact that two days before the Veterans decision was made we were awarded the European Championships may have been a significant factor in the Championships not coming to England. We hope to be awarded the next World Veterans in 1996 and with the Championships almost certainly returning to Europe our chances of success on the second

occasion must be good.

The German Association staged a very good and professionally managed European Championships. Their presentation and TV coverage will be a hard act to follow. Arrangements are already in hand to set up the organisation plan and to raise the remainder of the finance. More about this in the next issue.

With the Europeans behind us, our thoughts turn to a very busy Summer which includes the Olympic Games and a very full junior programme with the Japanese tour, the English Junior Open at Bridlington supported by East Yorkshire Borough Council, the European Youth Championships and our own Annual General Meeting in London in June. Our junior and cadet results have been a cause for concern in recent years. This year we have increased the opportunities for both training and competition and I am hopeful that our players will show the benefits in the European Youth Championship in Topolcany in July.

The Focus Sport programme is now moving ahead quickly. The 'Building Partnerships' Conference at Lilleshall on April 4th and 5th was felt by both the Sports Council representatives and

the delegates to be well worthwhile. We made a presentation to the 10 Regional Sports Council Liaison Officers with the responsibility for table tennis Jill Parker has commenced her role of managing the Regional Staff Coaches programme and most of the positions have been filled and the coaches are ready to take advantage of the training. The Focus Sport programme is creating an enormous amount of work and I am grateful to all volunteers in the Development and Coaching Departments for their efforts as well as our staff for undertaking the extra workload.

I was pleased with two items announced at the last National Council Meeting at the end of April. Our Treasurer, Peter Hillier, reported a surplus of £16,000 overall on the season (financial year) after earlier predictions of a deficit. Despite this, the pressure to bring further funding into the Association and to save costs is still a high priority.

Secondly, I would like to thank Council for their support of my nominations for the Vice Chairmen for the new season. With the exception of George Yates (illness) and Clive Oakman (now a member of the professional staff) all

of the current Management Committee were returned, plus Jim Beckley who has taken back the role of Vice Chairman Public Relations. The team now is: Mike Holt (Administration), Stuart Sneyd (Coaching), Tony Chatwin (Competitions), Mike Lewis (Development), Mike Watts (Marketing), Jim Beckley (Public Relations), and Paul Day (Selection).

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Annual General Meeting in London in June. The A.G.M. completes table tennis' 100 Years and this will be celebrated with a special dinner and entertainment in the evening at the Carnarvon Hotel in London (full details from Doreen Stannard) - See page 29.

Finally, this is my last report in Table Tennis News for the season. I would like to thank all members for their co-operation during my first year in office. I think we have made some good progress both on and off the table.

Editor's note: There was a typographical error in the last issue of the magazine. George Yates was the Deputy Chairman of the E.T.T.A. from 1970 to 1987, not the E.T.T.U.

The Gainsford Cup? What is that?

THIS is a question I am often asked, writes *Dotis Moors*, and it would appear that several of the other National Cup Competitions are also unknown to many table tennis players. So a few words about each competition:

The Wilmot Cup - A League may be represented by 3 men taking part in the League competition.

The Rose Bowl - As in 1 but a team of 3 Women.

The Carter Cup - As in 1 but a team of 3 Junior Boys.

The Bromfield Trophy - As in 1 but a team of 3 Junior Girls.

The Leach Cup - A team of 3 Cadet Boys representing their Local League or a team from a member club nominated by the Local League.

The Hammersley Cup - As in 5 but a team of 3 Cadet Girls.

There are two club competitions:

The Ormesby Cup - The Club of whose Men's team is the acknowledged champion team of the Local League in which it plays. If that club does not wish to enter the Local League may enter another team.

The Gainsford Cup - A team of 3 women will be accepted from any

club playing in a Local League, or any Directly Affiliated Club playing in the Women's British League.

The country is divided into 8 zones, the competitions are on a K.O. basis with about 6 weeks to play each round culminating in the National Finals.

Entry forms, with the full Rules, are sent to all League Secretaries and for the Gainsford Cup to all British League team secretaries in early July the completed forms must be returned to the Competition Secretary by mid August.

Over the seasons entries have declined, particularly in the Womens and Girls events. Remember these competitions are an annual feature so why not consider entering a team before this season ends and if the League Secretary should be retiring please ensure that the forms are passed on to the new incumbent.

It is likely that from next season all matches in these competitions will be included in the National Ranking Scheme.

If your Club or League does not normally enter a team in these competitions, have a word with your League Secretary - ensure you are represented in these National Team Competitions.

National Team Finals

THE South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre at Grantham plays host, for the first time, to the National Team Finals on Saturday 6th June.

The finals are being sponsored by Stiga in addition to the support being given by the Grantham & District Table Tennis League. Winning teams can expect prizes in the form of Stiga table tennis products in addition to the National Championship trophies - all competitors and officials will receive souvenir T-shirts, again supplied by Stiga.

Finalists will be encouraged to bring supporters for a day which hopefully will create the atmosphere that should be expected at a Cup Final.

Four matches will commence at 11.00am and following the presentation ceremony for those events, the final session of finals commence at 3.30pm. Admission is free, excellent refreshments at moderate prices, a well stocked bar and the usual Grantham raffle will all help towards an enjoyable day of table tennis.

The order of play is likely to be as follows:-

11.00am

The Gainsford Cup
(Womens Club Team)
Playline Sovereigns (Grantham) v Peniel (Brentwood)

The Wilmot Cup
(Mens League Team)
North Middlesex v Cambridge

The Carter Cup
(Junior Boys League Team)
Northumbria v Southend or Birmingham.

The Hammersley Cup
(Cadet Girls League Teams)
Chelmsford v Maidstone

3.30pm
The Ormesby Cup
(Mens Club Teams)
Handsworth Victoria (Birmingham) v Ifield (Crawley)

The J.M. Rose Bowl
(Womens League Team)
Wolverhampton v Brighton

The Bromfield Trophy
(Junior Girls League Team)
Brighton v Swindon

The Leach Cup
(Cadet Boys League Team)
South West Sussex v Hull

For further information contact
ETTA Events Manager, Clive
Oakman on 0424 722525.

Five silver medals for England

FIVE SILVER MEDALS for the England squad, a successful bid for the 1994 European Championships and a record number of England administrators voted into European offices, made Stuttgart 1992, easily the most successful tournaments ever.

The England men's team, by reaching the team final finished second only to Sweden and most importantly, our womens team after a slow start finished in fifth position, four places up on Gothenburg in 1990.

Lisa Lomas was the star of the England show. After reaching the final and losing to the 30-years-old warrior Bettine Vreisaakop, Lisa must surely reach the European Top Ten, after years of trying to achieve a breakthrough.

JOHN WOODFORD REPORTS FROM STUTTGART

Carl Prean, Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed all had tough draws and all failed to reach the third round - Prean losing to Wang Yansheng (Norway), Cooke to Zoran Primorac (who reached the semi-finals) and Syed losing yet another spectacular show to Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium), the losing finalist in the mens singles.

England champion Chen Xinhua with the best draw, took full advantage of his good fortune to reach the last eight and also will hopefully get into the European Top Ten, where he deserves to be. There are hopes that at the next Top-12 in Denmark we could have three players - Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua and Lisa Lomas.

Chen's progress is worth recording. He started off confidently against Trinko Keen (Holland) 14, 6, 15, but the following day, the former World Cup winner had to draw on all his wealth of experience to wear down the explosive Thierry Cabrera, whose ego is so big (and his behaviour so questionable) that he probably thought he could win the European crown.

Chen lost the first and third games as the Belgian No.2 collected two yellow cards and boos from the crowd as he shouted and paced the back of the court like a caged tiger



Lisa Lomas England's silver medalist



The England Men's team

when he lost points.

But Chen held his ground, defied all the distractions of the long-haired and short-tempered Cabrera to win - 19, 9, 16, 7, 14 to earn him a place in Round 3 where he easily knocked out the defending champion Mikael Appelgren 21, 10, 16. That was an astounding show. Chen abandoned the cartwheels for sheer concentra-

tion, defending with tremendous placements, one of his best shows since he came to England 4 years ago.

Sweden routed

Although, Sweden won the team event 4-1 against England, their men met only disaster in the singles, apart



Tischtennis Europameisterschaften

from Chen beating "Appel", Jav-Ove Waldner was beaten in the quarters by Primorac -18, 12, 19, -14, 17, Peter Karlsson fell to Jean-Philippe Gatién and Andrzej Grubba whipped out the world champion Jorgen Persson -19, 16, 12, 20. Lindh was a Karlsson victim 6, 18, 20.

Lobbing Lisa

Strangely, Lisa was not all that happy with her chopping throughout the events, but her lobbing from way back was a priceless asset. Quite often she was driven back but her very high returns would be returned bouncing so high that her shorter opponents such as Galina Melnik had to jump in the air and make weaker returns.

The Lomas-Melnik clash in Round 3 of the womens singles was a match to remember. Ace defenders are always popular with the crowds and Lisa was no exception. Lisa won the battle -11, 16, -19, 25, 22, a scoreline that suggests drama of the highest kind.

The 22-minute stoppage was caused by an umpiring error. At 24-23 to the former Soviet girl in the fourth game the assistant umpire mistakenly called time. The umpire wrongly allowed play to continue and the point went to Melnik -24, -24.

Uproar followed, officials and captains swarmed around for ages, before the referee managed to persuade the umpire to correct the error. The scoreboards were changed back to 23-24 and despite the commotion, Lisa went on to win.

No doubt, from those present, there will be varying views on the dispute, but as Don Parker said "There was never any doubt in my mind that we were right" and so it proved.

What I could not understand was why the assistant umpire - the man who made the error by wrongly calling time - sat there throughout the rumpus, quite unmoved. Most umpires would have taken some part in the heated exchanges, if only to say they regretted the error.

Revenge

Continuing the Lisa story - the Dutch girls have caused England so many problems over the last five years costing England promotion in the European League - that it seemed as though Lisa was about to gain some form of revenge.

This she did by taking out Melnik who sportingly gave away another point given to her in error and then reaching out and winning the silver medal by crunching Mirjam Hooman 14, 7, 11.



Pictured above is Jorg Roszkopf, the new European Men's Singles Champion and below is a happy Ron Crayden, surrounded by the English Women's team



Not many people would have backed Lisa against the Dutch woman who won the European Top-12, fifteen months ago in Holland, but the lady from Luton almost made the Dutch women look like a novice with back-spin returns and occasionally hits and lobs.

The English plan for Lisa to win gold and beat the vast experience and class of Bettine Vrieskoop - she won this title in 1982 stopping Jill Parker in the final in Budapest - unfortunately failed.

Immaculate was the word to describe Vrieskoop in the final against Lomas. She patiently piled on the top-spin squeezing out the points to win 21-10, 21-18, 21-17. My colleague John Oakley maintained that the Dutch woman only made three errors of over-hitting the target throughout the match, a touch of class for sure.

As Lisa bowed out, all smiles on the rostrum, it is as well to reflect just how topsy-turvy are the results coming from the leading European women players in this tournament and others....top seed Csilla Batorfi lost to Vrieskoop, Wang Xiaoming (France) lost to Bogoslov (Rumania), Marie Hrachova beat Pazlic.

In the other half Gergelcheva lost in Round 1 to Praedel (Germany), Marie Svensson lost to Melnick and Otilia Badescu went under to Gerdie Keen, who Lomas quashed 16, 12, 15. A totally bizarre batch of results that the computer is welcome to turn into some sort of new women's ranking list.

Jorg Roskopf the new European champion

WITH the defeat of the Swedish giants Waldner and Persson it seemed on the cards that the new champion of Europe would be either Roskopf, Jean-Philippe Gatién or Jean-Michel Saive - all three young men are obviously destined for honours in the future.

Saive played as well as I have seen him, Gatién did not produce the fireworks that he might of done - he lost to Saive 8, 17, 18 - that left Roskopf, spurred on by over 7,000 German fans and the public address announcing. The decibels were quickly bounced up as Roskopf and Fetzner were announced as appearing or as winners. The crowd response was deafening.

That would not happen in most other countries, but that is how it is in Germany who with their competitive wealth they do stage more than their share of European events - both the European Team Cup and the European Masters.

I watched the mens singles final on the television screens in the Press Centre as the English journalists were busy writing and telephoning on Lisa Lomas's quest for gold, but it seemed that the left-handed German hits harder than anyone else in Europe, although he may at times lack the consistency of others, he will be among Europe's chief hopes to break Asian resistance at the next major event - the World Championships in Gothenburg May 11-23, 1993.

England men in the final - women finish fifth

AFTER England men had achieved promotion to the Super Division of the European League, hopes were high that they could at least reach the final in Stuttgart.

Austria, who have stood between England and success so often this season, were the first targets but this time they were well beaten 4-2 with Carl Prean highly polished and motivated to beat Palmi and winning the vital doubles with Alan Cooke.

England followed 4-2 against Hungary and 4-1 over Denmark to qualify with Sweden for the cross-over semi-finals. At the second hurdle England defied the odds again to smash out France 4-2, with two wins for Gatién with Prean stopping Eloi and Matthew Syed brilliantly capsizing Dider Mommessin 10, 13.

In the final itself the only England success came when Prean brought down Appelgren 19, 16 in a match that proved less exciting than many of the others.

England women recovered their poise after two early defeats losing 3-0 to Yugoslavia and 3-2 to Czechoslovakia, and 3-0 to EUN,

formerly the Soviet Union. At that juncture the tide turned as England overpowered Bulgaria and remarkably France, even with Wang Xiaoming appearing.

At the second stage, England women continued their brilliant run to finish fifth overall winning 3-0 against Germany as Alison Gordon beat Olga Nemes -15, 19, 16. In their last match, admirably captained by Jill Parker, they beat Hungary 3-0.

Writers dance the tango with German officials!

THE English and the Germans, opposite in the two world wars came to grips again in Stuttgart - English journalist and German stewards guarding the Seigfried Line on the floor of the hall.

John Oakley, writing mainly for the French agency AFP, found himself in close bodily contact with a German official as he tried to chase the referee after the Chen-Cabrera battle.

The English writer appeared to be dancing a rather rough version of the tango as they grappled with each other in the arena. Like a boxing referee, I managed to step between the two fighters as the contest ended with a battle of words, some of which could not be repeated here.

In a sequel the following day in similar circumstances, I made a really speedy dash for the other side of the arena past an official. His reaction was also fast. He captured me half way across, but I defused the situation by agreeing to "go quietly" much to amusement of a front-row batch of England supporters who included Ron Crayden.

Stuttgart sidelines

- ALAN RANSOME's number of hats in the administration of the sport have increased - he is now a member of the ITTF Council and a vice-president of the ETTU.
- HANS-WILHELM GAB, President of the German TTA (DTTB) is now the most powerful man in European table tennis. He has taken over from Mihovil Kapetanac. After a six-year term of office the former Yugoslavian gentleman stepped down. There was a yawning gap in the policies of the two men.
- BIRMINGHAM will stage the longest ever European Championships, in 1994 - eleven days.

Top picture is of England's No.1 player Carl Prean, middle is Chen Xinhua the current England National Champion and bottom picture is England's rising start Matthew Syed





Top picture is of Clive Oakman and Jill Parker applauding a point. Centre picture is of umpire George Tyler enjoying himself with a local barmaid and below is a group of England supporters that travelled with the Jackie Bellinger tour



• JOSEF JABRANSKY, A radio journalist from Prague was the winner of the Press Tournament in Stuttgart. The hundred competitors were relieved to hear that *John Wood*, Editor of this magazine was unable to compete and they did not have to endure humiliation from his pimples. Jabransky, said to have played in Division 2 of the Bundesliga, defeated in the final Alan Fletcher, the former England No.7 who lives in Germany and was helping out with the PR duties in the Press Centre and elsewhere. Fletcher was beaten 15, 5. The standard of the tournament was high - among the other English competitors were Barry Granger (Essex), John Oakley (Surrey), John Woodford (Sussex) and from New Zealand and Croydon Geoff Taylor.

• EUROPEAN TOP 12 - the next event will be held in Denmark and the levy on the organising association has been elevated from 2,500 Swiss Francs to 10,000 Swiss Francs.

TOP TEN TEAMS

MEN

1. Sweden
2. **ENGLAND**
3. Germany
4. France
5. Holland
6. Austria
7. Czechoslovakia
8. Belgium
9. Hungary
10. EUN

WOMEN

1. Romania
2. Holland
3. EUN
4. Yugoslavia
5. **ENGLAND**
6. Hungary
7. Germany
8. Czechoslovakia
9. Sweden
10. France

RESULTS OF FINALS:

SEMI-FINALS:

MENS

J. Saive (Belgium) b A. Grubba (Poland) 13, 9, 9
 J. Rosskopf (German) b Z. Primorac (Croatia) -18, 12, 19, -14, 17

FINAL:

ROSSKOPF b Saive 16, -18, 13, 13

SEMI-FINALS:

WOMENS

B. Vriesekoop (Holland) b M. Hrachova (Czechoslovakia) 17, 18, 12
 L. Lomas (England) b M. Hooman (Holland) 14, 7, 11

FINAL:

VREISEKOOP b Lomas 10, 18, 17

FINAL

MENS DOUBLES

J. PERSSON - E. LINDH b J. Waldner - M. Appelgren 16, 10

FINAL

WOMENS DOUBLES

J. FAZLIC - G. PERKUCIN (Yugoslavia) b C. Batorfi - G. Wirth (Hungary) walk-over - Hungarians retired

FINAL

MIXED DOUBLES

C. CREANGA (Greece) - O. BADESCU (Romania) b J. Gratien and Wang Xiaoming (France) -17, 17, 19.

The Jackie Bellinger coach tour

ON the 14th April a group of table tennis enthusiasts lead by Jackie Bellinger and Bill Todd left to support the England team at the European Championships in Stuttgart.

Following a sea crossing from Dover to Calais, there was an eight hour drive through France and Belgium, before arriving in Germany, at the Cafe Wahl, Eisslingen.

This was a friendly family run hotel, and during their week long stay they couldn't do enough for their visitors.

The tourists also managed to play a challenge match against a local club. It was a mixed performance from mixed ability players and mixed styles. However, they did manage to force a draw.

The Weekend Warrior

THE 5th annual WORLD CORPORATE GAMES begins in London on 26th September.

Using the profile venues of Wimbledon, Wentworth, Crystal Palace, Docklands and Canary Wharf, the Games has attracted enormous interest and an expected 1000 corporations and organisations from IBM to the San Francisco Police Department will be taking part in the 9 day event.

The message of the Games is sport for life and sport for all. Men and Women from the cleaner to the boardroom executive are encouraged to take part in all sports and disabled athletes are integrated into several events.

This is the Games of the "Weekends Warrior", the part-time sports enthusiast in every office and workplace who is now given the opportunity to take part in a worldwide event in a prestigious venue.

The Table Tennis event takes place over the weekend of 3-4th October at the new Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Ripple Road, Dagenham. In addition to open singles and doubles competitions for both men and women, there are numerous competitions for different age categories making 18 in all. Disabled athletes are particularly welcome.

John Leach, President of the E.T.T.A., has agreed to act as Honorary Chairperson of the Table Tennis Event. Michael Close, Chairman of the E.T.T.A. London Region, has been appointed Table Tennis Event Director with Phil Gower as the Referee.

Anyone from anywhere of any age or standard can enter a team for the WORLD CORPORATE GAMES. For further details including

entry forms contact the Games Headquarters at 2/22 Chelsea Garden Market, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0XE or telephone 071-351 1992.

Lomas joins NFD Grove

LISA LOMAS, silver medalist in the recent European Championships and the current England number one woman is to leave top Swedish club Molndals of Gothenburg to join NFD Grove Table Tennis Club.

Lomas will replace Fiona Elliot who is to play for Kremlin Bicetre in Paris next season.

Oldfield returns

NFD Grove's England international Chris Oldfield returned to full time training on Monday 25th May 1992.

Oldfield suffered a major setback to his career when involved in a serious road accident near Derby in late November 1992. Oldfield aims to be fully fit for the start of the new season at the end of August.

The Taxman cometh

FURTHER to my article in last month's Table Tennis News, page 23, on deductions of income tax for payments, writes *Peter Hillier*. We are also obliged to make deductions of National Insurance, where payments to any one person is equal to or greater than £234, in any one calendar month.

The deduction will at the rate of 2% on the first £234 and 9% thereafter.

I appreciate that this will be annoying for many of you and considered an attack on their civil liberties, by a few.

But, unfortunately we have no choice but to comply with government legislation.

Give a little to ITV Telethon '92

IT'S all go for ITV Telethon '92 when between now and mid-July people from all over the UK are thinking up and organising mad and zany events to raise money for Telethon.

Michael Aspel will again be hosting this year's non-stop fund-raising television spectacular on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July and recently said, "Not content with seeing me cope with 27 hours, the fiendish production team have decided to lengthen proceedings this time by another hour to 28 hours!"

The last two ITV Telethons have cumulatively raised over £50 million and made over 30,000 charitable grants. Michael Aspel feels that "The great stimulus on the Telethon is the feeling that you really are contributing to helping people up and down the country. It all becomes very emotional, and it never ceases to amaze me how the public continues to respond to charity appeals.

Despite the gloom on the economic front, people seem to dip deep in their pockets, and give whatever they can. I think a special attraction of the Telethon is that people know the money they pledge goes towards helping people in their own area of the country."

ITV Telethon'92 is a challenge to everyone. Give a little, to help us to help more charities than ever before - we need you, they need us. For further information please contact: TELETHON PRESS OFFICE - 071-387 9494.

Stuttgart Joola Trophy

CARL PREAN came second in the men's competition awarded for "the best player with the best score in the team event." Prean came second with 49 points, five behind the winner Jorg Roskopf and one in front of Jean-Philippe Gatien. The points system is too complicated for most people to understand, but at least Prean was in very good company at the top.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION COACH EDUCATION WEEKENDS 1992

Each weekend combines the ETTA Advanced Coaching Course with National Coaching Foundation Level 2 Courses to provide all necessary course work required for ETTA Assistant Coaches to qualify to ETTA Coach level.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th/5th July 1992
Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Newport, Shropshire

Residential full board accommodation from lunch on Friday to lunch on Sunday.

