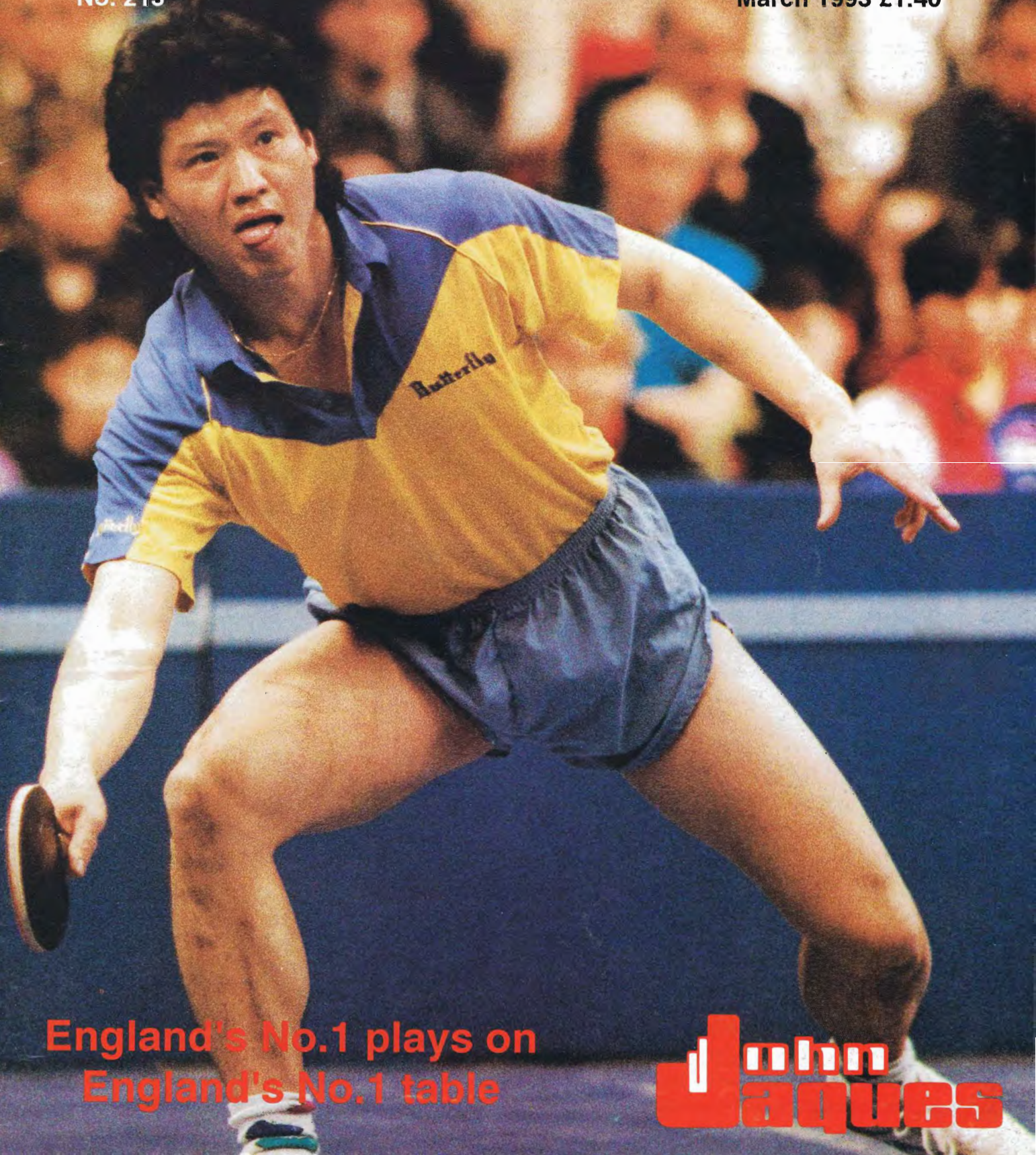




# *Table Tennis News*

No. 213

March 1993 £1.40



England's No.1 plays on  
England's No.1 table

**John  
Jaques**

# BILL VINT - A man of vision

## ETTA

Hon Treasurer 1931-1958  
 Hon Secretary 1950-1956  
 Chairman 1958-1962  
 Hon Life Member 1961  
 President 1970-1973  
 Hon Life Vice-President 1985

## ITTF

Hon Treasurer 1947-1969  
 Hon Secretary 1967-1977  
 Personal HonMember 1977  
 Life Council Consultant 1977  
 First Merit Award for  
 Services to Table Tennis 1988

*(and President, Founder, Chairman, Hon Secretary or Hon Treasurer of thirteen other local, regional or national table tennis organisations at various periods from 1926)*

## **BILL VINT**

**born 7th October 1906  
 died 7th January 1993**



*Top picture: Bill Vint received the 'Order of 1066' in 1973, for being an outstanding citizen of Hastings. Middle picture: Bill Vint receives the first ITTF Merit Award from ITTF President Mr. Ichiro Ogimura in Dortmund 1989. Bottom picture: Bill Vint is photographed in Gothenburg in 1985 with Mrs. Diane Scholer.*



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 Association

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*Front cover: Chen Xinhua the  
 defending English National Mens  
 Singles Champion (Picture by  
 John F.A. Wood)*

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*Desmond Douglas and Lisa Lomas are this month's choice for  
 winning their respective singles at the Cleveland 5 Star*

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**Report on the Uncle Ben's  
 National Championships**

The ETTA would like  
 to thank the following  
 companies for the  
 support they give to  
 English table tennis:



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(Copy date 1st February)

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**MAY/JUNE**

1st June 1993

(Copy date 30th April)

## Record breakers!

LISA LOMAS and sister Jackie Bellinger have broke their own world record table tennis speed-hitting record.

The Luton girls set a record of 168 shots in 60 seconds four years ago but on Sunday 7th February 1993 they bettered it with 173.

The new total came at the Ipswich Sport 2000 play day at the town's Northgate Centre.

Jackie said, "Neither Lisa or I could believe it. The conditions were perfect but neither of us were expecting to set a new record. We only did it for a bit of fun, but it feels great."

Records continue to tumble in the Lomas family, with Lisa's goalkeeper husband Andy breaking a British record for penalty saves.

Andy's eight consecutive penalty saves for Diadora Premier Division side Chesham, have been confirmed as a British record, and possibly a world record.

## Friday and Bloor win

SCOTT FRIDAY retained his Under 11 Boys Singles crown at



Lisa Lomas and Jackie Bellinger

the English National Championships held at the South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Grantham, on Saturday 13th February 1993.

The new Girls Singles champion is Trudie Bloor, who repeated the success of one year earlier when she won the Under 10 title.

## South of England cancelled

THE South of England 3 Star, scheduled to be staged on the 13/14th March, has been cancelled due to lack of entries.

Disappointed Organiser Terry Vance said, "I just don't understand it! The main reason appears to be dislike of the Ranking System, plus, to a lesser degree, a mixture of the recession and fixture congestion."

## EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

55

WEEKS TO GO



## BEAT THE BUDGET

VAT MAYBE INTRODUCED ON PUBLICATIONS IN MARCH



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# League visits underway

IN addition to the glue debate which dominated my report last month, a second, very important, item was discussed at the January National Council meeting and that was the Development Department's document setting out the proposed agenda and items for discussion for the ETTA League visits.

It is clear that the success of the table tennis Focus Sport development programme, is dependent on the leagues and clubs at local level taking advantage of the range of initiatives and incentives that are being made available by the Sports Council, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the ETTA and other supporting organisations.

The most practical and effective way of informing our members is to offer all 285 local leagues throughout the country the opportunity to call a meeting of their main committee, and if they wish, including representatives of their clubs, to receive a presentation from representatives of the ETTA to have the incentives explained, their questions answered and any ideas from league members discussed.

Already 18 of these league meetings have taken place: South West Sussex; Crewe; Dudley; Malvern; North Middlesex; Shrewsbury; Hyndburn; Bromley; Milton Keynes; Clacton; South Devon/Torbay; Chelmsford; Worcester; Wisbech; Chester; West Middlesex; Potteries and Stowmarket.

The reports back from our representatives so far is that the meetings have been very useful and that they have helped the local league, clubs and members to progress their own ideas. It is with these ideas that the expansion of table tennis via participation programmes and the provision of extra facilities will take place.

## Foundation Grants

Table tennis has been successful in being awarded further grants from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The largest grants this time go to our National Club Champions NFD Grove for improvement in their club facilities, including lighting and to the Haywards Heath League for their development programme. Both grants are to the value of approximately £8,000. Another significant grant was awarded to the Hayfield School in Sussex to the value of £2,000. All three applications were



Alan Ransome

supported and endorsed by the ETTA.

It is taking anything up to 12 months for applications to be awarded by the Foundation for Sport and the Arts so member organisations who have applied recently need to be patient. Some applications have been rejected this time but another £40m is available for the financial year 1993/4 and members who have not been successful should reapply, especially if their application is facility/equipment related. For grants of less than £1,500, the Chairman of the Foundation, Tim Rice, can give his approval without reference to the Trustees.

## Sportsmatch

Another initiative in which funding is available now is the Sportsmatch programme. This is a scheme that the government, via the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, has launched. It matches projects on a £ for £ basis. The project must have attracted new commercial sponsorship of at least £1,000 to be eligible. The maximum grant is £75,000.

Further information regarding these schemes can be obtained from Diccon Gray at the ETTA office.

## Sports Council Grants

On 3rd February 1993 the ETTA, represented by Elaine Shaw, Donald Parker, Diccon Gray and myself presented to the Sports Council Grants Assessment Panel our plan for the next four years upon which the Sports Council will decide the level of grant aid to the Association for the period 1993 to 1997.

The main thrust of the application was to obtain additional funding for:

- a) To improve the Association's information service which covers the Focus Sport Development Programme and our press and publicity service.
- b) To increase the opportunities for improvement for our Junior and Cadet players.
- c) For additional support in Hastings to cater for the enormous extra work and enquiries that have been generated by the Focus Sport Development Programme.

Our presentation was well received by the Sports Council Panel. The progress and effort that has been made with our development programme by both our volunteers and professional staff is both appreciated and highly regarded by the Sports Council and I am optimistic that our total grant this time will be increased. Overall the Sports Council have little or no extra funds so that if table tennis does benefit from this grant round, unfortunately it may be at the expense of another sport.

## The Uncle Ben's English National Championships

On the 6th/7th March 1993 the Uncle Ben's English National Championships will take place at the Lynnsport and Leisure Park at Kings Lynn, sponsored by Master Foods. The battle for both the men's and women's singles looks very interesting. In the men's event the draw has been kindest to Carl Preen with Chen Xinhua, Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke all in the opposite half. The match between former Champions Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke looks to be the most interesting of the quarter finals.

On paper, looking at the results of the last year, Lisa Lomas must be the favourite for the Women's singles. However, current champion Alison Gordon and former champions Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt have all performed very well in the past and the outcome is far from certain. It will also be interesting to see how the youngsters Katie Goodall, Sally Marling, Linda Radford and Nicola Deaton perform against the top seeds.

Most of the best matches (the quarter finals of the singles onwards) will be played on Sunday 7th March on the show

courts at Kings Lynn from 9.30am. The finals are due to start at 5.00pm.

### The Glue Situation

The National Council's decision to ban the use of fast glues at its January meeting has met with general approval throughout the country. The decision has removed the serious health risk from our sport in this country and has retained the credibility of table tennis as a healthy and athletic activity.

Abroad the situation is not so clear. The ITTF have approved the use, up to 31st August 1993, of several glues, most of which are fast, but do not contain the most harmful substances. Nevertheless they do have some harmful substances such as hexane. It is the aim of the ITTF to remove all

glues that have harmful substances in due course. At a Press Conference that I attended at the European Top 12 in Copenhagen, ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura said that the ITTF hoped to have in time for use at the Gothenburg World Championships, a detection device that would give the referee the ability to detect a bat whose glue contained a banned substance so that when a player used a bat with the non-approved, most harmful substances, they could be disqualified. If no such device becomes available, then the ITTF's most likely course of action would be to ban all fast glues for the World Championships. President Ogimura promised to announce a decision at least two months before Gothenburg to give the players ad-

equated time to prepare.

Asked by Richard Eaton of the Times for his opinion on the ETTA's glue ban, Mr. Ogimura said that it was both positive and helpful.

### Officer Elections

It was announced by the Association's Returning Officer that our Treasurer Peter Hillier and myself have been re-elected, unopposed, this time for a two year period of office. The policies and programmes that we have followed over the last 18 months have created good opportunities for the sport. The next two years is the time to take full advantage of these opportunities. I would like to thank those counties and leagues who submitted nominations and for their confidence in the current management team.

# The Ranking Scheme

*An introduction by Geoff Twiss  
Member of Ranking Panel*

## PART FOUR CONCLUSION

PRESS deadlines have ensured that I must write this article before the last one has appeared in print, which hardly gives readers a fair chance to send in queries and comments! I propose to leave the feedback article until a later issue, and just add a short note about the administration of the Ranking Scheme to conclude this series.

The Ranking Scheme is controlled by a Ranking Committee which meets as required, normally annually. This group decides matters of general policy, leaving a smaller Ranking Panel to administer the scheme on its behalf. The composition of the two groups is detailed in the ETTA Address Directory, but is reproduced here for completeness.

**Ranking Committee:** S.E. Sherlock (Chairman), L.A. Chatwin, P. Day, A.E. Ransome, S.J. Sneyd, G.M.G. Twiss, \*D. Parker, \*Mrs. D.M. Nightingale (Secretary).

**Ranking Panel:** S.E. Sherlock (Chairman), G.M.G. Twiss, \*D. Parker, \*Mrs. D.M. Nightingale (Secretary). (Names with an asterisk signify members without vote).

Data entry in Hastings is under the control of Doreen Nightingale who also produces the Ranking Lists that now accompany Table Tennis News. All the questions, queries and complaints are directed in the first instance to her, but may be referred on to the Ranking Panel if there is no easy answer. We actually WELCOME your queries because the investigations that follow often help to throw light on new aspects of the program.

Two examples will indicate the differing role of the two committees. In both cases the decisions that were taken followed representations from players, parents and coaches.

1. At the end of last season the Ranking Committee decided to widen the scope of the Ranking Scheme to allow Class and Restricted Events to be included, and also to reduce the weighting for losses. These were clearly policy decisions and set the framework for the season ahead.

2. Several months later it transpired that the lower weighting for losses had allowed some of our top players' ratings to rise unrealistically in comparison to overseas players (whose dummy ratings were static because they rarely played in England). The decision to scale up the points allocated to the ITTF World Ranking bands was clearly one for the Ranking Panel, and was taken within days of the problem being reported.

The new Ranking Scheme has proved itself to be accurate and consistent, and the concept of ratings is becoming more widely understood. We now have a system which will place at the top of the lists those players who consistently perform the best. It is dynamic, following changes in form, and can cope with the vast amount of data we generate from our crowded events calendar. We have come a long way from the days when a player could in effect "buy" an inflated position on a Ranking List by going to more tournaments than anyone else.

## Forthcoming Coaching Courses

**6/7 March**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Venue: Eastbourne College, Brighton University  
Contact: Dave Berriman Tel: 0273 680397  
R.C. C/man: Gail McCulloch Tel: 0483 728069

**13/14 March**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Venue: The Grange, Shrewsbury  
Contact: Jill Harris Tel: 0922 612675  
(also Regional Coaching Chairman)

**Match at Blackpool**

Venue and date to be arranged  
Contact: Bob Wood Tel: 0253 57163  
R.C. C/man: Campbell Eaton Tel: 0606 871117

**6/13 March**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Venue: T.A.V.R. Community Sports Hall, Askew Road, Shepherds Bush, London W11.  
Contact: Colin Wilson Tel: 081-748 3020 ext. 3523  
R.C. C/man: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 353174

**8/15 March**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Venue: London Borough, Greenwich  
Contact: Jeff Davies Tel: 081-854 8888 ext. 2531  
R.C. C/man: Gail McCulloch Tel: 0483 728069

**14 May**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Four consecutive Friday evenings  
Venue: YMCA Sports Hall, Forest road, Walthamstowe.  
Contact: Jenny Fitzgerald Tel: 081-527 0787  
R.C. C/man: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 353174

**11/18 July**

**Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award**  
Venue: St. Nicholas High School, Northwich, Cheshire.  
Contact: Campbell Eaton Tel: 0606 871117  
Also Regional Coaching Chairman

# Sweden prepare for Gothenburg

SWEDEN, whose principal objectives at this time are to retain the Swaythling Cup and to win a bunch of titles on their home ground at Gothenburg in May at the World Championships, got in some valuable practice by winning the European Nations Cup at the Europahalle in Karlsruhe, January 15-17.

The Swedes, as polished and unruffled as ever even with threats of glue problems, coasted on, after whitewashing their opponents in the group, Sweden knocked-out England in the semi-finals and finally Germany 3-1 in the final. Even Germany, the holders on their home ground did not mount an effective challenge to the Swedes.

Jorg Roskopf, stayed unbeaten throughout the tournament, although he is not quite back to the almost invincible state he was a year ago. At that time Stefan Fetzner was playing well enough to appear above his present European rating of No.14. But at the moment "Speedy" as he is known to his German fans, is not quite as "speedy" as he was a year ago - he lost easily to both Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgan Persson in the final.



Jorg Roskopf

But Carl Prean showed some of his best action. He stopped Fetzner 15, 15, before the tide turned as Jorg Roskopf saw off Matthew Syed 15, 11 and the Germans steamed through the doubles against Prean and Syed 12, 12.

Prean's first half-hour in Karlsruhe emerged as he was only defeated 18, -16, 18 by Roskopf who appeared decidedly uncomfortable throughout.

## ENGLAND 0 SWEDEN 3

Chen Xinhua stayed on the bench throughout this match, still unfit but having completed his job, leaving Prean and Syed to face the might Scandinavians.

Syed, delighted to be playing in the last two matches after sweating it out on the bench against the Czechs and the Austrians, achieved a commendable 18 points against Waldner and then 15 in the second. Prean did not shine against his former club-mate Persson and went under 8, 15 and predictably England lost the doubles to Waldner and Mikael Appelgren.

In summary, England men proved that they are amongst the best of the teams in Europe - there was no play-off for third place - and they achieved a big cash payout, that followed more substantial money-earning for the England squad during the previous week at Grantham, Bletchley, Middlesbrough and St. Austell.

In the final, Roskopf peaked to defeat world champion Jorgan Persson 18, -15, 18, but Fetzner proved to be the German weakness. Jean-Philippe Gatién did not appear for France - he was re-shaping his game after the glue-ban, after losing heavily in England also in preparation for Gothenburg.

## SCORES SUMMARY

England 3, Czechoslovakia 1  
Germany 3, Austria 0  
Sweden 3, Belgium 0  
France 3, Netherlands 0  
Belgium 3, France 0  
Sweden 3, Netherlands 0  
England 3, Austria 0  
Germany 3, Czechoslovakia 1  
Germany 3, England 1  
Austria 3, Czechoslovakia 2  
Sweden 3, France 0  
Netherlands 3, Belgium 0

## SEMI FINALS:

Sweden 3, England 0  
Germany 3, Belgium 1

## FINAL:

Sweden 3, Germany 1

## JOHN WOODFORD REPORTS FROM KARLSRUHE

This tournament allowed fast-glue, certain makes, alleged to be non-toxic. In fact, it is generally accepted that all glues are toxic to some extent. In Germany at this event, Hans-Wilhelm Gabe, top man in Germany and in Europe decided to allow certain glues, but of course, no gluing up in the hall and then only under supervision.

Herr Gabe gave a press conference on the last day, but at the end of it, journalists seemed none the wiser on how the ITTF, the ETTU and the national associations were going to extract order from chaos. I imagine that by the time this story appears, it will have been sorted out by swift action from the trade in terms of glue-detector machines, self-adhesive rubber etc.

## ENGLAND QUALIFY

England players came away from the tournament with total prize money of around £7,000, after beating lowly Czechoslovakia 3-1 and Austria 3-2 losing 3-1 to Germany, in the last group match, both teams having qualified.

## ENGLAND 3

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1

Bronze medallists in Chiba, although they have not troubled England recently, Czechoslovakia

(unified for now) cannot be ruled out. Tomas Janci is well-underrated at No.49 on the European list. He defeated Carl Prean 19, 12 putting England under immediate pressure.

Chen Xinhua had some difficulty responding, losing the first game to Petr Korbel but fighting back to win 18, 18, much to the relief of the England supporters who were three in number - umpires Stuart Sherlock and Mike Payne and myself - not even seasoned-traveller-abroad Barry Granger was there to see England battling away.

Prean began to find his range, although apparently unhappy with the Joola Rollaway tables, getting home 16, -13, 14 against Korbel who was enjoying taking England's impressive twin spearheads Chen and Prean to third games.

England finished off the Czechs, but only after a mighty struggle in the doubles 18, -17, 19, by the new combination of Chen and Prean.

## ENGLAND 3

## AUSTRIA 2

England will not easily forget how last season, Austria came to Ipswich in the European League and upset England 4-1. Young Werner Schlager has improved enough to win his place in the singles against Qian Qianli - that was a shock, many expected to see England facing two Chinese players in the singles - Ding Yi and Qian.

However, Chen knew too many tricks of the sport for Schlager,

winning 10, 12. But then England dug themselves into a hole. The quick-hitting Ding, almost as fast as ever, defeated Prean 20, 20 and then came what seemed like disaster - Chen and Prean were de-railed -19, 19, 21 in the doubles - a major upset in favour of Qian and Schlager - possibly the best doubles win of their pairing.

