



Table Tennis News

NO. 215

MAY/JUNE 1993 £1.40



Like John Jaques
They make a winning team

**John
Jaques**

CONTRACTS SIGNED AT GOTHENBURG



Top picture: Chairman of Butterfly Mr. Hikosuke Tamasu (centre) and President of the ETTA Johnny Leach (right) sign the contract for Butterfly tables at Euro 94, watched by the President of Butterfly Mr. Kimihiko Tamasu. Bottom picture: President of Nittaku Mr. Kazuo Mukohara (left) and President of the ETTA Johnny Leach (centre) sign the contract for Nittaku balls at Euro 94, watched by Director/Manager of Nittaku International Division.

Agreements have been reached with Tamasu Butterfly Europa and Nittaku for the supply of table tennis equipment to the European Table Tennis Championships 1994.

Butterfly will supply Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway tables, Butterfly Europa net and post sets, Butterfly umpires tables, scoring machines and surrounds.

Nittaku will supply 3-star balls.

Representatives of both companies were pleased to meet English Table Tennis Association's President, Johnny Leach in Gothenburg at the recent World Championships.

The agreements with both companies involve the supply of all the required equipment for the European Championships, together with an undisclosed adoption fee. English Table Tennis Association's Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, commented "we are looking forward to working with both companies and would like to thank them for their support."



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Front cover: Star of the English Junior Open at Bridlington Nicola Deaton (right) with team mate Sally Marling. (Picture by John F.A. Wood)

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Player of the Month



This month's choice is Ryan Savill from Essex, who leapt from obscurity to take the Junior Open by storm, reaching the semi finals, where he lost to Germany's Sascha Kostner

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



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 (Copy date 30th April)

On top of the world

JEAN PHILIPPE GATIEN of France is the new Mens Singles Champion of the World, following his victory in the final over Belgium's Jean Michel Saive in Gothenburg, 21-19, 17-21, 21-14, 17-21, 21-18.

Their five set battle at the Scandinavium stadium, which was screened live on French TV, climaxed a brilliant championships for European men for they took all four places in the semi finals with Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner and Croatia's Zoran Primorac being the bronze medallists.

Afterwards at a press conference Gatien said "It was really a tough match, I won the war in the heads."

The Womens Singles winner was Korea's Hyun Jung Hwa.

England's best performances came from Alan Cooke for the men, when he sensationally beat China's



New Mens Singles Champion of the World Jean Philippe Gatien

EURO 94 UPDATE

Be part of it!

WOULD you like to be involved with EURO '94 - we shall require a small army of helpers to ensure the European Championships run smoothly.

Drivers - Hostesses - Secretaries - Stewards - Arena Crew - Telephonists - Programme Sellers.

Just a few of the jobs we have to fill for the period from 25th March - 4th April 1994.

Ideally, we would like you aged over 18, living within daily travelling of Birmingham and able to spend at least one week working on EURO '94. Maybe you don't live locally but could arrange to stay with friends etc.

It helps that Euro '94 spans two weekends and two Bank Holidays, this should mean less time off work if you have to take holiday.

We are sure that everyone involved will get a special "buzz" working at such a high profile event - you will also be able to see plenty of action yourself, no one will be expected to work from 8.00am to 10.00pm all jobs to be shared. Each worker will receive a complimentary ticket to enable a friend to attend also, in addition to a "goody bag" of commemorative items from sponsors etc.

If you would like an application form, please contact Clive Oakman or Vanda Jones 0424 722525.

EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

299
DAYS TO GO



Apology

"In my October 1992 County Notes report I referred to the withdrawal of Peniel Academy players from County matches, and suggested that County officials had to wait from February to June 1992 for an explanation and that Peniel's decision to withdraw players was the product of a grudge held by teachers. I have been assured by Peniel that a full explanation for the withdrawal was given to the County Chairman at a meeting held in March 1992 and that there is no question of any personal animosities having played a part in the decision. I am happy to be able to set the record straight, and am sorry to have caused embarrassment and distress to Peniel staff."

Alan Shepherd

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



APPOINTMENT



NORTH WEST REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Full Time 3 year fixed term contract).

In conjunction with ETTA/Sports Council "Focus Sport" initiative, the main thrust of the post will be to plan and coordinate the implementation of the North West Development Plan for table tennis.

Salary £15,000 (all hours worked post). Postholder will be expected to live within easy travelling distance of the office base at the City of Salford Arts and Leisure Department.

The successful candidates are likely to possess the following:

- Proven organising/administrative ability (preferably in sport)
- Effective communication and negotiating skills
- High level of self motivation and ability to motivate others
- Experience of sports development
- Understanding of table tennis
- Full driving licence
- Closing date for applications: 28th June 1993

Job description and application form available from:

Diccon Gray (National Development Manager)
English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.
Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103

An equal opportunities post, funded by the Sports Council (North West) and the English Table Tennis Association

Ma Wenge in the team event and Lisa Lomas for the women, reaching the third round of the Women's Singles where she lost narrowly to Korea's Li Bun Hui.

England's men's team finished in 12th position, whilst the Women's team ended their campaign in 13th place.

Glue ban

ON Sunday 23rd May 1993 the ITTF announced at Gothenburg that the ban on all liquid glues in Open International Championships and World title events will be 1st June 1994.

Larry joins Hastings

LARRY HALPIN has now commenced his duties as the ETTA Information Manager (full details in September issue).

Goodwill

AS a further gesture of goodwill Alan Shepherd has contributed the sum of £100 to the Peniel Academy for the specific purpose of purchasing table tennis equipment to be used by their young players.

Glue problem extended

THE major issue that spanned the fourteen days of the World Championships in Gothenberg, Sweden, last month was the "Glue Debate". The debate started at the ITTF Council Meeting the day before the Championships began and was less than satisfactorily concluded by the end of the Championships.

Following seminars by ITTF Equipment Committee Member, Paul Schiltz of Luxembourg and Dr. Keith Powell of Scotland, the ITTF Council decided by a very large majority to ban the glue from 1st September 1993 and allow only self adhesive glue sheets or self adhesive rubber to be used from that date.

A campaign to delay the decision was launched by the European Table Tennis Union led by their President Hans Gab, the Club of Table Tennis Professionals led by Jorgen Persson and Andrzej Grubba, and by some of the sport's main manufacturers. Their concerns were that the world market could not be supplied with suitable glue sheets by September, that the slower and less spinny glue sheets would adversely affect the playing standard of several of Europe's leading players, and that the manufacturers would be left with large stocks of unwanted glue and big financial losses as a result.

The matter came to a head at the ITTF Biennial General Meeting. Hans Gab wanted a delay until September 1994. ITTF President Ogimura asked that the meeting leave the decision on the implementation date to the ITTF Executive Committee and this was agreed by both the BGM and Council. The date finally decided by Executive Committee in the latter part of the final day was that ITTF glue ban would become effective on June 1st 1994.

The ITTF Council accepted the case that England had recognised since January that frequent exposure to glue was dangerous to the health of the user, and that the best way to eliminate it from the sport was to ban the use of glue completely.

Our delegates, Johnny Leach and myself spoke firstly, strongly in favour of the complete ban which was successful and then to support early implementation. We believe that the danger to the health of the players is of higher priority than the concerns of the



Alan Ransome

campaigners seeking a delay of the ban.

DILEMMA FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL

Within a year the glues will be gone. The ban currently in England will remain. This decision will not affect over 99% of our players, who are protected from the harmful effects by the motion passed by National Council in January. We have two dilemmas. At present our England teams cannot compete on an equal basis with other international teams and we will be required by the ETTU to accept glue and re-gluing when staging the European Championships in Birmingham in 1994.

The overall argument is won. The world accepts the danger of glue. Careful thought will need to be given to this new situation and ways should be considered whereby we can ensure that our players are not competing on the world stage at a serious disadvantage and that the European Championships can be played in England without damage to either the health of the players or the reputation of the sport. Our Council will need to set time aside at its July meeting to consider these vital issues.

The "Glue Debate" in Gothenberg overshadowed all the other equipment and scoring rule changes. Everything in this area was deferred for two years to see the effects of the changes from liquid glues to pressure sensitive adhesive sheets which will operate in a similar manner to double sided cellotape.

EUROPEAN DOMINATION

On the table, the play in Gothenberg was good. The Swaythling Cup Final (Mens team) between Sweden and China was exceptional. Sweden won 3-1 but at one stage this result looked in doubt. Europe (with glue) dominated the Men's Singles with no Asian players reaching the semi finals. This time it was not a Swedish player but a Frenchman, Jean Philippe Gatien who was the winner, Belgium's Jean Michael Saive was second. Jan Ove Waldner was the most successful Swedish player reaching the semi final only to lose in straight games to Saive, which was a great disappointment to the large number of Swedish supporters.

The Women's events were dominated again by Asian players and only one European made any impact with Rumania's Otilia Badescu reaching the semi finals.

DAMAGE LIMITATION

From an England team viewpoint, it was a damage limitation exercise. Carl Prean travelled but in the end with his injured wrist could not play to his normal standard. Alan Cooke was recovering from a three month back injury and lay off but performed extremely well under the circumstances. Our men finished 12th which kept us in the Top Division of the World and qualified us for the World Team Cup in France in 1994. The Women's team were 13th and kept their top division world placing. Our top player, Lisa Lomas also recovering from injury was not at her best. Despite all this bad luck we kept our places in the top division for the next World Championships in China in two years time which was realistically the very best England could expect.

JUNIORS BENEFIT

Included in the English party we had four of our most promising junior players, Alex Perry, Richard Hyacinth, Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton, all of whom played in both singles and doubles in Gothenberg, with a specially devised spectating, playing, training and practice programme worked out by the English Junior Captain, Carole Moore. I am sure that our young players will have gained valuable experience and we will have learned a great deal to help them bridge the gap between International Junior and Senior table tennis.

Gothenberg was a success from a Euro '94 viewpoint. We promoted the Championships strongly with an information booth (in cooperation with the Manchester 2000 Bid), a heavy poster campaign, a wide distribution of the first issue of Euro News and the publication of the first official championship bulletin. Most of the rule changes we proposed to the ETTU IGM were accepted. These are intended to make the European Championships more marketable. Overall our efforts were appreciated by both the National Association delegations and the potential visitors.

Another item of good news from Gothenberg was the decision of the Swaythling Club's World Veterans Committee to award the World Veteran Championships 1998 to England. We applied for 1996 or 1998. 1996 went to Norway but in 1998 we will be proud to stage the Championships for the first time.

ATTEMPT TO DECIMATE ETTA GOES AHEAD

The ETTA Annual General Meeting will be held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham at the end of

June. We are hoping for a good attendance and an interesting meeting. Unfortunately at least one of the proposers of the move to reduce affiliation fees (Isle of Wight) appears to be campaigning hard for this change. They have failed to take head of the warning that I issued in the last edition of Table Tennis News, in that, if the fees are reduced then the Sports Council will either reduce, or withdraw, our grant aid. This will mean a cut in member services and professional staff, a reduction in International opportunities and earnings for our players, and an early termination of the "Focus Sport" programme which undoubtedly provides by far the best chance the sport has ever had to increase its participation, membership and improve its playing facilities.

There seems to be a feeling that the Sports Council are not serious about their grant aid conditions. I know the Sports Council people well. They do not make idle threats as a number of sports have found out to their cost recently.

If this proposal is passed it will decimate the sport. National Council at their April meeting were very, very concerned at the prospect of these proposals being accepted. I urge all delegates to the AGM to vote against these destructive proposals.

NEW PUBLICITY INITIATIVE

In an attempt to improve our communications with both members and outside bodies, and to give our press and publicity activities a real boost, a new professional position has been created, an ETTA Information Officer. The successful candidate, Larry Halpin, is a very experienced and talented journalist. He has been one of the leading lights in Squash for more than a decade. Larry will add new, much needed, experience to our professional team. I welcome Larry to the Association and anticipate that the results of his work will become apparent very quickly. The Information Officer position is being supported by the Sports Council.

I would like to offer a word of congratulations to the English Schools Table Tennis Association for their staging and organising of the World Schools Championships in Birmingham over the Easter period. I attended the event and was impressed with all they did.

Finally, as this is the last issue of the season, I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed to the success of the sport, at all levels, over the last year and thank our staff both in Hastings and elsewhere for their dedication and commitment which has helped the sport's progress.



RUNNING SPORT Introductory Booklets

1. GETTING THINGS DONE
2. RUNNING MEETINGS
3. RUNNING A CLUB
4. LOOKING AFTER THE MONEY
5. RAISING MONEY

These booklets are available free of charge to all AFFILIATED LEAGUE SECRETARIES.

Send a S.A.E. (A5 size with 49p stamp) to Diccon Gray, (National Development Manager), English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF. Tel: 0424 722525.



NEW APPOINTMENT

England Junior National Trainer/Coach

The English Table Tennis Association is looking to appoint a full time Junior National Trainer/Coach. The Junior National Trainer/Coach would be responsible for the development of the English Junior and Cadet players.

All applications must be fluent in English and have a proven record of producing top Junior players.

The successful applicant will be based in England. Salary is negotiable. This post is supported by the Sports Council.

Any interested Trainers/Coaches in the first instance should contact:

**Donald Parker, Director of Coaching,
English Table Tennis Association,
Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex
TN34 1HF. (Tel: 0424 722525 & Fax: 0424 422103)**

Dynamic Deaton in command

NICOLA DEATON, 16, from Barlborough, Derbyshire who believes that attack is the best form of defence was in spectacular form throughout the week-end reaching the final of the girls singles and taking England through to the final of the team competition.

The Derbyshire schoolgirl who will take part of her GCSE examination in Gothenburg during the world championships, taught all her opponents a few lessons in Bridlington.

Although losing to Martine Hubert of Belgium in the girls final, 15, 15 Nicola exacted revenge in the team final beating her 10, 17, but unfortunately for England Sally Marling fought hard with tremendous courage but lost -19, 14, -12 to Hubert, and -18, -16 to Severine Thone as England lost the final 3-2 to Belgium whose team overall was the most impressive of the championships.

The first day of the championships saw an enormous entry of almost 200 players competing in the qualifying rounds. The fourteen qualifiers in the boys singles were Ben Johnson (Berkshire), Paul Ciccelli (Sussex), Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland), Michael James (Yorkshire), Darren Blake (Surrey), Andrew Nicholls (Yorkshire), Kevin

**WORDS BY
JOHN WOODFORD
PICTURES BY
JOHN WOOD**

Dolder (Lancashire), Simon James (Yorkshire), Mark Smith (Yorkshire), Leeroy Pye (Norfolk), Steven Lampkin (Surrey), Kevin Hodgson (Cumberland) and Dean Wanbon (Yorkshire).

There were thirteen group winners in the girls singles: Samantha James (Yorkshire), Joanne Barham (Kent), Nicola Massingham (Lincoln), Glenda Ashison (Surrey), Sarah Smith (Nottingham), Zoe Fisher (Yorkshire), Debbie Pestka (Nottingham), Tamar Connolly (Lancashire), Nicola Smith (Yorkshire), Tracy Davies (Essex), Michelle Haynes (Nottingham), Clare Newns (Cheshire), and Shelley Ruocco (Essex).

Alex Perry, who has rarely played well at Bridlington, suffered a worrying exit in Round 1 of the singles, went down 13, -17, 16 to Martin Monrad of Denmark, the European Cadet finalist. Monrad advanced to the quarter-finals to be stopped by Sascha Kostner 19, 17.

There transpired two other encouraging performances for England in the boys singles - Richard Hyacinth before he was halted by the losing finalist Mattias Stenberg 6, 18 and also a gem of a performance by Ryan Savill of Essex.



Pictured above are Sascha Kostner (left) of Germany the Boys Singles winner and Martine Hubert of Belgium the Girls Singles winner



Pictured above are England's duo of Nicola Deaton (left) and Sally Marling. Whilst below is the winner of the Cadet Girls singles Catherine Burgardt (left) of France and England's Katherine Woodward who was runner-up



During his last season as a junior Savill has concentrated on playing 'with the big boys', that is entering more senior tournaments - extremely wise preparation for bridging the gap between junior and senior competition.

Ryan Savill was England's only semi-finalist snuffing out a challenge from Thierry Gernet of France in the quarters 18, -16, 18. Kostner proved too strong, as expected. Savill lost -17, -16 to the bespectacled German but Savill looks as though he is a 17 year old player with a lot before him in the sport.

Why the Germans sent half the team remains a mystery. Perhaps it had something to do with the clashing French tournament in Northern France, which was attended by the Peniel Academy players, including Vince Avery.

However, Kostner seemed as though he might lose his title in the final when the confident Mattias the fourth seed stormed through to win the first game 11, but the holder recovered to win and to hold the title 12, 12.

A further shock happened earlier in the boys singles when the second seed Eric Varin (France) was skilfully overpowered by Davy Van Vinckenroye of Belgium. Andreas Blom had a titanic struggle to stop the Belgian 14, -11, 19 in the quarter-finals.

A few words on behaviour of losers on court. The Swedish players seemed to follow the lead of their superstars Waldner and Persson, keeping extremely cool. A poor example was shown by some of the French and Belgian players when they lost - I felt that some of the

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN - 2

umpires were too lenient - there were a number of cases of bats being thrown down and balls hit into the surrounds - the yellow cards were not seen often enough.

Anne Boileau the top seed in the girls from France was childishly upset when she lost trying to win a quarter-final place. She went down 12, 15 to Severine Thone of Belgium.

Nicola Deaton's four victims to reach the final were, in order - Shelley Ruocco 10, 10, Claire News 12, 11, Sofia Carlsson the fourth seed (Sweden) 8, -9, 16 before losing the final -15, -15 to Martine Hubert, the only time during the week-end that Nicola failed to impress.

Sally Marling battled hard all the way to the semi finals, taking out Nicola Massingham 11, 18, Sandrine Morel (France) 16, -17, 19 and in the quarters Helena Johansson (Sweden), before losing in the semi-finals to Hubert 18, 15.

CADETS

Kevin Vissers unseeded from Belgium was surely the cadet of the week-end. A tiny lad with a devastating attack always attracts attention. Vissers fizzing attack eliminated the top seed Ulric Marcussen (Denmark) in the semi-finals and another unseeded player Jens Lundquist in the final 16 -8, 15.

The best English show was by Michael James (Yorkshire) who whipped out the second seed Cedric Merchez (Belgium) 14, 16 before losing to Lundquist.

Katherine Woodward was the English star. Playing as the fourth seed and always appearing as if she is about to face a catastrophe, she advanced to the final halting Michelle Haynes, Annette Norregard (Denmark) and Marie Dontenvill (France) before falling in the final to Catherine Burgardt (France) -15, -18.

THE TEAM TOURNAMENT

I am not convinced that running the team event on the last day is a good idea. The anti-climax atmosphere was a little overwhelming, after a crowded scene on the two previous days with more than 200 players around the Spa Royal Hall, to suddenly reduce to the teams from eight nations, with masses of empty seats in all areas had a dampening effect, despite the Bank Holiday sunshine outside the hall.

However, the small entry of eight nations enabled the finals session to commence at 6.15pm instead of 7.30pm to the relief of all the long distance travellers and there are many from Bridlington.

I counted five spectators watching the all-Swedish final as the senior team, cruised home 3-0 against the second string.

All the action was on the other table where Belgium girls took nearly two and a half hours to defeat England 3-2.

There were early shocks in the boys teams - the Germans were taken out by Denmark II, Belgium II Beat Sweden III 3-2 and England I went under with embarrassment to Sweden II 3-2. Denmark managed to get their two top teams into the semi-finals but the Swedes dominated the semi-finals.

Summing-up the tournament for England - it was not a pleasant week-end for the boys - Alex Perry and Richard Hyacinth were not at their best, neither was Sally Marling, but both Sally and Nicola recorded some outstanding successes, with the final honours of the week-end going to the Derbyshire girl, whose good fortune in being able to be coached by and practice with at times Desmond and Chen Xinhua, is now beginning to pay dividends.

A FINE VENUE

A large majority would agree that the Spa Royal Hall at Bridlington is an excellent venue. The playing conditions are good to excellent, the welcome from the table tennis people locally and the hoteliers is first class and the professional catering is very good. I doubt if there is room at Grantham to cope with the catering for around 300 people, so it looks as the event is going back to Bridlington in 1994, despite the fact it so far away from most places in the southern half of the country and it takes foreign teams most of the next day to get home. Only eight foreign teams came this time - the remoteness of Bridlington may have been the reason.

RESULTS OF FINALS:

BS: Semi-Finals:

S. Kostner (Germany) b
R. Savill (England) 17, 16
M. Stenberg (Sweden) b
Blomm (Sweden) 6 18

Final:

Kostner b Stenberg -18, 13, 13

GS: Semi-Finals:

N. Deaton b
P. Finnemann (Denmark) 7., 14
M. Hubert (Belgium) b
S. Marling (England) 18, 15

Final:

Hubert b Deaton 15, 15

Boys Doubles:

Mattias Stenberg (Swe)
Simon Angel (Swe) beat
Mattias Anderson (Swe)
Andreas Blom 16 11

Girls Doubles:

Martine Hubert (Bel)
Anne Boileau (Fra) beat
Severine Thone (Bel)
Sandrine Morel (Fra) 15 19

Cadet Boys Singles:

Kevin Vissers (Bel) beat
Jens Lundquist (Swe) 16 -8 15

Cadet Girls Singles:

Catherine Burgardt (Fra) beat
Katherine Woodward (Eng) 15 18

Team Finals

Boys: Sweden I 3, Sweden II 0

Girls: Belgium 3, England 2



Top picture: England's Ryan Savill who played a gem of a performance in the Boys Singles. Middle picture: Sweden's triumphant Doubles pairing of Mattias Stenberg (left) and Simon Angel. Bottom picture: The Bridlington ice cream eaters (left to right) England's Terry Young, France's Marié Dontenvill and England's Steven Meddings.

Sparkling Andrew and Timina

SKYLET ANDREW and Elena Timina outshone their opponents at the Essex 3 Star, to take the Singles title.

Andrew beat Chris Oldfield in the final, who had conquered the mighty Matthew Syed in the semi finals and the Russian No.1 Timina proved in the end too controlled for Alison Gordon's powerful forehands.

With a number of seeded players failing to arrive at the magnificent Brentwood International Centre through illness and reasons unknown, Referee Peter Roden and his assistant Phil Gower had some re-arranging to do in order to equal out both halves of this mens singles. Matthew Syed was No.1 seed but all seeds below him were changed due to the non arrival of Alan Cooke through illness, Nicky Mason and Sean Gibson, Skylet Andrew No.2, Jonathan Taylor 3, Chris Oldfield 4, and Steve Ward No.6 were the prominent changes and this unfortunately meant that the Welsh dynamo Steve Ward met Bradley Billington in the first round, and what a terrific match this turned out to be. Yours truly umpired this one and both players attacked with great skill, each trying to out position the other in rallies that never seemed to drop below 10 shots. Bradley took the



(Top picture) Mens and Womens singles champions Skylet Andrew and Elena Timina. (Bottom picture) Womens Doubles winners Helen Lower (left) and Linda Radford, pictured with Mayor elect of Brentwood Councillor Alf Slaymark

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WOOD

first game 21-14 but Steve came storming back and literally hitting every shot that came his way took the second 21-18. The third game was another scorcher and Bradley just moved ahead at the right moment to win 21-18. The match met with much applause from the crowd and this was well deserved. Nigel Thomas beat Ritchie Venner and Grant Solder eliminated John Holland 10, -20, 18.

