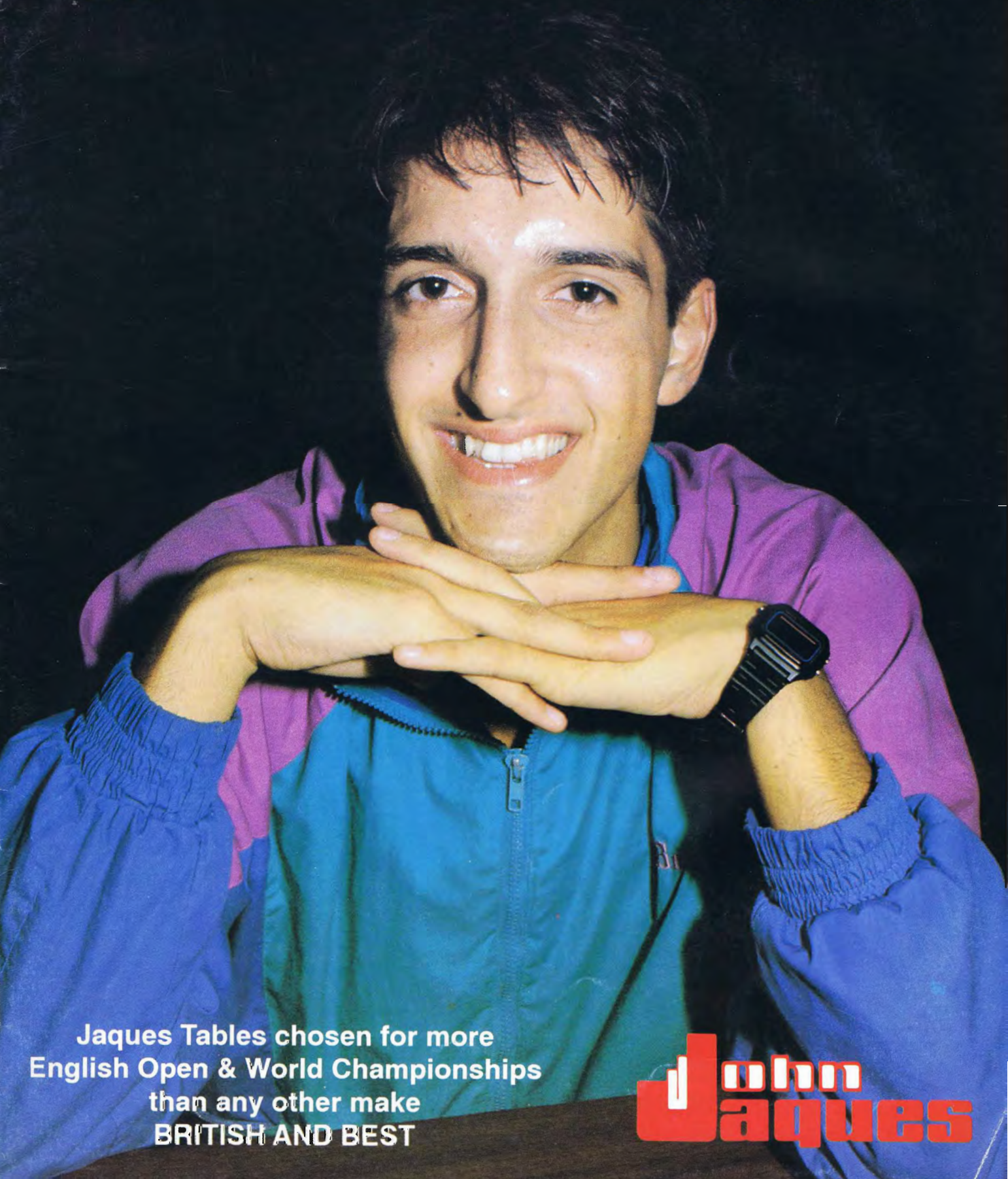




Table Tennis News

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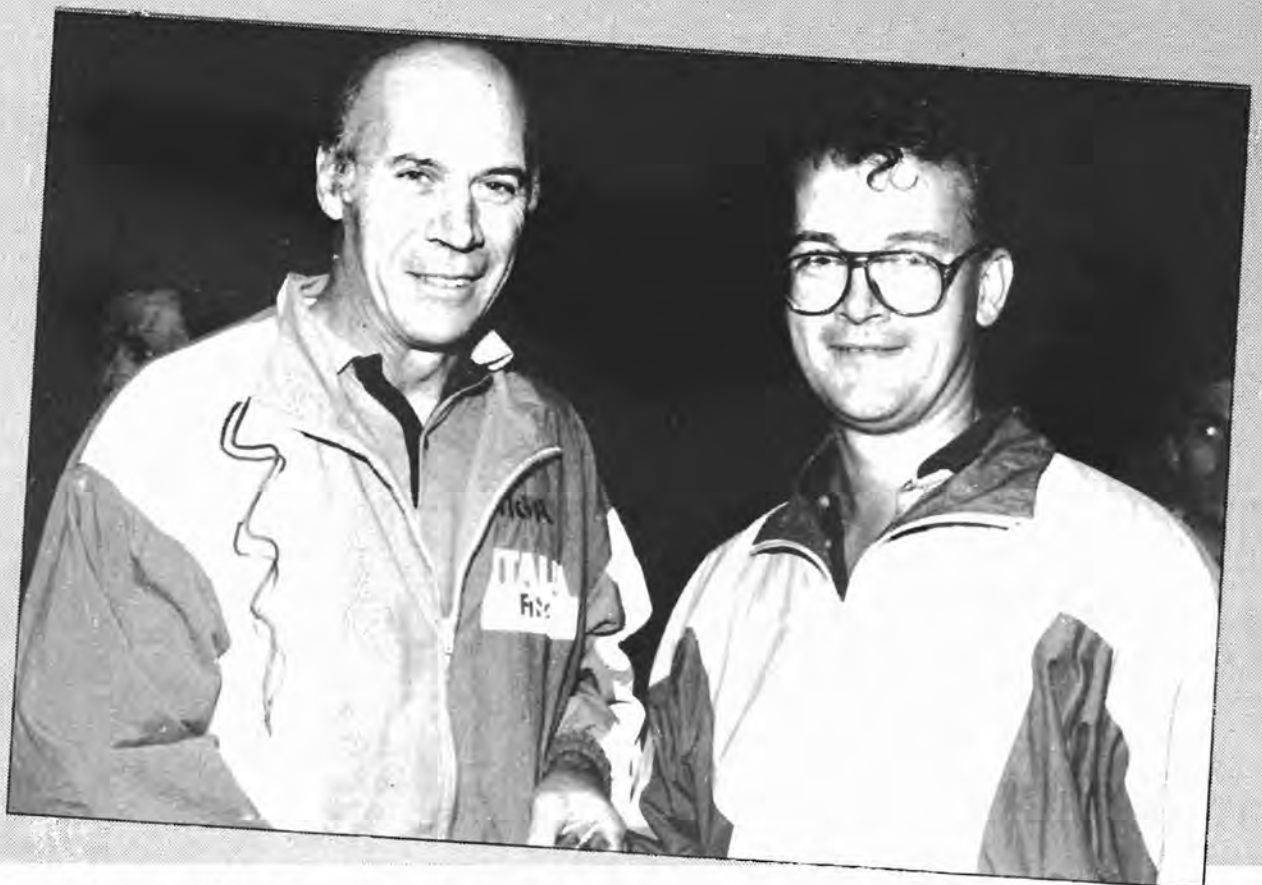
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PICTURE PARADE



Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes Borough Council, Cllr. Fred Smith, (left) holding Italian flag Jon Evans, (right) holding England flag Ian Blake, both play for Newport Pagnell T.T.C



2 captains Italy's (left) Milan Stencil, (right) England's Donald Harper



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TABLE TENNIS NEWS
October 1991 - Issue 201
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Front cover: Player of the month is world class Matthew Syed. (Picture by John F.A. Wood)

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Editor's Note

PLAYER of the month for this issue is obviously Matthew Syed, who had a fabulous fortnight proving that he is a world class player.

Firstly, he won the Stamco Sussex 2 Star Men's Singles title, then a week later he won the Jarvis Under 21 Men's Singles crown at Bletchley, and he followed this up the following week by beating the two Swedish players Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Scheeler in England's friendly international with Sweden at the Peniel Academy in Essex.

He very nearly achieved a further memorable victory in the M & G Peniel 5 Star Men's Singles final, narrowly losing to Sweden's Peter Karlsson by 2 points in the third.

It was a glorious night for England when they beat Italy 4-0 in the European League at the Bletchley Leisure Centre on Wednesday night, the 18th September. And an emotional evening for Chen Xinhua, who was acclaimed by the audience as he proudly stepped into the arena for the first time in Europe, wearing an England shirt.

With Chen added to our national squad, of Carl Preat and Alan Cooke in the singles events, we should, if hopes are realised, be back in the Super Division of Europe next season.

It's really good news to see the VETTS column published once again. See Ken Lyons' report on page 26, this month and every month.

John F A Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1991/92

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1st April 1992

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1st June 1992

(Copy date 31st April)

Deal clinched

ANOTHER deal was clinched by ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, who whilst attending the recent England v Italy European League match at Bletchley, agreed terms with Milton Keynes Borough Council Recreation Officer David Hildreth to bring an England verses Japan friendly international to Bletchley Leisure Centre on Friday 18th October 1991.

The ETTA warmly appreciate the constant support given by Milton Keynes Borough Council.



David Hildreth (left) and Alan Ransome

English Open

WITH over 30 tables available at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, the English Open will be staging extra events, as reported in August/September issue. Under 21 will start on Friday afternoon, whilst the Veterans will play over Saturday and Sunday.

The Open, which is on the 9th to the 12th January 1992, starts on Thursday with first and second round matches in the Singles and Doubles. On Friday these events reach the quarter finals of the Singles and semi-finals of the Doubles. Saturday is a big day, television cameras will take the Men's Singles semi-finals in the morning and all finals in the afternoon. The team event early rounds are also played on Saturday with quarter-finals, semis and finals on Sunday.

Who would bet against a Sweden versus China final?



Canada's Tim Gautreau

Tim flies in for a week

CANADA's Tim Gautreau flew in for a week during September to advise, teach and assist with the implementation of the new ranking scheme.

A brief report of Tim's progress appears on Page 38, with a full report being published in November's issue.

England verses Austria

ENGLAND's next home fixture in the European Men's league this season will be against Austria on Friday 8th November 1991 at the Northgate Sports Centre, Ipswich. The match is being supported by Ipswich Sport 2000. This match is likely to determine the semi-finalist in the division and will create great interest.

A great match is in prospect against the team which beat England 4-3 last season in the league. However, England will be trying to avenge the defeat this year.

This season England have possibly their strongest team for many seasons with the inclusion in the team of Chen Xinhua who is likely to team up with England's No's 1 and 2 Carl Prean and Alan Cooke.

In previous years each of the past Internationals held in Ipswich, a full house have watched the matches. Therefore I suggest you obtain your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets available from Julian Tee at ETTA office.

Donald's match

DONALD PARKER few the flag for England, he beat Canada's Tim Gautreau in a friendly game of matchplay golf, at Longridge Golf Club, Preston.

It was all decided on the last hole, after a tense nail-biting game.

Don rose to the occasion in the true English fighting spirit and sunk a five foot putt to win.

Baby Boniface

DEBBIE BONIFACE, Ranking Scheme Assistant at Hastings, had a baby girl, Lottie, on Saturday 7th September, weighing in at 7.5lbs.

Husband Clifford is just delighted.

REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT?

Enthusiastic voluntary minute secretary required to service Greater London/South East Regional table tennis committees.

Work entails preparation for and attendance at quarterly meetings.

CONTACT: Michael Close Tel: 0494 728033

If Interested.

Mr. Ogimura to visit Leeds

NEWS was received last week that the I.T.T.F. President, Mr. Ichiro Ogimura, is to visit England at the time of one of the England vs Japan test matches in Leeds on 19th October. Mr. Ogimura was also here for the I.O.C. meetings in Birmingham in June and I was able to have some very useful discussions with him, from which a number of initiatives were created. I anticipate that the meeting in Leeds will produce further opportunities for the sport to progress in England.

The Japanese tour is now finalised with the first match at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, on 18th October, with sponsorship from Milton Keynes Borough Council, Milton Keynes Development Corporation and the Milton Keynes Anglo Japanese Liaison Group, with the second match at Rothwell Leisure Centre, Leeds on 19th October, sponsored by Leeds City Council with the support of the Yorkshire & Humberside Sports Council. The format for both matches will be a Men's and a Women's match running simultaneously. The three a side Men's match will be played on the new European League format, whilst the Ladies two a side match will be played on the Corbillion Cup system.

The Japanese tour which is being played as part of the 1991 Japanese Festival, celebrating 100 years of Trade with the United Kingdom, is likely to introduce two tremendous matches. In the Japanese team are Matsushita and Shibutani two very attractive defensive players, plus Mika Hoshino the charismatic left handed penholder who won the Women's Singles at the Leeds English Open in Manchester last year. I predict that the fans will be in for a rare treat in both Milton Keynes and Leeds.

I am pleased to be able to announce that our proposals to the B.B.C. and the Swedish Association for a pre-Olympic Challenge match have been accepted. The Swedes will bring their Olympic squad, which is likely to include both the World Champion, Jorgen Persson and former World Champion, Jan Ove Waldner, to England for two matches, on 29th and 30th May. The B.B.C. will cover the first match and will broadcast highlights in their Grandstand programme. Arrangements have also been finalised for television coverage of the English Open from Birmingham on 11th January.

Our Men's team, consisting of Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua, Alan Cooke and Michael O'Driscoll, made short work of the Italian team in the opening Joola European League match at Bletchley on Wednesday, 18th September, the first match to be played under the new format. One disadvantage of the quick 4-0 result was that the spectators had only a short evening of table tennis and contingency plans will need to be made for future home matches for some extra table tennis in case of a repeat.

This is clearly the strongest team that we have fielded in the European League for several years and promotion to the Super Division must be a real possibility. The next match is against Austria at Ipswich on 9th November and stronger opposition can be anticipated on this occasion. Our Men's team have received an invitation to the T.S.P. World Team Cup in Barcelona in November. Last season we finished third without the services of Carl Prean. With Carl available this year our medal chances must be even better than last time.

By the time you read this article our Women's team will have opened their fixtures in the European Women's League with a match against France at Monderville on 24th September. Their second match is also away, to Sweden and this fixture will be played in conjunction with a return Women's tour of



Alan Ransome

Sweden from 19th to 24th October. The Swedish girls played a three match tour of England last season and I wish Jill Parker and her team every success for the return tour. Our Women's team are now first reserves for inclusion in the T.S.P. World Team Cup in Barcelona. To me a system which allows countries such as Cuba and Australia to be given places in such a prestigious event over a team which finished 12th in the World Championships and third in the European Women's League last season, is unfair. Other than confirm our willingness to take up any vacancy their appears to be little we can do for Barcelona, but I will be asking the I.T.T.F. to look into this matter and produce a fairer selection system for the competition.

Arrangements are now being finalised for the International Junior and Cadet programme. Team captains have now been selected as: Junior Boys - Donald Parker assisted by Paul Day, and Junior Girls - Jill Parker assisted by Derek Marples. The Cadet captains will be Martin Bawdon and Jenny Heaton (welcome back Jenny!)

As increased competition programme is scheduled starting with four internationals against the Netherlands in conjunction with the Cleveland Open in November, followed by a trip to the Portuguese Junior Open which has attracted a very strong European entry immediately before Christmas. In addition, the leading juniors are being invited to participate on senior training camps, and special programmes for both competition and training are being agreed between their England captains and personal coach/parents and the player concerned.

Discussions on the fine detail of the Focus Sport programme are continuing with the Sports Council and I am hopeful of a launch very early in the New Year. In advance of the launch we are very close to final agreement with the Sports Council on the appointment of two full time Development Officers, one for London in conjunction with the London and South East Sports Council and London Borough Grants Unit, and the other for the West Midlands based in Birmingham with support from the West Midlands Sports Council and the Birmingham City Council. The two positions will be advertised shortly.

Another positive development has come from the special meeting which was held with the officers of the English Schools table tennis Association, John Arnold the President and John Blackband the Chairman. The Association was represented by Vice Chairman, Development, Mike Lewis and Development Officer, Diccon Gray and myself. The closest co-operation between the two bodies now exists and new initiatives will include a joint attack on the five none affiliated county schools areas to introduce competitive table tennis and the setting up of regular mailings from the ETTA Hastings office to affiliated schools throughout the country to improve communication to give the schools the opportunity of competing in events and to be given information and special opportunities to attend any of our international matches or tournaments within easy travelling distance.

I am very grateful to the Canadian Table Tennis Association for keeping their promise made to me almost two years ago to provide us with their proven Computer Ranking Scheme virtually free of charge. Tim Gaudrean who is their ranking expert has been in England for a week in September setting up the scheme with our Ranking Committee, including Chairman, Stuart Sherlock, Geoff Twiss, Donald Parker, Diccon Gray, and the Hastings Head Office operators Doreen Nightingale and Debra Boniface.

The scheme which was used last season was very dependent on the expertise of its designer, Les Wooding who spent an enormous amount of his voluntary time on our behalf. Unfortunately Les was unable to continue his voluntary work for the Association and after taking advice, the Management Committee felt that the current programme was not viable without Les's regular input. Our thanks go to Les for the work that he did following the closure of the Lentec Scheme to date, and I do hope that he will be able to find the time to return to E.T.T.A. national administration in some position or another in the not too distant future.

The financial situation still remains a worry although through careful management some savings have been achieved and the projected deficit for the season has been reduced. Sponsorship of our events programme is the best solution. Discussions with sponsorship agents and companies are taking place daily and several meetings are being held every week. One day all the hard work put in by our Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw and the Marketing Team will pay off, but until then a tight reign on expenditure will have to be maintained.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Tony Chatwin, Richard Scruton and Doug Young, all of whom passed the new I.T.T.F. International Referees Exam in Brussels last month. Stuart Sherlock has already qualified from the World Championships in Chiba in May where he was Deputy Referee.

I always felt we had some of the best Referees in the World and the new I.T.T.F. initiative has given us the opportunity to prove it.

STOP PRESS

Good news for the girls. England women have been included in the T.S.P. World Team Cup in Barcelona in November following the withdrawal of Rumania.

England top Italy

CHEN XINHUA proudly stepped into the arena amid the applause of the audience, playing his usual flamboyant table tennis to assist England in their 4-0 victory over Italy.

Chen beat Italy's Marco Piergentili, 13 and 9, in his European debut for England.

Earlier Carl Prean set the pattern for England by beating Italy's Luca Ricci in two, 16 and 20.

Alan Cooke won his also in two, beating Massimiliano, 12 and 19.

Whilst Prean and Michael O'Driscoll took the fourth and winning game in the doubles, against Italy's Gennaro Di Napoli and Piergentili, to commence our campaign back to the Super Division, with a 4-0 victory.



Chen Xinhua

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Stylish Swedish win

ENGLAND v SWEDEN INTERNATIONAL

ONCE again Matthew Syed was at his brilliant best, beating Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Scheele, but sadly, Alan Cooke and Michael O'Driscoll couldn't match scintillating Syed's sparkle, allowing Sweden to win this friendly international against England 3-2.

Over the weekend of 13th/14th/15th September, Brentwood town was privileged to be the host of several international match between England and Sweden held at the Peniel Academy. The match involved three of Britain's top players: Alan Cooke (No.2), Matthew Syed (No.6) and Michael O'Driscoll (No.9). The opposing team consisted of the reigning world doubles champions, Peter Karlsson (No.21 Europe) and Thomas von Scheele (No.29 Europe).

The first match of the evening was played between Michael O'Driscoll and Peter Karlsson. Karlsson set off at an outstanding pace taking 9 consecutive points. O'Driscoll, after finding his feet, was able to mount his counter-attack. However Karlsson, who had achieved a well founded lead was able to sit back and win a very pressureless game 21-8. O'Driscoll looked most definitely out of his depth against the world renowned doubles champion. In the second game O'Driscoll started off very positively taking a 4-2 lead but as if at the press of a button Karlsson was able to lash out with either his amazing backhand or his powerful forehand which O'Driscoll was unable to handle. The two different classed players produced a rather uneventful match, mainly because O'Driscoll could not handle the pace of the Swede.

Super Syed

Next on the table was Matthew Syed and Thomas Von Scheele. Syed who had the advantage of playing on his home ground at the Team Peniel hall began his match with a very strong start and the two players produced some spectacular play. At times Syed would be strewn across the floor getting back some unobtainable shots. Syed who is a defensive player was able to surprise the Swede by moving in and attacking. The two players produced a very closely matched game which Matthew Syed through a lot of patience managed to grasp 21-19. In the second game a more patient Von Scheele spun and placed the ball all around the table making Matthew's job a whole lot more difficult. Von Scheele's ability to vary the pace of the ball sent Matthew running back and forth



Sweden's winning team (left) Thomas von Scheele and (right) Peter Karlsson



Victorious England's Matthew Syed acknowledges tumultuous applause

around the court. At 20-15 up Von Scheele was gunning for the winning shot but determination enabled Matthew to make an amazing comeback against the distressed Von Scheele who was more than relieved to grasp the game 21-19. In the third game the freshly determined Syed headed for victory against the still shaken Thomas von Scheele. At 15-10 down von Scheele gave up his fight almost completely as unstoppable Syed went on to win 21-15.

The only doubles match of the evening in which O'Driscoll and England's No.2 Alan Cooke played the two Swedish lads was, as expected, fast and furious. The left and right hand combinations enabled the players to produce minally strong forehands. In one amazing rally the English players forced the Swedes back into a defensive position and after an array of lobs and smashes Alan Cooke sent the crowds wild with excitement after a devastating back

hand smash. The Swedes however proved to be the stronger team winning 21-15 21-13.