Cost: £97 all inclusive

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th/26th July 1992
Peniel Academy, Brentwood, Essex.

Non residential. All meals (excluding breakfasts) provided from dinner on Friday to lunch on Sunday.

Cost: £54 excluding accommodation and breakfasts

Application forms for both weekends available from:

The Coaching Administrator
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings,
East Sussex. TN34 1HF Tel.: 0424 722525

Money in the bank for Cooke and Elliot

ALAN COOKE and FIONA ELLIOT proved that they are still a formidable force in the land, when they won their respective singles titles at the Barclays Essex 5 Star tournament.

Cooke received a handsome cheque for £800 when he beat Desmond Douglas in the final, at the Brentwood Leisure Centre, on Sunday 29th March, whilst Elliot's reward for beating Andrea Holt was £500.

This prestigious event was organised by the impeccable Dick Roffe and refereed by the incomparable Peter Roden in a fantastic setting. Now that is over let's start for real!

With an entrance of around 200 players the Barclays sponsored tournament started at 9.00am on Saturday morning and at the end of the day we had no surprises and one winner. The groups went according to plan with no real upsets but some very good table tennis. Richie Venner against John Payne was a real thriller with both players showing great tenacity and neither of them willing to yield an inch. It was John's few unforced errors that gave this match to Richie 21-17, 21-18, a fine start to the day.

Alex Perry got through comfortably and John Dennison had a great battle against ex-Welsh No 1 George Evans, before winning 12-21, 22-20, 21-12 and Paul Elphick No.52 senior beat the No 4 junior Chris Sladden 14-21, 22-20, 21-19 to pass into the first round. There were no upsets in the ladies groups and it was left to the mens and ladies doubles to keep us guessing at finalists. The unseeded pair of Linda Radford and Helen Lower fought their way to the ladies semi finals without losing a game and so to did the partnership of Therese Sandberg and Anna Borg of Sweden. Therese Moore with Sally Weston and Natasha Williams and Laura Collier made up the other placings. Alan Cooke with Des Douglas and David Tan partnering Nigel Tyler faced each other in one mens semi final and Richie Venner with Colin Wilson met Steven Ward and Paul Lewis of Wales in the other.

The Veterans singles saw local 'boy' ex-English International Stuart Gibbs of Essex reaching the final without losing a game, but his final opponent Henry Buist of Kent had tough opposition in John Taylor, the favourite for the title, to overcome. Henry, returning back to the late 80's when he ruled supreme, covered the court like a youngster and pushed and hit whenever necessary to sneak through, 21-17, 15-21, 21-17. The final saw Stuart hit through Henry to take the first game 21-17. Henry 'dug in' and took the second 21-18. The deciding game saw Henry securing the title he last won in 1989 with the



Alan Cooke receives his Mens Singles winners cheque from Barclays' Gordon Morris



Fiona Elliot receives her Womens Singles winners cheque from Barclays' Alan Bennett

help of a slight run of the ball.

The ladies doubles resumed on Sunday with Linda Radford and Helen Lower beating Natasha Williams and Laura Collier of Wales 21-17, 21-13 to reach the final against Theresa Sandberg and Anna Borg of Sweden who beat Theresa Moore and Sally Weston 21-17, 21-11.

The semi final of the mens doubles saw Cooke and Des Coast home against Dave Jan and Nigel Tyler 21-15, 21-5. Steven Ward and Paul Lewis of Wales had a hard tussle with Richie Venner and Colin Wilson with the rallies and scores keeping very fast and tight. The Welsh boys just kept the edge to win 22-20, 23-21.

The mixed doubles saw the No. 1 seeds John Holland and Alison Gordon getting beaten in the semi

final by Graham Sandley and Fiona Elliot 21-16, 21-19. The No. 2 seeds Andrea Holt and Steve Dorking reached the final by beating Alex Perry and Sally Marling 21-16, 21-16.

The ladies singles had No. 1 seed Lisa Lomas withdrawing through illness and this left Kate Goodall to contest one semi final against Fiona Elliot which Fiona won 13-21, 21-12, 21-14. The other semi final was contested between Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt. Andrea stormed home 21-10 in the first game only to be pegged back 18-21 in the second. The final game followed the pattern of the first and Andrea hit her way home 21-11.

The mens singles saw many surprises with Nicky Mason losing in three to Steve Dorking in the

3rd round and Andrew Eden disposing of Nigel Tyler in three at the same stage. Also Jonathan Tyler seeing off Welsh No.1 Steve Ward. Dorking then beat Taylor 10-21, 22-20, 21-19 in the quarters with some fierce attacking to both flanks. Des Douglas had no trouble in reaching the semi's against Andrew Eden 21-12, 21-10. In the other half Alan Cooke reached the semi's after a fright in the first game against John Holland 17-21, 21-17, 21-7. To meet Matthew Syed who looked after Sean Gibson 21-14, 21-9.

A crowd of about 300 saw the finals on Sunday afternoon and the first match on court was the ladies doubles. Linda Radford and Helen Lower started slowly and lost the first game 23-21. To Theresa Sandberg and Anna Borg. They tightened their game in the second



Pictured above are Val and Dick Roffe, who recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Dick was the Tournament Director and Val was the Deputy Referee

and began playing very well as a team, taking turns to cover the front and rear of the court. As the match progressed then so too did their control and they took the next two games along with the title 21-14, 21-13.

The ladies singles between Andrea Holt (2) and Fiona Elliot (4). Fiona took an early lead with some steady controlled attacking shots against the stubborn defence of Andrea and as her lead increased so she put more power into her shoes, and won 21-13. The second game was much closer with Andrea attacking more and putting Fiona a little out of her stride. The score gradually climbed to 20-20. Then 23-23 with a lucky net in favour of Fiona. At 26 all Fiona hit two cracking shots and took the title 21-13, 28-26. The mixed doubles between Graham Sandley/Fiona Elliot (2) and Steve Dorking and Andrea Holt (3) went the way of the third seeds in a match of skills rather than thrills. Points were won on service and placing more than hitting and chopping and an interesting game was won 21-16, 18-21, 21-16.

Des Douglas and Alan Cooke (1) v Steve Ward and Paul Lewis was the mens doubles final and some good teamwork and great placing of the ball won the first game 21-11 for the top seeds, the second game followed the first and no pressure was put on the favourites to stop them from retaining their title 21-11, 21-13.

The first of the mens semi finals

was between Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed. This was always going to be a very closely fought game and with Cooke hitting and Matt chopping, we settled in our seats for a dour old on court struggle. Alan took the first 21-17 and then Matt started to hit out in the second and took it 21-17. The final game saw Cooke forge ahead in the first session and although Matt combined attack with his defensive skills, Alan kept his lead and hit his way home 21-13.

Steve Dorking met Des Douglas in the other semi and we knew that the match was going to be in definite contrast to the first. With Steve attacking and Des with his fantastic close table reflex action play. The spectators saw a first game of cross hitting. Des took the lead early on and gradually built up on it to win 21-12. The second followed a similar pattern but with Steve showing more control, however the inimitable Douglas changed up a gear and took this game 21-14.

The final between two of England's greatest players was, as expected, full of action. Both players from the star gell into the attacking mode and the points were won rather than lost. Des took an early lead with some fine counter attacking shots and held on against Alan to win 21-17. Cook took the initiative in the second game and with sustained attacking managed to stay the few points ahead needed to pressurise Douglas. At 20-18 to Cook Des took the next two points but hit

the third into the net to give the second to Cook 21-18. The final game was even closer with Alan once again in early control. His relentless attack forged Des into some rare mistakes and so Alan became the Barclays singles champion 7-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Friday evening

ON the Friday evening before the tournament Essex County coaching officer Phil Gower led a team of coaching officers fronted by Des Douglas and Matthew Syed who's aim it was to instruct youngsters of all ages in the arts of our sport.

About 80 youths turned up at the Brentwood Centre to be confronted by a beautifully laid out array of tables each in their own courts.

They were really thrilled to be actually coached by their idols and one can only realise how all concerned must have felt about this staged event. It's the second year running we have put this little spectacle on with the full support of our sponsors Barclays Bank and it certainly looks like becoming a permanent part of the weekend.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

A. Cooke beat D. Douglas -17, 18, 17

WOMENS SINGLES

F. Elliot beat A. Holt 13, 26

MENS DOUBLES

A. Cooke & D. Douglas beat S. Ward & P. Lewis 11, 13

WOMENS DOUBLES

L. Radford & H. Lower beat T. Sandberg & A. Borg -21, 14, 13

MIXED DOUBLES

G. Sandley & F. Elliot beat S. Dorking & A. Holt 16, -18, 16

VETERAN SINGLES

H. Buist beat S. Gibbs -17, 18, 15.

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To find our more ring David on 0734 832990

Love set and match

JOHN BROE and Alison Gordon sparkled like diamonds, as the two young lovers won their respective singles trophies, at the South of England 3 star tournament, at the Westgate Sports Centre, Carshalton, Surrey, last March.

Broe from Scotland beat Southerner Nicky Mason 25 and 16. But, this final was really something special, not just a two game win for Broe, as it appears on paper. Because Mason was leading the first leg 15-2, before Broe began his amazing fight back. Proving that love conquerors everything!

In fact, Broe only got his nose in front when the score stood at 21-20, before he went onto to win this epic battle 27-25.

The second game was nearly as exciting as the first with the play fairly even upto 15-15, before Broe powered his way to victory 21-16.



Alison Gordon and John Broe

In the semi-finals Broe beat Nigel Tyler of Wales 17 and 17, whilst Mason defeated Stephen Dorking of Essex 8 and 15.

Tyler, did taste a moment of glory though, when he caused the major upset of the tournament, when he beat the mighty Matthew Syed in the Quarter-finals, 25 and 17.

The first leg saw the Welsh wizard blast his way through the superb defence of Syed with a fantastic display of attacking topspin, that penetrated the normally impregnable defence of England International Syed.

Words and pictures by John Wood



Consolation singles winners Richie Venner and Laura Collier, pictured with Michael Walker a partner in Carpenter and Co.



Nigel Tyler

After winning the first game narrowly, Tyler went onto to take the second comfortably, 21-13.

Gordon won the Womens singles final when she defeated Janet Smith from Sussex 16 and 7.

Following her great victory in the English National tournament Gordon is now playing superb powerful attacking table tennis. She has regained all her old zip!

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3 STAR - 2

In the semi finals Gordon overpowered Helen Lower 14 and 14, whilst Smith defeated Linda Radford 14 and 19.

The Mens Doubles trophy was won by the Welsh pairing of Paul Lewis and Stephen Ward, who beat Stephen Dorking and Jonathan Taylor.

Whilst, the Womens Doubles final was won by the two Alisons, Gordon and Gower, when they defeated Kate Goodall and Carol Hewitt.

The Veteran Singles Final was very dramatic indeed, it was almost a replica of the incident at the English Nationals where Desmond Douglas broke his bat, with Derek Wood also breaking his bat playing a shot, against Derek Holman from Surrey.

Wood, who was a game up having won the first 21-15, was looking good dreaming of the trophy when his blade snapped leaving him with just a handle. He borrowed a bat, because he didn't have another one already glued-up, and went down 21-9.

Wood battled back bravely and actually lead the third 7-4, before he succumbed to the talented but noisy Holman, losing 21-12.

The consolation singles winners were Richie Venner who beat Graham Clarke 19 and 13 and Laura Collier who defeated Jane Barrella, -21, 14, 13.

The South of England 3 Star was sponsored by Carpenter & Co. Solicitors, Vic Oddens Photographic Supplies and supported by Butterfly equipment.



Tournament Organiser Terry Vance is pictured presenting a basket of fruit to Lesley O'Connell Mayor of London Borough of Sutton

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£50,000 boost to women's sport

WHETHER it's training hard to be the next Liz McColgan, or Lisa Lomas, or a future umpire at Wimbledon or an all girls rugby team, the travel, training and specialist sports equipment required can get expensive.

Tambrands Ltd., makers of Tampax tampons, are aiming to give a boost to women's sports and help as many budding sports stars as possible, with the launch of a major sponsorship deal with the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF).

The Tampax/WSF Sports Awards (for girls and young women aged 11-19) is offering a total of £50,000 in awards, with the support of the Sports Council, to encourage girls and young women of all backgrounds and abilities to develop their sporting potential.

Tessa Sanderson, one of the few widely recognised British sports-women, comments on the scheme:

"The majority of sports in the UK are still not widely supported, and without improved backing we may see fewer and fewer young people prepared to take a career in sport seriously. To reach your peak you need to dedicate a tremendous amount of time and energy and without assistance or encouragement it can be off putting. Awards Schemes such as this will undoubtedly give an extra boost to girls and



Tessa Sanderson

young women looking to develop their talents and help the UK become a serious contender in every sphere of world sport once again."

The sports awards are divided into four different categories and will run both regionally and nationally. The categories are: Young Sports Individual, Young Sports Team/Club, Young Sports Coach and Young Sports Official. Out of the four categories there will be sixty winners, who will each receive an award of up to £1,000.

And as an added bonus all of the finalists will be invited to a prestigious Awards Ceremony in London in December, where the overall 'Young Disabled Sports Person' and 'Young Sports Person of the Year' will be announced.

"We are delighted with Tampax's involvement with this scheme. As an organisation, we are very concerned with the drop-out rate amongst teenage girls who participate in sport and we think that this Awards Scheme will actively encourage young sports women to continue in their efforts by giving them the appropriate help and financial support," commented Monica Vaughan from the Women's Sports Foundation.

For further information about women's sport, the awards and details of how to get involved telephone the Women's Sports Foundation 'help line' on 071-831 5448, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

Bribar Table Tennis

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ETTA County Supplement

AVON Bob Murray

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS concluded with both our Senior 2nds and Veterans sides in action. A below strength Senior 2nds had only one point to show from their efforts at Yeovil. A 3-7 defeat by Glamorgan was followed by a 2-8 reverse against Cornwall. However, the evening fixture against Gloucestershire saw Carey Webb and Debbie Booy take two each and with a win from yours truly over Guy Golding, a well earned point ensued. Hugh Dalton and Clive Ellison made up the team on the day but despite one or two good individual performances, the absence of some key players proved critical.

Avon would like to extend their thanks to the hardworking Somerset officials who made the day at Westlands Sports Club go off so well and congratulations to Glamorgan on winning an extremely competitive division.

The Veterans travelled to Reading to take on Berkshire 2nds and came away with a 5-4 win. A double by captain John Higgs was supported by one each from Dave Price, Ernie Brown and Jan Kettle.

Bath and District League

New champions this season in the Bath Premier with Longwell A taking the title by just 8 points over Oldfield A. League form was confirmed in the Knockout Cup Final when Longwell beat Oldfield 5-0 to give them a great double.

The Handicap Knockout Cup saw Bradford B defeat Newbridge C in a close final. At the time of writing, not all issues have been decided in the League with two play-offs required to settle the Division 1 Championship and the Division 5 runners up spot.

Bristol League

I think most pundits would have predicted the final placings in the Bristol Premier when the first games were played last September. Nailsea Leopards continued their winning sequence in impressive style with once again Knowle and Brislington A, Bristol Club B and BAWA chasing in vain.

I will ensure that the Weston Super Mare League is reviewed in the next issue of Table Tennis News, but now it is time for another hectic bowls season. I hope you all summer well.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

AFTER A LAPSE of one year the top event of Berkshire table tennis season, the Berkshire TTA Closed Championships, returned to the Bulmersh Centre in Woodley. Much of the credit must go to Allan Bruton for taking on the task of reviving the prestigious event. He in turn would like to thank the ever present Robin Lockwood and Bob Morley for their help on the two days of the tournament. A host of Berkshire's top players, and to their credit many rank and file players took part.

In the blue ribbon men's singles event you could not have asked for four better players to reach the final stages. Top junior Ben Johnson, who had earlier knocked out Bracknell champion Paul Savins, Martin Haycock, Martin Adams making a welcome return and Maidenhead star Marc Priddle.

In the first semi final Johnson, who has had an up and down season, showed his true form to beat Adams 21-19, 21-15. Then somewhat

surprisingly in a nip and tuck contest, Haycock just got the better of Priddle. As Johnson has shown in the past, once he gets to the final, he takes some beating. This once again proved to be the case as he stormed into a 1-0 lead, beating Haycock 21-16, Haycock fought back in the second and held his own until the halfway stage. However he had, in the end, to give second best to Johnson who saved his best shots until the end, winning 21-14 to take the final and become the 1992 men's singles champion.

Top Cippenham lady player, England ranked Sue Collier, took the ladies singles title. In the under 21 singles final, schools champion Martin Adams took his revenge on Johnson, with a convincing 21-17, 21-15 victory. The under 21 school champion Ali Subhan also caused a major surprise in the junior boys singles, when he also put out Johnson, funny game this table tennis! He went on to win a titanic final encounter over Terry Young. Losing the first 21-17, Subhan held onto just take the second 22-20 and win the decider 21-15. Subhan also defeated the unlucky Young in the cadet boys final.

Gemma Schwartz proved too strong for cadet Helen Goatly in the girls junior singles and Goatly had to pull out all the stops to defeat Joanne Barratt in the girls cadet final.

The top veterans as usual played some great table tennis. In a nail biting final the brave run of Colin Dyke came to an end, as he went down to Terry White in the closest of matches 21-18, 23-21.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Alan Catchpole

FOR THE FIRST time for a number of years, the men's Inter-League Championships were run on a sessions basis with Slough hosting Division A and High Wycombe and Aylesbury Division B and C respectively. High Wycombe emerged as Division A victors, with Danny Baxter outstanding, Slough triumphed in Division B and Maidenhead in Division C. Playing 'through the season' Aylesbury were comfortable men's Veteran Division A winners, with Chiltern topping Division B.

Maidenhead won the Women's competition. In the Junior event a very strong Milton Keynes squad won Division A and Maidenhead Division B. But perhaps the most remarkable performance of the Inter-League season was the complete determination of both divisions of the Cadet competition by two quite brilliant Slough teams, master-minded by coach Ken Phillips, who had every reason to be proud of his proteges.

Bucks Juniors won their Division of the County Championships and look forward to going into next season with only Ian Musk missing from this year's team. The only other Bucks success in these Championships came from the Veterans, very ably skippered by Jackie Thomas. With Jacqui Lovell in charge of the Senior 2nds, how many other counties could boast of having two of their teams captained by women?

No surprises in the Bucks Individual Championships, with Philip Bradbury comfortably taking the Men's and Jacqui Lovell the Women's singles.

A magnificent evening of table tennis was seen by a packed crowd at Milton Keynes in January in one of the England/China matches. Well done the local league for the part they played in staging this very successful event.

And a sad note on which to end. Only an hour or so after playing in his club's Championship, Gerry Clark, a Chiltern League stalwart for very many years, collapsed and died in April. He will be sadly missed.

Counties 2

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

BARROW'S KEVIN HODGSON consolidated his position as Cumbria's No. 1 when he won the Cumbria Closed men's singles at Millom Sports Centre. In the final he beat Stephen Temple of Carlisle 21-13, 21-8.

The women's singles was dominated by Barrow players. In an all-Barrow final, Caroline Watt defeated Catherine Corkhill 21-9, 21-11. Catherine made up for her defeat by collecting the junior girls singles, and the Under 12 singles.

Barrow players were supreme on the day. The only titles not to go to the town were the veterans singles and men's doubles. Eddie O'Hara, well known as a coach to many of the up and coming local stars, lost his Veterans crown to Kendal's Colin Pratt. Carlisle brothers Stephen and Mark Temple got the men's doubles.

Final Results:

Mens Singles - Kevin Hodgson (Barrow) bt Stephen Temple (Carlisle)

Women's Singles - Caroline Watt (Barrow) bt Catherine Corkhill (Barrow)

Veteran Singles - Colin Pratt (Kendal) bt Eddie O'Hara (Barrow)

Junior Boys' Singles Kevin Hodgson (Barrow) bt Philip Clarkson (Carlisle)

Junior Girls' Singles

Catherine Corkhill won on round robin of 5 players with Brette McKinley (Barrow) runner up

Under 14 Singles - Jamie Harris (Barrow) bt Christian Lidstone (Barrow)

Under 12 Singles - Catherine Corkhill bt Michael Walker (Barrow)

Men's Doubles

Stephen/Mark Temple (Carlisle) bt Ian Reed/Andy Pachul (Barrow)

Women's Doubles

Caroline Watt/Fiona Harris (Barrow) bt L Farrell (Kendal)/Brette McKinley (Barrow)

Mixed Doubles

Kevin Hodgson/Caroline Watt (Barrow) bt Neil Yardley/Fiona Harris (Barrow)

Junior Doubles

Jamie Harris/Christian Lidstone (Barrow) bt Philip Clarkson/Paul Dawson (Carlisle)

DEVONSHIRE John Vincent

THIS HAS BEEN the most successful season for the county with the senior first team winning the Premier Division. The second team did enough to ensure them retaining a place in Division 1 next year. Perhaps a senior third team should be considered next season to encourage juniors to come through into the Senior ranks.

The juniors also did well with the A team finishing runners up yet again to Yorkshire in the Premier Division. Perhaps next year we can go one better with all this year's players still eligible to compete. The second team just retained their position in Division 1 for next year and this was considered a tremendous achievement. Our third team contained a large number of cadets all keen to improve their standard as quickly as possible without having to worry about results.

Devon Schools Champions for 1991/2 are

Boys Under 19	Jonathan May
Boys Under 16	Adrian Vincent
Boys Under 13	Marcus Cronin
Boys Under 11	Robert Svensson
Girls Under 19	Gillan Blythe

Girls Under 16 Lynsey Heyward

Girls Under 13 Elizabeth May

The final 1991/2 Torbay League tables and averages are as follows:

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ipplepen	14	13	1	0	108
Legionnaires	14	11	2	1	98
Torex hire	13	7	1	5	81
Taverners	14	4	3	7	66
Millstones	14	5	1	8	60
All Stars	12	5	1	6	51
Past and Present	13	3	2	8	51
A Team	14	1	1	3	25

Leading Averages (minimum 8 matches)

1. Dennis Gibbs	3	7/38	97.4%
2. Lynsey Heyward		36/42	85.7%
3. Geoff Read		24/30	80.0%
4. David Heath		32/42	76.2%
5. Lawrence Webster		18/24	75.0%
6. Peter Nicholson		29/41	70.7%
7. Simon Dilkes		25/36	69.4%
8. Robert Short		20/30	66.7%

ESSEX Alan Shepherd

IN THIS LAST report of the season, some domestic news is available. Roy Franklin tells me that of our 17 member leagues, only Silvertown did not take part in the Inter-League competitions. Waltham Forest were the winners of the men's league. Women's champions were Burnham w Mixed champions Dagenham. Veterans title went to Romford a Juniors Brentwood.