Unfortunately for Bradley Billington he met Matthew Syed in the quarter final and pushed Matt to his best before going down 19 and 18. Chris Oldfield reached the semi final by beating Andrew Eden on the way in a very hard fought match 18, 12, 21. Jonathan Taylor beating Grant Solder and Skylet Andrew not losing a game joined him there. The ladies singles saw the non arrival of Andrea Holt but the seedings were not altered. Elena Timina of Russia reached the final by defeating Linda Radford and Kate Goodall and Alison Gordon took out Helen Lower and Gemma Schwartz to become her opponent.

The ladies doubles was rather poorly supported and the absence of Andrea Holt meant that the No.1 seeds were withdrawn giving progress to Alison Gordon and Joanna Roberts through to the semi final where they beat Maria Thornley and Sanya Kubulka 15 and 15. Helen Lower and Essex No.1 lady Linda Radford also reached the final by beating Elena Timina and Claire Marshall 14 and 6 in a match that saw the winners really dominant.

The mens doubles saw Jonathan Taylor replacing Nicky Mason as Skylet's partner in the No.1 spot and reaching the finals by the elimination of Paul Giles and Paul Whiting 9, -19, 19 in the semis.

Brad Billington and Chris Oldfield lost to John Holland and Grant Solder at the same stage after a great tussle 21 and 18. Grant Solder replaced Sean Gibson as John's partner. So much credit to them for beating such a formidable pair.

The mixed class two singles was a major one for Ryan Savill of Essex, ranked no. 128 senior he fought his way through to the final dropping just one game and beating three players ranked higher. John Payne fell in the second round, Steven Shaw in the third and Stephen Moore in the semi's. His opponent was Dave Morris of Shropshire who lost just two games in reaching the final, against Martin Lowe in the third round and Peter Harris in the semi's.

The finals were watched by a reasonably large crowd which

included the Mayor and Johnny Leach, and not forgetting of course our good friend Brian Brumwell. With Clive Oakman performing on the mike and trying hard to sell a residential property for Alison Gordon as both mens semi finals eventually get under way.

Matthew Syed the No.1 seed against Chris Oldfield No. 4 and back to his best form always promised to be a good match and we were not disappointed. Matt's defence interspersed with attacking moments just had the edge on Chris in the first game as both players settled into their routines.

Chris was spreading shots all over the table only to see them returning from Matthew's bat, which seemed to be everywhere, but Chris came back strongly to take the game 21, 17. Chris came out for the second and went straight into the attack, top spin smashes, varying pace, drop shots, they were all there and this was bringing out some fantastic returns from Matt. With there never

being more than two points difference as the game progressed and the crowd cheering every point the atmosphere was tremendous and this seemed to raise Matt who reversed the score to take the second. The final game was very much as the previous ones and on two occasions Matt left the court in order to return Chris's smashes. Chris led at the change over 10-9 and then seemed to lose his way. Matt with some great hitting shot ahead to lead 18-12 and it now seemed just a formality to the spectators but not to Chris, as with some terrific passing shots the score went to 20-20. Two first class smashes saw him home 22-20.

The second semi final between Skylet Andrew and Jonathan Taylor was another great match and with both players concentrating on attack the excitement was high. Sky was using long sweeping shots and this seemed to be instrumental in seeing him home 21-17. Jonathan took the second 21-18 with some very quick return hitting, catching his opponent out as he came forward. The final session drove Skylet's way when he started defending more and was able to control the game and coast home 21-12.

The mens doubles between Skylet and Jonathan and John Holland and Grant Solder was a very close affair with the scratch pairing of John and Grant proving a problem to the opposition from the start. Points were fairly easy to come by as the pace of the game brought out many unforced errors but this did nothing to pull the game down as a spectacle. Sky and John took the first 21-19 and immediately went behind in the second to some cross court hitting by their rivals. However



Jonathan Taylor

this seemed to tighten up their game and helped by some loose shots from the opposition won a close game 22-20.

In the ladies doubles the youngsters Linda Radford and Helen Lower took on Alison Gordon and Joanna Roberts and in a very well fought match Linda and Helen combined to counter attack their way to a good victory. Their play was very mature in movement and although Ally and Joanna were by no means out played the result never seemed to be in doubt, with well placed hitting and good defensive work they won 21-19, 21-16.

The mixed class two singles final saw local lad Ryan Savill taking on Dave Morris in a match that was once again played at a fast pace. Dave took the first 21-14 with very

ESSEX 3 STAR - 2

good passing shots and quick returns. Ryan pulled out the stops with some good half volleys to either wing and won the second 21-16. The third was very close with the tenacity of Dave's attack just overcoming Ryan's blocking and back hand returns 21-19.

Elena Timina was too good on this occasion for the usually high standard of Alison Gordon in the ladies singles final. Alison after falling behind at the start to some good defensive play by Elena pulled back with a flow of attacking moves that temporarily worried the Russian girl and powered home 21-17. It was now that Alison seemed to lose her composure and although she came back into the match in spasms could not seem to be able to cope with Elena's well controlled defence that, like Matthew Syed's in the mens singles, always found the right spot on the table to catch out her opponent 21-9 to Elena who applied the same tactics in the final game together with some high returns to take this 21-10.

The mens singles final was between Skylet Andrew No 2 seed and England No. 7 and Chris Oldfield No. 4 seed and England No. 9. The first game started with both players tentatively testing each others capabilities until Skylet, realising this was possibly his best chance of winning the title he yearned for, went for it in a big way. He played a succession of brilliant point winning smashes that made you wonder how! Chris tried desperately to contain him but Sky was in devastating form. Leaning back and hitting shots that must have been difficult for the umpire to follow. He forged ahead with Chris coming into the match at short intervals to win a few points. When Sky started to win points by hitting Chris's service straight past him then he knew that it would take a complete change of tactics to stop him. 21-13 to Skylet.

The second started with Chris trying to vary his game between attack and defence and pushing more but Skylet fought back with some great passing shots on the forehand and forged in front hitting everything that came his way Skylet could do no wrong and won 21-14.

RESULTS

Ladies Doubles - Linda Radford (E)/Helen Lower (St) bt Alison Gordon (Bk)/Joanna Roberts (Y) 19, 16

Mens Doubles - Skylet Andrew (F)/Jonathan Taylor (La) bt John Holland (Dy)/Grant Solder (E) 19, 20

Mixed Class 2 - Dave Morris (Sp) bt Ryan Savill (E) 14, -16, 19

Ladies Singles - Elena Timina (Rus) bt Alison Gordon (Bk) -17, 9, 10

Mens Singles Semi Finals - Chris Oldfield (Y) bt Matthew Syed (Bk) 17, -17, 20

Skylet Andrew (E) bt Jonathan Taylor (La) 19, -18, 12

Mens Singles - Skylet Andrew (E) bt Chris Oldfield (Y) 13, 14

COMMENT

It was the opinion of the majority of the players I spoke to that the lack of support at all of the tournaments is partly if not wholly due to the points system. Where a player can gain a higher position by not playing over someone who does, then table tennis is finished because there becomes no incentive to play. Ron Mackenzie



Mens singles finalist Chris Oldfield

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NFD Grove win Butterfly Bowl

WHEN Linda Radford (Hull Sandhill) completed her 21-15; 19-21; 21-17 defeat of Helen Lower of Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre another successful season, the fifth, was complete.

Linda's win however was insufficient to stop NFD Grove already 4-1 up at that stage from again returning home with the Butterfly Bowl as winners of the Premier Division. With the might of Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon, Helen Lower and Elena Timina at their disposal Grove will now hope to go one better than this season when they reached the semi final of the European Cup.

Pictures by John Wood

Hull Sandhill had earlier won the battle for second place, also a passport into Europe, when they broke the deadlock with World of Sport, winning by four sets to two; Maria Thornley's 22-20, 22-20 defeat of Nicola Deaton, her second win of the match, being the decisive set. For Nicola who had previously lost her regular battle with Sally Marling 24-22, 23-21 it was not a happy match. Kate Goodall's two sets for W.O.S. in this match coupled with her taking Lisa to a third game the previous day must have come close to her winning the Women of the Weekend award.

Plymouth Pavilion who have had a disappointing season together with the outclassed Scottish Ladies make way for the return of South Kesteven "1", for whom Jill Harris (10 out of 10 this weekend) and Karen Smith lead the divisional averages, and Welsh Ladies.

In Division 2 Grove "2" (Jose Bongers, Clare Marshall and Nicola Meddings) despite being



NFD Grove winners of the Butterfly Bowl (left to right) Councillor John Simpson of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, Lisa Lomas, Elena Timina, Alison Gordon, Helen Lower and Alan Ransome the ETTA Chairman



Pictured above is 'Woman of the Weekend' winner Helen Shields of Olivetti Bribar, whilst below is unsung hero Brian Macfarlane, who designed the computer programme for the Womens British League



held to draws by Horsham Angels and the improving Irish Ladies pulled off promotion for the second season in succession. What did not hold for the second season however was Jose's unblemished record as she went down to Claire Hunter (Horsham) and Janet Dunning (Sovereigns "2"). Janets nine from 10 lifted her team out of the bottom spot into the top half of the division whilst Oaks disastrous run of five defeats plunges them into Division 3.

Two outstanding teams come up from Division 3. From the "B" division newcomers Edison (Sanja Kubelka, Kubrat Owolabi and Claire Plumridge) lost but four sets throughout the season; the two that "got away" at Stourbridge well worth a mention; Michelle Martin's (Grove 3) 21-13; 21-14 against Kubrat and Nicola Massingham (Gonerby) 21-16; 21-14 over Claire.

Olivetti Bribar who have done much to enhance the status of the competition with their sponsorship and publicity earned their promotion from the "A" division when completing the double, four sets to two, over the closest rivals Vymura International; Helen Shields brace maintaining her 100% record, ruining

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

Doreen Schofields (18 in the 3rd) and winning herself the "Women of the Weekend award).

"Team of the Weekend" went to Hull Sandhill "1" who for the second season running have proved themselves to be second only to a very outstanding team.

Most improved team over the two weekends were Bramhall who increased their points total from two to nine and their leading player Kathryn Woodward rocketted up the averages losing only to the Edison girls.

As ever, but not to be taken for granted magnificent support from the Leisure Centre staff and the Metropolitan Borough of



Pictured above are Hull Sandel I who were runners-up of the Premier Division (left to right), Councillor John Simpson, Sally Marling, Linda Radford, Maria Thornley and Alan Ransome

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PREMIER DIVISION							
NFD Grove 1	10	10	0	0	55	5	20
Hull Sandhill 1	10	7	1	2	44	16	15
World of Sport	10	6	1	3	38	22	13
Hull Sandhill 2	10	3	1	6	24	36	7
Plymouth Pavilions	10	2	1	7	17	43	5
Scottish Ladies	10	0	0	10	12	48	0
FIRST DIVISION							
S. Kesteven Sovereigns 1	10	10	0	0	45	15	20
Welsh Ladies	10	5	2	3	36	24	12
Graham Spicer	10	5	2	3	31	29	12
City of Milton Keynes	10	2	4	4	27	33	8
Amity Generation	10	1	3	6	24	36	5
Bayer Bradford	10	1	1	8	17	43	3
SECOND DIVISION							
NFD Grove 2	10	7	3	0	42	18	17
Horsham Angels	10	7	2	1	41	19	16
S. Kesteven Sovereigns 2	10	4	1	5	27	33	9
Fullerians	10	3	2	5	26	34	8
Irish Ladies	10	1	4	5	23	37	6
Oaks	10	1	2	7	21	39	4
DIVISION 3A							
Olivetti Bribar	10	10	0	0	50	10	20
Vymura International	10	8	0	2	41	19	16
City of Sunderland	10	4	2	4	32	28	10
Norton T.T.C.	10	4	0	6	22	38	8
Dumfries	10	1	1	8	14	46	3
Bribar Belles	10	0	3	7	21	39	3
DIVISION 3B							
Edison T.T.C.	10	10	0	0	56	4	20
Pavilion Ladies	10	6	2	2	34	26	14
Bramhall	10	3	3	4	27	33	9
Gonerby	10	3	1	6	24	36	7
NFD Grove 3	10	3	0	7	23	37	6
Worcester Ladies	10	1	2	7	16	44	4

Dudley in general whose Chairman of Leisure Services Councillor John Simpson together with Mrs. Simpson and Offices of the Borough attended the presentations; the West Midlands region of

the Sports Council were well represented at the opening ceremony.

Next seasons dates, with venues still to be decided, have been set at November 6/7th 1993 and May 7/8th 1994.

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NFD Grove champions again

NFD Grove of Market Drayton are champions again. For the second successive season the Grove club have won the Premier Division with a 100% record. They ended the season in style with an 8-3 victory over second placed Team Peniel although they did trail 1-3 at one stage. Player of the Match was once again, it just about goes without saying, Desmond Douglas. Des finished the season with more Premier Division victories to his credit than anyone else, twenty four wins and only one loss, and also took the Player of the Match award on no fewer than six occasions. It was, however, an all round team performance for NFD over the whole of the season with Nicky Mason, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield all being beaten only once and those defeats all came in the final match against



Player of the season Desmond Douglas

Peniel. Sedgefield District secured third place when they drew 7-7 with Bathwick Tyres who then went on to beat Vymura 9-3 to finish in fourth place above DML White Hart Launceston who were held to a

7-7 draw by Confederation Life St. Neots, the second time that the two teams had shared the points.

The NFD Grove Club also won Division One North, ending the season with victories over Rushton Marconi Lincoln (7-1) and West Warwickshire (6-2). Chan Construction of Birmingham also finished strongly with four successive victories to take second place.

At the other end of the table Bribar Humberside lost their vital relegation battle with Well Connected Menswear to leave them at the bottom of the table. In a see-saw match Andy Edmunds of Well Connected showed real courage and determination to overcome the dogged style of Derek Munt to win the vital set.

In the Southern section of the First Division Horsham Angels were worthy winners and should be an asset to the Premier Division next season. The addition of Nigel Tyler (who won all twelve sets that he played) enhanced their squad of Mike Hammond, Ritchie Venner, Paul Elphick and Peter Bartram and after losing to NFD Grove III on 18th October they went on to win their remaining nine fixtures taking revenge over Grove in the process.

Bottom of the table Bathwick Tyres II failed to get a single victory but came close in their final match when they led Edison 4-3 but had to settle for a draw.

Sedgefield II were run away winners in division 2 North and

finished with a 5-3 win away to the in form Leicester Lions. Defeat for the Lions, however, sent them into third place as City of Sunderland gained both points at Burslem.

In division 2 South West OLOP of Reading were without a fixture on the final day, but had already won the division with a 7-1 home win against DML White Hart Launceston.

Division 2 South East, however, was in doubt right up to the final matches. Rejects of Lambeth beat Britannia Ipswich 6-2 in a keenly contested encounter with Alan Cole being the player of the match and this gave them the title by a single point from Linda Farrow who also won the last game, beating Norwich Foxwood 5-3. In this one the player of the match award was shared between John 'Grinder' Taylor and Dave 'Twinkle Toes' Baker.

Team Peniel II eventually won division 3 East which had been keenly contested all season, finishing one point above Ashford and British Gas Milton Keynes. Peniel took maximum points from all of their last four matches to snatch the title. Ashford were left to ponder what might have been if they had taken at least one point from the fixtures against bottom of the table Brent Juniors.

The match between DML White Hart Launceston III and NFD Grove Colts decided the championship of Division Three Midlands with DML running out 6-2 winners. Carol Giles produced some sheer brilliant play refusing to accept that she could lose and eventually winning her sets against Trevor Manning and Paul Robertson. A good overall performance by Mick Browne helped Kingshurst Bribar to a 6-2 victory away to Bathwick Tyres II which took them into second place above Grove.

Tim Sheppard and Keith Whittaker both gave excellent displays at attacking play for Uxbridge Burton as their team crushed Crusaders Lincoln 7-1 to win division three North. Senior Thermal Derwent completed their first season in the league by beating AALCO

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FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE -2

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Leeds 6-2 to take runners-up spot. Jolliffe Poole, relegated from division two last year won the Third Division South to bounce back at the first attempt. WSIHE Lennox House Group, like Derwent in the North, took runners up spot in their first season.

There was an early finish at

Larkhall where the matches between the home club's first team and BSG Brentwood and the third division fixture between Larkhall II and Adeyfield came to an abrupt end because of a power failure. In both cases the scores stood at 2-2 when the lights went out on their season

FINAL PLACINGS SEASON 1992/93



PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove	12	12	-	-	97	4	24
Team Peniel	12	10	-	2	85	26	20
Sedgefield District	12	5	2	5	65	71	12
Bathwick Tyres	12	4	2	6	60	82	10
DML White Hart Launceston	12	3	3	6	60	84	9
Con. Life St. Neots	12	2	3	7	52	88	7
Vymura International	12	1	-	11	30	94	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH

NFD Grove II	14	12	1	1	87	25	25
Chan Construction	14	11	1	2	77	35	23
R.M. Lincoln	14	7	2	5	61	51	16
British Gas CMK	14	5	4	5	56	56	14
West Warwickshire	14	5	3	6	54	58	13
Cheltenham Saracens	14	3	4	7	35	77	10
Well Connected Menswear	14	2	3	9	40	72	7
Bribar Humberside	14	2	-	12	38	74	4

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

Horsham Angels	14	12	-	2	85	27	24
NFD Grove III	14	11	1	2	78	34	23
Edison T.T.C.	14	8	3	3	62	50	19
Ellenborough	14	5	4	5	55	57	14
Larkhall	14	4	4	6	47	61	12
BSG Brentwood	14	3	4	7	47	61	10
Bribar Colley Toyota	14	1	4	9	37	75	6
Bathwick Tyres II	14	-	4	10	33	79	4

DIVISION 2 NORTH

Sedgefield District II	14	11	2	1	79	33	24
City of Sunderland	14	8	3	3	63	49	19
Leicester Lions	14	7	3	4	65	47	17
City of Leeds	14	5	3	6	53	59	13
Levis Westfield	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
D.H.V.R. Warrington	14	4	3	7	48	64	11
Vymura International	14	4	2	8	49	63	10
Burslem	14	2	3	9	42	70	7

DIVISION 2 SOUTH EAST

Rejects	14	9	3	2	70	42	21
Linda Farrow	14	8	4	2	71	41	20
K.B. Gillingham	14	7	4	3	65	47	18
Norwich Foxwood	14	7	3	4	63	48	17
Fellows Cranleigh	14	5	4	5	53	59	14
JAGS	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
P. A. Croydon	14	3	4	7	49	63	10
Britannia Ipswich	14	-	1	13	28	84	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH WEST

OLOP	12	9	1	2	59	37	19
Horsham Angels II	12	8	2	2	63	33	18
VRS Fareham	12	6	4	2	60	36	16
Leckie T.T.C.	12	3	3	6	46	50	9
DML White Hart Launceston II	12	4	1	7	41	55	9
Amity Generation Fareham	12	2	3	7	35	61	7
Chan Construction II	12	2	2	8	32	64	6

DIVISION 3 EAST

Team Peniel	14	9	2	3	73	39	20
Ashford (Kent)	14	8	3	3	71	41	19
British Gas CMK II	14	7	5	2	64	48	19
Fellow Cranleigh II	14	5	5	4	58	54	15
BSG Brentwood II	14	3	6	5	52	60	12
Chelmsford League	14	4	3	7	56	56	11
Norwich Foxwood II	14	3	3	8	35	77	9
Brent Juniors	14	2	3	9	39	73	7

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS

DML Launceston II	12	9	1	2	65	31	19
Kinghurst Bribar	12	9	-	3	64	32	18
NFD Grove Colts	12	7	3	2	58	37	17
P.D. Newport	12	6	1	5	42	54	13
Hawbush C.C.	12	3	4	5	43	53	10
OLOP II	12	1	2	9	30	65	4
Bathwick Tyres III	12	-	3	9	33	63	3

DIVISION 3 NORTH

Uxbridge Burton	14	9	4	1	74	38	22
S.T. Derwent	14	9	2	3	69	43	20
NFD Grove IV	14	6	7	1	65	47	19
City of Sunderland II	14	6	5	3	62	50	17
Sedgefield District III	14	4	5	5	55	57	13
AALCO Leeds	14	2	5	7	43	69	9
Ormesby	14	2	2	10	43	69	6
Crusaders Lincoln	14	1	4	9	37	75	6

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Jolliffe Poole	12	10	1	1	73	23	21
Lennox House Group	12	7	4	1	59	37	18
Linda Farrow II	12	7	3	2	60	36	17
Rejects II	12	5	1	6	45	51	11
Larkhall II	12	3	2	7	35	57	8
Ellenborough II	12	2	1	9	35	61	5
Adeyfield N.A.	12	-	4	8	25	67	4



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Dusseldorf win tight match

HORUSSIA DUSSELDORF (GER) won the Europe Club Cup in a tight match with Sporting Vilette Charleroi (Bel). The title had to be decided on a count back of games and Dusseldorf came out winners - just. With both teams level at the end of a home and away fixture individual matches were reckoned up ending in a 7-nil stalemate with finally game totals coming out in Dusseldorf favour's 18-17.

The women's title also went to Germany when Sp Bg Steinhagen beat SMB (Hun) 4-3.

Top 12

ITALY has been given the opportunity to organise the Europe Top 12 for 1994. France will get this prestigious event in 1995. Belgium, Netherlands and Poland have applied for the following years. France will also be organising the European Youth Challenge.

On ice

THE future of the European Veterans Champs due to have been played earlier this year, have been put on ice until discussions can take place between the organising committee of the championships and Executive committee.

New members

NEW members continue to flood into the ITTF offices with Georgia and Uzbekistan being the latest inputs into the ITTF computer.

Arch rivals

AUSTRIA will be Super Division newcomers next year after beating arch rivals Tch/Slov 4-2 to make their return to the big time certain.

Prize money

IF any European Associations wishes to stage the World Cup in December 1994, speak up now but you will have to come up with 100,000 dollars prize money.

WORLD RANKING AFTER GOTHENBURG CHAMPIONSHIPS



Deng Yaping World No. 1

MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS

1	-	2095	WALDNER Jan-Ove
2	-	2051	GATIEN Jean-Philippe
3	-	2015	MA Wenge
4	7	1987	SAIVE Jean-Michel
5	-	1973	KIM Taek Soo
6	4	1963	PERSSON Jorgen
7	8	1911	WANG Tao
8	6	1909	ROSSKOPF Jorg
9	11	1885	LI Gun Sang
10	-	1880	GRUBBA Andzej
11	9	1876	YOO Nam Kyu
12	13	1869	KARLSSON Peter
13	20	1851	KIM Song Hui
14	12	1845	CHEN Xinhua
15	14	1844	PRIMORAC Zoran
16	-	1833	HUANG Johnny
17	15	1828	WANG Yonggang
18	17	1816	LINDH Erik
19	-	1802	LU Lin
20	21	1788	DING Yi
27	25	1712	PREAN Carl

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WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS

1	-	2233	DENG Yaping
2	-	2125	QIAO Hong
3	-	2082	HYUN Jung Hwa
4	-	2007	GAO Jun
5	-	2003	LI Bun Hui
6	7	1991	CHEN Zihe
7	12	1977	CHEN Jing
8	6	1961	CHAI Po Wa
9	13	1936	YU Sun Bok
10	11	1920	TANG Weiyi
10	nr	1920	JING Jun Hong
12	8	1911	ZHANG Qin
13	10	1909	GENG Lijuan
14	17	1905	ZHENG Yuan
15	23	1898	BADESCU Otilia
16	14	1896	BADESCU Otilia
17	15	1879	WANG Cheng
18	16	1877	HONG Soon Hwa
19	nr	1866	KOYAMA Chire
20	9	1857	CHAN Tan Lui
46	44	1690	LOMAS Lisa

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World Cup

MAKE a note in your diaries now. The World Cup will be held in Atlanta in 1995, the year before the Olympic Games.