After the half time interval a very eager Alan Cooke came on to play Thomas von Scheele who was already very warmed up after his first two matches. However, it wasn't long before Cooke was able to respond with an astonishing display of powerful forehands. There was obviously not much between the two players but after a tough battle von Scheel was able to win the first game 21-19. In the second game von Scheele was able to dominate more forcing Cooke away from the table on several occasions, and taking the final game 21-15.

In the final match between Karlsson and Matthew Syed, Matthew totally demoralised the Swede who after the first few points seemed to have given up. Syed took the first 21-9. The second match was a different ball game altogether in which von Scheele took a 9-2 lead. The courageous Syed managed to pull back to deuce after being 12-19 down. Pandemonium struck the staidum as Matthew Syed went on to win 24-22.

The evening was a magnificent display of table tennis in every aspect with the Swedes deservedly coming out 3-2 on top.



*Macartney & Dowie
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Team trophy to Sweden

TEAM EVENT

FOLLOWING their Friday night success over England, Sweden took the team trophy on Saturday evening, beating Grove 3-2, in the final.

Yet, at one stage Grove looked like upsetting the Swedish grand-slam, with a rejuvenated Desmond Douglas back to his brilliant best.

Once again the magnificent Brentwood International Centre and its facilities was the venue for a Five Star Tournament and with such a basis to start from success was assured. Dick Roffe once again took the whole event with an expertise that seems to come naturally to him and with the inimitable Peter Roden as Referee and Phil Gower, Deputy Referee, it was all systems go. With an audience in excess of 500 the first event played was the Peniel International Team Event with teams entered from England (2), Peniel (2), Sweden, Belgium, Scotland, Grove, St. Neots, Yugo Cars, Bathwick Tyres and Ellenborough. The atmosphere was really one of disbelief when, at the end of the group events, both England teams had been eliminated.

Powerful Perry



A special mention must be made of Devon's Alex Perry the England Junior Closed Champion who at only 15 years of age managed to beat two of England's top players.

He beat both England No.5 Skylet Andrew and England No.8 Nicky Mason. He also looked set to beat England No.12 John Holland in the men's singles however Holland managed to pull back and take the final set after some excellent table tennis from both players.



(Left to right): Graham Sinclair of Macartney & Davie, Thomas von Scheele, Peter Karlsson, Peter Linnecar of Peniel



Sweden's Thomas von Scheele

England (1) consisting of Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew first beat Bathwick Tyres 2-1, Alex Perry beating Skylet. England then went down to Grove 2-1, Des Douglas beating Alan Cooke and Nicky Mason unseating Skylet. Alex claimed another scalp by beating Nicky Mason in Bathwick's match against Grove. The semi-finals saw Grove beating Belgim (P. Saive and F. Sonnet) 2-1 and Sweden (T. von Scheele and P. Karlsson) topping Peniel (2) (S. Dorking and J. Holland) 3-0. The England 2nd team of O'Driscoll and Oldfield lost to Sweden.

The final started with Nicky Mason never getting his match going against Peter Karlsson and going down 7-21, 24-22, 9-21. Des Douglas then switched into top gear from the first point and with tremendous blocking and reflex action he swamped Thomas von Scheele 21-14, 21-9. Grove then took the Doubles 20-22, 21-19, 21-10 against the World Doubles Champions. Des once again in fine form and Nicky coming more into it from the second game. Unfortunately Des was very unlucky to lose to Karlsson 21-17, 15-21, 19-21 in a match that, with a little luck, he could have won. von Scheele beat Mason 21-16, 21-14, to take the title for Sweden.

Karlsson and Lomas



Peter Karlsson and Lisa Lomas

PETER KARLSSON and England's Lisa Lomas won the coveted Singles titles at this inaugural Peniel 5 Star.

Karlsson made it a grand-slam for Sweden when he narrowly defeated England's Matthew Syed in a nail-biting final, taking the trophy by two points in the third.

Lomas's victory in Women's Singles final was a more one-sided affair, comfortably beating Belgium's Els Bilen, two straight.

The tournament proper then got under way with the Mens and Ladies singles groups being played without producing any surprises. Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium, the No.1 Seed was unable to make the trip but his place was taken by the under-rated but brilliant Frederik Sonnet, who fought his way through to the semi-final of the Mens Singles after a very hard quarter-final against John Holland of Peniel, taking the match 21-11, 16-21, 21-16. The other semi-finalist in this half was Matthew Syed who, from the No.7 Seed spot, took out Scan Gibson 21-9, 10-21, 21-13, and Chris Oldfield 21-18, 21-14. In the other half Alan Cooke reached the semi-final stage without losing a game and that

included Steve Dorking 21-14, 21-13 and Philippe Saive of Belgium 21-17, 21-12. His opponent in the semi-final, Peter Karlsson of Sweden who beat Grant Solder 21-15, 21-14, and Des Douglas 16-21, 21-16, 21-16. John Holland of Peniel caused a real upset when he beat No.6 Seed and England No.5, Skylet Andrew, in the third round 21-15, 21-16.

So too did Chris Oldfield when, in the same round, he put out No.4 Seed and European No.29. Thomas von Scheele of Sweden.

The Ladies Doubles was a case of most pairs winning in straight games only 3 went the distance. Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt beat Linda Radford and Helen Lower 19-21, 21-15, 22-20, to line up a final against Fiona Elliot and Alison Gordon who defeated the Belgian pair Karien Bogaerts and Els Bilen 21-16, 16-21, 21-17. The final resulted in an easy win for the aggressive play of Alison and Fiona 21-15, 21-10, who would not let their opponents get into the game.

The Mens Doubles saw the

Swedish No.1 Seeds, P. Karlsson and T. von Scheele working their way through the top half without dropping a game. This included a win against the strong pairing of Steve Dorking and Nicky Mason by 21-15, 21-8, and the even stronger pair of Des Douglas and Alan Cooke by 21-16, 21-13. The Swedes are the current World Doubles Champions so they had a reputation to live up to. The bottom half saw the No.2 Seeds from Belgium, F. Sonnet and P. Saive having a hard second round against John Holland and Sean Gibson of Peniel before claiming victory by 15-21, 21-15, 22-20, in a match that was worthy of a final. All players contributed to a display of fine cross court hitting and steady defensive play, the fortunes changing from one pair to the other until the final point. Skylet Andrew (E) and Colin Wilson (Mi) then took the Belgians on and the visitors had to fight hard for their 21-16, 21-17 semi-final victory.

The final started with both teams playing very carefully and it was a matter of losing points rather than winning them. The first game went to the Swedes 21-13, the second followed closely the pattern of the first



Desmond Douglas

and the Swedish pair had no reason to raise their game in taking this 21-9.

The Ladies Singles No.1 Seed, Lisa Lomas of Bedford, also England's No.2 ranked lady, had things her own way until she met Karien Bogaerts, the No.3 Seed and Belgium's top ranked lady, in the semi-final. Lisa took the first 21-16, showing a mixture of solid defence and sharp attack. The second went to Karien 22-20 and the stage was now set for a tense fight out. Lisa always seemed to have the edge and triumphed 21-15.

In the other half the Belgian No.2 and unseeded, Els Bilen, beat No.2 Seed and England No.3 lady, Alison Gordon 21-8, 21-17. She then proceeded to eliminate Andrea Hold, No.4 Seed and England No. 1, 21-14, 21-18.

The eagerly awaited final turned out to be a one sided affair with Lisa dominating the match right from the start and with her immaculate defence, there was no way that Els Bilen was going to win many points. The final score of 21-12, 21-6 to Lisa showed her superiority in all departments against a young lady who in recent years has been the Belgian champion.

The Man's semi-finals were so totally different to each other that the spectators must have thought the game of table tennis was played on two parallels.

Tenacious Cooke

Alan Cooke took on Peter Karlsson and we were treated to a match of quick attacking cross shots and not much left to defence. The score of 21-15, 21-15 to Karlsson in no way reflected on a poor display from Cooke as he battled tenaciously in an attempt to overcome an 'in form' opponent who one must admit was getting the better deal of any nets or edges. Alan was not playing to anywhere near his best and must be disappointed with his performance.

The other semi-final brought Matthew Syed of Peniel and Frederik Sonnet of Belgium together in a match that had the spectators roaring in appreciation of the skills of these two young men. With some astonishing defensive play, retrieving seemingly impossible shots, Syed nosed in front and kept there to take the first game 21-16. The ferocious play of Sonnet kept Syed leaping from one corner to the other in an attempt to reach the angled shots and although the score reached 19-19, the Belgian took the next two to force a decider. Points were evenly shared in the final game with no player obtaining real superiority and

it was not surprising when 19-19 was reached once again. This time Syed had the power to put it off and ran out the winner of a truly marvellous match.

We thought that with the Syed v Sonne match we had seen the best, but this was still to come and when Syed and Peter Karlsson were called to the arena to contest the final of the first Five Star M & G - Peniel Open, we had no idea what was in store.

Without doubt Matthew Syed must be one of Table Tennis's greatest assets and if we have to sell our game to the public then here is the player to do it for us. Every spectator likes to see a good rally and when a master of the defence is playing against a first class opponent then - WATCH IT! This match had everything the crowd wanted except the right result, but even that did not seem to matter after such a magnificent display. It did not take

long for the strokes to commence and the crowd was held captive to the game in progress. Each player struggled for supremacy but it was not come easily, point by point the score climbed and it was then 20 all. Syed made one of his rushes to the table and it was 21-20, one point more and it was first blood to Matthew. Karlsson seemed to throw more into his attack, varying it from time to time to keep his opponent guessing and then it was 21-16 to the Belgian. The stage was now set and the appreciative crowd roared at every point. Karlsson seemed to be able to keep in front by just the odd point and it was no surprise when 19 all was called. Two long rallies later and it was 20 all. Karlsson then made two fine shots that Syed just could not return and it was all over.

Our thanks for making this tournament such a success goes to the Management and Staff of the Brentwood Centre and all the officials who are too numerous to mention.

RESULTS

Peniel International Team Event

Group 1

Belgium beat Yugo Cars (3.0), beat Team Peniel 1 (3.0), Team Peniel 1 beat Yugo Cars (3.0)

Group 2

England 1 beat Bathwick Tyres (2.1), Lost Grove (1.2) Grove beat Bathwick Tyres (2.1)

Group 3

Team Peniel 2 beat Ellenborough (2.1), Lost Scotland (1.2), Ellenborough beat Scotland (2.1)

Group 4

Sweden beat England 2 (3.0), beat St. Neots (3.0), England 2 beat St. Neots (3.0)

SEMI FINALS

Grove beat Belgium (2.1) Sweden beat Peniel 2 (3.0)

FINALS

Sweden beat Grove (3.2)

CHAMPIONSHIPS MENS SINGLES

Semi Finals

P. Karlsson (Sweden) beat A. Cooke (DY) 21.15, 21.15

Semi Finals

M. Syed (BK) beat F. Sonnet (Belgium) 21.16, 19.21, 21.19

Final

P. Karlsson (SW) beat M. Syed (BK) 21.23, 21.16, 22.20

LADIES SINGLES

Final

Lisa Lomas (BD) beat Els Bilen (Belgium) 21.12, 21.6

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Karlsson/Von Scheele (Sweden) beat Sonnet/Saive (Belgium) 21.13, 21.9

LADIES DOUBLES

Final

F. Elliot (ST)/A. Gordon (BK) beat L. Lomas/A. Holt (LA) 21.15, 21.10



Belgium's Karien Bogaerts and Els Bilen



Checking the order of play for the day are Dick Roffe, the organiser and Peter Roden, the referee



The Belgium's men team (left to right) Philippe Saive, Di Young Wang (coach), Frederic Sonnet

Super Syed & Smith

MATTHEW SYED and Janet Smith put on a super display to take their respective singles crowns, at the Stamco Sussex 2 Star tournament, at Hastings, on Sunday 1st September.

Syed beat local Sussex player Nicky Mason in a thrilling three set final. Whilst Smith took the Women's Singles trophy back to her home in Sussex, by winning in two, against Kate Goodall.

Whether it was lack of match practice due to the earlier than usual dates or the hot and humid conditions or a combination of both, the STAMCO Sussex Open championships provided shocks galore for its seeded players. Out went Stephen Dorking seeded No.3 in the Mens Singles, in his first match but the biggest upset was the defeat of 8 times winner Alison Gordon going out in her first match of the Womens Singles. The tournament proved a great success for the Sussex County with representatives in all Finals.

In the Mens Singles, the No.1 seed, Matthew Syed had a comfortable passage to the final only troubled by the holder and No.5 seed, Graham Sandley who took the first set. In this half, Adrian Moore provided the real shock with the defeat of Stephen Dorking 17, 7 and proceeded to the quarter-finals losing to No.5 seed Andrew Eden who in turn lost to Syed in the semi-final. Nicky Mason and John Holland took their allotted places in the semi-final where Mason had an easy victory. The other No.5 seeds, Grant Solder and Jonathan Taylor also lost their first matches to Clive Carthy and Michael Hammond respectively. The final produced a rare contrast in styles, Syed with brilliant defence and Mason with brilliant attack. In a tremendous match, Syed took the first set, Mason edged home in the second but it was Syed, who took the third set, aided by four successive edged shots, and the title for the first time.

The Womens Singles saw Alison Gordon's brilliant run of seven successive wins come to an end. In a tense match against Maria Thornley, she took the first set but then lost the next two. The third set was a cliffhanger with Maria having the advantage of a 2 or 3 point lead of most of the set only to see Alison catch up and take the lead by the same margin. This time, Alison could not sustain the lead and Maria edged home 22-20 to bring off a sensational victory. On a big high, Maria then had to face Scotland and Sussex No.1 Janet Smith but this time, after another 3 set match, victory went to Janet. This event also saw 2nd seed Jill Harris go out in her first match to Joanne Roberts in a tight three setter. The same fate also befell No.3 seed Juliette Houghton at the hands of Sara Williams. The only seed not to succumb was No.3 seed Kate Goodall who proceeded comfortably to the final to meet Janet. Last year, Janet lost in single figures in the final to Alison and, for a time, looked to be going the same way in this match being at one time 9-16 down but Janet managed to pull the deficit back to take the set followed by the second he took the title to become the first Sussex Woman to win the Womens Singles event at the Sussex Open since Miss C. Hollick did it in 1933/34.

The No.1 seeds in the Mens Doubles, Mason and Dorking proceeded well to the semi-finals but then lost to Tommy Cutler (one



Stylish Matthew Syed

photo by James E. Sellen



Janet Smith

of last years winners) and Sandley. This latter pair had earlier knocked out No.3 seeds Solder and Taylor. With Syed not turning up, his partner Glenn Baker stretched, leaving his half of the draw wide open. It was the Sussex pairing of Andy Walker and Peter Bartram who took advantage of this withdrawal of the 2nd seeds going right through, after some tight matches, all the way to the final, taking out No.3 seeds Eden and Holland in the semi-final. In the final, however, it was Cutler and Sandley who always had the edge and took the title.

The Womens Doubles saw the two seeds, Alison Gordon with Juliette Houghton, the holders, and Jill Harris with Janet Smith, get to the finals without much difficulty. The final saw the holders, despite losing the second set, retain their title for the third year running.

The Mixed Doubles saw the holders, Holland and Gordon, reach the Final fairly comfortably where they met the 2nd seeds but a scratch pairing of Ritchie Venner and Jill Harris. This pairing edged home 21 in the first set but the holders took the other two to retain the title.

There was a change round in the Veterans Singles when No.1 seed David Harvey went out

in the semi-final to John Holland where he met Paul Collins who came through the other half of the draw after beating 2nd seed Derek Holman in the 2nd round. In the Final, Holland won 14, 19 to take the title for the first time.

RESULTS

Mens Singles

S.F. - M. Syed beat A. Eden 7, 12
S.F. - N. Mason beat J. Holland 8, 7
Final - Syed beat Mason 17, -20, 13

Womens Singles Final

Miss J. Smith beat Miss K. Goodall 19, 15

Mens Doubles Final

T. Cutler & G. Sandley beat
A. Walker & P. Bartram 16, 19

Womens Doubles Final

Miss A. Gordon & Miss J. Houghton beat
Miss J. Harris & Miss J. Smith 20, -19, 11

Mixed Doubles Final

J. Holland & Miss A. Gordon beat
R. Venner & Miss J. Harris -21, 12, 12

Veterans Singles Final

J. Holland beat P Collins 14, 19

STAMCO
TIMBER TO THE TRADE

The louder the better

ROBERT SINCLAIR, our new General Secretary, lists as one of his hobbies, listening to rock music! Especially 'Pink Floyd', which he likes played the louder the better!

Rob first joined the ETTA at our old address, Clarendon, in Hastings, as an office junior, on the 17th November 1975. Which makes him currently the longest serving member of staff.

He rose in the ranks to Assistant Events Manager, before taking on the duties of acting General Secretary on the 1st October 1991. This was a particularly busy time for Rob because he had to handle some of the duties of the Chief Executive's office.

Rob said: "This was an exciting and extremely challenging period being without a Chief Executive. Although very demanding, I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. But, I am very happy since Elaine Shaw arrived."

Rob would like to see the image of the ETTA improve nationally, and hopes, he can get the necessary equipment to progress the presentation



Rob Sinclair, pictured at the ETTA Halex Under 11 Championships, of which he was the organiser, at Mansfield earlier this year

higher than Hastings has already achieved, since the arrival of the new computer from the ITTF.

Rob's ambitions to produce more in-house is of course limited by the budget, but he hopes to reach his goal, sometime in the future.

His personal ambition is to renovate his Grade 2 listed cottage, in the old part of Hastings, to its original condition of 1836. Well he has made a start by replacing a fairly modern fireplace with one that is a 100 years old.

He is a very happy family man, with his wife Jenny, son Ian, and Claire, an autistic girl, whom Rob and Jenny are fostering under East Sussex County Council Social Services 'Family Placement Scheme'.

Also getting under his feet are 'Toots' the cat and 'Petra' a German shepherd dog.

His other interests are Rupert the Bear, course fishing, reading and when Rob gets the time he likes to go to Rock concerts.

Rock on Robbie!

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Syed & Williams show!

MATTHEW SYED and Sara Williams were stars of the show at the Jarvis Under 21 tournament, winning their respective singles crowns, at the Bletchley Leisure Centre, in September.

Syed sailed through the opposition in the Men's Singles, brushing aside all comers, to reach the final, where he baffled and confused Grant Solder, beating the Essex player 8 and 18.

Solder said, "Playing against Matthew is so difficult, you have to concentrate so hard to read which one is chop and which one is flat, one moments relaxation and the ball's in the net or off the end of the table."

Berkshire's Syed beat Andrew Eden from the Peniel Club in Essex, 7 and 11 in the semi-final.

Solder had a great win in the semi's overpowering the National Under 21 Champion Jonathan Taylor, from Lancashire -19, 13, 19.

In the Women's Singles Williams came out on top of Maria Thornley in a close two game final, 20 and 15.



Matthew Syed (Berkshire), seen here on his way to claiming 3rd place in the 1987 Leeds-Stiga Top 12 tournament at Farnborough Leisure Centre (16-18 October)

Williams who was seeded 6, beat No.4 Seed Linda Radford in the semi-finals, 18 and 17.

Whilst in the other semi-final, Thornley beat the No.7 Seed Alison Gower from Essex 8 and 10.

But Gower was probably still reflecting on her great win in the quarter-finals where she sensationally overpowered the No.1 Seed Sally Marlin -12, 17, 19.

The Under 17 Boys Singles trophy was won by our National Junior Champion Alex Perry, when he defeated Richard Hyacinth in the final 17 and 17.

Perry beat Darren Blake in the semi-finals whilst Hyacinth defeated Ray Powell.

Katherine Goodhall won the Girls under 17 final when she comfortably beat Sally Marling 16 and 8.

The Under 21 Boys Doubles was won by Grant Solder and Jonathan Taylor, and the Rils was taken by Caroline Bentley and Katherine Goodhall.

RESULTS

Under 21 Mens Singles

M. Syed beat G. Solder 8, 18

Under 21 Women's Singles

S. Williams beat M. Thornley 20, 15

Under 21 Men's Doubles

G. Solder & J. Taylor beat N. Charles & T. Cutler 18, 16

Under 21 Women's Doubles

C. Bentley & K. Goodhall beat L. Hollingworth & J. Roberts 18, 17

Under 17 Boys Singles

A. Perry beat R. Hyacinth 17, 17

Under 17 Girls Singles

K. Goodhall beat S. Marling 16, 8



Alex Perry receives his Under 17 Boys Singles award from Bill Clark the Chairman of Milton Keynes

Norwich & Durham Castle

THIS summer saw many coaching schools take place, Jackie Bellinger's at Stopsley Luton, the Tavehan School, Norwich and Teesports' Summer School at Durham Castle, are just three that Table Tennis News feature this month.

Jackie Bellinger's Summer School at Norwich followed straight after Cadet Elite Squad coaching weekends at Stopsley Leisure Centre, Luton.

The Stopsley weekends, 9/11th and 16/18th August, were an invitation to England ranked cadet players, to give the opportunity of intensive weekend training courses.

The coaches at Stopsley were Jackie Bellinger, Stuart Worrell, Nicky and Steve Cowley.

There are more of these courses planned for this season, during the school holidays.

There were 30 children at Stopsley and 24 travelled to Norwich for the week's summer school.

They arrive on Sunday evening for a barbecue, and accommodation was at the Foxwood Guest House, which was really fantastic for the children set in a beautiful location.

Monday to Friday was packed full of coaching with fun, games and the occasional outing, like a trip to Great Yarmouth.

Friday morning after breakfast was for individual coaching and personal analysis, rounding off a highly successful summer school.