Clacton League does not figure in the above details but it nevertheless had an exciting year. Its top division has new champion Walton A, making amends for being runners up in four of the last seasons! In their Closed Championships Derek Wood notched up a trick of titles, men's singles, veterans singles and men's doubles. Ladies champion was Jenny Binns who also won the ladies doubles and her daughter Nikki won the girls singles.

Harking back to my colleague Ron Mackenzie's report on the Essex Junior Select, I was amused to read that 'there were no surprises in the boys junior groups. There actually were some quite big upsets such as the unknown James Wickens of Essex beating Paul Butcher (Sussex) ranked No. 50 and the even more unknown Darren Charlemagne also of Essex, beating Glenn Ritchie (Kent), Wayne Marsh (Yorks). Kevin Flowerday (Herts) claimed the scalp of Michael James (Yorks) ranked No. 36. These were just those I noticed.

It was in fact Darren's successes noted above that led to the selection of Essex Junior second team against Glos. It was a pleasure in this match to meet the voice of the West Country, Alf Pepperd. Together we saw a most enjoyable match, and it was very gratifying that Darren should have recorded victories over the ranked Leigh Nelmes and Peter Hayward in his first and last County appearance! Highspot, however was

Counties 3

the tremendous win by Karl Grant over the arch defender Jeremy Hyatt in an 8-2 Essex score. While we were away, Essex third team defeated Cambs 10-0.

Finally, I have great delight in recounting the achievements of Essex Boy and Essex Girl at the Junior Premier Weekend in Batley. We did not take our strongest squad but had Cris Sladden, Ryan Savill, Ben Ware, Wayne Mitchell, Shelley Ruocco and Julie Rand and they proved to be a remarkably happy band who turned in some terrific performances. The first match was against Lancs - our old enemy. This time we managed to beat them 8-2. Newcomer Julie Rand was remarkably cool on her Premier debut and was unbeaten. Saturday evening saw us play Surrey who regrettably had to play without a second girl. Despite this, they put up a tremendous fight, and only two late victories, both of which could have gone the other way, enabled us to win the match 6-4. Early on, our third Premier debutante, Ben Ware, had battled grimly to defeat Stephen Lampkin, following which Cris Sladden had beaten Darren Blake by the narrowest of margins. Surrey got one back when Ryan Savill lost his way against Stephen Lampkin as a result of which we were only 4-3 up with three possible losses to come.

Men's Singles	Raymond Powell
Women's Singles	Judy Morley
Veteran's Singles	Dave Harvey
Mixed Doubles	Graham Slack/Jacqui Carver
Doubles	Darren Griffin/Graham Slack

Stroud's end of season finals night took place at Maidenhill School at Stonehouse and for my money the star of the evening was grandad Alan Giles - he won the Veteran singles by beating a slightly under par John Fannin 13 and 8, then in the open singles Semi Final Giles proceeded to beat Ray Poole 10 and 16 to qualify for a place in the final against John Fannin, who he beat 14 and 17.

The ladies singles was captured after a very shaky start by Mrs Liz Johnson playing Roz Ross, Johnson lost the first game at -10, narrowly hung on to take the second at 26 and totally demoralised Mrs Ross 14 in the third game to take the title.

Elaine Bassett and Ian Heskins won the mixed doubles, beating Sarah Dean and Alan Giles 20, 11. Ron Barney and Alan Giles won the doubles.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Aif Pepperd

IN THIS FINAL county report of the season, I am most grateful to all League secretaries for arranging their respective finals' nights early, to thus enable me adequate time to make the necessary reports on schedule.

I will straight away kick off with the first of the finals nights which was Cirencester's and played at Deerpark School on 28th March. We experienced a very pleasant evening, which I attended in company with Les Smith, our National Councillor and County Chairman.

Under 14	Martin Cheung
Under 17	Martin Cheung
Ladies	Liz Johnson
Division 2 Singles	Derek Edwards
Division 3 Singles	Peter Smith
Mixed Doubles	Mark/Liz Johnson
Open Doubles	Bob Davis/Charlie Jefferies
Open Singles	Mark Johnson

Next on the schedule was Cheltenham, played on 1st April and the venue by courtesy of Bob Attwood was Cheltenham Saracens Club (a venue very well known by British League players).

Open Singles	Graham Slack
Mixed Doubles	Graham Slack/Jacqui Carver
Open Doubles	Graham Slack/John Fannin
Ladies Singles	Jacqui Carver

Mr Peter Cruwys, a life member of the Cheltenham TTA organised a get together on the occasion of Cheltenham's Finals night mainly for older members of the Association, light refreshments were available and drinks (hard or soft).

I am delighted to report that this gathering of old uns was well supported and it was nice to renew acquaintances with many of yesteryear, some indeed who had not seen one or another for perhaps 20 or 30 years.

The Interfold Systems Gloucester (city) finals night was held by kind permission of Nuclear Electric at their headquarters at Barnwood on Tuesday 7th April. Final results:

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

AFTER MY APPEAL to each of the ten member associations to feed me with information, had I promised prizes first place would have gone to Basingstoke with Aldershot second and Andover just edging out all the rest who finished joint bottom! On the County and Schools side secretary Harold Albery bombarded me with paper and Phil Wheaton and Ray Yates phone calls were never far behind close of play.

The trio of Tony Reynolds, Tony Palaczky and Clive Payne representing Portals won their 6th successive Basingstoke League title; their season's results including a double whitewash of Provident Life, not a very generous or wise thing to do as Provident Life were the sponsors of the Basingstoke Closed Championships at which Clive Payne and Barbara Savage both obtained 'Hat Tricks'. Kevin Macken, disappointed with his Hampshire championship results had some revenge when in the junior final he defeated the surprise Hampshire champion Jeremy Wilson to take the title for the third time.

Hat Trick winner in the Aldershot championships was the ageless Ramesh Bhalla who, having defeated Tery Haley in the men's singles final, provided an action replay in the hart bat final. Two well known names (no, not quite from the past!) contested the consolation final; one time chairman of both Hampshire and Basingstoke Terry Duffield defeating current Hampshire Vice Chairman and former Coaching Officer Derek Seager. On the junior scene Stephen Crouch (junior), Andrew Jenkins (cadet) and Wanda Hutchinson (junior and cadet) earned the right for their names to appear worldwide in Table Tennis News. Tery Haley's reward would appear to be in the league where he and his colleagues of Pyestock, John Millward, Graham Outrim and Graham Green had what looked to be an unassailable lead when I last saw the table.

The final positions of the counties six championship teams will not doubt appear elsewhere but congratulations to the Veteran second team who won their division with a 100% record but are unlikely to be rewarded promotion because of the position of their first team.

News from the Inter Town leagues, which with no mixed senior league and only 5 teams in the men's division is largely dominated by the Juniors and Veterans. Whilst I took a rest in April John Pream's Isle of Wight Notes gave you the details of their cadets success, but now further success for the 'foreigners' as Marcus Garman, Alan Hulbert (junior!)

Counties 4

Alex Rorke and Clare Waghorn won the junior second division with a 100% record (games as well as matches).

Finally for this season an apology to Gill Larkin who writes to me from Basingstoke to tell me that she has the cup to prove that she is Hampshire Ladies Veteran Champion and not as I reported in the March magazine.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY INTER-LEAGUE Senior champions of 1992 are Barnets, courtesy of North Herts, who had to drop out of the competition, due to the fact that their Closed League Championships clashed with the County date.

With the favourites North Herts out of the picture, Barnets' three gladiators John and Duncan Taylor and Maria Williams, took full advantage of the situation by sweeping aside all opposition on this second and final Sunday, the 12th April, to win this competition by two clear points.

Runners up were Hemel Hempstead by virtue of a better games difference over joint placed third Barnets II and Watford. Stars of this year's Closed Championships, held at the Barnet TTC, were Watford's Peter Harris and Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling, who won their respective singles titles.

Harris, who is playing his first season after returning from college, confused all his opponents, including North Herts' Keith Samuels, whom he beat 9 and 13 in the final, with short pimples on his forehead.

Hurling, who is in her last year at College in Sussex, once again proved too strong for the opposition, when she dominated the Women's singles competition. In the final she beat her friend from Barnet, Maria Williams, 13 and 14.

Cheshunt's Derek Balding won the Veteran singles trophy when he beat Hemel Hempstead's Jack Baxter in the final, 16 and 21.

Once again the Senior Veterans singles final was between old rivals Keith Hartridge from Welwyn Garden City and Watford's Geoff Bax, and once again the man from Welwyn proved to be invincible when Hartridge narrowly pipped Bax at the post, -23, 18 and 19.

In the men's doubles, Harris picked another trophy when he partnered John Lennon from Cheshunt, beating Derek Rogers and Tom Carr from Cheshunt, 23, -14, 11.

Hurling added another trophy to her shelf when she teamed up with Williams to take the women's doubles final against North Herts' Karen Morton and Lindsey Booth 14, -13, 18.

The Mixed Doubles final was won by Hemel Hempstead's Rob Liquorish and Watford's Caroline Seaholme, when they beat Harris and Sarah Seaholme from Watford -21, 12, 18 in the final.

Have a good summer and don't forget to practice and build up your stamina, with lots of road running or, if your prefer, why not just lay on the beach!

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Prean

OUR JUNIORS FOLLOWED our cadets, winning the 2nd division of the Hampshire Inter-Town Junior League. Congratulations to Marcus Garman, Alistair Hulbert, Alex Rorke and Claire Waghorn, all of whom produced

100% averages. As often happens in junior events, only the last two will be there next season to reap the full benefits of a place in Division 1, but with Greg Burns and Stuart Dover moving up, the team should still be a very useful one.

The very healthy junior scene owes a great deal to a grant received from the ETTA Development Fund, which enabled us to have structured junior coaching in addition to recording membership gains for two successive seasons after a period of losses. A few hundred pounds went a long way. This experience was not unusual and similar things have happened elsewhere. No piece on our junior game can be complete without the warmest praise for Bill and Joan Rossi without whose marvellous work at the Newport Vics Club little could or would have been achieved. Bill has not been well lately. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

I got the wrong information on our league title race in Division 1. It was Wroxall A whose games average was superior and so it remained until the end and Sandown's title hopes came to nothing. Congratulations to Alan Hulbert, Steve Barsdell and Chris Angus, the latter also won the Island 'Closed', defeating Roger Hookey deuce in the third in a stirring final. One wishes that our best players were spread more evenly across the clubs to produce a more closely contested title race, at any rate by more clubs. It has happened in the past, but not very often. It is a story one hears all too often in other leagues.

Greg Burns won both our junior and cadet title, an excellent effort. His father, Gordon, another 'fanatic' to whom the sport owes so much, tells me that Greg will play in quite a few national junior tournaments next season. He will have three seasons to reach the top and he is quite capable of that.

When you read this column you not only find out about what goes on here, but in England's international matches! Last time I pointed out that it went unrecorded, at any rate in this magazine, that one of our pairs had reached the semi final of the doubles in the English Open. England's victory vs Czechoslovakia (in Bratislava on 15th January) was another event the locusts had eaten. It got us to the Final of the playoffs for a place in the Super Division, but I guess the powers that be did not regard it as very important when compared with such momentous pictures as an Irish official drinking chocolate which DID get quarter of a page.

Our Island player contributed two to England's 4-2 win, which I thought was a good effort despite the deafening silence accorded to the occasion in this journal. One must not be surprised if national newspaper space declines if such are our priorities. Certainly most of the table tennis pieces I have seen have been tiny and, if we cannot generate more interest, the future looks bleak despite such efforts as I have described earlier, no doubt duplicated by other progressive leagues and counties elsewhere.

KENT

Adrian Hall

Lenham Storage Junior County Championships

The Lenham Storage Kent Junior Closed Championships were played at the Lenham, Swadlands Youth Centre on Sat/Sun 7/8th March 1992 and attracted an entry of 121, 91 boys and 30 girls. The overall standard of the finals was the best for many years and the strength in depth produced many matches of outstanding quality in the earlier rounds.

Martin Hewett won the Under 17 Boys singles as expected but not without some fierce challenges. In a fluctuating final Craig Hastie extended Hewett for the first two legs before Hewett took control to win 21-17, 12-21, 21-8.

Counties 5

Nicola Duke beat Carly Riggs in one of the best Under 17 Girls singles finals seen for a long time. Duke's topspin control of Riggs' combination bat made for a fascinating dual resulting in some long exciting rallies before Duke got home 17-21, 21-10, 21-19.

Trophies were presented to the finalists by Allan Flood, Transport Director of Lenham Storage sponsors of the Kent Junior Closed and County Chairman Reg Thompson.

Kent Schools

The Kent Schools TTA singles tournament for Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools produced the Kent champions that go on to represent their county at the Dunlop National Finals in Mansfield on 2nd May 1992. Leading Averages (minimum 8 matches)

Winners

U11 Boys	Scott Friday	U16 Boys	Craig Hastie
U13 Boys	Adam Beasley	U16 Girls	Nicola Duke
U13 Girls	Rachel Woollven	U19 Boys	James Clench
		U19 Girls	Beverly Reynolds

Under 14 Girls in National Final

Maidstone's Under 14 girls team of Crystal Hall, Alison Smith and Rachel Woollven travelled to Bristol on Sunday 12th April to play the semi final of the National Under 14 Girls Team event (Hammersley Cup) and came away with an impressive 9-0 victory.

International Honours for Scott Friday

10 year old Scott Friday, who lives in Medway but plays in the Maidstone League has been selected to represent England Schools in Scotland on the last weekend in April and then the following weekend for England Under 10's in an international tournament in France - congratulations and the best of luck from all in Kent.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

WELL HERE WE are at the end of another season, Loughborough Kingfishers I have won the Leicester TTL Division 1 title. The Kingfishers side were unbeaten throughout the season and the team of Mark Illingsworth, Chris Kinsey, Roger Bailey and Steve Yallop, all having a good season. Especially Mark who was unbeaten in 62 games. Well done Mark and congratulations to the whole team.

The runners up Knighton Park I team was made up of Keith Fellows, Karen Smith, Les Baker and Martin Pickles, Chris Rogers also played in four matches and was unbeaten.

Division 2 champions were Melton Mowbray I and I know they are looking forward to the next campaign. Good luck to them. From what I have seen, the season as a whole has been pretty good regarding postponements giving the divisional secretaries little trouble.

On to the coaching scene and the Soar Valley and Knighton Park venues are well supported. And the new complex at the Eyres Monsell Primary School is going reasonably well but the numbers are a bit disappointing. The youngsters have shown a fair bit of improvement and already we have a girl who looks a good prospect for the future.

The Leicester TTL held its annual Closed Championships on 22nd March. There were 208 entries and the whole tournament lasted 11 hours. It was a very successful day and all credit to the organisers and helpers

on the day. A job well done. The men's singles was won by Keith Fellows who was in brilliant form and beat Dave Grundy comfortably. In the ladies singles sisters Joanne Heath and Jane Rogers fought out a close encounter, with Joanne eventually winning. Steve White won two events and I know he really enjoyed his day winning the Veterans singles against Mike James and the Under 300 against John Gayton. Joanne Heath had a hat trick of wins - Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Another player who enjoyed his day was Bill Newbold who was really pleased to win the under 100 event. Well done Bill.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

ONCE AGAIN I have to start my notes by recording a sad loss to the world of table tennis. One of our Life Members, Alma Reeve, has died. A lot of people may be unaware of the vast amount of work Alma did for table tennis. She was very much a 'backroom' girl who did not court or welcome being in the limelight. But the 'backroom' was a place where dedication and application to table tennis was the normal order of the day for many, many years. Apart from her work for the Wembley and Harrow Table Tennis League, about which there are many who can speak more authoritatively than I can, Alma stepped into the breach and took over as Minute Secretary to the Middlesex Committee on the sudden death of Eileen Benstead in March 1961, a job she held until 1966 when she took over the running of the Inter-League Championships.

She continued in this post until the end of the 1980/81 season when she decided to retire from table tennis administration. Nevertheless, her interest in the game did not diminish and she could be relied on to attend, with Norman, any middlesex event when they were in this country. In fact the reason for her retirement was not loss of interest in table tennis, but because she wanted to have more time to travel the world with Norman and being the conscientious worker she was, she would not take on a job she wasn't sure of being able to carry through.

The Middlesex Association recognised her contribution to the County by appointing her as a Vice President in July 1976 and elevating her to Life Member in 1979. She will be sadly missed by many people in the table tennis world as well as elsewhere.

Like the ETTA, Middlesex have started on the annual round of elections for the 1992/3 season. So far Michael Close has been elected as Chairman, Doreen Stannard as Deputy Chairman, and myself as Secretary/Treasurer. All of us were unopposed.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

EVER HEARD OF 'Intermixed doubles'? I found a directive from the ETTA dated 1986 making this title official for doubles of mixed sexes.

We are desperately in need of coaches in the Norwich area at least. Several players answered an appeal in the local magazine but so far only one has registered. If anyone else reading this is interested, please contact me so we can get some practical tuition going.

I noticed that still junior Gary Hewitt won both the Kings Lynn and Wisbech Closed Men's Singles, beating some very fancied players. also in Norwich young Jon Cockburn with the white socks won the Norwich Closed Singles despite the efforts of Messrs Pickard, Bunn, Logsdon and King. He is obviously noticing the effects of playing with the top

Counties 6

Cambridgeshire seniors while studying at the University.

Our county teams finished with the Junior 1st gaining promotion to 1st Division. I hope they are prepared for some long trips and hard matches. 2nd Juniors have tried out some up and coming players and I hope will continue to next season as I maintain that a second team is to blood players for the 1st team eventually.

Seniors finished mid table and hope that Phil Logsdon will be fit again for next season. Ruth Acourt was most impressive as the regular lady. Veterans 1st travelled the country, winning some, losing some, to finish virtually the same as last season. They enjoyed the last match versus Glos as Dave Harvey made a rare appearance.

Veterans 2nd were destined for relegation until Derek Wortley won 26-24 in the third at Northants, to give us a 5-4 win. This team tried 7 men players, all of whom are capable of playing in this division. A 3rd Veterans is still possible, providing someone will run it. Any offers to me.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

RICHARD ELLIOTT'S FINE season reached a deserved climax when he won the men's singles title at the Wellingborough Closed Tournament, but for his vanquished opponent Chris Handshaw, it was again a case of so near, yet so far. All looked set fair for Handshaw when he took the first, but then Elliott's recently gained British League experience told in his favour and he eased through the remaining two games in the face of some stern resistance.

In the men's doubles Elliott partnered by Handshaw, found himself face to face with older brother David, who, together with Steve Brown, had produced some excellent results during the season, but on this occasion they were unable to cope with the men's singles finalists, who won comfortably in straight games.

Sally Russell, who celebrated her fifteenth birthday in April, was by far the most successful player on the day, with four title successes, accounting for Caroline Perkins in the Ladies Singles, taking the ladies doubles in partnership with Muriel Cox, beating Paul Smith in the Junior singles, and then teaming up with Smith to edge out Joe Trippett and Paul Adams in the Junior Doubles.

Meanwhile Trippett and Adams sustained their own personal vendetta, with Adams taking both the Trevor Mumford Memorial Under 14 singles, and with the aid of a one point advantage, the Premier Division Handicap Singles - a sure sign that both these young players will feature in the county rankings for some years to come.

At Veteran level, Michael Edwards registered a third win in the Over 40 singles, and then joined his beaten opponent Phil Slade to take the corresponding doubles. The Over 50 singles went to Dennis Millman, who failed to make it a double when in the final of the Over 60s, that tenacious competitor John Gandolfi gained revenge for an earlier defeat. Finally, Bill Allen, losing finalist in the Over 50's, joined Ken Bussey to have their names inscribed on the doubles trophy.

Sally Russell, who came within two points of winning the Northants Women's Top 12 last year, made no mistake this time, with victory over the holder Margaret Maltby. The talented junior won in straight games without ever being behind, hitting winners on both wings as she easily breached the normally safe defence of her highly rated opponent.

Up and down the county the season has virtually ended, with the former Well Connected side of Christ Handshaw, Graeme McKim, Andy Edmonds, Andy Trott and Richard Elliott, supplemented by Adrian Roper, and now playing as Higham Band in both Wellingborough and Kettering, and under the banner of Barclaycard in Northampton, having taken all three league titles. Handshaw, the skipper and organiser, has a

special reason for celebration as he becomes the first Kettering player to play in ten consecutive title winning sides, an achievement to match McKim's ten consecutive mens singles titles in the same league.

SOMERSET

Andy Seward

THE PAST MONTH seems to have been dominated by local league tournaments and the County Senior weekend.

Firstly, the Senior weekend at Westlands, Yeovil. Eight matches played, four of which were scoring draws! The Division Championship depended on the final match between Glamorgan and Somerset, which Somerset had to win 8-2 or better to pip Glamorgan on sets difference. Somerset went 2 up - could a shock result be on the cards? Full marks for effort from Lee, Ron, Brian, Mel and Tina but in the end it was 5-5 and a fair result. Earlier, ex Junior Adam Gallop (he with the silly hat) made a promising debut against Worcestershire, one win, one loss.

The juniors played their last match of the season against Wiltshire, played at neutral Avon (why?) and came away with a creditable draw. Rob Millard with power, Andrew Hewitt with subtlety and Alan Russell with determination gained the wins. A debut here for Claire Taylor from Bridgwater. Interesting to note that all the players are still Juniors next season. Our thanks to Mark Smith for his contribution to Somerset Juniors over the past three years.

