



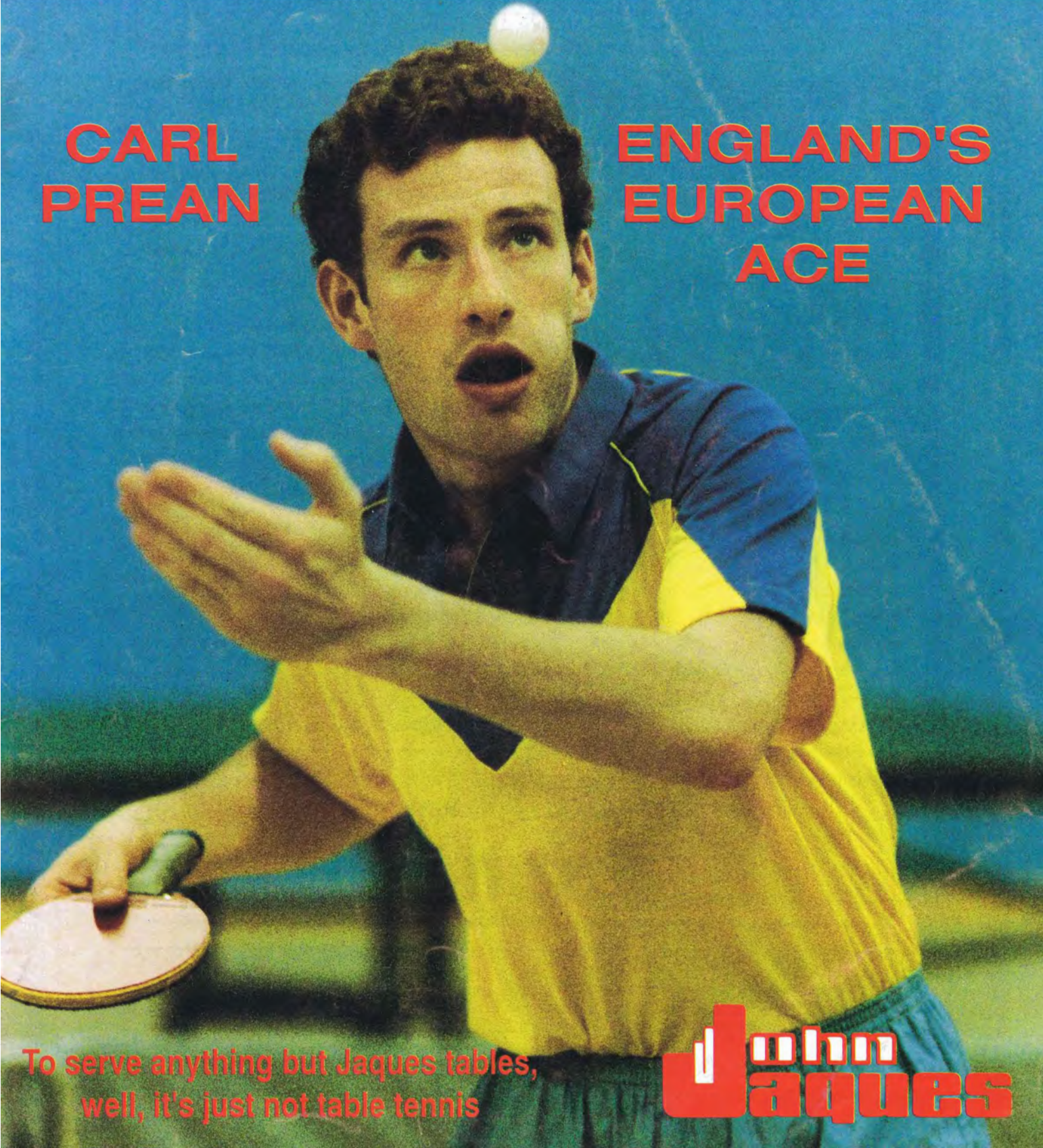
Table Tennis News

No. 210

November 1992 £1.40

**CARL
PREAN**

**ENGLAND'S
EUROPEAN
ACE**



To serve anything but Jaques tables,
well, it's just not table tennis

**John
Jaques**



TABLE TENNIS NEWS
November 1992
Issue 210
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*Front cover: Carl Prean,
England's European ace.
(Picture by John F.A. Wood)*

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Matt turns the tables

MATTHEW SYED failed his mock examinations at Balliol College, Oxford, in philosophy, politics and economics. After which followed tutorial warnings about the college's reputation.

Syed needed a negotiating position in order to obtain crucial time off for England duty, so he consequently put in a week's hard study, in order to pass the real paper.

To Syed's and his tutors' intense surprise he managed a distinction (one of only four to achieve it).

This means that having turned the tables, Syed now has the leeway to play the crucial Joola European League Super Division matches with the college's blessing.



Matthew Syed, Team Peniel's No.1 player

players glueing up in table tennis arenas. The practice of using vulcanising glue could be banned at Gothenburg next May.

The main reason is that the practice is a health hazard, it could also encourage "glue-sniffing" and in general table tennis terms it is not popular. Rubbers will apparently be attached to blades with "normal glue", but there could be a technical problem of some dimensions for umpires and referees trying to detect a recently applied rubber using the banned substances.

Good news

OLIVETTI (UK) Limited have just agreed to sponsor the Womens British League team for £500 which firmly

establishes the team name Olivetti-Bribar.

In response to a request from Olivetti Sandra Rider is busy arranging a challenge match between the Leeds

Permanent Building Society and Olivetti (UK) Ltd. This will be a short fun challenge match between management, and then the Olivetti-Bribar team will be doing a basic demonstration.



Sandra Rider

New 5 Star

A NEW 5 Star Tournament is a possibility for March 1994. The venue might be the Westcroft Leisure Centre, Carshalton and the hope is that it will attract players from abroad and home, players warming up for Birmingham 1994.

The plan might be to run an international team match before the individual events or even a European League match on the Friday thus enabling players to become accustomed to English playing conditions prior to Birmingham.

Bicycle glue out?

IT seems very probable that this is the last season with

APOLOGY

'TABLE TENNIS NEWS' wishes to make it clear that in so far as the publication of those views may suggest otherwise the English Table Tennis Association dissociates itself from any views expressed by Alan Shepherd in Essex's County Notes in the October issue and apologise to Peniel Academy for publishing any material in that article which is untrue.

John F.A. Wood
Editor

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Double success for Grove

CONGRATULATIONS to NFD Grove, the English Champions, on being the only club to have both their men's and women's teams in the quarter finals of the Europe Club Cups. The men's team travelled to Hungary and defeated Zold Mezo Se Kiskunfelygaza by four sets to one. The man of the match was Michael O'Driscoll who beat one of Hungary's European ranked players, Sandor Varga, in a set which the Hungarians regarded as their banker. Desmond Douglas clinched the victory for Grove beating Chinese defender, Chen Cin Pin.

Grove ladies, strengthened by the signing of the Russian star, Elena Timina, defeated SV Swflchal of Vienna by four sets to zero at home. The key victory in this match was Timina's win over Renata Kassalova, the Czech international. Lisa Lomas, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt all played their part in the victory.

Both teams now face stiff opposition in their bid to reach the semi-finals. Grove men will travel to play the German Champions, Borussia Dusseldorf whose line up is likely to include Jorg Roskopf, Stefan Fetzner and Toban Wossik, whilst the girls will meet Hoi (Noordkop) of the Netherlands whose team includes the European Champion, Bettine Vriesekoop.