The Teesport Summer School was held for the 14th year running during the first week of August, in the unique and ideal setting of Durham Castle.



Jackie Bellinger's summer coaching school

Teesport's coaches at Durham Castle were Alan Cooke, John Broe, Alison Gordon, Bob Wylie and Alan Ransome.

The course, which was well attended, consisted of working seminars, given by the coaches, two tournaments for teams and individual, video analysis of each player by Alan Cooke, bat testing, training against robots, and the opportunity for revision tuition.

During the evenings it was time for other sports, tennis, squash, badminton and soccer.

This was also the opportunity to see videos of the World Championships held in Chiba earlier this year.

Durham Castle is a universal sports facility which holds twenty table tennis tables, and is a very conducive setting for a summer school.



John Broe

A decade of a great survivor

"DID he ever throw the discus?" asked my overseas colleague about the forceful fellow with the unusual sidespin forehand loop who was hurling himself into a successful medal bid at the European Championships.

"What does England do with them?" he added, apparently mystified. "Whatever happened to that other young one who helped you to a medal at the worlds. Looked like a chemistry student and served the ball under his arm."

I never discovered whether he was being ironic or ingenuous. Did he not know the two different-looking young men were the same? Both were Carl Prean. Not only in image had the Isle of Wight player startlingly altered, but in style there were some surprising changes too. Perhaps this metamorphosis was what my companion had been trying humourously to highlight.

This season Carl will have been a senior international player for a whole decade. He made his debut, incredibly, in February 1982. Yet according to England captain Donald Parker: "He still hasn't reached his best. You can see how he can improve his game."

Parker did not add, though he might agree, that surely there has never been so experienced a player who has yet to reach his peak. The most successful member of England's world bronze medal winning side, and of the European silver and bronze medal winning teams, Prean has also won the Belgian Open, reached the final of the Hungarian Open, and earned almost 200 England caps. But he is only just 24 years old.

The new season is important for him in a very unusual way. For the first time in four years his father John is no longer ETTA Chairman. Carl has benefitted to an incalculable degree from the exhortations and encouragement of John, sometimes from a prominent place in the viewing gallery.

But this has been something of a double-edged sword. There have recently been plenty prepared to suggest that Carl's startling re-acquisition of the England number one ranking was less than hindered by the fact that his father had become the most powerful person in the English game. Carl heard the hurtful murmurs, to which it must have been impossible to turn a completely deaf ear.

He no longer has to do this. Carl can confirm his pre-eminence with his father now more to the sidelines. To his admirers' way of thinking he has already done that, in the national championships, which he won for the first time earlier this year. He had outstanding victories over Desmond Douglas, this country's finest player of modern times, and Chen Xinhua, perhaps the finest defensive player



anywhere anytime.

That day Carl looked unstoppable. He threw in a lethal mixture of stunning chop-blocks, sharp little backhand hits down the line, and swinging forehand drives and loops that penetrated backspin defence, reflex blocking and counter-looping with equal incisiveness - all topped with an icy concentration. His aim must be to brew up these ingredients as often as possible in the months ahead. If he does he can remain the number one.

So why should it be startling that he is number one at all? Because Carl has made a remarkable recovery that proved beyond players of equal or even superior skill. He survived and rebuilt his future after the revolutionary rule changes of 1983 and 1984 that caused the retirement of Duggie Johnson, the England number two, and Cai Zhen-hua, once world number one.

Prean might have quit too but for admirable adaptability in coping with the red-and-black rubber rule, designed to make skill rather than technological superiority the greater reason for the success of combination bat players.

Prean has character. His ranking suffered and his confidence too, but he responded to the worrying setback by quickly finding new ways in which to make his deviously varied services effective, and by working on a longer-term plan to improve his backhand.

As he got older his reactions seemed to improve as well, and

blocking became a more competent part of his armoury. In the process - perhaps related to it - he lost the prominent picture-frames and his Clark Kent image. He replaced them with contact lenses and the look of a resolute professional.

That is what he has certainly become. Prean is not afraid to work on his weaknesses. The one-time subject of jokes about the collection of elbows and knees that would knock down the advertising boards and stand on the towel tray, he became instead the object of respect who can now move surprisingly swiftly to reach with a long arm and to counter-hit a wide forehand back for a winner.

Carl will have been helped in his ability to withstand jibes because he has humour himself. A secret wig-spotter and an expert on every hiccup and hooray of Hampshire cricket for the last twenty years, Carl is a chuckler at the curious, a smiler at the quirky and the absurd.

In a mad world, table tennis is both a bit madder and more marvellous than most of it, and Carl has found a way to survive it all. He is a fighter and he tries to be versatile. He can also be surprising.

One moment he shows us the well-groomed, self-contained inner fortress of a professional persona; the next the wincing, head-wagging self-critical outer demonstration of a man who knows he is playing well but who desperately wants to play better.

He can. He probably will. Possibly for another decade.

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Have team - Will travel?

MANY third division teams have been shocked to see the travelling involved in their divisions. Problems are anticipated for those who have to go to school on Monday morning and for those who have to go to work. Some are also wondering whether or not their budgets will be able to stand the sudden increase in travel costs. Players in Division 3 South are not too impressed with the prospect of having to travel to Grove, Launceston or Newport now that Division 3 West has disappeared. In **Division 3 Midland** (how did it get that name?) you have Ashford (Kent), Bath (Avon), Lambeth (London), Larkhall (Surrey) and OLOP (Berkshire). Geography was never my strength but....

An impressive start was made in the **Premier Division** by Team Peniel who beat Confederation Life St. Neots 8-0, all games won two-straight with four games won under-10 in just one hour and 22 minutes! NFD Grove dropped two games to Yugo Cars as Chris Oldfield lost narrowly to Carl Morgan and Chris Rogers. Veteran Denis Neal played well giving new recruits Nicky Mason and Michael O'Driscoll a run for their money, losing -15, -16 and -17, -19 respectively.

Vymura International made a good start against West Warwickshire in **Division 1 North**, winning 5-3. It was Andrew Horsfield who really secured the points with wins over Andy Rich and Trevor Washington. Vymura's Darren Howarth and Graham Clarke both lost to the evergreen Barry Johnson. Norwich Foxwood experienced a rude awakening from a strong NFD Grove II. Apart from a 19 in the third loss by Helen Lower to Geoff Davies, Grove took the lot with Steve Slater and Ian Stokes taking no chances. Neil Pickard led John Souter 20-17 but eventually lost -20, -10. Britannia Ipswich vs. Liverpool was postponed.

Paul Whiting led DML White Hart Launceston to a 5-3 win against



Mick Harper (above) is finding life a little tough in the Premier Division, as did his Confederation Life St. Neots team-mates, losing their opening game 0-8, to Team Peniel

Ellenborough II in **Division 1 South**. Nicky McKoy did well to beat Mike Short deuce in the third. In 'the battle of Wales' Colley Toyota emerged clear victors with an emphatic 8-0 thrashing of Victoria Park Mazda. With Steve Ward at No.1 and Dave Barr at No.2, Stephen Gibbs could have yet another trophy on the mantle-piece. Dare I say he could be on course to replace Butterfly Cardiff in the Premier.

Diccon Gray salvaged a draw for Bathwick Tyres II against Larkhall I with wins over Brian Garroway and Ian Girdler. In the top half of the teams Mike Hammond beat Chris Holley and Andy Creed with deuce games. Horsham Dolphins made it worth their while trekking up to NFD Grove III. Malcolm Green secured Grove's only win at 19 in the third against Tony Murrell. Andy Walker excelled with wins over Stuart Richards and Gary Knights.

In **Division 2 North** Stephens NYSD has a fairly easy start against City of Leeds who they beat 7-1. David Indriks provided the most resistance as

he beat Anwar Majid and lost the only close game against Mick Stead -17, 22, -22. Yugo Cars II did not have things all their own way as they beat Leicester TTC 5-3. Two from Keith Rodger contributed towards a 5-0 lead but this lead was not easily obtained. Jimmy Brewster beat Maurice Newman 19 in the third. Borough of Sunderland and Humberside Andro drew. Matt Sheader won two against Malcolm Lusk and Ian Collier, and the latter had earlier beaten Sally Marling 9 & 18.

Jaques Fareham made a short-lived impressive start against City of Milton Keynes in **Division 2 South-East**. Miki Sinanan opened by beating Peter Bowler and Steve Mills beat Colin Bowler for a 2-0 lead. However John Burleton and Stephen Baggeley put CMK back on course for an eventual 6-2 win. Peter Bowler recomposed himself to beat Steve Mills -16, 21, 6. In a 3 and a half hour marathon Rejects I beat Fellows Cranleigh 5-3. Jason Tender enjoyed the longest games as he lost to Jerome Jonah 19, -20, -22 and beat Paul Carter -14, 22, 19. Chris



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Sladden did well to beat Scott Greenbrook but lost to Darren Blake in the last game. Pillinger Air Croydon and BSG Brentwood shared the points. Steven Rand played well to beat Chris Ross and Henry Buist. The surprise win of the month must be that of Martin Lowe over Richard Darnell.

Norman Swift's two wins over Mark Bleakley and Mark Wilding could not prevent Gunnersbury Triangle losing 2-6 to Amity Generation Fareham in **Division 2 South-West**. David Goode has moved from Gunnersbury Triangle to Edison and he led them to win 50-3 against Horsham Dolphins II. Clive Carthy stole the show to a certain extent against veteran Keith Horton. From 17-20 in the third he came back to win it 30-28 after saving 7 match points! I also hear that Kleinwort Benson Gillingham beat DML White Hart Launceston II 5-3 but the result sheets were sent to the wrong place!

In **Division 3 North** Ormesby beat Uxbridge (Burton) 5-3. Two wins for Steve Brunskill turned the match in favour of Ormesby although Uxbridge's Stephen Shaw did well to beat Stuart Miller and David Fewsdale. Kingshurst Bribar were dealt a severe blow by Vale Royal Warrington. Ken Connor was beaten by Stuart Taylor for VRW's sole loss. Borough of Sunderland II scraped a 5-3 win over Vymura International II. It was not S. Horsefield's lucky day as he lost to D. Robson 20, -19, -19 and to C. Blake -20, -21. First names please? Lifeline Developments Crusaders crashed 2-6 to Stephens NYSD II. Paul Moore beat Steve Cooper and, for the first time, John Crawford.



NFD Grove II's John Souter

Team Peniel II 'bullied' BSG Brentwood II in **Division 3 East** by turning up with Andrew Eden (from the England Top 20 men) who started with a 3 and 13 win over Mike Hayes and led his team to a 7-1 win. Mike's consolation was that he won the only one for BSGB. Britannia Ipswich II beat newcomers Chelmsford League 5-3. Richard Jones won two against Malcolm Davis and Richard Hutchinson. But his only support came from Steven Kerns who beat Chris Nicholls but lost to Christian Andersen (I'll resist comment on his name!). Levi's Westfield just got the better of Fellows Cranleigh II (5-3). Richard Elliott beat Spencer Thompson 15, -14, 25 and Jon Bradbury beat John Tandler 15, -21, 19 in a harder than expected game. Chris Sladden appeared to manage to be in two places at once (see Div. 2 SE) and here he beat Jon Bradbury and Kieron Dabbs in a reported display of "raw talent". Norwich Foxwood II beat Ellenborough III 5-3 and starred Jon Cockburn who beat Charlie Smith and Laz Brown.

Larkhall II, in Division 3 Midland beat Bathwick Tyres 6-2 with the two coming from Eddie Roofe. Stephen Davies and Gordon Chapman managed to win two each and there was a bonus from Frank Hams who beat Steve Bettison 6 and 20. Ashford (Kent) lost 2-6 to Thorns (Dudley) with both wins coming from Justin Goodall. Chan Construction II beat south London's Lambeth 4 Tops 5-3 despite an outstanding performance from Mervin Ward who beat Mathew Harvey and Peter Waite. NFD Grove Colts trekked south to OLOP TTC only to lose 3-5. OLOP's Clive Payne provided the backbone as he beat the two Stevens - Green and Meddings.

Parkside Dragons Newport, playing in **Division 3 South** came to London to play a weaker than expected Linda Farrow and on 5-3. Byron Davies made short work of Paul Jablon and Duncan Taylor. Robert Barrasso managed to beat Laura Collier and Mark Farrow (presumably no relation to Linda!). JAGS recorded a flattering 8-0 win at Alpha Southampton. Andrew Ely, who I am told has an impressive forehand loop, just lost to Derek Holman 9, -15, -22 and John Roberts lost to Tony Fitzgerald -16, 18, -19. Even both of Farhat Rasul's victories included deuce

games.

Would the team administrators please ensure that result sheets include the division in which they are playing.

Club gets player boost but still needs sponsors

ELLENBOROUGH Table Tennis Club are preparing their bid to bring the national title back to Enfield.

The club have been given a pre-season boost with the addition of two Scottish Internationals Euan Walker and Ian McLean to the team.

The line-up for the season also includes Colin Wilson and Graham Sandley, both survivors of the championship winning teams of 1982 and 1986.

Rising star Grant Solder is the fifth team member.

Ellenborough finished fifth last season but were hampered by only having four players.

The team are hard at training at the moment at the club's centre in Kimberley Gardens and hope to put in a serious challenge for this year's title. Sponsors are desperately needed by Ellenborough to help them lift the trophy.

Travelling and overnight expenses for away games cost between £100 and £200 per match while home games cost £50 for hospitality.

Any company that wants to sponsor the club and help bring the trophy back to Enfield should contact Colin Wilson on 071-435 3105.

Has your League applied?

IN April 1990, National Council (ETTA policy making body) agreed to set aside £100,000 for the development of local leagues at grass roots level. Available to all affiliated local leagues up to a maximum amount paid in ETTA affiliation fees for one season. 98 leagues have been awarded a grant (see list below) with many schemes being set up aimed at increasing membership.

There are certain guidelines (and an application form), however, the basic criteria is that the scheme should be a new or additional activity (as opposed to funding existing activities) and that the league as a whole can benefit. Example of items which have been funded are as follows:-

- New tables
- Nets
- Rent for halls
- Specialist lighting
- Coaches expenses
- Floor maintenance
- Table tennis robots
- Advertising
- New toilets (disabled access)
- Building maintenance etc.

Has your local league applied? If not, why not? Perhaps you could propose a scheme to your local league committee which would boost local activities. The ETTA are actively encouraging applications and would be pleased to assist with the formation and development of schemes. Additional grants are sometimes available locally from City, Borough or District Recreation Departments - another area where the ETTA's co-operation and involvement can be beneficial.

Ask your league committee, (or ask their permission for yourself), to contact me Diccon Gray (National Development Officer) at the ETTA, Hastings office on 0424 722525 when further advice and guidance can be given.

As at 1st September 1991, 98 grants had been awarded (21 grants connected to Schools) - A total of approximately £40,000 has been returned by the ETTA for grass roots development. Below is a list outlining activities and leagues that have been grant aided.

The deadline date for receipt of applications is 15th November 1991. No applications received after that date can be considered.

LEAGUE	AMOUNT £	PROJECT OUTLINE
BRADFORD	907.20	To set up youth centres, league
BRAINTREE	221.85	Bounce Into Action project 8 weeks
BRISTOL	1,941.66	Set up new coaching centre
BUCKINGHAM	98.00	Trophies, introduce new club competition, advertising/mailshot
BURNLEY	251.16	Provide regular venue for league matches coaching facilities for juniors/women
BURTON SENIOR	361.20	To set up Youth League + beginner coaching
CASTLEFORD/ PONTEFRAC	201.60	Set up weekly coaching for juniors (11-18) one a week. Table
CHESTER	168.00	To establish junior club and coaching Advertising
CLACTON	425.04	Coaching sessions at local school/Y.C. Adult coaching aimed at women "Have a go" exhibition at Leisure Centre
CRAWLEY/ HORSHAM	500.00	2 tables for coaching
DARLINGTON	201.60	Junior League venue costs, trophies, "Come & Try It" day posters/expenses
DERBY	487.00	School exhibitions, development of coaching already in existence, formation of ladies/girls club
DEVIZES	100.80	Coaching course 6 x 2 hour sessions at local school (assistance to qualify coaches)
DIDCOT	378.00	Development of youth league
DOVER	236.00	20 x 2.5 hours coaching sessions at local school aimed at 10-15 year olds
EASTBOURNE	473.34	To set up coaching at 2 schools
ELLESMERE PORT	231.84	To continue coaching courses aimed at ladies and juniors
EXETER	580.00 (approx)	2 Tables - Assistance to Buy Robot Assistance to run an assistant Coach course
FOLKESTONE	772.80	Setting up coaching scheme, rent/coaching expenses (advertising)
GLOUCESTER	478.80	Newent T.C.C. - table, net, floor maintenance. New lighting and blinds
GRANTHAM	299.46	Grantham T.T. Centre (opening 1991)
HALTON	325.72	
HARLOW	531.30	Coaching youngsters to carry on to leagues
HASLEMERE	100.00	Come and Try It day
HASTINGS	700.00 (approx.)	Set up junior coaching/school visits/advertising
HAYWARDS HEATH	392.00	To set up junior league
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	500.00	To promote Table Tennis at local school - 2 tables
HEREFORD	268.80	To change to better venue



ETTA LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT FUND

LEAGUE	AMOUNT £	PROJECT OUTLINE
ANDOVER	150.00	Specialist lighting - John Hanson School
ASHFORD	395.00	Setting up Saturday Coaching Centre + Coaching at 3 local Schools
BANBURY	150,000	Costs towards public demonstration of table tennis
BASILDON	336.00	New venue additional playing space
BASINGSTOKE	579.60	Coaching scheme Saturday a.m. local school. Robot + 2 tables
BECCELES	184.80	Table
BEDFORD	540.00	£100 to robot, 2 tables, nets, posts, balls £100 for lighting
BIRMINGHAM	239.40 + 1,351.80	Lighting for youth & sports centre - Birmingham City Community Club Project Stockland Green
BLACKBURN	321.00 89/90	Set up permanent weekly coaching/practice at Y.C. Assistant Coaches Centre
BLACKPOOL	722.84	Rent of hall + 2 tables (extra night)
BOLTON	341.00	Coaching scheme for 8-14 years olds. Weekly 20 weeks
BOSTON	405.00	Specialist T.T. Centre (Opening date 7.9.91)
BRACKNELL	495.60	To set up summer/youth league

ETTA County Supplement

BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

THE BRACKNELL AND District League can look back on a good season under their new Chairman Tony Morton. Premier Division champions were "Our Lady of Peace who forged ahead of long time leaders SSV and the Kingfisher 'A' team during the last two weeks of the season. Kingfisher were well in touch for most of the season but faded on the run in despite the efforts of cadet Ben Johnson.

The small SSV club did well to take the runners up spot and could go one better next season. Fred Brewster, OLOPs veteran 'penholder' and 'Premier' team captain must take a great deal of credit for the team's success. Fred retired this summer and on behalf of all his friends, I would like to wish him many years of happy table tennis.

A newcomer to Bracknell table tennis Barry Morten led OLOP 'C' to the first division title. His oriental side of Femi Iyayi and David Mak proved just too strong for Camberley, who despite being the only side to take a point from OLOP, had to settle for second spot.

Sadly David Mak now returns to Hong Kong and will be missed in the Bracknell League. Division Two fell to the Royal Ascot 'A' team, just ahead of Broadmoor B and Met Office B. Woking E took the third division by storm after leading for most of the season. Second spot went to Bagshot B, while yet another OLOP side took the third promotion place. Peter Goatley and his cadets in the form of OLOP G were the champions of division four, just ahead of Bracknell Coaching and OLOP H.

Bracknell's team handicap, the John Howard Shield, also fell to Our Lady of Peace, who just beat last year's winners Crowthorne in a very close and exciting final.

Meanwhile in the Reading and District League, the talented Polish A team were once again the division one champions. Reeves, Payne and Co lost only

once, to OLOP A, but by then the title was theirs. Kingfisher in the form of Jimmy Stokes and his cadets held on to take a creditable second place.

Reading's second division was won by the unbeaten OLOP B team who, led by veteran Ian Schwartz, pulled clear of the field and runners up YMCA. Our Lady of Peace C landed the third division, ahead of Royal Mail B who came from behind to beat Springfield (on the post!). Young Derek Harrison, aided by Geoff Johnson and Jim Brent, were the top team in division 4A, ahead of Ibis, who held on to beat Benko Sports A and Milestone A by just one point. Springfield E just edged out OLOP D to take 4B again by just one point.

Old rivals OLOP F and Polish B were first and second in 5A. Polish, winning a playoff against Ibis to gain promotion. Ibis C had more luck outstaying OLOP E who in turn held off Nalگو A by one point. John Lockwood with 98% was top of the averages in his last season with the OLOP club. All his friends wish him all the best in his new job.

Down in the basement, division 6A went to Mushroom A ahead of Sonning Common E. Division 6B also fell to Mushroom with Dave Wale on 96%, Nalگو took the runners up spot.

The new Division 7 was won by Spencers Wood, ahead of Tilehurst Methodists with Berks Sports C failing by one point in the last match of the season. A word here for Richard Johnson and his Tilehurst team. They could have won promotion by claiming two points from OLOP H who failed to raise a team on the match night. However, Richard and his squad decided that they would prefer to play for the points. They went on to win, gain second spot and perhaps send a message to some of the teams in higher divisions?

The Reading Youth League produced a nailbiting finish - Colts shocked leaders Baxters, beating them 4-2 in the last match of the season. A playoff was required and even this was drawn. However

Baxters won the title by virtue of winning more games with super sub Ali Subhan winning both his games. Trench Green B ran away with division 2 with OLOP D in second place. The Trench Green club also won the Reading Team Handicap beating two very strong OLOP sides in the semi and final rounds. A great win for one of Reading's up and coming clubs.