Closed Tournaments

In the Mendip Closed a record entry of 65 players played a total of 295 matches on the 10 tables at Shepton Mallet. In the Open Singles, Philip Payne (Henton) comfortably beat Rob Millard (Godney) in the final to remain unbeaten in all Mendip matches this season. Other events:

Division 1:	John Marsh beat Martin Rumary
Division 2:	Ray Gallop beat Dave Marshall
Division 3:	Julian Walton beat Roy Townsend
Juniors:	Rob Millard beat Colin Butterworth
Cadets:	Andrew Rumary beat John Summers

In the Yeovil Closed the major surprise was the defeat of the No. 1 seed Alan Russell in the Junior singles final by unseeded Rob Horton in a closely fought match.

The tournament is, as always, an annual outing for the Sadler 'clan', Lee and Tina winning the men's and ladies singles respectively and teaming up to win the Open doubles. Even the 'Head of the Clan' Jim managed to pick up a trophy, being runner up in the Veterans event to Ray Gallop.

In the next issue, a review of the County Closed and if space permits, a summary of the exciting happenings at the County GM to be held in July. I can't wait. That's all for this season from the cider apple county, good drinkin' and hope to see some of you next season.

SUFFOLK

H F J Newman

SINCE THE LAST notes were written, we have completed our County and Local League fixtures.

County-wise our Senior First team played their Division 1A fixtures over two weekends and after a shakv start completed their

Counties 7

matches at St Neots. Our team regulars of Sue Welham, Stuart Palmer, John Kitchener and Richard Tanner, ably assisted by Janet Scoulding and Sarah Davison (a surprising selection), and succeeded in keeping the side in the Division for the next season.

The second team, under Malcolm Davis' leadership have finished their season on an unfortunate note of having to concede their last match away to Northamptonshire due to the late withdrawal of players and insufficient time left to rearrange the match. It looks as if they will finish bottom of their Division 2C.

The Junior first teams position in Division 1A looks shaky despite a final home victory against Derbyshire and their fate is awaited with some trepidation. The Junior Second team finished their season in Division 2B with two good results against Norfolk, drawing 5-5 with the first and beating the second 7-3 at home in March.

At this stage, the Executive Committee would like to thank all the players and those connected with the running of the teams for their unstinting efforts on behalf of Suffolk this past season.

Emma Corbetts, Lee Balaam and Matthew Clark have said goodbye to the Junior ranks after being associated with them for some five years, and we shall watch their progress in the Senior ranks with some interest, as well as wishing them every success in their future careers.

Suffolk County Inter-League Trophy 1992

The second year of competition for the Inter-League Trophy was staged by the Bury St Edmunds League on 26th April 1992. The competing Leagues were Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Stowmarket and Lowestoft with Ipswich failing to make an appearance after submitting an entry fee. The basis of the competition being that players should not have played County or British League certainly led to a keenly competed event. The trophies were donated by the ETTA, McNeil Sports, Stix Sports, Suffolk County TTA and the East Anglian Daily Times.

The results were as follows:

Juniors - Lowestoft

Men: Stowmarket

Ladies: Stowmarket

Veterans - Bury St Edmunds with the overall winners being Bury St Edmunds.

PS - It was a great pleasure to welcome Mike Watts and his good lady wife to the Ipswich Finals and we hoped they enjoyed being our guests.

SURREY Terry Vance

IN THE THAMES Valley League Division 2 Rosehill 3 are champions with Chessington 3 second and Spellthorne 2 third. Top of the averages is J Garland, closely followed by S Fawcett and J Brandon. Ashford TTC are running a Summer League from the middle of May. Thanks to John Fairweather for his reports and best wishes of finding a new job.

In the Dulwich and District League Division 1, Jaguars A retain their title from their B team. Division 2 was won by Irving Tigers who were 1 point ahead of Jaguars C. Bottom of Division 1 were Tulse Hill and Grove were bottom of Division 2. The Division 1 doubles league was headed by Jaguars A and in Division 2 it was Irving Tigers. Top of the averages were Sohail Mir and Rodney Farquharson in Division 1 and in Division 2 it was A McDonald and D Doneghan. Results of the Closed Championships in the next issue.

In the Wandsworth League the Division 1 champions are Earlsfield B ahead of St Pauls A; relegated are S Mitcham Cobblers. In Division 3 Providence A win with S Mitcham Aces second and for the drop are XXIV

C. Division 4 is headed by St Pauls B and C, Clapham Deaf B are relegated. Division 5 is led by Wilton A ahead of Earlsfield C, Cenward B are Wooden Spoonists. Magdalen Park B and C top the 6th Division with S Mitcham Dynamos bottom. Finally, Division 7 title winners are Wilton A above XXIV D and Shene B propping up the whole of the league. Averages and closed results will be included next issue.

The Byfleet and District League individual Championships were once again ably organised by Phil Miller. Results as follows:

SUSSEX John Woodford

EIGHT YEARS AT the top of the Sussex administration will end shortly when Colin Hyland, well known referee and umpire outside the county, is set to bow out.

His successor is expected to be Dennis Reed, another experienced campaigner best known to many for his refereeing of the Stamco sponsored Sussex Open for many years.

The elevation of Dennis Reed will leave some gaps in the refereeing schedule for the Sussex events - some gentle arm twisting might be necessary.

Meanwhile Ritchie Venner has snatched a hat-trick by winning the all-Sussex men's singles championship for the third time at Worthing.

The Crawley ace stormed home 10-21, 22-20, 23-21 after surviving two match points in the second game against Bexhill based Adrian Moore.

Major shock waves in the women's singles - Carol Hewett regained the title she first won some ten years ago! There is no doubt that her frequent appearances at weekend open tournaments have kept her game finely tuned despite her many years of experience.

Sussex think they may have a rising star - Rosemary Rainton of Hastings. She reached the Sussex final losing 18, 18 to Mrs Hewett, but on the way she took out the favourite and No. 1 seed Teresa Moore, one of the best wins of her career for the Hastings girl.

The 16 table tournament lasted 12 hours and was well organised for the first time by the Worthing and District TTA in association with Malcolm Francis.

Sussex end the season with a bunch of high flying juniors in the lower age groups - Joanna Bush-Harris (Brighton) and the Arundel pair Sarah Stedman and Kevin Doyle, not to mention the Sussex junior champion, one of the youngest ever, Paul Butcher who is based at Haywards Heath. These four have a long time left in the junior ranks and may be powerful opponents in the junior events through next season and the one to follow.

WILTSHIRE Laurie Selby

WINDS OF CHANGE swept through the Wiltshire Closed Senior Table Tennis Championships when only two of the eight titles at stake remained in the same hands.

West Wilts player Trevor Lloyd engraved his name on the men's singles trophy for the first time when he blasted aside the day's giant-killer the unseeded Mike Young in the final.

Counties 8

Lloyd put out holder and top seed Terry Bruce in the semi finals and Young, playing in the tournament for the first time, ousted county player Chris Bridges.

Young, who is in the army and has recently been posted to Wiltshire, looked set to score another shock win when he took the opening game of a thrilling final. But Lloyd's determination won him the next two games and the trophy.

A new name is also on the women's trophy. With the county's top two players - Claire Hunter and Brenda Lee of Swindon - not playing, Helen Frost who plays for Amesbury grabbed her chance at the title. She comfortably defeated veteran Sylvia Morse in the final. But Sylvia had the consolation of retaining her veterans singles title against Aldbourne's Gwen Hazell.

Terry Bruce won three titles in the tournament last season but only managed to hang on to one of them - the veterans singles. He beat Brian Powell in two close games in the final.

Calne's Mike Oxley donated a new cup for the veterans doubles - and promptly won it with his partner Basil Thompson.

One of the most exciting finals came in the women's doubles. Youngster Tracy Youldon and Lorraine Cox just overcame the experience of Mrs Morse and Mrs Hazell in the deciding game. Trevor Lloyd scored his second success of the day when playing with Alistair Pearson in the men's doubles. The unseeded Swindon players Alex Collar and Glen Freeman ousted holders Bruce and Bill Moulding and were heading for glory when they took the opening game of the final. But they couldn't keep up the pressure and lost the next two games. Helen Frost also won a second event. She partnered Dave Russell to victory in the mixed doubles and prevented Lloyd, teamed with Gwen Hazell, taking his third title.

The county's Closed Junior tournament might well be renamed the Tim and Tracy Show. For Swindon youngsters Tim O'Mahoney and Tracy Youldon walked away with no fewer than seven titles. Tim chalked up four championships. His best win came in the Under 17 singles when he beat Stuart Fry, the holder, in a three game thriller.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Ken Walton

WITH THIS BEING my final report of the season (and possibly of all time) I hope to pack in as much 'info' as possible. Pride of place must go to Ron Butterton, evergreen Bromsgrove veteran, who was in sparkling form at the league's recent Championships. 25 years after last winning the men's singles, Ron decided that he should stop messing about and win it again, which he did, defeating Martin Madkins, from Studley Road SC 22-20, 21-19 in the final.

Men's Doubles and Veterans titles also came Ron's way, and defeat in the Mixed Doubles final, by Margaret Dignum and Terry Rawlings spoiled the perfect happy ending. Nevertheless, very well done Ron.

Margaret Dignum collected the ladies crown, defeating Helen Pogmore deuce in the third, whilst at the other end of the scale, Edward Schwalbe proved too strong for Steve Marshman, in the Junior final. Roy Greenhill defeated Peter Jobs in the Handicap event, to complete a good day's table tennis, by all accounts.

Budding Table Tennis News report writer and women's British League Committee member Sandra Roden, did a stint of Radio Kent reporting, during the first ladies British League weekend at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge. Local station Radio WM spoke to Sandra 'live' on the Saturday morning and with this in mind she now tells me that she is available for supermarket openings, personal appearances etc etc!!!

County News the Veterans lost once again, this time to

Oxfordshire 5-4 and hope for a better season next year (nice to see Janet Hunt and Helen Pogmore in the top 6 ladies veterans rankings, well done both). Latest results from Junior matches show victories over Wiltshire and Devon III's 8-2 and 10-0 respectively, whilst the Senior 2nds defeated 8-2 at Gloucestershire, wind up their disappointing season, at Yeovil on 4th April with matches against Somerset and Cornwall.

Looks as though schools table tennis could be being given a boost with the Sports Council's "Adopt a School" policy, which is being looked at on a regional and local basis.

Competing with other sports after school is difficult but it would be nice to see some schools leagues in operation again.

Umpiring news sees the county with two newly qualified umpires in Sandra Roden and Bob Wright, who plays locally for Thorns C in the Dudley League. A third Dudley umpire/player, Trevor "I've gone.... quiet for the Actors" Worton just failed to make it.

Wednesday 10th June has been pencilled in as the date for the AGM for the Association, probably at Kidderminster Harriers FC.

Think I've included everything I wanted to say except a thank you to everyone who has given me information to put in this column and a thank you to you for bothering to read it!! Like to finish with a few personal thoughts (sorry Bob again), England to win the Super Division next season; Thorns to get a British League sponsor; Trevor Washington to stop beating me so comfortably and county matches to be played on proper days, not over weekends. Well, 3 out of 4's not bad is it?

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THE HECTIC BOUT of tournaments continued with 'second instalment' of the Yorkshire Closed, when the men's events were played in the excellent conditions of the York Railway Institute.

Mick Stead was the 1991/2 champion, the Bradford man celebrating his 18 place rise in the ranking list to No. 37 with wins over Nicky Davies (Harrogate - semi final) and Scottish International Anwar Majid (York) at the last hurdle.

Richard Priestley made it a double for the wool city with a win over Mick Farnill (Hull) in the Veterans singles, while Sheffield brothers Andrew and Stephen Horsfield claimed the men's doubles honours as well as reaching the final of a marathon Team event, where they went down to Davies and Mike Harrison (Hull).

The Sheffield Closed saw two men from the Championship chasing Dial House club battle out the final of the mens singles with Clive Guest retaining the title he won last season with a victory over David Rayner.

In the ladies final Josette Ryalls beat Helen Broomhead, while the two finalists in both men's and ladies teamed up to take the doubles honours and Josette added a third crown as she paired with Rayner for the mixed doubles.

Another to retain a Closed title won 12 months ago was Dewsbury's Nicky Rider, who edged home in a nailbiter against Peter Tucker -18, 20, 19, and here again the two finalists joined forces to take the men's doubles past Harrison TTC clubmates Richard Lightowler - Phil Thompson.

Also collecting two winners trophies was Stuart Milnes, who added the Burton Cup to the Veteran singles award.

Top coach Pete Garvey, well known on the tournament circuit as mentor to England's top Junior girl Sally Marling, is to take over as chief coach following the resignation of Peter Taylor and he will have an enthusiastic team working with him to bring out the best from the bubbling group of young players who are now beginning to make their presence felt beyond the confines of the area.

Yorkshire retain Junior title

16 MATCHES were played at Batley Sports Centre to complete the Junior Premier programme. Yorkshire and Devon had equal points after the first series. It seemed obvious that the Yorks/Devon clash in the final Round on Sunday would decide the championship. However in the very first round the scene changed somewhat when Middlesex made a great effort to force a draw with Yorkshire. The Yorkshire girls - Sally Marling and Caroline Bentley - won their 4 events easily. The match started with David Baker (Mi) beating Darren Lindley 21 and 20! Middlesex lost only 1 boys event - Richard Smith (Y) beat Dov Katz 17 and 19.

The vital Yorks/Devon clash came with Devon now needing just a point to take the title. The pressure was on of course with Sally Marling and Kate Goodall (Y) winning their 4 events without dropping a game. Alex Perry (Dv) won his 2 matches with ease and Jonathan May (Dv) (ranked 30) did very well to get a win over Robert Sharp (ranked 13) -12, 20, 20! The disappointment for Devon must have been Adrian Vincent losing to Darren Lindley (-19, 19, -19!) and to Richard Smith (14 and 21). Yorkshire got a 7-3 win and retain the Junior Premier Championship. The Yorks, girls - Sally Marling, Kate Goodall and Caroline Bentley - went through the whole of the Championships season without losing a match. In this context Gemma Schwartz (Bk) did well to take Sally Marling to 15 in the 3rd game.

Middlesex had another hard match against Essex and this resulted in a draw. Chris Sladden (E) beat Richard Hyacinth 16 and 19 and in the final event David Baker (Mi) beat Wayne Mitchell 19, -22, 18 to get the draw. Essex and Middlesex both had a close match against Surrey. The Surrey team played throughout the series with only 1 girl but lost to both Essex and Middlesex only at 4-6. Surrey fought well in both matches and lost narrowly as following results show - Darren Blake (Sy) lost to Chris Sladden (E) -13, 19, -19 - Diana Chan (Sy) lost to Shelley Ruocco (E) 13, -18, -20 - Darren Blake (Sy) lost to Richard Hyacinth (Mi) -14, 12, -20 - Stephen Lampkin (Sy) lost to David Baker (Mi) 11, -19, -19.

In the final Round Warwickshire needed a point from their match with Lancs to avoid relegation. Warwick started well and led 4-2. Lynsey Thornton (La) turned the scales with a 13 in 3rd win over Joanne Groves. Darryl Meredith (La) had a surprisingly easy 10 and 15 win over Steven Meddings and Lancs went on to win 6-4 to escape relegation and seal Warwickshire's fate who will be demoted with Berkshire.

FULL RESULTS

La	2	E	8	Y	10	Bk	0
Dv	9	E	1	Y	7	Dv	3
Bk	2	Dv	8	Dv	8	La	2
La	2	Y	8	Sy	7	Bk	3
Mi	5	Y	5	Wa	4	Mi	6
Bk	2	Wa	8	Wa	4	La	6
Sy	7	Wa	3	E	6	Sy	4
Mi	6	Sy	4	E	5	Mi	5

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Y	7	6	1	0	55	15	13
Dv	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Mi	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
E	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Sy	7	3	0	4	31	39	6
La	7	1	1	5	22	48	3
Wa	7	1	0	6	22	48	2
Bk	7	0	1	6	16	54	1



Yorkshire's Sally Marling

SENR 1A: 12 final matches were played at St. Neots T.T. Club over weekend 12/13 April. Both the Derbyshire and Staffs teams were unbeaten from the first series but Staffs had gained a 5 sets lead which was crucial. The Derby/Staffs clash was obviously going to decide the Championship. It came in the first Round on Saturday and Derbyshire really needed a win. The match scores alternated with neither team gaining the ascendancy. Derby went ahead 5-4 when Nicola Deaton beat Jill Harris at 11 in the 3rd game but Craig Bakewell (St) made no mistake with a 2 straight win over Martin Kinsella to get the draw. John Holland and Bradley Billington (Dy) won their 4 events. A vital event proved to be Helen Lower's (St) 20 and 20 win over Nicola Deaton. It was then too much for Derby to haul back the 5 events lead and, with Staffs beating Warwickshire 9-1 and Yorks 2nds 10-nil they became worthy champions and will feature in the Premier Division next season.

Suffolk put up a good fight to stay in Division 1. In their drawn match with Cambs. they won 3 events at 19 in the 3rd game. Cambs. also got a draw with Leics. when Keith Richardson (Ca) had 2 straight wins over Chris Rogers and Dave Gannon. John Holland (Dy), Bradley Billington (Dy) and Helen Lower (St) went through the season's programme unbeaten.

FULL RESULTS

Wa	8	Nd	2	Dy	8	Ca	2
Wa	2	Dy	8	Dy	5	St	5
St	9	Wa	1	Sk	7	Nd	3
Y2	6	Le	4	Nd	2	Y2	8
Y2	0	St	10	Ca	5	Sk	5
Le	6	Sk	4	Ca	5	Le	5

SENR 2A: Che. 2 Lancs. 2 8 Lincs. 3

Cumbria 7
Lancs. 2nds completed a successful season with maximum points after the 8-2 defeat of Cheshire. Zoe Buchanan (Ch) did well to beat Amanda Winskill at 22 in the 3rd game. Paul Hutchings (La) played in all matches and got a 100% record. Cumbria visited Lincoln and came away with a 7-3 win. Julie Stitch (Cu) (nee McLean) was another player with a 100% record.

SENR 2B: So 5 Co 5 So 8 Wo2 2 Co 8
Av2 2 Av2 3 Gn 7 Gn10 Gs 0 Gn 5 So 5
Co 8 Av2 2 Av2 5 Gs 5

8 matches played at Westlands, Yeovil to complete the Div. Glamorgan started out as the only team with full points and maintained this after their first 2 matches. But in their last match they went 2-nil down to Somerset. Glam. came back to 4-5 and then Steven Gill (Gn) did very well to beat Ron Weatherby (So) 19, -21, 18 to secure a draw. Glam. become worthy champions and will be in Div. 1 next season. Mark Simon (Gn) went through the season unbeaten and Joanne Lee (Gn) lost in only her very last match of the season - going down to Melonie Carey (So) -19, -11.

SENR 2C: Norfolk 2 Herts 8 Beds 2 4
Essex 2 6

Herts beat Norfolk 2nds 8-2 and completed their season with maximum points. John Taylor and Emma Hurling were key players for Herts both finishing with 100% records. Maria Williams (He) had a close match with Ruth Acourt (Nk) winning at 23 in 3rd game. Another tight one was John Cockburn's win over John Lennon 19, -20, 20! Essex 2nds visited Beds 2nd and a 6-4 win made them runners-up in this Div.

SENR 2D: Dorset 1 Berks 2 9 Hants 1 5
Sussex 3 5

Berks 2nds visited Dorset and needed an 8-2 win to pip Surrey 2nds for the championship. They did it in style with a 9-1 win. Gemma Schwartz (Bk) lost only once during the season. Hants v Sussex 3rds was a hard fought match with 6 events going to a decider. Tony Murrell (Sx) beat Graham Lynch (Ha) 18, -15, 18 to force a draw. Sarah Hammond (Ha) went through the season unbeaten.

SENR 3A: Northants 2 0 Notts 10 Hunts 8
Clwyd 2

Notts. had a great season concluding with a 10-nil win over Northants 2nds. They did not lose even 1 mens event throughout the season! But it came close when Mark Green (Ng) beat Mick Spear (Np) 15, -18, 22. Hunts got their 2nd win of the season with an 8-2 victory over Clwyd. There was a hard fought match when C. Robson (Cw) beat Jason Adams 19, -19, 19.

SENR 3B: Gwent 7 Essex 3 3

Essex 3rds went into this match having won all 5 matches with Gwent 1 point in arrears. It was the Gwent team who got well on top and went into a

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

4-1 lead. At that stage Dave Buck (Gw) robbed Steve Rand of his unbeaten record with a 14 and 17 win to put Gwent further ahead. Gwent won 7-3 and won the championship and promotion. Shelley Ruocco (E) had a good -19, 19, 19 win over Jane Hunter (Gw).

JUNR. 1A: Staffs 2 Yorks 2 8 Durham 8 Northants 2 Suffolk 8 Derbys 2 Clwyd 6 N'berland 4

Staffs having won all 6 matches met Yorks 2nds who were 2 points in arrears. For Yorks to win the championship they had to win 8-2. They certainly set about the task and won the first 2 events 11 and 10 and 6 and 14. Nicola Meddings (St) steadied things with a 16 in 3rd win over Nicola Silburn. But then Yorks went through to 8-1 to win the title. Richard Tilley (St) won the final event Carolyn Bentley (Y) went through the season unbeaten for Yorkshire.

JUNR. 1B: Surrey 2 8 Devon 2 2 Surrey 2 6 Glam 4 Glam 6 Devon 2 4 Glos 2 Essex 2 8 Herts had already won this Div. Surrey 2nds completed their season with 2 good wins. Vanya Santic (Sy), coming into the team in January, won all her matches. Essex 2nds 8-2 win over Glos. gave them the runners-up spot.

JUNR. 2A: Lancs 2 9 Ches 2 1 Ches 9 Staffs 2 1 Notss 9 Leics 1 Derbys 2 0 Warwick 2 10 (Conceded) Cheshire 1st team capped a great season with a 9-1 win over Staffs 2nds, the team third in the Table. Ches. won all 7 matches and dropped just 8 events! All the Ches. players performed well and both Clare and Mark Newns got 100% wins. Notts. 9-1 win over Leics. gave them the runners-up spot. Lancs 2nd also got a 9-1 win - over Ches. 2nds. In this match Glen Payne (La) beat Richard Jones -19, 20, 20.