England not so lucky

The English teams in the European League Super Divisions have not fared so well so far and are now fighting to avoid relegation. The men were unfortunate to lose 4-3 to Belgium at Sedgefield in a match that could easily have gone either way, whilst the women suffered their second defeat of the season to Germany by four sets to two at Scarborough. The men now play Hungary away and the women face France in Gateshead on 10th November in vital matches.

The French match is supported by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and Manchester 2000.

Rays of sunshine

It was very encouraging, however, to visit both Sedgefield and Scarborough for in both towns table tennis is thriving. In Sedgefield, under the guidance of Keith Wilson, the Sedgefield club has increased from one to three British league teams, has regular mass coaching, is about to open an ATC and are hoping to form a new local league in the near future.

In Scarborough, largely due to the efforts of John Caton, the league has mushroomed from two to six divisions,



Alan Ransome

and there is a very successful coaching scheme running as well.

In both cases the match sponsors, Sedgefield and Scarborough Council, have worked in partnership with the local club and league to develop table tennis. The results are evident for all to see.

French series

In January the French national team, including the Olympic Silver medallist, Jean Philippe Gatien, will visit England for a two-match test series. One of the matches, part sponsored by Manchester 2000, the British bid to stage the Olympic Games in the year 2000, will be played on Friday, 8th January in front of BBC TV cameras and the match will be televised in Grandstand on Saturday, 9th January as well as on the BBC Friday Sport. The venues for these two matches will be announced shortly.

Reversing the decline

Further to my article in Table Tennis News last month, National Council gave its support to my proposals to address the declining membership. For membership to grow again, new initiatives are required at local level throughout the country and these must be carried out in conjunction with the local leagues and clubs. To initiate this activity, I am writing to every league to ask them to call a special meeting of their Management Committee dedicated to discussing an increase in membership of players and teams. Representatives of the ETTA will be available to attend all meetings with a series of proposals to stimulate local interest and increased play.

I was delighted that the National

Councillors themselves are prepared to be part of the ETTA representation, together with Regional Committee Chairmen, Regional Development Officers and other national officials at these meetings.

It was also suggested by National Councillors that the system of counting membership does not do justice to the number of players participating in the sport, as those who do not regularly play in a local league but do play in tournaments, County Championships, British League, etc. would not be counted in affiliation figures. It was agreed to investigate a method of increasing direct membership of the Association.

Foundation for Sport & the Arts

Again as mentioned in my last article, the lack of facilities is one of the biggest problems facing English table tennis at the present time and with this in mind, the Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, Cyril Villiers of the Sports Council, and myself, visited the Secretary of the Foundation for Sport & the Arts, Gratton Endicott, in his Liverpool office to discuss ways of increasing funding for table tennis facilities. The meeting itself was very fruitful and as a result we are submitting an application to the Foundation for a substantial amount of funding to be set aside for major table tennis projects as recommended by the ETTA. If approved, this fund would enable specialist table tennis facilities to obtain substantial grants from the Foundation on the strength of an ETTA recommendation.

In the last year, table tennis centres have opened in Grantham and Milton Keynes. If more like these were built, this in itself would be a great boost for the sport.

Other discussions with Mr. Endicott revolved around the Foundation's support for the European Championships which will play a major part in bringing the event to this country in April 1994, as well as updated guidelines from the Foundation for consideration of grants.

New guidelines

The Foundation has increased the limit up to £1,500 that can be approved by its Chairman's action, and at the same time open the door to small clubs with no claim to high level of competence to obtain grants. When considering grants, some of the criteria that the Foundation takes into account are the benefits to the community, the involvement of young children, the assistance for the handicapped, deprived and

disadvantaged, and the evidence of self help from the applicants. Projects for new and updated facilities can receive strong support. Applications involving running costs, core funding or payment of wages will only receive a low priority. Endorsements from governing bodies carry significant influence in the decision process and work carried out by the Association's Development Department has been appreciated by the Foundation.

Veteran's British League

Following the success pioneered by the Women's British League, the Association in co-operation with the VETTS Society, has embarked on a British* League for Veterans and entries for this new competition are over subscribed. The competition will commence in January with a total of 32 teams, four divisions of men's teams with six teams per division and one division of eight teams for women.

Congratulations to Mike Lewis, Brian Halliday and Alan Duke who have brought this league into being. Table tennis is a great sport for everyone and I hope you are having an enjoyable season so far.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION INSURANCE COVER

Following a number of requests for clarification, the situation in respect of insurance cover, is briefly as follows:

CIVIL LIABILITY

The Association and its employees are covered, up to a limit of £2,000,000, both in this country and overseas whilst dealing with the Association's business or activities.

EMPLOYERS LIABILITY

The Association has unlimited cover in respect of legal liability for damages in respect of injury etc to employees arising out of and in the course of employment in the business. The cover extends to employees who might be temporarily outside this country.

The Association includes all members, officers, voluntary helpers and associated or affiliated organisations. In both situations, employees include those who are self-employed.

Activities range, for example, from office and administrative work in Hastings, through official coaching work in the Regions to the organisation and staging of the English Open Championships. International team duty, both at home and abroad, is also included.

Please note that travel insurance is specifically excluded and separate temporary cover should be arranged as appropriate.

Full details of all of the above, including advice on travel insurance, are available from the Hastings office.

The foregoing refers only to activities on behalf of the Association and employment with the Association. Additional and separate cover is advisable for Counties, Leagues and Clubs (see article in Table Tennis News - October 1992) and for anyone providing a table tennis service which is not specifically related to or controlled by the Association.

In the case of coaches, for example, Public Liability Insurance (similar to the Civil Liability referred to above), providing cover up to £1,000,000, is available as part of the Corporate Gold membership package offered by the British Institute of Sports Coaches. Further details are available from: The British Institute of Sports Coaches, 2 College Close, Beckett Park, Leeds LS6 3QH, Tel: 0532 7533365.

Those who are self-employed would also be well advised to obtain personal accident and sickness insurance.

Further information may be obtained from the local insurance brokers or from the Association's broker: Perkins Slade Ltd., Elizabeth House, 22 Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1LS, Tel: 021-625 8080. Stuart Sneyd

Marling shines for Hull Sandhill

NANCY EVANS CUP

by Rea Balmford

SALLY MARLING lead the way as Hull Sandhill majestically sailed through round 1 of the Nancy Evans Cup, beating Profsoiouzy from Moscow 4-1.

Hull Sandhill, the table tennis club sponsored by enthusiast Kevin Johnson, proprietor of the Sandhill Garden Centre at Hedon near Hull, and who finished runners-up in the Premier Division, made it a successful venture into European table tennis.

And what a start the English side made in front of a small, but enthusiastic crowd, at the East Mount Recreation Centre.

The match was expected to be tight and although Hull's home grown star Sally Marling, the England No. 1 junior, gave her side just the boost they were looking for when she took out 17 year old Moscow champion Ekaterina Edel in the opening game, the visitors soon restored the balance.

Julia Karaeva, a former World Student champion, edged out Maria Thornley after the Lancashire girl had



Sally Marling

likely to prove vital but, although they dropped an advantage second game, the Marling and Thornley pairing rarely looked in trouble and at 3-1 the home club were in the driving seat.

Marling lined up opposite Karaeva in the battle of the Nos. 1 and despite coming back from 13-17 to 17-18 in the second, the Russian was rarely in the game, which went the way of Sandhill.