OLOP gained some consolation by beating Kingfisher in the 5, 6 and 7 knockout. On the individual front it was a good year for the Jim Stokes stable. Gemma Schwartz was selected to play for England. Ali Subhan won the Halex National Under 11 title and Martin Adams was Under 19 Schoolboy champion. The Kingfisher Grand Prix tournament was won by Wally Allanson while young Robert Powles surprised everyone to take the OLOP (KIE) handicap. Cadet Ben Johnson beat all the old hands to win both the Bracknell Hardbat and the Reading Handicap. Tony Duffield was the No. 1 in Bracknell, beating his old friend Paul Savins in the final, while the talented Jimmy Stokes also beat Paul to win the Scottish Provident Reading Closed.

As to next season - at the time of writing both Bracknell and Reading have vacancies. With the increased cost of school lettings many existing teams will struggle to survive. Perhaps it is time that the ETTA and/or the leagues offered some financial help to clubs in this transitional period, in particular those clubs who offer open house to anyone who wants to play table tennis. Providing new tables is not the answer at this time. There are plenty of clients out there who would like to play table tennis, what is needed is access to clubs and places to play at a reasonable cost.

This apart, both the Bracknell and Reading Leagues are looking forward to the new season. Next month the spotlight is on the Newbury and District League.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Alan Catchpole

THREE GIRLS AND fifteen boys from all over the county attended a week's intensive summer training course organised by Bucks County TTA at Green Park, Aston Clinton. They were well looked after by Bucks County Council staff and, of the many excellent facilities available, none was enjoyed more than the swimming pool where everybody cooled off at the end of each day's hard work. Gail McCulloch was the coach in charge, ably assisted by John Burleton and Ken Phillips. A trophy for the most improved player was awarded to Mark Needham from Amersham and a further trophy went to Miss Niraja Shanmuganathan, High Wycombe, who was adjudged to be the player contributing most to the course.

The current County junior squad is probably the strongest we have had for some years and should do well in this season's inter-county Championship. Missing from the ranks of the veteran side will be Alec Watson who recently announced his retirement from the County playing scene. The senior squad has been strengthened by the addition of Nikki Cowley, transferred from Bedfordshire.

Leagues up and down the county are now busy preparing for the new season. Preliminary reports indicate that the number of teams registered is up from last year. May this trend long continue.

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

DERBYSHIRE SUFFERED THE sad loss of Joan Walker early in August. Joan was Derbyshire champion; a Derbyshire County player in three decades; and a Life Member of the Derbyshire TTA.

Counties 2

Many older readers will remember Joan as a sporting competitor in the County Championships, whereas younger readers may not know the name but have experienced the 'best cup of tea on the county circuit' as Joan has helped with the refreshments at Hill Street, Burton - the venue for many Derbyshire County matches.

Always ready to lend a hand, Joan was a friend to everyone who met her. She spent many hours coaching the partially deaf at Needwood Hall and was prepared to visit Sudbury Prison to coach the prisoners there; and in recent years had been helping with the women's sessions in Burton.

Unfortunately, I was away on holiday at the time and did not receive the news until after the funeral, but the list of those who attended emphasises Joan's great ability - a friend of Joan was a friend for life.

The 'Come and Try It' sessions at Cromford Community Centre are proving very successful, having been advertised in local newspapers. The first session attracted 26 people, 34 at the second session, and with further sessions being held prior to the start of the season.

Those attended included families, 6 people who had never played before plus some who were encouraged to return to league play.

The Matlock League have increased numbers in both senior divisions, with some players having progressed from the Junior division. The Junior Division could have fewer teams owing to difficulties being experienced with school premises, but the league are still hoping that further juniors can be attracted before the season starts.

Amber Valley League predict an increased entry; Derby League hoped for an increased entry but some late withdrawals mean the final figure will be about the same as last year; Chesterfield League have dropped from 70 down to 68 teams; and Burton League drops to 35 teams in 3 divisions after

having 60 teams only two years ago - following the loss of schools and works premises.

The Derbyshire Committee have asked representatives to go back to their Leagues to discuss the format of the County Inter-Town League with a view to reviving the League which has not been run for a couple of seasons. Ideas include going back to mid-week fixtures and allowing county and Midland league players to compete.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

I MUST APOLOGISE for the absence of this column from the August/September issue but I doubt if I could have collected together anything additional to the following notes, which are written before the commencement of the season.

I hate writing about committees because I do not think that people are very interested in reading about them. However, I would be out of order if I did not report the election at the AGM of a new Chairman, non other than ex ETTA Assistant General Secretary, Mike Watts. On returning to his adopted county (he is a Brummie) from his stint at Hastings he became in short order Vice Chairman, Acting Treasurer and finally Chairman. With his wealth of administrative experience I am sure that Mike will do a great job here. As he has also become the ETTA Vice Chairman for Administration, we now have two of the Association's finest on our Management Committee, the other being Clive Oakman, who is Marketing Vice Chairman.

The county are indebted to outgoing Chairman, Laurie Darnell, who had been in charge of its affairs for the last few years during which time he earned the respect of all who came in contact with him. Laurie put in a great deal of excellent work on behalf of Essex and has

now transferred his services to the Eastern Regional Committee of the ETTA, representing Essex thereon. So he will not be completely lost to us, and in any event his better half Margaret is still doing great work on the Committee as its Development Officer.

During the summer a marvellous venture was launched by Stuart Gibbs, Gillian Squier and Roy Savill. Somehow acquiring the use of an eight table facility in Basildon, they staged a 'camp' there for juniors from all round the county, which spanned two weeks and was a considerable success. Now they intend to expand this into a more permanent operation with coaching and other activities being conducted under the title of the South Essex Training Scheme. The county has blessed the project and pledged its support.

All sorts of possibilities spring to mind - squad sessions for the county teams, summer camps, venue for matches and so on. It is to be hoped that SETS will fill the gap which has existed for a long time in our junior development arrangements.

Just last weekend the Essex Junior Ranking Trials took place at Burnham on Crouch. About 120 boys and girls took part and the usual ranking lists will be published in due course. A number of new stars emerged and their first step on the road to fame will come on September 14th when four friendly matches against our next door neighbours, Kent, will be played.

To end on a pleasant note, it is lovely to see on the new Ranking lists the names of Shelley Ruocco as No. 1 Cadet Girl in England, Vincent Avery as No. 2 Cadet Boy and Linda Radford as No. 2 Junior Girl.

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

NEVER AN EASY task, the formation of the season's opening senior ranking list was

made more difficult this year when four of the leading players declined an invitation to attend Southampton's Redbridge Sports Centre on 24th August. Of those present Southampton's Chris Shetler, who together with Gosport and Fareham's Keith 'Charlie' Childs enter the Veterans ranks this season, was the only hundred per center including inflicting the only defeat on Portsmouth's Micky Sinanin who is rivalling some well known stars of stage and screen for the record number of 'come-backs'.

Andrew Ely (Southampton) who surprisingly lost late in the day to clubmate Tony Catt would be the No. 3 if the team were selected solely on the days results. The selection committee continue to debate as I go to print but with a trip to Berkshire and a second team visit by Gwent due on 28th September, all will have been revealed by now.

On a personal note, I am pleased that Hampshire teams are not to be involved in any 'block' fixtures this season although with both Junior teams in the same division there may be a few double headers. I have always considered that a league is a competition that is run throughout a season, not something that you rush to dispose of over 2 or 3 convenient weekends. From Hampshire's point of view at least the last couple of seasons have proved that the 'block' system did not save money.

Graham Lynch succeeds President Ray Yates (resting a little, after 40 years tireless work for the county) as senior team administrator, Phil Wheaton continues into the third season, his good work with the Juniors and Maurice Shave and Ray Yates will share the Veteran responsibility.

Many from outside the county (visiting counties, regional junior trialists, area school finalists and in the past 4 T's tournament entries) will have visited that mecca of table tennis, Redbridge Sports Centre within Millbrook Community School in Southampton. Most

Counties 3

will have met (because it was frequently a 7 day week job) the amiable, every helpful sports centre manager, Ken Butcher, who retired at the end of the summer term. Ken had a special relationship with table tennis (and I am sure that other correspondents will say the same about their particular sport) and always seemed to juggle his over-booked facilities to accommodate us. Thanks Ken for all your help, our good wishes for a long and happy retirement in which we are sure you will remain very active.

One player with fond memories of Redbridge is Derek Holman who won the second of his Hampshire County titles there 10 years ago, as lead off player for the visiting JAGS SC in the opening British League match of the season the ever competitive Derek came back from 'dead' in the opening set against Alpha's Andrew Ely to inspire his team to an 8 sets to love victory which was not a fair reflection of the overall play.

(see County Notes August/September!)

The Sunday following the coaching course saw the Hertfordshire Junior Trials take place at the same venue, where 31 boys and 5 girls competed for the top places in the list and a coveted county team place.

Only three of the top junior players were missing, due to holiday commitments and although they have acquired a nice suntan they will now suffer the agony of waiting to see where they have been placed in the final registered list.

The top positions on the day for the boys went to Justin Skinner (Barnets), Craig Millwood and Darren Humber (both of North Herts).

Whilst in the girls trials Helen Rose made a triumphant return, following a three year absence, to take the top spot of the day, beating her neighbour from St Albans, Caren Harber.

List of positions for the Day:

Boys

1. Justin Skinner
2. Craig Millwood
3. Darren Humber
4. Tim O'Leary
5. Alan Cross
6. Colin McCarthy
7. John O'Leary
8. Arun Dhar
9. Stephen Taylor
10. Danny Sturges
11. Darren Turpin
12. Martin Turpin
13. Josh Lury
14. Patrick McCarthy
15. Nicholas Hart
16. Tom Barnes
17. Matthew Masters*
18. Richard Hart
19. Lior Hirons
20. Neil Seaholme
21. David Warren
22. Gihan Lekamwattage
23. Tim Seaholme
24. Graham Whitworth

25. Conrad Brown
26. Alex Common*
27. Michael Common*
28. Steven Higgins
29. Paul Higgins
30. Andrew Hart
31. Jonathan Brown

Girls

1. Helen Rose
2. Caron Harber
3. Lesley Moorehead
4. Michelle Budden
5. Anna Warren

* indicates all games were not completed for this player hence possible ranking may be lower or higher

Following the retirement of Frank Sharpe from the post of Treasurer, we have been fortunate enough to appoint Jenny Budden to take Frank's place. It will be nice to have a woman's presence on the Executive Committee.

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

A TOTAL OF 38 Hertfordshire players attended a six day table tennis course, run by Paul Tarrant, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, starting on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August.

North Herts League deserve a special mention, as they were well represented on this year's course with 75% of the training squad travelling down the A1 each day!

Most of the work on the course included development and improvement for players' techniques in service, loop and movement under the eyes of course coaches Paul Tarrant, Robin Harding, Michael Boardman, Doug Tomsett and Trevor Moorhead.

Beginners were also catered for, although the food wasn't provided by the organiser



Back Row: Steven Nelson, Kevin Flowerday
Front Row: Justin Skinner, Simon Flowerday
Herts Junior Inter-League winners 1990/91

Counties 4

KENT

Adrian Hall

I AM GLAD to be able to report a new beginning for Kent with the appointment of Reg Thompson (Chairman) and Roy Willey (Vice Chairman) the enthusiasm of these two along with many old stalwarts of Kent table tennis has already had far reaching implications with sponsorship for our major tournaments, a training week in Sweden for a selected party of county players, new county playing kit, four junior centres of excellence. A Chinese national coach and two junior players will be resident for three months for coaching sessions and arrangements are in hand to take players to European Tournaments to gain wider experience. The first (Aug) of a bi-monthly newsletter keeping Kent informed has just been circulated.

Kent Juniors in France

36 Kent Juniors spent the weekend of 14/16.6.91 in Northern France at the invitation of the Bethune Table Tennis Association for a development training tournament. Our youngsters were treated to first class hospitality and superb playing conditions. In the team events only our Cadet Girls 1st team of Nicola Duke (Tonbridge), Joanne Barham (Rotherhithe) and Crystal Hall (Maidstone) had any success beating the Bethune 2nd side 5-0 but losing to the 1st team 4-1 with Duke and Hall winning the doubles for Kent's lone success.

Hall claimed a good scalp when she beat the Bethune No. 3 to get a fourth place medal behind three French players in the Cadet Girls singles and John Cheng (Maidstone) also got a fourth place again behind three French players in the boys Under 12's. Angie Bristow and Cally Howes (Tonbridge Wells) took 3rd and 4th places in the Girls Under 12 event. Unfortunately our older boys and girls were totally outplayed but this sort of experience is invaluable to the development of our players.

Kent League

Final Kent League tables and playing averages have now been circulated to all leagues so I am showing only the top four teams and leading players in this column.

Mens Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Medway A	7	6	1	0	58
NWK A	7	5	1	1	51
NWK B	7	4	1	2	36
Maidstone A	7	3	2	2	33

Mens Division 2

Canterbury B	8	8	0	0	67
Medway E	8	5	1	2	51
Tonbridge B	7	4	2	1	45
Maidstone B	8	5	0	3	45

Ladies Division 1

Gravesend A	5	5	0	0	37
Maidstone A	5	3	1	1	31
NWK A	5	3	0	2	26
Bromley A	5	1	2	2	25

Ladies Division 2

Woolwich A	5	5	0	0	43
NWK B	5	1	3	1	27
Medway B	5	2	2	1	23
Maidstone B	5	1	2	2	22

Vets Division 1

Bromley A	7	7	0	0	57
Thanet A	7	4	2	1	45
Maidstone A	7	3	1	3	43
NWK A	7	4	1	2	42

Vets Division 2

Sittingbourne A	6	5	1	0	44
Maidstone B	6	4	1	1	42
Bromley C	6	3	2	1	38
Ashford	6	3	0	3	29

Vets Division 3

Bromley D	6	4	2	0	44
Maidstone C	6	4	0	2	40
Sittingbourne B	6	4	1	1	37
Canterbury	6	3	0	3	29

Junior Division 1

Ashford A	7	7	0	0	32
Medway A	7	5	0	2	22
Maidstone A	7	4	0	3	20
Folkestone A	7	5	0	2	19

Kent League Averages

Mens Division 1

	P	W	%
D Emery (NWK)	21	19	90.4
M Ling (Medway)	21	18	85.7
G French (Medway)	21	17	80.9
J Huckle (NWK)	15	11	73.3

Mens Division 2

P Bannister (Med)	18	15	88.8
N LeMilliere (Med)	24	18	75.0
G Harris (Cant)	15	11	73.3
D Harris (Cant)	18	13	72.2

Ladies Division 1

S Wilders (Grav)	15	14	93.3
J Mersh (Grav)	15	13	86.6
J Lawrence (Brom)	12	10	83.3
P Butcher (NWK)	9	7	77.7

Ladies Division 2

T Clements (Med)	9	9	100.0
J Pinfold (Wool)	15	14	93.3
L Martin (Wool)	15	13	86.6
M Davies (Brom)	12	10	83.3

Vets Division 1

T Adams (Brom)	15	15	100.0
K Clarke (Than)	21	19	90.4
D Kellard (Brom)	18	16	88.8
G Harris (Maid)	18	14	77.7

Vets Division 2

E Tydeman (Sitt)	18	17	94.4
R Hawkins (Maid)	12	9	75.0
R Holmes (Sitt)	12	9	75.0
T Milner (Maid)	15	11	73.3

Vets Division 3

M Bunting (Brom)	12	10	83.3
D Hawley (Brom)	15	12	80.0
M Maguire (Sitt)	15	12	80.0
T Brown (Brom)	12	9	75.0

Junior Division 1

K Read (Ash)	14	14	100.0
C Hastie (Ash)	10	10	100.0
J Clench (Folke)	12	10	83.3
R Hope (Medway)	12	9	75.0

Maidstone Play Host to Brussels

Maidstone TTL played host to the Province Du Brabant (Brussels) over the weekend of 6/7.7.91.

12 year old Manual Dupuis (who was just one ranking place below being selected for the Belgium Junior European Championships team) claimed the scalps of Matt Vardy 16-21, 21-18, 21-11, Martin Hewett 21-10, 21-15, Neil Highams 21-23, 21-15, 21-10 and Ian Dowding 21-15, 21-15. Matt Vardy was Maidstone's most successful player with three wins over Nicholas Bayet 21-18, 21-23, 21-17, Fabrizio Cantelli 21-18, 21-17 and Dorien Honore 21-15, 21-7. Match result Maidstone 7 Brussels 9.

Maidstone's Carly Riggs

was the star in the Girls match with all four wins over Ann Socquet 21-13, 21-15, An Massage 21-17, 21-11, Melina Roels 23-21, 18-21, 21-15 and Uegene Valdelinden 21-8, 21-11. For Brussels Ann Socquet beat Crystal Hall 21-17, 21-13, Alison Smith 21-19, 18-21, 22-20, Rachel Woolven 21-18, 21-15 and Jade Stutley 21-8, 21-14. An Massage also had four excellent wins beating Hall 21-13, 20-22, 21-17, Smith 21-17, 21-12, Woolven 21-11, 21-18 and Stutley 21-15, 21-14. Match result Maidstone 8 Brussels 12.

Members of both teams were presented with commemorative medals and the Brussels players and coaches were awarded honorary membership to the Maidstone League with the award of junior and senior town badges and for the president of the Brussels League a veterans badge. County Rankings (end of Season)

Men

1. Andrew Cunningham
2. Joe Kennedy
3. Paul Rainford
4. Andrew Dodd
5. Gareth Spencer
6. Brian Mileham
7. Phillip Cox
8. Mark Brown
9. Henry Buist
10. Ian Girdler

Ladies

1. Juliet Houghton
2. Julie Lawrence
3. Tina Stewart
4. Jackie Mersh
5. Lesley Hollingworth
6. Caroline Brown
7. Margaret Dignum
8. Desiree Joseph
9. Marilyn Dudgeon
- Marion Garlinge

Junior Boys

1. Spencer Thompson
2. Brian Mileham
3. Matthew Vardy
4. Miles Willey
5. Kevin Read
6. Paul Duke
- Martin Hewett
8. James Clench
9. Peter Barrow
- Craig Hastie

Counties 5

Junior Girls

1. Lesley Hollingworth
2. Nicola Duke
3. Natasha Barham
4. Michelle Ritter
5. Joanne Barham
6. Crystal Hall
7. Carly Riggs
8. Alison Smith
Heidi Steers
10. Rachel Woollven

Cadet Boys

1. Glen Ritchie
2. Ross Friday
3. Christian Thompson
4. Scott Friday
5. Christopher Hall
6. Daniel Cheeseman
7. Ben McCarthy
8. Adam Beasley
Scott Dawtry
Paul Smith

Cadet Girls

1. Nicola Duke
2. Joanne Barham
3. Crystal Hall
4. Alison Smith
5. Rachel Woollven
6. Laura Pethers
7. Charlotte Eke
Jade Stutley
9. Angie Bristow
Tracy Church

Under 12 Boys

1. Christian Thompson
2. Scott Friday
3. Adam Beasley
4. Ashley Steers
5. Jonathon Cheng
6. Mark Baker
7. Gareth Hill
8. Arron Campbell
Anthony Lickfold
Michael Perks

Under 12 Girls

1. Alison Smith
2. Rachel Woollven
3. Laura Pethers
4. Charlotte Eke
5. Angie Bristow
Jade Stutley
7. Ruth DaCosta
Kelly Grant
9. Calley Howes
10. Elizabeth Flynn

LANCASHIRE

George Yates

VERY LITTLE has percolated through in the way of news from the county's leagues but I am informed that Steve Turner, formerly a Lancashire county and Preston League player, is back in action and has signed for Liverpool in the British League.

It is with regret that the other information received is bad in that Kevin Forshaw, another former Lancashire county and Manchester league player, died during the summer and condolences go to his wife and family.

On Tuesday 10th September, the Lancashire selection committee met and drew up their initial ranking lists which are:

Men

1. Sean Gibson
2. Jonathan Taylor
3. Andrew Eden
4. Tony Taylor
5. Graham Clarke
6. Nigel Eckersley
7. Paul Hutchings
8. Doug Mayall
9. Chris Ford
10. Barry Elliott
11. Dave Griffiths
12. Andy Gray
13. Tony Worthington
14. Stan Clarke (npc)

Women

1. Andrea Holt
2. Maria Thornley
3. Mandy Winskill
4. Tamar Connolly
5. Brenda Buoeu
6. Denise Conroy
7. Karen Richardson
8. Paula French
9. Carol Mitchell

Junior Boys

1. Rod Manwaring
2. Darryl Meredith
3. Matthew Coombe
4. Kevin Dolder
5. Phil Musgrove
6. Mark Stevens
7. John Pilkington
8. Michael Furness
9. Raman Deo
10. Glenn Payne
11. Phil Ellison

12. Andrew Halford
14. Tony Walsh
14. Craig Abbott
15. Sam Al-Hamdani
16. Les Richmond

Junior Girls

1. Emma Fletcher
2. Tamar Connolly
3. Lindsey Thornton
4. Jayne Scholfield
5. Helen Reid
6. Tracey Wilton
7. Karen Bailey
8. Kirsten Williams

Cadet Boys

1. Meredith
2. Chris Whitehead
3. Dolder
4. Payne
5. Deo
6. Ellison
7. Greg Lee
8. Garry Jackson
9. Andrew Clark

Cadet Girls

1. Thornton
2. Williams
3. Catherine Elton
4. Lisa Dawson
5. Julia Mathews
6. Jody Mellor
7. Wendy Brown
8. Karen Hindle

Veteran Men

1. Phil Blake
2. Tony Rigby
3. Brian Clements
4. Derek Watmough
5. Bill Russell
6. Norman Thewlis
7. Ken Jackson
8. Keith Ward
9. Fred Bainbridge
10. Geoff Rushton

Veteran Women

1. Alwyn Burrough
2. Mabel Neary
3. Lilian Smallwood

It would be appreciated if leagues could send me a copy of their handbook only Bury, apart from Bolton, have I got! More would be welcome.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

THE LEICESTER AND District Table Tennis League will be a few teams short for the coming season but it is hoped that with the Saturday morning class at Soar Valley College and the almost certain Eyres Monsell complex due to start at the end of September, that some new young blood will come from these classes and so build the league in a season or two.