## MOUNTAIN

That put England behind 1-2, deep in trouble, but Chen firstly and then Prean climbed the mountain to defeat the Austrians. Again, it was England's No.1 Chen who took time to work out his strategy against Ding. Chen lost the first, but skilfully mixed his weaponry to win 19, 7.

So at 2-2, Prean was pitted with young Schlager. Again, England lost the first to some stunning attacking by the young Austrian, but once again the experience gained over the years by the man from Ryde, Isle of Wight paid off. Punching his crosscourt backhand and then swinging through his forehand Prean reached base, 13, 13. The clash lasted nearly three hours of sweat and toil.

## ENGLAND 1

## GERMANY 3

This was an anti-climax as both nations were through. It also saw Chen given a rest - right through the tournament he was suffering from the heaviest of 'flu colds and should not really have played in the two earlier matches.

# Waldner immaculate, but here comes Karlsson!

ENGLISH supporters hopes were high that with three players in the event - it was 1986 when that last happened - we could get at least one player through to the second stage semi-finals, but it was not to be. There were thigh injuries to both Lisa Lomas and Chen Xinhua, leaving Carl Prean as the only fit player.

Carl disregarded all the glue problems - so did the ETTU - attacking with great determination he offered stout resistance but lost to all the five players in his group - Waldner, Primorac, Grubba, Karlsson and Gatien.

The fact that both finalists, Waldner and Karlsson, came from Prean's group showed how big a task the Isle of Wight professional faced. He had in his corner the expertise of both Don Parker and his father John Prean, but at the end of two days play, the only really encouraging happening was that Carl came within three points of beating Waldner - 19 in the fifth - who on his own admission was playing as well as he did in Barcelona at the Olympic Games.

Arguments centred on whether Jan-Ove Waldner is the best player of all time gained ground in Copenhagen. Throughout the tournament and again in the final he almost played like a man from another planet, as he defeated the shock finalist Peter Karlsson 19, 14, 18.

One can hardly fault any part of Waldner's game. He served almost impeccably, glue or no glue, he drove the ball forehand and backhand with breathtaking speed, came from behind when he needed to and if there is a finer hobby in the sport I have not seen him. Above all, he keeps ice-cool, whatever the score.

Playing for Steinhagen in the Bundesliga, Prean has had a fine season, lying sixth in the averages at the half-way point, but hopes that he might prosper and knock-out some Big Names in Copenhagen were dashed.

Lisa Lomas was an optimist to travel to Copenhagen. She sustained a thigh muscle strain a week before the tournament. She received physiotherapy at Preston before travelling, but it became obvious after a few minutes on court in her first game with Asa Svensson that the muscle was not repaired, so the Dunstable professional pulled out, watching the rest of the play with her sister Jackie and other England supporters.

## Thrombophlebitis

Chen Xinhua, facing an extremely tough group that included Roskopf and Persson did not have a happy time. After three defeats to Saive, Persson and Appelgren, he sought medical advice on a thigh problem



Jan-Ove Waldner

with a vein swollen and painful - a doctor diagnosed a form of phlebitis.

In this case the cause of the problem may have been too much table tennis - Bundesliga, matches in England, Cleveland Open, three tournaments in Japan in recent weeks all added up to not enough rest.

The problem might disappear as the season moves towards its end and the prospect of a summer break arrives, but the answer to the problem might be an operation for the Chinese world cup winner.

After visiting the doctor however, Chen bravely went back on court and after a mighty struggle, managed

to defeat the lightning attacker from Vienna Ding Yi, who despite being 34 years of age, still troubles many top players.

As he recorded England's only success in Copenhagen, Chen had to open up his attack and came through at 16 in the fifth game.

## JOHN WOODFORD REPORTS FROM COPENHAGEN

## Nasty Shocks

At the end of the group play, there were nasty surprises for two players Persson and Bettine Vriesekoop from Holland. Both players had won four of the matches in their groups and failed to qualify on a computerised count-back.

Waldner admitted at the press conference after the finals that he though he was playing as well as in Barcelona, whilst the surprise finalist was of course Peter Karlsson who is now the official Swedish No.3, climbing over Appelgren and Lindh.

Karlsson's backhand attack was one of the finest seen in Copenhagen. He got to the final overpowering two big-name victims - Gauen (17 in the fifth) and Primorac (14 in the fifth). Gatien was a disappointment - he seems badly affected by the glue situation.

Emilia Ciosu was a shock winner of the womens final. Her victims included along the way Marie Svensson in five and Mirjam Hooman in four. The holder Csilla Batorfi was well beaten in several games, notably she lost to Olga Nemes, 18 in the fifth game.

Taking into account the Danes have not run many major events in Europe, the organisation was excellent. The KB Halle, venue for the Pondus Cup provided a reasonable venue with good playing conditions, a roomy press centre and adequate catering. The tournament boasted the top referee in the world - Borje Karlsson of Sweden, who refereed in Barcelona at the Olympic Games.

Danish hospitality did not reach German standards - a last night dinner party - just wine and titbits at the Burgomeister's Parlour reception for players and officials only, not that journalists lost any sleep over that!

## FINAL PLACEMENTS

### MEN

1. JAN-OVE WALDNER - SWE
2. Peter Karlsson - SWE
3. Jean-Michel Saive - BEL  
Jorg Roskopf - GER
5. Jorgen Persson - SWE  
Jean-Philippe Gatien - FRA
7. Zoran Primorac - CROA  
Ding Yi - AUS
9. Mikael Appelgren - SWE  
Andrzej Grubba - POL
11. Carl Prean - ENG  
Chen Xnhua - ENG

### WOMEN

1. EMILIA CIOSU - ROM
2. Olga Nemes, GER
3. Otilia Badescu - ROM  
Asa Svensson - SWE
5. Bettine Vriesekoop - NET  
Csilla Batorfi - HUN
7. Maric Svensson - SWE  
Jasna Lupulescu Fazlic - I.F.
9. Mirjam Hooman - NET  
Elena Timina - RUS
11. Daniela Guergueltcheva - BUL  
Lisa Lomas - ENG

## RESULTS

### Men - Semi Finals

J. Waldner (Sweden) bt  
J. Saive (Belgium)  
19, 17, -15, 19  
P. Karlsson (Sweden) bt  
J. Roskopf (Germany)  
20, 7, 16

### Final

WALDNER bt Karlsson 19, 14, 18

### Women - Semi Finals

O. Nemes (Germany) bt  
A. Svensson (Sweden)  
-16, 19, 15, 19  
E. Ciosu (Romania) bt  
O. Badescu (Romania)  
18, 15, -16, 21

### Final

CIOSU bt Nemes 17, 18, 15

# Veterans successful debut



Players and officials before the inaugural start of the Veterans British League

MEADOWSIDE Leisure Centre, Burton on Trent was the venue for the inaugural Veterans British League weekend in January; as with the Womens British League which started in the same venue four years ago this new league can already be billed as another success for the development committee (I could say another Mike Lewis triumph but he wouldn't thank me for that!).

This was largely a sorting out weekend; four six team mens divisions of approximately equal strength and two four teams ladies divisions; there were obviously some "easy" matches, 24 of the 48 played on the opening day finished six love; the four mens leaders Sedgefield, Market Deeping, West Warwickshire "A" and Larkhall Spicer all won five out of five with a total of 108 sets for and 12 against. But these four will be together next time (Grimsby May 8/9th) when with British Gas and Vymura International, they will form the premier division.

John Hilton (Sedgefield), David Wellsman (Larkhall Spicer) Denis Neale and Nickey Davies (both Market Deeping) were the only ever presents to remain unbeaten, Davies twice dropping a game, Hilton once (Norman Stagg, Portsmouth), Wellsman once (Barry Russ, West Warwickshire) and Neale not at all. Neale's most illustrious opponent



Team of the weekend were Sedgefield, (left to right) Malcolm Corking, John Hilton, and Benny Roberts

was Shamrocks Tommy Caffrey, twice Irish "Open" champion and 12 times Irish national champion. These two had previously met in Dublin in 1964 in Neale's first international (Chester Barnes and Bobby Stevens making up Englands team that day) - Caffrey took a game in 1964; not so in 1993! Other unbeaten performances, each from 6 sets, were by Dave Harvey (Market Deeping),

Dennis Holland (British Gas), Barry Johnson and Ray Dixon (both West Warwickshire). Top individual match performance was that of David Solman (Police Athletic Association) who ranked 95 defeated both Ian Robertson (eight) and Malcolm Corking (11) of Sedgefield.

Clever scheduling (!) had left some of the best matches until the last session. In group 'A' Bribar

Humberside actually led the table on sets average going into the last but Brian Allison, Matt Sheader and Don McGilvray were unable to take even a game from Sedgefield, this ruining McGilvray's previous 100% record. In group 'B' Market Deepings No. 4. John Beaumont dropped a set to Isle of Man; in group 'C' Graham Spicer, Frank Hams and Tom Adams took a set apiece against West Warwickshire and in group 'D' Larkhall/Spicer lost their first sets of the event to Brian Reeves and Stuart Gibbs of British Gas but nevertheless won through by four sets to two.

Top Ladies honours went to Dagenham (Lesley Radford, eight from eight, Beryl Voss, Marjorie Dawson and Shirley Carroll) who had the better of a drawn match with runners up West Warwickshire (Eileen Schaler, Joyce Coop, Ann Lloyd, Joan Humphrey-Middlemore and Margaret Maltby). My tip for honours, Worcester Ladies lost by four sets to two to both the leaders, Penny Perry losing at deuce in the third to both Joyce Coop and Eileen Schaler in the match versus West Warwickshire.

**Pictures by  
John F.A. Wood**



Getting the proceedings off to a good start are Veterans British League Press Officer Brian Lamerton, Councillor Peter Beresford Mayor of the Borough of East Stafford and Mayoress Joan Potts



Dave Solman of the Police Athletic Association receives his 'Player of the Weekend' award from the ETTA's Deputy Chairman Tony Chatwin



Women 'Player of the Weekend' Pamela Butcher of Bribar Belles and (right) birthday boy John Jermyn of Letchworth



Four youngsters were also part of the celebrations as flagbearers (left to right) Edward Moore 9 years old, Jill Evans 8 years, Robin Pearce 10 years, and David Evans 9 years

On the lighter side I paid particular attention to two players who are normally seen in different roles, John Wood (Adeyfield) and John Jermyn (Letchworth). Always looking to "buy" space in this mag, I waited long for the Editor's first win; eventually late into Saturday evening it came; up went the arms and the French beret as he leaped broadly smiling from the arena. I would like to spare Glyn Gilbert's blushes but it provides the opportu-

nity to mention his Isle of Man team; they together with the Shamrocks made it so obvious what a thoroughly smashing weekend they had enjoyed - this was all new to them. For J.J. we had to wait longer for his first win but Sunday was his 60th birthday and he did win a bottle of whisky in the raffle! Players of the weekend; David Solman and Pamela Butcher (Bribar Belles) Team of the weekend; Sedgfield.

A superb weekend, all quietly

and efficiently handled by referee Alan Duke and his assistant Brenda Lee.

Remainder of formation for Grimsby. Men; Division 1; Bribar Humberside, Bournemouth, Graham Spicer, Police, Reading YMCA and Shamrocks. Division 2; Fullarians, Barclays Bank, Aldborough, Bribar Kingfisher, OLOP and West Warwickshire 'B'. Division 3; Portsmouth, Isle of Man, Adeyfield, Letchworth, Thompson Insurance

and Seasiders (Blackpool) Ladies; Group 'A', Dagenham, Worcester, Bribar Clark Wakefield and Merseyside. Group 'B' West Warwickshire, Bribar Belles, The Bombers and Letchworth.

● Photographs of the Veterans British League inaugural weekend are available in colour at £6 for a 8" x 6" print or £3 for a 6" x 4" print, from John Wood, 5 The Brackens, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 5JA (please make cheques out to John Wood).

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# Relentless drive forward

NFD Grove of Market Drayton continue their relentless drive towards the championship of the Premier Division of the Friendly Hotels British League. Confederation Life St. Neots and Bathwick Tyres were both crushed 8-0 with the loss of only one game. This came when Bath's new Norwegian signing, Anders Hovden, took an end from Nicky Mason. This gives Grove nine straight victories and, indeed, they have only dropped one set. Ironically this was lost by Desmond Douglas earlier in the season and since then he has been in fine form, taking the 'Player of the Match' award on no fewer than five occasions.

Team Peniel remain in second place after beating Sedgfield District 8-0, the latter having accounted for Vymura by the same score. Bradley Billington made his debut for Sedgfield in the Vymura match but unfortunately was unable to play against Peniel.

Bathwick Tyres not only lost out to Grove, but were also beaten by DML White Hart Launceston. Their hopes were actually dented during the knock up period when Kevin Satchell was injured and was unable to play in the match. Credit,



Adrian Moore

City of Sunderland After crushing the latter 7-1 at Sunderland. Tony Taylor, Mick Stead and Tim Dyson were all unbeaten with Sedgfield's only defeat coming when Malcolm Corking went down to Barry Forster in the last set of the day.

The most improved team in this division are Levis Westfield who have moved into a mid table position after victories away to Vymura (5-2) and at home to Leicester Lions (7-1). The inclusion of Bill Bridgeman in the lower half of the order has now made Levis a very difficult team to beat at this level. OLOP table tennis club established a three point lead in Division 2 South West with a 6-2 victory away to Amity Generation, but then saw it pegged back to one point when they lost 6-2 at home to Horsham Angels. This put the Angels back into contention and also left the door open for VRS Fareham to renew their challenge.

Rejects Lambeth have taken over the leadership of Division 2 South East from Linda Farrow despite being held to a draw by Pillinger Air Croydon. With Alan Cole in form Rejects beat Fellows Cranleigh 5-3 in their next match. At the same time Linda Farrow were losing 5-3 to JAGS and then, surprisingly, being held to a 4-4 draw by bottom of the table Britannia Ipswich. This was the first point that Ipswich have managed to take this season and it came in a hard fought contest where fortunes first swung one way and then the other. Division 3 East continues to be a closely fought division with only two points covering the top four teams. The latest leaders are British Gas City of Milton Keynes II after successive victories against Chelmsford League and Team Peniel II, the score in each case being 5-3. Ian Musk took the 'Player of the Match' award against Chelmsford with Steve Baggaley getting the nomination against Peniel.

Mike Hayes of BSG Brentwood II received the 'Player of the Match' award in a drawn match against Brent Juniors not only for two fine wins and very entertaining play, but also 'for a good haircut'. Despite the useful point that Brent picked up in this match they have slumped to the foot of the table. NFD Grove Colts and DML White Hart Launceston II continue to battle out the leadership of the third Division Midlands. The Colts were held to a 4-4 draw at Hawthush but then defeated Kinghurst Bribar 5-3. Launceston narrowed the gap to one point by winning 6-2 away to Bathwick Tyres III and 6-2 at home to OLOP II.

Uxbridge (Burton) continue to lead Division 3 North but the loss of a point to Grove IV means that they are now only one point ahead of Senior Thermal Derwent. The Derwent side defeated Sedgfield 6-2 and then had an excellent 5-3 home victory over the Grove side. This leaves Grove three points behind the

however, should not be taken away from the Launceston team for whom Paul Whiting turning in a very steady performance and his win over Adrian Moore turned the match in their favour.

Andrew Horsfield was the 'Player of the Match' for Vymura International when they entertained Confederation Life St. Neots and ran out 8-4 victors to pick up their first points of the season. The St. Neots side have now slipped deep into relegation trouble.

NFD Grove II have opened up a four point gap in Division 1 North after beating Cheltenham Saracens 8-0 and Chan Construction 6-2. Steve Ward picked up the 'Player of the Match' award against Saracens, but was then beaten for the first time this season when he went down to Carl Morgan when playing against Chan.

Bribar Humberside gained their first victory of the season after going 2-0 down to West Warwickshire. They made a good fight back to take the next five out of six games, Lee Hewitt taking the 'Player of the Match' award.

NFD Grove III continue to head the First Division South although they were given a tough game by BSG Brentwood before running out 5-2 winners.

Horsham Angels, having signed Nigel Tyler, now look favourites to finish second behind Grove and qualify for their promotion challenge to the Premier Division. Fielding their full side of Tyler, Mike Hammond, Richie Venner and Paul Elphick, Horsham defeated their nearest challengers Edison 8-0.

Sedgfield II take over the leadership of Division 2 North from

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# FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE -2

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leaders and also means that City of Sunderland, with victories over Crusaders Lincoln and Ormesby, move level with the Market Drayton side.

The clash of the leading two clubs in Division 3 South ended 8-0 in favour of Jolliffe Poole against

WSIHE Lennox House Group. Poole are now favourites to win this division having opened up a four point gap. With Lennox House Group also losing a point to Larkhall they are now in danger of being overhauled by Linda Farrow II who have two games in hand.



## LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 31st JANUARY 1993

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove	9	9	-	-	73	1	18
Team Peniel	8	7	-	1	58	18	14
Sedgefield District	9	5	-	4	51	49	10
Bathwick Tyres	9	3	1	5	38	64	7
DML White Hart Launceston	8	2	1	5	38	58	5
Con. Life St. Neots	9	1	2	6	37	67	4
Vymura International	8	1	-	7	23	61	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove II	10	9	1	-	64	16	19
Chan Construction	10	7	1	2	49	31	15
R.M. Lincoln	10	6	2	2	52	28	14
West Warwickshire	10	5	1	4	41	39	11
British Gas CMK	10	2	3	5	33	47	7
Cheltenham Saracens	10	2	3	5	24	56	7
Well Connected Menswear	10	1	3	6	30	50	5
Bribar Humberside	10	1	-	9	27	53	2

DIVISION 1 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove III	10	9	-	1	61	19	18
Horsham Angels	10	8	-	2	59	21	16
Edison T.T.C.	10	7	1	2	46	34	15
Ellenborough	10	4	2	4	39	41	10
Larkhall	10	4	2	4	37	43	10
BSG Brentwood	10	2	1	7	29	51	5(-37)
Bribar Colley Toyota	10	1	3	6	29	51	5(-39)
Bathwick Tyres II	10	-	1	9	20	60	1

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sedgefield District II	10	7	2	1	56	24	16
City of Sunderland	10	6	3	1	46	34	15
Leicester Lions	10	4	3	3	42	38	11
City of Leeds	10	3	3	4	39	41	9(-3)
Levis Westfield	10	3	3	4	39	41	9(-13)
D.H.V.R. Warrington	9	2	3	4	29	43	7
Vymura International	9	2	2	5	32	40	6
Burslem	10	1	3	6	29	51	5

DIVISION 2 SOUTH EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Rejects	9	6	2	1	45	27	14
Linda Farrow	9	5	3	1	48	24	13
K.B. Gillingham	10	5	3	2	46	34	13
Norwich Foxwood	10	5	2	3	46	34	12
JAGS	10	4	1	5	37	43	9
P.A. Croydon	10	2	4	4	37	43	8
Fellow Cranleigh	10	3	2	5	35	45	8
Britannia Ipswich	10	-	1	9	18	62	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
OLOP	9	7	-	2	43	29	14
Horsham Angels II	9	6	1	2	46	26	13
VRS Fareham	8	5	1	2	41	23	11
Leckie T.T.C.	8	3	1	4	34	30	7
Amity Generation Fareham	9	2	2	5	29	43	6
DML White Hart Launceston II	8	2	1	5	26	38	5
Chan Construction II	9	2	-	7	21	51	4

DIVISION 3 EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
British Gas CMK II	10	5	4	1	46	34	14
Ashford (Kent)	10	5	3	2	46	34	13
Fellows Cranleigh II	10	5	3	2	44	36	13
Team Peniel II	10	5	2	3	49	31	12
BSG Brentwood II	10	3	5	2	41	39	11
Norwich Foxwood II	10	2	3	5	28	52	7
Chelmsford League	10	1	3	6	37	43	5
Brent Juniors	10	1	3	6	29	51	5

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove Colts	9	7	2	-	48	24	16
DML W.H.-Launceston II	9	7	-	1	49	23	15
Kinghurst Bribar	9	5	-	4	45	27	10
Hawbush C.C.	9	2	4	3	33	39	8
P.D. Newport	8	3	1	4	25	39	7
Bathwick Tyres III	8	-	2	6	21	43	2
OLOP II	8	-	2	6	19	45	2

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Uxbridge Burton	10	6	3	1	51	29	15
S.T. Derwent	10	6	2	2	48	32	14
NFD Grove IV	10	3	6	1	44	36	12(+20)
City of Sunderland II	10	4	4	2	44	36	12(+10)
Sedgefield District III	10	2	5	3	39	41	9
AALCO Leeds	10	2	4	4	34	46	8
Ormesby	10	2	1	7	33	47	5
Crusaders Lincoln	10	1	3	6	27	53	5

DIVISION 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Jolliffe Poole	9	8	1	-	58	14	17
Lennox House Group	9	5	3	1	42	30	13
Linda Farrow II	7	4	2	1	35	21	10
Rejects II	8	3	1	4	30	34	7
Larkhall II	9	3	1	5	31	41	7
Ellenborough II	8	1	-	7	21	43	2
Adeyfield N.A.	8	-	2	6	15	49	2



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# Derbyshire and Leicestershire fight for Premier promotion

THE teams met at St. Neots T.T.C. to start their season with 16 matches over the weekend. No team got full points. Leics and Derbys each gained six points with Leics ahead on sets average. Derbys had drawn matches against Herts and Lancs 2nds but "kept in the hunt" with a 6-4 win over Leics. Bradley Billington was unbeaten in this series but John Holland (Dy) lost once, which was in an exciting match that Chris Rogers (Le) won - 11, 20, 19. Stephen Shaw (Dy) made a valuable contribution with two wins against Leics. Karen Smith (Le) did not drop a single game in her eights matches.