The winners will now travel to either Poland or France for their second round match and, should the French team U.S. Kremlin Bicetre win their opening encounter, there could be an early reunion for the English girls with Fiona Elliot who, as Mue Momessin, has joined the Paris club.

battled back in the decider from 10-16 to 18 all before going down at 21-23.

Earlier both girls had relied on short, viciously spun serves to gain control of the rally, but when Karaeva did get in, she hit very powerfully. Equally tight was the confrontation between Joanna Roberts and Marina Mouravjova, with the latter shedding the first at 23-21 before Joanna, hitting well across the angles, came through the next two to put Sandhill into a 2-1 lead.

At this stage the doubles looked

SCOREBOARD

Hull Sandhill 4

Profsoiouzy (Moscow) 1

Sally Marling bt Ekaterina Edel 10, 18;

Maria Thornley lost to Julia Karaeva 11, -14, -22;

Joanna Roberts bt Marina Mouravjova -21, 15, 16;

Marling/Thornley bt Karaeva/Edel 10, -21, 18

Sally Marling bt Karaeva Edel 13, 17.

Second successive defeat

ENGLAND went down to a second successive defeat in the Super Division of the Womens European League when Germany ran out 4-2 winners in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the Spa Grand Hall in Scarborough.

Lisa Lomas gave England just the start they wanted when she got the better of Nicole Struse in the opening encounter, taking the first comfortably against an opponent who did not relish the English girl's short defensive ball, and then stepping up her game after Struse, who had paid dearly for some early errors, had battled back to 16-17 in the second.

But the visitors got on top when the vastly experienced Olga Nemes, 85 international appearances to her credit, knew too much for 17 year old debut girl Katie Goodall, and Christiane Praedel, the German national champion, overcame her England counterpart Alison Gordon, to put the home side up against it.

Alison's experienced showed through as she won the first 18 after building an 18-12 lead, but Praedel held her nerve to shade the second and then, with confidence boosted and hitting crisply, took the third.

The doubles followed, and it was now the turn of England to fight back and Lisa and Andrea Holt, after losing the opener 20-22, kept things tight, forced the Germans into errors and levelled the match score with a battling display which must have lifted England's hopes as the two No.s 1 came to the table.

A very patient Nemes carried the first, a more aggressive Lisa, who won some excellent points with a backhand kill, levelled as she took the second at 7, but then Nemes, making full use of her acutely angled backhand, taken very early off the table, showed just why she



Lisa Lomas



Andrea Holt

has twice taken Europe's Top 12 Championship as she restored her team's lead.

The Luton girl must have wondered what had hit her as Nemes stepped up a gear, but there was no mistaking the effect on the German team as Praedel, full of confidence, swept her side to victory as she took out Katie in straight sets, but credit to the Leeds girl, who stayed with her all the way in the second game before Praedel claimed the final points.

SCOREBOARD

Lisa Lomas bt Nicole Struse 12, 19
 Katie Goodall lost to Olga Nemes -10, -17
 Alison Gordon lost to Christiane Praedel 18, -17, -14
 Lomas/Andrea Holt bt Nemes/Struse -20, 13, 12
 Lomas lost to Nemes -14, 7, -13
 Goodall lost to Praedel -10, -17

ANDREA HOLT

Like other members of the England squads Andrea Holt is now studying at college in addition to pursuing her career as a table tennis professional. She was selected for this match but declined on the grounds that she was unable to attend the last training camp due to her studies and was therefore unprepared to face Germany.

Subsequently, she changed her mind, but not before Jill Parker had informed Kate Goodall that she was to make her senior debut for England and would replace Andrea in the singles.

The Lancashire lass was then told that as another player had replaced her she could play only in the doubles.

Whether these problems affected the result of the match is just a matter of conjecture. Olga Nemes and Christiane Praedel both played well enough to ensure a German victory.

Prean halts mighty Saive - but Belgium win

NO-ONE could ask more than for Carl Prean to beat Jean-Michel Saive. The Belgian ace, promoted from No.8 in the world to No. 6 hours before the match, went under to a Prean onslaught as England crafted a skilful fight-back in the Joola European League match at Newton Aycliffe, but regrettably, it was not enough, Belgium triumphed 4-3 after a match lasting the best part of five hours.

This leaves Belgium to contest the semi-finals and England battling amongst the (slightly) weaker teams to avoid the threat of relegation.

**by John Woodford
at
Newton Aycliffe**

Disaster hit England in the first twenty-five minutes of a struggle that lasted almost five hours. In a superb display by Thierry Cabrera the tempestuous Belgian No.2 now aged 28 defeated Prean 19, 12. The Steinhagen player led 18-14 in the first game, but Cabrera incredibly took the next seven points and the next game.

England were, it seemed, destined for a heavy defeat as Chen Xinhua struggled manfully to hold the Jean-Michel top-spin but went down -19, -18.

There was a real welcome for Alan Cooke, returning to a single spot for England after a spell as a doubles player. The Derbyshire and Malmo top-spinner piled on the pressure to defeat Philip Saive 9, -16, 14.

Belgium hit back, inflicting further damage with a doubles success 15, 23 against Cooke and Prean. At that point it appeared that England were sliding to a 4-1 defeat, especially when Prean lost the first 12 to Jean-Michel.

In a great revival, Prean lifted his game to confidently take the second game 15 and the third 19 - certainly one of his best wins of this campaign, especially as Saive is clearly the



Carl Prean



Chen Xinhua



Alan Cooke

most improved young player in Europe, having reached four major finals in the last 18 months.

Chen Xinhua made the match score 3-3 with an easy win over Philip Saive who at one point kicked the court surround and received a yellow card from the French umpire.

The incident seemed more important than it really was as Saive's choice was unknowingly the court door which flew open!

So the stage was set for Alan Cooke to win what would have been a famous victory - all he had to do was to beat the Belgian "fireball" Thierry Cabrera. Cooke still played well most of the way, he just lost the first -19 and won the second 7.

All the while, Cabrera was getting himself more and more worked up, almost shouting when he lost points and getting involved with a small section of the crowd. Cabrera is rated No. 49 on the latest world ranking list.

Unfortunately, it seemed to some observers that Cabrera's antics managed to upset Cooke and he could only manage 9 points in the final game.

England's last group match is away to Hungary - "We should win that one" said England manager Don Parker "and then if we do we should get home and away tie with the bottom team in the other group, whoever that will be" he added.

The crowd at the Newton Aycliffe LC was somewhat disappointing - around 200, rather less than the 250 who watched the European Womens League match at Scarborough the previous week. The Scarborough secretary called on every door belonging to his registered players - not many secretaries would do that!

But Newton Aycliffe put on a fine show, masterminded by Keith Wilson and his band of helpers.

RESULTS:

C. Prean l T. Cabrera -18, -12
Chen Xinhua l J. Saive -19, -18
A. Cooke bt P. Saive 9, -16, 14
Cooke/Prean l Saive/Cabrera -15, -23
Prean bt Saive -12, 15, 19
Chen bt P. Saive 11, 8
Cooke l Cabrera -19, 7, -9

Bronze for Syed in France

MATTHEW SYED won a bronze medal, in the World Student Championships in Lyon, whilst Emma Hurling reached the Womens consolation final.

Syed was beaten in the mens singles semi final by Damien Eloi of France and Hurling lost to Hungarian Rita Katona, in the consolation final.