The new Eyres Monsell class is hoping to cater for about 30 pupils. Loughborough report that they have an increase in terms but only small. Hinckley are likely to be about the same as last season.

In the Leicester & District Table Tennis Elbow Tankard, (that's the summer competition) matches have progressed very well reaching the semi final stage at the time of writing. Some twenty six teams entered the tournament which started in July.

The teams for the semi final are The CADS (GEC) v Freddie's Heroes (Belgrave Lib) and Park Keepers (Knighton Park) v Goons or Bali Hi I. In the preliminary leagues the Cadets just managed to qualify but have reached the semi final with some consistency.

Well that's about it for this issue, should have more to report next time with the league fixtures restarted.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

SADLY I HAVE to report the death of one of our Vice Presidents. Basil Brown was awarded the honour in 1972 in recognition of his long service to the North Middlesex League. He was on the North Middlesex committee in 1958/59 to my knowledge; served as Deputy Chairman and Secretary from

Counties 6

1960/61 to 1962/63; was Chairman from 1963/64 to 1970/71 and then became President until 1984. We have not seen much of Basil in recent years as he moved to the Isle of Wight after retirement but I can still visualise his smiling face. I cannot remember ever seeing him out of temper or even with a long face. I know there will be many in the North Middlesex area who will share my happy memories of him and regret his passage.

The entry for the Inter-League competitions has included one very welcome addition. The Isle of Dogs Junior League has entered a team in the DW Birmingham competition. Let us hope that some of the youngsters from this League will soon be making an impact on the County scene. In the Victor Barna Competition, Willesden have taken the place of the Central League who had to drop out before the season started last year. Apart from that the only other alteration is that West Middlesex decided that 3 teams in one Division would not be very interesting for the players and therefore dropped their 3rd team from the Ted Connell Competition and Staines entered a 3rd team to take their place. The Inter-League is being run by Jack Melnick this year who has taken over from Rene Templeman after his many years in the job.

The Selection Sub Committee held their meeting a bit earlier this season so I can give the Middlesex ranking lists for the start of the 1991/92 season. They are:

Men

1. J Souter
2. N Tyler
3. G Sandley
4. C Wilson
5. M Mitchell
6. D Goode
7. T Cutler
8. N Charles
9. N McKoy
10. D Tan
11. S Rockall
12. S Homer
13. C Papantoniou
14. P Simmonds

15. N Stratton
16. A Shepherd
17. M Boon
18. C Boothby
19. L Middleton
20. M O'Leary

Women

1. L Keast
2. S Williams
3. A Smith
4. R Knight
5. L Souter
6. G Blanch (reg. Surrey)
7. K Kottasz
8. R Fisher
9. E Kottasz
10. J Solley
11. E Blanch

Veteran Men

1. J Holland
2. J Smith
3. N Slifkin
4. A Taylor
5. M Adedayo
6. W Brookman
7. M Isaacs
8. G Ailward
9. P Safranek
10. G Hakins
11. E Alleyne
12. A Wood
13. S Waldman

Veteran Women

1. M Sawyer
2. K Nunn
3. L Slifkin
4. B Blanch
5. M Prowen
6. D Stannard
7. F Wade
8. L Lloyd

Junior Boys

1. Ri Hyacinth
2. D Baker
3. D Katz
4. J Sprackling
5. Ro Hyacinth
6. M Williams
7. R Weare
8. A Tanna
9. S Zeffert
10. R Sprackling
11. S Jablon
12. A Jeyarajah
13. M Michaelides
14. P Tucker
15. A Parmar
16. J Sugrue

Junior Girls

1. S Williams
2. J Weare
3. C O'Leary
4. P McMahon
5. L Taylor
6. M Parmar

6. Dave Marsh
7. Mike Pond
8. Phil Slade
9. John Palmer
10. John Baggatt
11. Gerald Finney
12. Alan Ashberry

Veteran Women

1. Margaret Maltby
2. Joyce Porter
3. Muriel Cox
4. Dorothy Marsh
5. Maggie Edwards
6. Clem Little
7. Cath Walsh

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

IRONICALLY, A LACK of manpower has caused the demise of the Pennine computer Ranking System, and so for the first time for two seasons a selection committee determined the early season list on which county teams will be based.

Although it contains few surprises, it does give an indication of the depth of talent available, a situation which should enable Northants to give a good account of themselves despite the promotion of the Veteran Firsts and the Juniors at the end of last year's successful County Championship campaign.

Men

1. Graeme McKim
2. Andy Edmonds
3. Kieron Dabbs
4. Ian Hawes
5. Andy Trott
6. Keith Nicoll
7. Keith Jones
8. Chris Handshaw
9. Richard Elliott
10. Rafe Miller
11. Adrian Roper
12. David Evans

Women

1. Alison Boxall
(Subject to registration)
2. Margaret Maltby
3. Sally Russell
4. Kristina Cox
5. Donna Furniss
6. Anne Vickers
7. Glennis Hooper

Veteran Men

1. Keith Jones
2. Michael Edwards
3. Geoff Atkinson
4. Brian Dangerfield
5. Brian D'Hooghe

Junior Boys

1. Julian Marshall
2. Paul Smith
3. Tom Rowe
4. Mark Adams
5. Paul Adams
6. Joe Trippett
7. Arron Taylor
8. Tom Trippett
9. Martin Gibbs
10. Derek Hill
11. Paul Thomas
12. Andrew Thomas

Junior Girls

1. Sally Russell
2. Helen Watts
3. Clare Hickman
4. Ruth Hickman
5. Tanya Maddy
6. Vanessa Thrift

Although two senior and one junior side will play in the first series of matches scheduled for 28th September, new Veteran supremo Keith Jones has been busy recently, and it is anticipated that the Firsts match against Worcester will now be played on the weekend of 19/20th October, together with matches against Lancashire, Yorkshire II, Cheshire II and possibly Norfolk, with Cheshire providing the venue for a series of matches which should provide a feast of entertainment.

Levi's Westfield British League side started the season with two new players and for the first time made it a winning start with Kieron Dabbs and newcomers John Bradbury and Colin Luscombe all winning once, but the real match winner was Richard Elliott who won both his games in superb style.

Counties 7

On the league scene, Northampton has halted its steady decline with an increased entry, while Wellingborough and Kettering have just failed to maintain their recent progress. Towcester finds itself with almost an entire new committee while Daventry finally succeeded in filling all its vacancies in that department.

At Kettering, Martyn Myrick takes over as Secretary from the league's elder statesman High Morgan, who, following many years of dedicated service has moved to Penarth. However, perhaps the most interest name to make an appearance is that of former County Champion Gary Alden, who after years of exile, is hoping to represent perennial runners up Team Electric A.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARE VERY sad to announce that County Chairman, John Collen, passed away very suddenly on 27th August.

John was Vice Chairman of the Mansfield League and a former National Councillor for Nottinghamshire and had friends throughout the country. His passing at the age of 57, three years after his retirement, is a sad blow.

Despite having first played against him over 20 years ago, it is only recently that I have got to know him better. I will miss his help and cheerfulness, and I am sure this applies to all who came into contact with him.

Racket Sports of Nottingham, sole agents for Juic equipment, are sponsoring the Nottinghamshire County senior and junior teams by supplying Juic red shirts. Thank you Terry.

Nottinghamshire senior team return to compete in the County Championships with

Ralph Green responsible for their organisation. The County junior and veteran teams will again be in the capable hands of Mick Pestka and the legendary Ron Bolton, ensuring not only continuity, but experience.

The Mansfield League have a small drop in numbers this season with the number of new juniors not meeting expectations. Good work is being done by league coach John Wilbraham.

SOMERSET Andy Seward

FROM WHAT I can gather from the distant parts of the county, a lot of bat on ball has taken place during the summer, mainly it seems from the prolific bat of Jimmy Cook! Seriously, several of the county players have maintained their form by playing in the Summer Leagues whilst the top Juniors have been developing their skills under the watchful eye of Kevin Satchell. This could just be Somerset's year.

Next month, a report on the County successes at the Regional Trials and an update on the county rankings. Thought for the day: "Many people fail because they conclude that fundamentals simply do not apply in their case."

SUSSEX John Woodford

THE WORTHING TABLE Tennis Association has emerged from the shadows of some of the other Sussex Leagues to organise and promote three major Sussex events this season

- the All Sussex Championships, the County Junior Championships and the Inter-League event.

Express Sports of Uckfield with Malcolm Francis at the helm is behind the move. The intention is to market the events, substantially increase the number of entries and possibly use up to 24 tables at the luxurious Worthing Leisure Centre.

One such target is to increase the Sussex Junior event from 100 players to 200 and to run a singles event at the same time as the inter-town matches.

In addition, all nine Sussex teams in the County Championships will wear shirts emblazoned 'Sussex' and Express Sports.

The Hastings TTA are far from pleased with the ETTA's Calendar Committee - after being moved away from October to August 31st/September 1st the result was an entry drop of 40 - another casualty caused by the British League dates taking up so much space, for the Stamco Sussex Open, one of England's oldest tournaments.

58 years ago the women's singles was won by Miss Connie Hollick, who was aged only 16 in 1933! The next Sussex based winner came on 1st September 1991 when the winner was Janet Smith, the Scottish No. 1. The two winners were photographed by the 'Evening Argus' (Brighton) and a feature story duly appeared.

Paul Butcher, now six feet tall, seems to be the foremost (and the tallest) Sussex junior. He is still only 14, with three seasons to go as a junior and already reaching Under 17 finals as at Kirklees on 1st September. Paul comes from Haywards Heath. His coach? - Malcolm Francis.

Horsham Dolphins are still looking for a sponsor. But they opened their season with a fine curtain raising effort at NFD Grove, with a 7-1 win in Division 1. Ritchie Venner, Paul Elphick and Andy Walker were unbeaten.

WORCESTERSHIRE Ken Walton

HAVING PROMOTION to Division 1B, the senior 1sts were due to open their season with a home fixture against Sussex 2nds on 28th September. In Division 2B the seconds have been 'advised' to play most of their fixtures on two Saturdays throughout the season, something the majority of players were not in favour of, for various reasons.

Personally, I am not in favour of anything which devalues the honour of representing your county, something that, unless properly organised, these 'Saturdays' threaten to do, from the evidence I have to hand at present.

This year's County Senior Closed is to be held once more at Thorns in Dudley with a proposed date of 26th January. A date for the Junior Closed has yet to be confirmed, although Christopher Whitehead School in Worcester, seems the likely venue once again.

Local leagues will be commencing about now, although exact details of teams and players are not in my possession.

On the British League front Thorns (Dudley) TTC will be competing in Division 3 Midland once again and commence their home fixtures against Grove on Sunday 6th October. Matches commence at 2.30pm, admission is free and spectators are assured of a warm welcome, and a nice cup of tea!

In no particular order, news of injuries affecting leading players have reached my ears. County ladies champion Sandra Roden has been working very hard to overcome her severe knee problem, Eric Hardman was involved in a car crash and suffered chest and leg bruising, and County Senior and Junior men's champion Lee Horton has broken his right arm! Hopefully, all will be back in action by now and raring to go.

Counties 8

YORKSHIRE Rea Balmford

WITH PLAY IN the 20 plus local leagues across the county still to get underway at the time of writing, these notes will tie up the 1990/91 season and look briefly at close season activities.

The Halex National Under 10 and Under 12 Championships were reviewed in the last issue of Table Tennis News, but I must note that the two Nicola's from Leeds, Smith and Silburn, contested the final, with combination bat player Smith, who stepped out on the international stage at the English Schools' event in Birmingham, running out the winner.

Both have had a magnificent season, with one of the pair a winner at every Under 12 tournament at which they have been present with the sole exception of the Essex Junior select.

Also on the winning side were the now established doubles pairing of Tony Hudson (Leeds) and David Smith (Huddersfield) who took the honours after despatching top and third seeded pairs, and dropped only one game on their way to the Under 12 Boys Doubles title.

All four players train regularly at the Clark's Brewery School of Excellence in Wakefield, while No. 3 ranked cadet Michael James (Bridlington) beaten by David Purdy in the Under 12 singles final, and one of the county's successful 'teenies', Under 10 girls finalist Emma Smith (Selby) are under the watchful eye of Mick Wilcockson.

The summer months are a time for presentations and a number of Yorkshire men have received national awards, with the most unique being the presentation of the ETTA's L E Forrest Memorial Award for service to the County Championships to Bevan Walker at the County Championships Annual Meeting in London.

Bevan - County Vice-Chairman, mastermind behind the very successful Junior sides of the last decade and Tournament Organiser and Referee extraordinaire - would have been a popular choice with the legendary Les Forrest, a Yorkshireman from his native city of Bradford who is completely dedicated to the sport.

Tournament Referee Richard Scruton (Northallerton) who has officiated at top level not only in this country but also at international events abroad,

and last season chaired the ETTA's Tournaments Sub-Committee, was the recipient of the Ivor Montagu Award while, at the English Schools' Individual finals at Mansfield, Tom Mathews (Leeds), Life Member and former President of ESTTA and one time Headmaster of Moor Grange School, received the ETTA Merit Award.

Yorkshire's own Leslie Forrest Award went to County Umpires Secretary Ron Wilson, who not only takes charge in this area of administration for all events within the county, but doubles (or 'trebles') up as Assistant Tournament Referee and, with the support of co-sponsors National Power, as producer of tournament entry forms and programmes - not a bad record of service for an immigrant from somewhere up near the borders of Scotland!

The J A Cram Award for the most improved young player went to Gareth Jones, ranked at No. 6 in the final Junior ranking list of the season in his last term of Junior play and, of course, a key member of the successful Junior Premier squad.

Based at Riccall, between Selby and York, Gareth now plays his table tennis in the Premier Division of the Hull

league and with Division 2 British season likely to be restricted as h

And County Chairman Eri Warley, representative for the North long and dedicated service to the r

A visit to Archbishop Cran Tony Hudson, due to receive an a

But Tony did get his presentation later as did his teacher for, unbeknown to Richard, he was to receive a 'Special Award' badge for his services to table tennis among the young people in the county. The badge was handed over at the county junior trials and Richard got a tremendous ovation from the youngsters present.

Yorkshire have an interest in four teams in the British League, with City of Leeds and Bribar Humberside based within the County and the two sides representing Stephens NYSD (North Yorkshire and South Durham) operating from a new base at Darlington but fielding nearly all Yorkshire registered players.

Stephens opened with a 8-0 'Derby' win away to City of Leeds and made it a double with a 6-2 division 3 success at Lincoln, while Humberside shared a 4-all draw at Sunderland. I hope to include information from all four teams in future editions of Notes.



Bracknell Division 1 Champions (l to r) Fenni Iyayi, Barry Morten, David Mak
(see Berkshire)

ETTA LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT FUND - 2

LEAGUE	AMOUNT	£ PROJECT OUTLINE	LEAGUE	AMOUNT	£ PROJECT OUTLINE
HUDDERSFIELD	504.00	Set up new venues/coaching for disabled. Assistant Coach Course	ROMFORD	749.61	Tables for expansion of coaching
HYDE	199.41	To set up Table Tennis Centre	SALFORD & FARNWORTH	222.18	To increase coaching and leagues catchment area, room hire/adverts
HYNDBURN	303.00	Table/Come & Try It evening	SCARBOROUGH	250.00	Three year development plan - increased venues coaching
IPSWICH	982.80	Ipswich Sport 2000 project (Local Authority Sports Development Project)	SHEFFIELD	620.00	Two tables, help set up new schools table tennis league
ISLE OF DOGS	43.44	Setting up of Junior league	SLOUGH	100.00	Robot
ISLE OF WIGHT	521.64	To set up new coaching sessions	SOUTH SHIELDS	116.01	To run coaching course aimed at beginners/women especially
KETTERING	386.40	Table and rent for coaching and balls	SOUTHAMPTON	825.74	Three tables, net and posts - to increase activity in schools
KIDDERMINSTER	454.02	To set up coaching in local schools	STOCKPORT	571.00	Tables
LANCASTER/MORECOMBE	150.00	To create starter division	STOCKTON	176.40	To assist new club at local school(table)
LEAMINGTON	368.34	Assistance for table tennis centre maintenance	STOWMARKET	189.00	Tables to set up coaching at local school
LEICESTER	1,472.00	"Towards 2000" Local Authority Sports Development Project. Establishment of Coaching Centres	ST. ALBANS	100.00	Junior benefit fund
LINCOLN	420.00	To expand coaching, lighting, tables, advertising, coaching expenses	SUNDERLAND	410.00	Local Authority Strategy Development plan
LIVERPOOL BUSINESS HOUSES	190.00	Robot (part), trophies, publicity, balls	SWINDON	376.70	To introduce table tennis to local schools to increase numbers of Youth League Cup competitions
MALVERN	100.00	Towards robot.	TAUNTON	195.00	Specialist lighting at Wellington Sports Centre
MATLOCK	141.,70	4 Open Days at Cromford Community Centre Newspaper advertisements	THAMES VALLEY	672.00	Summer coaching scheme in preparation for league in October
MANSFIELD	392.00	Schools project, exhibitions, coaching youngsters at local school weekends	THAMES DOWN	150.00	To develop and support junior players and form junior league
MEDWAY TOWNS	640.00	Rainham '83 TTC - Internal and external door replacements. Two new toilets - one for disabled access	THURROCK	201.00	Specialists lighting for East Thurrock F.C. TTC
MENDIP	310.80	Table to expand Wessex School facilities	TONBRIDGE	201.60	Coaching and newspaper advertising
MID-CHESHIRE	287.35	Two tables to set up league coaching at St. Nicholas R.C. School, Hartford. Joint award with Northwich Methodist	TOWCESTER	200.00 approx.	League junior coaching sessions
NELSON	218.40	Table	TRAFFORD	520.00	Two tables for coaching sessions feeding advanced training centre
NORTH HERTS	637.56	Tables to expand school based facilities	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	285.57	Additional coaching, establishment of schools and junior league
NORTH MIDDLESEX	250.00	Oakwood Youth TTC - table. Adult coaching/Ellenborough TTC - table	WAKEFIELD	303.00	Improve coaching facilities
NORTH NORFOLK	53.00	League coaching day	WANDSWORTH	403.00	Additional coaching, hall hire + table
NORTH ALLERTON	303.00	Table, net and post, rent and coaches expenses	WELLINGBOROUGH	627.90	Tables and rent
NORTHAMPTON	580.00	Junior coaching scheme	WELWYN/HATFIELD	285.57	Tables required for new coaching course
NORTHUMBERLAND	588.00	Table, administration costs for setting up additional leagues and coaching	WEMBLEY/HARROW	830.32	4 tables plus nets - Adult Coaching at Harlow L.C.
NORTHWICH METHODIST		Joint Award - See Mid Cheshire	WEST CORNWALL	404.00	New lighting at Camborne School
PETERBOROUGH	470.40	Heating at table tennis centre	WEST MIDDLESEX	190.00	Robot (part), trophies, publicity, balls
PETERLEE	75.60	Establish regular venue and coaching	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	231.84	To provide weekly venue + facilities + progress players to league
PORTSMOUTH	850.00	Tables	WINCHESTER	272.20	Sports centre lighting
PRESTON	714.00	2 tables and coaching	WORTHING	378.00	To provide coaching at 2 local schools

Troubles in Yugoslavia

ALL first stage matches scheduled for the month of September in the Super and Division 1 of the JOOLA European men's league have been confirmed with the exception of Yugoslavia's home fixture against Hungary in Group B of the Super Division.

Hungary's hesitation of journeying to Yugoslavia is understandable as is that of the Netherlands Association in fulfilling their away fixture against Yugoslavia in the women's league and correspondence in the foregoing respect is still flowing.

BALTIC STATES

YURI POSEVIN, president of the USSR TTA, has given 100% agreement to the re-affiliation of Latvia and Lithuania to the ITTF and, in consequence, it follows that both now independent associations will apply for ETTU membership. Estonia, the third Baltic State, made an application to the ITTF back in January of this year and, again subject to agreement with Mr. Posevin, they too should become an independent association.

The IOC will recognise the Baltic NOCs if each NOC can get at least 5 National Associations officially affiliated to their respective International Federations (IF). This would then entitle the countries to enter the Olympic Games in Barcelona and, insofar as table tennis is concerned, they would be eligible to have their players participate in the Olympic Qualification tournaments.



Jorg Roszkopf of F.R. Germany

September and October matches have been arranged as follows:-

SUPER DIVISION

Group A

Sept. 17	F.R. Germany	v	Poland (Hagen a TW)
25	Belgium	v	Netherlands (Brussels)
Oct. 15	Poland	v	Belgium
15	Netherlands	v	F.R. Germany (Katwijk a/d Rijn)

Group B

Sept. 17	Yugoslavia	v	Hungary
17	Sweden	v	France (Stockholm)
Oct. 15	Hungary	v	Sweden
15	France	v	Yugoslavia (Cherbourg)

DIVISION TWO

Group A

Sept. 18	Czechoslovakia	v	Turkey (Kosice)
22	Bulgaria	v	Denmark (Sofia)
Oct. 2	Turkey	v	Bulgaria
19	Denmark	v	Czechoslovakia

Group B

Sept. 18	England	v	Italy (Bletchley)
21	Austria	v	Spain (St. Veit/Glan)
Oct. 19	Spain	v	England (Subject to change)
19	Italy	v	Austria

England have arranged to play Austria on November 8 at Ipswich in their final first stage match.