Dates for your Diary

- July 3 - 11**
36th European Youth Champs - Ljubljana
- July 5 - 15 10th**
Maccabi Games - Tel Aviv
- August 19 - 22**
World Cup - Asia
- September 10 - 12**
European Masters Cup - Germany
- September 12 - 14**
Hulgarian Open - Sofia



Patrick Chila

Chila beats Persson

PATRICK CHILA of France, who was ranked 77 in the world sensationally beat Sweden's Jorgen Persson 21-14, 21-4, 21-17, in the first round of the Mens Singles at the Gothenburg World Championships, has leapt up to 66th position.

Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus has jumped up 22 places in the world rankings, going from 69th to 47th position, following his fantastic 16-21, 21-11, 21-11, 21-16, victory over Sweden's Peter Karlsson also in the first round at Gothenburg.

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

JUST THE ONE county match to report on this month with our veterans completing their season with a hard fought 6-3 win against Wiltshire 2nds.

John Higgs made a successful comeback to the side by taking both his singles and teaming up with Paul Eatherington to take the crucial men's doubles. Paul won one of his singles as did Mike Kimber and Muriel Lewis.

All our county sides finished in mid table positions despite early promise. I look forward to better times next year when hopefully we can field our strongest sides in all matches.

Schools

Congratulations to Holymead School U11 Girls and U11 Boys teams on reaching the National Finals of the Schools Championships.

The girls team of Katie Worlock, Gemma Loughran, Joanne Iles and Rachel Willis did very well to reach the finals, where they lost their two matches.

The boys team of Brian Smith, Leigh Iles, Matthew Loughran and Paul Hynam finished runners up in their section. Brian Smith had a marvellous tournament, winning all of his games and was rewarded with the Best Player of the Day award.

Brian's performances at the National finals also earned him a place in the English Schools side for the British Primary Schools Championships, an honour also afforded to Jessica Oriik. Both players played in successful English sides and I understand that Brian also went on to take the individual tournament - a tremendous effort by an extremely likeable young lad.

Bristol League

The Bristol Junior side's great run in the Carter Cup came to an end when they were beaten 5-2 by Southend in the semi final. The team of Barry Fudge, Alex Sheppard and Graham Long had previously beaten West Cornwall, Plymouth and Reading to reach the semi final stage.

The Bristol League Tournament Committee staged a superb Western Masters VETTS tournament at Thornbury. June Watts, Tim Harris, Dave Nipper, Howard Willis and Peter Sandford, together with their army of local volunteer umpires, are to be congratulated on the smooth running of a tournament which comprised so many different events.

I was a little disappointed at the size of the entry from our own three leagues. I counted only 7 players but I am sure that June, Brian Reeves, Roy Smith, Mike Hawkins, Terry Parkins and Ray Corderey enjoyed the two days as I certainly did.

Our only success in the tournament was June Watts who, armed with bat and birth certificate, won the ladies Over 60's title - I would love to say more but I have been warned off!

With the final positions not yet decided in a number of the divisions, I have decided to compile a full roll of honour for the Bath, Bristol and Weston leagues for the next issue of Table Tennis News.

I hope you all enjoy your summer activities. I am looking forward to a summer of good weather and a successful campaign on the bowling green.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

TWO OF BERKSHIRE'S to youngsters gave the breath of life to a county tournament which attracted just of 50 contestants. Bracknell's Martin Adams and Reading junior Ben Johnson fought out two fantastic finals, the U21 and Mens Championships.

The Youth Final was umpired by the Berkshire county team manager Peter Goatly and he had to be on his toes as the two contestants battled it out. Adams had too much fire power for young Johnson in the first, winning 21-9, the second was a classic with the Berkshire No. 1 junior first holding and then outplaying the Bracknell ace to win 21-16. The deciding rubber provided some of the best table tennis of the match and was nip and tuck until Adams once again asserted his authority to win the U21 title 21-14.

It had been a good final and a hard act to follow but when the pair met again in the men's final, they provided one of the best table tennis matches seen for several years. Mind you, the earlier rounds of the men's singles had produced some good contests and at least one shock result. In the quarter finals Adams had a comfortable win over Bella Hegedus. Paul Savins, the Maidenhead and Bracknell champion, had to pull out all the stops to defeat Danny Baxter. Johnson got the better of Tony Duffield and Cliff Putterford surprised Barry Monten to win in two 21-16, 21-17.

Putterford went on to extend Johnson in the semi finals, just losing out 22-20, 21-19 while Adams secured his final place with a straight sets win over Paul Savins.

Once again it was Adams who took the first but this time a much closer affair, the score 23-21, Johnson then took control in the second winning 21-10. As in the U21 final the table tennis from both players was top class, much appreciated by the watching crowd. It looked as though Johnson was about to gain revenge for his earlier defeat when at 20-18 he served for the match. Adams, however, kept his cool to draw level at 20-20, bell behind 21-20 but finished the stronger to take his second singles title 23-21.

The cadet and junior events were hit by the withdrawal of several of the top players who attended an England training camp at the Kingfisher Club, Woodley, just about 80 yards away from the Berkshire tournament, held in the Bulmersh Sports Centre. The Berkshire organiser Allan Burton and Robin Lockwood were not too impressed with the ETTA and their choice of dates. One thing is certain, such decisions can hardly help the cause of local table tennis. However, back to the table tennis. In the cadet boys final Colin Digby from Maidenhead defeated Wokingham's Andrew Grantham. Digby then fell to Ben Johnson in the Junior boys final. Earlier Johnson had been fully extended to win his semi final against Paul Reddy.

The cadet doubles provided yet another good final, Kay Leslie and Sukmdeep Gill, defeating Colin Digby and Martin Foan. Ben Johnson and

Counties 2

Andrew Grantham took the junior boys doubles, beating Dave Symond and Robert Nobbs. Newbury star Joanne Barrett was the junior girls's singles champion, defeating Kay Leslie 21-15, 21-10.

Back with the Seniors, that lad Ben Johnson again, teamed up with Syd Montgomery to take the men's doubles against Paul Savins and Barry Morten, the score 21-13, 21-17, earlier Savins and Morten had caused a major upset by beating the Bracknell champions Ian Schwartz and Cliff Putterford, while the eventual winners had overcome Forrest and Duffield. The ladies singles champion for 1993 is Lisa Crick who put paid to the hopes of Reading champion Isabel Walker. Lisa Crick then joined Julie Svensson to take the ladies doubles title at the expense of Helen Goatly and Isabel Walker.

At the end of the rainbow Berkshire Veterans did battle, Irwin Schwartz and Syd Montgomery just getting the better of Peter Bradley and Dave Streak, the score 8-21, 21-17, 21-12. In the doubles Dave Streak took the singles, beating Syd Montgomery and another Berkshire tournament had come to an end. The Bulmersh Centre once again provided the venue, Sylvia Bruton the refreshments, Allan Bruton, Robin Lockwood and Bob Morley the organisation and the players, though few in number, played excellent table tennis. Also several non playing club members, in particular Tony Smith who helped with the tables and surrounds.

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

THE NUMBER ONE town for up and coming youngsters in Cumbria is undoubtedly Barrow in Furness.

The fact that so many useful juniors augment the wealth of experience in local teams makes the Furness community leaders competitively.

Comedian Mike Harding once described Barrow as "a mediaeval feudal state at the end of a 97 mile cul-de-sac." But it is certainly no 'dead end' when it comes to table tennis.

And the reason why there seems to be such an endless production of talented children in the sport is credit to school teachers and county coaches like Eddie O'Hara and Mike Yardley, the latter having just been appointed as an ETTA Northern coach.

Much success has come the way of pupils of Barrow schools in recent years, and so it was merely a continuation of the bandwagon when Yarlside School Under 11s won gold and bronze awards at the National Schools Championships at Grantham.

Park View School is also a mecca of the celluloid ball and shortly a centre of excellence for Cumbria will be running 7 days a week in a former converted classroom there.

Mike, 58 and recently made redundant from Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd, Barrow, will be the driving force behind the centre. He will be able to pass on the finer points of the game and the benefit of more than 40 years in the game.

He was encouraged as a 16 year old by Barrow League founder Eric Rooney at St Lukes in the 1950s and graduated to the county and town junior teams. He went on to serve Vickers Sports Club for many years, but decided to concentrate solely on coaching towards the end of the 1980s.

Son Neil carries on the family tradition of playing for Vickers and has achieved something Dad did not attain - that is playing for the county seniors.

Ironically, Neil fell in the men's singles semi finals of the Barrow League Championship to a 17 year old on whom a bit of Mike's influence must have rubbed off somewhere along the road.

The most shining star of them all Kevin Hodgson, also Vickers, went on to lift the title at the expense of Ian Reed (Millom Former Pupils) 21-8, 21-10. To further accentuate pupil power in Barrow, Cumbria's closed women's doubles champions are 10 year olds, Catherine Swan and Jade Kendal. Can any other county come up with senior title holders as young or younger?

DERBYSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

STEPHEN SHAW DEMONSTRATED his growing maturity in retaining his mens singles title at the Derbyshire Closed Championships held at the new Derby League headquarters at Mackworth College.

Shaw combined with Jason Bamford to win the mens doubles 19, -15, 11 over the unorthodox combination of Martin Kinsella and Ivor Warner, and with Nicola Deaton were comfortable mixed doubles victors 8, 12 over surprise finalists Pat Hall and Liz Merrick.

In the mens singles Shaw was never troubled in ousting Jack Boulton 18, 17 in the semi and then accounted for Warner 13, 11 in the final. Warner had been extended by Martin Kinsella in their semi before getting through -19, 19, 18.

The trophies were sponsored by Trancher Engineers and presented by Brian Smith (Derbyshire President), Pat and Tony Chatwin.

Results

Mens Singles

Stephen Shaw bt Ivor Warner 13, 11

Womens Singles

Nicola Deaton bt Theresa Butler 15, 9

Mens Doubles

Shaw/Jason Bamford bt Martin Kinsella/Warner 19, -15, 11

Womens Doubles

Jane Vickers/Rose Haggart bt Deaton/Sarah Milnes 9, 12

Mixed Doubles

Shaw/Deaton bt Pat Hall/Liz Merrick 8, 12

Veteran Singles

Hall bt Dave Stills 14, -15, 19

Junior Boys

Jack Boulton bt Michael Isherwood 16, 18

Junior Girls

Deaton bt Milnes 5, 9

Counties 3

Cadet Boys

Isherwood bt Scott Habershon 17, -17, 16

Cadet Girls

Helen Rainford bt Laura Morris 13, 11

Under 12 Singles

Stephen Tolley bt Neil Habershon 7, 12

Stephen Shaw maintained his good form in reaching the last 32 at the English National Championships. On the way he beat Adrian Vincent, Martin Lowe and Graham McKim, before going down to the eventual champion Carl Preat.

Matlock

Geoff Gill retained his Matlock Masters title with a masterly display defeating Andy Burton, Andrew White and Mark Gould in the annual invitation event.

Amber Valley

Victory club look on target to win Division 1 with Ilkeston Institute providing the only danger to their title hopes.

Burton

Pirelli RS look destined to win the Eccleshall Builders Division (Div 1) with Ind Coope Yellow, Stretton SC Red, Stretton SC a and Uttoxeter OM A fighting for the runners up position. Bass Specials look likely champions of the Farrington Furnishers Division ahead of Hill Street Red, with Granville Cubs topping Division 3 with a 100% record (after 19 matches).

Derby

Long Eaton, sponsored by Stephen Palmer, are set to retain the Premier Division with their first two teams occupying the top two positions in the Division for the second consecutive season.

Having lead Division 1 all season, Mechanics 1st suffered a surprise defeat and now have to withstand the twin-challenge of Castle Donnington 2nd and Castle Donnington 3rd for the Championship.

the county initiative. As many other counties will know, apathy is a disease that is very difficult to treat. However our management committee are determined to produce a framework to cater for all ages and standards and a very lively AGM should occur at the season's end.

Despite the lack of county representative teams, both the City of Sunderland and Sedgefield District have competed in the British League. the latter proving to be the most successful with a Premier Division side finishing in a creditable 3rd place with four players registered in county leagues having made their mark, namely Eddie Smith, Ian Robertson, Malcolm Corking and Keith Rodger. Sedgefield II's have wrapped up the 2nd Division North title and the Newton Aycliffe clubs 3rd Division team should finish in a respectable 5th place. City of Sunderland have two teams. The first side will hope that their local rivals do them a favour by beating Leicester Lions and then they win at Burslem to finish 4th in 3 North but their season turned sour in their latest match at Market Drayton where Malcolm Lusk suffered a horrendous injury to his 'good leg'. As most will know, Malcolm has soldiered on for many seasons wearing a heavy support on one leg and this latest blow is terrible news. We all hope he is back at the table soon.

Finally, the only inter-league competition running is the Veterans Division. The current league table is:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sunderland	5	4	0	1	16
Peterlee	4	3	1	0	13
Darlington	4	2	0	2	9
Sedgefield	5	2	0	3	9
Philadelphia	4	2	2	0	8
Durham	4	1	1	2	5
Stanley	4	0	0	4	0

The leading set winner is Keith Henry (Philadelphia) with only one defeat to his name and a 88% win record.

The Durham county notes may have been missing from Table Tennis News for as long as the four legged beast mentioned at the beginning, but I think it is a fair bet that they will return first!

DURHAM **Keith Wilson**

AFTER AN ABSENCE of something nearing Shergar proportions, these notes will hopefully signal a revival in county fortunes. Certainly there can be no one who can justify any criticism of the efforts of the county management committee.

A concerted effort in seeking out the young stars of tomorrow has taken place under the guidance of Bob Sanderson with the coaching talents of Peter McQueen being utilised at four six hour sessions, with the added interference of the author of these ramblings! Perhaps 10 year old Daniel Welsh, 12 year old James Eden or 13 year old brother Richard may make the improvement towards county standard. The only sad report is the apparent unwillingness of other leagues in passing on the information regarding the coaching sessions or even making some effort to support

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

THIS BEING THE final report of the season, at the moment only the league's respective AGM's remain to be held, of which any outstanding matters will have to be fully mentioned in the next edition of Table Tennis News next season.

This past season in general has not been one in particular to write home about. Gloucester has seen better ones, but that's table tennis - you win some - you lose some.

County teamwise we entered four teams, a senior team in Division 2B, a junior team in Division 2C, the latter of which I fear found the overall strength to be too strong for them and we had two Veteran teams participating in Divisions 2D and 3C. Out of all these mentioned teams, credit certainly must go to our Senior Veterans team in Division 2D, not only were they unbeaten throughout the entire season but, Dave

Counties 4

Harvey, Dennis Holland, Roy Fowler and Judy Morley wound up the season by beating Hants 2nds 7-2 and became Division 2D champions of 1992/3 season, with promotion to the first Division guaranteed.

I have attended all four of the county's leagues finals nights and will just touch upon the main events and respective winners: Cirencester's FN came first and the venue was at Deerpark School where Mark Johnson successfully defended his singles title by beating Graham Holton -14, 18, 17 - in the final Liz Johnson (Mark's better half?) also retained her ladies singles crown, beating Sarah Holton 10, 11.

The Stroud and District FN came next with canny Irishman John Fannin participating in FIVE EVENTS - he won four of them but came unstuck in the final of the Open Singles, when teenager Leigh Nelmes struck a purple patch and beat John 26, -19, 17, to claim the title for the very first time. The Stroud Ladies Singles was a reversal of last year's event, defending champion Liz Johnson lost to the very experienced Roz Ross in straight games 19, 19, these finals were held at Maidenhill School at Stonehouse.

Next of the FN agenda came Cheltenham where play took place at the Saracens Club, once again Graham Slack the defending champion proved his worth by beating Veteran Dave Harvey 19, 17 in the final of the Open singles. In the ladies singles final Mrs Julie Taylor who plays for Smiths Industries beat Miss Alison Cox 15, -17, 20, I think in this event that Mrs Taylor's dogged defensive patience paid off in the ultimate long run to earn her the title. And finally, on the finals night scene - Gloucester's big night took place Nuclear Electric Headquarters out at Barnwood, Darren Griffin, the County Nol. 1 player regained his singles crown by beating the defending champion Raymond Powell 15, 16, 11.

Judy Morley, the county No. 1 lady player just got home against Mrs Heather Tyrer -18, 22, 18 in a very closely contested game which certainly could have gone either way, but once again Judy proved her worth and won the ladies singles title.

Rudford's Ann Humble was awarded the John Cooper Cup, and Crypt Tigers Daniel Nelmes was presented with the Bryan Merrett Award.

The guest of honour at Gloucester's FN and also MC was Mr Alan Haines. Mr Haines is the retiring Chairman of the Association, who first took over the chair well over three decades ago and, until now, has held this position unopposed. He will now serve the Association as President.

The annual Inter League Championships took place at Deerpark School, Cirencester, under the ever watchful eyes of Bob Davis and his many helpers, this was the fourth occasion that it has been run and this year Stroud carried off the championship honours with a massive score of 24 points to their favour, the runners up position went to Cheltenham (who were without the valuable services of Veteran Dave Harvey), they scored 16 points, and sadly bottom with 14 points were the host league Cirencester - Gloucester who won this Championship last year did not enter.

Melanie Carey, our recently appointed SWR Development Officer, visited Cirencester on 31st March and found that the league require to increase their use of School table tennis facilities, especially at Deerpark School, ideally the CTTA would like their own purpose built facility.

I understand that investigations are pending, Bob Davis reports that this league is player-wise, greatly increasing in membership.

Melanie visited Gloucester on the 21st April where a very good attendance of 26 were present, Sten Salisbury the Cities General Secretary and Andy Browett, Chairman Elect, both spent a considerable time in discussing the pros and cons of table tennis requirements with the Development Officer well after the meeting had finished. I am sure their efforts will prove very useful in the ultimate long run.

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

PRIDE OF PLACE this month to our junior county side who with the 9 sets to 1 defeat of Surrey 3rds, clinched the championship of Division 2D. Kevin Macken, Jeremy Wilson and David Dobson, all in their final season as juniors, together with Lorna Dutch and Donna Glanville played almost unchanged throughout. Mention must also be made of the sterling efforts of team manager Phil Wheaton whose last season it may also be due to a possible business relocation, Phil quietly got on with managing both junior teams efficiently and economically without resorting to that dreaded (my word!) block system.

Staying with the Juniors, the Isle of Wight, by drawing their final match 5 sets all, with Southampton won Division 1 of the Inter-town league with an ever present team of Greg Burns, Lorna Dutch, Alex Rorke and Stuart Dover; the two former players completing a season in which they also made their debut in the county side, unbeaten. A restricted Junior division 2 went to Southampton B with Bournemouth's Geoff Willis the only hundred per center.

Southampton also kept their lead at the head of the 8 team cadet division with Chris Butt and Mark Wilshere of the regulars leading the league's individual averages; Portsmouth's Lucan Chan sharing second place.

The Gosport and Fareham Championships reporting this month went on well into the night as it became a Bob Cox benefit winning men's singles, mens doubles, Veteran's singles and the Handicap event.

I notice reading through issue No. 4 of the excellent Basingstoke newsletter, the following on at least four occasions "Close Individual Championships - Richard Aldworth School - 27/28th March 1993 - BE THERE OR ELSE!" Well, I assume that not everybody ignored the call so where are the results? Perhaps that will give me something to write about when I have to start again in July!

Congratulations to Mick Strode who has been awarded his National Referee's badge - is it possible that he has even more time to give to table tennis?

Finally, as part of an exercise in assisting with the preparation of the Regional Development Plan, I have ascertained that there are currently 2,182 registered players within Hampshire. How many shall we improve that by in the 3 year Focus Sport period? (at least it should be easier to beat than Alf Pepperd's 11,435 TEAMS within the South West Region - April TTN).

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

THIS SEASON'S SENIOR Inter-League champions are Barnets, following their success at the concluding Sunday of the competition at the Barnet TTC on the 28th March 1993. Barnet's success was built by John Taylor and his son Duncan and Sylvia Tyler on the first Sunday in January of this year, for Neil Straton, John McCance and Maria Williams to compete.

The Taylors were absent due to the County weekend clashing with the inter-league programme. Runners up for this year's Senior competition were the two man team of Glen Wilkes and Ian Black of

Counties 5

Hemel Hempstead with their lady player Emma Hurling also on County weekend duty.

Barnets followed up their Senior success by winning the Junior inter-league competition with Stephen Taylor, John O'Leary, Mark Easton and Mark Roberts taking the trophy for the South Herts League. Like his dad and elder brother, Stephen Taylor finished the season with a 100% average.

Runners up in the Juniors were the North Herts League's Pate McCarthy, Darren Turpin, Nick Hart, Josh Lury, Alan Dhar and Danny Sturges.

On the County Championships scene our veterans have done us proud with the 1st team of John Taylor, Stuart and David Seaholme and SallyBax winning the Division 1 title and gaining promotion to the Premier Division for next season.

Not to outdone our Veterans 2nd team of Derek Balding, Chris Budden, Alan Lamprell, Sue Felstead and Tony Teff have won Division 2 and gained promotion to Division 1.

Hertfordshire Senior Inter-League 1992/3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Barnets	7	7	0	45	4	7
Hemel	7	6	1	37	12	6
North Herts	7	5	2	34	15	5
Cheshunt	7	4	3	26	23	4
Watford	7	3	4	27	22	3
Barnets II	7	2	5	13	36	2
St Albans	7	1	6	7	42	1
Hemel II	7	0	7	6	43	0

Leading Averages (50% played)

John Taylor (Barnets) 100%
 Duncan Taylor (Barnets) 100%
 Emma Hurling (Hemel) 100%
 Glen Wilkes (Hemel) 85.7%
 Ian Black (Hemel) 78.6%
 Sandra Harper (N Herts) 75%

Hertfordshire Junior Inter-League 1992/3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Barnets	7	7	0	40	9	7
North Herts	7	6	1	40	9	6
North Herts II	7	4	3	27	22	4
Hertford	7	4	3	25	24	4
St Albans	7	4	3	24	25	4
Watford	7	2	5	23	26	2
Hemel I	7	1	6	15	34	1
Hemel II	7					
	0	7	2	47	0	

Leading Averages (50% played)

Stephen Taylor (Barnets) 100%
 Pat McCarthy (North Herts) 85.7%



Hertfordshire's triumphant Senior Inter-League champions (left to right) John McCance, Maria Williams and Neil Stratton

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Prean

OUR JUNIORS WON their section of the Hampshire Inter-Town League, a notable achievement and the first time ever. We had not managed this in the days when Carl Prean was a junior!

Great credit to our team of Lorna Dutch, Alex Rorke and Stuart Dover, but particularly Greg Burns, who went through both weekends unbeaten, the only player (among the boys) who managed this. On the way he had notable wins vs David Dobson (Southampton) and Gareth Scadden (Gosport and Fareham), ranked No. 3 and 4 in the county. Lorna confirmed her county No. 1 junior spot by winning her 4 matches. Alex won 6 out of 8 over the campaign and Stuart 5 out of 8. Our doubles play could have been better, especially in the mixed with Lorna in the side. This is something that will need a lot of work, if the title is to be retained next season.

We had our share of luck since Gosport lacked their two top players on the second weekend. A draw, duly achieved, against Southampton was therefore enough to clinch the title. That match was as close as 5-5's unusually are with Gregs win v David Dobson the highlight. The latter is a good defender who is capable of changing his game to attack if the need arises.