JUNR. 2B: Essex 3 9 Cambs 1 Beds 6 Lincs 4

Suffolk 2 5 Norfolk 1 5 Suffolk 2 7 Norfolk 2 3 Norfolk 1 7 Herts 2nds 3 Essex 3rd concluded with a good 9-1 win over Cambs. and finished with 12 points. The Norfolk 1st team dropped their first point to Suffolk 2nds with Shaun Parsley suffering his first defeat. But Norfolk ended the season with a 7-3 win over Herts 2nds to the championship and promotion.

JUNR. 2C: Cornwall 5 Gwent 5 Avon 4 Worcs 6 Devon 3 1 Gwent 9 Somerset 5 Wilts 5 Cornwall 5 Worcs 5 5 matches played at Bath Sports Centre to complete the fixtures. The Gwent team was unbeaten and Cornwall had dropped just 1 point. The teams met and a draw resulted. At 4-4 Stacey Thomas (Gw) got a vital 15 in 3rd win over Rachel Boon and then James Phillips (Co) beat Paul Hadley 19 and 18 for the draw. Gwent later beat Devon 2nds 9-1 to become Divisional champions and earn promotion. Worcs., who had dropped 2 points, got a 6-4 win over Avon. They met Cornwall and, by virtue of a 5-5 draw, pipped Cornwall for the runners-up spot. Rachel Boon won 2 events for Cornwall but Carrie Hunt (Wo) put up a good fight before losing -19, 17, -18. Wilts came back from a 3-5 deficit against Somerset for a draw.

JUNR. 2D: Sussex 9 Middx 2 1 Berks 2 1 Bucks 9 Hants 1 8 Hants 2 2 Bucks completed a very successful season with a 9-1 win over Berks 2nds. They dropped only 1 point, won the championship and deserve their promotion. Bucks No.1 Neil Biggrave went through the season losing only 1 event. Sussex beat Middx. 2nds 9-1, finished as runners-up having lost only to Bucks. Donna Granville won the 2 events for Hants 2nds against the Hants 1st team.

VETS 1A: Northants 1 2 Oxon 7 Glos 6 Norfolk 3

Dave Harvey came into the Glos. team, which was a vital factor in their 6-3 win over Norfolk. Dave was involved in 3 of the wins. But this did not save the team from relegation with Northants, who were beaten 7-2 by Oxon. Arthur Chilvers involved in 3 wins for Oxon.



Dave Harvey

VETS 1B: Dorset 8 Essex 2 1 Middx. 3 Berks 6 Kent 2 8 Sussex 2 1 Surrey 2 4 Wilts 5

Dorset made no mistake in their last match beating Essex 2nds 8-1 to take the title and promotion to Premier Div. Both Tony Clayton and Joyce Coop (Do) won 100% in singles and doubles! Berks did well to beat Middx 6-3 and take the runners-up spot. John Smith won 2 singles for Middx. Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding got the 5 events for Wilts. in the defeat of Surrey 2nds. Surrey 2nds and Sussex 2nds are for demotion.

VETS 2A: Staffs 4 Notts 5 Clwyd 4 N'land 5 Notts win over Staffs, achieved when John Ellis beat Martin Pickles in the final event, gives them the runners-up spot. Clwyd put up a good fight against N'berland. They went into a 2-nil lead but the Northerners came back to 4-4 and Maurice Cheek (Nd) got the victory with a 19 and 16 win over Philip Jones.

VETS 2B: Hunts 0 Herts 9 Warwick 6 Beds 3 Northants 2 4 Norfolk 2 5 Herts secured the championship and promotion with the "whitewash" of Hunts. There was a

close match when Geoff Bax (He) beat Jim Sizer 16, -14, 24. The teams, 2nd and 3rd in the Table, met with Warwick's beating Beds 6-3. Pat McCabe (Wa) lost only once during the season. Norfolk 2nds won their first match - the victims being Northants 2nds. But it was a very close thing with Derek Wortley (Nk) beating Dave Marsh (Np) -21, 18, 21!

VETS 2C: Surrey 3 7 Middx. 2 2 Essex 3 8 Kent 3 1 Sussex 3 1 Bucks 8

3 vital matches played to settle the championship of this Div. Surrey 3, Essex 3 and Bucks were level on points. Each team had a big win with Bucks getting the rewards being just 2 events ahead of Essex 3 and 1 further ahead of Surrey 3. Over the season their results were:-

Bucks beat Surrey 3 - lost to Essex 3
Essex 3 beat Bucks - lost to Surrey 3
Surrey 3 beat Essex 3 - lost to Bucks
(all results 5-4!)

In the first event of the Surrey/Middx match expedite was called at 10-8 in the first game! Who was involved? - Ron Langheim and Tony Taylor. Ron Langheim was the victor with scores 17, -5, 5!

VETS 2D: Hants 8 Glos 2 1 Berks 2 4 Avon 5

Wilts 2 2 Dorset 2 7 Somerset had already won this Div. with 6 wins. Hants 8-1 win over Glos 2nds confirmed them as runners-up and Glos. to demotion. The match ended with Maurice Shave (Ha) beating Peter Wood -14, 21, 20! The Berks 2/Avon match was a real tussle with Avon winning events at 22 and 19 in deciding games. Dave Price (Av) lost to Peter Bradley 22 and 21 but, with match score 4-4, beat Ian Schwartz 11 and 17.

VETS 3A: Northants 3 1 Warwick 2 8 Herts 2 6 Herts 4 3

Warwick 2nds beat Northants 3rds 8-1, went through the season unbeaten and won the Divisional championship. The mixed doubles was a close match with Barry O'Brien/Ann Lloyd beating Mike Pond/Dorothy Marsh at 23 in the deciding game.

VETS 3B: Essex 4 7 Wilts 4 2 Berks 4 6 Herts 3 3

Essex 4 finished with a "clean sheet" after their 7-2 defeat of Wilts 4. Essex dropped only 7 events over their 5 matches. John Nash won the 2 events for Wilts. Berks 4 had a good 6-3 win over higher placed Herts 3. The mens doubles was close with C. Wilkes/Morten beating K. Hartridge/D. Caulder 14, -21, 21.

VETS 3C: Dorset 3 4 Hants 2 5 Herts 5 1 Berks 3 8 Wilts 3 5 Herefords 4

Hants 2 unbeaten during the season after a narrow 5-4 over Dorset 3rds. Bob Cox (Ha) involved in 3 wins and finished with 100%. Wilts 3 beat Herefords 5-4 and got the runners-up spot. Margaret Newcombe (Hr) won her singles and the mixed doubles with Richard Owens.

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FINAL LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 1991-92

Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

Premier Division	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	7	6	1	0	57	13	13
Derbyshire	7	6	1	0	49	21	13
Cambridgeshire	7	3	2	2	33	37	8
Leicestershire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Suffolk	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Warwickshire	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Yorkshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	26	44	4
Northumberland	7	0	0	7	17	53	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	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Cheshire	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Cumbria	5	3	0	2	23	27	6
Leicestershire 2nd	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Lincolnshire	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

Division 2B

Glamorgan	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Somerset	5	2	3	0	31	19	7
Cornwall	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Avon 2nd	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Worcestershire 2nd	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

Division 2C

Hertfordshire	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Essex 2nd	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Northamptonshire	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Bedfordshire 2nd	6	1	2	3	27	33	4
Norfolk	6	1	2	3	27	33	4
Cambridgeshire 2nd	6	1	2	3	24	36	4
Suffolk 2nd	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

Division 2D

Berkshire 2nd	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Surrey 2nd	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Hampshire	5	2	2	1	30	20	6
Sussex 3rd	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Oxfordshire	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Dorset	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

Division 3A

Nottinghamshire	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Hertfordshire 3rd	5	3	1	1	35	15	7
Staffordshire 3rd	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Huntingdonshire	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Northamptonshire 2nd	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Ciwyd	5	0	1	4	7	43	1

SENIORS (C/td)

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gwent	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Essex 3rd	6	5	0	1	38	22	10
Kent	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Hertfordshire 2nd	6	2	1	1	39	21	9
Buckinghamshire 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 Division

Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	55	15	13
Devonshire	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Middlesex	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
Essex	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Surrey	7	3	0	4	31	39	8
Lancashire	7	1	1	5	22	48	3
Warwickshire	7	1	0	6	22	48	2
Berkshire	7	0	1	6	16	54	1

Division 1A

Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	2	0	51	19	12
Staffordshire	7	6	0	1	49	21	12
Ciwyd	7	5	1	1	44	26	11
Northumberland	7	3	1	3	34	36	7
Durham	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Derbyshire	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Suffolk	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Northamptonshire	7	0	0	7	19	51	0

Division 1B

Hertfordshire	7	6	0	1	50	20	12
Essex 2nd	7	5	0	2	50	20	10
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	38	32	9
Kent	7	3	3	1	38	32	9
Surrey 2nd	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Devonshire 3rd	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Gloucestershire	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Oxfordshire	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

Division 2A

Cheshire 1st	7	7	0	0	62	8	14
Nottinghamshire	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Lancashire 2nd	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Staffordshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Cheshire 2nd	7	3	0	4	24	46	6
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Derbyshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	20	50	2
Leicestershire	7	0	1	6	18	52	1

Division 2B

Norfolk 1st	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Essex 3rd	7	6	0	1	56	13	12
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	3	1	3	38	32	7
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Suffolk 2nd	7	2	3	2	34	36	7
Bedfordshire	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Norfolk 2nd	7	1	1	5	20	50	3
Cambridgeshire	7	0	0	7	8	61	0

Division 2C

Gwent	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Worcestershire	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Cornwall	7	4	3	0	46	24	11
Avon	7	3	1	3	41	29	7
Somerset	7	3	1	3	38	32	7
Wiltshire	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Devonshire 3rd	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Dorset	7	0	0	7	9	61	0

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4

Division 2D

Buckinghamshire	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Sussex 1st	7	6	0	1	59	11	12
Hampshire 1st	7	4	2	1	39	31	10
Sussex 2nd	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	1	4	33	37	5
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Hampshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	18	52	4
Berkshire 2nd	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

VETERANS

Premier Division

	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	(73-76)
Surrey	7	4	3	29	34	8	(67-79)
Lincolnshire	7	4	3	29	34	8	
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	7	5	2	47	16	10
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	3	36	27	8
Cheshire 2nd	7	4	3	32	31	8
Oxfordshire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Norfolk	7	3	4	27	36	6
Gloucestershire	7	2	5	23	40	4
Northamptonshire	7	0	7	15	48	0

Division 1B

Dorset	7	6	1	48	15	12
Berkshire	7	6	1	42	21	12
Wiltshire	7	5	2	32	31	10
Middlesex	7	4	3	36	27	8
Essex 2nd	7	3	4	33	30	6
Kent 2nd	7	3	4	29	34	6
Surrey 2nd	7	1	6	22	41	2
Sussex 2nd	7	0	7	10	53	0

Division 2A

Lancashire 2nd	5	5	0	35	10	10
Nottinghamshire	5	4	1	29	16	8
Northumberland	5	3	2	24	21	6
Clwyd	5	2	3	22	23	4
Staffordshire	5	1	4	19	26	2
Cheshire 3rd	5	0	5	6	39	0

Division 2B

Hertfordshire	5	5	0	40	5	10
Warwickshire	5	4	1	29	16	8
Northamptonshire 2nd	5	2	3	22	23	4
Bedfordshire	5	2	3	19	26	4
Norfolk 2nd	5	1	4	13	32	2
Huntingdonshire	5	1	4	12	33	2

Division 2C

Buckinghamshire	6	5	1	39	15	10
Essex 3rd	6	5	1	37	17	10
Surrey 3rd	6	5	1	36	18	10
Middlesex 2nd	6	3	3	24	30	6
Oxfordshire 2nd	6	2	4	21	33	4
Kent 3rd	6	1	5	18	36	2
Sussex 3rd	6	0	6	14	40	0

Division 2D

Somerset	6	6	0	36	18	12
Hampshire	6	4	2	36	18	8
Dorset 2nd	6	4	2	29	25	8
Avon	6	4	2	27	27	8
Wiltshire 2nd	6	2	4	19	35	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	1	5	23	31	2
Gloucestershire 2nd	6	0	6	19	35	0

Division 3A

Warwickshire 2nd	5	5	0	32	13	10
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	4	1	34	11	8
Cambridgeshire	5	3	2	26	19	6
Hertfordshire 4th	5	2	3	20	25	4
Huntingdonshire 4th	5	1	4	13	32	2
Northamptonshire 3rd	5	0	5	10	35	0

Division 3B

Essex 4th	5	5	0	38	7	10
Hertfordshire 3rd	5	3	2	29	16	6
Berkshire 4th	5	3	2	23	22	6
Sussex 4th	5	2	3	20	25	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	5	2	3	15	30	4
Wiltshire 4th	5	0	5	10	35	0

Division 3C

Hampshire 2nd	6	6	0	43	11	12
Wiltshire 3rd	6	5	1	30	24	10
Berkshire 3rd	6	4	2	35	19	8
Dorset 3rd	6	3	3	30	24	6
Somerset 2nd	6	2	4	22	32	4
Hertfordshire 5th	6	1	5	17	37	2
Herefordshire	6	0	6	12	42	0

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Penultimate push and final formalities

THE END of April saw the first leg of the championship play-off between Team Peniel and NFD Grove in which all singles were won two-straight. Matthew Syed opened with a 21 and 12 win over Nicky Mason only to see Desmond (100%) Douglas lead Grove to the next 8 games. Jonathan Taylor proved to be the trump card on the day beating John Holland and Steve Dorking comfortably. For the May finale Grove only need to take two games when they take on Peniel at Market Drayton.

Bathwick Tyres found less than expected resistance from an under-strength Ellenborough. Graham Sandley beat Paul Lewis and Alex Perry in three while Dipak Topiwala beat Adrian Moore and lost to Paul Giles. John Lennon and Chris Marlow appeared to be out of their depth.

Toyota trophy

Ellenborough II, in Division 1 South, found themselves 0-5 down against Larkhall. Brian Garroway found end of season form to beat Jon Proffitt and Nicky McKoy although the latter beat Dave Harding 6 and 17. Bathwick Tyres II and NFD Grove III shared the points after the latter led 4-2. Steve Slater sailed home with support from Stuart Richards and Malcolm Green. DML White Hart Launceston coasted to victory against a 3-man Victoria Park Mazda. George Evans took some consolation in beating Carol Giles in three games. Colley Toyota wrapped things up with a 5-3 victory against Horsham Dolphins to collect their predicted trophy. Steve Ward was untroubled and two from Brian Jeanes earned a 4-2 lead. Dave Barr found Ritchie Venner too consistent but he beat Tony Murrell to secure the points.

Grove lose

NFD Grove II lost 3-5 to West Warwickshire in Division 1 North. Two wins from Adrian Dixon, including denting the record of Ian Stokes, plus two wins from Andy Rich, including one over Nigel Eckersley may prove priceless. Darren Howarth helped Vymura International to a 7-1 win against Well Connected Menswear. Mark Randle prevented a whitewash by beating Andrew Horsfield in the last game. Mark Illingsworth starred with wins over Brian Johns and Eddie Wilkes as City of Leicester beat Burslem 5-3 in Division 2 North. Bribar Humber-side beat City of Leeds 6-2 with a good performance from Sally Marling. Derek Munt conceded only 33 points on the day.

Amity horror!

In Division 2 South-West Ken's Kleinwort Benson Gillingham caned Hampshire's Amity Generation II Fareham 7-1. Paul Rainford and Mark Brown played well. Edison beat Gunnersbury Triangle 6-2 with a surprise duck from Simon Rockall. Clive Carthy beat Chris Boothby -15, 13, 19. Darren Griffin helped Cheltenham Saracens to a 5-3 win against DML White Hart Launceston II. Adrian Vincent resisted with two while Kevin Buddell chipped in their other.

David Buck was PoM when Colley Toyota II beat Horsham Dolphins II 5-3. Lee Thomas deserves a mention - losing to Paul Barry II, -15, -19 and beating Keith Horton 22, -20, 20.

Milton Keynes in trouble

Despite their strength in depth City of Milton Keynes stumbled towards the end, being held to a draw by Fellows Cranleigh in Division 2 South



Grove's trump card Jonathan Taylor

East. John Burleton got his usual two from the No.3 spot but this was offset by his opposite number, Alan Radford, who beat Stephen Baggaley and Colin Bowler. Jill Harris beat Richard Darnell when Leckie visited BSG Brentwood - but Leckie lost the next seven! David Cole again looked impressive beating Tony Jaynes and Jill who "put him under pressure". Pillinger Air Croydon led Rejects 3-0 only to lose 3-5. Simon Philips fought back beating Chris Ross and Chris Knight. VRS Fareham flexed their muscles against luckless Jolliffe Poole who were without Tony Clayton. Barry Hill took consolation in beating Mike Levene 14, -19, 23.

With Linda Radford starring at No.1, Fellows Cranleigh II beat BSG Brentwood II 5-3 in Division 3 East. She beat Peter Worthington and Ryan Savill. Team Peniel II and Norwich Foxwood II shared the points with Keith Buers beating Steve Sadd and Trevor Bunn with deuce games. For Norwich Dave Lee beat Daniel Yardy and Alison Gower. Chelmsford League were beaten 5-3 by Levi's Westfield. Colin Luscombe caused most damage from the No.4 position. Led by Richard Tanner Britannia Ipswich crushed Ellenborough III 8-0. Charlie Fulcher did well to beat Dave Langham and Laz Brown.

OLOP lead

OLOP beat Chan Construction 5-3 for the lead in Division 3 Midland. Dave Reeves led by beating Peter White and Tony Isaacs while Lindon Douglas resisted with wins against Mike Childs and Paul Savins.

Ashford (Kent) beat Lambeth 4 Topes 6-2 and we consequently wave goodbye to the south London side. Javad Amen to be congratulated on his perseverance. NFD Grove Colts, led by Trevor Manning, overcame Larkhall 5-3. Devin Dolder did well to beat Kent Veteran Tom Adams and Surrey's Richard Tanner. Claire Marshall a little unlucky to lose twice narrowly in the third. In the

mid-table battle Bathwick Tyres III and Thorns drew. Mark Brookes beat Hugh Dalton and Richard Jones to secure a point for Thorns.

Jags triumph

JAGS won Division 3 South by beating Ashford (Middlesex) 6-2 without their No.1 Derek Holman. Farhat Rasul beat Andy Shepherd and Neil Charles in a "Good, clean, well-mannered and good-humoured match." Meanwhile Linda Farrow whitewashed NFD Grove IV although six games went to three. Kevin Hodgson looked a little unlucky losing to Duncan Taylor -19, -19 and John Payne 14, -14, -19. Susan Buddell won her two to help DML White Hart Launceston III to a 7-1 win over Alpha Southampton. Tony Catt beat young Jonathan May for consolation. Parkside Dragons Newport unexpectedly took both points from Rejects II. Darren Blake was in fine form against two contrasting styles. His brother Jason kept everyone guessing, eventually losing to Byron Davies -12, 4, -17 and Laura Collier 17, -4, -17. Mike Loveder secured a surprise win over Laura Collier followed by a surprise defeat by Tony Holmes 6, -21, -17 having recovered from 9-20 to 21-20 in the 2nd game!

Vale Royal Warrington whitewashed Lifeline Developments Crusaders Lincoln in Division 3 North and just two games went to three. Vymura International II trailed 0-2 against Ormesby but recovered to win 5-3. John Hope beat the Wilkinsons - Andrew and Peter. Chris Blake helped Borough of Sunderland win 6-2 against Stephens NYSD II. Uxbridge Burton won 6-2 away to Kinghurst Bribar. Pat McCabe at No.3 made short work of Garry Pestka and Nicola Deaton for the two. Tim Shepherd was Uxbridge's Man of the Match for his important wins against S. Taylor and S. Upson.