PLAYERS: Matthew Syed, Michael O'Driscoll, Steve Ward, Adrian Moore, Emma Hurling, Tracey Scott-Pawson, Melonie Carey
TEAM MANAGER: Geoff Taylor
UMPIRE: Jack Randall
MEDIC: Marilyn Godfrey

Great Britain's six players, team manager, international umpire and team masseur flew to Lyon, France to compete in the World Student Championships. Our seventh player, Matthew Syed met us out there on Monday after playing in the Peniel 5 Star. The plane took off on time and after a short flight we landed safely in blazing sunshine and sub-tropical temperatures. Unfortunately due to a breakdown in communications somewhere between Birmingham and Lyon, no-one knew when we were arriving. Consequently there was no-one to meet us at the airport. Team manager Geoff Taylor and his trusty sidekick Jack Randall battled in pigeon English to find out where we were supposed to go. In the end two taxis took us to the Palais Des Sports, much to Geoff's disgust at the price - £50 for two cabs! After more confusion as to why we had turned up at the playing arena we were crammed into a clapped out mini-bus and taken to what was to be our residences for the week - at the University of Claude Bernard. This was our first experience of French driving, one which I'm sure none of us would want to go through again!

As we were not playing until Monday, Sunday was used to become familiar with the surroundings, check out the opposition and have a bit of training. Shuttle buses ran every thirty minutes (or were supposed to) between the residences and the playing arena for players, officials and umpires. The playing conditions were excellent. Fourteen tables were used in the main arena with a further nine tables in the "small" hall which were used as practice tables. All equipment was supplied by Donnay - a name not really associated with table tennis in Britain at the moment.

Monday dawned bright and sunny with a further nervous anticipation as to who we had drawn in the team event. The girls were in a group with Bulgaria and China. We considered ourselves to be on equal terms with Bulgaria and although we were defeated 4-0 the score line does not really do justice to the quality of table tennis played. A minor



Matthew Syed



Emma Hurling

misunderstanding between the umpires and British order of players resulted in Emma Hurling having to play two matches in succession, the first of which was to be used as a "reserve" game in the event of a tie. This was not needed however. Our second match in the afternoon was against China. In the first game Melonie Carey fought well but lost to Ying Peng -19, -16. Hurling also played well against Yan Hong Tang losing the first -18 but Tang appeared to go up a gear and won the second -9. Tracey Scott-Pawson appeared to be a little overwhelmed by her opponent and never really got going. She lost -5, -9. Although China were a strong team they were not as strong as we expected them to be which goes to show how much the European teams are catching up with the Far Eastern nations.

The lads had a better day than the girls. Only one match was scheduled which was against Holland. Matthew Syed made a shaky start beating Meryn De Brun 20, -14, 15. The Dutch were never really in contention though and were beaten 4-1. Adrian Moore made his debut in the doubles with Steve Ward and were unbeaten in the team event.

The opening ceremony was held after the first day's play. After the march in, the introduction of the 23 countries and the Official opening by the President of FISU we could sit back and enjoy the entertainment that ensued.

The lads' second match the next day was against Korea. All the games were in fact close and could have swung either way. Moore played exceptionally well and was unlucky not to win a game. He was defeated 12, -13, -21 by Lee Toe and -20, -16 by Cho Young. Mike O'Driscoll beat Lee Chang 13, -17, 19 to take the score to 1-3 and yet again the partnership of Moore and Ward proved to be too strong for the Koreans bringing the match score to 2-3 but the Koreans ran out eventual winners 4-2. This meant that Britain were runners up in their group, qualifying for the main draw and had to play Germany. The Germans beat Britain though 4-1.

Being out of the team event meant that Wednesday and Thursday were free for relaxing, massages, body rubs and sightseeing. Marilyn Godfrey was indeed kept busy, nurturing pulled muscles and aching legs and backs mainly as a result from carrying too many bottles of cheap French wine back from the hypermarket! We began to get suspicious with Steve though who insisted in having a session at least an hour long!

On Wednesday evening a party on the Bateau Blanc (White Boat) had been arranged. This was a large boat on the River Rhone, complete with bar and disco whose most up-to-date record was "YMCA". Moore was in his element! This was the chance for

WORLD STUDENT CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

players and Officials to let their hair down and not worry about the after effects too much as Thursday was a rest day - something I'm sure the Koreans were grateful for!

On Friday we all woke up feeling revitalised and refreshed after the rest day. All, that is, apart from Jack Randall who apparently had discovered at the Umpires' party the night before that whisky, peanuts and crisps do not mix! Friday saw the start of the singles groups. All groups had three or four players in them and matches were the best of five. The girls all had tough groups and consequently lost. Hurling came close in her group though losing in the fourth to the Bulgarian Adriane Filipova and stretching the French girl Rozen Yquel, ranked 116 in Europe to 22-20 in the third. With regards to the boys, O'Driscoll was drawn in the same group as Damien Eloi. After taking the first game 17, Mike was overpowered and lost the next three in a fast, exciting game. Syed had no such problems in his group but Moore and Ward both went out. Friday evening also saw the start of the mixed doubles competition. Matches did not start until 9pm making a very long day and the partnerships of Steve and Tracey and Mike and Emma felt the toll of the competition and went out in the first round. Moore and Carey were not due to play until Saturday morning and were drawn against the Canadian pair of Julie Barton and Francis Trudel. Adrian and Melonie played well and had all the opportunities to win the match but Barton's

fierce loops from the back of the court were too much. Syed was also playing his next round matches of the men's singles. He reached the quarter finals where he beat Legout of France 21, 14, 16. In the semi final he faced Damien Eloi. This confident player

from France took the first two games 17, 18 then Matt fought back to take the third 19. In the fourth Eloi seemed to step up a gear and despite Matt defending well he lost 15-21. Eloi in fact went on to take the gold medal in the final the next day.

A consolation event was run for all players who were out of the singles and doubles events. This meant that everyone except Matthew Syed were eligible to play but Mike and Steve chose not to enter. Tracey and Adrian both went out in the first round, Melonie went out in the second round after beating a girl from Benine but Emma reached the final of this event where she played the Hungarian Rita Katona. After winning the first 13, Hurling lost concentration in the second and lost -14. The third game was tight with some fast counter hitting and looping rallies but Katona ran out the eventual winner 21-16.

After the presentation of medals in which Matt collected his bronze, and the Closing Ceremony, it was time to prepare ourselves for the Farewell Party. This turned out to be an excellent evening and in Matt's own words "...one of the best farewell parties I've been to..." The party consisted of a five course meal, complimentary bottles of dubious red wine and a live band and disco. By far the most popular entertainment though was the Canadian Julie Barton singing her repertoire of Michael Jackson and Madonna songs much to the delight of her audience. The quality and power of Julie's voice even quietened and Korean coach momentarily. The highlight of the meal itself was seeing two of the chefs proudly displaying a huge cake sculptured into a table tennis table complete with bats and balls. It did not stay intact for long though!

FINAL RESULTS

	<u>GOLD</u>	<u>SILVER</u>	<u>BRONZE</u>
Men's Team	France	Korea	Germany China
Women's Team	C.E.I.	Romania	China Taipei China
Men's Singles	Eloi (FRA)	Chila (FRA)	Syed (GBR) Chatelain (FRA)
Women's Singles	Ciosu (ROM)	Palina (CEI)	Melnik (CEI) Yquel (FRA)
Men's Doubles	Chatelina/ Chila (FRA)	Lee/Cho (KOR)	Lee/You (KOR) Eloi/Legout (FRA)
Women's Doubles	Palina/ Melnik (CEI)	Ciosu/ Nastase (ROM)	Kim/Lee (KOR) Bogoslov (ROM)/ Fleishauer (GER)
Mixed Doubles	Sung/Tsui (TAI)	Gao/ Zhong (CHN)	Huang/Tang (CHN) Lee/Kim (KOR)
Consola.	Katona (HUN)	Hurling (GBR)	Saeguay (THA) Hankitimongkol (THA)

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Taylor & Gordon bounce back

LANCASHIRE'S Jonathan Taylor, who crashed out in the first round last year, came back to take the Mens Singles title for the first time. Alison Gordon, after last year's shock defeat, continued her domination of the Womens Singles in winning the title for the 9th time. It was remarkable that no fewer than nine players were making their first appearance in a Sussex Open final.