Lancs 2nds, down 3-5 in two matches, came back each time to get a draw. Against Cambs Brenda Buoeu (La) beat Yvette Hooks at 20 in the 3rd game and then Graham Clarke (La) beat Mick Harper at 18 in a decider. At the same stage against Derbys Brenda Buoeu again had a win and then Steve Scowcroft (La) beat Stephen Shaw 19 and 19.

**SENIOR DIVISION 2A:**

Yorkshire 2	6	Nottinghamshire	4
Leicestershire 2	8	Warwickshire 2	2
Northumberland	9	Cumbria	1

Two unbeaten teams - Yorks 2nds and Notts - met with Yorks getting a 6-4 win. Helen Shields and Cathryn Johnson (Y) won their four events. Leics 2nds got their first points with the 8-2 defeat of Warwick 2nds - all events were two straight. N'berland, with a strong team including both Ed Smith and Ian Robertson, beat Cumbria 9-1.

**SENIOR DIVISION 2B**

Gwent went a good way towards winning the championship with the 7-3 defeat of Worcs. The Gwent men, with Steve Ward, playing for the first time this season, David Buck and Lee Thomas won their six events. Dave Buck had two hard matches beating Malcolm Green and Eric Hardman at 19 and 18 in 3rd games. Sandra Roden (Wo) won her two matches.

**SENIOR DIVISION 2C:**

Bedfordshire 2	5	Northamptonshire	5
Norfolk	8	Huntingdonshire	2

Beds 2nds won four of the five sets which went to a deciding game. Mary Jarrett (Beds) won her two matches as did Kieron Dabbs for Northants. Norfolk had a good 8-2 win over Hunts 2nds. Just one event went to a decider when Diane Gutteridge (Hu) beat Alison Taylor -14, 12, 11.

**SENIOR DIVISION 3A:**

Worcestershire 2	3	Lincolnshire	7
------------------	---	--------------	---

There were some very close games in the Worcs/Lincs clash but the visitors came out on top with a 7-3 win. To set the tone the match started with Paul Moore (Li) beating Steve Horton -19, 14, 20. Dave Skerratt (Li) got another two good wins to remain unbeaten in championship matches this season.

**SENIOR DIVISION 3B:**

Kent 2	7	Essex 3	3
--------	---	---------	---

The first match in this Division was a close contest with six events needing a deciding game. The Kent team went 2-nil down after wins by Mark Wicker and Steve Rand. But Kent struck back to win the next seven events. The Kent ladies - K. Brocklebank and J. Mersh - won their four events.



Unbeaten Bradley Billington

**SENIOR DIVISION 1A:**

Leicestershire	6	Lancashire 2	4	Warwickshire	8	Hertfordshire	2
Lancashire 2	5	Cambridgeshire	5	Hertfordshire	5	Derbyshire	5
Bedfordshire	1	Leicestershire	9	Cambridgeshire	3	Warwickshire	7
Suffolk	6	Bedfordshire	4	Derbyshire	7	Suffolk	3
Hertfordshire	4	Suffolk	6	Suffolk	5	Warwickshire	5
Cambridgeshire	7	Bedfordshire	3	Derbyshire	5	Lancashire 2	5
Warwickshire	2	Leicestershire	8	Hertfordshire	7	Cambridgeshire	3
Lancashire 2	7	Bedfordshire	3	Leicestershire	4	Derbyshire	6

**JUNIOR DIVISION 1A:**

Warwickshire	3	Northumberland	7
--------------	---	----------------	---

This match started evenly and the score progressed to 3-3. At that stage Diane Cartmel (Nd) beat Liz Haynes (Wa) 36-34, 21-19 - and the visitors went on to win 7-3!

**JUNIOR DIVISION 1B:**

Berkshire	7	Sussex	3
Essex 2	1	Glamorgan	9
Kent	7	Gwent	3

Berks forge ahead with another win - this time over nearest rivals Sussex. Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz (Bk) are unbeaten and Terry Young (Bk) also chipped in with two wins. Glam, without a win, turned on the style with a 9-1 win on their visit to Essex. Karen Mason was the only Essex winner with a 16 and 19 defeat of Janine Belby. Kent had a good 7-3 win over Gwent. Glen Ritchie (Kent No 3) continues unbeaten. This time he had a very good four and 16 win over previously unbeaten Paul Hadley (Gw).

**JUNIOR DIVISION 2A:**

Northants	6	Warwickshire 2	2
Leicestershire	4	Cheshire	6
Lincolnshire	3	Nottinghamshire	7
Leicestershire	3	Lincolnshire	7
Derbyshire 2	8	Cheshire 2	2
Nottinghamshire	7	Staffordshire 2	3
Staffordshire 2	4	Derbyshire 2	6
Lincolnshire	8	Warwickshire 2	2
Cheshire 2	1	Northamptonshire	9
Staffordshire 2	4	Northamptonshire	6
Nottinghamshire	9	Cheshire 2	1

13 matches were played during the day at Grantham T.T. Club. Notts got another three wins, including an important 7-3 success over Lincs. Notts have won their six matches and dropped just eight events! But Northants came on the scene for their first matches of the season and got four good wins. This also included a 6-4 win over Lincs, for whom Nicola Massingham and Mathew Sims got the four successes. Both Notts and Northants have to meet Lancs 2nds in the final series at the end of February. These results may well influence the championship.

**JUNIOR DIVISION 2B:**

Suffolk 1	7	Huntingdonshire	3
Suffolk 2	5	Huntingdonshire	5
Bedfordshire	4	Essex 3	6
Hertfordshire 2	6	Norfolk 2	4

The two unbeaten teams met and Suffolk 1st team came out on top with a 7-3 win, over Hunts. Sarah Davison and Katie Green (Sk) retained their unbeaten records. And Suffolk 2nd team also did well to get a draw with Hunts after going 2-nil down. Again the Suffolk girls were to the fore with Clare Lowe and Victoria Gray winning their four matches. With the match score 4-4 in the Beds/Essex three clash, Nikki Kennard (E) followed up a previous win and then Thomas Thstrup beat Chris Francis 10 and 21 for the Essex 6-4 win. John O'Leary (He2) kept up his unbeaten record against Norfolk 2nds and two wins for Lesley Moorhead also influenced a 6-4 win for Herts 2nds.

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

## JUNIOR DIVISION 2C:

Devon 3	5	Worcestershire	5
Somerset	6	Glamorgan 2	4
Gloucestershire	6	Dorset	4
Wiltshire	6	Avon	4
Wiltshire	5	Cornwall	5
Worcestershire	5	Dorset	5
Glamorgan 2	8	Gloucestershire	2
Avon	3	Somerset	7
Cornwall	6	Devon 3	4

Nine matches were played at Plymouth H.C. and seven of them were either drawn or decided 6-4. The vital match was the Somerset/Glam 2nds clash as both teams were unbeaten. Robert Millard (So) retained his unbeaten record. Julie Ashcroft (So) also had two wins - a vital one being her 15, -20, 22 defeat of Vicky Morrissey to seal the Somerset win. Worcs were involved in two drawn matches - against Dorset and Devon 3rds - with Carrie Hunt (Wo) again winning her four singles. Glos did well in getting a 6-4 win over Dorset. Peter Hayward and Ann Humble (Gs) won their four singles and, at a vital stage, Melanie Garlick (Gs) beat Elaine Moore 26 and 30!

## JUNIOR DIVISION 2D:

Hants 1	5	Kent 2	5
Hants 2	0	Kent 2	10
Berkshire 2	3	Middlesex 2	7
Surrey 3	4	Sussex 3	6
Surrey 3	2	Sussex 2	8

Hants 1st team, having won all their matches 10-nil, met Kent 2nds their nearest rivals. It was a very close contest. Hants led 5-3 when Heidi Steers (K) beat Lorna Dutch at 22 in the 3rd game and Ben McCarthy beat David Dobson at 15 in the decider to get a draw. Hants 2nd team also met Kent 2nds and were given the "whitewash". Berks 2nds, still without a point after their match against Middx 2nds. Sussex 3rd team continue in good form with a 6-4 win over Surrey 3rds. Two vital events for Sussex were when Adam Flavell beat Simon Mortlock 18, -20, 23 and Emma Forder followed with a win over Sarah Lane 17, -18, 19. Surrey 3rd team also met Sussex 2nds and lost 2-8

## VETERANS DIVISION 1A:

Hertfordshire	4	Lancashire 2	5
Leicestershire	5	Cheshire	4
Oxon	7	Norfolk 2	2
Worcestershire	4	Yorkshire 2	5

The two unbeaten teams - Herts and Lancs 2nds - met at Barnet T.T.C. Herts, without the services of John Taylor, who was playing for the Senior 1st team, went down 5-4 in a very close contest. At 4-4 Barry Crook (La) beat Derek Balding 19 and 20! There was another 5-4 result when Leics receives Ches 2nds. At a vital stage Maurice Newman (Le) beat Dave Roberts -19, 17, 19. Norfolk were pushed closer to relegation when beaten 7-2 by Oxfor. Arthur Chilvers was again involved in three of the Oxford wins. Worcs lost the two vital doubles events against Yorks 2nds and were beaten 5-4. Richard Priestley (Yorks No.3) won both singles and the mixed doubles with Sandra Rider.

## VETERANS DIVISION 1B:

Northants	4	Nottinghamshire	5
Cheshire 3	2	Northumberland	7
Clwyd	2	Warwickshire	7

Unbeaten Northants met Notts, who were towards the bottom of the table. And what a match! Eight events needed a deciding game! To secure the win for Notts Ken Philipson beat Goff Atkinson 12, -20, 23! Ches 3rd team are still without a point after the 7-2 defeat by N'berland. Fred Short was involved in three of the wins by the visitors. With the defeat of Northants, Warwicks 7-2 win over Clwyd puts them in a strong position as Division leaders. Warwicks have unbeaten players in Pat McCabe and Joahn Humphrey-Middlemore.

## VETERANS DIVISION 2B:

Hertfordshire 2	6	Essex 4	3
Norfolk 2	5	Buckinghamshire	4
Bedfordshire	2	Cambridgeshire	7

The two unbeaten teams - Herts 2nds and Essex 4th team - met at Barnet T.T.C. Herts came out on top with Alan Lamprell getting two singles wins. Sue Felstead (He) contributed by beating Shirley Carroll and combining with Tony Teff to take the mixed doubles. Norfolk 2nds got a 5-4 win over Bucks 2nds with Chris Brewer and Jim Defty winning their five events. Cambs had a good 7-2 win over Beds. Just one event went to a decider when Charlie Major/Audrey Robinson (Bd) beat John Turner/Jean White -21, 11, 15.

## VETERANS DIVISION 2C:

Essex 3	7	Berkshire 2	2
Surrey 2	5	Oxon 2	4
Sussex 2	7	Middlesex 2	2

Essex 3rds retained their 100% record with a 7-2 win over Berks 2nds. The tightest match was Roger Woolven-Allen's -16, 19, 19 win over Chris Jacob. Oxon 2nds put up a good fight against Surrey 2nds but went down 5-4. George Pullin played well for Oxford to win his two singles and the doubles with Alf Davies. Maurice Isaacs was the only successful Middx player against Sussex 2nds. He beat John Millward at 18 in the 3rd game and Gerry Batt-Rawden -11, 19, 20!

## VETERANS DIVISIONS 2D:

Gloucester	7	Dorset 2	2
Somerset 2	1	Avon	8
Wiltshire 2	3	Devon 6	

Gloucester had another convincing win - this time over Dorset 2nds to the tune of 7-2. Dave Harvey and Dennis Holland were untroubled in winning their five matches and John Fannin also won both his singles matches. Avon went one better with an 8-1 win over Somerset 2nds. This took Avon above Glos at the top of the table. Di Heladon got the one event for Somerset with a 15, -9, 18 win over Bridgett Pankhurst. Devon went to Swindon and came away with a 6-3 win over Wilts 2nds. Mike Short and Penny Perry (Dv) were involved in five wins and Roger Anniss beat Alan Duke 18 and 18.

## VETERANS DIVISION 3A:

Hertfordshire 4	4	Warwickshire 2	5
Bedfordshire 2	2	Wiltshire 3	7
Northants 2	6	Hants 2	3

Herts 4th team suffered their first defeat at the hands of Warwicks 2nds, who got their first win. A vital event was when Ann Lloyd (Wa) beat Jackie North 17, -17, 19 and Warwicks won both the important doubles events. Wilts 3rd team had a good 7-2 win over Beds 2nds. But for conceding one match the Wilts team could well be challenging for promotion. Northants 2nds progressed with a 6-3 win over Hunts 2nds. Mick Pond (Np) had a good match with two singles wins and taking the doubles with Brian Dangerfield.

## VETERANS DIVISION 3B:

Hants 3	7	Dorset 3	2
Berkshire 4	3	Kent 3	6
Sussex 4	5	Hertfordshire 3	4

Hants 3rd team kept up a challenge to Surrey 3rd team with a 7-2 win over Dorset 3rds. Norman Staff (Ha) won both singles and the mixed doubles with Mary Barron. Sussex 4th team went 3-nil up against Herts 3rds at Hove but the visitors fought back to 4-4. Sussex got the win when Neil Westmore beat Geoff Bax 15, -18, 15. Kent 3rd team left Berks 4ths pointless with a 6-3 win. Kent won the two doubles events and each of their team got a singles win.

## VETERANS DIVISION 3C:

Hertfordshire 5	5	Gloucester 2	4
Wiltshire 4	1	Berkshire 3	8
Herefordshire	1	Sussex 3	8

Herts 5th team remains unbeaten after their 5-4 win over Glos 2nds. Herts won both doubles events and a vital factor was Brian Gale's -19, 18, 20 win over Pete Wood. All events were two straight in the Herefords/Sussex 3 match. Carol Milnes (Hr) got the one event when she beat Val Jackson 17 and 18. Berks 3rd team won 8-1 on their visit to Wilts 4th team. Ben Sage got the one Wilts win when he beat Colin Dyke 18 and 20.



Hertfordshire's Veteran John Taylor who was on Senior 1st Team duty

**County Championship results will be given, as early as possible, on each Monday morning after the seven organised match dates**

**FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS  
TELEPHONE 0891 664300**

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

# LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 1992-93

Tables included all results received to 1st February 1993  
compiled by Leslie Smith

## SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Lancashire	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Berkshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Essex	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Surrey	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Staffordshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Yorkshire	3	0	1	2	8	22	1

## Division 1A

Leicestershire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5 (48-42)
Warwickshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5 (47-42)
Lancashire 2nd	4	2	1	1	22	18	5 (47-44)
Suffolk	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Cambridgeshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3 (46-48)
Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3 (41-50)
Bedfordshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

## Division 1B

Sussex	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Middlesex 2nd	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Avon	6	3	0	3	24	36	6
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Devonshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Buckinghamshire	6	0	1	5	21	39	1

## Division 2A

Yorkshire 2nd	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Northumberland	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Leicestershire 2nd	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Warwickshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Cumbria	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

## Division 2B

Gwent	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Wiltshire	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Somerset	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Avon	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Worcestershire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Cornwall	5	0	1	4	20	30	1

## Division 2C

Essex 2nd	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Norfolk	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Northamptonshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Bedfordshire 2nd	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Hertfordshire 2nd	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

## Division 2D

Kent	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Sussex 2nd	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Buckinghamshire 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Oxfordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

## Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire 3rd	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Staffordshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Worcestershire 2nd	3	1	0	2	17	13	2
Clwyd	3	0	1	2	6	24	1 (16-49)
Suffolk 2nd	3	0	1	2	6	26	1 (15-49)

## Division 3B

Kent 2nd	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Essex 3rd	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cornwall 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devonshire 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## JUNIORS

### Premier Division

Surrey	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Essex	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Devonshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	18	12	4
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Hertfordshire	3	0	1	2	5	25	1
Staffordshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

### Division 1A

Clwyd	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Northumberland	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Buckinghamshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Yorkshire 2nd	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Warwickshire	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

### Division 1B

Berkshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Kent	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Sussex	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Essex 2nd	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Gwent	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Glamorgan	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Surrey 2nd	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Devonshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

### Division 2A

Nottinghamshire	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Northamptonshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Lincolnshire	6	3	1	2	33	27	7
Derbyshire 2nd	6	3	1	2	31	29	7
Lancashire 2nd	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Leicestershire	6	1	2	3	26	34	4
Warwickshire 2nd	6	1	1	4	19	41	3
Cheshire 2nd	8	1	1	6	22	58	3
Staffordshire 2nd	6	0	2	4	24	36	2

### Division 2B

Suffolk 1st	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Huntingdonshire	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Suffolk 2nd	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Essex 3rd	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Norfolk 2nd	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Buckinghamshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Cambridgeshire	5	0	0	5	7	43	0

Continued on Page 17

# ETTA County Supplement

"County Notes" is for the publicity of county activities. The accuracy of what is published is the responsibility of the County Associations, as the Editor cannot possibly know what "facts" may be incorrect. Copy containing libelous or personally abusive matter or "political" comment will not be published.

## AVON Bob Murray

### County Scene

January has seen three of our representative sides in action with mixed fortunes in terms of results.

The Juniors travelled to Devon with high hopes of establishing themselves as genuine promotion candidates. However, 6-4 and 7-3 defeats at the hands of Wiltshire and Somerset respectively mean another season in division 2. John Thorn was the star man against Wiltshire with an impressive double and Graham Long also bagged a pair when coming in against Somerset.

The Veterans kept their 100% record when defeating Somerset 2nds by an 8-1 scoreline. Bob Murray, Ernie Brown and Dave Price picked up two wins each with Ernie and Dave also teaming up to take the men's doubles. Bridget Pankhurst, on her county debut, can be well satisfied after only narrowly going down in her singles and then combining with Bob to take the mixed doubles.

The senior 2nds are certainly not enjoying the best of luck this season. In their latest encounter they narrowly lost 6-4 to the unbeaten Gwent side. A superb double by Clive Ellison was supplemented by one each from Paul Hooper and also Dov Katz on his county debut. A deuce in the third defeat for Debbie Buoeu when the match score was 3-5 proved decisive.

The match was the first county event at Walton in Gordano village hall and I am told it is an excellent venue - possibly the best in Avon at present. Many thanks to the Walton club for staging the match.

### Bristol League

Almondsbury have leapt into third place in the Premier League after a busy January. An 8-2 victory over Brigands was followed by a 5-5 draw against leaders Bristol Club B. Paul Jackson took maximums in both matches.

Bristol Veterans have earned a third round tie against Bournemouth in the National League Competition after their 5-2 win against Plymouth. Brian Reeves was in excellent form during his three wins which included a demolition job on Mike Short. Bob Murray and Mike Kimber had one win each.

## BEDFORDSHIRE Alex Murdoch

DURING THE LAST rounds of County Championship matches the results were as follows:

Veteran I	1	Essex 4	7
Junior 1	1	Suffolk 1	9
Junior 1	4	Suffolk 2	6

Veteran 2	3	Herts 4	6
Junior 1	4	Essex 3	6
Veteran 1	2	Cambs 1	7
Veteran 2	2	Wilts 3	7
Senior 2	5	Northants 1	5
Senior 1	3	Lancs 2	7
Senior 1	3	Cambs 1	7
Senior 1	4	Suffolk 1	6

Congratulations are in order for Sylvia Coombes who has maintained her 100% record, Jenny Sanders in her first year of County Championship matches winning her first game and continuous successes from Darren Ali in Junior matches.

Many changes had to be made with the senior teams due to the departure of the Bowler brothers and an injury to Mike Levine. This gave the opportunity to play Mick Bannon, Kevin Copperwheat and new recruit Ian Collier in their first Bedfordshire representative matches - all had excellent wins. Once again the ladies (Sandra Harper, Mary Jarrett, Dawn Campbell and Lisa Robins) kept all the scores respectable.

It is hoped to hold a Bedfordshire County Closed during this season - details to follow later.

## BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

BERKS ARE ON target for promotion - the Berkshire junior 1st team still have a 100% record with just three matches to play in Division 1B of the County TT Championships. Their latest conquest was the Sussex 1st team who previously occupied second place in the division.

As the match reached its climax at a score of 4-3 to Berkshire, the spectators seating was packed at the Kingfisher club. Berkshire then stepped up a gear to win the last three matches in straight games, and fully deserved the final result of 7-3.

Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz maintained their 100% records for Berkshire this season but Ali Subhan recorded his first loss. Ali played well, but lost in the deciding game to Sussex No. 1 Paul Butcher, a player who is several places above Ali in the England ranking list.

Berkshire's man of the match was Terry Young. After beating the Sussex No. 3 comfortably, Terry beat Sussex No. 2 Kevin Doyle. This was Terry's first victory over Kevin, having lost to him several times. Kevin was ranked 30 places higher than Terry in the England rankings, but may well find Terry not far behind him now after Terry's recent run of good form against highly ranked players.

Berkshire's other player Helen Goatly, failed to trouble the Sussex players who were both ranked in England over 35 places above her.