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS SUPER DIVISION

Group A

Belgium	F.R. Germany	Netherlands	Poland
Saive Jean-Michel	Roszkopf Jorg	Haldan Paul	Grubba Andrzej
Cabrera Thierry	Fetzner Steffen	Keen Trinko	Kucharski Leszek
Saive Philippe	Bohm Georg-Zsolt	Heister Danny	Skierski Piotr
Sonnet Frederic	Wosik Torben	Mol Casper	Blaszczyk Lucjan
Podpinka Andras	Franz Peter	Boute Frank	Szafranek Piotr
Closset Marc	Prause Richard	Paul de Vrind Peter	Dziubanski Michal

Group B

France	Hungary	Sweden	Yugoslavia
Gatien Jean-Philippe	Harci Zsolt	Persson Jorgen	Primorac Zoran
Chila Patrick	Memeth Karoly	Waldner Jan-Ove	Lupulescu Ilija
Chatelain Nicolas	Varga Sandor	Appelgren Mikael	Kalinic Zoran
Marmurek Olivier	Hollo Zsolt	Lindh Erik	Serekar Robert
Eloi Damien	Batorfi Zoltan	Karlsson Peter	Grujic Slobodan
Mommessin Didier	Gardos Krisztian	Von Scheele Thomas	Dodo Arpad

DIVISION ONE

Group A

Bulgaria	Czechoslovakia	Denmark	Turkey
NOT SUBMITTED	Korbel Petr	Hauth Lars	Yaldiz Gurhan
	Janci Tomas	Bentsen Alan	Cimen Oktay
	Vimi Roland	Harkamp Jan	Eren Ihan
	Javorek Petr	Higsberg Kim	Ozcelik Ismail
	Grman Milan	Sonnichsen Mogens	Erduran Ferhat
	Truksa Jaromir	Egeholt Carsten	Hocaoglu Erkan

Group B

Austria	England	Italy	Spain
Ding Yi	Chen Xinhua	Costantini Massimo	NOT SUBMITTED
Quian Qianli	Cooke Alan	Nannoni Lorenzo	
Palmi Dietmar	Prean Carl	Di Napoli Gennaro	
Schlager Werner	Andrew Skylett	Mondello Massimiliano	
Jindrak Karl	Syed Matthew	Ricci Luca	
Unterreiner Stefan	O'Driscoll Mike	Piergentili Marco	

Europe Club Cup of Champions 1991

THE NFD Grove club have teams in both the men's and women's section of the European Club Cup of Champions with the men being drawn away in the first round to CTT "CRAA" Ferentino of Italy while the women play host to Trudovje Rezervy club in Moscow.

Grove's men's team will be chosen from Desmond Douglas, Chris Oldfield, Nicky Mason, Michael O'Driscoll and Jonathan Taylor while the Italians can call on Sun Ling, Lorenzo Nannoni, Gennaro Di Napoli and Walter Talocco.

On the distaff side Grove can choose from Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon, Fiona Elliot and Helen Lower while the Russians choose from Elena Timina, Galina Melnik, Raisa Timofeeva and Angela Tian - a formidable quartet!

ETTU/NANCY EVANS CUP 1991/92

ENGLAND'S representative side in the men's section of Ifield of Crawley, who have registered Ritchie Venner, Michael Hammond, Ian McLean, Scott Greenbrook, Alan Cole and Mayur Majithia who have been drawn at home to the winner of the preliminary tie between Hapoel Lod of Israel and Wiener Sportclub of Austria.

In the women's section Playline Sovereigns of Grantham play hosts to Spartak BS Vlasim of Czechoslovakia when a choice from Suzanne Airey, Jane Strawson, Helen Stephens, Karen Smith, Helen Newbound, Julie Norman, Janet Dunning and Jeanette Baxter will do battle against the choice from Monika Sopova, Alena Vachovcova, Sabina Martincova, Marketa Benesova, Hana Budjacova and Olga Poucheova.

IN MEMORIUM

Sadly the news must be relayed of the death of the French President, **Bernard Jeu**, who died on August 15 at the age of 62. His funeral took place in Roubaix on August 20 when the ETTU was represented by Henk van Dilst, Andre Damman, Jean Devyys and Dr. Jean-Francois Kahn.

It is also with regret to announce the death of **Dr. Gabor Diner**. Hon. Member of the Hungarian Association and Chairman of their Appeals Committee who, following a car accident, died in hospital on August 12 at the age of 77. Dr. Diner was a noted international referee and umpire.

Trés touchés par les nombreuses marques de sympathie
manifestées à l'occasion du décès

du Président Bernard Jeu

le Vice-président délégué René Champdorge
et le Comité Directeur de la F.F.T.T.,
en union avec la compagne et la famille du disparu,
vous expriment leur profonde reconnaissance.



FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DE TENNIS DE TABLE

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Fájdalommal tudatjuk, hogy Dr. Diner Gábor

Budapesten 1991. augusztus 12-én elhunyt.

Temetés előtti búcsúztatása — születésének 77. évfordulóján — augusztus 23-án
fél 12 órakor a **Farkasréti temetőben** lesz.

Kisvárdán a családi sírboltban augusztus 27-én 11 órakor helyezzük végső nyughelyére.

Gyászmise augusztus 29-én 18.30 órakor a Szent Mihály templomban
(Váci utca 47.) lesz.

Gyászolják:

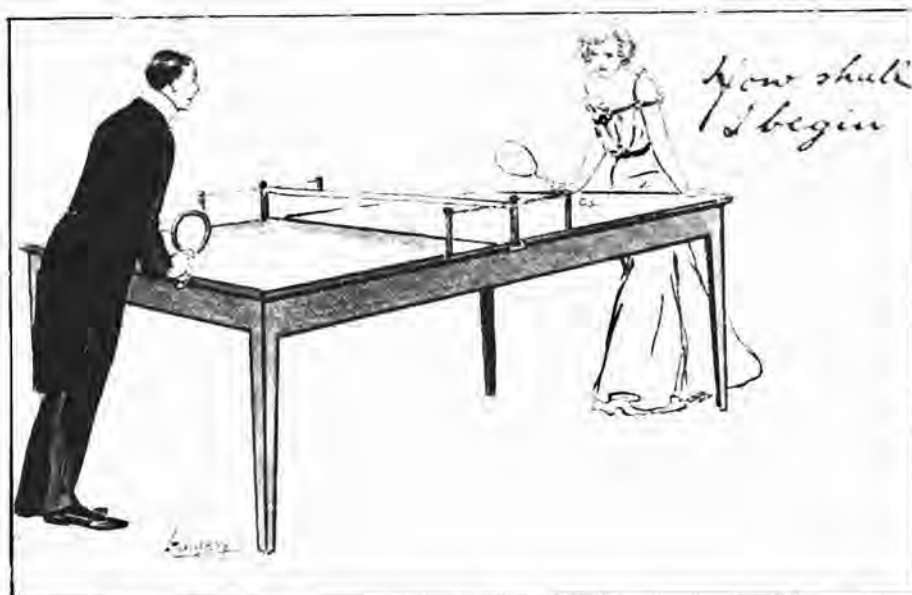
testvére Géza, sógornői, unokatestvérei, unokaöccse, unokahúga.

Dr. W.G. Grace an enthusiast

In 1902 M.J.G. Ritchie and Walter Harrison published their *Table Tennis and How to Play It*. Ritchie, winner of lawn tennis championships in France, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Austria and runner-up in the Wimbledon Championships, took up the new game and was elected secretary of the All-England Table Tennis and International Games Club. His co-author was secretary of the first club ever formed - the Cavendish - with its meeting-place at Armfield's Hotel, Finsbury, London. The authors, in a chapter 'The History of the Game' confirm that "for its conception and origin we must undoubtedly look to the sister game, lawn tennis. Table tennis exhibits nearly all the characteristics of the latter, and it is practically its replica in miniature." One of the authors had met an individual (not named) who had played the game, under the title of table tennis, about 1890, the implements being a table, net, book covers for rackets and a cork ball. Mr. R. S. Jones of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Leslie Jones were enthusiastic players and could probably be classed amongst the inventors of the original game. Wooden rackets (to use the more modern spelling) were soon adopted and rubber balls, but, as is well-known from other early references, these proved far too lively in a confined space and caused too much damage in the cluttered Victorian dining-room. Also, compared to lawn tennis, the game lacked athleticism. For these reasons table tennis fell into obscurity until about 1900.

In August of that year the Nondescript Cricket Club was on tour and, experiencing continuously bad weather, the players were at a loss to know how to pass their time until someone found some vellum battledores, a celluloid ball and a net. The latter was rigged up on a table, "and the members of the team found themselves so fascinated with the game and its possibilities, that the abandonment of the cricket was more than atoned for." This has a ring of truth about it. It was perhaps on this occasion that Dr. W.G. Grace, often described as the best-known cricketer in the history of the game, became an enthusiast. Several of the Nondescript team continued to play table tennis and formed the nucleus of the Cavendish Club.

The third main source of information on table tennis in the 1890s is found in the patents; fortunately these are easily traced at the Patent Office in London. It seems that the earliest patents for



A "write away" postcard drawn by Lance Thackeray and chromolithographed in Germany, 1902. The net is fitted with "wings" to prevent the ball being returned round the net. The Gurney Collection

games resembling table tennis were issued in 1890-1891. On 15th July, 1890, David Foster, a merchant from Selby in Yorkshire, applied for a patent relating to 'Apparatus for Parlour Table Games'. One of the drawings provided shows a simplified 'lawn tennis' court marked out on a cloth-covered dining-table within a surrounding 'fence'. He assumes that no explanation of the game is needed but gives details of how the apparatus can be adapted for cricket and football.

Just a month later, on 12th August 1890, Emma Barker, a London inventor, applied for a patent relating to her 'Support and Stretcher for the Cord carrying the Net of a New Game of Ball', that is posts and an adjustable net. This time we do have some rules. Service courts similar to those for lawn tennis were formed by tapes fixed by drawing-pins under the table. She goes on, "The rules for playing and counting are identical with those of lawn tennis, with the following exceptions:-

(a) The service must be delivered underhand (that is all the hand must be below the elbow) and the service ball struck at a point beyond the far end of the table.

(b) A ball which, before it bounces, hits the person or racket of the striker-out, provided he is not leaning over the table or does not touch the ball with

his racket in an attempt to take it, counts against the striker.

(c) Back-handed strokes or service not allowed.

These rules are worth quoting at length since they must be the first ever formulated and show a surprising degree of sophistication. Even today, nearly a hundred years later, there is still difficulty over the service rules.

Only two more patents were (apparently) applied for in the 1890s. C.A. Witchell's 'table lawn tennis' clearly owed much to Foster, retaining the 'lawn tennis' court and surrounding 'fence', but he mentions the possibility of four players and two sizes of table, 8 feet by 4 foot 6 in. for adults and 6 feet by 3 foot 6 in. for children. Rackets could be modelled on those for lawn tennis or made entirely wood. He makes the bizarre suggestion that the 'fence' could be dispensed with if the ball were attached by a thread to a gas lamp.

Charles Barter, an engineer, claimed that his invention related to a "an improved game more especially adapted to be played indoors and is analogous to the outdoor game of lawn tennis." He did away with the 'fence' and showed a keen appreciation of the essential criteria for rackets and balls. He said, "The rackets and balls should be made of materials such that a

degree of non-resilience is imparted to them so that a comparatively large amount of energy may be expended in hitting the ball without driving it to a great distance."

Only Foster's patent is known to have been put into product. And, regrettably, the well-known 1884 reference must be regarded as highly suspect. In his *Table Tennis*, 1936, Ivor Montagu states, "The first catalogue record is of a Miniature Indoor Lawn Tennis Game, and appears with Messrs. F.H. Ayres Limited in 1884. The implements for this are not known...." "This seems a very firm assertion but there are several indications that it is erroneous: there appears to have been no patent application; despite long and vigorous searches, no copy of the advertisement has been found; no reference appears in the *Boys Own Paper* or in *Pastimes*. But an Ayres' catalogue of 1886 advertises 'Parlour Lawn Tennis - the Popular game of Lawn Tennis adapted for use in the Drawing-Room'.

This game was played with miniature rackets on a green baize court laid on the floor. Could it be that - as rather suggested by the title, but not conclusively - the 'Miniature Indoor Lawn Tennis Game' falls into the same category? Ivor Montague himself had serious doubts about this reference - in a letter to the author just before his death in 1984. The same error may well have been made in the first Handbook of the combined Table Tennis Association and Ping-Pong Association, published in 1902, which printed eighteen pages of F.H. Ayres' advertisements. Here the Secretary refers - with a slight change of date - to "the 1886 catalogue of at least one eminent firm of manufacturers of sports appliances" which, he says, contained an advertisement for table tennis.

In all probability the first table tennis sets were manufactured, as stated in the *Shell Book of Firsts*, by J. Jaques and Son in 1898.

Author's note

At a very late stage before publication some important new information on the origins of table tennis has been discovered. This suggests the possibility that the first manufactured sets were produced in the United States.

In 1887 - three years before Foster's English patent - George S. Parker and Company (later Parker Brothers), Salem, Massachusetts, advertised their "Table Tennis" with an, unfortunately, very brief description: "This game is laid out like a Lawn Tennis court, played and counted just the same, all

the rules being observed." The advertisement did not appear in 1886 or 1888. This looks convincing, but it is possible that this advertisement refers to the Ayres' sets said to have been produced in 1884 - which might well have been imported from England under licence. And it is conceivable that it refers to a board game.

I am grateful to the American Game Collectors' Association and to Chuck Hoey for their research in the Parker Brothers' archives which has brought this information to light.

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"Ping-Pong Pierrette", a nineteenth century French fashion plate. The racket has probably been added to an earlier print. The ITTF



An original pen and ink cartoon 1901. The Gurney Collection



"A cartoon by R.C. Carter, 1901, with the caption, "This is only a little game of 'Ping-Pong' in progress, and some of the balls are missing." Punch

Vets in the English Open

I AM very pleased to welcome back the VETTS column to TTN, which will be written by their Press and Publicity Officer, Ken Lyons.

Being a venerable veteran myself, I look forward to publishing regular reports.

Editor

THE V.E.T.T.S' season gets underway on 5/6th October with the Southern Masters at Basingstoke. During the coming season other regional masters are as follows:

2nd/3rd November Western Masters at Swindon
1st/2nd February Midland Masters at Hindeley
21st/22nd March Eastern Masters at Grimsby
25th/26th April Northern Masters at Bracknell

The majority of the events have the continued sponsorship of the Hilton International



Cheltenham's Dave Harvey, who will be hoping to retain his No.1 ranking position, this season

Group of Hotels plus a deal with Butterfly for this season has been negotiated.

Also this season a vets events is incorporated in the English Open 9th to 12th of

January at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham as well as the English Nationals 7th/8th March at Stourbridge.

I would also on behalf of all VETTS. members like to congratulate Mike Watts our secretary on becoming E.T.T.A. Vice Chairman Administration.

The sixth veterans World Table Tennis Championships are being held in Dublin in 1992. Starting on the 15th June they will go on until 20th June. The Championships will be played in the Simmons Court Arena of the Royal Dublin Society located in the beautiful Dublin suburb of Ballsbridge. It is hoped that over 2,000 competitors will be taking part.

Information about joining V.E.T.T.S can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Membership Secretary V.E.T.T.S., 68 HOLT FARM WAY, ROCHFORD, ESSEX SS4 1SD.

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ENQUIRY HOTLINE



Ever popular, evergreen Alison

ALISON GORDON, now 28 but still No.21 in Europe, could be nearing the end of a truly magnificent career as a member of the England squad. At two years away from being 30 with two very young players - Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton knocking on Don Parker's door - the ever-smiling Alison will not be chosen so regularly as in the past.

On court, she is a worker, a fighter and a top-spin attacker that has brought down many a famous opponent. She is a great support of the home tournaments, even 2-star events.

When I asked her how many times she had played for England predictably she said "I have lost count. I hope that I have a couple of years left at least, but time will tell."

She has struggled for years to make a living as a professional, a very difficult task for women players. Exhibition play in the summer months and coaching at summer camps provides a living for four months whilst the sun shines. In the winter things are not so good, like a number of other players she must rely on squad payments, prize money from tournaments and national leagues.



Alison Gordon

After watching her play for many years around the world, her most glittering performance ever came in Dortmund at the 1989 World Championships when she conquered the German No.1, Olga Nemes in front of some 5,000 home fans, who were stunned into comparative silence as they saw their champion start to fall.

Although Olga was nervous with everything to lose in front of the home crowd, the way the Berkshire-based player pressed home her advantage -

nothing to lose and everything to gain - was professionalism of the highest standard and deserving of more reward.

The French National League club Lille have had Alison in their team for five years and of course, she is expected to continue in France for sometime and to carry on playing a major role for NFD Grove in the British League.

Alison, from Reading, was naturally disappointed not to be chosen for the last world's in Chiba, but she fulfilled an important job for England at the Commonwealth Championships in Nairobi playing with the two young girls, Sally and Nicola.

THE FUTURE

There is no substitute for experience. For several years ahead it appears that the name of Alison Gordon will be prominent in the England rankings and she will still win substantial amounts of prize money at British tournaments, mainly because she is amongst the most sporting competitors and I cannot recall her ever giving a point away, except when she has been gifted a point by an umpire that she has felt belonged to her opponent.

Corbet Arms Graded Singles

YOUTH proved to be the victor over experience, as in form Welsh star Siar. Evans made a successful journey to Market Drayton to win the Grade A1 title at the final expense of NFD Grove veteran Maurice Alcock in the Corbet Arms Graded Singles Tournament for September 1991.

It was to be a successful day for the girl from South Wales as she reached the final of the Senior Singles before fellow Red Dragon Jonathan Allen ended progress to clinch the title, having ousted Burton's Mick Fisher at the penultimate stage. However, there was success for the Fisher family as wife Cheryl won the Senior Consolation event with a final victory over Stone's Dave Parton.

The international flavour was to be maintained in Grade A with the Consolation event going to Malta in the guise of Edward Wismayer, currently studying at Grove School, with the rapidly improving young man from St. Julians Bay ousting Leamington's Mark Jackson at the final hurdle.

It was to be the ever reliable Tracey Garratt who kept the NFD Grove banner flying as she scored a final success over Leamington's Chris Haynes to win the

Junior Singles, whilst the Warwickshire town gained consolation as the plate event was won by Richard Arnold over Burton's Chris Fisher. The Fisher family had once again to settle for silver as Abergavenny's Paul Brooks ousted Michelle Fisher to win the Cadet event with the consolation title going the way of Sheffield's John Halford over Potteries youngster Richard Mounsey.

A determined Lancastrian, in the form of Gregory Lee clinched the Cadet event beating Chester's Mark Ryder in an excellent final, whilst NFD Grove's talented Emma Ferguson clinched gold in the consolation event beating Burton's Lyndsey Champion at the final hurdle. The consolation event was to prove successful again for NFD Grove girls as never say die Trudie Bloor beat Wolverhampton's Linda Knowles in the final, whilst the Welsh struck again in the main event as Richard Brooks scored a final success over Stockport's Helen McConniffe.

The girls were to prove the most successful for NFD Grove in Grade A2 as Emma Fletcher recorded a final success over Burton's Chris Fisher whilst experience proved to be the key in the consolation as Stafford's Peter Stanway was beaten

at the final hurdle by Leamington's Steve Kurl.

The Welsh were once again to roar with fire as Abergavenny's Paul Brooks won Grade B over Stafford's Wendy Sherratt as the South Wales cadet captured a second title; however, there was consolation for the county of Staffordshire as Newcastle's Rob Mainwaring won the plate event with a final win against Sheffield's Scott Habershon.

NFD Grove's impressive duo of Philip Parton and Paul Mitchell were to clinch the honours in Grade C as the former beat the much travelled Peter Ackred of Hastings in the final of the main event, whilst Mitchell outthit Leamington's Julia Kurl to win the consolation.

The girls were once again to come to the fore in Grade D as Derby's Sarah Bailey clinched final success over Chester's Sonia Holdsworth, whilst in an all Chester consolation final saw John Simm account for Purdy Jones in a hard fought encounter. The Grade E final saw the females dominant once more as Helen McConniffe defeated NFD Grove's Trudie Bloor for gold whilst Burton's Charlotte Marrick beat Chester's Mark Kennedy to clinch the consolation title.

German Grand Prix

OUR party of eight players and two coaches left Heathrow on Friday 31st May to fly to Bremen on the first leg of our journey. Despite a lengthy delay in London which put us well behind schedule and some juggling with trains and taxis in Germany we eventually arrived at our destination near Wilhelmshaven at about 20:30. Just time for a quick meal, forty minutes practice and off to bed.
Writes Rowden Fullen

The Saturday is always the team day-eight regional or international teams playing in two groups of four with further games for places. Each team is guaranteed five matches, each player at least five doubles if matches go to five sets. As in previous years Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland had entered full international teams and a number of the top German players were competing. We knew we were in for a tough time especially the cadets who were primarily there for the experience. In fact Paul Butcher played extremely well to win 3 of his eight singles and he and David Smith had a very close victory 3-2 over the Swiss National team. It has however in the juniors that we thought we might be among the medals, with Darren Howarth and Gareth Jones in the boys team and Linda Radford and Liz Creasey in the girls. In fact both teams lost the initial group matches heavily, then went on to lose the second match by the narrowest of margins 2-3. It was when the chips were down that our players showed their spirit, the girls trouncing Austria 3-0 in the final group match and the boys North Germany by the same score. Both teams were in the semis, in both cases on sets average, but we were there!