Taylor, seeded No.5, had a tough draw having to beat England No.2 junior Richard Hyacinth and then top seed Sean Gibson in the quarter final followed by John Holland in the semi final. The No.2 seed, Yorkshire's Chris Oldfield, had an easier route although he was taken to three sets by Grant Solder. He then faced No.1 Junior Alex Perry in the semi final who had earlier put out the Welsh No.1 Nigel Tyler. After a comfortable win over Perry, he took on Taylor in the final. In a tight match, Taylor always seem to have the edge and went on to take the title.

In the Womens Singles, Alison Gordon, after an overnight dash from the Midlands, comfortably beat Sanja Kubelka and had to fight all the way to defeat Sue Collier in the semi final. In the quarter finals, Sue had an excellent if a very hard victory beating No. 3 seed Linda Radford, 22-20 in the third set. Kate Goodall and Helen Lower took their expected places in the other semi final but it was Helen who came out on top when they met to set up the final with Alison. This was an excellent match with Helen taking the first set edging home 23-21 but then Alison gradually took control and won the next two sets comfortably. With Alison having already broken tournament records, the sponsors, STAMCO, presented to her a silver salver in recognition of her record number of titles won (including doubles this was her 20th). An outstanding highlight from the local point of view was the group win by Hastings junior Sara Coggon (ranked 28th in the England Junior rankings) over highly ranked Juliet Houghton.

The Mens Doubles provided hope of an all Sussex final but this was not to be. The two Moore brothers, Adrian and Stephen, pulled off the shock result when they defeated the No.1 seeds, Sean Gibson and John Holland in straight games in the 2nd round. They then proceeded to the semi finals where they faced Taylor and Hyacinth. They could not quite match the



Jonathan Taylor



Alison Gordon

performance against the top seeds and went down in three sets. The other Sussex pairing of Michael Hammond and Ritchie Venner went out in the quarter finals to Perry and Edward Hatley who, in turn, went out in the semi finals to the surprise package of Bromley's Paul Carter and Simon Philipsz. In the final, the underdogs gave an excellent account of themselves but went down in three sets.

The Womens Doubles proceeded as expected with Michelle Cohen (replacing Alison Gordon away on international duty on the Saturday), partnering Juliet Houghton winning through to meet top seeds Linda Radford and Helen Lower. The final was, unfortunately, a bit one sided with the top pair winning 7 and 10.

The Mixed Doubles final saw the two seeded pairs, Gordon and Holland, holders for the last two years, meeting the young pairing of Perry and Kate Goodall. The holders had a fight in an earlier match against Paul Savins and Sue Collier but eventually got home in three sets. In another good final, the youngsters stopped the hat-trick and took the title themselves in two very close sets.

In the Veterans Singles, the absence of top seed, Dave Harvey, opened up the top section of the draw and, after some good matches, Ray Tilling fought through to the final where he met Derek Holman who had won through to his final place very easily. In the final, Holman won the title for the first time with a comfortable two set victory over Tilling.

RESULTS

Mens Singles

Semi finals - J. Taylor bt J. Holland 14, 18, C. Oldfield bt A. Perry 13, 16

Final - Taylor bt Oldfield 17, 20

Womens Singles

Semi finals - A. Gordon bt S. Collier 21, 13, H. Lower bt K. Goodall -16, 15, 15

Final - Gordon bt Lower -21, 16, 7

Mens Doubles

Final - R. Hyacinth & J. Taylor bt P. Carter & S. Philipsz 14, -16, 15

Womens Doubles

Final - H. Lower & L. Radford bt M. Cohen & J. Houghton 7, 10

Mixed Doubles

Final - A. Perry & K. Goodall bt J. Holland & A. Gordon 18, 19

Veterans Singles

Final - D. Holman bt R. Tilling 16, 15

STAMCO

TIMBER TO THE TRADE

Palmer's finest hour

AT the time of writing three rounds of matches have been played in this season's Friendly Hotels British League and already the Premier Division has a familiar look with NFD Grove on top and Team Peniel in second place.

But Stuart Palmer of Confederation Life St. Neots captures the headlines with victory over Desmond Douglas when his side entertained Grove. The 29 year old farmer from Lakenheath in Suffolk produced what will probably turn out to be the shock of the season with a 21-18, 9-21, 21-17 victory.

Stuart, who started playing table tennis at the age of nine, has played for St. Neots in the British League for eight years, but this must have been his finest hour. Not a bad performance from the left handed attacking player who reputedly never practices! For the record Stuart has been Suffolk champion on ten occasions and is still the county's number one. He also has a good sense of humour and is regarded as the team 'clown' - in the nicest possible way, of course.



Stuart Palmer

NFD Grove also look to be too strong for division one South where their third team are unbeaten. The London side, Edison Table Tennis Club, could turn out to be the one to watch in this division. Their Manager, Reg Rockall, certainly thinks so and is persuading Cable London to feature them on local cable television. They have won both of their opening fixtures with 6-2 scorelines against Horsham Angels and BSG Brentwood. Horsham and Ellenborough also look like being in the reckoning in this division, but already I can't help feeling that it will be for second place behind Grove.

City of Sunderland have gone to the top of the second division North despite losing a home point to Leicester Lions who currently occupy second spot. Sunderland had a good 5-3 win in the local derby against Sedgfield Seconds with both Tony Gelder and Dave Godbold unbeaten.

The player to take the eye so far in this division is Leicester's Martin Pickles. Described as a 'joy to watch' when taking the player of the match award against Sunderland, he went on to win the award again when Leicester played Levis Westfield.

Linda Farrow are the only team to boast a 100% record in division 2 South East and have not yet been extended. Duncan Taylor has been their star player with six wins out of six and two player of the match awards.

Kleinwort Benson Gillingham are also unbeaten and lie in second place, but were held to a draw by Norwich Foxwood who had Russell King in fine form.

In the South Western section VRS Fareham are the early leaders having disposed of OLOP and DML White Hart Launceston seconds. Nigel Thomas has yet to be beaten.

The other Fareham side, Amity Generation 2, are making up ground after their opening defeat by OLOP, having drawn with Launceston and beaten Chen Construction seconds.

However, Horsham Angels seconds and OLOP are the early challengers to VRS.

Three teams, Fellows Cranleigh II, BSG Brentwood II and Ashford Kent remain unbeaten in division 3 East, although they have all featured in drawn matches - twice in fact for Ashford. Spencer Thompson of Fellows Cranleigh and Mike Hayes of Brentwood remain unbeaten.

Craig Millwood of British Gas CMK II took the player of the match award against Brentwood and, again, when CMK played Team Peniel.

It's that club NFD Grove again! This time it's their Colts side who lead the way in the third division Midland with three straight victories. Mind you, I find it hard to describe John Ellis and Trevor Manning as '

By the way, NFD Grove won the match 9-1.