### Berkshire Senior Rankings

Alan Bruton and his team have just produced the 1993 rankings for Berkshire. Not surprisingly England No. 3 Matthew Syed heads the men's list with ex England junior champion Jimmy Stokes at 2. Newbury ace Dave Barr is listed at 3, followed by Sunninghill's Martin Adams at No. 4. British League player Dave Reeves would have expected to be higher than 5 as would the No. 7 Michael Childs. There must be a question mark over Marc Priddle at 10, on current form at least, and Chris Forrest must be pleased as punch to find himself ahead of Paul Savins and junior No. 1 Ben Johnson.

Alison Gordon leads the ladies with Jean Parker-Stokes holding off Sue Collier at 2 and 3. Gemma Schwartz from Earley continues to

# Counties 2

improve, while Gill Galloway, despite all her tennis commitments, is a creditable No. 7. Julie Hill will be surprised to be ahead of Mary Allen and both on current form could have been higher.

Old warhorse Syd Montgomery from Finchampstead heads the men's veterans, while Ian Schwartz and Barry Morten have surged into third and fourth respectively. John Rose now back to form will be pushing to get away from No. 13 as the list down to 22 shows the strength in depth of the Vets. Gill Knightley held off all comers in the Vets ladies with Spanish star Sharan Mitchell coming into the list at No. 8.

One or two to argue about over a beer or a cup of tea, but in all, the selection/ranking committee have done a good job.

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## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### Alf Peppard

I WRITE THESE notes virtually upon the eve of the Cotswold Select Junior Open, this year to be held at the new Cheltenham Recreation Centre in Cheltenham, I will leave this subject there as hopefully a full report will be made upon all and sundry in this issue.

Enclosed at the end of this report are the second half of the season's county ranking list, rankings which entail a cross section of players and are always subject to considerable criticism, despite many hours work in compiling them. Upon the subject of these rankings, I am sure that several eyebrows flapped up and down when 12 year old Ann Humble and 13 year old Melanie Garlick were ranked No. 1 and 2 in the junior girls list. However, I can now divulge the fact that in making their respective debuts as juniors for Gloucestershire, both girls displayed courage and determination well beyond their tender years of age.

In the first county matches of 1993 and playing against Dorset at Plymouth - Ann Humble won both her singles and Melanie Garlick won one and lost one, NOT BAD FOR TWO VERY YOUNG GIRLS MAKING THEIR DEBUTS, also playing in this match Peter Hayward was undefeated. Martin Elliott and Robin Price chipped in with one each and Gloucestershire ran out 6-4 winners. However, on the same day playing v Glamorgan 2nds, this same Gloucestershire team lost 2-8 to a far superior Welsh side, but again Peter Hayward proved his worth by being unbeaten in all his singles.

Our county veterans 1st team played Dorset 2nds, this match in division 2D took place at Nuclear Electric at Barnwood, Glos, and proved a highly successful 7-2 win for the home side, both Judy and Roy Morley were indisposed so reserves - Ann Smith and John Fannin, both of Gloucester, were called in.

The county's veteran 2nd team travelled to Barnet to play Herts 5ths and lost 4-5, Gloucestershire's Roy Fowler showed magnificent form and won both of his singles, all gluing up in Gloucestershire and Sheila Matthews from Cheltenham came up with two wins, but it was not enough to stave off defeat.

#### *Bits and Pieces*

Nice to know that Veteran player and county selector Alan Giles from Nailsworth is now at home from hospital after his recent operation.

County Chairman Les Smith, after attending a National Council meeting of the ETTA at Walsall, where one of the main topics of discussion was - a ban on the use of harmful adhesives (gluing up) in table tennis matches, went to considerable lengths to notify local radio stations and newspapers of the new rule, all gluing up in Gloucestershire, even league matches, is banned on and after the 8th February.

A Focus Sport Conference has been provisionally arranged for the 21st April at Nuclear Electric at Barnwood Gloucester.

The County TT selectors have released the following second half rankings for season 1992/3:

#### **Men**

1. Darren Griffin
2. Dave Harvey
3. Graham Slack
4. William Dawe
5. Raymond Powell

#### **Women**

1. Judy Morley
2. Alison Cox
3. Angela Bristow
4. Heather Tyrer
5. Julie Taylor

#### **Veteran Men**

1. Dave Harvey
2. Dennis Holland
3. Roy Morley
4. Roy Fowler
5. Alan Giles

#### **Veteran Women**

1. Judy Morley
2. Sheila Matthews
3. Vivien Hathaway
4. Roz Ross
5. June Hall

#### **Junior Boys**

1. Peter Hayward
2. Robin Price
3. Martin Elliott
4. Duncan Toon
5. Aaron Mortimer

#### **Junior Girls**

1. Ann Humble
2. Melanie Garlick
3. Kerry Hogarth
4. Emma Parker
5. Sarah Dean

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## HAMPSHIRE

### Brian Lamerton

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE month of January and in particular for Basingstoke's Kevin Macken was the junior championships played as usual in Southampton. Kevin, a stalwart of Hampshire junior TT for many seasons and now in his last season thought his last chance had gone when he stood at 1 game all and 11-20 down in the final against his "old" pal and title holder Jeremy Wilson, but never say die, Kevin reeled off 11 points in a row to take the title! Gareth Scadden and David Dobson were the defeated semi finalists.

In contrast the two finalists in the junior girls event were aged 12 and 13 years only; Portsmouth's Donna Granville beating Carly Scadden (Gosport and Fareham).

Not surprisingly Donna also won the U14 title with Anna Maskell (Southampton) becoming under 12 champion. The boys U12 and U14 titles were taken by Chris Butt and Mark Wilshere respectively, both of Southampton. Butt and Wilshere joined by the younger Wilshere, Stephen and Alistair Turner representing Southampton currently led the inter-town cadet table.

Following defeat by old rivals Portsmouth and being held to a draw by their own 'B' team, Bournemouth look set to relinquish the veteran team title. It was good to see both Bournemouth and Portsmouth men enter teams for the newly constituted Veterans British League; Bournemouth with former internationals Tony Clayton and Brian Burn equipping themselves well to earn a place within the first division for the next season.

An idle month for both senior teams as regards championship matches; both junior sides entertained a strong Kent team, the "A"s losing their previous perfect record by being held to a 5 sets all draw - Kevin Macken and Jeremy Wilson 2 sets each and Lorna Dutch one - whilst the "B"s were sunk without trace, 10 sets to love.

The Veteran A side won an exciting match by the odd set against Somerset (Maurice Shave, Chris Shetler, Graham Outtrim and Gill Larking a set apiece) and the C's recorded their third victory on the trot, 7-2 against Dorset C's (2 sets each for Norman Stagg and Charlie Childs, one each for Wally Pay and Mary Barron).

# Counties 3

Basingstoke's latest 32 page newsletter starts with news of their lively development sub-committee which includes the intention to produce a purpose built hall by Easter 1994! Well good luck to them; lack of ambition never produced anything.

Into the publicity stakes for the first time come Southampton with a very informative and detailed summary of the first half of the season produced by Colin French. Tournament time as well this month for Southampton with holder Andy Ely, together with Jeff Giles, Chris Wilshere, and Christos Hannides reaching the men's singles semi finals; finals night over runs copy date, so order your April magazine NOW!

## ! STOP PRESS !

Andy Ely, Sarah Turner and Chris Shetler (Veterans) all retained their Southampton TTA singles titles.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

CHESHUNT VETERAN INTER-LEAGUE team became superstars when they won the Hertfordshire Veteran Inter-League trophy for the third year running, after the third Sunday of the competition was completed at Barnet TTC on 7th February 1993.

North Herts Chris Budden took the 'Player of the Season' award, pushing Cheshunt's No. 1 player Derek Balding into second place, when he finished with a 93.75% average, winning 15 out of 16 played. In fact the one he lost was really close, losing 22-24 in the third to Watford's Geoff Bax, on the first Sunday of the tournament.

Runners up were Hemel Hempstead - Dave Wackrill, Graham Jaynes, Mick Chandler, despite the absence of their No. 1 player Mike Atkinson, who was double booked being required in his local league's Annual Championships.

It looks like the super four, Alan Lamprell, Derek Balding, Tony Teff and Carl Nelson of Cheshunt intend to keep this trophy for a long time to come, thus creating a probable unbreakable record.

Winners of this season's cadet inter-league competition was Watford's trio of Lesley Moorhead, Peter Knust and Tim Seaholme at the Barnet TTC on 17th January. The Watford threesome didn't lose a game, winning them all except their match with North Herts, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

The three lads - Andrew Hart, Michael Dickinson and Josh Lury of North Herts, were also undefeated and finished in the runners up spot.

Hertfordshire's junior 2nd team pulled off a fantastic win in the County Championships, beating Norfolk II 6-4. The fantastic five were Josh Lury, John O'Leary, Arun Dhar, Marie Masters and Lesley Moorhead that won this battle between these two Eastern region teams.

It looked like being a draw when the tenth game started between Hertfordshire's Arun Dhar and Norfolk's Jamie Vasco, with Vasco having earlier beaten our No. 1 Josh Lury, and the match standing at 5-4. But Dhar played splendidly winning in style 17, -15, 16.

### Veterans Inter-League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshunt	8	7	1	45	11	7
Hemel Hempstead I	8	6	2	36	20	6
North Herts	8	5	3	34	22	5
Welwyn/Hatfield	8	5	3	33	23	5
Watford	8	4	4	29	27	4
Barnets	8	3	5	24	32	3
Hertford	8	2	6	14	42	2
Hemel Hempstead II	8	0	8	12	44	0

### Cadets Inter-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford I	5	4	1	0	15	5	9
North Herts	5	3	2	0	13	7	8
Hemel Hempstead I	5	2	2	1	11	9	6
Barnets	5	1	2	2	9	11	4
Watford II	5	0	2	3	6	14	2
Hemel Hempstead II	5	0	1	4	6	14	1



Veteran champions (left to right) Tony Teff, Alan Lamprell and Derek Balding

## ISLE OF WIGHT

John Prean

ISLAND PLAYERS ARE again crossing the Solent in great numbers. Our A team, playing in the Southern Regional League have won 3 and lost 4 and so may survive in the Premier Section to which last year's form may not have entitled them! If so, it will be an excellent effort. Congratulations to the reconstituted team of Roger Hookey, Chris Angus and Regina Stevens. Regina, a girl among men, is a very good player who would be a lot higher than her national ranking of No. 16 or so which I noted not long ago, if she played regularly. As a full time teacher, she cannot find that time, not least because she also coaches 10 to 11 hours per week. Her ranking was based, I believe, on some successful British Women's League weekends. Now she seems to have been dropped from the list, perhaps because of limited activity, which elsewhere has been known to lead to higher rankings.

One of our players who has at last made the national cadet ranking list is Lorna Dutch. She appeared in the December list at No. 18 and not having played since, at any rate in ranking events, naturally

# Counties 4

advanced to No. 17. She was luckier in that respect than Regina. Congratulations to Lorna. It must have seemed as hard to get on the list as it was to win all those matches.

Our juniors and cadets were unbeaten in the Hampshire Inter-town weekends, whilst our Veterans have won 3 and lost 2 in the Veteran's section (Division 1). Alan Hulbert, Joe Daly (who certainly has a busy programme) and Pete Urry (with a hard bat) seem to be getting better as they get older. If they can market the formula, they may make a fortune. Our B team in the Southern Regional League are being fielded for the experience, so far mainly that of losing, but we hope that some strong oaks will emerge in time from the acorns that are being sown.

I refereed our annual Top 10 tournament where I thought standards were better than for some years. It was a very good evening and every seat was occupied. Roger Hookey proved a worthy winner, beating Angus 20 and 24 in an exciting final. He had his work cut out beating Regina in the semi final which went to three, as did the other semi in which Angus beat Mike Turner 19 in the third. We invited our two top juniors Alex Rorke and Greg Burns and they were not disgraced at No. 8 and 9 and neither were Martin Mitchell (at No. 5) and Urry and Daly in the next places. If we could have play like that every week, it would produce great benefits. The idea is on the table.

Joan Rossi won the "service to Sport" award at the IW Sports and Recreation Council "Sports Personality of the Year" presentations. It was a well deserved honour for Joan as well as the sport she has served for 45 years. Always first with the news, this column has often featured Joan and Bill Rossi's quite outstanding service to the Island sport!

Quite a few of us travelled to Milton Keynes to see the long awaited 'head to head' between our player Carl Prean and Chen Xinhua staged, we were told, to decide who was the best player in England. We remained for the England-France international. The Isle of Wight player duly won in two straight games in a fascinating contest of defence vs attack, after which he duly remained in the No. 2 spot! The reason seemed to be that the ranking committee has allocated a derisory points to this contest, which was sponsored (Bulins) and televised (BBC2 Friday Sport). The weighting (multiple) was 1.5, ie the same as accorded to, say, a Junior 2 Star and the VETTS Regional tournaments.

Carl was philosophical on the topic, having seen himself relegated to the No. 2 spot the previous season on the basis of 47 wins and 23 defeats compared with his rival's 33 wins and 22 defeats. "It was" he said "no surprise".

The match itself received tiny, almost apologetic space in this journal - about 5% of that given to the 'glue' stories. Perhaps as well. Imagine a boxing match in which the loser rises from the canvas to be proclaimed the No. 1. It can only happen in table tennis! A well wisher sent me a cartoon in which a kindly official tells Chen: "All you have to do is lose and you will retain your No. 1 spot. Go to it!"

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## KENT Adrian Hall

THE KENT RELIANCE Senior County Championships were played at the Sterling Centre, Rochester on Saturday 9th January 1993 and attracted a quality entry from all over the county.

Joe Kennedy (Bromley) upset the seedings by beating Andy Cunningham (Bromley) in the Men's Singles in a match full of heavy topspin drives with some amazing counter hit winners for his 11th championship win.

There were some close matches in the Ladies Singles but it was top seed Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge) that made it 10 successive championship wins when she beat Lesley Hollingworth (Sittingbourne) in a hard hitting final 21-14, 17-21, 21-9.

**Mens Singles** - Joe Kennedy bt Andy Cunningham  
**Ladies Singles** - Juliet Houghton bt Lesley Hollingworth  
**Mens Doubles** - Cunningham/Phil Cox bt Kennedy/Ian Girdler  
**Ladies DoubleS** - Houghton/C Brown bt Pam Butcher/Marilyn Dudgeon  
**Mixed Doubles** - Mark Brown/C Brown bt Kennedy/Sarah Thorne  
**Veteran Singles** - Henry Buist bt Tom Adams  
**U21 Mens Singles** - Brian Milcham bt Martin Gunn  
**U21 Ladies Singles** - L Hollingworth bt Carly Riggs  
**Man of Kent Singles** - Neil Harris bt Mark McConkey  
**Kentish Man Singles** - Dave Kellard bt Matthew Vardy  
**Ladies Singles Class II** - Jackie Mersh bt Joanne Barham

Trophies and prize monies were presented to the finalists by Mr Ian Robinson, Managing Director of KENT RELIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY, sponsors of the tournament.

### *Kent Senior II bt Essex II 7-3*

Our ladies Jackie Mersh and Kristina Brocklebank were unbeaten as Kent got their county campaign off to a winning start. For the men Spencer Thompson also got his maximum and Dave Griffiths chipped in with a win, no luck on this occasion for Chris Knight.

### *Kent Junior I bt Gwent 7-3*

The Barham sisters Joanne and Natasha and Glen Ritchie were the backbone of Kent's win, all three being unbeaten. Craig Hastie had a good tussle with Toby Eckley before out on top. No joy in this match for Chris Hall.

### *Kent Junior II Fight Hard for Draw*

Heidi Steers and Ben McCarthy turned in splendid but nerve racking performances to earn Kent Junior II a hard earned draw away to Hampshire I. With Hants fielding two top 50 players in Kevin Macken and Jeremy Wilson, the match was likely to hinge on the legs where they were not involved and so proved to be the case. Lorna Dutch beat Crystal Hall 21-14, 21-18 to put Hants in the driving seat which they converted into 5-3 before Steers beat Dutch 21-12, 12-21, 24-22 and McCarthy beat David Bobson 21-11, 15-21, 21-13 for a good draw. Earlier in the day Kent Junior II Beat Hants II 10-0. Jason Cheesemen P4, W2, Ben McCarthy P4 W3, Scott Dawtry P4 W3, Heidi Steers P4 W4, Crystal Hall P4 W3.

### *National Top 12*

Kent were well represented in the cadet events with two players in each of the boys and girls sections. Christian Thompson takes pride of place with 4th closely followed by Scott Friday 6th - what a prospect these two youngsters are for Kent's future. Alison Smith and late replacement Rachel Woollven finished 11th and 12th in the girls section, basically confirming their rankings. Well done all four.

### *National Team Events*

Maidstone 8 - Crawley/Horsham 1

Maidstone Cadet Boys team of Scott Friday, Antony Lickfold and Jon Cheng had a comfortable win over a young Crawley/Horsham side in the second round of the Leach Cup (U14 Boys) at East Malling on 10th January. Maidstone are next at home to Guildford in the zone final.

### *Reading 1 - Maidstone 8*

The Maidstone Cadet girls team of Alison Smith, Rachel Woollven and Jade Stutely qualified for the semi final of the Hammersley Cup (U14 girls) when they totally overpowered a young Reading side at Reading on 16th January. Maidstone now have to make the long journey to Plymouth for the semi final.

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## *Cotswold Select*

Scott Friday as expected these days, won the U12 Boys Singles at the Cotswold Select.

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## LANCASHIRE Stan Clarke

CONGRATULATIONS TO PHILLIP Musgrove of St Helens on winning the junior boys national trials. I cannot remember when, if ever, a Lancashire junior has won this prestigious event before. Phillip has enjoyed a remarkable season from being selected as "Boy of the Weekend" to his latest triumph. Well done Phil, it couldn't happen to a nicer lad.

The Lancashire Senior 2nd team of Nigel Eckersley, Steve Scowcroft, Graham Clarke, Brenda Buoeay and Paula French had a mixed time at the first division weekend, beating Bedfordshire 7-3 losing to Leicestershire 4-6 and drawing with Cambridgeshire and Derbyshire. Though all of the team made their contributions to the results, star billing must go to Graham Clarke with 6 wins from 8 visits to the table including one outstanding match against Andy Withers of Cambridgeshire which kept the spectators enthralled with play of a very high standard.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League is now at the halfway stage, currently comprising of 5 divisions of men, 3 junior division, 2 ladies and 5 veterans. at the time of writing, Stockport head the men's first division with 8 points from 4 matches with Warrington in 2nd place with 7 points and Manchester with 6 points in 3rd place.

The Junior 1st division is headed by St Helens with 6 points from 3 matches having dropped only 2 sets from 30 played, with Halton and Oldham jointly sharing 2nd place with 3 points each from 2 matches and identical sets average.

Not surprisingly the Veterans division 1 is led by Stockport on 7 points with Macclesfield in second place on 5 points ahead of Liverpool who also have 5 points but an inferior sets average.

A league of 15 divisions is a welcome sight, it's just a little unfortunate that the ladies and junior divisions comprise of 4 divisions with the only area likely to expand being the Veterans divisions.

The long awaited Development Plan for table tennis in the North West, based on the Sports Council Focus Sport initiatives should be available to all leagues in the near future, the plan is very far reaching and deserves earnest consideration by anybody who has an interest in increasing the participation in table tennis. I would earnestly ask that each and every league spend some time digesting the suggestions made in the plan.

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## LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

LAST SEASON'S CHAMPIONS Loughborough Kingfishers I in the Leicester and District TTL seem to be faltering recently and the Knighton Park I team look as though this may be their year.

The Loughborough side need to have the services of Mark Illingworth or else they are struggling. The Park side look to have the edge with Karen Smith and Martin Pickles in good form and with players like Keith Fellows in the side I cannot see the county side retaining the championship. Knighton Park have brought off some convincing wins of late and Kingfishers just managed to beat Electricity 6-4, and could only draw with their second string and this was 100% with Mark Illingworth in the team so the signs are there.

At the opposite end of the table Leicester Gas have been struggling all season and I'm afraid that it is curtains for them unless something drastic happens.

Entry forms have gone out for the Inter-towns tournaments with events for both Seniors and Juniors. They will be played over two Sundays in March at the Knighton Park club. The two events will be played on a round robin basis. Teams are hoped to be represented from Hinckley, Loughborough and Leicester.

Coaching is still progressing well at most centres, with good reports coming in. The Eyres Monsell complex is still low in numbers but still running and I suppose that's something.

Applications have also gone out for the Leicestershire Schools Championships to be held at the Soar Valley Community College on three consecutive Saturday's in February. There are seven events and has been well supported in the past, hopefully it will be the same for this year.

Steve Zanker does a brilliant job in organising the whole event and we could do with others like him to continue the good work.

Most of the local cup competitions have reached the final stages now, but I have not got any results at hand. Will report on them in a later edition.

The Leicester Closed Championships have also been arranged for Sunday 14th March at the Parklands Leisure Centre. It is hoped that it will be a record entry this year as it is a good venue, and will be held for the first time there.

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## MIDDLESEX Lorna Taylor

THE JUNIOR SECOND team had their first victory this season against Berkshire 2 by the score of 7-3. It was notable for the debut of Jason Sugrue who played very comfortably and confidently to win both his games in fine style. Jason, at 13 years old, is an extremely promising Middlesex player of the future. Kay Leslie also made her first win for the county.