I did make the trip this time and so witnessed a heartening display and returned to duties as a cornerman, a role I had filled so often before. It recalled many happy memories and some when the result was not quite as good as this one!

Sandown clinched our First Division title with great ease and, to be frank, collectively the best players (Roger Hookey, Mike Turner and

Counties 6

Ian Urry). It is a well balanced lineup and Rookey and Turner are virtually unbeatable in the doubles when a win is needed. It looks as if two teams of Newport Vics will gain promotion. If so, youngsters like Stuart Dover and Danny Burns (13) will figure in the top section. Whether Lorna Dutch (unbeatable in Division 4) should make the big step into the Premier section is the subject of conflicting advice and much debate just now.

The Knowles Cup (our annual handicap team event) was also won by Sandown, defeating the 4th division team which includes Lorna and her father Les 6-3. Only hectic activity in the 'transfer market' by another club can challenge Sandown's superiority next time round. No signs of this have been reported.

The Island title was won by Chris Angus v Roger Hookey in the usual close match, which reversed the result of our 'Top 10'. The veteran Angus continues to enjoy an Indian Summer.

I report with great sadness the death of Vivienne Cherriman, many times Island ladies champion, but also once English Ladies Veterans Champion. "Cherry" seemed indestructible and led life to the full. In recent years she won numerous swimming world titles in the 80-84 age group. She played excellent hockey when in her sixties and once swan the Solent when in her late fifties. At a time others thought of retirement she began and passed her barrister's exams! I recall the day she finally lost the Island ladies title. The finals were played on two tables and four other matches were completed on the other table whilst she and Kathy Pierce battled it out. Cherry did not give up her title without a fight! At the age of 71 she made a 'come back' in our 4th division and one of her opponents was 8 year old Carl Prean. We wondered whether the age difference might be a national record. I recall the occasion when Cherry, then in her fifties, was called on for First Division duties. Her opponents, three young men regarded as future stars, were delighted to see her. As they calculated their likely totals, I heard them say "... we shall all beat the old girl... that will give us three ...". At the end of the evening "the old girl" had beaten all three of them and three promising careers had received an unexpected setback and three bruised egos may never have been the same again. A tremendous character has passed from the scene.

KENT Adrian Hall

Friday Beaten at Last in National Final

Scott Friday failed to retain his National U12 singles title at Bletchley on Saturday 3rd April when he lost in the final to Berkshire's Gareth Herbert. Both players had reached the final without dropping a leg but on this occasion it was Herbert that came out on top. However, in combination with Herbert, Friday retained his doubles title when they beat Robert Svensson and Daniel King.

This defeat bought to an end a remarkable run of successes in National Finals by Friday that will probably never be emulated.

County Results

Kent Junior I 8 Essex Junior II 2

Craig Hastie 2, Glen Ritchie 2, Chris Hall 0, Joanne Barham 2, Heidi Steers 2.

Kent Junior I 10 Surrey Junior II 0

Craig Hastie 2, Glen Ritchie 2, Chris Hall 2, Joanne Barham 2, Natasha Barham 2.

Sussex Junior I 6 Kent Junior I 4

Kent Junior I finished their County Championship campaign with a disappointing 4-6 defeat away to Sussex Junior I and as a result finished 3rd in Division 1B. Glen Ritchie put on a splendid display for Kent, winning both his singles including the scalp of Sussex's Kevin Doyle. Craig Hastie 1 and Ben McCarthy 1 added good support but it was the strength of the Sussex girls Sarah Stedman and Joanna Bush-Harris that turned the match in Sussex's favour outplaying our girls Joanne Barham and Heidi Steers on this occasion.

Kent Junior II 8 Oxford Junior I 2

Christian Thompson 1, Ben McCarthy 2, Paul Smith 2, Heidi Steers 2, Crystal Hall 1.

Berkshire Junior II 0 - Kent Junior II 10

Peter Barrow 2, Jason Cheeseman 2, Scott Dawtry 2, Crystal Hall 2, Rachel Woollven 2.

The tactical error of fielding two 2nd teams against Sussex 2nd and 3rd, resulting in a win against Sussex 2nds and a defeat against Sussex 3rds cost Kent the Division 2D league and so have to be satisfied with runner up spot, a little disappointing when without any doubt we were the best side in the league.

Kent Veterans I 8 Middlesex Veterans I 1

Kent Veterans II 8 Sussex Veterans II 1

Our young Kent Senior II side are having a splendid start to their County Championships campaign with three out of four wins in Plymouth on 6/7 March.

Cornwall II - Kent II 10; Sussex III 8 Kent II 2; Hampshire III 2 Kent II 8; Devon III 4 Kent II 6.

Spencer Thompson P6, W5; Martin Hewett P4 W3; Chris Knight P8 W5; Martin Gunn P6 W3; Jackie Mersh P8 W6; Carly Riggs P8 W5.

Lenham Storage Junior County Championships

The Lenham Storage Kent Junior Closed Championships were played at the Lenham, Swadlands YC on 6/7 March. Christian Thompson (Medway) and Rachel Woollven (Maidstone) dominated the U14 singles events, but it was Lisa Holloway (Maidstone) that took home the U11 and U13 girls singles. The U17 events produced a series of surprise results. Peter Barrow (Sittingbourne) reached the final of the U17 Boys Singles from an unseeded position but he was unable to take the title which went to Glen Ritchie (Folkestone). Joanne Barham beat Crystal Hall (Maidstone) in the final of the U17 girls singles. Hall, seeded 4th, was lucky that the event was initially played on a group basis with both group winner and runner up going into the first round proper as she was beaten in her first match by Angie Bristow (Tunbridge Wells).

Christian Thompson won the U14 boys singles, playing Antony Lickfold (Maidstone) in the final and in the U14 Girls singles Rachel Woollven beat Angie Bristow.

Counties 7

LANCASHIRE

Stan Clarke

THE SEASON BROUGHT mixed results for the various county teams, the senior 1st team finished third in the Premier Division despite losing the services of Sean Gibson and Jonathon Taylor for the second round of matches then having a back injury deprive them of any participation of Amanda Winskill. Star performer of the weekend was Andrew Eden who was undefeated in eight matches.

The senior 2nd team were relegated from division 1 despite fielding what looked to be a quite strong team, the fact that Paula French was the only lady player available meant that the team was conceding two sets in every match, an obvious handicap but there can be no doubt that losing all three matches in the second weekend's play was a great disappointment after drawing with the eventual champions Derbyshire earlier in the season.

The junior 1st team retained their place in the premier division but with Phillip Musgrove now out of juniors a great deal of pressure will fall on Darryl Meredith and Kevin Dolder if the team is to remain in the Premier division.

The Junior 2nd team of Glenn Payne, Phillip Ellison, Tony Johnston, Les Richmond, Lindsay Thornton, Andrea Flintoff and Kirsten Williams under NPC Pete Aspin finished a creditable 4th in division 2A.

Life proved particularly difficult for the veterans 1st team who found the premier division too much to handle, they lost all of their matches and are relegated, the Vets 2nds finished in mid table in division 1 with 4 wins and 3 defeats.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League competition has reached its conclusion for yet another season. The league provides the opportunity for the better players from each League in the region to play competitively against each other as representatives of their own particular league. Currently comprising 5 senior men's divisions, 3 junior divisions, 2 womens divisions and 5 veterans divisions, the league is extremely popular with players throughout the region.

Winners of the mens division 1 were Stockport, with Warrington as runners up, relegated were Bolton and Blackpool, to be replaced next season by mid Cheshire, winners of Division 2 south, who will be promoted from Division 2 North which was won by Manchester A is a matter to exercise the brains of the committee. The ladies 1st Division was won by Manchester with Liverpool in 2nd place. The Junior 1st Division was won by St Helens by just one point from Halton. Stockport, as one would expect, won the Veterans division 1 with Macclesfield runners up, Warrington won Division 2 with Rochdale in 2nd spot.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

ANOTHER SEASON HAS passed and new champions have emerged. In division 1 Knighton Park have secured the Championship with last year's winners taking the runners up spot this time. The Park team have been very consistent throughout the season, ably lead by Karen Smith and well supported by Martin Pickles, Keith Fellows and Chris Rogers. They lost just two matches during the season.

Runners up Loughborough Kingfishers have not been so impressive this season but nevertheless have done well. Their star without any doubt was Mark Illingsworth who was unbeaten for the second year running. This alone was a brilliant performance. Well done to both teams.

Generally I can say the Leicester and District TTL has run very smoothly again this season, mainly due to the hard work done throughout the season by the general committee. Also by the players themselves who make it all possible. They have all played their parts.

The County Junior Closed Championships were held recently and Hinckley's Mathew Hobday won the boys title with a straight sets victory over Melton Mowbray's Michael Golby in the final, Hobday winning 21-15, 21-9. Mathew, partnered by Leicester's Adrian Clifford, also won the doubles event, beating the Leicester pair Stuart Palmer and Barnaby Parsons 21-11, 21-10 in the final.

Young Laura Smith won her first county girls title, winning all four matches in the round robin event, including a victory over holder Helen Griffiths.

Results

Boys U17

Mathew Hobday (Hinckley) bt Michael Golby (Melton)
Beaten semi finalists were Pritesh Nakershee and Chris Tuckwell, both Leicester.

U17 Girls

1. Laura Smith (Leicester) 4-0
2. Helen Griffiths (Leicester) 3-1
3. Kathryn Freer, Karen Holdridge, Chere Sprintall (all Leicester)

Doubles

Mathew Hobday/Adrian Wilford bt Stuart Palmer/Barnaby Parsons

Cadets U14 (Mixed)

Alex Tuckwell bt Chris Tuckwell

U12 Mixed

Daniel Marriott bt Paul Hanson

Well, the next competition will be the Elbow Tankard which is a summer competition. It is hoped that there will be a large entry.

Leicester Closed Championships Parklands Leisure Centre 14.3.93

It was a new record for entries, giving a total of 240 matches for the championships. And a brilliant day of table tennis we saw, starting at 10am and finishing at 9.15 pm.

The Men's Singles final was a pleasure to watch with some excellent attacking play from both players, which a good crowd enjoyed. Steve Yallop emerged the winner when he beat the holder Keith Fellows in straight sets.

In the ladies final a new champion emerged when Karen Rogers overcame the holder of the title, Joanne Heath, also in straight sets.

Both Keith Fellows and Karen Smith had a good tournament, being in two other finals and winning them both. Keith combined with Martin Pickles to take the mens doubles when they beat a very good pair in Steve Yallop and Duncan Taylor. Then Keith and Karen combined in the mixed doubles and duly defeated Joanne Heath and Ian Brown in straight sets. Steve White retained the Veterans singles title when he beat Brian Bodycoat.

Young Laura Smith won two titles - in the girls singles she beat Helen Griffiths and the cadet singles she beat Chere Sprintall. Laura is looking a very good prospect for the future. The largest match in the finals was in the U100 event when T Conteh beat J Patel. Thanks go out to the organisers again on another success.

Counties 8

MIDDLESEX Lorna Taylor

MIDDLESEX SENIOR 1 TEAM performed miracles to win the County Championships, after finishing a disappointing third last year. The team captain Mark Mitchell lead the team to success in the second weekend of matches, the star team was Nigel Tyler, Graham Sandley, John Souter, Colin Wilson, Sanya Kubelka and Mateja Glucic. They thrashed Berkshire 9-1, beat Devon 7-3 and Lancashire 6-4 and drew with Yorkshire. Of the players who played in both weekends, their percentages were John Souter 71% at No. 3; Colin Wilson 70% also at No. 3; Nigel Tyler 50% at No.1 and Sanya Kubelka 64% at No.1.

The Senior 2nd team did considerably better than last year, finishing 2nd in Division 1B after they just avoided relegation last season. There were a number of well deserved percentages achieved, being David Goode 67% at No. 1, Neil Charles 75% at No. 2 and Rachel Knight 70% at No. 1 lady.

In the Junior Premier Division, Middlesex narrowly avoided relegation, with Richard Hyacinth No.1, unavailable for the first weekend but winning 4 out of 6 in the second half. Simon Jablon, in his first season for the county, played promisingly well for the future and won half his matches at the No. 3 position.

In the Junior 2nd team the mostly young team gained valuable experience with many people making their debut and a total of 11 players playing for the team over the season. Jason Sugrue proving to be a valuable asset to the team won 7 out of 8 singles at No. 3 in his first season with the county. Anthony Jeyanajah's first season also and he won 7 and lost 7 at No. 1 in the team. James and Oliver Wakelam made their debut against Hampshire in February and were unlucky not to win a game, both playing fast attacking shots. Then, aged only ten years and four months, could this be a county record?

The Veteran 1st and 2nd teams narrowly avoided relegation this season in Division 1 and 2 respectively. The Progress Club at Willesden High School is developing considerably well with more members joining all the time. There are many coaches for all the youngsters, who include John the Club Manager, Malcolm Sugden and John Souter, who comes down there occasionally and who will be the live-in club coach next season. There are a few junior county players who have emerged there recently, including Jason Sugrue who is (in the April ranking list) No. 15 cadet boy in England and Kate O'Callaghan who played for the Junior 2nd team in February.

At the Harrow School on Monday nights, the Middlesex Centre of Excellence and the Advanced Training Centre continue to improve with some excellent coaching. Graham Sandley, who took over from Nigel Tyler last year, is England ranked No. 14 and ranked in Middlesex at No. 2 and Malcolm Sugden who is the Ex-Scottish and Middlesex No. 1.

There are many top players who have attended this season including Chris Marlowe, Nicky McKoy, Jason Sugrue and feeders such as Erril and Buxton Williams.

NORFOLK Ray Hogg

DESPITE MY PREDICTION that our Junior 1st team, having gained promotion to Division 1A, would be completely out of their depth and be relegated, they have survived by countback - and despite losing through age our two namely Gary Hewitt and Lee Nicholls - the new squad are

looking forward to the battles ahead. As Ray Chipperfield who was supremo to the Juniors for 2 season has now decided to have a break, and who can blame him with some of the pressures put on him, I called a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the future and had 20 persons turn up. The outcome of all this was that next season we will be fielding 3 junior teams each with its own secretary.

A lot has yet to be done to organise expenses etc so I hope the initial keenness continues. A selection committee is to be organised not to include any parent of those players available. An initial ranking trial for ALL potential players from round the county will be held over the weekend of September 4/5th so all leagues will be asked to submit names, particularly girls of who I hear there are some in the Fakenham/Dereham area. If all do all they say they are going to do, we could be in for an exciting season. What is going to happen to the Senior team is at the moment in doubt as Neil Pickard has resigned as Secretary and there seems to be no takers at the moment. Gone are the days when players were queuing up for the privilege of playing for their county. Our veterans 1st team this season could not hang on in Division 1A so will have to try and come straight back - at least they will be seeing different faces and bats. Second team will continue as usual, possibly with new faces if I get to know of any old enough and keen enough.

Looking through the latest ranking lists, we must have more Norfolk names in all categories than ever before and our juniors are rating conscious now and will be touring around next season, knowing who they have to beat to rise a few places. Seems a tiny bit ridiculous that our 12 year old Daniel King is included in the Senior Men's ranking list at 920, he is quite content with 8 in the Under 12's. I sincerely hope that as a county we can solve our financial problems and find the necessary people to run the various committees rather than it seeming to be a 1 man band because there is a limit to what even a retired person can do.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

FOURTEEN HOURS PLAY at Benham Sports Arena and a superb finals night at Glamis Hall, provided a fitting stage for the Macs Supermarkets County Closed Tournament, and a first men's singles triumph for Daventry's Kieron Dabbs.

He had enjoyed an easy passage to the semi finals, where he was joined by the unseeded Ryan Keates - conqueror of Richard Elliott and Chris Gibbons, Andy Trott - a spectacular winner over Steve Brown, and Keith Jones, who had to draw on his vast experience before quelling the challenge of Steve West.

Trott's touch was much in evidence at the semi final stage and with a subtle mix of topspin attack and delicate drop shots, his place in the final was soon assured. However, the second semi final between Dabbs and Keates was much closer. The Loughborough university pair had already met in the final of the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy, with Dabbs recovering from the loss of the first end to retain the trophy. Again Keates took the initiative, winning the first at deuce and leading in the second before Dabbs finally gained control to level and then race away in the decider.

Counties 9

The final between the Levi Westfield players was eagerly awaited, but proved disappointing. Dabbs, adopting a positive approach, prevented Trott from employing his customary attacking game and with Trott never at ease against the Daventry player's effective service, the result was never in doubt.

As expected, the women's' final was between three times winner Margaret Maltby and Sally Russell, who had reached the final for the first time last year, and who had earlier completed a record five successive wins in the U17 Girls Singles.

The experience Maltby started well, but gradually Miss Russell took the initiative and her wider range of shots gave her the opening game and a long lead in the second, but with her first title in sight, her fluent forehand deserted her and in the end she was fortunate to get home 23-21.

Russell and Donna Furniss were always in command in the ladies doubles, but the steadiness of Maltby and Clem Little enabled them to level at deuce in the second before the Russell/Furniss combination regained control and took a third title. The mixed doubles final was a fascinating encounter, pitting the youthful endeavour of Keates and Russell against the long established pairing of Jones and Maltby. Although the younger pair dominated the early exchanges, the order of play was always going to favour the holders and so it proved, with the Jones/Maltby duo taking their fifth championship.

Steve Brown and Mark Nannery had excelled in the early stages of the men's doubles culminating in a narrow win in an enthralling encounter with Michael Edwards and Ray Kingdon who had earlier played brilliantly to dispose of second seeds Dabbs and Steve Silk. However, in the final Trott and Richard Elliott were in a class apart, with Trott's masterly backhand the telling factor, as the top seeds playing together for the first time, made no mistake.

Despite losing to Trott, Keith Jones had another fine tournament, beating holder Greg Dobrowolski to become only the second winner of the Over 50's since its inception four years ago, and then adding the doubles in partnership with his singles victim. He also teamed up with Gordon Shaw to take a tense Over 40's doubles and finally met Shaw in an absorbing singles final.

Jones took the first, but Shaw levelled in the second after some fierce attacking shots had breached Jones' consistent defence. Shaw then went 11-6 up in the decider but faltered as Jones made ground to go level at 15 all. Expedite was called at 17-15 in Shaw's favour but from that point onwards Jones called on his expedite expertise to edge home for his tenth title in 11 years, to equal the record of the legendary Dick Ingle, who took one year longer between 1962 and 1973. Appropriately the presentations were made by the Deputy Chairman of Macs Supermarkets - John Palmer, who himself had won the veterans title on four occasions.

Other former title holders to add to their laurels were Dennis Millman in the Over 60's singles and the corresponding doubles with Dick Cole, 14 times doubles winner Bryan Bond who clinched the Class 3 singles and Joe Trippett who was on target in both the U17 Singles and Doubles.

Andrew Thomas and Ruth Hickman reigned supreme in the U14 events while the youngest player on view, James Fitton, won both the U12 and the U10 events in fine style.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Aubrey Drapkin

NORTH SHIELDS YMCA are once again champions of the Northumbria League, finishing the season four points clear of Joynsons TTC. The

Shields squad of Ian Robertson, Malcolm Lusk, Barry Forster and Andrew Wilkinson won 23 of the 26 matches played.

Joynsons, led by the Northumberland No. 1, Eddie Smith finished in their highest ever position.

The South Shields Club, St Judes won the 2nd division with Gateshead TTC B team just edging Washington TTC out of second spot.

Gateshead's third string finished on top of division 3, ahead of Northumbria Fire Service B whilst North Shields YMCA G won division 4 from Washington C and Newton B.

The bottom division was won by Whitehouse Lane B with Blaydon Youth Club E in runners up spot.

On the county scene the senior side enjoyed a good season in division 2A of the County Championships, finishing as runners up to Yorkshire had a better set difference - by only one set.

The training centre for young players held at North Shields YMCA under the guidance of Dave Scholfield and Peter Wilkinson continued to flourish.

Competitive table tennis in the county will continue throughout the summer months with the Northumbria League Summer Section once again being run by Dave Scholfield.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

DEBBIE PESTKA WAS the outstanding player at the Nottinghamshire Closed Championships reaching the final of all five events in which she competed, winning three with tiredness being a factor in one of her losses.

Richard Tilford showed his class in coming through a strong field to win the mens singles as befitted his top seeding. Unseeded Mark Green reached the final, putting out the holder Junior Stoddart in his first outing, and then stopping Robert Yong's strong challenge in the semi finals, but proved no match for Tilford in the final.

Stoddart and Sheppard gained consolation in the mens doubles when they retained their title with ease.

Debbie Pestka won the womens singles comfortably in the final after being forced to fight all the way in the semi final by last season's champion Sarah Jayne Smith.

Last season's Veteran champion Ken Phillipson failed to put in an appearance and left Dennis Collins to take the title without dropping a game with a consistent display.

Men's Singles

Quarter Finals

Richard Tilford bt M Short -18, 16, 8; T Sheppard bt P Wood -8, 17, 14; M Green bt D Collins 16, 19; R Young bt G Fearn 19, 17.

Semi Finals

Tilford bt Sheppard 18, -17, 12; Green bt Yong 18, -16, 16.

Final

Tilford bt Green 15, 13.

Women's Singles

Semi Finals

D Pestka bt S J Smith -14, 18, 19; A Brettell bt D Ellis -18, 17, 9.

Counties 10

Final

Pestka bt Brettell 17, 11.

Veterans Singles

D Collins bt P Muir 17, 16.

Mens Doubles

T Sheppard/C Stoddart bt R Tilford/R Yong 9, 11.

Womens Doubles

S J Smith/D Pestka bt A Brettell/D Ellis -16, 19, 16.

Junior Boys

M Short bt G Pestka 21, 13.

Junior Girls

S J Smith bt D Pestka.

Junior Doubles

M Short/G Pestka bt S J Smith/D Pestka 18, 11.

Cadet Boys

D Edwards bt J Williams 11, 11.

Cadet Girls

D Pestka bt M Haynes 12, 12.

Edwin Leatherland did sterling work during the event - assisting with a continuous duty of umpiring.

Congratulations to the Nottinghamshire Junior team who have won their Division in the County Championships. It was apparent that this team would be too strong for this division and an appeal for inclusion in a higher division was made last year but ignored. At least the trophies prove our appeal was justified.

Congratulations to Michella Haynes and Debbie Pestka who have earned international recognition since these notes were last written.

The Training and Development Programme run in conjunction with the Notts Leisure Services continues to improve and expand. New improver and advanced courses commence in May with Champion Coaching starting later in the year. A week's intensive training course is also being planned by the Development Officer to help quicken the advance of our leading cadets to the Junior county standard.

The 50th Anniversary of the Nottingham League, taking place this year, will continue with a dinner on 21st May being organised by Harry Grantham.

The Nottinghamshire AGM on 7th June marks the retirement of Ralph Green as County Senior Team captain. Ralph will be a difficult person to replace but already numerous people are understood to be considering the position.

SOMERSET
Andy Seward

A QUICK UPDATE of the latest county matches, then a review of the season's highlights.

Champions! Somerset Juniors duly completed their fixtures with victories over Worcs and Devon 3 to finish unbeaten and champions. Rob Millard, Andrew Hewitt and Alan Russell were unbeaten. Unfortunately, at the last minute, one of our girls was unable to travel. However, Christine Cowell played very calmly on her debut and won two out of four. Somerset apologises to the two counties concerned for being one player short.