On the same day DML White Hart Launceston and Bathwick Tyres were locked in battle for three and three quarter hours at Launceston before the visitors eventually won 8-6.

Sedgfield District made a good start to life at the top with victories over St. Neots and Vymura International but were brought back to earth when Team Peniel travelled to the North East (without Matthew Syed who was playing in Paris) and beat the home side 8-4. Sean Gibson and Andrew Eden were both unbeaten with the latter taking the player of the match award.

Vymura International look like struggling in the top flight but they did give a good account of themselves against St. Neots with all of the players getting one set each in an 8-4 defeat.

NFD Grove II and Ruston Marconi Lincoln are the early pace setters in the first division North with the Grove side once again looking to be strong for this division. It's good to see the change in fortunes of the Lincoln side who were near the foot of the table last year. A good start with victories over Brabar Humberside, Well Connected Menswear, against whom Richard Tilford gave an excellent display of attacking play, and Cheltenham Saracens. Humberside's Derek Munt was their star against British Gas CMK with victories over Colin and Peter Bowler who are both above him in the rankings.

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FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

Colts'. In the same division Launceston III have won twice after being held to a draw on the opening day.

Division 3 North looks like being a very close fought affair. To date seven of the twelve matches played have finished up all square. Indeed on September 20th the points were shared in 14 of the 36 matches played in the whole of the Friendly Hotels British League.

Newcomers AALCO Leeds are on top, losing their first point to

Uxbridge Burton, who share second place with another team new to the league in Senior Thermal Derwent.

Jolliffe Pool are top of the third division South but only on set differences from newcomers WSIHE Lennox House Group. The two teams have already played each other. Poole forcing a draw after being 1-4 down.

Linda Farrow II are also unbeaten but they, too, have dropped one point when they lost a 4-2 lead over Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association.



LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 4th OCTOBER 1992

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove	3	3	-	-	25	1	6
Team Peniel	3	3	-	-	24	6	6
Sedgefield District	4	3	-	1	29	19	6
Con. Life St. Neots	4	1	1	2	20	28	3
Bathwick Tyres	4	1	1	2	20	28	3
DML White Hart Launceston	3	-	-	3	12	24	-
Vymura International	3	-	-	3	5	25	-

DIVISION 1 NORTH

NFD Grove II	4	4	-	-	29	3	8
R.M. Lincoln	4	3	-	1	24	8	6
Chan Construction	4	3	-	1	19	13	6
West Warwicks	4	3	-	1	18	14	6
British Gas CMK	3	1	-	2	9	15	2
Cheltenham Saracens	4	1	-	3	6	26	2
Well Connected Menswear	3	-	-	3	6	18	-
Briar Humberside	4	-	-	4	9	23	-

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

NFD Grove III	4	4	-	-	25	7	8
Horsham Angels	4	3	-	1	23	9	6
Edison TTC	3	2	1	-	16	8	5
Ellenborough	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
Larkhall	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
BSG Brentwood	4	1	-	3	11	21	2
Briar Colley Toyota	3	-	1	2	6	18	1
Bathwick Tyres II	4	-	-	4	7	25	-

DIVISION 2 NORTH

City of Sunderland	4	3	1	-	22	10	7
Leicester Lions	4	2	2	-	22	10	6
Sedgefield District	4	3	-	1	21	11	6
Vymura Int. II	4	2	-	2	15	17	4
City of Leeds	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
D.H.V.R. Warrington	4	1	1	2	12	20	3
Burslem	3	-	1	2	9	15	1
Levis Westfield	3	-	-	3	5	19	-

DIVISION 2 SOUTH

Linda Farrow	4	4	-	-	26	6	8
K.B. Gillingham	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Rejects	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
Pillinger Air Croydon	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Norwich Foxwood	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
JAGS	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Fellows Cranleigh	4	1	1	2	12	20	3
Britannia Ipswich	4	-	-	4	4	28	-

DIVISION 2 SOUTH WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
VRS Fareham	3	3	-	-	18	6	6
OLOP	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
Horsham Angels II	4	2	-	2	18	14	4
Amith Gen. Fareham	3	1	1	1	12	12	3
DML White Launceston II	3	1	1	1	11	13	3
Leckie TTC	3	1	-	2	11	13	2
Chan Construction II	4	-	-	4	6	26	-

DIVISION 3 EAST

Ashford (Kent)	4	2	2	-	21	11	6
British Gas CMK II	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
BSG Brentwood II	4	2	2	-	18	14	6
Fellows Cranleigh II	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Team Peniel II	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
Chelmsford League	4	1	1	2	17	15	3
Brent Juniors	4	-	1	3	10	22	1
Norwich Foxwood II	4	-	1	3	8	24	1

DIVISION 3 MIDLAND

NFD Grove Colts	4	4	-	-	22	10	8
DML White Launceston III	4	3	1	-	23	9	7
Hawbush C.C.	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Kinghurst Briar	3	1	-	2	14	10	2
Parkside Dragons Newport	3	1	-	2	8	16	2
Bathwick Tyres III	3	-	1	2	10	14	1
OLOP II	3	-	-	3	3	21	-

DIVISION 3 NORTH

Uxbridge (Burton)	4	2	2	-	19	13	6
NFD Grove IV	4	1	3	-	18	14	5
AALCO Leeds	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Senior Thermal Derwent	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Sedgefield District III	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Crusaders Lincoln	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Ormesby	4	1	-	3	14	18	2
City of Sunderland II	4	-	2	2	13	19	2

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Jolliffe Poole	4	3	1	-	25	7	7
Lennox House Group	4	3	1	-	23	9	7
Linda Farrow II	3	2	1	-	17	7	5
Larkhall II	3	1	-	2	9	15	2
Rejects II	4	1	-	3	11	21	2
Adeyfield N.A.	3	-	1	2	5	19	1
Ellenborough II	3	-	-	3	6	18	-



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Championships off to a good start

THERE was a great start to the Championships with over 60 matches played on the opening day.

SENIOR 1B:

**Bk2 4 Av 6, Av 6 Dv 4,
Dv2 3 Bk2 7.**

Glamorgan withdrew from the championships and therefore just 3 matches were played at the Kingfisher T.T. Club, Reading. Avon won both their matches being very well served by Michelle Cohen and Helen Perrott, who each won their 4 matches! Surprisingly Devon 2nds lost both matches but in the 7-3 defeat by Berks 2nds 4 events were lost very narrowly e.g. Gillian Galloway (Bk) beat Helen Wright 14, -21, 25!

SENIOR 2A:

**Wa 2 7 Cm 3, Yk 2 9 Le 2 1,
Ch 3 No 7.**

The young Warwicks team did well to beat Cumbria 7-3. Ian Ferguson, Steven Meddings and Mark Jackson won their 6 events - Mark's wins were at 18 and 19 in deciding games. Yorks 2nds had a convincing 9-1 win over Leics 2nds. Samantha Marling was Yorks No. 1 lady and won her 2 matches. N'berland fielded a strong team on their visit to Cheshire and got a good 7-3 win. Ed Smith, Ian Robertson and Caron Guthrie won all their matches in straight games.

SENIOR 2B:

Co 4 Wo 6, Gl 2 Wi 8.

Worcs, on demotion, started well with a win on their visit to Cornwall. Jeremy Williams (Co) played well to win his 2 events including a 19 in 3rd defeat of Malcolm Green. Eric Hardman did well for Worcs in countering with 2 wins. It was good to see Sandra Roden (Wo) playing again, although not fully fit, after a long break because of injury. Wiltshire visited Glos and came away with an 8-2 win. Darren Griffin was the only successful Glos player.