Joanne Weare reached the last 16 at the Junior National Trials losing to Shelley Ruocco. at the Cotswold Junior Select, Jason Sugrue reached the quarter finals of the cadet boys singles being beaten in the third by Steven Meddings, the No. 1 cadet boy in England. Simon Jablon also lost to Steven in the final.

Oliver and James Wakelem are now ranked in the top 25 of the Under 12 boys and also in the cadet boys ranking lists from the ETTA.

In the DW Birmingham Competition (Junior Inter-League) North Middlesex League are on top which includes the players Antony Jeyarajah and Marios Michaelides. They have beaten North Middlesex 2 6-3, Staines 8-1 and Isle of Dogs 4-1! Willesden who are lead by Tim and John O'Leary have won both their matches. In the Victor Barna Competition North Middlesex for another year are in fine form and seem to be doing the most damage so far this season by beating Willesden and West Middlesex 8-1.

Veterans games traditionally last well into the night but the Ted Connell Middlesex Veterans match between Staines and Wembley and Harrow takes some beating. Four matches finished deuce in the third games, two matches went to 'expedite' and eventually finished at 1.30 in the morning. Thank heavens for the two 'attackers' Dave Crowley of Staines and Mary Sawyer of Wembley and Harrow. The result finished at 5-4 for Staines - all on the final game between Ron Langheim who beat Tony Taylor - yes deuce in the third.

# Counties 6

## NORFOLK Ray Hogg

Just when Norwich League have probably their best squad of cadets and juniors for many a year and looking forward to some interesting matches in the Carter Cup etc, no entry forms are received and when enquiries are made too late the draw has been made. Most of these juniors will be too old for next season so miss out for good. Also I hear that Kings Lynn did not receive an entry form for the Vets 3-a-side competition. Computer or human error I wonder.

County matches Saturday 21st November so I rang our chat line on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday after these matches to find out results of other matches in our divisions. Finally on Tuesday 1st December there they were. Defeats the object of this line as British League results were there on the Tuesday 24th November. I dread to think of what it cost to ring so much along with the preamble before you even get to the line which started with 'the results from the 2nd round of matches' when I put my phone down.

The Norwich contingent of cadets and juniors are travelling round various tournaments and are making their mark gradually as they get used to playing away from home and the opposition is much the same as they are apart from the one or two who are always above the rest.

Some firm friendships have been made already. At the Hastings cadet and junior tournament both were on the one day which made it much easier for travelling and no less than 10 competitors from Norwich went which must be a record.

Last month I said that our County Championships had lost all sponsorship and it was crucial that we had a large entry to hold cover costs. The entry was about a third DOWN on last year with only 24 men entering the singles. We can blame late entry forms, not enough publicity, forms not getting to the right people or is it that the players round the county are not interested any more. Particularly to note is that of about 20 veterans registered only 3 entered which very much disappointed me as they are the backbone of most leagues, either as players or administrators. Are we wasting our time and the county's very limited finance on this event. Answers from within the county to me please.

Last county day brought our junior 1st team playing versus Clwyd who opted for the long trip to Norwich. Gary Hewitt in his last season a junior showed his class by winning both singles without appearing to break into a gallop - just like his dad in the veterans 2nd team who won all the men's matches at Hunts. Vets 1st team came up against a 'weakened' Yorkshire 2nd team and lost 6-3 instead of the usual 5-4. An uphill struggle now faces them in the last 4 matches. The seniors struggled to raise a team and lost to Northants 6-4. Junior 2nd team beat Bucks II 7-3 with one of our team wearing BLACK socks.

This report seems all gloom and doom, so I hope things will improve.

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## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

NINE TITLES CHANGED hands when the Wellingborough League staged the first Sunday tournament within the county boundaries, but though there wasn't a significant increase in entries, the event itself ran smoothly under the able guidance of Phil Slade and Arthur Palmer.

It also produced one major surprise, when the untried and unseeded pairing of Steve West and Gordon Shaw knocked out top seeds Chris Handshaw and Richard Elliott in the early stages of the men's

doubles, eliminated Mike Pond and Steve Silk at the penultimate stage and took the title with an easy win over Chris Gibbons and Michael Edwards.

The singles was more predictable, with Elliott accounting for West at the semi final stage, and Handshaw coming from a game down to beat Steve Silk. The final was close, but not close enough for Handshaw, who has yet to take a major singles title, and Elliott was successful for a third time.

Caroline Perkins was also looking for her first singles title, but after forcing a deciding end she had to admit defeat to fifteen year old Sally Russell, who was registering a fifth successive win, a feat she and Muriel Cox repeated in the Ladies Doubles, at the expense of Miss Perkins and Dorothy Marsh.

At veteran level the main honours went to a rejuvenated Dave Marsh, who recovered from a poor start against Edwards to end a worthy champion. Then in the Over 50's event he had an easy win over Dennis Millman, joined with his beaten opponent to take the corresponding doubles and finally in the Over 40 doubles it was Marsh and Edwards who proved too consistent for Millman and Mike Pond.

Elsewhere Muriel Cox gained a fourth success in the women's veteran competition, while in the Over 60's Bill Allen, the Marsh's next door neighbour, produced some vintage form to take his first ever singles title.

Paul Adams caused a surprise in the junior ranks when he beat the holder Miss Russell at the semi final stage and then went on to win the Rod Marchant Trophy by accounting for Joe Trippett in a closely fought final, but the singles finalists were well beaten by Sally and her partner Tom Trippett in the final of the Under 17 doubles. The Trevor Mumford Memorial Trophy for cadets was won by Ruth Huddle, while the newly constituted 17 to 22 singles ended in David Waples safe keeping after a prolonged tussle with Scott Dixon.

Other winners included Steve Adams and Clare Waples in the Mystery doubles, while the Divisional handicap singles in descending order went to Sally Russell, Martin Gibbs, Gwil Evans, Jon Souster and Louise Martin.

The Rushden Table Tennis Initiative takes a huge step forward on 13th March with "Have a Smashing Day" at the Rushden Sports Centre, when the guest of honour will be Desmond Douglas, whose active participation in the proceedings will include a challenge by the winner of an eagerly awaited exhibition match between the county No. 1 Graham McKim and the current county champion Andy Trott.

The County Association and all the county's leagues have been asked to provide their own programme for the day, while Comsport will supply staff and a variety of activities under the direction of Ben Williams. Additionally it is hoped that 'The Bat Workshop' will not only exhibit in the main hall, but will be available with specialist advice. With countless other opportunities available on the day, including the use of several robots, it is an event not to be missed.

Despite the lack of a Coaching Secretary, for which applications are urgently required, Northants juniors recently exceeded all expectations when playing and winning all four matches in the first stage of this season's County Championships at Grantham TTC. Lincs and Staffs 2nds were downed 6-4, Warwicks 2nds became 8-2 victims and to complete their best ever day in northants Junior history, John Russell's team took 9 games in succession after trailing to Cheshire 2nds. Congratulations to the talented squad of Sally Russell, Tom Rowe, Joe Trippett, Paul Adams and both Ruth Hickman and Tom Trippett on their county debuts.

Despite a superb first appearance from Brian D'Hooghe the Veterans 1sts lost their unbeaten record when beaten by the odd game in 9 against Notts, while Gordon Shaw and Mike Pond made certain of an excellent win for the 2nds. Finally it was Kieron Dabbs unbeaten contribution that enabled the seniors to draw with Beds 2nds.

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# Counties 7

## SOMERSET Andy Seward

THE COUNTY VETERANS 1st team suffered a disappointing 5-4 defeat at the hands of Hampshire in the latest round of County matches. The usual double from Brian Reeves, one from John Crabtree plus the men's doubles were not quite enough.

The Vets 2nds lost heavily (1-8) to Avon. Few redeeming features except for the win by Diane Helsdon playing her first county match of the season.

More good news about our Juniors who went on their travels again (Glos please note), this time to Devon. A 4-0 lead against undefeated Glamorgan 2 was a great start but the decisive match which clinched the 6-4 result for Somerset was Julie Ashcroft's win over Vicky Morrissey 15, -20, 22, having been 15-20 down in the third.

Rob Millard achieved two comfortable wins against Glamorgan, but not so against Avon. After going to three with Alex Sheppard, Rob had a monumental battle with Barry Fudge eventually winning -15, 25, 17. Two more wins for Julie, one each for Claire Shobbrook, Alan Russell and Andrew Hewitt ensured a 7-3 victory.

### Yeovil League

With just over half of the season in the Westcolour Yeovil League now completed, Westland Casuals lead Division 1 by 11 points over reigning champions Westland browns. The Casuals team consists of John Smeeton, who has lost only one match, Rupert Horsington, brother John, County Veteran Ray Lee and Dick Mudd. Westland teams dominate the Division with the Greys, Whites and Blacks filling the next three positions. (Footnote: to play for the Westlands Greys, it is a requirement to have played for both the Whites and Blacks!!)

Westlands Purples lead Division 2 with a 12 point margin over Crewkerne White Lion. More possible trophies for the Smeeton household, Doug Smeeton (father of John) is the leading player for the Purples.

A special mention to Diane Helsdon who, making a rare appearance for the county veterans last month, was rewarded with her first ever win as a veteran. Congratulations!

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

## SUSSEX John Woodford

HOPES THAT SUSSEX juniors might be strong enough to win a place in the premier division of the County Championships have been dashed after losing to Berkshire.

But the two most senior teams are still in there fighting, with the odds in favour of the senior team winning back their place in the premier division, lost last season in dubious circumstances.

Leading Sussex junior girl Sarah Stedman has been in and out of action recently due to illness, but she bounces back from medical setbacks as fast as her forehand drive. With Paul Cicelli bowing out of the junior ranks through 'old age', Miss Stedman and Paul Butcher seem destined to lead Sussex next season.

Also in the frame for honours is the England No. 5 cadet Tina Beany from Hastings. She is just 14 and the reigning Sussex junior champion.

Horsham Angels, bidding for a place in the premier division of the Friendly Hotels British League have several hurdles left to clear. They need not beat Grove, but they must win the other matches and they

have to play if possible Nigel Tyler, Mike Hammond and Ritchie Venner in all the matches.

Lennox House, in the depths of Division 3 have lost their chance of promotion (unless the goal posts are moved) as they lost 8-0 to the powerful Poole side led by Tony Clayton.

Most local leagues have banned fast glue at their tournaments and some in local league play - Crawley have taken the lead in a complete glue ban.

The Sussex TTA have voted to ban blue in all their events and the other Sussex towns who have banned the toxic substances are Crawley, Worthing, Brighton and Haywards Heath.

## WILTSHIRE Laurie Selby

DAZZLING DISPLAYS BY Wiltshire's top young table tennis players earned them outstanding success in regional finals. Swindon girls filled the top 3 places in the ETTA regional trials at Plymouth. They battled against players from Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire, Dorset and Wiltshire for coveted places in the national trials at Lilleshall in January. Top of the table was Tracy Youldon who never lost a match in the Under 17 section. Second was Debbie King and third Kelly Sampson. They went forward to the national trials. "It was a great performance by the girls" said Val Clack, Secretary of the Swindon League.

Brenda Lee added to her large collection of table tennis trophies when she won the Ferndale Handicap tournament for the Bill Barrett Memorial Shield. Brenda beat Den O'Neill (handicap +12) 21-16, 21-16 in the semi finals to book her place in the final against Mark Smith (+12) who scored a fine semi final victory over Gary Baldwin.

Mark's handicap dropped to +8 for the final and it was not enough to stop Brenda running out a 21-17, 21-18 winner. The fast improving Tim O'Mahoney won the consolation event with a 21-17, 21-18 win against James Wood (+17).

Swindon boys team were bundled out of the Carter Cup Competition when they went down 5-0 to Plymouth. The Swindon side - Tim O'Mahoney, Hue Ngo and Mark Thompson - never won a set to the visiting team of Jonathan May, Adrian Vincent and Gary Buffton.

In the previous round Swindon beat Newbury 5-3. Tim O'Mahoney, who is still under 14, laid the foundation for Swindon's victory with straight game victories over Ian Barrett, Richard Truesdale and Stuart Wise. Hue Ngo won the other two for Swindon's victory. He beat Truesdale in three games, defeated Wise in 2. Swindon's third player, Luke Leach, lost all his matches in straight games.

## WORCESTERSHIRE Steve Horton

OUR COUNTY SIDES were unable to record a win in the January fixtures.

The first team, away at Gwent, were beaten 7-3 despite 2 wins for Sandra Roden and 1 from Mandy Mytton. The men failed to register a win but were involved in some very close three setters.

The second team were unable to recover from losing the opening singles 22-20 in the third and were beaten 7-3 by a strong Lincolnshire side.

Mervyn Wood was left with a singles to decide the outcome of a 4-4 match score at home to Yorkshire II. The second set was one sided with Mervyn losing 21-9. The Yorkshire No. 3 Richard Priestley did the damage with 2 singles and a mixed doubles win. Ray Dixon won 2 singles with Roy Norton and Janet Hunt 1 each.

# Counties 8

Our Juniors set off at 5am for the long journey to Plymouth to play Devon and Dorset. The first match against Devon resulted in a draw with Keith Beckett winning 2 singles, Carrie Hunt 2 and Stephanie Price 1. The second match against Dorset also finished 5-5 with Carrie winning 2, Richard Painter 1, David Stephens 1 and Keith 1. Incidentally Carrie won 3 out of 5 matches in the National Trials which was the best achievement by one of our girls for some time.

With most of the county's affiliated leagues at the half way stage, it is worth reporting on current progress.

## *Dudley*

Bromley A and Moseley Park are level on 35 points after 10 matches in Division 1. This tussle is likely to be resolved near the end of the season. Jims Gym A and Hawbush who are only 6 points adrift, are capable of causing a few upsets. Individual - Steve Horton 28/30 (Bromley) and Ken Walton 26/30 (Moseley Park).

## *Malvern*

Oak Express lead the Oak Malvern Division 1 with 17 points from 9 matches with YMCA Magpies in 2nd spot with 16 points from 10 matches.

## *Evesham*

Bengeworth Red are making a good defence of their title with 23 points from 6 matches. Bengeworth Tigers and Kindon Bulldogs have 21 and 19 points respectively and stay in touch with the leaders.

## *Bromsgrove*

Catshill YC 'A' have opened up a 12 point lead in Division 1 with 84 points from 8 matches. The 10 point per match systems should provide an interesting climax to the season as it did last year. MTB and Hickey Monarchs are capable of catching the leaders.

## *Kidderminster*

ROS are on top in Division 1 with a 9 point lead over nearest rivals Harriers C. This could be a 4th title in 5 seasons for the Summerfield side.

## *Worcester*

Cripplegate Guild are current leaders with 18 points from 11 matches but a Nick Mytton inspired Evesham are favourites for the title with 17 points from 9 matches and no defeats.

## *County Handicap Competition*

For only the third time in the history of the competition two sides were involved in a draw - Crowle E and Civil Service. The replay was won by Crowle.

Next month a full report from the 41st Worcestershire County Closed.

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## YORKSHIRE Rea Balmford

WITH THE MENS premier and ladies divisions of the Yorkshire League each having completed two series of matches, front runners are beginning to emerge in both sections.

Most teams have played five games and only Sheffield (mens) and Leeds (ladies) can point to a maximum 10 point return, with Huddersfield (Premier) and Hull (Ladies) each on the 8 point mark.

Both leaders however have overcome the challenge of their nearest rivals and thus must be regarded as favourites to take the title, although the men from the steel city still have to meet Bradford, undefeated in their 3 games.

Sheffield also dominate Men's Division 1 with 8 points from 5 outings, Halifax are undefeated after 5 matches in division 2, while the bright picture in the south of the county is completed in the veteran leagues, where Sheffield top Division 1 with an unblemished record, and Sheffield II and II occupy 2nd and 3rd places in Veteran Division 2 behind unbeaten Bradford II.

The draw for the semi finals of the Yorkshire Clubs Championship has been made as follows:

## *Mens*

Middleton PA II v Yorkshire Bank  
SA Labels v Harrogate Wanderers

## *Veteran*

Brook Motors v Clayton Heights  
Middleton PA v Harrogate Wanderers

The county's Junior Closed Championships were held at Millthorpe School in York and, although the event clashed with the Junior Top 12 only 40 miles down the road at Hull and with the Bradford Closed - a fair reflection on the crowded state of the calendar - an excellent entry of 65 youngsters was received.

The absence of some of the top players at the Top 12 did offer an opportunity to some of the lesser lights to shine more brightly, while it was pleasing to see some of the lesser known youngsters displaying their talents on the county stage.

Particularly encouraging was the results in the U12 boys event where, in the final Owen Collingbourne from Keighley got the better of 9 year old Ben Riby from the opposite end of the county at Scarborough.

Not only was it a boost for two of the smaller leagues who rarely appear among the honours, but for the forward looking ideas of both - Keighley have enlisted Hans Soova to help bring along their young players coming to the fore through competition in the schools, while the Seaside League have set up a coaching pattern across the town and surrounding area which must be the envy of some of the bigger leagues.

Several players from Doncaster were in evidence but is junior table tennis dead from Barnsley southwards? I have commented on the success of Sheffield in the Yorkshire League but, oh why are their young players not making their way up the county ladder?

Word has it that a number of youngsters are being actively discouraged from competing in Yorkshire while I understand that elsewhere in the county some juniors and cadets are being discreetly advised against participating in county events.

Surely this 'hiving off' of prospective players from the county mainstream to be raised in a 'hot house' atmosphere is not the right way to interest - and interest is the operative word - young players in our sport, and raise the general standard of table tennis in town and county.

Only local news this month comes from Selby where, at the halfway stage of the season, teams from the H and R club top both divisions. The Selby League were delighted when 11 year old Selby High School girl Emma Smith received an international call up just before the Christmas break when she was invited to travel to France to play in an international 'round robin' tournament against teams representing Belgium and France.

## **! STOP PRESS!**

The ETTA's ban on gluing up will be featured elsewhere in this issue. At a meeting of the Management Committee of the County Association, it was agreed that the ban should be implemented at all events which come under the jurisdiction of the county.

It is believed that most leagues will follow suit and my own league at Hull have already announced that they will enforce the ban with immediate effect.

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# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4

Division 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Somerset	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Glamorgan 2nd	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Avon	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Wiltshire	6	2	2	2	32	28	6
Cornwall	6	2	2	2	26	34	6
Dorset	6	1	2	3	25	35	4
Devonshire 3rd	6	1	1	4	26	34	3 (59-74)
Worcestershire	6	0	3	3	26	34	3 (60-75)
Gloucestershire	6	1	1	4	16	44	3

Division 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kent 2nd	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
Hampshire 1st	4	3	1	0	35	5	7
Sussex 3rd	4	3	1	0	23	17	7
Sussex 2nd	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Middlesex 2nd	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Surrey 3rd	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Hampshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	10	30	2
Berkshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	15	45	0

## VETERANS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	22	5	6
Surrey	3	3	0	18	9	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Sussex	3	2	1	13	14	4
Dorset	3	1	2	12	15	2
Lincolnshire	3	1	2	7	20	2
Essex	3	0	3	9	18	0 (25-37)
Lancashire	3	0	3	9	18	0 (24-39)

Division 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	24	12	6	
Lancashire 2nd	3	3	0	17	10	6	
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	21	15	6	
Leicestershire	3	2	1	13	14	4	
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	17	19	4	
Worcestershire	4	1	3	15	21	2 (38-48)	
Cheshire 2nd	4	1	3	15	21	2 (36-48)	
Norfolk	4	0	4	13	23	0	

Division 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kent	4	4	0	29	7	8	
Somerset	5	3	2	25	20	6	
Essex 2nd	4	3	1	19	17	6	
Hampshire	4	2	2	19	17	4	
Middlesex	4	2	2	18	18	4	
Wiltshire	4	1	3	15	21	2	
Berkshire	4	1	3	13	23	2	
Buckinghamshire	5	1	4	15	30	2	

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warwickshire	4	3	1	24	12	6	
Northamptonshire	3	2	1	16	11	4	
Northumberland	4	2	2	19	17	4	
Staffordshire	3	2	1	13	14	4	
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	15	21	4	
Clwyd	3	1	2	14	13	2	
Cheshire 3rd	3	0	3	7	20	0	

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertfordshire 2nd	3	3	0	24	3	6	
Essex 4th	4	3	1	21	15	6	
Norfolk 2nd	4	3	1	18	18	6	
Cambridgeshire	4	2	2	19	17	4	
Bedfordshire	3	1	2	12	15	2	
Buckinghamshire 2nd	3	0	3	9	18	0	
Huntingdonshire	3	0	3	5	22	0	

Division 2C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 3rd	4	4	0	26	10	8
Surrey 2nd	4	2	2	20	16	4
Sussex 2nd	3	2	1	14	13	4
Kent 2nd	3	2	1	13	14	4
Oxfordshire 2nd	4	1	3	15	21	2
Middlesex 2nd	3	1	2	10	17	2
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	3	10	17	0

Division 2D	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Avon	3	3	0	19	8	6
Gloucestershire	3	3	0	18	9	6
Hampshire 2nd	3	2	1	19	8	4
Devonshire	4	2	2	18	18	4
Dorset 2nd	3	1	2	14	13	2
Somerset 2nd	4	1	3	8	28	2
Wiltshire 2nd	4	0	4	12	24	0

Division 3A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bedfordshire 3rd	3	3	0	20	7	6
Northamptonshire 2nd	4	3	1	20	16	6
Wiltshire 3rd	4	3	1	19	17	6
Hertfordshire 4th	3	2	1	19	17	6
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	0	4	12	24	0
Huntingdonshire 2nd	3	0	3	9	18	0

Division 3B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey 3rd	3	3	0	23	4	6
Hampshire 3rd	4	3	1	20	16	6
Sussex 4th	4	3	1	16	20	6
Kent 3rd	3	2	1	15	12	4
Hertfordshire 3rd	4	1	3	15	12	4
Berkshire 4th	3	0	3	11	16	0
Dorset 3rd	3	0	3	8	19	0

Division 3C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex 3rd	4	3	1	28	9	6
Northamptonshire 3rd	3	3	0	18	9	6 (41-25)
Hertfordshire 5th	3	3	0	18	9	6 (40-26)
Berkshire 3rd	4	2	2	19	17	4
Gloucestershire 2nd	3	1	2	13	14	2
Herefordshire	4	0	4	8	28	0
Wiltshire 4th	3	0	3	4	23	0

## STOP PRESS

### Essex 5 Star

ESSEX are saddened to hear of the cancellation of the South of England tournament, but if any disappointed players would like to enter the Essex 3 Star the closing date for entries has been extended to Tuesday 9th March 1993.