Unfortunately at this stage the luck ran out both teams coming up against the eventual winners, the boys West Germany and the girls Luxembourg. Our only win was from Linda who took the scalp of Corsi, a very fine victory indeed. In the play-offs for third place the girls were unable to hold a strong West German side, but Darren and Gareth took bronze with a close fought 3-2 victory over the local Lower Saxony champions. It was nearly 1900 hours when all the matches were completed and the hosts had arranged a fine barbecue outside the centre where we were able to wind down and relax. Pleased to report that the cadets then practised for thirty minutes before heading off to the hotel. Over the weekend local accommodation and food in the centre were both excellent.

Sunday is the individual day, again lots of games, groups of four on five with play-offs for places 1-4, 5-8 etc. On average most players had about seven sets. All the cadets played better having come to terms with the more positive continental style and quite a few wins were



On their way to Germany

notched up. Again however it was in the juniors where we came closest to the medals with Linda gaining seventh place and Darren sixth, a very creditable performance. By mid-afternoon the last games were being played and we were readying ourselves for the long journey home, which was to prove uneventful.

All our players did, I feel, learn valuable lessons. In the U.K. we play not to lose, the continentals play to win - there is a big difference. Our serve and receive are both inadequate. The continental boys flick

and push short against tight service the girls push long or flick, and the placement is particularly good. We can't match the Europeans F.H. to F.H. - they are too strong. Even when forced back from the table they can still keep the ball in play till they can get back in - and their deep play is strong with control. Most continentals are very much fitter than our players, especially the girls, and stronger mentally particularly in the end game. I feel it is of benefit to compare a number of areas in terms of percentage effectiveness.

AREA	CONTINENTAL		ENGLISH	
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS
1 Physical-stamina explosive speed	90%	90%	50%	30%
2 F.H. Power Accuracy	90%	90%	60%	40%
3. Serve and 3rd Ball	80%	90%	50%	40%
4. Mental strength	90%	90%	70%	70%
5. Power and Control back from table	90%	90%	60%	30%
6. Willingness to open up	90%	90%	60%	40%
7. Short Touch Play	90%	70%	70%	70%
8. Ability get F.H. in from B.H.	90%	90%	70%	60%

I feel it is of particular importance that more of our players and indeed our coaches get abroad more often just to see what we are up against. I already have five invitations into Europe next season and if players and coaches are interested please contact myself or Brian Etherington at tournaments. The depth of quality on the European circuit is a revelation as is the talent in the under eleven age group.

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Kirkless Junior Open

OVER 200 youngsters, including a sizeable contingent from the host County assembled at the Huddersfield Sports Centre for the opening Junior event of the new season - the Kirkless Junior Open - to get the 1991/92 season under way. *Writes Rea Balmford*

With new ranking lists in force now that the 1991 class have graduated into the world of senior play, the jostling for places near the top of the lists was soon under way.

In the Boys events both top seeds, Barry Forster (Jnr.) and Michael James (Cdt.) were toppled, but the Girls followed the prescribed pattern with Sally Marling (Jnr.) and Shelley Ruocco duly taking their places on the winners' rostrum.

Second seed Ray Powell was the man to take the first Junior Boys title of the new campaign, moving smoothly to the final past Andrew Wilkinson (No.5) - quarters - and Robert Sharp (No.5) - semi - and then getting the better of surprise finalist Paul Butcher in a tight two setter.

It was the top half of the draw which produced the shocks as Matthew Brown removed Forster before falling to Butcher, whose appearance in the final will have done his ranking at 35 no harm at all, while local boy Darren Lindley (No.3) went out on his first visit to the table, going down at 19 in the third to Chris Hazlehurst, the younger of the Harrogate brothers.

The Junior Girls was far more predictable with top seed Sally Marling lining up against Natasha Williams in a final which proved to be a thriller as the unseeded Welsh girl took the second game and extended the 15 year old senior International all the way in the decider.

En route to the final Miss Williams, who had come through the groups, took out No.9 ranked Lynsey Heyward (quarters) and No.6 Caroline Bentley (semi), and it seems a travesty of justice that she could not be seeded - why not dummy rankings at Junior level, particularly for those youngsters in the home countries who play regularly on the circuit?



Sally Marling (left) and Shelley Ruocco

The top two seeds lined up for the Cadet Boys final, and the ensuing game was as tight as their adjacent placings on the ranking list would suggest, with Darryl Meredith (No.4) just pipping Michael James (No.3) in a three set thriller after both boys had come through the rounds without dropping a game.

In the semis James despatched Matthew Bartlam, who took the spot allocated to the absent Chris Whitehead, while Meredith accounted for Andrew Sugarman, who had shown the door to the two seeds in his quarter - Adrian CADman (No.3) and Kevin Doyle (No.5).

Vicky Fox (No.2) was an early casualty in the Girls event, going out at the first time of asking to Nicola Massingham, who made her way to the final before giving best to top seed Shelley Ruocco.

Powell was the only Singles winner to claim a second title, sharing the Doubles with Forster after dismissing the James brothers, Michael and Simon - both cadets - in a 3 game final, while players from

the host county of Yorkshire dominated this remaining Doubles events, Williams and Bentley pairing for the JGD with Tony Hudson/David Smith and the two Nicolas, Silburn and Smith, mopping up in the Cadets.

And finally, from one who has, at times, commented unfavourably on the lack of co-operation from some players at tournaments, a word of praise for a youngster who, at the conclusion of the event, was complimented by both Referee Bevan Walker and Yorkshire Chairman and National Councilor Eric Hill.

Take a bow, Gerald Ashison for, despite being a victim of his own success when he was called from table to table, Gerald never complained nor kept his opponent and the umpire waiting.

"That is why I came - to play table tennis" was the comment from a lad who is a credit to his parents, to those who have coached him, to this County - Surrey, and above all, to table tennis.

RESULTS

JUNIOR EVENTS

BOYS SINGLES:

Ray Powell (Gg) bt Robert Sharp (Y) 18, 14; Paul Butcher (Sx) bt Matthew Brown (St) 19, 13. Powell bt Butcher 19, 21.

GIRLS SINGLES:

Sally Marling (Y) bt Zoe Buchanan (Ch) 11, 14; Natasha Williams (WAL) bt Caroline Bentley (Y) 13, 19. Marling bt Williams 14, -12, 19.

BOYS DOUBLES:

Powell - Barry Forster (Nd) bt Kevin Green (Ng) - James Wheatley (Dy) 15, 20; Michale James - Simon James (Y) bt Darren Lindley (Y) - Sharp 18, -17, 19. Powell - Forster bt James - James -20, 12, 10.

GIRLS DOUBLES:

Bentley - Williams bt Lynsey Heyward (Dv) - Tracy Garrett (Sp) 14, 13; Jackie Marriott (Du) - Buchanan bt Marling - Maria Bubb (IOM) -19, 18, 19. Bentley - Williams bt Marriott - Buchanan 15, 12.

CLASS 2 SINGLES:

Neil Bygrave (Bu) bt Paul Cicchelli (Sx) 25, -17, 17. Sarah Smith (Ng) bt Vicky Fox (St) 14, -13, 19.

CADET EVENTS

BOYS SINGLES:

Darryl Meredith (La) bt Andrew Sugarman (Y) 18, 16; M. James bt Matthew Bartlam (Cv) 10, 14. Meredith bt M. James -19, 22, 17.

GIRLS SINGLES:

Shelley Ruocco (E) bt Glenda Ashison (Sy) 20, 16; Nicola Massingham (Li) bt Claire Newno (Ch) 5, 11. Ruocco bt Massingham 19, 11.

BOYS DOUBLES:

David Smith - Tony Hudson (Y) bt Sugarman - Wayne Marsh (Y) -17, 19, 18; Kevin Dolder - Glenn Payne (La) bt M. James - S. James 14, 19. Smith - Hudson bt Dolder - Payne 19, 18.

GIRLS DOUBLES:

Nicola Smith - Nicola Silburn (Y) bt Sarah Stedman (Sx) - Fox 19, 10; Ruocco - Ashison bt News - Alison Smith (K) 17, 20. Smith - Silburn bt Ruocco - Ashison 15, -14, 18.

CLASS 2 SINGLES:

Stephen Joslyn (E) bt March 13, 19. Silburn bt Zoe Fisher (Y) 19, 15.

UNDER 12 EVENTS

BOYS SINGLES:

Gerland Ashison (Sy) bt Darren Ashall (Y) 12, 9; Gareth Brown (Nd) bt Paul McCann (Nd) 17, 13. Ashison bt Brown 14, -17, 18.

GIRLS SINGLES:

Catherine Corkhill (Cu) bt Lindsey Thornton (La) 12, 14; Debbie Pestka (Ng) bt Tamara Powell (Cu) 16, 13. Corkhill bt Pestka 11, -19, 16.

Gossima to the Gulf War

Extracts from Gerald Gurney's speech at the 100 Club Dinner at the Carnarvon Hotel, London, on Saturday 6th July 1991.

- Tables tennis 100 years old this year; the first manufactured form of the game - under the title Gossima - was produced by John Jaques & Son in 1891 and described as "The New Game of gossima causing immense excitement and healthy exercise and is the nearest approach that can be to the Game of Lawn Tennis as played out of doors."

- A weekly magazine, Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer, was introduced in 1902 with the proud boast that it was "available at all newsagents for 1 penny". It was soon claiming 20,000 readers, but lasted for only 9 weeks, collapsing at just about the same time as the game went into decline.

- At the height of the craze, the, as spelt in The Pioneer, Harrogate Ping-Pong Club issued a challenge versus other teams consisting of any number of players from 10 to 24.

- In the early days, mixed doubles allowed only one racket for each pair.

- The first mixed singles event - played at the Royal Aquarium in 1902 - saw four gentlemen in the semi-finals although, it was reported, "the ladies at various times showed remarkable skill."

- The Pioneer had an Agony Aunt's column with cryptic messages. e.g.

Edward - send us the ball and say where you purchased same
T.T. - do not have anything to do with the firm you mention
George - Thanks for your letter

- In the early days of table tennis, when sea travel was the fashion, many large steamers gave up their saloon tables to the game, but it can hardly have been an antidote to mal de mer.

- Nowadays it is unusual to see a table in a pub, but at the turn of the Century the game was a serious rival to billiards in London public houses.

- In 1902 some MPs tried to introduce table tennis to the House of Commons, but the Sergeant-at-Arms set his face against such frivolity, "It is the first I have heard of it and it is likely to be the last." But a more recent request to Sir



"Members of the House of Commons who, it was stated in one of this morning's papers, are sanguine in their hopes that ping pong will be introduced into the Palace of Westminster, must prepare themselves to be completely disappointed in their expectations."

The Sergeant-at-Arms has evidently set his face against such frivolity. "It is the first I have heard of it," he said to a representative of The Evening News, referring to the statement, "and it is likely to be the last."

The members, he said, are allowed to play chess for 'relaxation', and his tone implied "What more can they want?" Doubtless, ping pong on the terrace would add fresh attractions in the summer to that favourite social function of tea on the terrace, but there does not seem the slightest ground for hope on the part of ping pong enthusiast M.P.'s, since the idea apparently struck the Sergeant as nothing short of revolutionary.

Chess, draughts and smoking are at present the sole games and recreations to which wearied legislators can resort."



100 YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS

Geoffrey Howe gained a warmer response.

- Table tennis was immensely popular in the early days, and even a minor tournament could attract 1500 spectators.

- 90 years ago a Mr. Barnett and Mr. Iloch of Brighton played a £50 challenge in a cage of 11 lions. Mr. Barnett won but, it was reported, "the lions showed little interest."

- Service was direct over the net for a time, and volleying was seriously considered but never allowed by the Laws.

- Members of the Anglesey Ping-Pong Club sported a blazer of turquoise blue cloth, bound and lined with white silk, with white silk buttons and a pocket decorated with rackets and balls surmounted by a coronet with the letters A.P.P.C.

- A ping-pong expert bet a Pittsburg millionaire (who had never played before) that he could not return even one of 27 services and duly collected his £5000 prize.

- At least twenty pieces of ping-pong music were published (mostly in USA) during the Edwardian era.

- A competition for ping-pong poets in USA attracted 1000 entries, eighty of which were published in a book.

- In the Oxford Open Championships, 1902, two "stonewallers" took two hours over a game and one rally needed 715 strokes. It was soon suggested that the server should lose the point if not won in 10 strokes.

- 90 years ago the Amadian Club, Cheapside, offered "ten full-size tables from 3pm, all day on Saturdays."

- Around 1900, the British Xylonite Company produced over six tons of balls per week. At a much later date, a certain Miss Margaret Roberts was employed by the company as a research chemist.

- A Manchester Doubles, a variant, was played on two tables placed together and allowed either player to take the ball (as in tennis). Paradise Tennis was a singles game played - with shortened tennis rackets - on a huge table.

- During the recent Gulf War, US medics improvised tables by placing a plywood sheet on a gurney, a wheeled stretcher.

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 3 star balls.

All entries must be received by 15th October 1991, 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.

Last month's winners - see page 38

ENGLISH OPEN

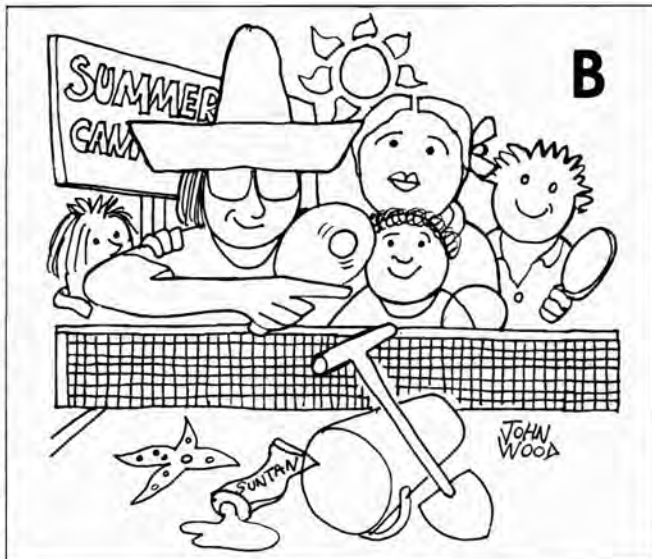
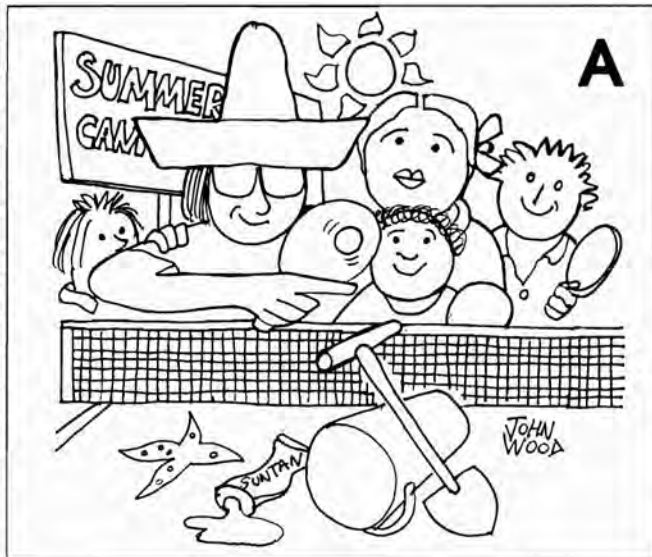


Russia's Andrei Maznov, who was one of the many stars at the 1990 English Open in Manchester

SEE ALL THE STARS
AT THE

ENGLISH OPEN
National Indoor Arena
BIRMINGHAM

9/10/11/12th January 1992



Name : _____

Address : _____

Female specialists

WHEN they lost their jobs Marie Fagan and Lesley Popkiewicz refused to become just another statistic on the ever increasing list of unemployed. Instead when Playrite went out of business they joined forces to create the only all female table tennis specialists in the country.

"We had made a lot of contacts and felt we had a lot to offer," said Marie.

They immediately rented premises in Wandsworth, named themselves the Bat Workshop, sent out thousands of leaflets and mailorder shots and didn't have to wait long to realise their efforts had been worthwhile.

So keen were the girls to make a success of it they took a trip to Germany where table tennis is big business and picked up plenty of inside information.

"Anyone can come along to our showroom and see for themselves exactly what we have to offer." When TTN spoke to them they had already had 15 customers in the first hour. Can't be bad.

They are particularly proud of their Road Show where they go along to local clubs to give players a chance to use bats and rubbers in playing conditions. It's a move that is paying off.

"At the moment we have to restrict ourselves to clubs within a short distance of London. But in time we hope to go further afield."



Lion roars in Cairo!

OUR man from Lion Sports certainly gets about. Alan Hydes ex-Yorkshire and England, has just returned from Cairo where he gave a coaching course to 30 local coaches.

It was Alan's fourth visit to Egypt and unlikely to be his last. He has already taken courses in the West Indies, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Certainly beats Lilleshall.

Our picture shows Alan with (left) Amin Abdou Heif, President of the 'African Federation and his brother Hey Abdel Heif, a qualified umpire.

Exhibition of Sport and Leisure

WHEN it comes to showing off, table tennis suppliers are not behind the door. At EXSL (Exhibition of Sport & Leisure) the biggest exhibition of its kind in the country, I noticed several of the exhibitors included table tennis suppliers.

Not all included new items but among those who did were RANSOME SPORTING GOODS who were showing the Butterfly Space Saver Premium Rollaway Table which enjoys all the benefits of the unique fold and wheelaway system. Also new was the Alan Cooke blade endorsed by the twice English and Commonwealth champion.

LION SPORTS took the opportunity to announce a four year contract agreement with the ETTA. The Lion Tournament 3 Star will be the official ball at the 1991 and 1993 English National Championships and the 1994 English Open.

CORNILLEAU was showing its outdoor rollaway table in a unique situation. Beneath a constant flow of water, its ability to withstand the toughest weather caused quite a bit of interest.

Finally a new name to the sport LOCUS AND CLASSICO had quite a range of equipment on view including table tennis sets and balls aimed mainly at the leisure end of the market.

Table cover

RANSOME Sporting Goods, sole UK distributors for Butterfly have launched a table tennis cover which is designed to protect and extend the life of the table. The cover is available in 3 sizes - small which is suitable for the Europa, Centre 22mm, Championship and Competition models, medium which is designed for the Space Saver and Centrefold Rollaway tables and large to fit the Playback Rollaway, Nippon Rollaway and Outdoor Rollaway Models.

The covers, as illustrated, (right), are designed to cover the table in the closed storage position and is not suitable for use with tables that stay in a permanent playing position.

The cover will retail at £29.99 and is available from specialist retail shops throughout the country and also the Mail Order table tennis specialists.



Andrea Holt renews contract

BUTTERFLY and Schildkrot distributors, Ransome Sporting Goods Group, have renewed their contract for bats, balls, clothing, tables and shoes with the new England No.1 Andrea Holt (pictured below).

Andrea became No.1 when the ranking list for the new season was issued at the beginning of August.

She has just completed her most successful season so far which included winning the English National Championship in March and a victory over the current European champion Daniella Guergueltcheva in the recent World Championships in Japan.

For the record Andrea uses a Butterfly Firehand St. blade with Tackiness D and Long Feint rubbers. She also wears Butterfly Salvo shoes.

Halex takeover Trutoys

M.Y. SPORTS and Games who sponsor our under 10, 11 and 12 championships as well as the ranking lists under the brand name of Halex, have moved into the takeover business.

The Birmingham based company have acquired the business of Trutoys Ltd. and will now be able to add that firms entire range of skates, skateboards and scooters to their mail order business.



The Joola Brochure

GERMAN table tennis supplier Joola have come up with their new brochure for the 1991/92 season and it clearly shows their commitment to our sport. It is full of the very latest equipment from bats to blades to clothing and tables, plus a lot more besides.

It's 51 pages of full colour includes pictures of several world class players who helped develop the

Joola name to its present standing in world table tennis.

New products include top of the line rubber Telum as well as competition blade Fetzner Carat and a wide range of glues such as Rotor, Pronto and Zoom.

Fashionable track suits also fill the pages with Scala and Equipe leading the way. Trendy shirts and shorts are a highlight as well as their Graphik collection mainly for leisure pursuits.

In addition they announce their Joola net and post set which will be used at the European Championships next year.

WHAT'S ON

JAPANESE TOUR ENGLAND v JAPAN

Men and Women

Friday 18th October

Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes

Saturday 19th October

Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds

JOOLA EUROPEAN MEN'S LEAGUE ENGLAND v AUSTRIA

Friday 8th November

Northgate Sports Centre, Ipswich

If you require entry forms for any of the following National Championships please tick the relevant box and send it to the English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.



Tick Relevant box (es)

English Junior National Championships
14th/15th December 1991

English Open Championships
9th-12th January 1992

English Senior National Championships
7th/8th March 1992

Halex English U18/21 National Championships
3rd/4th May 1992

Halex English U11 National Championships
10th May 1992

English Junior Open Championships
23/24/25th May 1992

Halex U10/12 National Championships
13th/14th June 1992

Sponge drove her out!

Watching the Tennis from early on rain stricken Wimbledon only a short while ago, one could only be impressed by the sheer speed of today's game in contrast to the play of yesteryear.

As from time to time the rain almost became the main topic of conversation, I sat enthralled at a black and white film of some 25 years ago - when Manuel Santana of Spain beat Denis Rawlston of the USA, the commentator remarked about the speed of the match by both players in this Wimbledon Final, the players were of course using Wooden Racquets and of course in comparison with modern play (graphite) seemed extremely slow.

Well recalling those days of old, I began to draw up comparisons with Table Tennis i.e. the pre-sponge days and how like Tennis - our sport has speeded up.

And then Ann Jones (the former Miss Haydon) came on the box talking to Desmond Lynham, she admitted during this rainy spell that it was sponge that drove her out of table tennis, OR rather the fact that at the time it was banned in England but apparently not elsewhere, and that readers is why Ann turned to Tennis and won the Ladies Singles.