SENIOR 2C:

No 3 Es 2 7, Hu 4 He 2 6.

Essex 2nds did well at Northants to get a 7-3 win. Sally Russell (Np) played well in winning her 2 matches and Kieron Dabbs (Np No.1) beat Martin Cole 19 and 27. Sarah Seaholme's 2 wins were vital in Herts 2nds 6-4 defeat of Hunts. Six of the events went to a decider.

SENIOR 3A:

Cw 0 Wo 2 10, He 3 5 St 2 5.

Worcs 2nds, on demotion, made a good start with a 10-nil win on their visit to Clwyd. Adrian Tottey and Nicola Jones (Wo) made successful debuts. Herts 3/Staffs 2 made a draw when they met last season. Again the result was a draw but Staffs had to come back from 3-5 down! Jose Bangers and Mathew Brown won their 4 matches for Staffs, which included the important final 2 events. Lincs gave Suffolk 2nds the "whitewash" with all events 2 straight.

JUNIOR 1A:

Cw 7 Wa 3.

Clwyd made a good start to the season's campaign with a 7-3 win over Warwicks. The Clwyd girls - Joanna Bastin and Meir Davies - won their 4 matches. Two events had close finishes - Paul Robertson (Cw) beat Edward Lynn at 18 in 3rd game and Martin Hopwood (Cw) beat Arun Chauman -20, 18, 20.

JUNIOR 1B:

**De 2 2 Es 2 8, Su 2 7 Gw 3,
Ke 4 Be 6, Su 7 Gl 3.**

Essex 2nds visited the Plymouth T.T.H.O. and did very well to achieved an 8-2 win. Devon's 2 wins came at 22 and 23 in deciding games! Disappointingly Gwent were 2 players short on their visit to play Surrey 2nds. Gwent won 3 of the 6 matches layed with Paul Hadley winning his 2 and Toby Eckley also getting a win. The score stood at 4-4 in the Kent/Berks clash. Helen Gootley and A. Subhan (Bk) won their final events to give Berks the win. Glam visited Hove and went 2-nil up but Sussex were not deterred and came back to win 7-3. Paul Butcher and Sarah Stedman won their 4 events.

JUNIOR 2B:

**Es 3 1 Hu 9, Bd 7 Bu 2 3,
Su 2 4 He 2 6, Su 1 9 He 2 1,
No 2 7 Ca 3.**

Hunts had a great 9-1 win over Essex 3rds at Basildon, with just 2 events going to a decider. Beds beat Bucks 2nds 7-3. 2 matches had a close finish with Robert Dynes (Bd) beating Mark Pilcher at 18 in 3rd game and Martin Whittaker (Bd) getting a 15, -18, 20 win over Clare Males. Herts 2nds visited Ipswich and in a hard match achieved a 6-4 win over Suffolk 2nds. In the final event Arun Dhar beat Robert Davey 20, -19, 19. But against Suffolk 1sts the Herts team was beaten 9-1. Norfolk 2nds started well with a 7-3 win over Cambs.

JUNIOR 2C:

**Gl 2 6 Wi 4, Wo 3 Gl 2 7,
Av 5 Co 5, Av 7 De 3 3,
Wi 5 Do 5, So 7 Do 3,
Wo 4 Co 6.**

Seven matches were played at Bodmin and Glamorgan came out on top with 2 wins over Wilts and Worcs. Ryan Jenkins and Nathan Lewis won all their matches. Avon were a player short but nevertheless picked up 3 points with a win over Devon 3 and a draw with Cornwall. Wilts/Dorset was also a drawn match when Chris Witham (Do) beat Stephen Nash at 19 in the 3rd game in the final event. Somerset convincingly won their only match - 7-3 v Dorset.

JUNIOR 2D:

**Ox 4 Su 3 6, Ke 2 4 Su 3 6,
Ke 2 6 Su 2 4, Be 2 0 Ha 1 10,
Be 2 4 Ha 2 6.**

There was as surprise when Kent 2nds lost 6-4 against Sussex 3rds but then, fielding a totally different team, beat Sussex 2nds 6-4! The score

stood at 4-4 in the Oxfords/Surrey 3rds match. At that stage Katherin Wells (Sy) beat Jennifer Simmons (Ox) at 19 in 3rd game and Lal Tulsiani (Sy) followed up with a 2 straight win over Adrian Varney to give the Surrey team a 6-4 win. Berks 2nds entertained 2 Hants teams and were resoundingly beaten 10-nil by the 1st team. Against Hants 2nds it was a much closer match with the Hants team winning 6-4. Gareth Herbert and Joanna Stone won their 4 events for Berks.

VETERANS 1A:

**Es 2 2 Ke 7, Mi 6 Wi 4,
So 8 Be 1, Bu 1 Ha 8.**

Kent was another team on demotion from Premier Div to get off to a good start - a 7-2 win over Essex 2nds. Two of the Kent wins were after deuce in third games. Middx did well to get a 6-3 win over Wilts. Terry Bruce was involved in the 3 Wilts wins. Somerset had a great start on promotion to beat Berks, last season's runner-up, by an 8-1 margin. The Bucks/Hants clash involved 2 teams promoted last season. Hants were well on top with an 8-1 win.

VETERANS 2A:

**St 4 Wa 5, Cl 7 Ch 3 2,
Nb 6 No 3.**

Promotees Warwicks were good value for their 5-4 win over Staffs. Pat McCabe and Joan Humphrey-Middlemore were their most successful players. Clwyd would have been well pleased with their performances against Cheshire 3rds. They went into a 5-nil lead and went on to win 7-2. Two convincing doubles wins, by Pat Tindale/Pauline Long and John Russell/Maurice Cheek, were vital in Northumberland's good 6-3 win over Notts.

VETERANS 2B:

**Ex 4 5 Ca 4, No 2 0 He 2 9,
Hu 2 Bd 7.**

Essex 4th team, unbeaten last season and promoted, did well with a 5-4 win over Cambs. Two of the Cambs wins were at 19 and 20 in 3rd games. Herts 2nds, also on promotion, made light of the opposition with a 9-nil win over Norfolk 2nds. Beds visited St. Neots T.T. Centre to play Hunts 1st team. It was a hard fought match and, although Beds won 7-2, there were wins at 19 and 22 in 3rd games and Brian Mayfield (Bd) beat Alan Kirsop 23 and 24.

VETERANS 2C:

**Su 2 2 Es 3 7, Su 2 7 Ke 2 2,
Mi 2 3 Ox 6.**

Sussex 2nds, demoted from Division 1, had some close matches against Essex 3 but the Essex team kept on top to win 7-2. Surrey 2nds and Kent 2nds were both demoted teams with the Kent team the better performers last season. But it was Surrey 2nds who won vital games in this match to get a 7-2 win. Oxon 2nds, on their visit to Ashford, would have been well pleased to get a 6-3 win over Middlesex 2nds. Alf Davies (Ox) was involved in 3 wins.

(Continued on page 17)

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

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In future, Table Tennis News cannot accept responsibility for comments in "County Notes" as it is impossible for the Editor to know the correctness of facts so therefore the responsibility will remain with the counties themselves.

THE EDITOR

AVON Bob Murray

WELL IT'S NICE to get off to a good start and our County sides who were in action on the first Saturday of the season certainly did that.