### Disciplinary

A hearing was held on 6th February 1993 to consider a formal allegation of breach of ETTA Rule 32.15 made against Malcolm McEvoy (Dennal Harcross VR Warrington) and Neil

Gravener (Vymura International II) following an incident at a Friendly Hotels British League match on 22nd November 1992.

The Disciplinary Committee found that the conduct of the two members on the day brought the game of table tennis into disrepute, and the allegation of breach of rule therefore proven. It was decided that Mr. McEvoy be suspended from the privileges of membership of the ETTA from 15th February 1993 until 31st May 1993, both dates inclusive, and that Mr. Gravener be officially censured.

# The Experts' Expert: The Coaches' Coach

(with acknowledgements to the 'Observer')

*THIS is the second and concluding part of this interesting feature on whom our best coaches look up to, continued from November 1992's issue of Table Tennis News.*

**JOHN O'SULLIVAN**, started coaching in 1961 with Jack Carrington, and then with national coaches Peter Simpson and Bryan Merrett. Has worked with all the national coaches but in the last 15 years 'it has been more of a lone thing.' Coaches 'at home' five nights a week and at weekends all over the country. Taught Optics and Colour Photography at Liverpool Polytechnic.

"My coaching is 30 years old and for the first five years I followed to the book everything that was said to me by the powers to be at that time. But I found that nothing in terms of progression was made...it was going outside of table tennis - when I did a course at Carnegie College in Leeds - and I met the chap, I don't even know his name, who was sitting on the bench outside the college at night and he told me that you will find more information from the outside observer than you will from people inside who are mainly conditioned or programmed into the normal way of thinking and I took that on board. Since then, and I am talking over 20 years ago, I have when faced with a problem given it to people outside the game, told them what I need, and then allowed them certain time to think it over...I have now made my own programme for coaching, specially with the higher level player, based on information prepared for me in terms of what is possible and how close you can get to that. So that when we are talking about say for instance learning spin, I have been to the University and have spoken to people whose subject is mechanics and dynamics and they tell me what is available, what is possible and I have to sort it out from that...I use it for them (the players), work it with the player. Some of it has worked, some of it has not worked, and over the years I have had to take out the bits that I like...So if you say who has influenced me they are unknown people mainly...A fellow named **Thompson** at Liverpool University was my contact...who put me in touch with the various people... Now he was a lab technician of some kind and knew everyone...They came up with answers...Yes there were people who influenced me...they were all experts in their field...At the moment I am talking to a chap named **Phillips**, who is in the psychology department; we are working on the mental side of the game."

**DONALD PARKER**, former

England international. Currently ETTA Director of Coaching and England team manager. At 18 he did not think he was quite good enough to play full time so went into teacher training and then got interested in coaching. Has worked for the ETTA since 1978 in a number of capacities.

"I see coaching as a very wide embracing area...**Peter Simpson** was a big influence on me from a technical point of view. From an organisational and thinking point of view **Peter Charters** was a big influence on me and then at the time I first got involved there was a team of national coaches **Dave Fairholm**, **Bryan Merrett**, **Peter Hirst**, **Peter Simpson** and myself and obviously we used to band around a lot of ideas and hopefully learnt a lot from each other. On the international scene I don't really think there has been a big influence on me apart from the people I have mentioned. I have watched certain countries and picked strengths that are applicable to a European style...The Japanese have very strong technical strengths but I feel they are somewhat unimaginative in the way they play...a great deal to learn from them about the technical side, stroke production, footwork, and then you have got the Swedish players who are very imaginative and creative...in the early days you had people like **Christer Johansson**, **Kjell Johansson**, **Hans Alser**, **Stellen Bengtsson** - it is always interesting to talk to top class players who have become coaches because a lot of them have very strong views in certain areas...As a young player a major influence on me was the senior captain at the time, **Les Gresswell**...he had some different ideas and he certainly made me think a lot about the game and how I should play...the way he made me look at the game technically, physically, psychologically was again a major influence in the early days."

**DEREK MARPLES**, Derbyshire, has been coaching for 20 odd years, Alan Cooke's coach.

"I have seen quite a lot of changes in table tennis, and the one (coach) who impressed some years ago was Nicky Jarvis' and Jimmy Walker's coach **Alan Ransome** who introduced a lot of heavy topspin into the game. He wasn't the originator of this heavy topspin but it was introduced into his coaching."

**MALCOLM FRANCIS**, does most of his coaching in the South East although he does a fair amount of his coaching in the South West with the Devon county squad, who include several England ranked players.

"My coaching really starts and was formed by going to China as a player when I was 18 or 19 years of

age and I coached very much the Chinese way using their methods both technically and mentally. Each player I allow to use their own individual flair using the technical methods I feel they should use to enable them to bring the best out of their game. Within this country if I need advice, I go to either **Alan Fisher** or **John O'Sullivan** who are people I feel have got lots of experience, Alan Fisher especially with beginners and John O'Sullivan with the technical and more scientific aspects of the game...**Noo Chin Day** was the name of the guy who coached me when I was out in China and I was with him for two months. He gave me a lot of help and I still have the notes from when they were coaching me which I use when I am coaching."

**ALAN RANSOME**, ETTA Senior coach (or 3\* coach) for over 20 years. Former England player and coach of the famous Ormesby Club.

"I came into coaching basically as a player. The position in the Ormesby Club was that Denis Neale and I were the main two players and Denis moved away for a while and there was no-one to practise with. So the way to actually get someone to practise with was to teach them first to play and then practise against them and that's what actually got me into coaching. But once I got into coaching I found it fascinating and got a lot of satisfaction out of attempting to produce leading players...The biggest influence on coaching as far as I was concerned is visits to world and European championships where in my early coaching days I would spend somewhere in the region of 12 to 14 hours a day just watching and filming the best matches that were on and studying their styles and learning...From an organisational viewpoint **Jack Carrington** was undoubtedly very good. He gave me a lot of skills in how to organise courses, presentational skills etc. From a technical viewpoint, in my early coaching days probably the one I looked up to most was **Christer Johansson** because Christer Johansson at that time was coach of the Swedish team that was enormously successful. That was Kjell Johansson, Stellen Bengtsson, Hans Alser which is equally as good as any Swedish team today...He obviously did a fantastic job with those players."

**JILL PARKER**, former European women's champion. Coach of the England's women's team, and also the Great Britain women's team. She also looks after the England juniors. Currently National Coaching Manager for the ETTA whom she works for full time.

"The most prominent person I can think of is the man who taught me to play, Mr. **All Robinson** (Mr. Rob), who unfortunately died in 1971 and therefore was never around when I won the European Championships in 1976 and was not aware of the achievements I held...I still think of him in high esteem. I wish he could have been there to have seen what I had actually done. Also **Leo Thompson** who helped me an awful lot in the Slough area when I progressed on from Mr. Robinson, and I think **Tony Pacitto** was one who always took me round to the tournaments, because I think it's very important if, like my parents - my father did shift work and wasn't able to come round - you are always dependent on very dedicated people who love the game and were able to transport you from one tournament to the next. So I would say those were the three people who helped me tremendously. Obviously once I had got on the England scene I had various England captains...the one that sticks in my mind would be **Bryan Merrett** because he helped me considerably... Obviously I have listened to what a lot of foreign coaches have had to say and have picked bits from each of them...for a coach it is always a learning process anyway. I have found that by discussing various topics with them you can agree or disagree but you are still learning as well and I think that is important...It is very good to see a lot of the coaches on the tournament circuit and talk to them as well...the coach looking after the England team is not necessarily the best coach...It's much more difficult to teach the beginners and teach them basics...if they get the basics right then players are going to progress to be better players anyway...so we have all got to learn from each other."

**JACKIE BELLINGER**, former England international. National under 12 captain and has been involved in the England scene for the past six years.

"As a coach I was influenced initially by a coach who I had as a very young player who taught me that the most important things were the basic strokes, and his name was **George Reid** from Luton. Probably nobody has ever heard of him but he influenced me as a player and also as a coach as I learnt how important the basic strokes are. On the international scene when I first became a national coach, I think my main influence was **Paul Day**. I admired him for his discipline he had with the children and also his knowledge of the game - he was a very good technician of the game."

For the Coaches' Coach see April's edition



# Highly successful and enjoyable

THIS month, we'll take a look back at the inaugural staging of the Veteran's British League played at Burton-on-Trent over the weekend of 16/17 January. All reports I have received indicate it to have been highly successful and enjoyable, based on the tried and tested format used in the Women's British League. I am indebted to Lynda Reid of Worcester for the following report - thanks Lynda.

## Women in the Veterans' British League

There was no doubt from the first game of the Burton weekend that the ladies were going to make their mark on Veterans' British League. Pam Butcher, a Bribar Belle and woman player of the weekend, set off with a nail-biting expedite victory over Carol Judson of Bribar Wakefield. And the last game of the 540 was a win by Marj Dawons to leave Dagenham the overall league



Juliet Houghton

by the smallest of margins. Team members gave each other encouragement, congratulations and commiserations all weekend. Teams drank coffee together, drank together (does she mean alcohol?) and ate together. Now we are all eagerly anticipating meeting for friendly revenge in the sea breezes of Grimsby in May. And we hope our Assistant Referee, young Brenda Lee, is already deciding which team to sign up for in the 2005/6 season!

## Congratulations

Congratulations are in order to Juliet Houghton who I understand has recently won her tenth (yes 10th!) consecutive Kent County Singles title - some rare feat that and one well worth recording.

## Women and Sport

The Women in Table Tennis Campaign continues - Jose Ransome informs me that she attended a very interesting workshop entitled "Women and Sport : Policy into Practice" at Loughbrough in January put on by the Sports Council, and progress is being made with their drive to encourage more women into sport in general. However, it appears that governing bodies are far behind local authorities in implementing "gender equality" policies and from a governing body viewpoint it was felt that this was because of traditions of election and advancement through the system, and that attitudes and structures needed to be changed. The Sports Council wishes to encourage all appropriate organisations to adopt gender equity policies and practices and it was felt that governing bodies needed to prepare a 'policy statement' with regard to names in their associations, and that organisations would need to 'change' to allow women to play a greater role - very interesting food for thought I feel, and something that I'm sure will be discussed when the Women's Committee meets next complete with new Regional Representatives. The future of the Committee is now to be concentrated on development into the Region and local areas via the Regional Representatives and with assistance from Regional Development Officers.

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leaders over West Warwickshire. But only on countback of games won and lost when the two teams fought out an earlier draw. (Worcester claimed superiority over the Belles by dint of 'winning' their drawn game 262 POINTS to 258. Who admits to serving off and it "didn't matter"?)

Dagenham's Lesley Radford alone won all her matches. Many of the other players seemed determined to prove that the ranking system goes out of the window when we are playing for a team, not for ourselves. Merseyside's Karen Tonge (renowned as Women's British League referee) celebrated a victory over Shirley Carroll (Dagenham) who was later celebrating her own win over Lynda Reid (Worcester). Letchworth's Sue Felstead beat Sylvia Tyler (Bribar Belles) who had enjoyed success against Margaret Dignum (Worcester). Linda Hales (Bombers) beat Margaret Maltby (West Warks) who beat Janet Hunt (Worcester). In total one-quarter of matches were won against predictions from the ranking list. Every team worked hard for its achievements. Every team had results which were determined

# Douglas wins glue-free championships

DESMOND DOUGLAS the 37 year old former English champion, was the popular winner of the glue-free Cleveland Five Star Open Table Tennis Championships at Thornaby Pavilion.

Douglas, playing as sharp as ever, won the title from the position of ninth seed in the Cleveland County Council supported event.

He beat the top seed and England number one Chen Xinhua in the semi-final and then overcame second seed and England number three Matthew Syed of Berkshire in he final. Douglas's toughest match was the semi against Chen.

The Birmingham player won the first game by a very close margin of 22-20. He then raced ahead early in the second game and maintained his lead to win 21-15. The pattern in the final against Syed was similar, Douglas hitting strongly against Syed's defence won a very close first game by 22-20 then raced ahead in the second to win 21-5.

Douglas's victim in the quarter-finals was Bradley Billington who showed some good form. Billington took Douglas close but the Birmingham player won 21-19, 21-18. In the round earlier Billington defeated the fourth seed Nicky Mason of Surrey deuce in the third.

In the bottom half of the draw Syed beat Skylet Andrew of Essex 21-17 in the third in the semi-finals. Andrew defeated New Zealand's Peter Jackson 21-12 in the decider a round earlier and Chris Oldfield of Yorkshire in straight games in the third round.

Douglas won his second title when he combined with his Grove clubmate Nicky Mason to win the men's doubles beating Skylet Andrew and Jonathan Taylor of Lancashire in the final.

The Women's singles was won by the England number one and top seed Lisa Lomas of Bedfordshire, who defeated the Russian number one Elena Timina in a long final. Both players are defensive with the occasional hit and Lomas played some of her best table tennis since winning the silver medal in the European Championships last April to take the title in two hard fought games.

Lisa reached the final without any difficulty beating Linda Radford and Katie Goodall en route. Elena had a far harder route, she beat Fiona Elliot Mommessin in two games in the quarter-finals then in an excellent semi-final beat Andrea Holt of Lancashire 21-19 in the third in probably the best women's match of the tournament.

Lisa's hopes of winning a second title in the doubles were dashed, however, when partnered by Andrea they were beaten in the



Pictured above are Desmond Douglas (left) and Lisa Lomas, the Singles Champions. Whilst below is Councillor Ted Wood presenting the Mixed Doubles cheques to Nicola Deaton and Chen Xinhua



final by England's second pair Alison Gordon and Fiona Elliot.

The main surprise of the women's singles was the defeat of the third seed Alison Gordon at the hands of Lancashire's Maria Thornley in the first round. A round later Maria lost in straight games to Katie Goodall.

The mixed doubles was won by Chen Xinhua and Nicola Deaton who beat the Essex pair Skylet Andrew and Linda Radford in straight games in the final.

In the Men's class 2 singles Nigel Thomas beat Ryan Savill 21-21, 21-9 in the final and Joanna Roberts beat Sandra Roden in the counterpart Women's event.

The veteran's singles was won by John Hilton who beat local player Malcolm Corking 21-19, 21-17 in the final.

Despite an attempt by some overseas players to re-introduce the banned fast glues which when applied to the bat speed up the game, referee Stuart Sherlock took a firm line and disallowed any use. The Cleveland Open was the first major tournament to enforce the new regulations that were introduced on January 1st, 1993.

The tournament committee's decision to abide by the fat glue ban opened forced with new information from the ITTF which was widely applauded by players, coaches and spectators.

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

## RESULTS

Men's Singles:	D. Douglas (Wa) bt Chen Xinhua (Y) 20, 15
	M. Syed (Bk) bt S. Andrew (E) -16, 10, 17
Final:	Douglas bt Syed 20, 5
Women's Singles:	L. Lomas (Bd) bt K. Goodall (Y) 7, 12
	E. Timina (Rus) bt A. Holt (La) 13, -17, 19
Final:	Lomas bt Timina 16, 20
Men's Doubles:	D. Douglas/N. Mason (Sy) bt
	S. Andrew/J. Taylor (La) 7, 22
Women's Doubles:	F. Elliot Mommessin (St)/A Gordon (Bk) bt
	A. Holt (La)/L. Lomas (Bd) 8, 10
Mixed Doubles:	Chen Xinhua (Y)/N Deaton (Dy) bt S. Andrew
	(E)/L. Radford (E) 17, 14
Men's Class 2:	N. Thomas (Wal) bt R. Savill (E) 12, 9
Women's Class 2:	J. Roberts (Y) bt S. Roden (Wo) 10, 19
Veteran Singles:	J. Hilton (La) bet M. Corking (Cv) 19, 17

# Split into separate teams

FROM now on the Czechoslovakian and Slovak Federations will be split into separate teams. They complete their short period as a combined force after this seasons European League championships have finished. The womens team maintained their position in the Premier Division while the men have still to finish their matches. Making the table tennis family even larger are two new associations. Armenia and Belarus who have been elected into ITTF and ETTU membership. And the Ukraine have also been given approval to operate separately.

## Italy down

ITALY have been relegated to the European Womens League 1st division after finishing bottom of the Super Division. But who goes down with them has still to be decided. France and Poland are the two sides involved with the loser of that two stage match dropping down.

## Two years

A two year period of residence for acquiring eligibility for individual events in competitions under the jurisdiction of the ETTU has received a resounding yes vote. Nineteen associations were in favour, four against with one abstaining. But it still has to be ratified by the executive committee.

## Sixty four

SIXTY four countries have so far entered for the 42nd World Championships in Gothenburg and there is likely to be more.

## Colour system

TABLE tennis had the best quality television pictures of all sports at the Olympic Games. Apparently the orange yellow balls, blue

tables and dark red court mats provided excellent colour contrast. Responsible for the coverage was a crew from Swedish TV who before the event had indicated their dislike of the new colour scheme.

Success in Barcelona will now be carried over to the World Championships in Gothenburg in May. The ITTF have confirmed they will be using the same colour system although the colour of the court maybe slightly darker.

## Latin America

CUBA is the latest country to show an interest in table tennis. The ITTF are considering the possibility of holding a joint training camp for Latin American teams in Havana where there is a good training centre with 16 tables and four professional coaches.

## Dates for your Diary

**April 2-4** - IOC Presidents Cup - Beijing

**April 8-14** - World Schools Championships - Birmingham

**May 1-3** - English Junior Open - Bridlington

**May 11-13** - World Championships - Gothenburg

## Dining out again?

QUOTE of the month comes from Sunday Telegraph feature writer Russell Davies reporting on Russia signing a new deal with the Reebok company across a number of sports.

"The deal was signed at a ceremonial dinner attended by Boris Yeltsin and the eternal Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC who last had dinner under his own roof in 1953."

## JOOLA EUROPEAN MEN'S LEAGUE

### SWEDEN (SWE)

Waldner J.O.  
Karlsson P.  
Persson J.  
Karlsson P./Von Scheele T.

### GERMANY (GER) 4-0

Bohm G.Z. 1, 20 2/0 1-0  
Fetzner S. 14, -15, 15 2/1 2-0  
Prause R. 10, 15 2/0 3-0  
Fetzner S./Prause R. 15, -18, 13 2/1 4-0

### BELGIUM (BEL)

Saive J.M.  
Saive P.  
Cabrera T.  
Cabrera T./Sonnet F.

### POLAND (POL) 4-0

Szafranek P. 12, 13, 2/0 1-0  
Blaszczyk L. 17, 14 2/0 2-0  
Krzyszewski T. 8, 10 2/0 3-0  
Blaszczyk L./Krzyszewski t. 16, 18 2/0 4-0

### HUNGARY (HUN)

Harczi Z.  
Nemeth K.  
Vitsek I.  
Harczi Z./Somosi M.

### FRANCE (FRA) 0-4

Marmurek O. -12, -21 0/2 0-1  
Eloi D. -13, 19, -16 1/2 0-2  
Chila P. -13, -16 0/2 0-3  
Eloi D./Chila P. -20, -19 0/2 0-4

### ENGLAND (ENG)

Chen Xinhua  
Cooke A.  
Prean C.  
Prean C./Perry A.

### NETHERLANDS (NED) 4-2

De Vrind P.P. 20, 14 2/0 1-0  
Keen T. -14, -17 0.2 1-1  
Heister d. 15, 17 2/0 2-1  
Keen T./Heister D. -14, -13 0/2 2-2  
Keen T. 11, -17, 11 2/1 3-2  
Heister D. 19, 19 2/0 4-2

Chen Xinhua

Cooke A.

## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE 1992-93

### FINAL TABLES:

GROUP A	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
Netherlands	5	4	1	19	09	9
Germany	5	3	2	16	15	8
Hungary	5	3	2	15	11	8
England	5	2	3	12	16	7
France	5	2	3	13	16	7
Italy	5	1	4	09	17	6

GROUP B	P	W	L	D	A	PTS
Belgium	4	3	1	15	10	7
Sweden	4	3	1	12	06	7
TCH + SLK	4	2	2	12	11	6
Romania	4	2	2	10	12	6
Poland	4	0	4	06	16	4

# Title holders safely through

THE Area Finals of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association's National Team Championships played off in mid-January. Five of the title holders came safely through to the Regional stage - Peniel Academy (B11, G16 and 13), Grove, Market Drayton (G19) and Whitgift School, Croydon (B16) - while, with Archbishop Cranmer Middle School, Leeds now closed, second placed Peniel and Holymead Junior (Bristol) stepped up into pole position in G13 and G11 respectively.