FINAL RESULTS FROM 10 MAY 1992

Premier

NFD Grove 8 5 Team Peniel

1 North

Vymura Int'l 5 3 Liverpool
Norwich Fox'd 0 8 W. Warwicks
NFD Grove 7 1 R M Lincoln

1 South

V Park Mazda 1 7 Ellenborough
Larkhall 3 5 Colley Toy'a
Horsham Dols 5 3 Bathwick Tyr
NFD Grove 5 3 Launceston

2 North

B Sunderland 1 7 Leicester
Burslem 2 6 B Humber-side
City Leeds 4 4 Chan Const'n
Stephens 8 0 Yugo Cars

BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

2 South East

Milton Keynes	3	5	Rejects
P Air Croydon	4	4	VRS Fareham

2 South West

Cheltenham S	5	3	Gillingham
AG2 Fareham	5	3	Colley Toy'a
Horsham Dols	5	3	Gunnersbury
Edison	5	3	Launceston

3 East

Brentwood	1	7	L Westfield
Team Peniel	3	5	Chelmsford L
Norwich Fox	2	6	Brit Ipswich
Ellenborough	5	3	F Cranleigh

3 North

Kinghurst B	6	2	Ormesby
Vymura Int'l	4	4	VR Warrington
LDC Lincoln	2	6	B Sunderland
Stephens	2	6	Uxbridge (B)

3 Midland

Chan Const'n	6	2	Grove colts
Larkhall	8	0	Lambeth 4 T
Ashford Kent	3	5	Bathwick Tys
Thorns	4	4	OLOP

3 South

Southampton	-	-	NFD Grove IV
Linda Farrow	7	1	JAGS
Ashford Midx	6	2	P D Newport
Rejects	6	2	Launceston

1991/1992 FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove I	10	10	0	0	80	16	20
Team Peniel I	10	8	0	2	73	24	16
Yugo Cars I	10	5	0	5	52	58	10
Ellenborough I	10	3	1	6	40	66	7
Bathwick Tyres I	10	3	0	7	39	70	6
Con Life St. Neots	10	0	1	9	29	79	1

DIVISION 1 (NORTH)

NFD Grove II	12	11	0	1	79	17	22
Vymura International I	12	8	1	3	55	41	17
West Warwickshire	12	8	0	4	61	35	16
Well Connected Menswear	12	5	3	4	51	45	13
Liverpool	12	4	0	8	34	62	8
RM Lincoln	12	1	3	8	33	63	5
Norwich Foxwood I	12	1	1	10	23	73	3
Britannia Ipswich				Resigned			

DIVISION 1 (SOUTH)

Colley Toyota I	14	11	2	1	80	32	24
DML Launceston I	14	9	2	3	64	48	20
Horsham Dolphins I	14	8	3	3	71	41	19
NFD Grove II	14	8	2	4	65	47	18
Bathwick Tyres I	14	5	3	6	54	58	13
Larkhall I	14	4	2	8	45	67	10
Ellenborough II	14	2	1	11	40	72	5
VP Mazda	14	1	1	12	29	83	3

DIVISION 2 (NORTH)

Stephens NYSD I	14	14	0	0	87	25	28
Briar Humberside	14	8	2	4	64	48	18
Chan Construction I	14	6	4	4	66	46	16
City of Leicester	14	7	2	5	66	46	16
Burslem	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
Borough of Sunderland I	14	4	2	8	47	65	10
Yugo Cars II	14	3	2	9	32	80	8
City of Leeds	14	1	3	10	37	75	5

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH EAST)

BSG Brentwood I	14	10	3	1	75	37	23
City of Milton Keynes	14	9	2	3	65	47	20
Pillinger Air Croydon	14	6	3	5	59	53	15
Rejects I	14	6	3	5	57	55	15
Fellows Cranleigh I	14	5	4	5	56	56	14
VRS Fareham	14	4	3	7	51	61	11
Leckie TTC	14	3	4	7	50	62	10
Jolliffe Poole	14	0	4	10	35	77	4

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH EAST)

Edison	14	10	3	1	71	41	23
Cheltenham Saracens	14	9	4	1	69	43	22
KB Gillingham	14	9	3	2	77	35	21
Amity Gen. 2 Fareham	14	6	1	7	56	56	13
Colley Toyota II	14	6	1	7	56	56	13
Horsham Dolphins II	14	5	2	7	56	56	12
DML Launceston II	14	4	0	10	46	66	8
Gunnersbury Triangle	14	0	0	14	17	95	0

DIVISION 3 (NORTH)

Vale Royal Warrington	14	9	5	0	82	30	23
Vymura International II	14	10	2	2	75	37	22
Borough of Sunderland II	14	9	3	2	62	50	21
Uxbridge (Burton)	14	7	2	5	61	51	16
Stephens NYSD II	14	5	3	6	55	57	13
Ormesby	14	3	2	9	45	67	8
L D Crusaders	14	2	2	10	37	75	6
Kinghurst Briar	14	1	1	12	31	81	3

DIVISION 3 (EAST)

Levi's Wesfield	14	9	2	3	70	42	20
Britannia Ipswich I	14	8	4	2	70	42	20
Chelmsford League	14	8	1	5	60	52	17
Fellows Cranleigh II	14	7	1	6	62	50	15
Norwich Foxwood II	14	5	4	5	58	54	14
Team Peniel II	14	6	2	6	57	55	14
Ellenborough III	14	3	1	10	35	77	7
BSG Brentwood II	14	2	1	11	36	76	5

DIVISION 3 (MIDLAND)

OLOP TTC	14	11	3	0	78	34	25
Chan Construction II	14	11	2	1	73	39	24
Throns Dudley	14	6	2	6	64	48	14
NFD Grove (Colts)	14	6	2	6	56	56	14
Bathwick Tyres III	14	5	3	6	53	59	13
Larkhall II	14	5	2	7	55	57	12
Ashford (Kent)	14	3	0	11	43	69	6
Lambeth 4 Tops	14	1	2	11	26	86	4

DIVISION 3 (SOUTH)

JAGS SC	14	12	0	2	80	32	24
Linda Farrow	14	11	1	2	80	32	23
Ashford (Midx)	14	7	4	3	62	50	18
Rejects II	14	6	2	6	59	53	14
NFD Grove IV	14	6	2	6	47	65	14
Parkside Dragons	14	5	1	8	51	61	11
DML White Hart Launceston	14	3	1	10	46	66	7
Alpha Southampton	14	0	1	13	23	89	1



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Clean sweep for Malcolm

NORTHERN MASTERS April 25/26

ON arriving at the new (Huddersfield) venue of this tournament, my personal favourite of all the vetts, I was amazed to see Derek Holman knocking up with...Mike Johns, who had come all the way from Australia and had slimmed down considerably since I last saw him some 13 years ago and is now a mere 4 stone overweight.

Best win on Saturday was by Eileen Shaler over Doreen Schofield 16, 9! and a good win for Pat Bassano over Joyce Coop 14, 19, but the best sight of the day was definitely of Pat's beautiful daughter Claire, who was spectating!

Quickly recovering from her loss to Eileen, Doreen then swept all before her and, on Saturday, took both the 040 and 050 WD with Connie Moran, then on Sunday the 050WS. Doreen also reached the final of the 040WS beating Bassano in R2 17, 14 and the exciting crowd pleaser Gillian Knightley -14, 11, 16.

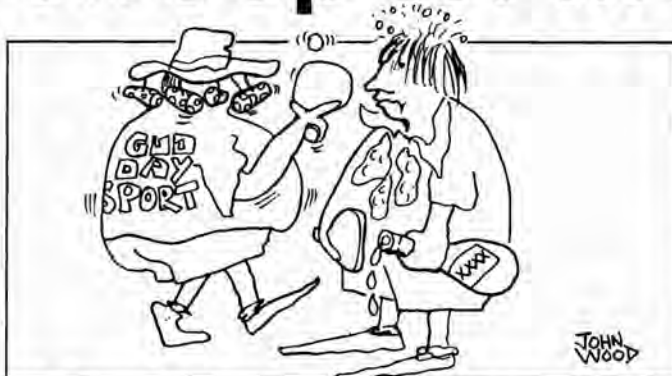
A terrific match in R1 saw Connie Moran beat the lovely rosy cheeked young vett Carol Judson 19, -25, 19 in a classic match (at least according to Connie and Carol) Moran then losing to Knightley 14, 12 in R2. The final was a repeat of the group match with Eileen again beating Doreen, perhaps this was the first time ever that Doreen had been beaten twice by the same player in the same event. Well done Eileen!

So to 040MS and in R2 Don Mcgilvray beat Connie (Sir Les) Warren -13, 17, 17, yet another bad Sunday result for CJ. I think anyone who has only seen him play on a Sunday would never imagine how he can play as in several scintillating displays in Bromley league matches this season. Paul Collins beat our great editor John Holland 13, -11, 17 and Norman Thewlis just beat Dave (Sumo) Roberts 12, -17, 19.

In R3 John Millward, who always really enjoys his tt put up a very good display against Mike Johns getting 19, 17, Holman beat Andy Meads 51 19, that master against chop Ralph Gunnion beat Matt Sheader 9, -17, 9 with Matt having to hit every ball to take a game and the win of the round and the tournament was by "Stormin Norman" Thewlis over Mike Short 19, 17 with the shot of the championship at 20-19 in the 1st after Mike had bravely fought back from 20-16, a fantastic backhand kill out of nowhere by Norman that Gomozkov would have been proud of. Someone suggested that we should have a "Shot of the tournament" competition, with a bottle of champagne for the winner at each Vets event (donated by Malcolm Corking?)

Only close game of QF was Holman stealing victory from likeable Tony Rigby 13, -11, 19 after looking out of it in the 3rd.

In SF Thewlis put up a tremendous display against Johns, Mike Winning 14, -19, 5. Taking a game from Mike was some achievement for a defender, I have never seen Mike



Holland shines

lose to one. Meanwhile Corking was beating Holman -20, 18, 10, with Holman well and truly "Corkinged" in the 3rd game, any thoughts of victory quickly being dispelled by Malcolm's uncanny ability to hit the net or the edge whenever he needed a point and surpassing even himself by managing to fool Holman to volley by hitting a very low ball into the net and somehow managing to use the net as a catapult with the ball shooting straight on to Derek's bat (what uncanny accuracy Malcolm!) Derek gave the vague impression of not fully appreciating this aspect of Malcolm's game.

So to the final, which was rather an anti-climax, a close match being expected by most, but Mike's backhand loop, which had been devastating right through the tournament, deserted him and Malcolm blocked with superb control with his backhand creating winning angles off very spinny loops, winning 20, 14.

So that's 9 vetts 040ms for Malcolm and what with taking the XD with Carol Judson with a final win over Short/Shaler -20, 12, 18 plus the MD one could say it was quite a successful weekend for him.

New expressions for tt shots I would like to propose a new name for 2 tt shots. When the ball touches the top of the net and bounces on the opponents side and when a ball touches the edge these shots have as long as I can remember been rather boringly called a "net" and an "edge" respectively.

I though it would be much more appropriate if the "edge" should be renamed the "Corking", particularly since playing Malcolm in the Yorks v Kent match and being "Corkinged" in the 1st game by 15 "edges" the 1st 14 of them very fine and thus unreturnable ones. The "net" should be renamed the "Henry" after the acknowledged master of this shot, particularly when he reaches 19 points, Henry Buist (Henry tells me that Messrs. Sheader/Schofield would definitely agree with this).

So, remember chaps, next time you hit more than your fair share of these shots in a match, say to the opponent, "Sorry for all the Corkings and Henrys I got there."

GRIMSBY EASTERN MASTERS March 21/22

THIS excellent tournament started on Saturday morning with some very tough groups including 1 of Paul Collins (w), Cleve Judson (ru) and Gordon Chapman, the Ashford champion, failing to survive his group! At the same time on the next table there was an exciting match between Connie Warren and Paolo Beck with C.J. storming back from 0-5 down in the 3rd to win 17, -15, 17. Saturday afternoon saw lively Les Darcy looking very sprightly in beating Bill Brookman and some exciting battles in 040MDs. Beck/Bartle had to work overtime to beat "funny batters" A. Perry/D. Meredith in 3rd and then playing Corking Gibbs who came back very well in 2nd game from 9-3 down to win 15, 20.

New vetts Peter Loxon/Dave (sumo) Roberts (Everton and Liverpool supporters respectively!) having a great run beating Short/Holman (conquerors of Wood/Jacob 19 in 3rd) 2-0 and in sf David Harse/Nat Richardson, the very unlucky Dave Harse snapping a calf muscle and having to retire in 2nd at a game up. A very good performance in the final by the newcomers, enjoying themselves against winners Corking/Gibbs in only going down -10, 15, -18. Well done lads.

So to Sunday and early results being Stuart Gibbs beating the evergreen maestro Derek Schofield and Tony Rigby beating Nat Richardson and Robin Stace, plus a good win by a very sharp Paolo Beck over Cleve (of the mighty forehead) Judson 10, 21. Clive Morris continued his superb season of at least reaching the QF in each vetts tournament by beating Connie (Sir Les) Warren 2-0. No surprise this, it being a Sunday, always CJs worst day of the week.

In QFs Morris beat Rigby 2-0, Corking beat Derek Wood 2-0, and the finest tt of the weekend was played by maestro Gibbs beating Derek Holman 5, 16!

But to the real star of the weekend, editor John Holland who, despite being very busy getting the vetts newsletter out had marvellous wins over Mike Short 2-0 in qf and then in sf over Gibbs from 1-0 down. Corking beat Morris in 2 very close

games in the other semi and then took the title by beating Holland, who had finally run out of steam 16, 12.

This win makes Corking the all time leader of vetts 040ms titles with 8, ahead of Henry Buist on 7. (Don't forget the Angroves you promised me for mentioning that Malcolm).

Editor Holland was still not finished with his giant-killing and ended a wonderful personal weekend by defeating no less an opponent than Derek Schofield in the 050MS final. Well done John, a tremendous performance, especially considering all the work you had with the vetts magazine to distract you.

BARCLAY ESSEX 5 STAR 28/29 March

Adaptable Henry

ROUND ONE notable results: George Evans beat Peter Radford in a very close fight 2-1, Robin Stace beat Chris Jacob 2-0, Wally Allanson beat Don Mcgilvray 2-0 on expedite, Henry Buist beat Frank Hams 2-0 with Frank lucky to get 0, John Taylor beat Derek Wood 2-0. Ken Phillipson beat Gordon Chapman, and nice to see a lady player Connie Moran competing and winning a round. Round 2 Evans went down to Brian Allison, Allanson beat Andy Meads after losing the 1st, Dave Seaholme beat Phillipson, and a sparkling performance by Paolo Beck beating super-Jooper Stace 11, 13. Round 3 Gibbs beat Allanson, Buist beat Allison 2-0, Taylor beat Seaholme and Beck won in a long struggle with Stan "the bat" Batrick -17, 11, 14. So to the semis and Buist having one of the longest matches of his career eventually beating Taylor 2-1 in a tremendously hard fought battle. Meanwhile, multi-talented Gibbs was beating Beck 18, 18 despite Beck's 100% efforts, Gibbs having his opponent on the floor 3 times, and the barriers taking a real hammering.

The final began with Gibbs looking a winner with scintillating shots including his speciality killing Buists kill from away from the table giving him the 1st game. Did Buist have anything left after his exhausting sf? YES! The remarkable 57 year old stormed back and rubberised Stuart to take the next 2 and the title. Buist also gave a brilliant display in the mens doubles with Beck, leading the no.3 seeds Adrian/Stephen Moore 20-14 in the 2nd before going down 19, 20. And all this despite Henry suffering from a calf strain which would have affected badly the performance of most, mere mortal players. Henry Buist, surely the games most adaptable player!

Tisserant reigns supreme

AT the 5th English Invitation Table Tennis Championships held at the Ludwig Guttman Sports Stadium at Stoke Mandeville over the Bank Holiday weekend 2-4th May, Guy Tisserant of France was the victor in the hotly contested mens class 3-5 singles.

The competition, organised by the British Wheelchair Table Tennis Association and held in honour of Mr. Ted Inge, attracted over 150 players representing 18 countries worldwide.

For those unaware, wheelchair players are classified on their level of disability into one of 5 classes. Class 1 being the most severely disabled through to the least disabled Class 5 competitors.

With the absence of Germany's Thomas Kreidl, the world's No. 1 wheelchair player, Guy Tisserant of France was installed as the favourite for the mens Class 3-5 singles. This was fully justified as he captured the title without dropping a set. It was by no means an easy task though, with 17 groups of five players fighting to get through to an eventual knockout stage of 24 players, competition was fierce. There were no upsets until the knockout stages when the first big name to fall was former world No. 1 Mike Dempsey of the U.S.A., a top player of 30+ years who went out to the German veteran Peter Schmidt. While Tisserant was carving his way through the top half of the draw, the competition in the bottom half was increasingly looking as if it was going to come from the big hitting Swede, Ernst Bollden or the unorthodox, funny rubber man, Fritz Altendorfer of Austria. In the first semi final, it was Altendorfer who won through 21-15, 21-16 in a remarkable display of control with Bollden unable to hit much past the Austrian. The second semi final pitched Tisserant against Christian Sutter of Austria which promised to be an exciting match with both players dedicated attackers. The game lived up to its promise with some powerful strokes from both players but it was always going to be Tisserant's day and he progressed through to meet Altendorfer in the final by winning 21-16, 21-16.

And so to the final. It was always going to be an intriguing match with the contrasting styles of the players. Whilst in an in-depth talk with his coach before the start of the final, Tisserant had to be summoned to the table by the umpire. The tactics they discussed were soon obvious with Tisserant apparently abandoning his spin serves for fast serves and smashing through Altendorfer's funny rubber defence. The game followed this pattern throughout and Altendorfer was unable to stay with Tisserant with the Frenchman emerging as the champion 21-12, 21-12.

The women's class 3-5 singles was an altogether more close competition with the five groups of



(Top) Ted Inge is pictured welcoming Britain's top players Neil Robinson (left) for Bridgend, South Wales and Val Beck from Consett, County Durham. (Bottom left) A backhand push by Siobhan Callanan of Eire. Whilst (bottom right) Mike Dempsey of the USA plays a powerful forehand

five soon whittled down to the last eight for the knockout stages. The first semi final was between tournament favourite Gabi Kirchmair of Austria and Fung Yuet Wah of Hong Kong. The fact that the Hong Kong team managed to stay awake was an achievement in itself having arrived late after a 14 hour delay. With both players looking for winners it produced an attractive game with the greater control of the Austrian pulling her through 21-11, 21-17. The other semi final was an all German affair between Christiane Weninger and Gisela Roosa. With both players knowing each others games so well a tight match was on the cards. This proved to be the case with Weninger coming out the winner 21-14, 22-24, 21-19 in a real nailbiter. If you had any fingernails left after that game then they were soon to disappear during the final! It was a superb match with some dazzling winners

straight out of the top draw by both players. Kirchmair proved to have the stronger nerve eventually winning through 18-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Home success came in the mens class 1-2 singles with Tony Edge of Southport defeating Svein Borg Simensen of Norway (world ranked 2) 21-17, 21-13. Winning this event is proving to be a habit for Edge, who by his own choice does not compete internationally for Great Britain but turns up to this event to let everyone know he is still a major force in class 2.

The womens class 1-2 singles was played on a round robin basis due to the low entry. England's Jane Blackburn eventually finishing runner up to Christiane Droux of Switzerland.

The plate (for those who did not qualify from their groups) results yielded 5 trophies for England, the highlight being the all English final in

the class 3-5 mens event. Arnie Chan eventually ending a superb effort by Yorkshire's Billy Leake 21-18, 21-15.

The trophies were presented by 1949 and 1951 world champion Johnny Leach, who is a patron of the BWTTA and Mr Ton Brooks, Secretary General of the ITTF.

This superb tournament culminated in a banquet held in honour of Mr. Ted Inge, who for over 30 years has been at the forefront of wheelchair table tennis domestically and internationally. He is retiring from his post on the International Table Tennis Technical Committee for the Disabled after this years Paralympics in Barcelona. He received many gifts from friends and worldwide during a moving and emotional farewell speech.

RESULTS

Mens

Class 1 - 2 - 1st Tony Edge (England), 2nd Svein Borg Simensen (Norway)

Class 3 - 5 - 1st Guy Tisserant (France), 2nd Fritz Altendorfer (Austria)

Mens Doubles

1st Van de Luer/Uyt de Boogaardt (Belgium), 2nd Tisserant/Gauducheau (France)

Womens

Class 1 - 2 - 1st Christiane Droux (Switzerland), 2nd Jane Blackburn (England)

Class 3 - 5 - 1st Gabi Kirchmair (Austria), 2nd Christiane Weninger (Germany)

Womens Doubles

1st Skiora/Weninger (Germany), 2nd Christiane Weninger (Germany)

PLATE EVENTS

Mens

Class 1 - 2 - 1st Jan Erik Stenberg (Norway), 2nd Ronan Rooney (Ireland)
Class 3 - 5 - 1st Arnie Chan (England), 2nd Billy Leake (England)

Womens

Class 3 - 5 - 1st Rosa Zaugg (Switzerland), 2nd Maria Pillarova (Czechoslovakia)

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE DUNLOP sponsored 19th English Schools' Individual Championships, played for the first time at a magnificent new venue, the Sports Connexion at Coventry, provided a feast of table tennis for the 250 plus youngsters competing in four age groups.

Play was on twenty tables with groups consisting of a minimum of five players, thus offering what many people consider to be a 'must' with young players - plenty of games - with the only setback being a lighting failure which held up play for some 20 minutes during the afternoon and resulted in a finish rather later than was scheduled.

But, despite the change of format, there was the same spontaneous enthusiasm and sportsmanship among the players, from those who have competed at the highest level to others who have played only in Schools' competition, while referee Tony Chatwin and organiser Paul Birch and his dedicated team of helpers worked tirelessly to keep things moving.

With title holders moving quickly up through the age groups, it is rare for a champion to have the opportunity to defend his title, but this year no less than four of the eight events saw the incumbent still in action in the final.

Probably even more remarkable was the fact that Edward Hatley (Hants) was bidding to take the B16 title for a record third time, while in the top three Girls age groups, none of the three reigning champions was deposed.

With the compulsory school leaving age of 16+, the Under 16 events have traditionally provided the strongest competition but this year, particularly with the girls where two of England's top four Under 21 ladies contested the final, the Under 19s came into their own.

The parallel B19, although not quite so powerful, also had a strong field, but, in the end, it was the younger lads who came through with Stephen Lampkin (Surrey Met), still a cadet, lining up against Richard Smith (West Yorks), thirteen places higher in the national Junior ranking list, in the final.

Where possible, two seeds were placed in each group, using the Halex ranking scheme as a basis although, particularly at Under 11 level, a full complement of seeded players was not possible, and this seeding made for a high standard of competition in which it is good to note that the higher ranked players did not have all their own way.

Big incentive to all the competitors, of course, was the opportunity to nudge the selectors for a place in the England sides which will compete in the July Schools' International tournament which this year, for the first time, will be hosted by Wales.

In the B19 top two Ian Collier (Tyne & Wear) and Gavin Yates (Ox) lost out at the semi-final stage to Lampkin and Smith respectively, with the Surrey boy also taking out Ian Musk (Beds), mens award winner in the Team Event finals where his side Bedford Modern, were the U19 winners.



Nicola Smith receives her Girls U13 trophy from John Blackburn Chairman of the ESTTA

Smith controlled his game well to lead 9-2 after taking the first end at 6, but then the pattern changed as the tall left hander with the combination bat battled back to level at 15 all and go on to take the second. The decider went point for point with Lampkin moving his opponent about and picking off the occasional loose return to ease home at 18.

The G19 also featured a combination bat, which resulted in a battle of wits as Katie Goodall (West Yorks) tried to keep the ball away from the 'wrong' side against holder Linda Radford (Ex Met), who was the eventual winner in an intriguing contest.

The B16 followed very closely the pattern at U19 level, with top seeded Hatley and Cris Sladden (Ex Cty) going out to Darren Blake (Sy Met), seeded 3, and Adrian Vincent (Dv), 4, before the West Country boy, after being well beaten in the initial game, hit form to get on top in the remaining two with some accurate hitting, while in the G16 Michelle Martin (St), beaten by Sally Russell (Northants) in the groups, came back into the reckoning with a three set victory over Lynsey Heyward (Devon) which took her into a final place, only to lose in straight sets to senior international Sally Marling (Humber-side).