Finally, I well recall somewhere around that period of time, a young Press Officer openly writing in the local press that - the best place for sponge was in the bathroom.

*Alf Pepper
Gloucestershire*

Delighted

JOHN PREAN and I are both delighted. I read that in his retirement he will NOT be reading my words, which seems unfortunate as with his son our No.1 player, there maybe a lot to read.

I am equally delighted that I hopefully, will NOT have to read the hundreds of thousands of words that have been forced down readers throats for so many years in this magazine from his typewriter.

Responding to his two taunts in the last issue! The speed at which professional journalists have to file copy, often leaves little time to check facts, occasionally chances have to be taken, a fact often overlooked by amateur writers who have more time to check their output.

I had nothing to do with "John Woodford in Nairobi", that was the invention of a sub-editor who just assumed I was there in person.

For the sake of this magazine, I hope this correspondence will now be terminated but I fear the Editor will be receiving further replies from the Isle of Wight, because no one in the sport has ever been allowed the final word in any discourse with the ex-chairman.

*John Woodford
Eastbourne*

I feel that this war of words between John Prean and John Woodford has gone on for long enough. So therefore, on behalf of the magazine and the sanity of the readers, this is the last letter that will be published on this particular subject. - Editor

Support the Treasurer

At the ETTA Annual General Meeting, the treasurer Peter Hillier received a cry of protest when he suggested that annual expenditure should not exceed annual income.

The policies of the past four year (which have produced a healthy financial surplus) have received greater criticism than the policies which brought the ETTA to the brink of financial disaster.

It was predicted that the 'Prean era' would lose the sport workers. However the workers were encouraged, and we lost the petty cash collectors that John Prean despised.

The 'Ransome era' has already lost more genuine workers than the entire 'Prean era' (even on the Management Committee), and the petty cash collectors have returned on the basis of the new chairman's election manifesto.

I trust that Peter Hillier will not heed the cries of the petty cash merchants; maintain his principles; and continue to administer the financial affairs of the Association in the same manner which has created the sound financial base of the ETTA during the first four years of this admirable treasurership.

*J. Williams
Allestree, Derby*

Faithful Canadian readers

On behalf of all Canadian Table Tennis members, I would like to congratulate you on the 200th edition of Table Tennis News. We read your magazine regularly and find it extremely interesting. I would also like to point out that you have an excellent Referee in Mr. Stuart Sherlock (page 35- No. 200) of whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Chiba. Please relay my sincere good wishes to him.

As for the future of your magazine, I hope to be faithfully reading the next 200 issues.

*Adham Sharara
Director General
Canadian Table Tennis Association*

Lack of funds

Having only become treasurer for Norfolk a year ago, may I ask how other Counties manage the financial administration of their county teams.

We have had to withdraw our third veterans team, due to lack of funds. I am trying for sponsorship, have run one jumble sale, another is planned for September 21st, made some money on shares (this was frowned upon by some people). Another saving is most Norfolk teams are sharing the cost of refreshments for the visiting teams. Do other counties ask their players to contribute towards running costs? Travelling is becoming more and more expensive with the long distances we have to travel from Norfolk to away matches. Any legal suggestions for fund raising?

*Ruth Hogg
Drayton, Norwich*

ETTA DEVELOPMENT FUND



Thank you for the League Development Fund application form, this is now being dealt with the we hope to organise something late September early November.

I am enclosing a cutting from the local press relating to the presentation of Dunlop Awards, also enclosed are two original photographs, the first one is as per the newspaper cutting and the second one shows coach Steve Porter assisting Sean England, perhaps you may be able to get us some coverage in Table Tennis News.

*Roy Pacey, Coaching Officer,
Amber Valley Table Tennis Association*

Disappointed and Angry

I would like to refer to the recent International match between England and Italy. After travelling all the way to Milton Keynes from Kent, with three of my family, we were treated to the grand total of four matches. You can imagine the disappointment and anger felt at this unexpected turn of events.

We find out later that the new European League rule is that a match ends when a team reaches four wins. I can only assume that the other European Countries have much more foregiving supporters than we have, to introduce such a ridiculous rule. I keep reading in the table tennis press that more effort is required to get people interest in the game, and that the administrators of the game are working tirelessly to promote the game Well you could have fooled me. If this is to be the format for this season's European games, then why wasn't an exhibition match arranged

for the Milton Keynes venue. After all the organisers of the game must have known the situation, especially as Italy sent a second string team and were likely to loose four nil. After this fiasco I will certainly not be taking my family to any more Internationals.

J.P. East

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.

Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

THE four previous seasons of the Southern League have always shown increased membership - could League Secretary Graham Trimming do it again? YES was the answer when his, as usual, very efficient bundle of paperwork dropped through the letterbox. Mens Premier, Mens First and Ladies Leagues all now have 7 teams each against last season 6, allround shows an increase of 16% Second team entries from OLOP, Burnham & KCD together with the demise

of Pyestock are the mens changes whilst Amity Generation return to the ladies league where newcomers Ash (Ash Vale, Aldershot) take the place of Kingfisher. Derek Langley (Newbury) has been appointed Regional coaching chairman while founder chairman Ray Yates (holidaying in Cannes as I write this in celebration of his appointment as an ETTA Vice President - Congratulations Ray) continues in charge of development.



SUNDERLAND, winners of Division 1 of the Men's Northern Regional League, N. Herrington and S. Riggins, who are pictured with Aubrey Drapkin (Centre)

Eastern Region

by John F.A. Wood

EASTERN Region junior trials were held on the 14/15th September at St. Neots Table Tennis Centre.

The Junior Girls event was played through to the finals stage. Whilst the Junior Boys, and Cadet Girls and Boys were preliminary heats, with the finals being held on the 9/10th November.

The three qualifiers for the Junior Girls National finals, to be held in December, were Caron Harber and Talya Greenberg from Hertfordshire, and Shelley Leak from Cambridgeshire.

Qualifiers for the final rounds at Regional level are the following: JUNIOR BOYS - Craig Millwood (He), Paul Davidson (Sk), Richard Owen (Hu), Tim O'Leary (He), Gary Hewitt (Nk),

Justin Skinner (He), Lee Balaam (Sk) and Darren Humber (He). CADET GIRLS - Claire Lowe, Sarah Davidson and Rebecca Sparkes from Suffolk, Lindsay Chaplin and Kelly Thompson from Norfolk, Martine Whitaker (Bd), Kirsty Pryke (Hu) and Marie Masters (He). CADET BOYS - Leighton Chipperfield, Wayne Robinson and Justin Rolfe of Norfolk, Kevin Holton and Adam Champion of Huntingdonshire, Robin Harban (Sk), Josh Lury and John O'Leary of Hertfordshire.

Trials were organised by Regional Coach Paul Tarrant, who was assisted over the trials weekend by Chairman of Eastern Region Coaching Panel Ken Marchant, Regional Coach Robin Harding and Suffolk County Coach Paul Hutchinson.

Northern Region

Women's League



SUNDERLAND, winners of Division 1 of the Newbould's Women and Girls Northern Regional League, Lynne Bainbridge and Lynne Yamell

Northern Region Men's League



ORMESBY COLTS, winners of Division 2 of the Men's Northern Regional League. Aubrey Drapkin (centre), the sponsor and referee, is pictured with Barry Pearson and John Lawton



NORTH SHIELDS YMCA, winners of Division 2 of the Newboulds Women and Girls Northern Regional League, Joanne Donnelly and Diane Cartmell

Doubtful services!

THIS new column by Fred Groom and Jack Randall continues with extra rule changes and a very interesting profile of one of the co-authors, Fred Groom - Editor

Rule Changes for 1991 (cont.)

At the copy date for the last issue not all the information was to hand. Further changes of direct interest to umpires are:-

Warning

On the first occasion in a match on which he is doubtful of the legality of a player's service, the umpire may warn the player without awarding a point. Previously, if an assistant umpire was present no warning could be given before calling a fault. Note that the umpire still may warn only for doubtful services, and services which are obviously illegal should be faulted immediately.

Clothing

There is now a regulation governing the size of advertisements on umpire's clothing!

Handbook

The Handbook for Match Officials, the fifth edition of which will shortly be published, is recognised as a reference for the explanation and interpretation of laws and regulations.

The National Umpires & Referees Committee (NURC)

The NURC is the ETTA's committee for qualifying and looking after the interests of umpires and referees. The members of the main committee are:-

R.C. Scruton (Chairman); C.J. Clemett (Secretary); L.A. Chatwin; F.J. Groom; T.S. Openshaw; Mrs. K.A. Tonge.

and of the specialist panels:-

Umpire Qualification: R.C. Scruton; J.S. Randall; S.E. Sherlock

Umpire Review: R.C. Scruton; L.A. Chatwin; F.J. Groom

Umpire Selection: L.A. Chatwin, T. Carpenter; B. Foggin; Mrs. D.M. Stannard

Referee Qualification: T.S. Openshaw, J. Jermyn; D.A. Young

Volley

In the recent mens final at the Sussex Open we saw a player turn his back to the table when his opponent mishit the ball which sailed high into the air well beyond the table. Unfortunately the ball, on descending, struck the player's racket which was hanging by his



Umpire's Corner's co-author Jack Randall

UMPIRE'S LIST

VETTS SOUTHERN MASTERS 5/6 October - Basingstoke
D. Perry, D.J. Miller, Miss D. Moors, T. Darroch, T. Carpenter, D. Edwards, * * Openshaw, G. Sopp

VETTS WESTERN MASTERS 2/3 November - Swindon
D. Perry, D.J. Miller, Mrs. A.P. Archdale, Mrs. G. Smith, K.A. Armson, A. Seward, B. Gibbs, H. Willis

HUNGARIAN OPEN 14/17 November - Miskole
W.F. Lavis (Leader), G. Taylor, E.A. Pentland (Reserve)

SWEDISH OPEN 28 November/1 December - Sundsvall
M. Strode (Leader), H. Willis, D.A. Poultney (Reserve)

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND 30 November/1 December - St. Neots
A. Harwood, T. Vance, G.G. Hammond, D. Edwards, J. Melnick, E. Emecz, J. Pringle, G. Parkes

ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL 14/15 December - Stourbridge
Mrs. E.J. Wilson, D. Perry, D.A. Poultney, J. Jermyn, Mrs. D. Jermyn, D. Sherratt, Mrs. H. Masters, G.G. Hammond, F. Groom, W.F. Lavis, b. Watkins, B. Foggin, M.J. Payne, G. Taylor, J. Melnick, W. Moran, J. Evans, R. Douglas, D.A. Young, D. Roden

ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL OPEN 9/12 January - Birmingham
Mrs. A.P. Archdale, B. Watkins, D. Edwards, K.A. Armson, A. Seward, G.G. Hammond, Mrs. H. Masters, F. Groom, W.F. Lavis, B. Lamerton, B. Foggin, M.J. Payne, T. Carpenter, J. Melnick, W. Moran, G. Tyler, C. Hyland, M. Strode, H. Willis, S. Sherlock, P. Williams, G. Parkes

ENGLISH OPEN U21/VETERANS 10/12 January - Birmingham
Mrs. A.P. Archdale, B. Watkins, D. Edwards, K.A. Armson, A. Seward, W. Spencer, R. Douglas, P. Gower, Mrs. S. Gower, R. Vardon, J. Randall, D. Calver, D. Roden, D.J. Miller

SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND 25/26 January - St. Neots
J. Randall, J. Melnick, D. Edwards, G.G. Hammond, A. Harwood, J. Jermyn, Mrs. D. Mermyn, E. A. Pentland

side. The umpire had no option but to award a point against the player because of the volley which is defined in law 3.5.7, as striking the ball in play when it has not touched his court since last being struck by his opponent.

Somehow this seems unreasonable. Recently introduced was the idea of obstruction whereby a player loses the point if he touches the ball in play when it has not passed over the playing surface or his end line, not having touched his court since last being struck by his opponent.

This leaves the way open to abolish the volley law while still retaining a penalty for stopping a ball which might have landed on the table. This has the added advantage of a simplification of the laws and enables players to prevent some balls from going out of court and disappearing under the seating. Any views?

Jack Randall

40 years ago Jack Randall realised that the best way of meeting the people was to become an umpire (an official qualification which had recently been introduced). Since then, as an International Umpire, he has flown the English flag at World Championships here and abroad, and numerous Open Championships including Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Poland as well as, of course, in the U.K.

After finishing his national service in the Royal Navy he qualified as a physicist at London

University. A job in the Royal Naval Scientific Service took him to Hazlemere, then Portsmouth for several years. While there he was for a time secretary of the Hampshire TTA and qualified as one of the first coaches in the scheme run by Jack Carrington. His club in Portsmouth at one time furnished the entire Hampshire team before the rise of the coaching centres in Southampton etc.

Transferring from his secret work to the Department of Health in London, he was concerned with cardiac pacemakers which took him to numerous conferences and symposia in Japan, USA and Italy etc.

These journeys together with umpiring trips and holidays make him a well travelled man! However, now being retired and over the age limit for overseas international umpiring, the number of journeys will be much reduced.

Besides serving on a number of committees, his interests have included choral singing, bridge, recorded music and snooker. He is a qualified snooker referee and has written articles on refereeing in the London Association's magazine. A member of Mensa, the day has not properly started for him until the daily crossword has been polished off.

He has, in spite of having to be firm with players in his umpiring, been heard to remark that on the whole the TT crowd are a pretty nice bunch!

The St. Neots dream

THE St. Neots Table Tennis Club was founded in the 1946/47 season, and by 1973 they were bursting at the seams in their old premises, with two tables squeezed into the St. Neots Bowling Club building, where they were only allowed to use the premises in the winter.

So a band of enterprising men decided to solve their problem, and promote table tennis in their area. They needed much bigger premises, preferably their own, so that they could take in juniors and start their coaching plan.

In 1973 work commenced on the St. Neots dream, armed with a grant of £6,500 from the Sports Council, £6000 from the local council, and a lot of willing hands.

With the estimated cost of £22,000, they were still £9,500 short of their target.

Over the next three years they raised the necessary money to complete the project, by running colour



Cliff Olver (left) the ex-President of St. Neots Tables Tennis Club, and Len Saywell the Booking Officer, are pictured in front of the St. Neots Centre

T.V. raffles, jumble sales, car treasure hunts and other general fund raising schemes.

The reason that the

centre was built so cheaply was because the members practically built the building themselves. They dug the foundations, laid 9" concrete bed, did the electrics, laid the joists of the floor, and bought all the materials themselves, but they had to occasionally employ professional help, to lay the bricks and floorboards.

One of the table tennis club members was a local farmer, and had experience of the type of building they used, which has a Huntingdon steel structure.

Doing as much of the work that was humanly possible, they saved themselves £1000's.

In 1976 the new magnificent table tennis centre opened with Barna tables bought at a special price.

During their three year project they received support from ETTA, and Ken Marchant was always there

in the background lending a helping hand.

In 1976 they start with 8 sets of Halogen lights, but they improved on this during the 1984/85 season.

Cloakroom, kitchen and canteen areas were added in 1978.

St. Neots is a thriving table tennis centre with a British League team in the Premier Division, sponsored by Confederation Life, having won Division 1 North, last season.

They host country matches, Eastern Regional Coaching, have eight teams in the Bedfordshire League, eleven teams in St. Neots League, they also are the venue for St. Neots invitation leagues for Juniors, seniors and Veterans, plus they also stage disabled tournaments.

Although the building only cost £22,000 to build, today it is insured to the value of £200,000.



Eastern Region Coaching Chairman Ken Marchant is pictured coaching Hertfordshire's Sarah Seaholme, at a recent Eastern Region coaching session, at the St. Neots Centre



Tim Gautrea (Canadian TTA) and members of the Ranking Panel who met in Preston to discuss the full details of the scheme. From left to right: Tim Gautrea, Geoff Twiss, Stuart Sherlock, Diccon Gray and Don Parker

Are you rated?

by Diccon Gray
National Development Officer

Considerable co-operation and goodwill from the Canadian Table Tennis Association enabled their Programme Co-Ordinator, Tim Gautrea, to visit England for one week to advise, teach and assist with the implementation of the scheme.

It is hoped to be sufficiently effective to enable ranking list and ratings to appear mid-October 1991.

The Scheme mechanics will now appear in the November edition of Table Tennis News. There will be enhancements and slight amendments to last season, the most significant of which will be the inclusion of loses.

The major change however is the concept of a Rating (i.e. number of points) being equivalent to a level of

play or particular standard. (Age and sex being irrelevant).

Weightings will be reduced from 0.5 to 3.0, but will be relative to last season.

The ETTA is endeavouring to produce a very accurate and effective ranking scheme and appreciates the patience shown by members in these initial stages.

DUE to the difficulties evident in modifying last season's computer ranking scheme programme in order to have the new scheme fully operational for season 1991/92, the ETTA Management Committee decided at their meeting on Sunday 1st September 1991 to adopt the proven Canadian scheme.

PRIZE WINNERS

Below please find the winners of the Spot the Difference competition:

- 1st - Mrs. B.I. Thomas
Bennells Avenue,
Whitstable, Kent. CT5 2HR
- 2nd - Mr. T. Hayman
Sylvia Avenue, Brentwood,
Essex.
- 3rd - Mrs. J. Brown
10 Shakespeare Road,
Eynsham, Witney, Oxon

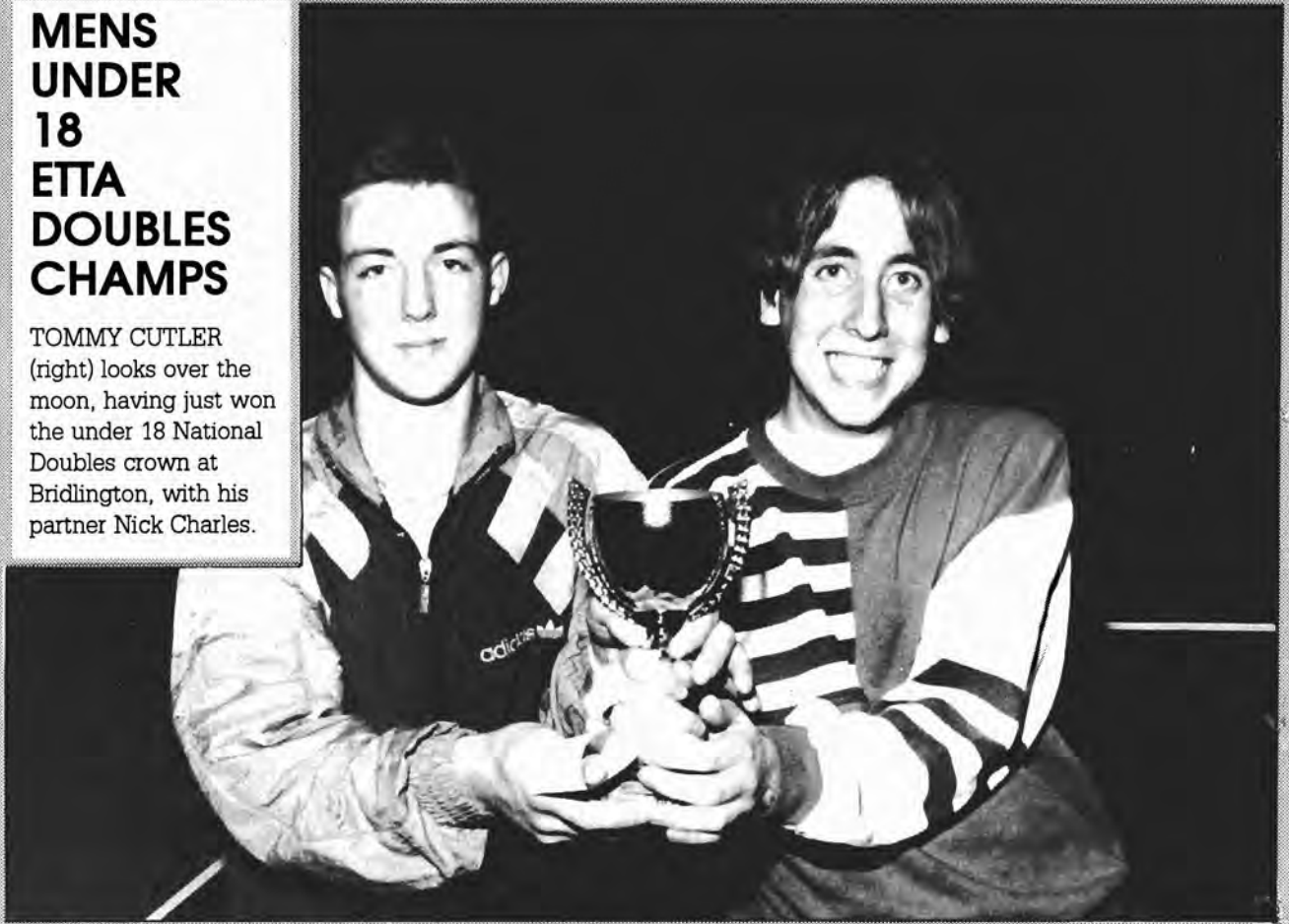
The winner and only entrant of the Mystery Player competition was:
Mr. G.T. Scruton, Manor Drive,
Knaresborough, North Yorks.



Heather Masters and Peter Roden relax during the umpiring duties

**MENS
UNDER
18
ETTA
DOUBLES
CHAMPS**

TOMMY CUTLER (right) looks over the moon, having just won the under 18 National Doubles crown at Bridlington, with his partner Nick Charles.



NORTHGATE ARENA SENIOR CITIZENS



NASC (Northgate Arena Senior Citizens) table tennis group were formed in August 1989, and play in the third division of the Chester and District Table Tennis League. Pictured (left to right) are Walter Dodd, Derek Lowndes, Peter Powell the Hon. Sec., Eugene Millen, Harold Hurlle and Richard Allen