Apart from Peniel who, with the exception of B19, which went to City of London, swept the board in Area 11, there were plenty of other established names coming through in Grove (all 19, 16 and 13 events in Area 5), Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (all 16 and 13 events, Area 2), Kesteven and Grantham Girls (G19, 16, 13, Area 4) and Bedford Modern (B16 and 13, Area 9).

In Area 4 Dronfield in North Derbyshire have three teams through from two different schools - the seniors in B16 and Dronfield Junior in both Under 11 events, while in the same region Kings, Grantham compete in B19 and 13 - is this a reflection of the interest stimulated by the new T.T. centre in the town?

Christleton C.P., Chester, third placed last season in the B11 finals, are again through to the Regionals in only their second season in the competition, while it is good to see a number of lesser known names 'doubling up' in Bideford College (B and G16), Wheelers Lane, Birmingham, B16, 13), Thurleston High, Ipswich (G16, 13), Chesham High (B16, 13), Nevill Road Junior, Manchester (B and G11) and St. Michaels Comp., Billingham (B and G13).

Add Sutton High, St. Helens, runners up B16 last year and now challenging in B19, and there is an interest-

ing mix of new faces and 'old hands' set to line up in February's Regional Finals.

Who will come through on to the national stage is yet to be settled, but one thing is certain - a tremendous effort will go in from both victors and vanquished before the National finalists are known.

To close these notes on the current Area finals on that theme of keen competition, there can have been few tighter battles at any level than the B13 clash between St. Michaels Comprehensive, Billingham and Royal Grammar School, Newcastle up in the North East.

The teams came into the final match of the day with identical records, played out a 4-4 draw with each having won nine games before victory in the deciding doubles edged the Teesiders home.

Equally close was the Area 6 meeting in B19 involving Crypt Grammar, Gloucester, Wollaston Comp. (Northants) and St. Peters College, Wolverhampton. After two drawn matches Crypt and Wollaston lined up in the final encounter and, at 4-3 in favour of Crypt, a triple tie looked well on the cards as the final game was balanced on a knife edge before the Gloucester boys shaded it at 19 in the third.

But this is what t.t. is all about - well done, both teams! - and a final word of congratulation to those sides who were beaten on the way. Well done, again - you showed character in competing and grace in defeat, and this is all-important. Keep it up - your turn will come.

The International Schools T.T. Championships highlighted in last month's T.T.N., scheduled for Birmingham (8th-14th April) are already attracting world wide attention with interest being shown by lands as far apart as the Peoples Republic of China in the east and

Canada on the North American continent, while all the Home Countries will naturally be entering sides.

A busy programme will see the opening three days devoted to Team competition with an Individual championship taking place on the final two days, while a limited playing schedule on Saturday and Sunday will enable the players to relax and take part in a number of visits which will be arranged for them.

All arrangements are now well in hand, and likely starters in the final tally of sixteen countries are, apart from the home countries: Europe - Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Israel, Slovak Republic. Asia - Peoples Republic of China, India, Africa - Egypt. North America - Canada. Australasia - Australia.

The line up for the Regional Finals is:

## NORTH REGION

B19 - Dame Allan's Boys, Newcastle; Silcoates, Wakefield; Sutton High, St. Helens; Kings, Grantham. G19 - Fulneck Girls, Leeds; Runshaw Tertiary College, Leyland; Kesteven and Grantham Girls. B16 - Hall Garth, Middlesbrough; Werneth High, Stockport; Parkview, Barrow in Furness; Dronfield. G16 - Northfield Comp., Billingham; Wakefield Girls High; Parkview; Kesteven and Grantham. B13 - St. Michaels Comp., Billingham; Allerton Middle, Bradford; Parkview; Kings, Grantham. G13 - St. Michaels; Allerton High, Leeds; Parkview; Kesteven & G. B11 - Gosforth Central Middle; Christleton C.P., Chester; Nevill Road Jnr, Manchester; Dronfield. G11 - West Jesmond Jnr; Nevill Road Jnr; Yarlside, Barrow in Furness; Dronfield.

## MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

B19 - Grove, Market Drayton; Crypt Grammar, Gloucester; Hele's, Plymouth; Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh. G19 - Grove; St. Peters Collegiate, Wolverhampton. B16 - Grove; Wheelers Lane Boys, Birmingham; Bideford College; Brislington, Bristol. G16 - Grove; North Leamington; Nideford College; Mountbatten, Romsey. B13 - Grove; North Leamington; Great Torrington Comp; Mountbatten. G13 - Grove; Highfields, Wolverhampton; Chilton Trinity, Bridgewater; Brislington, Bristol. B11 - Stoke-on-Tern C.P.; Woodfield Jnr, Wolverhampton; Wembdon St. Georges, Bridgewater; Holymead Junior, Bristol. G11 - Market Drayton Junior; East-the-Water Primary; Holymead Jnr.

## SOUTH & EAST REGION

B19 - Cedars Upper, Leighton Buzzard; Windsor Boys; City of London; The Norton Knatchball, Ashford. G19 - Norwich High; Peniel Academy; Highworth Girls, Ashford. B16 - Bedford Modern; Chesham High; Peniel; Whitgift. G16 - Thurleston High, Ipswich; Gosford Hill, Kidlington; Peniel; Croydon High. B13 - Bedford Modern; Chesham High; Peniel; Cumner House, South Croydon. G13 - Thurleston High; Cavendish, Hemel Hempstead; Peniel; The Grove, St. Leonards on Sea. B11 - Ipswich Preparatory; Falkland C.P., Newbury; Peniel; Downside, Purley. G11 - Brandeston Hall, Woodbridge; Highfield, Maidenhead; Peniel; St. Andrews, Eastbourne.

# Spectacular Hatley & Deaton

EDWARD HATLEY and Nicola Deaton won the singles crowns at the Cotswold Junior spectacular in Cheltenham.

Played over the last two days of January at the New Cheltenham Recreation Centre, this year's entries were around 105% down on last year, but totalled 268 players overall.

For the very first time in the "Cotswolds" long history the organisers introduced four extra events, a class 2 Cadet Boys and Girls singles on the first day, and a class 2 Junior Boys/Girls/Singles on the second day, these events were brought in to encourage players NOT RANKED, in the top rankings to have a go, and all four events were extremely well supported.

Steven Meddings (Wa) showed terrific form, he not only took the Cadet Singles Title in straight games, on the following day in the U17 Boys Singles event, he reached the Final losing to defending champion Eddie Hatley (Sy) 17, 13.

The Girls U14 Singles went to Kathryn Woodward (Ch) who beat Nicola Smith (Y) 9, 15, in the final.

12 year old Ann Humble from Highnam Gloucester was judged to be the best local entrant, and was awarded the Len Huff Trophy.

After the first days play consisting of eight events, the second days play featured the Junior U17 events and totalled six all told.

En route to his 3rd successful U17 Boys Singles title, Frimleys Eddie Hatley was very nearly beaten in the semi final by Australian Stuart Gallagher, Hatley took the first game, but Gallagher fought back and grabbed the second by a cats whisker, moving into the 3rd game points wise little separated them and both players were locked in battle for supremacy at 20 all, Hatley however just crept home 22-20 the winner, in the final Hatley beat Steven Meddings (Wa) 17, 13, to claim the title for the 3rd successive year, a

rare feat indeed and one that will prove difficult to equal, and impossible to surpass.

In the Girls U17 Singles, owing to the absence of England's No. 1 girl Sally Mailling, the coast was clear for the No. 2 seed Derby's Nicola Deaton (last year's runner-up) to beat Lynsey Hayward of Devon 10, 12, to take the title.

The tournament was well publicised by BBC Radio Gloucestershire South and West, and on the first day professional broadcaster Peter Wilson joined forces with myself, to keep a regular half hourly live commentary going between 2 and 6pm to the studio's headquarters in Gloucester. I think we combined somewhere around 40 minutes of reporting.

At the end of the tournament, Peter interviewed Eddie Hatley and Nicola Deaton for the BBC Sports programme the following evening.

As this was the first time that this tournament has been staged at Cheltenham, I can report that the centre's manager and staff laid on every conceivable factor for the smooth running of a very highly successful tournament, and are to be thanked.

I must also pay homage to the back room workers who in many Tournaments seldom if ever, get a word of praise.

That is not the case in this Championship, for without the Head Organiser - Jack Reeves - The Chief Referee, Les Smith and his two stalwart helpers, Tim Harris and Dave Nipper, plus the tournaments Gen/Secretary David Dean and many other voluntary helpers, in context of: Umpires, Stewards etc, some giving up their entire weekend, this tournament would just not get off the ground.

I must not forget to mention our many sponsors, their help was invaluable, and finally - thank you all, and of course not forgetting the players and parents for coming.

## FINALISTS:

### Girls Singles - U14

Kathryn Woodward (Ch) beat Nicola Smith (Y) 9, 15

### Boys Singles - U14

Steven Meddings (Wa) beat Simon Jablon (Mi) 14, 14

### Girls Singles - U12

Lynsey Thorton (La) beat Emma Smith (Y) 18, 18

### Boys Singles - U12

Scott Friday (K) beat Robert Svennson (Dv) 15, 9

### Girls Doubles - U14

Kathryn Woodward (Ch) and Nicola Smith (Y) beat Tracy Davies (E) and Verity Cleminson (E) 13, -21, 15

### Boys Doubles - U14

Steven Middings (Wa) and David Purday (D) beat A. Kash Kapoor (Ch) and Scott Habershon (Dy) 18, 8

### CLASS 2 CADET GIRLS - Singles

Helen Lincon (E) beat Emma Smith (Y) 15, 17

### CLASS 2 CADET BOYS - Singles

Robert Abbotts (Sx) beat Tristan Swann (Cu) 18, -21, 12

### Girls Singles - U17

Nicola Deaton (Dy) beat Lynsey Heyward (Dv) 10, 12

### Boys Singles - U17

Eddie Hatley (Sy) beat Steven Meddings (Wa) 17, 13

### Girls Doubles - U17

Michelle Martin (St) and Nicola Deaton (Dy) beat Gemma Schwartz (Bk) and Debbie Peska (Ng) 17, 18

### Boys Doubles - U17

Eddie Hatley (Sy) and Darren Blake (Sy) beat Stephen Lamkin (Sy) and Gary Peska (Ng) 15, 17

### CLASS 2 JUNIOR GIRLS - Singles

Rebecca Sparkes (Sk) beat Verity Cleminson (E) 19, 19

### CLASS 2 JUNIOR BOYS - Singles

Terry Young (Bk) beat Ryan Owen (Gn0) 16, 10

ENGLAND may be the mother of table tennis but China certainly can lay claim to being its father and bastion.

1971 saw our own Jill Hammersley-Parker, as part of an English delegation, allowed behind the bamboo curtain. Up until this time China had been closed to the rest of the world and it was significant that table tennis was selected to indicate a softening of attitude.

Another of those intrepid visitors was Mr. Alan Hynes, now a *Churchill Fellow* and managing director of *Lion Table Tennis*.

Twenty one years later, and with the generous help of the *Churchill Trust*, I have been able to stand on almost the same spot of the Great Wall of China, as did that delegation.

It was through the ETFA, CTTA and Donald Parker, our Director of Coaching, that such an interesting trip was arranged. Although primarily to develop table tennis skills I was

pleased to find a generous allocation of cultural activities. The Chinese were very hospitable and only too pleased to ensure I visited all the well known tourist spots and sampled the local cuisine.

Perhaps the most memorable trip was to the Summer Palace with its striking buildings, gardens and views over Kunming Lake. Here the oversized pleasure canoes, with their dragon headed ends and replica buildings as a canopy, proved a very popular item.

During the early part of my two month stay temperatures were in the eighties. Perhaps it was fortunate that training at the prestigious

Beijing Institute was gradual and plenty of time was given for climatization. Not what I expected as I had heard stories of punishing training sessions. Most of the table play was centred around repetitive exercises and multi-ball work. Service proved high on the agenda being an element of each days routine. With the occasional visit of an interpreter and plenty of sign language most things were readily understood. A typical day would start with a twenty minute run at 6.00am, breakfast, five hours of continuous training in two sessions either side of lunch/siesta, and twenty minutes circuit work to finish the training at 6.00pm. I generally went to

bed around 10.00pm.

Between a diary and a small amount of filming there is plenty of detail for analysis and practice. In training terms such a visit can but serve as an introduction and heighten awareness.

For all my sixteen years I felt quite at home and would have liked to stay longer. I hope, in the future, to return and cannot close without thanking Mr. Yu Bin - General Secretary CTTA, for making all things possible, the Vice President and Director of Teh Beijing Institute of Physical Education, Mr. Li Zhiyong - for taking such good care of me, especially when we tucked into five different types of Beijing Duck. My coaches Mr. Ruobo Zhang and his able assistant for the patient dedication and informative instruction. Finally to all the players whose incredible skill kept the ball on the table while I fumbled at the other end.

Yes! the Chinese have a great deal to offer and for those able to make the trip it cannot come more highly recommended.

## Eyes on China

### by Edward Hatley

# England strikes gold

IN the February of 1949, the World Championships moved back to Stockholm, Sweden, and it was notable for the emergence of new players; in fact only one champion managed to retain a title and that was the indomitable Gizi Farkas. Not only did she retain her singles crown but for good measure won both the mixed doubles and women's doubles titles with new partners. The once formidable Hungarian men's team had been going through a lean period but they regained their previous form at these championships, beating the highly-fancied Czechs in the Swaythling Cup final. The women's team from America also caused a surprise by beating England in the final of the Corbillon Cup and we first saw their new champion, Peggy McClean. Another who blossomed in the cut and thrust of this unpredictable Worlds was a Scottish lass by the name of Helen Elliot, a fine all-rounder who, characteristic of her race, fought every point with tenacity and determination. She partnered Gizi Farkas to win the women's doubles title. When one considers the lowly ranking of Scotland in world classification, it is quite amazing that one of its players could suddenly emerge and reach such eminence.

It was thought by many that the Czechs would take most of the titles, but they managed only one, and for the first time the name of Ivan Andreadis appeared on the individual championships record sheet when he won the men's doubles title with Frantisek Tokar. Surprising though many of the results had been, the major sensation came in the men's singles when an outsider from England named Johnny Leach toppled the world stars.

Leach was a rangy youngster with a 'heartbreak defence' and stylish topspin attacking shots from either wing, a model of efficiency with hardly a weakness of stroke. He was blessed with a splendid temperament and in this respect cast in the Bergmann mould. His powers of concentration and dogged determination were no better illustrated than in his quarter-final match against the American Richard Miles, a contest that bordered on high drama and finished at 24-22 in the final game. Opposed to Vana in the final, he was given little chance of success, even by the most sympathetic commentator, but Leach had other ideas and by supreme confidence and brilliant ball control won the title. He became the first English-born player to win the men's singles since Fred Perry - who had been successful in 1929, exactly twenty years earlier.

For the third time Budapest was chosen as the venue for the 17th World Championships and they were held from 29th January to 5th February 1950. They will best be remembered for the comeback of Richard Bergmann and the emergence of a new and much improved Angelica Rozeanu. News had filtered through from Romania of Rozeanu's improvement but no one had expected such a striking transformation.

For many years she had been recognised as a top class defensive player but now she demonstrated a range of attacking shots that simply cut the opposition to pieces. This was her first World Championship success and she went on to win the women's singles title for six consecutive years. She became the undisputed queen of the table and in the opinion of most the greatest woman player of all time. As the



*Richard Bergmann*

championships are now held biennially it would appear to be a record that is unlikely ever to be beaten. In addition to her remarkable run of singles successes, she won both the women's doubles and the mixed doubles on three occasions.

Having been out of competitive play for some considerable time Richard Bergmann, who had been written off as a serious contender for the title, came back and gave us further proof of his amazing resilience and skill. He won the title for the fourth time at the age of thirty when players are generally considered to be well past their best. He again beat Vana over five games and then destroyed the ambitions of the giant Hungarian, Ferenc Sido, to be faced in the final by an entirely different proposition, the exceptionally strong defensive skills of Ferenc Soos. Everyone expected a boring, chiselling affair - a table tennis stalemate. It turned out to be one of the most enthralling finals ever, a titanic struggle with both players physically and emotionally exhausted at the finish. It was not beautiful table tennis but a raw, gripping duel that established Richard Bergmann as the most purposeful and resolute fighter that table tennis has ever known. This was the last world individual title he was to win although he was the linchpin of the England team that won the Swaythling Cup in the 1952-1953 season. His early death in April 1970, stunned the table tennis world.

At the Congress meeting during the championships it was decided that member associations should not be called 'National' but defined as 'de facto' table tennis "organisations....of any area generally regarded as constituting a national, cultural, historical or other unity." This removed from the sports organisers the responsibility of deciding in a particular instance precisely what is a nation or state.

## **RICHARD BERGMANN**

Born in Vienna in 1919 of mixed Polish and Italian parentage, Richard Bergmann became one of the most outstanding players the world has ever seen. It may be said that Barna had

more classical elegance and Chuang Ts-tung more explosive aggression but for uncanny ball control and sheer tenacity Bergmann was unsurpassed. Even today he is looked upon as the supreme defensive player of all time but he was far more than that, he was a tactician who studied the strengths and weaknesses of his opponents and applied his game to overcome them. His half volley play was nothing short of magical and time and time again he would mesmerise the fiercest of hitters with close to the table returns that had his opponent in a state of despair. His nail-biting matches with players like Andreadis and Vana will never be forgotten by those who saw them; they were contests that breathed the essence of all that is good in sport, namely skill, intelligence, fitness, tenacity, resilience and character.

When only sixteen he was frail in appearance and physically undeveloped yet he was the key figure of the only Austrian team ever to win the Swaythling Cup - in 1936. Seventeen years later he was the star of the only England team ever to win the same trophy. Although an Austrian by birth, Bergmann became stateless in 1938 when his country was invaded by Germany and came under Hitler's yoke. He took up residence in England and when total war became a reality he gave exhibitions for the Red Cross and toured Army camps, R.A.F. stations and numerous wartime outposts. It was in 1942 that he volunteered for the Royal Air Force and in the April of that year Aircraftman Richard Bergmann reported for duty. After the War he applied for naturalisation and on 14th November 1947, his acceptance papers came through and he became a British subject.

Richard Bergmann won four world singles titles, two before and two after the War and he lost in only one final in 1938. How many more he would have totalled had it not been for the war years is a matter of speculation. He clashed with authority as he strove to become a highly-paid professional player and, although he toured regularly with the Harlem Globetrotters, he never made the fortune he envisaged. Bergmann passed away with a brain tumour at the age of 50 and the whole table tennis world mourned his passing.

# Hat-trick of champions

MALCOLM FRANCIS, based at Uckfield in Sussex has one of the best achievement records in English table tennis. Arguments on who is England's best private coach could last all night and into the small hours.

There are successful coaches all over the country measured in terms of producing top junior players. Francis has the advantage of being a player himself - having won many Sussex titles and still plays in several leagues in Sussex and elsewhere.

He has been the driving force, quietly and confidently behind three national champions Joanne Barham, Lynsey Heywood and now Alex Perry.

And like most coaches he has more talent in the pipeline - best example is the Hastings player Tina Beaney, who won the Sussex under-17 girls title last October then aged only 13.

In common with the ETTA



Malcolm Francis

Chairman Alan Ransome, Francis is very much in the sports equipment business. He runs a mail order company Express Sports, now well-established at Uckfield.

He is a well-known name in the table tennis exhibition and comedy-show promotion field,

working at 22 different centres including the best-known holiday camp circuits.

Another Francis speciality is sponsorship of leagues - under his umbrella the Worthing TTA has successfully run the major Sussex tournaments for the past two seasons.

Amongst regular sessions of personal coaching with his students of the sport plus trips home and abroad with his coaching group, makes Malcolm Francis one of the busiest men in the sport.

Commitment to the sport can sometimes be judged by how much people are prepared to input. The Scarborough league secretary and his wife who knocked on every league player's door to get 250 to a European Womens League match last October is one example. Another is Alan Ransome's 600 mile drive direct from Middlesbrough to St. Austell in January.

Malcolm Francis is the sort of committed individual who would do that sort of drive! Last but not least, as the number of summer camps ahead mainly at junior level increases to at least four - one of the most successful and now well-established is run by Express Sports.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### SOUTH WEST REGION By Alf Pepperd

I received my copy of "A Development Plan for Table Tennis", in the South West Region a few days prior to putting this monthly report together.

The Focus Sport working group responsible for its issue have unquestionably put much deep thought and concentration into what they have outlined, and thanks must be extended to Les Bridges the Chairman of the ETTA South West Region for his dogged commitment and initial help in the preliminary planning process.

Thanks must also be extended to Andy Martin of the SWR Sports Council based at Crewkerne, Somerset, for compiling and editing the Development Plan.

We now have a carefully well throughout schedule, linked with a full time Development Officer, whom I am sure will do her very very best.

But all this is not enough I feel to stimulate a general over all interest in our sport in the South West area.