Both Graham Worth (Cornwall) and Gareth Brown (Tyne & Wear) had good wins over Greg Lee (Gt. Manchester), the seed in group H of the B13, with Brown reaching the quarters before falling to eventual winner Stephen Meddings (West Mids), while Martin Twiss (Sp) dismissed Gerald Ashison (Surrey Met), but it all came right in the end with Meddings, 89 and 90 Under 11 Champion, overcoming the challenge of second seed Michael James (Humber-side) in the final.

With the G13 Nicola Smith (West Yks) had the better of a 19, -16, 21 nailbiter against old rival Kathryn Woodward (Gtr. Manchester) in a tense final in which nerves tended to impinge as the climax approached.

The Under 11 events included only two boys - Stephen Linnecar (Essex Cty) and Leigh Iles (Avon) - and two girls - Lindsey Thornton (Gtr. Manchester) and Charlotte Spink (West Yks) - who featured in the British Primary Schools Championships at Dumfries in Scotland a fortnight earlier.

Lindsey beat Charlotte in a 19, -19, 19 semi before overcoming Kathryn Swan (Cu), who won her group ahead of Yara Kanani (E. Sx), while, with the boys, Stephen went out to Christ Butt (Hants) and, in one of the best finals of the day between two very talented youngsters, the south coast boy was beaten in three by Daniel King (Norfolk).

RESULTS:

UNDER 19:

BOYS

Stephen Lampkin (Surrey Met) bt Ian Collier (Tyne & Wear) 15, 19; Richard Smith (W. Yks) bt Gavin Yates (Ox) - 11, 22, 18; Lampkin bt Smith - 6, 19, 18.

GIRLS

Linda Radford (Ex Met) bt Dawn Barnett (Ox) 10, 15; Katie Goodall (W. Yks) bt Caroline Watt (Cu) 7, 9; Radford bt Goodall 18, -12, 16.

UNDER 16:

BOYS

Adrian Vincent (Dv) bt Cris Sladden (Ex Cty) -14, 15, 19; Darren Blake (Sy Met) bt Edward Hatley (Ha) 20, 17; Vincent bt Blake -7, 17, 15.

GIRLS

Sally Marling (Humber-side) bt Nicola Massingham (La) 6, 14; Michelle Martin (Staffs) bt Tracy Garratt (Sp) 10, 12; Marling bt Martin 12, 18.

UNDER 13:

BOYS

Stephen Meddings (W. Mids) bt Tristan Swan (Cu) 12, 12; Michael James (Humber-side) bt David Smith (W. Yks) 19, 12; Meddings bt James 22, 13;

GIRLS

Nicola Smith (W. Yks) bt Michelle Haynes (Ng) -24, 7, 17; Kathryn Woodward bt Tina Beaney (E. Sx) 14, 17; Smith bt Woodward 19, -16, 21.

UNDER 11:

BOYS

Daniel King (Nk) bt Robert Svensson (Dv) 16, 11; Christopher Butt (Ha) bt Stephen Linnecar (Ex Cty) -20, 20, 19; King bt Butt -19, 13, 18.

GIRLS

Lindsey Thornton (Gtr. Man) bt Charlotte Spink (W. Yks) 19, -19, 19; Kathryn Swan (Cu) bt Alice Howard (Merseyside) 17, 14; Thornton bt Swan 17, 8.

BRITISH SCHOOLS' PRIMARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

IRELAND took the honours in the Boys section of the Team Event in the British Primary Schools' Championships held at Dumfries in Scotland over the final weekend in April, with England redressing the balance as they shaded the Girls from the Emerald Isle on 'games difference' after the sides had shared a 5-5 draw.

Sam Cleminson, Scott Friday with seven wins each, Stephen Linnecar (6) and Leigh Iles (5) all contributed in the Boys' games, while Jessica Orlik, Charlotte Spink (7), Helen Lincoln (6) and Lindsey Thornton (5) made up the successful Girls quartet.

In the Individual competition, Friday reach the Boys' final before going out to Ireland's Danny McGreevey in three - a repeat of the result in the Team Event - while Thornton beat Spink in an all-England Girls final.

RESULTS:

TEAM EVENT - BOYS

England bt Isle of Man 10-0, bt Scotland 7-3, bt Wales 10-0, lost to Ireland 4-6.

TEAM EVENT - GIRLS

England bt Isle of Man 10-0, bt Scotland 8-2, bt Wales 10-0, drew with Ireland 5-5

BOYS SINGLES

Semi Finals: D. McGreevey (IRE) bt S. Wilson (SCO) -19, 12, 13; S. Friday (ENG) bt E. Byrne (IRE) -18, 14, 14.
Final: McGreevey bt Friday 16, -16, 11.

GIRLS SINGLES

Semi Finals: L. Thornton (ENG) bt N. Bentley (SCO) 18, 17; C. Spink (ENG) bt B. Lane (IRE) 19, 18.
Final: Thornton bt Spink 13, 8.

100 years of table tennis



Jill and Don Parker dressed in Victorian style

Dear Colleagues,

We started the 100th season of table tennis with a dinner after the AGM, at the Carnarvon Hotel (where a good time was had by all) so what better way than to end the season in the same way.

Dinner will take place after the AGM on 27th June 1992 at:-

THE CARNARVON HOTEL, EALING COMMON,
EALING, LONDON W5

The hotel stands at the junction of A4020 and A406 (North Circular Road) at Ealing Common. The hotel has a large car park and Ealing Common tube is opposite just 2 minutes walk away, this line goes direct to Holborn Station for the AGM at the Bonnington Hotel. If the ladies are more interested in shopping the Ealing Broadway Centre is 5 minutes away with Marks and Spencers, Bentalls and many other shops.

Our evening will commence with a reception at 7.15pm with dinner at 7.45pm - the menu:

Half Melon filled with Tropical Fruits

* * *

Supreme of Chicken Princess. (or Fish)

Buttered Green Beans, Cauliflower Mornay, Saute Potatoes

* * *

Omelette Surprise My Lady

* * *

Coffee and Mints

The cost per person is £18.00 and would like as many of you as possible to attend, let's end the 100th season in style.

We will have a couple of speakers plus some entertainment in the Victorian theme, singing and dancing with instruction. It is hoped that a good number of you will join in the theme and come along in evening/Victorian dress.

Overnight accommodation is £50 double or twin, £38 single which includes continental breakfast, service and VAT, a supplement of £2 for full English breakfast. If you require accommodation please book with the hotel direct on 081-992 5399 quoting ETTA booking for preferential rate, it is advisable to book as soon as possible.

Please join in this evening, bring your friends along, your reply with cheque to me please by 10th June 1992, cheques payable to ETTA 100 Club.

Look forward to seeing you on 27th June.

Yours sincerely,
Doreen Stannard

19 Paddington Close, Yeading, Middlesex. UB4 9QH

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 31st July 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 April 1992 competition:

1st: Mr. Van Dinh Dam, 18 Elgar Gardens, Nottingham

2nd: Mr. C. Westney, 4 Yewlands, Felsham, Suffolk

3rd: Mr. D.J. Seaholm, 12 Upper Hitch, Watford, Herts



Name: _____

Address: _____

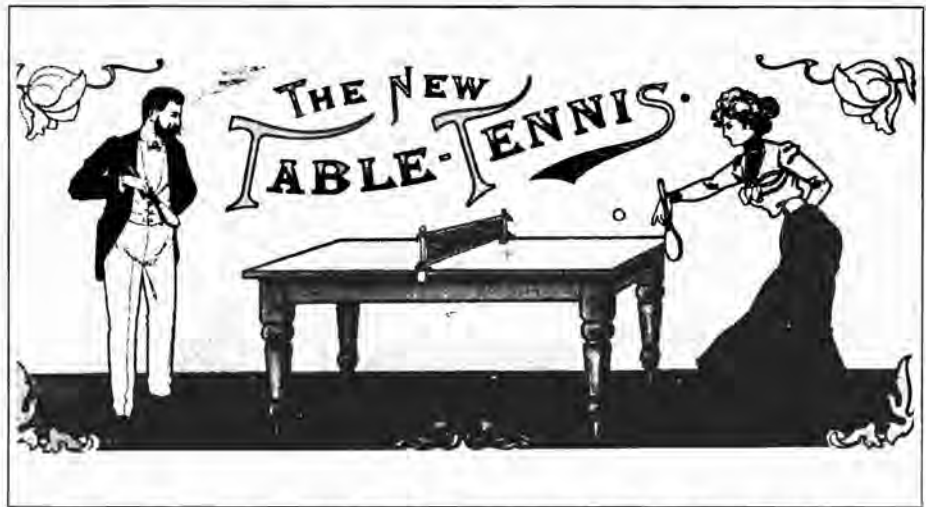
Winner of the race

FIVE: THE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION VERSUS THE PING-PONG ASSOCIATION

AS already mentioned, the Table Tennis Association was formally set up on 12th December, 1901, and the Ping-Pong Association only four days later. This suggests strongly that the TTA was the winner of a race to gain some sort of advantage by being first, but it is a matter for great regret that the interested parties, all with the good of the game at heart, did not settle their differences and establish one authority. The first Honorary Secretary of the TTA was A. J. Bryant of Wandsworth Common Table Tennis Club. In his introduction to the Handbook he states quite bluntly, "It was felt to be intolerable that sport should be liable to be controlled in any way by a particular trading firm, even should that firm deserve credit for assisting in popularising a good game." If there were any doubt that he was referring to John Jaques and Son, this was dispelled by his welcoming of the new name Table Tennis, "as many felt that the alliterative appellation (Ping-Pong) was slangy and had a tendency to bring a really good game into ridicule."

Even at this distance of time it must be said that the TTA Council was acting entirely properly in making this stand on an important principle when confronted with a situation then unknown in any other sport. Bryant says also that there was a great need for a "central authority that should reduce the many variants on the game to unity." This, and his statement, "...notwithstanding prophecies to the contrary, Table Tennis has come to stay," both, sadly, turned out to be over-optimistic. He was on firmer ground with his assertion - "From being merely an amusement, Table Tennis has now become a sport, in which quickness of eye, correct judgement, prompt decision and a fair amount of athletic skill and staying power are developed."

The TTA Council, with forty-two members, seems to have been considerably overweight in relation to the affiliated clubs, numbering a mere thirty nine. The Rules Committee set briskly to work, with nine meetings in three weeks, and soon produced their Constitution, Laws (with 'Knotty



Rare German postcard published by A. Sala, Berline, 1904. The Gurney Collection

Points") and Regulations for Prize Meetings and Inter-Club Matches, extending in all to twenty-one pages. The TTA Handbook contains no fewer than sixteen full-page advertisements for F.H. Ayres (who had in fact been absorbed by Slazengers in the late nineteenth century) covering a whole range of sports. This was apparently spotted by the opposition, for Bryant found it necessary to write to *Lawn Tennis and Croquet*, "Will you allow me through your pages to correct the impression that the Table Tennis Association is connected with any trading firm bearing a similar cognomen? No official or member of the Council is in any way connected with the trade."

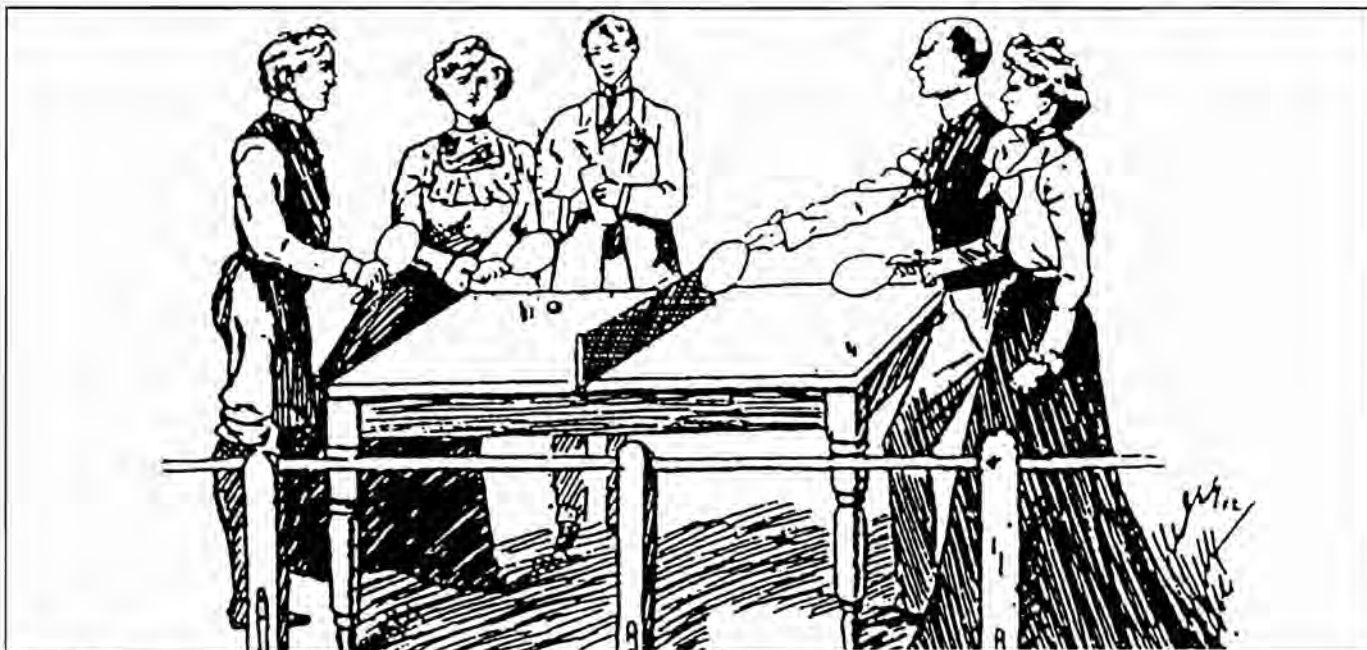
The first Handbook of the PPA is a far more modest production, with only six pages of Constitution and Laws, and eleven pages of advertising by Jaques. No doubt Jaques had already got a considerable hold on the market and on the game. The original impetus to form an association had come from Walter Harrison, Secretary of the Cavendish Ping-Pong Club in a letter to *Lawn Tennis and Croquet* in April, 1901. He thought the time had come to elevate "a mere drawing-room amusement up to a status of scientific, national pastime." Jaques also had a Ping-Pong Association in mind. In late 1901, their 'Rules and Directions' had a new section on 'Formation of Clubs' concluding with the words, "When the game is sufficiently established it is intended to hold meetings of Ping-Pong Club representatives to discuss,

amend, or alter existing rules or regulations as at present provided for in these Laws, and to attend generally to the welfare of the game." But nothing appears to have been done until the first general meeting in December.

G. Washington Gray, the first Honorary Secretary of the PPA, does not engage in any 'politics', merely putting his name to the formal Constitution. It is when we come to the Laws that we find an area of controversy, one that was to prove a major stumbling-block between the two Associations, second only to the dispute over connections with the trade. Initially, both Associations followed what may be called the 'single-bounce' service, that is the server was required to hit the ball direct over the net to the opponent's end of the table. This had been the universal method of service, in imitation of lawn tennis, used for the parlour game in domestic play.

At some point - precisely when is not at all clear - the PPA changed to the 'double-bounce' method which we know today, while the TTA retained the other. It seems astonishing now that this change was not made by both Associations, as soon as the game became seriously competitive. An overhead 'tennis' serve would obviously have been impractical and absurd, so several attempts were made to devise a rule which would limit the impact of the service. A story from the USA - even if apocrypha - shows the need for this control. A table tennis player challenged a Pittsburg millionaire, a

TABLE TENNIS The Early Years - 2



Mixed doubles at the Royal Aquarium, 1902. *Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer*

novice, for £5,000. The millionaire had to return only one of twenty-seven serves to win the bet but, making "twenty-seven tremendous sweeps with his racket, he had the mortification to hit wide every time." An expensive lesson at over £185 a stroke! More seriously, reports came from every quarter of the server scoring five outright winners in a row so that the result of a match depended merely on who won the toss and served first.

The earliest PPA law on this point reads, "The service shall be strictly underhand and from behind the table; that is to say, at the time of striking the ball the racket may not be over the table, and no part of the racket, except the handle may be above the *waist*."

This is substantially the same as the wording of the very first law on his issue as drafted by the Cavendish Club, except that 'waist' has been substituted for 'wrist'. The earliest TTA law reads, "At the instant of striking the ball, the server's racket shall be behind the end line and within the side lines, and all parts of it, except the handle, shall be below the server's waist."

In December, 1902, M.J.G. Ritchie, by then Secretary of the TTA, reported in *Lawn Tennis and Croquet* that dissatisfaction was frequently expressed with the service law. This created difficulties for umpires and gave too much advantage to the server. Also the 'below the waist' rule was too vague and unfair to short players, though their serves could be deadly. He rejects the PPA's 'double-bounce' solution because it made the game monotonous and the advantage

passed to the 'striker-out' (that is receiver). Alternative suggestions, which make interesting reading today, were; to require the ball at the instant of serving to be below the table top (still difficult for the umpire); the service to be into a limited court - that is short of a line one foot from the end of the table - (again difficult to judge); the striker-out to be allowed a second chance (novel but practical); the service to be alternately left and right of a mid-line as in the 'four-handed' game (relatively easy to judge). In the last three of these the service would be underhand, that is with the blade below the level of the wrist but at any height, or a player would be required to wear a cord round the body at a definite distance below the arm-pits, presumably as an aid to the umpire.

In the Handbook of the combined TTA/PPA, 1903-1904, this issue was resolved by requiring the server to stand behind a line three feet from the table, to serve under-arm (that is with all parts of the racket except the handle below the server's elbow at the instant of striking) and to serve alternately left and right of the middle line. But by this time the game was, sadly, in such decline that the law was hardly put into practice. The PPA's 'double-bounce' service had been lost during the 'takeover' negotiations and, unfortunately, did not reappear until the 1920s.

By 3rd December, 1902, almost exactly a year from their setting-up as individual Associations, the TTA and the PPA announced a proposed merger. As far back as the previous

January the editor of the *Pioneer* and several correspondents had been making a strong plea for unity. Special general meetings were held in December, 1902, and January, 1903, followed by a joint statement that complete amalgamation would take place on 1st May. This does, however, look more like a 'takeover' by the TTA as it was agreed "to leave the united Associated free from trade influences." Moreover, although initially the title was settled as "The United Table Tennis and Ping-Pong Association", this had to be changed (when Jaques objected) to "The Table Tennis Association". A.J. Bryant was elected Secretary of a joint Council, but -rather ominously- only forty-one clubs affiliated; amalgamation had come too late to prevent the decline, and near extinction, of the game.

Unfortunately, this was not the end of the title 'Ping-Pong' which still exists, in England at least, as an informal jocular, or mildly abusive name for table tennis. Some other countries held on to 'Ping-Pong' until the late 1920s when it was finally expunged (except in the USA) by the influence of the ITTF. In the USA, even as late as the mid-1930s Parker jealously preserved the registered title and even objected to Ivor Montagu using it for his new book.

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.

Eskimo in the village

THE ETTA have sent us a copy of a letter from Vic McGregor in Greenland, who is obviously a keen reader of this column. He is the only Inuit, Eskimo in the village where he lives which boasts 215 people, of whom 50 are active members of a TT club, which makes it the largest club in Greenland.

He says that they have no umpire training facilities and for the moment he has been sent a copy of the Handbook for Match Officials.

We need more Umpires

Greenland is not the only country with the problems of training and qualifying new umpires.

Although umpiring seminars have been held from time to time there is no fixed place or programme for these events. Therefore most umpires learn from contact with qualified umpires at tournaments and by reading and digesting the two current handbooks, Rules 1991-1993 and Handbook for Match Officials 1992.

An umpire can make a match by creating a good atmosphere and presentation and a relaxed feeling in the players who know they can rely on his good judgement and interpretation of the laws.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a County Umpire should contact their County umpires secretary, or the ETTA office. Also, if anyone has any ideas as to how we could encourage people to come forward and qualify as county umpires please let us know.

Inspection of Rackets

In reply to the letter from Reg Thompson published in last month's Umpires' Corner, we have received the following letter from Alan Shepherd:-

"As the unnamed referee referred to by my good friend Reg Thompson in his letter to 'Umpires' Corner', I feel I ought to reply.

What we are considering here are Law 3.4.4 The covering material shall extend up to but not beyond the limits of the blade, except that the part nearest the handle and gripped by the fingers may be left uncovered or covered with any material.

Law 4.2.1.4 It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the racket he uses can be seen to comply with the requirements of the relevant Laws and Regulations.

As to the incident in question, I confirm that I ruled that the bat which was shown to me did not comply with the laws of Table Tennis, as set out above. This was not the usual case of a sheet or rubber having been glued on and then shrunk, but one where the covering was very tatty and chewed up at its edges, which were far more than the 1.5mm quoted by Reg, away from the rim of the bat, or the 2mm margin regarded as acceptable by the ITTF. The uncovered area was actually between 5 and 10mm, and

my Assistant Referee agreed that the bat was totally impossible to accept.

I think Reg is being pretty disingenuous if he is suggesting that the Laws of Table Tennis should be ignored where the player is 12 years old and/or impecunious, and/or due to play somebody of a higher standard, but applied if he is older than that or able to keep his equipment in good order.

If we were talking about a local closed tournament or a schools event, maybe the Referee would turn a blind eye to an illegal bat, but Reg can hardly expect this to happen at a Junior Select tournament, which the NURC expects to be conducted to the highest standards. I did advise the boy in question to borrow a legal bat if he was not prepared to put proper rubber on his own bat, and I cannot see what was wrong with that.

Finally, I must categorically refute the imputation by Reg that the draw was "changed at a whim". This is quite untrue. The only changes made were cosmetic ones effected before the commencement of an event, either to re-pair doubles players where necessary, or to correct the published programme, in order to make it correspond to the official draw.

Alan

Start of Service

According to Law 3.6.1, the service starts with the ball resting on the palm of the stationary free hand, which must be above the level of the playing surface, as must be the racket. During the service action the hand and racket must remain above the level of the playing surface. This means that the umpire must look for the ball being thrown from the hand, in service, and remember what happened between that moment and the last moment when the hand was stationary, e.g. if the free hand dipped below the level of the playing surface or the racket was swung below that level, a fault must be called. Also, since service starts with the ball stationary, there is no way in which the player can bounce the ball on the table a few times, suddenly grab it and swing into the service action without interspersing that critical stationary moment.