The Vets 1st team were involved in a classic at Westlands against Wiltshire. Losing both doubles to become 1-4 down, the team were given a strong lecture by the team captain, fed on raw meat at the half time interval, spiked the opposition's tea and bribed the umpire. Normally this would have had no effect but on this occasion... wins for Shirley, John and Brian and its 4-all! Even more sensations, Graham Green wins the final match and ... a home win.

Review of the season. This season has been dominated by two 'happenings'. The low point was the failure of Gloucester to cross the Tamar (twice) and the subsequent totally unnecessary procedural battle to apportion blame and points.

The high point was the County Juniors who won their Division. Congratulations to all concerned, especially the team secretary/organiser Martin Rumary who put in much effort and miles in the cause. The other high point was the spirit in the Vets 1st team under the leadership of Brian Reeves. Vets Division 1 was always going to be tough but leading by example and having up to the last match a settled team, Brian kept the ship afloat and we battle it out again next season.

Like most rural counties, the four leagues in Somerset are spread far and wide. As a consequence, development of the sport is difficult, there is no natural centre to attract newcomers. Coaching is concentrated at the main market towns and the new village teams are therefore hard to acquire. The appointment of Mel Carey as the ETTA South West Regional Development Officer is much welcomed in Somerset - her task is immense, we wish her well.

Next issue results of the Somerset Closed ... new Mens and Ladies champions and new ranking lists.

SUSSEX **John Woodford**

NOT MANY COUNTIES have had in the past three senior teams promoted at the end of the campaign. Sussex have achieved this hat trick in the County Championships. In addition Horsham Angels have taken the champagne out of the cooler, hoping that both teams in the Friendly Hotels British League go up, as seems very likely.

The top Sussex side in the County Championships have hit their target through the excellent form of Adrian Moore and especially Ritchie Venner who has reached No. 23 on the England list, above the Moores and above Crawley-based Mike Hammond for the first time.

Teresa Moore and Sally Weston have also boosted the senior side throughout the campaign. Possibly the most improved player in the early twenties age group is Rose Rainton whose successes included winning the Eastbourne and Hastings and the Sussex inter-leagues titles.

Glancing at the Horsham Angels successes in the British League, there is no doubt that the signing of Nigel Tyler was a key ploy by manager

Counties 11

Keith Horton, who also managed the county senior sides. But also, Angels zoomed to the top with great credit to Venner, Hammond, Paul Elphick and Peter Bartram.

Playing with three teams for the first time in the County Championships Sussex juniors met with many successes, the first team just losing out on promotion to Berkshire.

The ban on 'politics' in these columns prevents a full description of the problems that arrived at the end of the season for the Sussex junior administration - the difficulties may take some time to sort out.

one of the great difficulties across sport is that committees have to include too many parents and coaches - all of whom are deeply involved in the successes and failures of the young players. It would be an ideal arrangement to have Junior administrators who are not coaches or parents, at least some of them, but perhaps that will never happen.

WILTSHIRE Laurie Selby

THE SMILE SAID it all - Brenda Lee is back at the top of Wiltshire table tennis. After an interval of three years Brenda stamped her name once more on the Wiltshire Closed Championships. The Swindon player beamed with delight after she hammered out a straight games victory over her old rival Claire Hunter.

Brenda, who lost her Swindon singles crown to teenager Tracy Youldon, walked the opening game and was well up in the second before Claire's stubborn defence put her in the driving seat.

But Brenda, who didn't play in the Championships last year, roared back again to snatch the title. There was double joy for Brenda who teamed up with boyfriend Gary Baldwin to take the mixed doubles.

Trevor Lloyd regained his men's singles title, but he had to work hard. In the semi final he needed three games to oust Chris Bridges and in final he was again made to sweat by Swindon's Eddie Roofe.

Eddie scorched through the opening game but once Trevor had mastered the Swindon players serve, his greater experience took him to a well deserved win. Dave Richards (Devizes) teamed with Chris Bridges to snatch the men's doubles over surprise finalists Mike Oxley (Cherhill) and Basil Thompson who had earlier disposed past winners Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding. But there was no keeping Bruce and Moulding off the honours list. They won the veterans doubles and Bruce walked away with his fourth successive veterans singles title.

There were new names on the women's doubles trophy. Claire Hunter and Tracey Watkins took the crown from last year's winners Lorraine Cox and Tracy Youldon. Swindon players launched a smash and grab raid on the silverware up for grabs in the junior County Championships. They helped themselves to all eight titles at stake when the County Championships were staged at the Link Centre, West Swindon.

Leading the Swindon onslaught was Tim O'Mahoney who walked away with four trophies. But don't make the mistake in thinking it was easy work for Tim. In the U17 singles final Hue Ngo took a shine to the winners cup and it seemed as if he might take it when he won the opening game. By hours of hard work and training came to Tim's aid as he swept through the second game and just held on to take the third.

It was even tougher for Tim and Tracy Youldon in the mixed doubles. Again it was Hue, with his partner Debbie King, causing the problems. Again it was champions Tim and Tracy who inched out in the deciding game after an exciting, marathon match. Tim had little trouble in sewing up the U14 singles against Steven Littler and then partnered

Hue to victory in the U17 boys doubles.

There was no surprises in the U17 girls singles when Tracy Youldon retained her title by beating Debbie King in the final.

Double joy was also celebrated by Stacey Carpenter. She won the U14 singles against Helen Cook and then the 12 year old Ridgeway schoolgirl beat sister Stephanie to collect title number 2 in the U12 singles.

James Wood completed the Swindon whitewash by taking the u12 Championship in straight games against Ricky Kirby. Roy Hazell, president of the Thamesdown TTL who organised the event, presented the Junior trophies, Francis Walsh of Nationwide building Society, who sponsored the Championships, presented the trophies. The event was staged at the Link Centre, West Swindon.



Trevor Lloyd and Brenda Lee, the men's and women's singles winners of the Wiltshire Closed.

WORCESTERSHIRE Steve Horton

OUR COUNTY TEAMS have completed their remaining fixtures. The first team finished on a winning note with a 6-4 victory at Wiltshire thanks to 2 wins from Malcolm Green and Trevor Washington and one each from Eric Hardman and Sandra Roden.

Staffs II proved to be too strong for the second team, inflicting an 8-2 defeat. Nicola Jones played well but Steve Horton and Jason Thompson registered the only wins, both beating Andy Stokes.

The Veterans have played 3 matches with 2 wins and a defeat. Wins against Lancs II and Oxford were both 5-4 and from 2-0 down. John STafford secured the win against Oxford with a 3 set win in the final singles. Cheshire prevented the hat trick of wins by besting our side 6-3. Janet Hunt won her singles in each match.

The Juniors have played their final 2 matches. They lost the first to top of the table Somerset 6-4, despite 2 wins each for Carrie Hunt and Zoe Evans. Another loss seemed on the cards against Wiltshire but the team rallied to produce their FIRST WIN. Carrie won 2, Zoe 1, Tim Evans 1, Richard Painter 1 and David Stephens 1. Carrie remained unbeaten in all matches - 100% this season.

We are now at the stage in the season where our affiliated leagues are holding their respective tournaments.

Counties 12

Malvern League have completed their with 73 entries. Mark Jones must be congratulated as Men's Singles champion, defeating Brian Thompson 21-14, 21-18. Willie Ahern and Pat Meredith are doubles

champions with Willie also retaining his veterans title with a straight win over Thompson. Division 2 champion is Vic Frampton with Jolyon Haywood taking Division 3 honours. Cicely Parmer organised the England v China Under 17's International held at the Elgar Hall, Malvern Winter Gardens.

The Dudley League tournament was held at the Pensnett School and played to the finals. The mens singles will be an interesting clash between Matthew Harvey (Hawbush) and Julian Wootton (Moseley). Matt beat Paul Garner, Andy Hare and Dave Rogers to reach the final whilst Julian defeated Eric Hardman, Jason Thompson and Ken Walton - all in 3 sets after losing the first game in each.

In the Kidderminster League finals Jeremy Duffield will play Steve Horton for a 5th time in the open singles. In the ladies final, already played, Janet Hunt beat Mandy Mytton in 2 very close sets.

The Worcester League men's singles lineup as a result of the tournament, is Lewis Sikett v Steve Darnell and Nick Mytton v Steve Horton. Mandy Mytton and Carrie Hunt are ladies doubles champions (played on the day) with Mandy to play Janet Hunt in the ladies final. The tournament finished late due to a fit, 60is gentleman (John Mytton) who was involved in so many events that opponents were lining up to play him. His son Nick informs me that he played in the Stratford tournament the following day!

In the team knockout competitions Bromley play Moseley in the scratch final and Crowle E take on Crackpots in the Handicap Final. Dudley A will play Worcester in the County League with the winner almost certain to take the title.

League Championships will be decided over the next couple of weeks and, all being well, I look forward to reporting on them and the outcome of individual finals in the next report due in September.

YORKSHIRE Rea Balmford

NOT THE IDEAL end of season for Yorkshire table tennis, following their relegation from the Premier division of the County Championships, particularly after Yorkshire II topped Division 2A and earned the right to return to higher company next season.

Unfortunately County Championships no longer carry the prestige which they once did and Yorkshire, like other counties, cannot always call upon the services of its top players, but there are still those within the Broad Acres who wear the White Rose with pride and, come next season, the battle will be on for a quick return to top company.

Also very disappointing was the low entry in the Yorkshire Junior Select at Halifax - a mere 150 compared with the normal entry of well over the 200 mark. It is well appreciated that disenchantment with the present Ranking Scheme played a part, as it has done in many events during the present season; but the World Schools TT meeting in Birmingham during the preceding week and another Schools event - the U11 Scotland v England International - no doubt had an effect.

No complaint here, as International events rightly have priority, but why was a full programme of British League matches scheduled on the weekend of a Select Junior tournament?

Very serious thought had to go into the question of whether or not the tournament should go ahead but, mindful of the county's responsibilities to the players, by cutting costs to the minimum and accepting the sort of financial loss which cannot be afforded again, Yorkshire stood by its principles and the Junior got the green light.

But these events are now behind us, and hard thinking must go into the planning of the 1993/4 programme - meanwhile a quick look at affairs round the leagues.

In Bradford SA Labels have clinched the Division 1 Championship and are now looking to the double as they go into the semi final of the Burton Cup against Strachans. A win in this one would set up a final against Unit A who overcame Punch A in the other semi. And the future in the wool city seems to be in good hands after the Cadets won the Cadet Division of the Yorkshire League, clinching the title win with a victory in the final match over - guess who - Bradford III!

But the League and coach Chris Town are particular proud of the reputation that Lee Midgley, Steven Ingham and David Conway, all pupils at Hanson School, have earned for sportsmanship - a reputation which is shared by second team lads Philip Jacques, Owen Collingbourne, Richard Caisley and John Holroyd.

And still in Bradford, the Junior team from Clayton Heights - Mark Smith, Dean Wanbon and Darren Wright - are also among the honours after taking the Yorkshire (Junior) Clubs Championship in a 5-4 thriller against Harrogate Wanderers.

Is there a club anywhere in the country which can match the record of H and R at Selby? With two games still to play, the former Sturge Club are home and dry in Division 1, thus retaining the title which they have won every year since 1978!

Personnel has, of course, changed, and it is Andy Nicholls, the youngest member of the current squad after joining them at the opening of the campaign, who can boast the only undefeated record in the League, although elder brother Chris, veteran Nigel Thorn and North Yorkshire Coach Mick Wilcockson have all done their share to what is a team success.

And, to complete a fine season for the H and R Club, the B team are now hot favourites to move up from Division 2 after toppling leaders NP Eggborough B, with Andrew Kirk and Sharron Phillipson coming through the clash unbeaten.

Wold A (Sally Marling, Richard Kilvington, Alison Evans) have clinched the Sentry Alarms Premier Division title in Hull after chalking up 22 wins and two draws in their 24 matches, with YPI Normans, a young side made up of cadet Mike James and juniors Simon James and Philip Neal, under the leadership of former Hampshire man Dave Burnham in second place.

Winner of the top 16 tournament was Ian Parker (Hull Boys Club) who beat Sean Madden (YPI) in a three set final, while on an adjacent table elder brother Darren was going down to former County Junior Hazel Kavanagh (East Mount) in the final of the Premier Division Handicap Championship.

Middlesex back on top

SENIOR PREMIER DIV:

THE Championship of the Division was decided when the final 16 matches were played at Grantham T.T. Centre.

Devon was the leading team from the first series with six points and Middlesex were nearest rivals with five points. Devon did not make the best start. In the first two Rounds on the Saturday they had drawn matches with Surrey and Essex, whereas Middlesex had a convincing 9-1 win over Berkshire and a 6-4 defeat of Lancashire, who were a player short. John Souter (Mi) had four easy wins.

In the first round of matches on the Sunday morning Middlesex got an important 7-3 win. Carol Giles won her two matches for Devon. In the final round Devon beat Lancashire 7-3 with Carole Giles again winning her matches, including a 10 in 3rd win over Maria Thornley (La). Andrew Eden (La) won his two events. Middlesex concluded with a real tussle against Yorks. Matches were decided at 18, 19, 30 and 23 in 3rd games! Yorks led 5-3 when Chris Oldfield beat Nigel Tyler 20, -14, 23, but Sanja Kubelka and John Souter won their final events to a secure a point. This gave Middlesex the Championship, which they had last won in the 1989/90 season.

After the first series Essex, Surrey, Staffs and Yorks were all possible candidates for relegation. Essex, with Skylet Andrew playing on Sunday, won two matches and drew with Devon; Surrey were unbeaten with one win and three draws and Staffs did very well with a win and draws with Surrey and Yorks. So, with Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield playing in the 2nd series, Yorks remarkably went through the season without a win and are relegated with Berks. Yorks drew three matches in the final series.

HELEN LOWER (Staffs) was unbeaten in her first season in the Premier Division! This gave her the remarkable record of being unbeaten in the County Championships in four successive seasons as Staffs progressed from the 3rd to the Premier Division! Nicky Mason (Sy) played in six of the seven matches and lost only once - to Chris Oldfield (Y). Skylet Andrew played in four matches with a "clean sheet".



Middlesex star John Souter



Helen Lower of Staffs, unbeaten in her first season in the Premier Division

RESULTS

Mi	9	Bk	1,	La	6	Bk	4,
E	4	La	6,	Mi	7	Dv	3,
Sy	5	Dv	5,	E	7	Y	3,
St	5	Y	5,	Sy	5	St	5,
Dv	5	E	5,	Dv	6	La	4,
St	5	IA	5,	St	4	E	6,
La	4	Mi	6,	Y	5	Mi	5,
Y	5	Sy	5,	Bk	3	Sy	7.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mi	7	5	2	0	44	26	12
Dv	7	4	2	1	44	26	10
La	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
E	7	3	1	3	36	34	7 (84-75)
Sy	7	1	5	1	36	34	7 (85-83)
St	7	1	3	3	33	37	5
Y	7	0	4	3	26	44	4
Bk	7	1	1	5	23	47	3

DERBY'S RETURN TO PREMIER DIVISION

SENIOR DIVISION 1A:

Suffolk	3	Cambridgeshire	7
Lancashire 2	2	Warwickshire	8
Leicestershire	8	Hertfordshire	2
Bedfordshire	1	Derbyshire	9
Warwickshire	10	Bedfordshire	0
Cambridgeshire	2	Derbyshire	8
Suffolk	5	Leicestershire	5

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

Twelve matches were played at Grantham Table Tennis Centre to complete the fixtures. At start of play Leicestershire were the leaders with six points. Four teams - Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Lancashire 2nds and Suffolk - had five points so all was to play for. Leicestershire slipped in their first match having to settle for a draw with Cambridgeshire. Later Leicestershire were involved in another draw against Suffolk. This match started with John Kitchener (Sk) getting a win over Chris Rogers, who later excelled with a 16 in 3rd win over Stuart Palmer. Derbyshire, strengthened by the inclusion of Nicola Deaton, were in fine form with three emphatic wins. This included a 9-1 win over Warwickshire, which put that team into 3rd place, with Leicestershire as runners-up and Derbyshire as champions and earning a return to Premier Division after a break of two seasons.

Two players achieved 100% wins over the season - Bradley Billington (Dy) and Karen Smith

(Le), who did not drop a single game!

SENIOR DIVISION 1B:

Berkshire 2	4	Middlesex 2	6
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Just one match to complete the Division. Middlesex 2nd's win over Berkshire 2nds gave them the runners-up position. The Middlesex men - David Goode, Neil Charles and Simon Rockall - won their six events in this match. Sussex 1st team had already won the championship and promotion to Premier Division.

SENIOR DIVISION 2A:

Warwickshire 2	1	Yorkshire 2	9
Nottinghamshire	8	Cheshire	2
Northumberland	8	Leicestershire 2	2
Cheshire	10	Cumbria	0

(Conceded)

Yorkshire 2nds 9-1 win over Warwickshire 2nds gave them the championship of the Division with fourteen players having made a contribution. Northumberland's 8-2 win over Leicestershire 2nds gave them second place. Martin Pickles (Le) had a good 14 and 18 win over Eddie Smith. Nottinghamshire beat Cheshire 8-2. For the second consecutive match Cheshire did not have any women players.

SENIOR DIVISION 2B:

Wiltshire	4	Worcestershire	6
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Worcestershire got a 6-4 win over Wiltshire to take the runners-up spot. Gwent had already won the championship. The match score stood at 4-4 when Sandra Roden (Wo) best Claire Hunter 21 and 18 and Trevor Washington followed with a 20, 18, 13 win over Eddie Rooft. Brenda Lee (Wi) completed a successful season in the Championships with 100% wins.

SENIOR DIVISION 2C:

Essex 2	9	Bedfordshire 2	1
Hertfordshire 2	9	Northants	1

With Essex 2nds comprehensive win over Bedfordshire 2nds the team remained unbeaten throughout the season, won the championship and promotion. Steve Rand was promoted from Essex 3rd team and won both his matches. By virtue of their 9-1 win over Northants, the Hertfordshire 2nd team leapt up the table into the runners-up spot.

MORE SUCCESS FOR SUSSEX

SENIOR DIVISION 2D:

Dorset	3	Oxon	7
Oxon	3	Hampshire	7
Kent	4	Sussex 2	6
Buckinghamshire 2	2	Kent	8
Sussex 2	9	Dorset	1
Hampshire	9	Buckinghamshire 21	

Six matches, to complete the fixtures, were played at Hazlemere Club, Buckinghamshire. There was a vital match between the unbeaten teams Kent and Sussex 2nds. The Sussex ladies - Carol Hewitt and Rose Rainton - won their four matches and Scott Greenbrook won the final event to give Sussex 2nds a 6-4 win and the Championship. This topped a very successful season for Sussex with the 1st team on its way to Premier Division, the 2nd team making a return to Division 1 and then the third team winning Division 3B. In the vital match Andrew Cunningham and Paul Rainford won the four events for Kent. Dorset is the team for demotion.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

SENIOR DIVISION 3A:

Lincolnshire	10	Clwyd	0
Staffordshire 2	8	Worcestershire 2	2

Going into the final round Lincolnshire and Staffordshire 2nds were level on points and sets. Lincolnshire made sure of the championship and promotion with a 10-nil win over Clwyd. Staffordshire 2nds 8-2 win over Worcestershire 2nds put them into the runners-up position.

SUSSEX ON TOP AGAIN!

SENIOR DIVISION 3B:

Essex 3	10	Cornwall 2	0
Hampshire 2	1	Kent 2	9
Sussex 3	9	Devon 3	1
Kent 2	6	Devon 3	4
Cornwall 2	0	Sussex 3	10
Essex 3	9	Devon 3	1
Cornwall 2	0	Kent 2	10
Hampshire 2	1	Devon 3	9
Essex 3	7	Sussex 3	3
Sussex 3	10	Hampshire 2	0
Devon 3	10	Cornwall 2	0
Devon 3	3	Essex 3	7
Cornwall 2	2	Hampshire 2	7
Sussex 3	8	Kent 2	2

Just one match had been played earlier in the season when Kent 2nds beat Essex 3rd team 7-3. The remaining fourteen matches were played at Plymouth Table Tennis Centre H.Q. Essex 3rds was the successful team with four wins, including a 7-3 defeat of Sussex 3. But Essex earlier loss to Kent 2nds left the Essex, Kent and Sussex teams level on points. Sussex 3rd team won their other two matches easily and finished on top with 40 events for/10 against whereas Essex and Kent had won 35 and 34 events respectively.

The most successful players in this Division were Shelley Ruocco and Jennifer Coleman (E) who were unbeaten. Steve Rand (E) and Mayur Majithia (Sx) each lost only one match.

JUNIOR DIVISION 1A:

Northumberland	4	Clwyd	6
Norfolk	7	Derbyshire	3
Derbyshire	4	Yorkshire 2	6
Derbyshire	1	Buckinghamshire	9
Yorkshire 2	6	Norfolk	4
Norfolk	6	Buckinghamshire	4
Yorkshire 2	3	Cheshire	8
Cheshire	7	Buckinghamshire	3
Norfolk	2	Cheshire	8

Clwyd travelled to Northumberland, came away with a 6-4 win and it gave them the runners-up position. Clwyd had previously lost to Cheshire. Eight matches were played at Grantham Table Tennis Centre to complete the fixtures. Cheshire won their three matches to go through the season unbeaten and win the championship and promotion. At the other end of the scale Derbyshire lost all their matches and face demotion. They put up a good fight, especially against Yorkshire 2nds before losing 4-6. Five events went to a decider and in one of these Helen Rainford (Dy) lost to Kate Foster 23, -21, -19. For Buckinghamshire Wendy Barlow (ranked 51) won her six matches over the weekend including a good 18 and 3rd win over Clare Newns (Ch) (ranked 18).

JUNIOR DIVISION 1B:

Essex 2	3	Berkshire	7
Sussex	6	Kent	4
Gwent	6	Devon 2	4
Sussex	9	Surrey 2	1

Berkshire's 7-3 win over Essex 2nds gave them the championship and promotion to Premier Division. Ben Johnson (Bk) played in all matches and did very well to win 100%. Sussex had two good wins - 9-1 over Surrey 2nds and their 6-4 win over Kent put them into the runners-up spot. Glen Ritchie (K) nevertheless completed the season unbeaten. Gwent's 6-4 win over Devon 2nds kept that team at the foot of the table. They will be demoted with Surrey 2nds, whose 1st team won the Premier Division.



Derby were strengthened by Nicola Deaton

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B:

Norfolk 2	4	Suffolk 1	6
Norfolk 2	4	Suffolk 2	6
Buckinghamshire 2	8	Hertfordshire 2	2
Cambridgeshire	3	Essex 3	7
Huntingdonshire	10	Bedfordshire	0

Suffolk 1st team's 6-4 win over Norfolk 2nds gave them 100% success - they dropped only ten events over the eight matches. Suffolk 2nds also did well with a similar performance against Norfolk 2nds. They were beaten only once - by Suffolk 1st team! Suffolk 2nds finished 3rd in the table with Huntingdonshire occupying the runners-up position. The Suffolk teams had four girls who went through the season unbeaten - Sarah Davis, Katie Green, Clare Lowe and Rebecca Sparkes. These girls did not meet in the Suffolk 1 v 2 contest.