### SOUTH WEST REGION VETERANS LEAGUE

League positions includes all results received up to 4th January 1993

	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
West Cornwall League	2	2	0	15	3	4
Coaver Club, Exeter	1	1	0	8	1	2
Longwell Green, Bristol	2	1	1	10	8	2
Exmouth Casuals	3	1	2	13	14	2
Ilfracombe Club	2	1	1	6	12	2
Westlands Club Yeovil	2	0	2	2	16	0
North Cornish League	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northside Club, Swindon	0	0	0	0	0	0

without more positive action being taken. I can well appreciate that finance may be hard to come by (it always is), but what I feel is needed is a SWR Conference, open to all - and specifically aimed at grass roots level administrators, men and women willing to carry out the plans and future proposals to make the development plan the success that it should be, maybe the powers that be have already thought of this, but at the time of writing, no one has contacted me.

Fred Ingram reports from the West Cornwall League that many of their loyal players had the chance to be coached by players from NFD Grove and DML White Hart Launceston, I'm a wee bit late reporting this as it happened just prior to Christmas, Ian Marshall who runs the Grove and Desmond Douglas both proved a great success with the youngsters that turned up for the afternoon coaching session - Des staged an exhibition, and the following day in a British League match - Grove proved to be the 8-0 winners in an exciting match at Launceston.



## MARIE CURIE

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A BUTTERFLY TOURNAMENT



# Mind over matter

WE have heard that following the discussions on volleying that ensued since the October 1991 issue when we first raised the matter in these columns, some suggestible soul has decided that the volley law has been annulled. He has been umpiring on that basis, and telling others of the "change". Sadly, we have to say, that although we wish we were that influential that our merest suggestion was accepted by all, the volley law is unchanged, and must be strictly applied. We hope also that any discussion on "edge balls" (c.f. issue 211) does not lead to premature individual rule modification.

## Strictness - again

What are the similarities between Table Tennis and Snooker?

Well, they are both ball games, and they are both played on a table. But the strange thing is that they both have one particular rule (law) that causes more discussion than the rest of the rules put together. In Snooker it is the Miss Rule. In Table Tennis it is the Service Law. The next common feature is the number of attempts the law makers have had in both sports to reword the rule to make it more easily applicable and therefore less controversial, and the fact that players are still not convinced that they have got it right even now. (*JR is a qualified snooker referee - Editor*)

To illustrate the point, we have recently seen a letter from Carol Hewett complaining that umpires are not consistent in applying the latest amendment that the ball must be thrown up "near vertically...so that it rises at least 16cms. after leaving the palm of the hand". She complains that she and her friends are, "constantly called up for throwing the ball in a backward direction and not up high enough". What really grieves her is that she reckons that the umpires are very strict with the lesser players but do not have the courage to call up the "big boys". On top of this, they are being penalised even though they are not getting any advantage from it, or are not really aware of the crime in the first place! Also, what about the cupped hands that some players use? A couple of leading players are named to illustrate the point. One of these throws the ball up very high and it goes back 18 inches.

It has been pointed out to Carol that a ball thrown up many feet will travel back more inches than a ball thrown up at exactly the same "near vertical" angle but which rises say only seven inches. The umpire has the task of judging whether the throw was near vertical, not always easy since the same throw viewed from different angles can appear obviously good or distinctly bad. This sometimes makes itself apparent when the players change ends and the service is seen from the other side. It comes back to the point made at the start about the ease of

application from the umpire's angle. Of course, the situation would be made easier if there was a change of attitude so that if the law says "throw the ball up at least 16cms.", the ball was always thrown up at least 25cms. and as near vertical as possible. That is making sure that the action is clearly good rather than not too bad.

At the end of the day, we can only say that a bad service is a bad service no matter who does it or whether or not any advantage is thereby gained. The discretion the umpire has is in deciding whether things are done in a manner conforming to the spirit of the law rather than to a mathematical model. Thus, a phrase like "near vertical" means thrown up as straight up as you can. Also, "flat open palm" (meaning that the ball is not being gripped) cannot be interpreted literally as palms are not flat like the table, but as has been pointed out, there is a tendency to allow the hand to become too cupped.

Refer back to the article in the magazine number 205, March 1992, where the subject of varying standards at different levels of play was discussed.

## Strictness - yet again

A second complaint, this time from Laurie Laken, who works very hard with up and coming junior players, is quoted below:-

"It made my blood boil to hear Tristan Newman say that the referee at the Croydon Tournament (2 star) would not let him use his bat because the rubber edges were chipped and thus did not comply with the 'rules'. Sticking to the letter of the law, no doubt contributes to the 'drop out' of our youngsters. How can we justify this kind of interpretation of rubber colours with eleven year olds, which involved him in the purchase of a new rubber (£15) to complete the tournament!"

**Comment** - Laurie Laken raises the same point as Reg Thompson did in the April 1992 issue (no. 206), which was replied to by Alan Shephard, the referee involved, in the following issue. Alan asked, how can we vary the strictness of application of a law depending on the age of a player?

For a law to cover this situation there would need to be a sliding scale of strictness. How one would word a law which allowed degrees of damage to bats according to the age of the player, the status of the tournament and/or the level of the player's or parent's impecuniosity we do not know.

We must agree that there is a problem here, and it is a bad thing for players to be deterred from participating because everything has to be just so. Perhaps referees could use their discretion when there is a query involving a novice player who is not going to get through the earliest round, and perhaps show a

little leniency regarding the state of the bat.

Maybe materials other than pimped rubber should have been banned right from their introduction, as other sports did when other than traditional materials appeared. However, it is too late to do that now. The main stumbling block seems to be price, and we have no idea how, or if, this could be changed.

What do you think and what should be done about it?

## Umpire Selections

There was a bit of a mix-up in the last issue; it should have read as follows:-

### Senior Premier Weekend 27th & 28th March

Mrs H.J. Masters; J. Melnick; E.A. Pentland; D.A. Poultney; G.T. Scruton; S.E. Sherlock; G. Tyler and T.J. Vance.  
Reserves: 1. K.A. Armonson; 2. B.P. Lamerton; 3. A.L. Seward.

### National U10 & U12 Champ. 3rd & 4th April

K.A. Armonson; R. Avent; D. Calver; T. Carpenter; D. Edwards; A. Harwood; Mrs. D.J. Jermyn; J. Jermyn; Miss D.L. Moors; D.A. Poultney; M.D. Strode; G. Tyler; T.J. Vance; R. Wilson & Miss M. Fraser

## READERS RESPONSE

Our articles on coaching and edge balls in the Dec/Jan issue seem to have touched a nerve, as we have had five replies with varying points of view. These letters, and our comments, are set out below:-  
Fred Draycott, from Cleveland, writes:-

"Coaching. To ban it during a match will be a serious mistake. slow down the development rate of young players and make the umpire's job more difficult and tiring. The players will have a rest between ends but the umpires won't"

My suggestion would be to have a nominated coach for each player who would be seated close to the umpire (and assistant umpire). Reduce the interval between ends to one minute. But allow each coach to call one time out at any time the ball is not in play. Allow the nominated coaches access to the players during these intervals but immediately ban from the area any other person EVEN SUSPECTED of coaching. This will give the umpire control of the situation and finish with signallers and linguists.

Edge Balls. In most sports the ball must be fully over the line to be out or a goal to be scored, and an edge clearly shows the ball was not out, so the player who last played the ball is still in the rally. Nets and edges tend to average out over time, but if the edge interpretation is changed, the next step will be for a

ball which touches the net to cost the striker a point - NO THANKS.

One development I would like to see is a formal discussion by the umpire group at events with the aim of raising and evening out the standards."

**Comments:** His opinion is that coaching is good for the game in that it improves the play. We agree that if a complete ban is imposed the umpire would have to be vigilant non-stop throughout the match, which would be a great strain. We are not too attracted to his idea of "time out", which would mean that play would no longer be continuous. Who wants "time out at 20-20"? We do not see how one can, in practice, get rid of signallers and linguists.

The advantage in T.T. being played on a table is that there need be no doubt as to whether the ball struck the playing surface or not, if edges are counted as off. This is an advantage over tennis and football where there is often doubt as to whether the ball is over the line or not. Thus, instead of being lucky, you become unlucky. Of course, law 3.1.2. will need to be reworded.

An umpires discussion group at events would be very useful and popular, if scheduling allowed the time.

John C. Fairweather, from Woking, writes:-

"Coaching Ban. This being the case I would assume that matches would be continuous allowing no rest for the players, or how would a subliminal form of coaching be stopped during a rest period? Assuming no ban on coaching throughout a game, including during the towelling down at a change of service, I would suggest that there should be no break in the timing of a match. This might keep coaching down to a minimum as an expedite game would nullify any coaching, there being no service breaks.

Edge Balls are out. As the ball, and the table edges, are normally white it might be helpful to an umpire to have the edges of a different colour and/or material, with the playing surface being defined as within the current white edges. The colour and material could be by means of a coloured tape, say red, stuck to the top/side surface of the table. With a cloth tape the sound of the bounce of the ball should be different, thus indicating to an umpire that the ball was out. (Maybe the tape could be electrically conducting, ringing a bell if the ball was out). Owing to the cost this probably would only be of use during an international match."

**Comment** - We think that John Fairweather's letter introduces further complications; where it was our intention to simplify matters.

# Ashford annual tournament

ONCE again Chas MacKinlay sponsored this popular post Christmas tournament and were more than generous by providing all the prizes and giving visitors and players samples of their wares. It is not true that Geoff Wines brought 15 of his family along for a "wee dram". They only came to watch but kept calling out "180!"

The 63 male entries were divided into 21 groups with the winner going forward to the "A" competition the runners-up to the "B" competition and the 3rd placed playing going into the "C" competition. The ladies had the same format for their five groups and this year we added a Ladies Doubles Competition.

In the mens group there were several interesting results: Geoff Wines beat Jim Hobbly, Dave Roberts beat Graham Outrim and in the ladies Kathy Nunn known to her team mates as B.K.N. beat Gill Knightly.

In the mens "A" competition like all the other five competitions every round was drawn separately like the F.A. Cup and still the best players met in the final.

David Welsman who beat F. Mathoor, Sid Montgomery and Maurice Isaacs to reach the final played fellow Surrey Vet Derek Holman who had beaten G. Lynch, Stan Battrick and Tony Taylor. In a tremendous final Welsman beat Holman 21-14, 17-21 and 21-19 after Welsman at one time had led 18-9 in the 3rd game.

The "B" final was won by Jim Hobbly who beat Eddie Herrity and the "C" final was won by John Davidson who beat Ken Giles 22-20, 18-21 and 23-21 in another excellent final with John coming back from 10-3 down in the 3rd game.

In the Ladies Competition Pauline Steel made her journey up from Sussex worthwhile by beating Julie Pilfold in the ladies "A" competition after having a tremendous battle with Ruth Bentley in the semi-final. Pauline beat Ruth 14-21, 24-22 and 21-19.

The ladies "B" competition was easily won by Berkshire's Gill Knightley who beat Jenny Gillam, and the ladies "C" competition saw two local players battle it out with Lorna Slikkin beating June Wood.

The ladies doubles saw Val Murdoch/B. K. Nunn beat Jenny Gillam/Dot McFarlane. So ended another successful Ashford Whisky Tournament 156 matches were played and all was over by 7.30pm.

Once again a tremendous thanks to our sponsors Chas MacKinlay for their continued support.

## VETTS Midland Masters

**Tournament Hinckley Jan 30/31**  
**Roll of Honour**

### M/S OVER 40 Semi Final

D. Harvey bt D. Welsman -12, 11, 15  
N. Davies bt C. Brewer 14, 13  
Final Dave Harvey bt Nicky Davies 12, 10

### M/S OVER 50 Semi Final

R. Gunnion bt C. Judson -17, 13, 11  
K. Powell bt G. Evans 11, 9  
Final R. Gunnion bt K. Powell 14, 16

### M/S OVER 60

M. Sheader bt G. Batt-Rawden 20, 18

### M/S OVER 70

J. Wysbands bt R. Satchel 19, 13

### LADIES SINGLES

### OVER 40 Semi Final

P. Perry bt J. Coop -19, 17, 17  
R.D. Schofield bt L. Wales 17, 13  
Final D. Schofield bt P. Perry 15, 9

### OVER 50

A. Lloyd bt P. Steel 11, 12  
D. Schofield bt P. Butcher 15, -20, 15  
Final D. Schofield bt A. Lloyd 16, 8  
**N.B.** In Midland Masters for the first time NO seeding was used. Its instigator Francis Hams (SY) fell victim by being K.O. in his group but bounced back to win the plate by beating Eddie Herrity (Oxon) in the final. Any comments from players?

Part two of Vets Premier County Weekend will take place at Ashford T.T. Club Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex on March 27/28th. On the Vets scene this is the highlight of the season with almost all the top Vets (Men & Women) on duty for their counties. Details of start times and special accommodation rates at the Shepperton Moat Hotel can be obtained from R. Langheim 0784 244563.

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## Surprised

I was very surprised to read a letter in Mailbox from Terry Gadsby concerning comments about the Uxbridge Club in Derbyshire County Notes.

When so much is omitted from the Magazine because of "lack of space", Mr. Gadsby is allowed more space than County Notes are permitted. One cannot help feeling suspicious that this was printed to harm my chances in the ETTA Deputy Chairman elections which take place before I have this opportunity to reply.

If Mr. Gadsby had taken the trouble to contact me before writing in such detail, he would have learnt that the comments were made by members of the Burton League, including a member of the Burton committee.

I keep hearing of the numbers attending Mr. Gadsby's club and coaching sessions, yet the membership of the Burton League has dropped far in excess of the national average.

I resent Mr. Gadsby's snide remark that as chairman of Nottinghamshire, I should start up a British League club for the Nottinghamshire players who play in the British League for his club. My loyalties as county chairman are to every player, team, club and league in the county and not to any one particular club. If any club wished to join the British League, then I would be happy to help them if I were asked.

I am currently involved in starting up a 6-table club which will compete in a local league, and loyalties to the local league will be fully resolved before any entry to the British League is contemplated.

*Malcolm Allsop  
Allestree, Derby*

## Without logic

I heartily agree with Penny Perry's masterly expose of the current ranking system (TTN Feb 1993), which quite frankly makes a laughing stock of the sport. Her letter should be viewed as a timely shot in the arm for Table Tennis.

Frankly I find the current practice to be a policy of little substance and without logic.

Since reading Penny's letter I have spoken to supporters of the current system. Their object appears to be an attempt to establish a level playing field between those who attend many and those who attend few (for whatever reason) tournaments. The method used to achieve this is to manipulate the points. Such an argument, seems to presuppose that selection at all levels is carried out on a 'numbers game' basis.

This is a very narrow view and it is small wonder that in trying to even up the playing field they have fallen into the statistician's "2 1/2 children per average family" trap.

The answers are relatively simple. Most players want ranking lists. Selectors want to select the best players for special situations. To think that there is or can be an absolute correlation achieved between the two is wrong. A sideways glance at English International Cricket shows that there is never likely to be a side selected from county numerical averages.

Complex systems for simple end results should always be either avoided or viewed with suspicion until proven.

Basically, what is needed is for winners to get points for winning - details such as more points for more difficult wins etc., are peripheral to the main objects expect that such essential details must always be equitable.

Losses should neither be included nor be an issue. It is inevitable that the more games you play the more games you lose (or win hopefully!).

What is needed is for the ranking panel (who we must assume are trying, however misguidedly, to act in our best interests) to adopt a more positive approach which will encourage all players to play in as many tournaments as possible i.e. to minimise divisive elements.

Players need to know where they are in the pecking order and to be under no illusions that they have to play often and win often to establish their ranking credentials.

So more power to Penny Perry's elbow. I hope that the ranking panel is suitably moved to action having received justifiably constructive criticism from parents of two of our more talented players at Junior (Alex Perry) and senior (Carl Prean) levels.

*David C. Humble  
Chigwell, Essex*

## Death Wish

There never was much of a case for having ranking lists at all, unless these added fun to the game and generally advanced the sport.

The opposite is now the case. Yes, I agree with Penny Perry (T.T. News Feb). Our paths have not crossed for two years or so. That we both have identical views without any contact at all should tell the decision-makers something.

The previous scheme was far from perfect. Its main feature was that defeats did not count and only wins were recorded. The current scheme punishes losses quite severely, especially the so-called "unexpected" ones and players have a great chance of returning from long, expensive trips with fewer points than they set out with and probably a lower ranking.

It should have been obvious long ago that the present scheme is enormously discouraging and ultimately damaging. As the ghastly implications sank in, more and more players decided not to go to tournaments. Others decided to be more selective and to go only where the draw seemed beneficial. Match-dodging has reached epidemic proportions. This means that players pull out, often in mid-tournament, if they don't like their chances and in this way, so they argue, they will lose no points. For instance, if you are a defensive player, let us say, you may pull out when faced with lower ranked players who are good against defence and you will eagerly seek contact with higher ranked "suckers against chop". Let it not be thought that "match-dodging" is confined to humble juniors of county players. It is alleged in the highest echelons. A number of highly convenient injuries and colds are reported and letting down team mates did not figure high on the priority lists of the dodgers.

In one single issue T.T. News reported that a number of famous tournaments will not be taking place this season and tournament organisers have told me that they have been hundreds of pounds down in their entry fees and have made losses, which hardly encourages them to try again next year. I read of a 3 Star Tournament where the finalists of the ladies' doubles had only to win one match to reach the Final! There is a crisis.

A positive incentive exists NOT to play, as Mrs. Perry has demonstrated. Her son, Alex, received the princely total of 14 points for winning the National Junior title, a notable milestone in anyone's life, but the No.100, say, might get more for beating the No.50 in the first round of the same event. Such inbuilt points starvation for the best might pander to the national desire of always wanting the stars knocked down, but otherwise it defies logic and good sense. The English ranking scheme is now a disaster area. A little first aid was administered towards the end of last season, the equivalent perhaps of trying to mend a broken leg with a corn plaster or relaying sunny messages just before this particular "Titanic" hit the rocks.

On top of all this comes the "glue" fiasco. There was undoubted cause for concern as our best players were poisoning themselves in the cause of speeding up their rubbers. After all, if one "glues up" only five times a day five times per week, one will have inhaled some pretty toxic vapours well over one thousand times in that particular year, which puts into perspective such vague terms as health risk and danger to health. One wonders why no action was taken for 20 years. One wonders why the necessary educational job was not done to let players know what risks they were taking with their lives. I direct my criticisms more at the ITTF than the ETTA which acted quickly and drastically, though, in my view, also made mistakes. There is now total chaos and so-called fast glues are still permitted all over the world. "Fast" is perhaps a confusing term in this context. I prefer the word "Toxic" and base this conclusion mainly upon the evidence provided by Dr. Powell in the previous issue of T.T. News (Feb). For some months at least we may expect to be in a state of total confusion and the World Championships in a few weeks will be played in such a climate.

The whole episode has been a Public Relations disaster with the "glue sniffing" habit prominently featured in the explanations. Of that, at any rate, I have seen no evidence at all, but how are readers of national newspapers to know that when the issue is presented in such simplistic terms?

So, with the ranking discouragements and now those of the "glue" issue (which WILL make ours a different ball game), there is plenty to be depressed about. What seems to exist is a positive encouragement NOT to play, certainly at elite levels, at a time of shrinking membership. It is a double whammy of quite desperate implications. The death wish of the sport seems to know few limits.

*John Prean, Chairman - English  
Table Tennis Association - 1986 - 1991*

## Problem

Please could you bring to the attention of all table tennis table manufacturers the problem I have as a disabled player.

I am writing to tell you about the difficulty I am having in playing tennis on most Rollaway and better grade tables. I will explain - I am a disabled player and play from a wheelchair, competing in the Hereford League in Division 5. When I play on the above-mentioned tables I find that there is a metal bar attached to the legs under the players' end of the table, and because of this I cannot get my chair under the table. I therefore find it difficult to return most short shots played against me. I have brought this point to your attention in the hope that you will keep it in mind when designing table tennis tables in the future.

*Nicholas Turner  
Kington, Herefordshire*

## Coaching ban

In 35 years of playing and helping to run our local table tennis club, I think the best rule in all those years has been this ban on coaching during a match.

Only recently a club member was so incensed by the continued coaching of a lad he was playing that he suggested the coach take the lads bat and play for him.

I think that all coaching should be done on practice evenings (as we do). And let all players concentrate on playing and enjoying their league matches. Which must be good for our sport.

*F.J. Holmes, Chairman  
North Mundham Table Tennis Club  
Chichester, West Sussex*

## Warnings

The article on solvent based glue by Dr. Powell in February Table Tennis News was of particular interest to me. Until my retirement two years ago I was a director of Rema Tip Top U.K. Ltd., distributors of Tip Top 'Glue' and I have been a table tennis player and supporter for 50 years.

It was a very informative article and it is not before time that the hazards involved have been pointed out to users in no uncertain terms. However I must take the author to task when he refers to the 'lack of responsibility of manufacturers'.

Rema Tip Top, who are world leaders in tyre repair materials, have never marketed their Special Vulcanising Fluid (to give it its correct description) as being suitable for table tennis. The 350gm tin, so popular with players, is provided for use by professional tyre and tube repairers who are trained to use such products safely. There are clear written warnings on the tins, one of which states that it is detrimental for health, breathing and swallowing. Clearly these warnings are ignored by most players using the product.

Personally I am delighted about the ban because apart from the hazards discussed I am of the opinion that the game needs to be slowed down a little. It was a pleasure to see Professor Zarko Dolinars name mentioned in the article, having seen him many times in the fifties and on one occasion playing him. I have a photograph of the two of us taken after the game in which he shows the plain wooden side of his bath with the legendary skull and crossbones.

*Ken Park  
Bramhope, Leeds*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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### SENIOR COUNTY PREMIER WEEKEND

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0203 678632

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0922 612675

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