This is the law as it stands at the moment and should be observed. Maybe the umpires task would be simplified if the red and black regulation for rackets was written into the Laws and the necessity to keep the racket above the level of the table could be dispensed with.

Penalty Points

Law 4.4.7.1 Players shall refrain from mannerisms or behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or may bring the game into disrepute.

The umpire will warn a player of an offence falling within the above and tell that player that any repetition is liable to incur penalties. To emphasise the warning the

umpire is recommended to display a yellow card.

If a further offence is committed the umpire shall award a point to the offender's opponent, interrupting play if necessary, in order to do so. The referee should be informed of this as soon as possible. If a still further offence is committed the umpire awards sufficient points to the offender's opponent so as to complete the game. On any subsequent offence by the same player, the umpire suspends play and reports to the referee.

Feedback

Some observations from Alan Duke, an umpire and referee, on past articles in "Umpires' Corner".

Expedite (March '92)

"I would interpret differently the new part of the expedite law, i.e. I would allow players to exercise their right to introduce expedite at any stage, even after 19-19. Thus I am concerned to see that the Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee stated that the intention of the new wording was to prevent any introduction after 19-19. I think that if this is the case, the wording requires amendment. My reasoning is based on the following points:-

When initial notification of a forthcoming change was received, the summary of the change included the key word 'automatically' i.e. 3.16.1. The expedite system will not come into operation automatically after 15 minutes play if both players or pairs have scored at least 19 points. The only reason I could see for the inclusion of 'automatically' in this sentence was that expedite could still be introduced by choice. Having been thus forewarned (to what I thought would be an extremely unlikely occurrence), I studied the wording of the new law when it was published. I found the grammatical construction of the sentence to support this decision i.e. the new wording referring to the 19 points is added between commas in the middle of the sentence, referring back only to the preceding part, and not as a qualification of the following separate wording regarding introduction at the request of the players. If the new wording was intended to apply to all situations, this could have been made very clear by adding it to the end of the law, i.e. 3.16.1 should read, "The expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 15 minutes play, or at any earlier time at the request of both players or pairs, unless both players or pairs have scored at least 19 points."

(Comment: While one might agree with Alan Duke, it was clear from our discussion with the Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee as to what the intention was. As Humpty Dumpty said, "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean; neither more nor less."

Strictness (March '92)

A difficult one is the subject of strictly applying all the laws at 'lower' levels, obviously this should be the case, but I would only add the observation that the problem is compounded if the umpire is also a player in the match. In such a situation it is natural not to want to introduce any bad feelings into an otherwise friendly match.

Cycling Shorts (Feb '92)

I find the decision regarding cycling shorts to be a strange one (i.e. that they must be the same colour as outer shorts), and wonder how this ruling was arrived at. I assume that if not outer shorts were worn, the cycling shorts could be 'any colour or colours'.

One more point

Perhaps it should be emphasised that a service is not necessarily a 'let' because the ball strikes the net. Naturally keyed-up as we are to pick up the slightest touch of the net, it is easy to react instantly by calling 'let', but this reaction should, where possible, be curbed until it is seen that the service is otherwise a 'good' one.

I think all the above indicates the need for a forum for discussion topics, so keep up the good work with the column.

Alan

READER'S REPLY

Dear Fred and Jack,

Regarding your question as to how strict we should enforce the rules, the answer for an independent qualified umpire is easy; they should always be enforced. However, at least 99% of all games are umpired by one of the team actually playing in the match and this is where the difficulty lies.

Firstly, few players actually know and understand all of the rules. The major problem concerns the service rules which have been changed so frequently and are now so complex that very few players can interpret them correctly.

Secondly, rules which rely on fact rather than interpretation are easy to apply. Thus, there are few arguments if a point is awarded for moving a table, volleying a ball or placing a hand on the table. However, as soon as an interpretation is required the problems start and the biggest culprits are the service rules. Was the ball thrown up 6 inches? Was it thrown up straight? Could the umpire see it? Was it thrown from the palm of the hand? Even to a qualified umpire these are difficult questions. To a partisan player they are impossible. Most bad feeling is caused in matches by bad serving than from anything else.

REGIONAL NOTES

South West Region



by Alf Pepper

HEARTY congratulations to Devon's jubilant County team of: Paul Whiting, Paul and Carol Giles, Sue Buddell and Mike Short, upon well representing the SWR by winning this season's Premier Division Title at St. Neots - a great feat which came to my notice too late for the last copy of T.T.N. Well done all of you.

John Wood's graphic "Lion Spot the Difference" on page 21 of March's issue tickled me pink, was the cider drinker - flat out neath the table, my old Glo'shire County Colleague - now fronting the County news for Somersetshire?

Jeremy Williams, Cornwall's stalwart County P.O., informs me that this seasons "American Tournament", was a resounding success and attracted around 30 players from - Camborne, Falmouth Dock, Lanner, Penzance, YMCA, Peoples Palace and Redruth Highway, the Tournament was staged at Camborne School on six tables and Jeremy won the singles title, beating J. Pocock, 14, -20, 15 in the final.

Alas, copy date does not permit me giving the end results, but an entirely new event took place in early May, called the Tamor Cup - and this season Cornwall entertain Devon for this exciting event - Devon, I understand (already mentioned in this column) will be at full strength, and undoubtedly will take some beating, but in table tennis, you never know.

Gloucestershire's Raymond Powell faces transition from Junior No.7 to currently a senior ranking of 184, this season already he has beaten Darren Griffin to take the Gloucester closed singles and Griffin is currently ranked at No.68, I feel that this past seasons play in the British League Division 2A has considerably brought Powell an unlimited wealth of table tennis experience, and having said that, he has made every use of it.

And finally, I've had another busy season of table tennis broadcasting on BBC Radio Glo'shire overall, this has been my 12th continuous year of regular broadcasting, 8 years with the Independent Broadcasting Assoc. Network, and the last four years with the Beeb. This past season, I've managed 30 live weekly broadcasts, plus 2 which had to be recorded, I

have also conducted interviews with the following - all have been broadcast. Kevin Satchell, Valerie Clack, Roy Morley, Darren Griffin and Judy Morley (respective County singles winners), George Novoth (County & Gloucester City Coaching Officer), David Dean, (Country Secretary - upon "The Cotswold Junior 2 Star") and finally Molly Hawkins (nee Jones, England's No.2 Lady Player, in the early 1950's).

Finally, my grateful thanks to all who have throughout the season helped me to compile this column - especially the following: Jeremy Williams, Fred Ingram, Val Clack, Les Smith.

Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

EASTER well past and we are still unable to hail the champions of 2 of our 3 Regional leagues. Merton and OLOP, the two promoted teams, battle it out at the top of the Premier division; their clash at Reading on May 10th, will have decided things.

OLOP 'B' and the Isle of Wight, who also meet on May 10th (can we please have a July magazine in future!), contest the first division but as the present rules stand OLOP would be unable to accept promotion.

OLOP's recent 3-2 defeat at the hands of Cippenham in the Ladies division destroyed their chance of a hat trick, Amity Generation having now clinched top spot.

Premier Division

OLOP 'A'	11	9	2	64	35	25
Merton	10	9	1	60	30	23
Kingfisher 'A'	11	6	5	51	48	16
KCD Stuga 'A'	10	6	4	46	44	15
Burnham 'A'	10	3	7	44	46	13
Cippenham 'A'	11	2	9	40	59	12
Amity Gen. 'A'	11	2	9	28	71	7

First Division

Isle of Wight	11	8	3	57	42	21
OLOP 'B'	10	8	2	57	33	20
KCD Stuga 'B'	10	5	5	46	44	16
Kingfisher 'B'	10	5	5	49	41	15
Burnham 'B'	11	4	7	44	55	14
Amity Gen. 'B'	11	5	6	42	57	13
Cippenham 'B'	11	2	9	38	61	12

Ladies Division

Amity Gen.	12	9	3	44	16	26
Cippenham	11	8	3	37	18	22
OLOP	10	8	2	30	20	19
Aldershot 'B'	9	3	6	20	25	12
Ash	9	4	5	19	26	11
Isle of Wight	10	2	8	13	37	8
Aldershot 'A'	9	1	8	12	33	7

A County team cadet competition was held at Reading during the Easter holidays resulting in a final win for Berkshire 1sts, represented by Terry Young and Gareth Herbert over their counterparts from Buckinghamshire, Priveen Reddy and Wendy Barlow by 3 sets to love; the proposal for next season is that the cadet league shall be representative of leagues and run on one or more 'block' dates; hopefully sponsorship or a grant will enable this event to be played in a prestigious venue and at minimum cost to the competing teams.

Another item to start my notes off for next season will be the regional senior tournament being held in Reading on May 16th.

The first of four planned meetings of a regional discussion group took place at the Sports Council's Southern H.Q. on April 8th, the stated purpose being:

To help guide and influence the production of a Regional Development Plan for Table Tennis;

To ensure that a wide range of Agencies/Organisations have been involved and made a contribution to the regional Development Plan which will help determine its eventual usefulness during the implementation stage.

Chaired by Brian Hall, recently retired as Director of Leisure Services for Portsmouth County Council and still an active player in the Portsmouth league the group of 16 include a number who whilst not directly involved in table tennis bring a wealth of experience in sports development in general and all looks set fair for continued table tennis progress in the South for 1993.

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I don't think any of us has found a satisfactory answer to this problem. The rule of thumb most often applied is whether or not a player is gaining advantage. If all agree an advantage is being gained a foul service called is often not disputed. Otherwise the cry is always "but you throw the ball backwards," or "you serve off the fingers," etc.

If all players took a pride in their service being legal there would be no problem. However, most players, either by ignorance or laziness, rather than by a desire to cheat, do not bother about the standard of their serves and this causes the problems.

Regarding the question of volleying I think any change to this rule would be most unfortunate. I sympathise with the points raised by Bert Powis, but to change this rule would move it from one of pure fact to one of interpretation.

Currently there can be little argument. A volley is a point against no matter where it occurs, unless it was a service which touched the net. No judgement has to be made as to whether the ball was over the table or not, whether it would have hit the table or not, or whether it was accidental or not. A volley is a volley!

Change this in any way and it requires additional judgements to be made. Allow any player to be able to claim an accidental volley and you have opened the door to an avalanche of problems.

Few volleys occur away from the table. Most occur when a player attempts to half-volley a ball which misses the table, so the player ends up volleying it. Allow him to claim it was accidental and you have a real problem.

Often it is difficult even for an experienced umpire to see whether the ball hits the table or the bat first. At the moment it makes no difference. A player volleying when he meant to half-volley is almost certain to put the ball in the next, and therefore loses the point. Change the rules and this same player can claim that the ball had missed the table and therefore he wins the point. Now the umpire has to decide whether or not the ball could have hit the table had the volley not occurred. Almost impossible to decide in a fast rally and certainly not by a non-neutral umpire.

Yours sincerely,

David G. Martin
General Secretary
Chalfont and District
Table Tennis League

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The Editor
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Thanks a lot

THIS is my first and possibly my last letter for inclusion in Table Tennis News, but as I am retiring from being Chairman of the Calendar Working Party I would like to publicly thank a lot of people for their contribution to what was though way back in the early 70's a nigh impossible task to try and get some semblance of order into the Tournament scene where organisers just picked on a date and played so player's loyalties were at a premium.

The then E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles, asked me to try and "organise something" and that was how the CWP started with such worthies, Keith Ponting, Albert Shipley, Laurie Landry, Gordon Stegall, Eddie Mitchell from English Schools and John Wright from the County Championships which at that time was still outside the ETTA banner. We got down to drafting out a calendar, working a year ahead and we still work to that format.

Obviously it has become more and more complicated with the proliferation of 5, 3, 2 and 1 Star tournaments, Junior Selects and both men and women's British Leagues, Internationals at all age levels along with greater Internationals and Olympic involvement. However it appears that our efforts have not been in vain as I understand that the ITTF and ETTU have now adopted this format and are thinking in 2 to 4 year fixed calendar dates.

In conclusion may I thank all who have been involved with the CWP during this period, not forgetting the ETTA Chairmen, Tom Blunn, John Prean and Alan Ransome for their support, but not least those voluntary unsung heroes, the Tournament Organisers, who at short notice have had to change dates and venues to accommodate a switch of a higher priority tournament, for their co-operation and understanding and who, I know, will continue to do so for my successor, Keith Ponting, who has been such a stalwart and friend to me over these past years.

Cyril Burden, CWP Chairman

Opportunity

IN our part of the Country - perhaps in all parts - there is a trend towards including T.T. as an option in GCSE Sports Studies. I have recently coached comprehensive school groups accordingly.

The pupils concerned we like to be in their 5th senior year and almost 15 years of age. Teaching staff (with apologies to The Grove, Peniel and a few other schools), we like to be in need of a T.T. coach when it comes to educating their T.T. students.

Potentially this is surely a good route into schools. Unlike the very young high-flier who is likely to be at first too young for the local league and later too good, these youngsters, at 15 or so are just about old enough for late night league play. Additionally (or perhaps as a prelude) they could take part in a school gym youth league - say 10 teams on five tables?

Les Bridges, Bridgewater, Somerset

Critical

I WRITE, not wishing to be over critical of what is on the whole an excellent magazine, but to simply offer some constructive comments.

Amongst the advertisements contained in Issue No. 204 (February 1992) were one inviting applications for a full time Regional Development Officer for the South East (closing date for applicants 15 Feb 1992), and also a 'Lion Spot the Difference' competition (closing date for entries 20 Feb 1992). What then do these two items have in common you may ask? Simply the fact that should you wished to respond to either advert (as I considered) you would unfortunately be too late - reason being? Our magazine was not received until 20 Feb!

This is simply not good enough to my mind. Admittedly, an apology was contained in the magazine concerning its late delivery, however, the English Open (which I may add was a fantastic event!), finished on 12 January giving, one would have thought, plenty of time for articles to be compiled in time for the February edition to be released on time providing there was enough planning and co-operation from all those concerned.

I trust my comments will be accepted in the correct spirit - I simply wish the sport to be as professional as possible in every respect in order that it is able to develop and progress and receive the respect and attention we all know it deserves from the powers that be!

Sandra Roden
 Amblecote, West Midlands

Sandra, your comments are accepted as constructive. The reason for the extra late delivery of Table Tennis News was, as explained in my 'Editor's Note' column, due to the English Open, this should have only made it one week late. But the post office at Hastings, for reasons still unknown, took a further two weeks to deliver the magazine.

Editor

'Difficult' Pupils

NOTHING is so upsetting for a coach as for 'star' pupils, in which he has invested much time and hope, to suddenly give up or go elsewhere than to his own sessions. In the latter case it hurts more to know (know rationally from experience, not from a selfish unwillingness to 'let go') that the player will lose out, that what you have to offer though valid and valuable is being rejected. Young players often don't know (or care?) what is best for them table tennis wise, and are susceptible to impulse and instant impression. Giving up or deciding not to play seriously can, of course, be the most sensible thing to do in the context of the young person's life and priorities, but I am devoting the rest of this article to 'difficult' pupils, usually male, who have disagreeable or inappropriate behaviour in relation to their

potential or aspirations.

And it is also upsetting for the coach when starlets rarely, if ever, say thank you or apologise; when they take you for granted; when they don't pay up (for petrol, rubbers, glue) and remember to 'forget'; when they aggressively or arrogantly dismiss what you tell them; when they try to make weaker players look small or treat them with casual disdain* ('lobbing', laughing, toying with opponents, playing in track-suits/Levis, winning with advertised ease at deuce in the third) whilst they cannot cope with similar behaviour inflicted by stronger players on themselves; when they give up or have tantrums when down and cannot handle defeat with dignity; when they attend or don't attend training at a whim and put little effort in when they are there; when they let their league teams down by throwing games or not turning up, no reason and no notice given; when, having opted out, they make snide remarks from the sidelines about those still involved.

In my neck of the woods there are juniors like this - big fishes in a little pool and gutless wonders. As a coach you feel somehow responsible. It makes you wonder whether it is all worth while; to want to give up yourself.

(But it is not all like this. There are great moments, times of fun, great kids and characters who persevere through adversity, big achievements and real friendships - and even the worst behaved are not bad all the time. Some toleration of the imperfections of youth is called for.)

There seems to be a critical time in the career of the gifted youngsters when he is about to break into or through the junior rankings. Up to then playing and progress has been fun and relatively easy; from there onwards it is more (too?) serious, pressured and hard graft. This period often seems to coincide with the rebellious period of adolescence, when kids are trying to assert their own independence and sexuality (as well as coping with increased school work), and sell all too clearly the frailties but not the strengths of adults close to them.

Assuming excellence is the aim (of both pupil and coach). The essential problem is how to hold the interest of players yet help them reach their potential. The coach has a dilemma. There is a tension between making a session 'fun' and requiring hard slog; making a session varied and developing basic skills, consistency and concentration; being democratic with players (developing control) and being an autocrat; encouraging player autonomy and instilling discipline. Give players the freedom to turn up when they want to, to put as much effort into a session as they wish, to express

themselves and work out/negotiate their own routines - and some will take advantage in the worst sense (waste their own time, disrupt the session). But lay down the line as to exactly what is expected of them - and these may give up. Either way they get bored.

Probably many such kids will give up/go elsewhere whatever you do (a coach needs to be philosophical about this), but there must always be a better (middle?) way of keeping youngsters on course and decently behaved. A way that is determined by the particular personality (and leadership quality) of the coach, that of his pupils and the dynamics between them. But a coach must have player credibility and, I would like to think, an integrity and genuine concern for his charges that is transmitted to them.

Let us hear from coaches what 'way' has worked for them, but a note of caution! Too many 'experts' know precisely what to do. "Keep your distance and be tough; drive them hard; show them who is boss; any nonsense then throw them out." "Respect youngsters as human beings; listen to them, know them, be friends; be fair-minded and show a sense of humour." In my experience, the infallible coach (with all the answers) who admits to having had no problems, has had plenty!

It is sad to reflect that many dropouts from table tennis will in later life consider the coach was right and wish that they had stuck with it. But now is the moment that matters - you are only young once and youth soon passes. How can we coaches help prevent our most promising pupils making the fundamental decision now which they might regret later? And - a philosophical question - will these youngsters be better people for having made, or not made, the fateful decision?

Ken Muir, Milton Keynes

* Those rising stars who stick with the game should note Harry Walker's (Scimitar, September 1974) wise words; "Be courteous to those you meet on the way up; you'll meet them again on the way down."

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.

SEASON 1992/93

* Please note: This programme
is published for your information only *
it is not final and there may be alterations

July	25-26 Four Alls Motel Jnr 2* (Grove)	23	County Championships (4) TSB Grove U13 1*
August	23 British League (1)	23-24	English Junior Top 12
September	5-6 Kirklees Junior 2*	24	TSB Grove Under 21 2*
6	British League (2)	26	Womens Euro Lge v Netherlands - Home
12-13	M & G Peniel 5*	30	Pontefract 1*
20	Prelim Regional Jnr Trials	30-31	VETTS Midland Masters
26	British League (3)	31	Cotswold Junior 2* Select
27	County Championships (1)		British League (10)
27	Bristol Junior 1*		
October		February	
3-4	East Yorkshire Jnr 2* Select	6	Exeter Jnr 1*
4	British League (4)	6-7	Wiltshire 3*
6	Womens Euro Lge v Germany - Scarborough		British Gas Junior 2* (Grove)
10-11	Stamco Sussex 2*	13	Veterans British Lge (2)
	Roofrite Cadet 2* (Grove)	13-14	County Championships (5)
	Junior Premier Weekend (1)	14	Junior Premier Weekend (2)
13	Mens Euro Lge v Belgium - Home	20	Halex National U11 Championships
17	County Championships (2)	20-21	Yorkshire Graded 2*
18	British League (5)		Concorde Trophies Jnr 1* (Grove)
24-25	Yorks/Humberside 3*	21	Womens British Lge (1)
	South of England Jnr 2*	27	Essex Jnr 2* Select
31-1	VETTS Western Masters	28	ESTTA Regional Team Finals
	Kent Jnr 2*		County Championships (6)
		March	British League (11)
November		6-7	English Senior National Championships - Sheffield
1	British League (6)	13-14	South of England 3*
7-8	Final Regional Jnr Trials		Derby Jnr 2* Select
	Senior Premier Weekend (1)	20	ESTTA National Team Finals
	Veterans Premier Weekend (1)	20-21	VETTS Southern Masters
8	Hastings Tigers 1*		Bristol 2* Snr/Jnr
10	Womens Euro Lge v France - Home	21	British League (12)
14-15	Cleveland Jnr 2* Select	27-28	Cheshire Junior 2*
	Veterans British League (1)		Senior Premier Weekend (2) - Grantham
21	County Championships (3)	April	Veterans Premier Weekend (2)
22	British League (7)	3	County Championships (7)
	Woodfield Jnr 1*	3-4	Halex National Under 10/12 Championships
28-29	Excel Logistics Cadet 2* (Grove)	4	British League (13)
	Midland 3* Open	10-11	Essex 5*
December		17-18	Yorkshire Junior 2* Select
5-6	English Junior National Championships	18	British League (14)
	VETTS Eastern Masters	24-25	Womens British League (2) - Stourbridge
6	Woodfield Senior 1*		VETTS Northern Masters
11	Tameside Jnr 2*	May	Shrewsbury BUFR Cadet 2* (Grove)
12-13	Middlesex 3*	1-3	English Junior Open - Bridlington
19	Eade Pipeline Jnr 1* (Grove)	2	British Gas 2* (Grove)
20	British League (8)	8	ESTTA Individual Championships
January		15-16	Sussex Newman School Junior 1* Open
2-3	Cleveland 5*	16	Maurice Goldstein Trophy
	Ternhill Cadet 2* (Grove)	22-23	B&B Jones Jnr 1* (Grove)
9-10	National Junior Trials	23-24	VETTS National Masters
12	Mens Euro Lge (2nd Stage) - Home	29-30	Halex National Under 18/21 Championships
16-17	ESTTA Team Area Finals		Wylie Holland Grove Jnr 2*
17	British League (9)	June	Blackpool Marie Curie 2*
		6	National Team Finals - Grantham
		19-20	Shire Catering Junior 2* (Grove)