Buckinghamshire 2nds met Hertfordshire 2nds, way above them in the table, and did very well to win 8-2. Three events were won at 18 and 19 in 3rd games. Cambridgeshire finished without a win but put up a good fight against Essex 3rd before losing 3-7. Six events went to a decider - three ending at 19 and 20.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2D:

Surrey 3	1	Hampshire 1	9
Surrey 3	3	Hampshire 2	7
Berkshire 2	0	Kent 2	10
Middlesex 2	3	Oxon	7
Sussex 2	0	Sussex 3	1

Hampshire's 9-1 win over Surrey 3rds gave them the championship and promotion. Kevin Macken (Hal) went through the whole season unbeaten. Jeremy Wilson (Hal) had a similar record but missed the last match. Hampshire 2nds also beat Surrey 3rds, who finished bottom of the table. Kent 2nds programme ended with a 10-nil win over Berkshire 2nds and left them just one point behind Hampshire. There were some tight matches in the Sussex 2/Sussex 3 clash but the 1st team won 9-1. The one event for the 2nds came in the last event when Robert Abbots beat Adam Flavell -16, 16, 25.

CHESHIRE - CHAMPIONS BY A WHISKER!

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION:

Sixteen matches were played at Ashford Table Tennis Club to complete the fixtures. Again it seemed it was going to be a battle between Cheshire and Yorkshire (current holders) for the Championship. Cheshire started with a two point and four sets advantage.

Cheshire and Yorkshire met in the first round of matches on the Sunday. Cheshire went into a 2-nil lead after wins by Paul Collins (Ch) (over Malcolm Corking) and Derek Schofield beating Richard Priestley. But then Nick Davis (Y) beat Roger Hampson 10 and 13 and the Yorkshire pairings of Sandra Rider/Nick Davis and Malcolm Corking/Richard Priestley took the two doubles events. Richard Priestley (Y) had a good 19 in 3rd win over Paul Collins (Ch) and Yorkshire went on to win 6-3.

Going into the final vital round Cheshire and Yorkshire were now level on points and Yorkshire had a one set advantage. However Yorkshire had to meet an in form Dorset team who had done very well to record wins over Lincolnshire, Surrey and Essex! Yorkshire again won the two doubles and led 5-2 but wins by Tony Clayton and Barry Hill reduced the Yorkshire win to 5-4! In comparison Cheshire had an emphatic 9-nil win over Lancashire. This gave Cheshire a three sets advantage and returned the Championship trophy to them, which they had to surrender to Yorkshire last season.

Surrey, who were unbeaten in the first series, had wins over Lincolnshire and Sussex and took 3rd place. Essex and Sussex both had wins over Lancashire and Lincolnshire and each team gained six points. Lincolnshire, after two successive seasons at Premier level, are demoted with Lancashire, who were promoted this season.

No player went through the full programme undefeated.

RESULTS

Sx	2	Y	7	Sx	8	La	1
La	3	E	6	Ch	3	Y	6
Ch	8	Sy	1	Do	5	E	4
Do	8	Li	1	Li	2	Sy	7
E	3	Ch	6	La	0	Ch	9
Y	9	La	0	E	5	Li	4
Sy	2	Do	7	Y	5	Do	4
Li	2	Sx	7	Sy	6	Sx	3

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

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ch	7	6	1	48	15	12
Y	7	6	1	45	18	12
Sy	7	5	2	34	29	10
Do	7	4	3	36	27	8
Sx	7	3	4	32	31	6
E	7	3	4	28	35	6
Li	7	1	6	16	27	2
La	7	0	7	13	50	0

VETERANS DIVISION 1A:

Yorkshire 2	4	Hertfordshire	5
Norfolk	6	Lancashire 2	3
Oxon	2	Leicestershire	7
Cheshire 2	6	Warwickshire	3

The Yorkshire 2/Hertfordshire match was to decide the Championship. The teams had equal points and just one set difference. Predictably it was a close match. At 2-2 Doug Bartle/Keith Powell (Y) beat John Taylor/Stuart Seaholme at 20 in 3rd game. Pat Bassano (Y) then beat Sally Bax for Yorkshire to lead 4-2. Stuart Seaholme came back to beat David Hope 19 and 21 and John Taylor (He) followed with a 19 in 3rd win over Keith Powell to retain his 100% record. Match score 4-4 and Doug Bartle (Y) was opposed by David Seaholme who won at 17 in 3rd game to get a 5-4 win and take the championship leaving Yorkshire 2nds as runners-up. Norfolk won their first match of the season with the 6-3 defeat of Lancashire 2nds but it leaves them at the foot of the table. Lancashire 2nds lost their last four matches. Leicestershire take 3rd position with the 7-2 defeat of Oxon. Cheshire 2nds improved as the season progressed - they won only one of their first five matches but then beat Lancashire 2nds and Worcestershire 6-3 in the final round.

VETERANS DIVISION 1B:

Kent	8	Buckinghamshire	1
Essex 2	6	Somerset	3
Buckinghamshire	0	Essex 2	9
Wiltshire	4	Berkshire	5
Hampshire	5	Middlesex	4

Kent's 8-1 win over Buckinghamshire left them unbeaten throughout the season. Kent won the championship and promotion of Premier Division. Essex 2nds 6-3 win over Somerset gave them the runners-up spot. Hampshire 1 beat Middlesex 1 5-4 when in the final event, Keith Childs (Ha) beat Bill Brookman at 19 in 3rd game. Wiltshire lost 4-5 to Berkshire and, together with Buckinghamshire, are for demotion.

VETERANS DIVISION 2A:

Nottinghamshire	2	Staffordshire	7
Northamptonshire	6	Cheshire 3	3
Northumberland	9	Clwyd	0
		(Conceded)	

Warwickshire had already topped the table, won the championship and promotion. Northamptonshire and Staffordshire were level on points and sets so Staffordshire's 7-2 win over Nottinghamshire, compared to Northamptonshire's 6-3 win over Cheshire 3rds, gave Staffordshire the runners-up position. Pat McCabe (Wa) and Margaret Maltby (Np) were unbeaten players in this Division.

VETERANS DIVISION 2B:

Bedfordshire	2	Hertfordshire 2	7
Essex 4	5	Norfolk 2	4
Buckinghamshire 2	10	Huntingdonshire	0
		(Conceded)	

Hertfordshire 2nds 7-2 win over Bedfordshire 2nds gave them the Championship. The team gets promotion to Division 1 to replace their 1st team who will go to Premier Division. Essex 4th team got a 5-4 win over Norfolk 2nds to become runners-up.

VETERANS DIVISION 2C:

Kent 2	5	Essex 3	4
Berkshire 2	6	Sussex 2	3
Middlesex 2	5	Surrey 2	4

Previously unbeaten Essex 3rds lost 4-5 to Kent 2nds in their final match. This put the teams level on points but Essex 3rds are champions with a better sets advantage. The scales were tipped towards Kent when they won both doubles events. Berkshire 2nds 6-3 win over Sussex 2nds was their first of the season but it did not keep them off the foot of the table as Middlesex 2nds beat Surrey 2nds 5-4. Seven events went to a decider and the match was won for Middlesex when Walter Mascarenha beat Gordon Chapman 13, -16, 18.



John Taylor, 100% record for Herts Vets.

VETERANS DIVISION 2D:

Gloucestershire	7	Hampshire 2	2
Avon	6	Wiltshire 2	3
Dorset 2	4	Devon	5

Gloucestershire beat Hampshire 2nds 7-2 to go through the season unbeaten, win the championship and promotion. Dave Harvey got 100% wins

and Dennis Holland lost only once. Hampshire 2nd team is in the runners-up position. Avon had a 6-3 win over Wiltshire 2nds with Avon getting two wins at 19 in 3rd games. Wiltshire 2nd team is demoted. Penny Perry (Dv) was unbeaten in this Division.

VETERANS DIVISION 3A:

Bedfordshire 3	1	Warwickshire 2	8
Wiltshire 3	3	Hertfordshire 4	6
Huntingdonshire 2	2	Bedfordshire 2	7

Northamptonshire 2nd had already won the championship. The Bedfordshire Warwickshire 2 clash resolved the runners-up position. The Warwickshire team was well on top and won 8-1. Bedfordshire 2nds won their first match of the season with 7-2 defeat of Huntingdonshire 2nds. This kept Bedfordshire off the bottom of the table. Sylvia Coombs (Bd) won her singles to achieve a 100% record. The score stood at 3-3 in the Wiltshire/Hertfordshire 4 match but Hertfordshire won the last three events for a 6-3 win.

VETERANS DIVISION 3B:

Surrey 3	6	Kent 3	3
Hertfordshire 3	6	Berkshire 4	3
Dorset 3	5	Sussex 4	4

Surrey 3rd team completed a successful season with a 6-3 win over Kent 3rds and win the championship. Kent 3rds were the runners-up. Brian Simmonds (Sy) lost his first singles of the season to Mr. Dixon 21 and 20'. Ron Langheim (Sy) won his two singles and the doubles with Simmonds. Hertfordshire 3rd team beat Berkshire 4th 6-3 to leave them at the bottom of the table. Sylvia Tyler (He) got 100% singles wins. Dorset 3rds team beat Sussex 4 5-4 and Danny and Mae Allen (Do) got 100% wins in mixed doubles.

VETERANS DIVISION 3C:

Sussex 3	8	Gloucestershire 2	1
Wiltshire 4	4	Northamptonshire 3	
5 Berkshire 3	5	Hertfordshire 5	4

Sussex 3rd team clinched the championship and promotion when they beat Gloucestershire 2nds 8-1. Berkshire 3rd team's defeat of Hertfordshire 5th team deprived the Hertfordshire team of the runner-sup position. This was taken by Northamptonshire's 3rd team after their 5-4 defeat of Wiltshire's 4th team.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



APPOINTMENT



SOUTHERN REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Full Time 3 year fixed term contract).

In conjunction with ETTA/Sports Council "Focus Sport" initiative, the main thrust of the post will be to plan and coordinate the implementation of the Southern Development Plan for table tennis.

Salary £15,000 (all hours worked post). Postholder will be expected to live within easy travelling distance of the office base (not yet identified).

The successful candidate is likely to possess the following:

- Proven organising/administrative ability (preferably in sport)
- Effective communication and negotiating skills
- High level of self motivation and ability to motivate others
- Experience of sports development
- Understanding of table tennis
- Full driving licence

Closing date for applications: 2nd July 1993

Job description and application form available from:

Diccon Gray (National Development Manager), English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103

An equal opportunities post, funded by the Sports Council (Southern) and the English Table Tennis Association.

FINAL TABLES SEASON 1992/93

Compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	7	5	2	0	44	26	12
Devonshire	7	4	2	1	44	26	10
Lancashire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Essex	7	3	1	3	36	34	7 (84-75)
Surrey	7	1	5	1	36	34	7 (85-83)
Staffordshire	7	1	3	3	33	37	5
Yorkshire	7	0	4	3	26	44	4
Berkshire	7	1	1	5	23	47	3

DIVISION 1A

Derbyshire	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Leicestershire	7	4	2	1	45	25	10
Warwickshire	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
Suffolk	7	3	2	2	36	34	8
Hertfordshire	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Cambridgeshire	7	2	2	3	32	38	6
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Bedfordshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

DIVISION 1B

Sussex	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Middlesex 2nd	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Berkshire 2nd	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
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	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Northumberland	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Nottinghamshire	6	3	1	2	39	21	7
Leicestershire 2nd	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Cheshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Warwickshire 2nd	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Cumbria	6	0	0	6	5	55	0

DIVISION 2B

Gwent	6	5	1	0	41	19	11
Worcestershire	6	5	0	1	40	20	10
Wiltshire	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Somerset	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Avon 2nd	6	1	2	3	23	37	4
Cornwall	6	1	1	4	29	31	3
Gloucestershire	6	1	0	5	16	44	2

DIVISION 2C

Essex 2nd	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Norfolk	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Northamptonshire	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Bedfordshire 2nd	5	1	2	2	21	29	4
Huntingdonshire	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

DIVISION 2D

Sussex 2nd	5	5	0	0	36	14	10
Kent	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Hampshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Oxfordshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Buckinghamshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Dorset	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincolnshire	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Staffordshire	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Hertfordshire 3rd	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Worcestershire 2nd	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Suffolk 2nd	5	0	1	4	12	38	1
Clwyd	5	0	1	4	6	44	1

DIVISION 3B

Sussex 3rd	5	4	0	1	40	10	8
Essex 3rd	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Kent 2nd	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Devonshire 3rd	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Hampshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	11	38	2
Cornwall 2nd	5	0	0	5	2	47	0

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION

Surrey	7	5	2	0	53	17	12
Yorkshire	7	4	3	0	48	22	11
Essex	7	4	2	1	43	27	10
Devonshire	7	3	2	2	40	30	8
Lancashire	7	2	2	3	39	31	6
Middlesex	7	2	2	3	30	40	6
Hertfordshire	7	0	2	5	13	57	2
Staffordshire	7	0	1	6	14	56	1

DIVISION 1A

Cheshire	7	7	0	0	49	21	14
Clwyd	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Northumberland	7	3	0	4	36	34	6 (85-73)
Buckinghamshire	7	3	0	4	36	34	6 (82-82)
Norfolk	7	2	0	5	30	40	4 (71-88)
Warwickshire	7	2	0	5	30	40	4 (70-90)
Derbyshire	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

DIVISION 1B

Berkshire	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
Sussex	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Kent	7	5	0	2	50	20	10
Glamorgan	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Essex 2nd	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Gwent	7	2	1	4	29	41	5
Surrey 2nd	7	1	0	6	18	52	2
Devonshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	17	53	2

DIVISION 2A

Nottinghamshire	8	8	0	0	67	13	16
Northamptonshire	8	7	0	1	56	24	14
Lincolnshire	8	5	1	2	46	34	11
Lancashire 2nd	8	4	2	2	46	34	10
Derbyshire 2nd	8	3	1	4	36	44	7
Warwickshire 2nd	8	2	1	5	29	51	5
Leicestershire	8	1	2	5	27	53	4
Cheshire 2nd	8	1	1	6	22	58	3
Staffordshire 2nd	8	0	2	6	31	49	2

DIVISION 2B

Suffolk 1st	8	8	0	0	70	10	16
Huntingdonshire	8	6	1	1	59	21	13
Suffolk 2nd	8	4	2	2	42	38	10
Hertfordshire 2nd	8	4	1	3	37	43	9 (90-104)
Essex 3rd	8	4	1	3	37	43	9 (82-102)
Norfolk 2nd	8	3	0	5	41	39	6
Buckinghamshire 2nd	8	2	1	5	31	49	5
Bedfordshire	8	2	0	6	29	51	4
Cambridgeshire	8	0	0	8	14	66	0

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 5

DIVISION 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Somerset	8	8	0	0	59	21	16
Glamorgan 2nd	8	7	0	1	53	27	14
Cornwall	8	4	2	2	43	37	10
Avon	8	4	1	3	45	35	9
Wiltshire	8	3	2	3	42	38	8
Worcestershire	8	1	3	4	36	44	5
Dorset	8	1	2	5	30	50	4
Devonshire 3rd	8	1	1	6	32	48	3
Gloucestershire	8	1	1	6	20	60	3

DIVISION 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire 1st	8	6	2	0	64	16	14
Kent 2nd	8	6	1	1	58	22	13
Sussex 2nd	8	4	3	1	53	26	11
Oxfordshire	8	4	1	3	40	40	9
Sussex 3rd	8	4	1	3	43	9	
Middlesex 2nd	8	2	2	4	35	45	6
Hampshire 2nd	8	3	0	5	26	54	6
Berkshire 2nd	8	1	0	7	23	57	2 (62-121)
Surrey 3rd	8	1	0	7	23	57	2 (59-124)

VETERANS

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	7	6	1	48	15	12
Yorkshire	7	6	1	45	18	12
Surrey	7	5	2	34	29	10
Dorset	7	4	3	36	27	8
Sussex	7	4	3	33	30	8
Essex	7	2	5	27	36	4
Lincolnshire	7	1	6	16	47	2
Lancashire	7	0	7	13	50	0

DIVISION 1A

Hertfordshire	7	6	1	40	23	12
Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	2	38	25	10
Leicestershire	7	5	2	32	31	10
Lancashire 2nd	7	3	4	32	31	6
Cheshire 2nd	7	3	4	32	31	6
Worcestershire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	5	26	37	4
Norfolk	7	1	6	26	37	2

DIVISION 1B

Kent	7	7	0	53	10	14
Essex 2nd	7	6	1	39	24	12
Hampshire	7	5	2	35	28	10
Somerset	7	4	3	33	30	8
Middlesex	7	2	5	27	36	4
Berkshire	7	2	5	27	36	4
Wiltshire	7	1	6	26	37	2
Buckinghamshire	7	1	6	16	47	2

DIVISION 2A

Warwickshire	6	5	1	39	15	10
Staffordshire	6	4	2	29	25	8
Northamptonshire	6	4	2	28	26	8
Northumberland	6	3	3	31	23	6
Clwyd	6	2	4	24	30	4
Nottinghamshire	6	2	4	20	34	4
Cheshire 2nd	6	1	5	18	36	2

DIVISION 2B

Hertfordshire 2nd	6	6	0	43	11	12
Essex 4th	6	5	1	33	21	10
Cambridgeshire	6	3	3	29	25	6 (67-57)
Bedfordshire	6	3	3	29	25	6
Norfolk 2nd	6	3	3	24	30	6
Buckinghamshire 2nd	6	1	5	2	32	2
Huntingdonshire	6	0	6	9	45	0

DIVISION 2C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 3rd	6	5	1	39	15	10
Kent 2nd	6	5	1	31	23	10
Surrey 2nd	6	3	3	33	21	6
Sussex 2nd	6	3	3	27	27	6
Oxfordshire 2nd	6	2	4	22	32	4
Middlesex 2nd	6	2	4	19	35	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	1	5	18	36	2

DIVISION 2D

Gloucestershire	6	6	0	40	14	12
Hampshire 2nd	6	4	2	32	22	8
Avon	6	4	2	30	24	8
Devonshire	6	4	2	29	25	8
Dorset 2nd	6	2	4	29	25	4
Somerset 2nd	6	1	5	13	41	2
Wiltshire 2nd	6	0	6	16	38	0

DIVISION 3A

Northamptonshire 2nd	6	5	1	32	22	10
Warwickshire 2nd	6	4	2	37	17	8
Hertfordshire 4th	6	4	2	30	24	8 (67-56)
Bedfordshire 3rd	6	4	2	30	24	8 (64-53)
Wiltshire 3rd	6	3	3	26	38	6
Bedfordshire 2nd	6	1	5	21	33	2
Huntingdonshire 2nd	6	0	6	13	41	0

DIVISION 3B

Surrey 3rd	6	6	0	45	9	12
Kent 3rd	6	4	2	31	23	8
Hampshire 3rd	6	4	2	28	26	8
Sussex 4th	6	3	3	23	31	6
Hertfordshire 3rd	6	2	4	24	30	4
Dorset 3rd	6	2	4	23	31	4
Berkshire 4th	6	0	6	15	39	0

DIVISION 3C

Sussex 3rd	6	5	1	43	11	10
Northamptonshire 3rd	6	5	1	29	25	10
Hertfordshire 5th	6	4	2	32	22	8
Berkshire 3rd	6	4	2	30	24	8
Gloucestershire 2nd	6	2	4	26	28	4
Wiltshire 4th	6	1	5	16	38	2
Herefordshire	6	0	6	13	41	0

FORTHCOMING COACHING COURSES

13th & 20th June

Venue: Harrogate Granby Community Leisure Centre, Ainsty Road, Harrogate.

Coach: Peter Simpson

Contact: Michelle Vernon-James Tel: 0423 500600

R.C. C/man: Bevan Walker Tel: 0274 672005

19th & 20th June - Coach Education Course Level 2

Venue: TAVR Community Centre, Askew Crescent, Shepherds Bush, London W12 9DP.

Coach: Terry See Tel: 081-748 3020 ext. 3578, 3553

R.C. C/man: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 353174

11th & 18th July - Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award

Venue: St. Nicholas High School, Northwich, Cheshire.

Contact: Campbell Eaton Tel: 0606 871117 Also R.C. C/man

18th and 19th September - Teacher, Sport Leader and Assistant Coach Award Scheme

Venue: Haywards Heath

R.C. C/man: Roy Pugh Tel: 0843 221934

Shining stars of the future

WINNERS of both under 12 singles titles Gareth Herbert and Lyndsey Thornton won with a positive game, which is what we need at national level to produce future senior champions.

The under 10 singles winners also displayed positive attitudes, with Richard Mann taking Boys and Hannah Yardy winning the girls trophy.

Herbert had a classic battle with defending champion Scott Friday, coming from behind to win, after losing the first easily to the boy from Kent. And with the second leg standing at 18-18, Friday looked like winning, but he served off and Herbert capitalized on this mistake to take the second.

Friday never really recovered mentally and lost the third to all action Herbert.

Thornton, last season's under 11 Girls champion, defeated

WORDS & PICTURES BY JOHN WOOD

Emma Smith in an exciting final where Thornton's forehand and backhand topspin was the winning factor against the speed of Smith.

Richard Mann is this year's under 10 champion following a real ding dong battle with local boy Andrew Baggaley.

The Bletchley Leisure Centre was treated to a fantastic display of topspin by both boys, with Mann taking the first narrowly 22-20, after Baggaley had led 19-16.

The second leg was just as close as the first, neck and neck at 15-15, before Baggaley got his nose in front 18-17, but Mann's extra topspin was the deciding factor to win the trophy.

Hannah Yardy won the under 10 Girls final in style, beating Avon's Gemma Loughran 21-14, 21-16.

Yardy also won the under 12 Girls Consolation Final when she overpowered Geraldine Booth, 21-18, 21-12.

Yardy then won a third trophy when she partnered Amy Linnecar to win the Under 10 Girls Doubles final beating Katy Parky and Clare Shannon.

Darren Blake's young sister Camille kept up the family tradition by winning the Girls



Under 10 consolation final, defeating Jenny McEwan 17-21, 21-21, 21-17.

Gary Bloomfield won the Boys under 10 consolation final narrowly beating James Marshall 20-22, 21-16, 21-19.

Twins James and Oliver Wakelam from Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, remarkably reached exactly the same stage of the Boys under 10 singles competitions battling their way to the quarter finals. James lost an exciting match to finalist Andrew Baggaley 20-22, 21-19, 21-16. Whilst his brother Oliver also lost in three when he played against the talented Douglas Speed, losing 17-21, 21-19, 21-15.

Oliver and James teamed up for the Boys under 10 Doubles competition and reached the semi-finals, where they lost to the eventual winners Richard Mann and Gary Bloomfield 21-19, 21-17.

This under 10 and 12 National Championships was played with enthusiasm and skill and in some cases skill and control beyond their years. In fact the whole weekend was a credit to English table tennis.

● Top pictures: Under 10 Singles Champions, Richard Mann (left) and Hannah Yardy. Middle Picture: Nicky Jarvis presents the Under 10 consolation singles trophies to Gary Bloomfield (left) and Camille Blake. Bottom picture: Tournament Organiser Jill Harris (left) and Referee David Miller.

Venue supplied by
MILTON KEYNES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Equipment supplied by
JARVIS SPORTS

China swept the board

CHINA, as expected, swept the board when players from four of the World's continents assembled at Birmingham Sports Centre over the Easter weekend - and this despite the loss of their top boy Bin Liu, who was rushed to hospital in the small hours of Sunday morning for an appendix operation.

At the close of the tournament Bin Liu was recovering well, and it was hoped that he would be able to join his colleagues, due to spend several days in London, in time to return with the party to Beijing.

It was no surprise that the youngsters from the Far East, who had warmed up with two good wins over Junior sides selected by ETTA at Malvern, were very much pre-post favourites for honours, but less predictable was the success of Israel, who finished in second place in both team competitions.

The boys topped their pool

of seven teams while the girls, in their section, finished in second place behind China, and the Israelis, most of whom are studying at a school of sporting excellence in their own country, got the better of Canada and France respectively in their inter-pool play-offs.

And, amongst some fascinating table tennis, there were a number of other teams and individuals to take the eye in the assembly of some hundred or so of the best youngsters from schools from across the globe.

Egypt, virtually unknown in international circles, sent a team of three girls who, after two tremendous games with France, finished in the fourth medal position, and the political difficulties which led to their withdrawal from the individual events, in no way detracts from this success.

Amongst the boys, the Belgians stood out as they made

their way to third place in the medal table, with 13 year old Kevin Vissers, a little blonde left-hander who believes sincerely that the little white ball is there to be hit, an outstanding performer.

Certainly amongst the youngest competitors was Gudmunder Stephansson and, although his team finished well down the order in ninth place, the ten year old from isolated Iceland set some interesting problems for a number of his more experienced opponents.

The girls from France, too, showed up well as they finished in third position in the medal table and, although it was a team performance, Alice Joneau, a fleet footed and never-say-die defender stood out, and emphasized her talent as she battled her way through to the quarters of the individual competition before, almost inevitably, falling to eventual winner Hong Li. The cries of 'Allez, Alice' from her team mates were more than justified as the bespectacled boyish looking French girls gave little away in a determined performance.

The showing of the England sides - as the host country 'A' and 'B' teams were entered in each category - was somewhat patchy, with all four finishing in mid-table.

With the boys England A (Steven Meddings, Vince Avery, Mike James and Gary Pestka) were placed fourth in pool B, with England B (Ian Eaton, Stephen Lampkin, David Purdy and Kevin Dolder) one rung higher up the pool A ladder, while both girls' teams (England A in pool B - Kathryn Woodward, Shelley Ruocco, Glenda Ashison and Michelle Haynes and England B in pool A - Nicola Massingham, Nicola Smith, Tracey Davies and Sally Russell) finished in fourth spot.

In the boys' inter-pool play-offs Belgium became the first team to take a game from the all-conquering Chinese when exciting prospect Christophe Closset a little more experienced than Vissers, but no less talented, won twice in a 2-3 defeat, while coming through to line up opposite China for the

gold medal position were the impressive Israeli trio, who accounted for the Canadians 3-2.

Amongst the girls China took pole position past the less experienced Egyptians, while Israel emulated their boys as they took out France in a match which was always tighter than the 3-0 scoreline would suggest. China continued to dominate in the Individual events as all their seven players - Benu Liu was, of course, the odd one out - qualified for the 'last 16' knock-out stage in each event.

Marian Jancs (Slovakia) and Janiv Sharon (Israel) joined Kun Li and Xiaogang Zhang, conqueror of team mate Zichao Tian in the last 16, in the boys semis, while the parallel girls' event was an all Chinese confrontation before both finals were contested by players from the Far East.

England had three players in each event - Gary Pestka, Stephen Lampkin and Mike James (boys) and Nicola Massingham, Shelley Ruocco and Kathryn Woodward (girls), but none progressed beyond this stage.

RESULTS

Team Events - Boys

Finals - China bt Israel 3-0

3rd/4th Place Play-off

Belgium bt Canada 3-0

Girls - Final - China bt Israel 3-0

3rd/4th Place Play-Off

France bt Egypt 3-1

Individual Events - Boys -

Semi-finals - Li Jun (China) bt Janiv Sharon (Israel) 9, 13; Zhang Xiaogang (China) bt Marian Janos (Slovakia) 17, 21

Final - Li Kun bt Xioagang 15, 14

3rd/4th - Sharon bt Janos 15, 18

Girls - Semi-finals - Hong Li (China) bt Qian Zhao (China) 15, 18; Hui Zhang (China) bt Qui Mei Li (China) 15, 19

Final - Hong Li bt Hui Zhang 17, -9, 11

3rd/4th - Qui Mei Li bt Qian Zhao (retired injured)

PENIEL 5 STAR TOURNAMENT 11th/12th SEPTEMBER 1993

ON the weekend of the 11th and 12th of September 1993 the prestigious Peniel Five Star tournament will be held at the Brentwood International Centre in Essex. This will be the second year the tournament has had 5 star status and with the invitations having been extended to countries including Sweden, Norway, France, Belgium and Denmark, the tournament will no doubt be an excellent display of table tennis at its very best.

The tournament consists of an international team event which starts off the weekend on Saturday morning, and men's and women's singles and doubles. There will also be a Friendly International played on the Friday evening before the tournament starts - most probably between the top English, Swedish and Norwegian players.

Players from England and abroad will be fighting for the prize money totalling £5,225, which has been provided by the sponsors, Stafford Charles Ltd.

The Mens Singles last year was won by the Swedish player Peter Karlsson who will not doubt be anxious to retain his title.

Under the excellent supervision of Dick Roffe (Tournament Organiser) and Peter Roden (Referee) the tournament is sure to be a great success.

For more information or entry forms please contact Ruth Cleminson telephone 0277 372996.

SOUTH WEST REGION

by Alf Pepperd

THE well publicised "Going for Growth" SWR table tennis conference which was held at the conference room at Taunton Racecourse in late March was well supported by 56 registered delegates from the seven Counties which formulate the South West Region, and incidentally is the largest table tennis region in the Country.

Upon arrival at 10.30am, we were offered coffee and then at 11am a welcome was extended to every one by Alan Ransome the ETTA Chairman, this was followed by the first speaker, Andy Martin (Sports Council Regional Officer), who stressed the role of Sports Council services that may, or may not be available to Leagues and Clubs in the area.

The second speaker at 11.50am was Donald Parker (ETTA Director of Coaching & National Team Manager), Donald's theme of discussion centred around the National Coaching scheme, how to become a coach, and probably the most important factor of all, the ever present Junior Coaching programme at all levels, the latter I think to be most important, because at all levels of table tennis, if you cannot make sound proviso for the Junior players then the future of your league or club will slowly deteriorate. At the end of each speaker's period, questions and general discussion were welcomed from the members present.

At 12.40pm we broke for lunch and resumed again at 13.30, with Alan Ransome taking the chair to allow Mike Lewis (ETTA Vice Chairman Development), Melonie Carey (The Regional Development Officer) and Diccon Gray (National Development Manager) to speak on the following subjects: ETTA Structure, Development, Focus Sport Programme, Coaching, Join a table tennis club campaign and local development involving - County and individual leagues, this again was followed by questions from the floor, which went on for roughly three quarters of an hour.

The 4th session at 14.50 was shared by two speakers, Alan Ransome and Donald Parker, subjects involved, local publicity involving press, radio and if possible TV, promoting an increasing interest in team/league/play, membership recruitment and the National Lottery, of which it is hoped could be a viable source of much needed finance for table tennis equipment etc, access to Sports Council, local authorities and leisure centres.

After questions and further discussion we broke at 15.40 for coffee and light refreshments resuming twenty minutes later with questions to the entire panel, A. Martin, M. Lewis, D. Parker, A. Ransome, D. Gray, M. Carey and Les Bridges, Chairman of the SWR Committee.

I will summarise by saying that



Alf Pepperd broadcasting on BBC Radio

the Conference was a great success and all the speakers put their particular aspects of table tennis over exceedingly well, I also gained the impression that our ETTA Chairman of two years standing likes to lead his followers by instilling inspiration in the table tennis media, at all levels.

I am reliably informed that since our Regional Development Officer took office last January, Melonie Carey has certainly not allowed the grass to get very long under her feet, commencing her round of regional travels on the 12th of February, when she visited the Torbay and south Devon area, she has moved on to holding other visits at North Cornwall on March 3rd, two nights later saw her at Yeovil, Swindon was the next place of call on 19th March, followed by Plymouth on March 20th, then on to West Cornwall two days later, Okehampton on March 24th, Cirencester on March 31st, on the 21st of April, Melonie paid us a visit at Gloucester and the following day saw her at Devizes.

Now at the time of writing, I understand her bookings for the future rest with Exeter, Bridgwater and Exmouth, Melonie aims to have visited all SWR Leagues by the end of 1993, she is indeed, well on the way to doing it - and in a very professional manner as well. News from Jeremy Williams and Fred Ingram in the West Cornwall League - Congratulations to the W.C. Veterans squad of John Bassett, Royston Newberry, Roger Jacobs and Austin Chapman who at Plymouth recently clinched the S.W. Veterans League by beating Exeter 6-3 and Yeovil 9-0. Cornwall Seniors returned from Clevedon in February securing a welcome 9-1 victory over Avon 2 this now guarantees Cornwall a place in Division 2B for next season, well done.

News just received from Alec Atkins Secretary of the Exmouth and District T.T.L. Alec quotes all the respective winners and runners-up in

the League Championships which were held at the Cranford Club on April 4th, sorry Alec space is short, so here are a few of them: M/S winner Paul Freeman, RU Phil Reeves; W/S winner Paula Freeman. RU Carol Atkins; V/S winner Paul Freeman, RU Phil Reeves; U/21 winner Mark Rotchell, RU Adrian Rotchell.

And finally, yes, yet another busy season of table tennis broadcasting on BBC Radio Gloucestershire South & West, 30 live weekly broadcasts plus interviews for the BBC with the following: Les Bridges (SWR Chairman ETTA), Penny Perry (Credition), Darren Griffin and Judy Morley both Gloucestershire singles champions, Melonie Carey (needs no introduction), William Dawe (Glos), David Dean (County Sec - upon "The Cotswold National"), and finally Alan Ransome ETTA Chairman (interviewed at Taunton Racecourse in March). My very grateful thanks to all who have throughout this past season helped me to compile this column, especially the following: Les Smith, Fred Ingram, Jeremy Williams, Val Clack and Alex Atkins.

SOUTHERN REGION

by Brian Lamerton

FIRST, apologies for recent absence; when my March notes were not published I assumed lack of space; when they didn't appear in April either I assumed, too late, that they had been lost.

Another successful league season has reached conclusion with Cippenham 'A', Kingfisher 'B', newcomers Thatcham & Cippenham Ladies hailed as divisional champions.

The Premier Division in particular was a close run affair where despite losing their final match to old rivals Kingfisher the Cippenham squad of Frank Earis, Mike Rhodes, Terry

Young, Steve Crow and Graham Trimming triumphed. Of those playing the qualifying number of matches Earis topped the individual averages with 81% followed by Kingfishers ever present Hari Gehlot with 69%.

First Division champions Kingfisher 'B' who won only on sets average also had the individual leader in Justin Mead (88.9%), the squad being completed by Colin Dyke, Louis Conlon and Roland Marslin. Second in the individual averages was the Hampshire junior champion Kevin Macken (76.5%) playing for Snows.

Thatcham's Darren Jones (88.9%) and Tony Reynolds (80.0%) lead the second division averages; whilst Martin King completed their regular squad they also had three players who recorded 100% from one match each.

Barbara Savage who lost only once (to Cippenham's Barbara Smallwood) and Jackie Rice played unchanged and came with a late rush to take the Ladies title for Aldershot 'A' by one set.

Winners of the league tournament played at Kingfisher on April 18th were: Mens, Graham Pointer (KCD); Ladies, Sarah Turner (Amity Generation); Veterans, John Millward (OLOP); Mens Doubles, Louis Conlon and Justin Mead (Kingfisher); Ladies Doubles, Sarah Turner and Mary Allan (OLOP); Mixed Doubles, Barbara Savage and Ian Schwartz (OLOP).

Congratulations to Newbury for their great run in the Wilmott Cup when represented by David Reeves, David Barr and Clive Payne.

Congratulations and the Press Officers prize of a big thank you to Artel for being the only team to provide me with match reports. This together with the fact that I am still awaiting replies to a questionnaire from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire if repeated in other regions may explain why Les Bridges (Development notes April '93) is unaware that Press & Publicity Officer is already a formal appointment within each regional set-up although I have yet to hear of any budget!

The Wembley wizards

IN 1953 the World Championships were held in Bucharest, Rumania, and England won the Swaythling Cup for the first and only time in its history. It was disappointing that Japan and the United States were not permitted by their respective governments to participate but as a compensation - and for the first time - China sent a complement of players. Having been so near in previous years, it was a glorious, satisfying victory for the English team, who overcame fierce challenges from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The Chinese players showed promise but lacked the experience so necessary in a championship of such magnitude. The giant Hungarian, Ferenc Sido, showing much improvement, won the men's singles title and then went on to complete the treble by winning the men's doubles and the mixed doubles with Josef Koczian and Angelica Rozeanu respectively. The amazing Rozeanu went even one better, winning not only three individual titles but (with team mates Ella Zeller and Sari Szasz) ensuring that Rumania kept the Corbillon Cup. It was a special thrill for her to win all four events in front of her compatriots and she met with great acclaim.

ANGELICA ROZEANU

Born in Rumania, 1921, of Jewish origin and christened Angelica Adelstein she became in the words of the late Jack Carrington, "The last word in women's table tennis." She first gained recognition as a top grade defensive player who, even as a teenager, was causing problems to the world's best. However, owing to the long shadows of war and racial discrimination her meteoric rise was checked, but she re-emerged in the late forties and no-one who was there will forget the gruelling defensive duel she had with Gizi Farkas at Wembley in 1948. On that occasion she lost, but with an unquenchable resolve she returned home determined to acquire a variety of selective attacking shots to add to her considerable defensive skills.

In 1950 she was chosen to represent her country at the World Championships in Budapest and although news had filtered through of her all-round improvement and transformation was quite astounding; it was like the emergence of a butterfly from a chrysalis. At an age when most women have retired from tournament play she magnetised the arena with a display of artistry and breathtaking skill to win her first world title. Her defence was more impregnable than ever and her attacking shots were like mule kicks, only more accurate. Allied to her dexterity of hand and judgement of eye she had a speed and strength that seemed to belie the slimness of her body. Gizi Farkas was an outstanding champion but even she was powerless to stop this new queen of the table. Audiences were won over by the ballet-like grace of this new champion but no-one could have forecast the impact she would make on the sport during the ensuing years.

Angelica Rozeanu won six world singles titles in consecutive years, a record that is unlikely to be beaten by man or woman and in addition she won three women's doubles and three mixed doubles titles. Her achievements for Rumania were of special significance as she was the star of its team that won the Corbillon Cup on five separate occasions. She holds the highest Rumanian sports distinction - the coveted title of 'Merited Master of Sport'. Angelica has now left Rumania and lives in Israel; her mere presence in that country will give much impetus to the sport



Pictured above is Angelica Rozeanu and below is Ichiro Ogimura



there. At her peak she was to table tennis what Muhammad Ali was to boxing - lethal in attack, superb in defence and possessing destructive counter shots from impossible positions. She will be remembered as a truly great champion.

The World Championships returned to London in 1954 and thirty three countries entered, producing many matches that will live long in the memory. Among those countries was a contingent from Japan with new players whose names meant little to anyone, but very quickly that was all to change. Their men's team in particular were athletic, super fit and fleet of foot; they were like a team of firecrackers who set Wembley Stadium alight by what the critics called 'unorthodox' play. Their 'unorthodoxy' was in fact the pen-holder style with soft rubber and sponge-faced bats. It produced an aggressive and exciting brand of table tennis that fired the imagination. It was perhaps hard to realise that we were witnessing one of the vicissitudes of sport.

The Swaythling Cup final between Japan and Czechoslovakia had the crowd chanting its approval and the excitement of seeing the extremely talented Czech, Ivan Andreadis, win his three matches, gave a thrill to even the most veteran observers. His heroics however were in vain and his two team-mates were only capable of winning one more match; the result of this thrilling final was Japan 5, Czechoslovakia 4. The Japanese young ladies were also involved in a

nail-biting spectacle when they were adjudged the winners of the Corbillon Cup on games average after a dramatic three team tie. England, represented by the Rowe twins and Ann Haydon, suffered the greatest disappointment when, after beating Japan 3-2 in an atmosphere of tension and near hysteria, lost to Hungary by a scoreline of 1-3. The deciding match between Japan and Hungary resulted in a clear-out 3-1 victory for the pen-hold wizards from Asia which meant that Japan had regained the Corbillon Cup.

It was at these championships that we were introduced to Ichiro Ogimura, who must qualify as the greatest of all Japanese players; he brought to the sport an athleticism and attitude of mind that was an example to all. He won the men's singles final in a dynamic way, his withering speed simply overwhelming his opponent, the elegant Swede, Tage Flisberg, whose efforts by comparison appeared laboriously slow. It was the first ever final between two sponge players and was most noteworthy for its total lack of rallies. During the course of the championships it was noticeable that whenever the Japanese players were forced away from the table, which was seldom, they did not defend in the conventional manner but returned the ball with heavy topspin and a high trajectory. This became a pattern for most sponge players and led to a request for the heightening of the lighting fixtures. Angelica Rozeanu again won the women's singles title and two Yugoslavians, Zarko Dolinar and Vilim Harangozo, had their names entered into the Roll of Honour by winning the men's doubles championship.

For sheer sensation, however, it was left to the delightful Rowe twins who celebrated a victory that must be unique in sport. Before an excited crowd of more than ten thousand people Ros and Di won the women's doubles title for the second time and on the night of their 21st birthday. Their double celebration came at the expense of Ann Haydon and Kathie Best. It was an unbelievable happening, the kind one sees in films or reads about in fairy stories. In many ways their table tennis lives could be described as a fairy story. They played together in five World Championships and reached the final each time; they made the front pages of newspapers throughout the world; they had a mail-boat named after them and they played an exhibition in Sweden's Royal Palace with Prince Gustav as their ball boy. In addition to their undeniable playing skills, they were blessed with little extra, a warm personality, an infectious humour and a sense of responsibility towards their sport.

WORK GENERATED BY THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

WEST MIDLANDS - SANDRA RODEN

1. Junior Coaching Course - Oswestry Leisure Centre (followed by two six week courses - Coaches: Clive Robert, Harvey Kynaston.
2. England v China, junior friendly match at Malvern Winter Gardens followed by "Come & Try It" sessions at Hillside School, Worcester.
3. Junior Coaching Sessions - Rushbury T.T.C., near Church Stretton, (two sessions) - Coaches Rogan and Gayle Child.
4. Coaching Session - Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge, two sessions - Jill Parker, Jill Harris, Sandra Roden and local coaches - 62 participants.
5. Open Day at Blue Coat School, Walsall. Demonstration by Jill Harris/Helen Lower.
6. Table Tennis Demonstration - St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick (official opening 24th April by Sandra Roden/Jill Harris - Coaching rally to follow.

SOUTH EAST REGION - CLAIRE HUNTER

1. Activity day for people with disabilities - Tonbridge.
2. Chichester School - Club Link - Westergate Community College and WSIHE.
3. Northfleet School - Club Link - Gravesend/Northfleet.
4. Sittingbourne Champion Coaching - St. John Rowena Sports Centre (10 weeks).
5. Tunbridge Wells Champion Coaching - Byng Hall T.T. Club (10 weeks).
6. Brighton Champion Coaching - Patcham High School (10 weeks).
7. Battle Champion Coaching - Battle Area Sports Centre (10 weeks).
8. Taster session for children - Redhill Y.M.C.A.
9. Kent Coaches Workshop - Kent.
10. After school coaching - Woodhatch School, Redhill/Reigate (six weeks).
11. After school coaching - Oakwood School, Horley (six weeks).
12. After school coaching - Beacon School, Banstead.
13. Coach Education Course - Chichester.
14. Coach Award Course - Chichester.
15. Women's T.T. Workshop and Coaching - Newham School, Hove.

LONDON REGION - COLIN WILSON

1. Coach Education Course - London Borough Tower, Hamlets - Coach: Mike Kercher.
2. Coach Education Course - N.E. London College - Coach: Reg Rockall.
3. Playscheme session - Whitton Sports Centre (four days per week for two weeks) - Coach: Gerald Franks.
4. Integrated Coaching Day for the Deaf - Coaches: Paul Tarrant, Mike Paulin 100 participants.
5. Easter Coaching Course - London Borough of Barnett - Coach: Simon Rockall.
6. 77 entries at London Junior Ranking (South) - best ever in S.E. London.
7. 132 entries - easily a record - at London Junior Ranking (North).
8. Five new Foundation grants pending, total £7,000.
9. Two League Development Presentations made: Waltham Forest T.T.L., Wandsworth T.T.L.
10. West Middlesex League to start a Junior Division next season.
11. Wandsworth League staging the new Wandsworth Open.
12. Under 21 event added to Ilford League Closed.
13. Mossford T.T.C. Ltd buys premises £110,000. Hoping to obtain grant to convert to Specialist Facility.
14. New Publicity contacts made with Hammersmith and Ealing Gazette.
15. £150 sponsorship enables all 24 Surrey ESTTA team Schools to be offered a free session under Assistant Regional Staff Coach.
16. First London Region Newsletter produced and distributed free to 320 key contacts, from Directors of Leisure, through the ETTA Region, and to all registered Student Coaches.
17. London Borough Southwark replace their Adventure Playground Tables.
18. A new Club, Pollards Hill Youth, achieves Melody FM Radio coverage for information and advertising.
19. Barnet League plans a new Junior Division from October, with a format of 2v2 at a multi-table venue.

YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE - RAY BURCH SCHOOLS

- Moorend H.S., Huddersfield, Thursday 3.30pm to 4.30pm, four tables - Coach: Roser Facey.
- St. Davis School, Huddersfield, Thursday 4.30pm to 5.30pm, six tables - Coach: David Johnson.
- Colne Valley H.S., Huddersfield, Wednesday 3.30pm to 5.00pm, four tables - ARSC Coach: David Wood.
- Huddersfield New College, Wednesday 1.30pm to 3.15pm, four tables - ARSC Coach: David Wood.
- Holmfirth H.S., Huddersfield, GCSE Course, Thursday 9.15am to 10.30am, three tables - ARSC Coach: David Wood.
- Nine 'Roadshow' Presentations have been made in schools in Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Halifax.
- Next Coach Education Course 9th and 16th May at Leeds Met. University - Tutor: Derrick Marples.

REGIONAL STAFF COACHES COACHING ACTIVITIES

WEST MIDLANDS - JILL HARRIS

(Regional Staff Coach)

- Mondays - Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge - 6 - 7pm Beginners, 7 - 8pm Improvers.
- Tuesdays - Centre of Excellence - Birmingham.
- 5th March - Exhibition at Oswestry.
- 13/14th March - Coach Education Course at Shrewsbury.
- 20th March - Lillington T.T. Club, Leamington. four times one and a half hours sessions from beginners to advanced.
- 22nd March - Malvern League - meeting for England, Juniors v Chinese Juniors. Encourage promotion of coaching.
- 1st April - Coaching meeting, Shrewsbury.
- 6th - Training session with Chinese Schools Team, Birmingham Sports Centre.
- 10th April - West Midlands Regional Conference.
- 20th April - Coaching session - Crystal Leisure Centre.
- 23rd April - Coaching session - Crystal Leisure Centre.
- 26th April - Coaching session - Shrewsbury and Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE - DAVID WOOD

(Assistant Regional Staff Coach)

- 3rd, 10th, 17th, 23rd, 31st - Coaching at Huddersfield New College and Colne Valley High School.
- 15th March - Roadshow with demonstration and videos. Batley High School, 150 approximately.
- 22nd March - Roadshow with demonstration, video and player participation. Batley Grammar School, 50 approximately.
- 25th March - Coaching/GCSE, Holmfirth High School.
- 31st March - Roadshow, demonstration, video and player participation, St. David's Prep School, 120 approximately.
- 1st April - Coaching session - Holmfirth High School.
- 21st April - Coaching session - New College, Colne Valley.
- 22nd April - Coaching session - Holmfirth High School.
- 28th April - Coaching session - New College and Colne Valley.
- 29th April - Coaching session - Holmfirth High School.

NORTHERN REGION - CAROLE MOORE (Regional Staff Coach)

- Middlesbrough Advanced Training Centre:
- Venue: Ormesby T.T.C. Sessions held March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Sessions commence at 7.00pm - 9.30pm.
- Sedgefield Advanced Training Centre:
- Venue: Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Sessions held March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd. Sessions commence at 7.00pm - 9.30pm.
- St. Michael's School, Billingham:
- Sessions held: March 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 23rd, 24th, 30th. Tuesdays: 13-14 year olds, Wednesdays 11-12 year olds. Sessions commence at 3.30pm - 4.45pm.
- Ormesby T.T.C.:
- Sessions held: March 4th 7.00 - 8.45pm, March 20th 2.00pm - 5.30pm, March 28th 9.00am - 12.30pm.
- Additional sessions:
- Northfield School, Billingham: March 11th - 3.30 - 4.45pm
- Hallgarth School, Middlesbrough: March 31st - 3.30 - 4.45pm

COACHES QUALIFIED IN MARCH

- LEVEL 1** - Neil O'Hagan - Battersea, London; Gayle Child - Church Stretton, Shrops; Francisco Perez - Sidcup, Kent; Dean Merrick - Ludlow, Shrops; David Walton - Doncaster, Yorks; Ian Collier - Chiswick, London.
- LEVEL 2** - Sean Carman - Hereford; Stephen Watkins - Hereford; Enoch Acquah - Nottingham; William Ainsworth - Nottingham; David Brown - Lincoln; Keith Gamble - Northampton; Wendy Hancock - Northampton; Geoff Brook - Stowmarket; Peter Green - Bury St. Edmunds; Anthony Mooney - Stowmarket; Phillip Watts - Stowmarket; Michael Cripps - Pembury; Peter Coormiah - Lytham St. Annes; Tony Meredith - Blackpool; John Aldred - Liverpool; Heidi Steers - Tunbridge Wells; R. Stevens - Romford; Anthea Dixon - Ross-on-Wye; Rogan Child - Church Stretton; Mark Stubbs - Bishops Cleeve; H. Taylor - Hereford.

COACHES QUALIFIED IN APRIL/MAY

- LEVEL 1** - Robert Cooper - Chesterfield; Benjamin Robertson - Sheffield; Denis Bretton - Woolwich; Kenneth Burgess - London; Keeley Eddison - Greenwich; C. Oliver - London; David Quave - Woolwich; Jason Walker - London; Julie Mortimer - Leeds.
- LEVEL 2** - Mark Green - Nottingham; Cedonir Galic - London; Leslie Jackson - London; Cejay Olver - London; Dennis Van De Lisie - London; Steven Brunskill - Stockton; John Donnelly - Gosforth; Mr. V. Collins - Dartford; Gerald Edmonds - Epping; Michael Tyrrell - Apperley; Kenneth Lewington - Farnborough; William Rigby - Banbury; Peter Crump - Ludlow; Brian Reid - Shrewsbury; Frank Satterthwaite - Walsall; Ted Hurten - Hull; Michelle Kennedy - Leeds; John Lister - Nr. Keighley; Timothy Lumb - Sheffield; Mr. B. Mullins - Nr. Thusk.

Douglas retains his title

DESMOND DOUGLAS the 37 year old former English champion retained his title as the winner of the MARIE CURIE Blackpool 2 Star Open Table Tennis Championships, held at the Norcalypia Centre, Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool on Saturday and Sunday 24th/25th April.

The event held on twenty courts boasted an increase number of entries on the previous year and including many of Englands top ranked players, despite clashing with the women's national league weekend, and missing the guest appearance of the German and Japanese international junior teams that were in attendance last year. The League's appreciation for this event must go to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Blackpool Borough Council, Royal Mail and Beryls Hair Design, whose backing and sponsorship contributed greatly to the success of the tournament.

Douglas from Warwickshire, currently ranked England No.3, was on top form throughout the tournament and made short work of England No.4 Matthew Syed in the final. Syed's defensive play was no match for Douglas who consistently out paced the defender from Berkshire with fast attacking top spin drives and hits to both wings, winning a very comfortable 21-5,



Desmond Douglas and Andrea Holt

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21-9. In the semi final Douglas beat Nicky Mason (Sy) the number three seed, 21-18, 21-16, belying in fact that in only three years he becomes a Veteran.

Steven Ward the Welsh international played a superb match, beating Yorkshire's Chris Oldfield 12-21, 21-18, 21-16 in the quarter finals, but failed to produce the goods in the semi's, losing to Matthew Syed 21-9, 21-11. Another notable win was that of Derbyshire's Bradley Billington over the Norwegian No.7 Anders Houden, Billington's superb service game proving to taxing for the Norwegian, winning 21-12, 18-21, 21-12.

The Women's Singles was dominated by England No.2 and last year's runner up, Andrea Holt (La) who beat Susan Collier (Bk) in the final 21-12, 21-8.

Yorkshire's Andrew Nicholls defeated Andrew Wilkinson from Northumberland 21-17, 14-21, 21-17 in the final of the Junior Boys Singles and Blackpool's Tamar Connolly just failed to take Junior Girls title losing to Claire Newns (Cheshire) 21-17, 15-21, 21-19, after an outstanding run throughout both the junior girls and womens singles rounds.

The surprise win in the veterans singles semi finals of Derek Schofield (Ch) over Nigel Eckersley (La) was almost premature, with some confusion over the last point of the match. However, Schofield managed to win the final point in a crowd stopping match 21-19, 18-21, 24-22. Last year's defending champion John Hilton (La), overpowered Schofield in the final 21-16, 21-15.

In the final of the men's doubles, the partnership of Desmond Douglas and Nicky Mason proved to strong

for Bradley Billington (Dy) and Chris Oldfield (Y) who had nearly bowed out to Robert Yong (Ng) and Andrew Eden (La) in the previous round. Douglas and Mason winning a competent 21-11, 21-7.

The womens doubles final proved a much closer affair with Susan Collier (Bk) and Jackie Thomas (Bk) battling against Tamar Connolly (La) and Caroline Watt (Cu) to win 17-21, 21-16, 21-16, in a match that could easily have produced a reversed score line.

Andrea Holt (La) and Nicky Mason (Sy) proved to strong for Andrew Eden (La) and Debbie Petska (Dy) in the mixed doubles winning comfortably in two straight games 21-15, 21-16.

In the mixed class 3 singles, which exclude the top 125 players in the country, Andrew Wilkinson (Nd) overcame Eddie Roofoe (Wi) 21-19, 15-21, 21-12. Roofoe whose previous match had stopped the superb run of Mark Gibson (La) seemed destined to win but crumbled in the final match against the talented Andrew Wilkinson.

The class 2 mens singles, which excludes the top 50 players in the country was won by Ian (Benny) Robertson (Nd), who comfortably ran out Byron Davies (WAL) 21-18, 21-14. Susan Collier (Bk) overpowered Caroline Watt (Cu) 21-12, 21-12 in the final of the class 2 womens singles.

The prizes were presented to the winners by Andy Williamson (Marie Curie), Veronica Moore (Royal Mail), and Paul Connolly (League Chairman).

An excellent weekend of table tennis with many memorable matches, many thanks to Marie Curie Cancer Care who's backing allowed us to bring this tournament to Blackpool for a second year, and to all our other sponsors who made this a tournament which was enjoyed by spectators and players alike.

Evgeni Brainin joins NFD Grove

THE new power in British table tennis is 24 years old Evgeni Brainin. He has been "signed" by NFD Grove and will arrive in England in mid-August. He is a natural attacker and comes from St. Petersburg. In Gothenburg at the World Championships he was the Russian No.3, in the absence of Andrei Mazunov, so his real Russian ranking is No.4.

Evgani (pronounced Evjayhee) will join the Grove team in the British League and boost their strength in the European Club Cup of Champions, playing alongside Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Chris Oldfield, Nicky Mason and Michael O'Driscoll.

These six are expected to dominate the English domestic tournament scene and with Elena Timina also at Grove, clean sweeps by Timina and Brainin cannot be ruled out.

Evgani speaks excellent English, but of course, intends to improve still further living in England. He is studying at the Institute of Physical Culture in St. Petersburg and will continue some of his studies in England.

He said at a press conference in Gothenburg - "I have never been to England before, but in my studies I have read a lot about your country and am looking forward immensely to coming to England."

In the team event at Gothenburg Brainin's victims included the Czech Republic No.3 Roland Krmaschek and the French No.4 Nicolas Chatelain.

However Brainin's progress in the mens singles at Gothenburg was halted in the first round by Sweden's Thomas von Scheele, where after a titanic battle the Swede was victorious 21-17, 20-22, 21-19, 19-21, 21-19.

NFD Grove's Ian Marshall said "Delighted to see that Evgeni Brainin has jumped 50 places in the world ranking list from 166 to 116th, following his performances at the World Championships in Gothenburg, I am also very pleased with the performances of our other players in Sweden. Alan Cooke, Lisa Lomas and Eleana Timina, who all played exceptionally well. The addition of Brainin to Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke means we have three world class players to make a real challenge in Europe next season."

Melbourne Veterans

ENTRY forms will shortly be in circulation in Europe for the trip of a lifetime for some - taking place at Melbourne from April 22-29 1994.

The Australian organisers, among them well-known "Pom" Mike Johns, are extremely keen to ensure that the tournament entry is not swamped by Japanese, Koreans and Chinese players.

To make certain that this does not happen, European players are



Russia's Evgeni Brainin

especially requested to return their entry forms as quickly as possible after they receive them.

As for Dublin, John Gloo will be co-ordinating arrangements for British players.

Dublin attracted 1,200 players. Melbourne may take as many as 2,000, before closing down. With all flights there are possibilities of breaking the journey for a couple of nights at such exotic places as Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok where at certain nightspots, other exciting uses are found for table tennis balls!

Melbourne has a perfect venue, the grand and historic Exhibition Buildings on the northern fringe of the Central Business District, built for the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition.

Contact John Gloo for entry forms, information etc. Telephone 071-287 6318.

Summer Camps

ENGLAND International Skylet Andrew is once again holding a Sky's Elite Training Camp which always has a nice mixture of hard training, TV Celebrities and lots of fun. There is also a Mega-Tournament at the end of the two weeks coaching where loads of interesting prizes will be given out including a brand new Stiga rollaway table.

The Camps will be at the Wanstead Leisure Centre, London E11, July 26th-30th and August 2nd-6th with accommodation at The Queen Mary College Halls of Residence, London E18.

For further information contact Sky's Elite on 081-530 5497.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Facilities Officer

In conjunction with the Sports Council, the ETTA are likely to appoint a Facilities Officer (Hastings based), to promote and co-ordinate the Association's table tennis facility programme.

The postholder is likely to have a background in project management, architectural/structural/surveying disciplines. Some knowledge and understanding of table tennis would be an obvious advantage.

Whilst at this stage, no further details of start date, salary etc are known or confirmed interested applicants are invited to send full C.V. to Elaine Shaw, English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 722525 Fax: (0424) 422103.

When the post has been confirmed relevant details will be advertised.

Special

THE UK Summer Special Olympic Games for People with Learning Disabilities will be held in Sheffield from 20th to 26th August 1993.

Some 30 competitors will compete in the table tennis events which include skill contests and tournaments for singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

The competition venue will be the Graves Tennis & Leisure Centre, Norton, Sheffield.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

FUTURE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The English Table Tennis Association, in conjunction with Sports Council Regions, anticipate recruiting the following full time Development Officers before the end of the year.



**EASTERN REGION
NORTHERN REGION**



The successful candidates are likely to possess the following:

- Proven organising/administrative ability (preferably in sport)
- Effective communication and negotiating skills
- High level of self motivation and ability to motivate others
- Experience of sports development
- Understanding of table tennis
- Full driving licence

When appointment details have been confirmed, individual posts will be advertised. In the meantime, the ETTA will be pleased to hold on file, names and addresses of interested applicants who will then, in due course, be sent a job description and application form. All appointments will be office based (locations not yet known) and are equal opportunities posts, funded by the Sports Council Regions and ETTA.

State region(s) interested in and send to:

Diccon Gray (National Development Manager)
English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.
Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103

Denigrating

IN the April issue of the Table Tennis News, the Gloucester County report contained an item denigrating the approach of the Gloucester City Executive committee towards the Inter Town Tournament between Cirencester, Cheltenham, Stroud and Gloucester, much to the annoyance of this committee. The fact that we decided not to enter a team this year was due to a conflict of fixtures of our Ladies, Junior and Cadet teams on the same date. This fact, which was known but not reported by Alf Peppard, was also agreed to by him as a member of this committee.

It has always been the policy of this Association to field representative teams commensurate with the level at which we are competing, part teams are not part of that policy.

We feel that this report was lacking in full content and accuracy and wish it to be known both locally and nationally that we are as concerned as anyone about maintaining standards of competitiveness, despite the comments of Alf Peppard on this occasion.

A. H. Haines, Chairman
S. J. Salisbury, Secretary
Gloucester TTA

Suggestion

I read in April's Table Tennis News that Alan Ransome was advocating encouraging players back to the tournament scene by giving them a better days table tennis. The recent experience of my daughter and others at the Essex 3 Star may therefore be of interest.

Originally drawn in a group of three, she actually played in a group of two, lost her single match, and faced a three hour wait until her next game; in the mixed singles

We were told that his was on account of the failure of a large number of players to turn up. Whilst I accept that this was not the fault of the organisers (what could be done to encourage players to turn up is a separate issue, though one to which some attention could usefully be paid) I did not find their response to the situation very constructive. I suggested that instead of having a number of two person groups; which I was told was done to avoid byes in the next round, they could have had a smaller number of four person groups, with two from each of these taking their places in the next round. This would have been equally effective in avoiding next round byes, whilst offering better value to those who had bothered to turn up, and encouraging these to enter future tournaments i.e. the reverse of the effect engendered by the policy actually followed.

However the response to my suggestion was that this would have been unfair to those playing in the original three person groups, who would have complained! In other words they were not prepared to respond constructively to those with legitimate cause for complaint, in case other people, with no cause for

complaint since they had already got what they had reason to expect - a group of more than two people; complained. Quite apart from the dubious logic of the argument offered, I believe that far from complaining the other players would have applauded this solution, particularly since they could hope to benefit from similar action themselves in future tournaments. However when I attempted to put forward this point of view I was met with the response that if I wasn't happy I should write to Table Tennis News.

Since I have taken the trouble to follow up this advice in the hope that it will encourage imaginative solutions to one of the problems currently facing table tennis, may I add another suggestion. That tournaments faced with lower than expected entries, such as Essex, could encourage those who enter to play in more events by, for example, sending a list of singles players who had not entered the doubles to all other such singles players with the advice that late entries would be welcomed from anyone wishing to pair up as the doubles is to be played on the same day as the singles.

Carole Watton
Stoke Poges, Slough

Inaugural meeting

AT the 1983 European Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled in West Germany, Great Britain was the only country represented by four teams, each one from a different disability group. The Amputees, the Cerebral Palsy, the Paraplegics and the Les Autres. Four different tracksuits behind the Union Jack. Four different teams suspicious and unsupportive of each other. Four different teams from strong, well meaning associations.

I thought that this was a ridiculous situation, all other countries had combined disability teams and we needed to be the same. The big question was, how could we change?

The opportunity for change came when the Minister for Sport published Building on Ability, with recommendations from a review into sport for the disabled. He suggested that Sports Specific groups should be formed under the guidance of the National Governing Bodies for Sport. At a Paralympic training weekend I was asked by the players to form a steering committee to look into the possibility of launching a sports specific group for table tennis.

I am now very pleased to say, that three years later, we have written our constitution and plan to hold the Inaugural General Meeting of the BTTAD (British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities), later this year. We see our role as being the voices and coordinating body for table tennis players with disabilities.

Bob Churchill
Chairman BTTAD
Steering Committee

Reduced fees

ACCORDING to Alan Ransome "Fee reduction could decimate ETTA." He mentions a possible cost of £20 to £50,000pa which he writes is "Between 5% and 10% of our annual turnover." He then mentions Sports Council support likely to be "£2 million" over the next four years.

Lucky ETTA with its likely £2 million. Unlucky local leagues who are adding their hard earned hundreds to these swollen figures! Most local leagues and their clubs are struggling to make ends meet and that act is taking up most of their time. Nothing is more urgent than to begin a flow back to the grass roots. The best way this can be achieved is by way of reduction of affiliation fees and the VAT payable on such money.

Alan Ransome tells us that the small reductions proposed will "decimate" the ETTA with its likely £2 million of Sports Council aid!

In addition to this, Alan's administration 'inherited' from their predecessors, a bank account of well over £400,000. The interest earned on this is sufficient to cover the cost of the proposed reductions, certainly in the first year. The 'Preen administration' returned to member leagues approximately £70,000 by way of development grants. That sum is equivalent to two years' reductions in affiliation fees!

There is a quite desperate need for funds to go to leagues away from the central body, the ETTA, which is awash with money at this time. This is so both in respect of its bank account and in terms of public money which seems available in larger amounts than ever despite this country's national debt and other problems. Far from 'decimating' the ETTA, our proposals will make it stronger. They will slow down disaffiliations, strengthen the leagues and bring about real 'development' where it will do most good - at the grass roots.

The threat expressed that the Sports Council "could immediately withdraw their support" I see as far fetched. Surely the continued starvation of our grass roots at the expense of increasing bureaucracy (Committee costs up by £10,000) and staff enlargement at the centre cannot be Sports Council policy. It is my hope therefore that all votes will be cast for one of the fee-reducing proposals. Those who cannot come to the AGM in June should appoint a

proxy who will vote as they wish. Far from 'decimating' the ETTA, the proposals will save it.
John Preen, Chairman ETTA 1986-1991

Funny rubbers

NOW that the use of "fast" glues has been banned, is it not time for the same fate to befall the anti-loop rubber?

While I do not condone the use of the glue, I think players were not using it to create a health hazard, but to give themselves an advantage. Likewise, the "funny" rubber users. These players are spoiling the game for spectators and for their opponents, gaining I feel, an unfair advantage.

I am not a player, merely a spectator and supporter, but I know of several players who are thinking of giving up the sport because of this. This would be a great pity at a time when we are trying to build up the sport.

Surely, if one unfair advantage is prevented, then all others should also be prevented. Then each player would have to rely purely on his or her own skill.

Elizabeth Lowe, Surrey

Collection

IF space permits, could I please mention that I have a collection of Table Tennis News magazines from 1971-1991 for disposal and would accept any reasonable offer - or exchange for four pre-war football programmes, which would take up much less room!

One small point. I did like the Yorkshire report in the February edition which mentioned two of their Division Three teams getting their matches criss crossed at the same venue! It made such a welcome change to read something of this nature, rather than reports on tournaments, ranking lists etc. Any chance of encouraging readers to send in their memories of unexpected or unusual experiences?

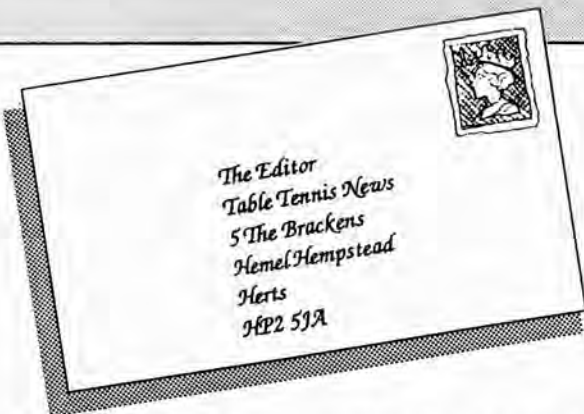
Bruce McKenzie

PLEASE NOTE

We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Mailbox.

Your letters that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome, as are replies.

Only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.



PROVISIONAL CALENDAR - SEASON 1993/94

SEPTEMBER 1993

- 4-5 Kirklees Jnr 2*
- 11-12 Prelim Regional Trials
Peniel (Brentwood) 5*
- 25-26 Grove Jnr 2*
Veterans British Lge (1)

OCTOBER 1993

- 2-3 E. Yorks 2* Select
VETTS Northern
- 9-10 Grove Jnr 2*
Sussex 2*
Sedgefield 1*
- 16-17 Veterans Prem Weekend
- 23-24 South of England Jnr 2*
Yorks/Humberside 3*
- 30 Grove Jnr 1*
- 31 Bristol Jnr 1*

NOVEMBER 1993

- 6-7 Final Reg Trials
Midland 2*
- 13-14 Cleveland Jnr 2* Select
VETTS Western
- 20 Grove Cadet 1*
- 21 Hillcrest (Hastings) Jnr 2*
- 27-28 Essex Jnr 2* Select
Grove 2*

DECEMBER 1993

- 4-5 VETTS Eastern
National Jnr Championships
- 11-12 Tameside Jnr 2*
Middlesex 3*
Woodfield (Birmingham) 1*
- 18-19 National Jnr Trial
- 19 Grove Under 12 1*
- 29-30 National Jnr Masters

JANUARY 1994

- 2-3 Cleveland 5*
- 8-9 ESTTA Area Team Finals
- 9 Grove 2*
- 15-16 Veterans Prem Weekend
- 22-23 Grove 2*
Womens British Lge (1)
- 29-30 Cotswold Jnr 2* Select
VETTS Midland
- 29 Pontefract 1*

FEBRUARY 1994

- 5-6 Kent Jnr 2*
- 5 Exeter Jnr 1*
- 6 Grove Jnr 1*
- 12 Euro 94 Qualification
- 13 ESTTA Reg Team Finals
- 19-20 Bristol 2*
Sedgefield Jnr 1*
Veterans British Lge (2)
- 19 Senior Prem Weekend
Yorkshire Graded 2*
- 26-27 Grove Jnr 2*
Sussex Jnr 1*
Junior Prem Weekend

MARCH 1994

- 5-6 Senior National Championships
- 12-13 Derby Jnr 2* Select
VETTS Southern
- 19 ESTTA National Team Finals
- 19-20 South of England 3*
- 20 Grove Jnr 1*
- 25- European Championships

APRIL 1994

- 4th European Championships
- 9-10 Yorkshire Jnr 2* Select
Essex 3*
- 16-17 Grove Jnr 2*
- 23-24 Jnr British Lge (1)
- 30 Hollington (Hastings) Jnr 1*

MAY 1994

- 1 Hollington (Hastings) 1*
- 1-2 National Under 15/18/21
- 7 ESTTA National Individual
- 7-8 Womens British Lge (2)
- 8 Grove 2*
- 14-15 Jnr British Lge (2)
- 21 Grove Jnr 1*
- 21-22 Blackpool 3*
VETTS National
- 28-29-
- 30 English Junior Open

JUNE 1994

- 4-5 National Under 10/11/12
- 12 National Team Finals
- 18-19 Grove Jnr 2*



25th March - 4th April 1994

FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE DATES



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 22 August 1993 | 5 September |
| 19 September | 3 October |
| 17 October | 31 October |
| 21 November | 19 December |
| 16 January 1994 | 30 January |
| 13 February | 27 February |
| 13 March | 17 April |

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 18 September 1993
- 16 October
- 30 October
- 20 November
- 15 January 1994
- 5 February (Str/Vets)
- 12 February (Jnr only)
- 26 February

Please note - This calendar of events has not yet been approved by National Council, it is therefore NOT FINAL and it is possible that dates and/or events may change - Please check first.