Despite the absence of Andy Creed (injured by a tackle from Steve 'Vinny' Bettison in a kick about) our Senior 1sts managed to gain 6-4 wins against both Devon 2nds and Berkshire 2nds. Michele Cohen and Helen Perrott were unbeaten on the day and their successes proved vital. A below par Paul Lewis took a set in both matches and with Steve Bettison and Gary Baldwin contributing one win each, we managed to scrape home.

Andy was obviously badly missed as his contribution off the table is as important as his wins on the table. A broken leg takes a while to heal but let us hope that he makes a complete recovery.

The Juniors improved on their starts of previous years with a 5-5 draw and a 6-3 win against Cornwall and Devon 2nds respectively. Barry Fudge once again showed himself to be the mainstay of the team with a maximum four wins. He was well supported by Jon Thorn and Alex Sheppard who took 2 and 3 sets respectively. Kelly Harris was also in good form to take 3 of her 4 singles. This start augers well for the rest of the season.

The Veterans pulled off the shock result when returning from Plymouth with a 5-4 win over Devon. With Mike Short and Penny Perry in the home side this was always going to be a difficult fixture but Mike Kimber's superb performance was rewarded with two victories and he was ably supported by Eric Brown and myself with one win each. A crucial doubles victory by Mike and Ernie secured the points but it is obvious that life as a veteran is not going to be easy. A special thanks to Devon for their hospitality.

The first rankings of the season have been produced. For the juniors they are:

BOYS

1. Barry Fudge
2. Alex Sheppard
3. Jon Thorn
4. Graham Long
5. Jon Beer
6. Tom Orlik
7. David Reeves
8. Martin Smith
9. Mark Daniells
10. James Godwin

GIRLS

1. Kelly Harris
2. Jessica Orlik
3. Debbie Maxted
4. Katie Worlock

Bath League

The main news from Bath concerns coaching. Two sessions per week have been arranged at the Sports Centre and St Neots. There has been a good cross section turning up so far from under 10's to over 40's.

The League are holding their Closed Championships over one day this season. Old timers like myself remember with fondness the Homestead where the tournament was held for many years before moving to the Sports Centre.

Bristol League

Bristol Junior 1 Star proved once again to be an extremely popular event with a number of top ranking players attending.

Weston League

Weston super Mare are another league who take their coaching seriously. Kevin Satchell has had one very well attended session which resulted in Bill Lavis struggling to cope with the increased members at his regular coaching nights - a nice problem to have.

BEDFORDSHIRE Alex Murdoch

IT IS SOME time since Bedfordshire reported what has been happening in the county, so here is some general information.

The county consists of 4 leagues - Luton, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Bedford - with 200 teams and nearly 1,000 registered players.

We have a total of 6 teams representing the county in the ETTA County Championships - 2 senior, 1 junior and surprise, surprise, 3 veterans teams - best of luck to them all in the current season.

At the recent ranking meeting the following list is for the top 5 in each category.

Senior Men

Peter Bowler
Colin Bowler
Mike Levene
Norman Swift
Jimmy Walsh

Senior Women

Lisa Robins
Caroline Buckley
Mary Jarrett
Sandra Harper
Dawn Campbell

Junior Boys

Darren Ali
Philip Morley
Robert Dynes
Chris Francis
Tony Negus

Junior Girls

Nichola Copperwheat
Martine Whittaker
Jenny Sanders
Helen Davidson

Veteran Men

Brian Mayfield
Charlie Major
Dave Randell
Paul Birch
Roy Whiffen

Veteran Women

Audrey Robinson
Sylvia Coombs
Val Murdoch
Jean Mayson
Anita Copperwheat

At the Junior/Cadet Eastern Region Trials held at St Neots on 12/13th September, we were represented by Martine Whittaker, Nichola Copperwheat, Jenny Sanders, Richard O'Donnell, Philip Morley, Darren Ali, Chris Francis and Robert Dynes. Martine, Nichola and Darren qualified for the next trials - our congratulations and success in the next round to them.

The first round of County Championship matches held on 26th September results were as follows:

Junior 1 beat Bucks 2nd 7-3
Vets 1 beat Hunts 1st 7-2
Vets 2 lost to Northants 2nd 4-5
Vets 3 beat Hunts 2nd 5-4

Let's keep this success rate going. Some notable results to mention are: Derek George winning both his singles in his first County match. Darren Ali and Robert Dynes beat players well above them in the ETTA Ranking List.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

11 year old Gareth Herbert from Maidenhead lived up to the high hopes people have for him by winning this year's Under 17 Berkshire Table Tennis Trials. Leading England juniors Ben Johnson, Ali Subhan and Terry Young were exempt from the trials. In addition Richard Pilkington and Ian Barratt were unable to attend.

Two of the first round groups had to be decided by games ratio when the top 3 players recorded 2 match wins each.

Counties 2

Final Positions:

1. Gareth Herbert
2. Antony Rotunno
3. Daniel Nicolson
4. Alan Hoyle
5. Gareth Soden
6. Andrew Taplin
7. Robert Powles
8. Edward Emptage

9. Richard Truesdale
10. Ben Sutcliffe
11. Stuart Wise
12. Gregory Boast
13. Andrew Grantham
14. Mark Roberts
15. Paul Grundy
16. Seb Weston

Joanna Wins Again

For the second consecutive year Joanna Stone has won the Berkshire Junior Girls Trials. This year's entry was stronger as there was no clash with the Southern Region Trials. Gemma Schwartz (England No. 4 junior) was exempt but Helen Goatly and Joanne Barratt slugged it out with Joanna, just as they did the previous week at the Southern Trials. Then Helen had beaten Joanna on her way to winning the South region title. In the Berkshire Trials however Joanna turned the tables and also beat Joanne Barratt to clinch the title.

Final Positions:

1. Joanna Stone
2. Helen Goatly
3. Susan Johnson
4. Joanne Barratt
5. Laura Davis
6. Kim Matthews
7. Lisa Pike
8. Julia Morton
9. Emma Donovan

Gareth Wins Close Contest

Bracknell's Gareth Soden just won the Berkshire Under 14 Trials. He tied with Robert Matthews in the final group, but won the tournament on games ratio. In a very competitive top group, 7 out of the 10 matches went to the deciding game.

England ranked cadets Ali Subhan, Terry Young and Gareth Herbert were exempt. Andrew Grantham and Seb Weston will receive Berkshire U14 rankings on the strength of their U17 Trials positions.

Final Positions:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gareth Soden | 10. Rajiv Rajah |
| 2. Robert Matthews | 11. Andrew Steames |
| 3. Philip Davies | 12. Matthew Buzzard |
| 4. Adam dean | 13. Roddie Kay |
| 5. Michael Bond | 14. Jonathan Shally |
| 6. Pavan Rajah | 15. Guy Abey |
| 7. David Burns | 16. John Chree |
| 8. Alistair Richardson | 17. Derek Powles |
| 9. Matthew Thomas | 18. Daniel Burns |

Helen Clinches Win for Berkshire

Berkshire Junior 1st team opened their account in Division 1B of the County championships with a 6-4 win over Kent. Terry Young scored his first win for the Junior 1st team.

The match that gave Berkshire a win was Helen Goatly's brilliant 22-20, 17-21, 21-17 victory over Kent's Nicola Duke.

Gareth Stars for Berkshire

The Junior 2nd team had matches against Hampshire 1st and 2nd teams in Division 2D of the County Championships. Hants 1 beat them 10-0 but the match with Hants 2 was very close - finishing 6-4 to Hants.

11 year old Gareth Herbert had two tough 3 game wins over talented Hants opponents, while Joanna Stone recorded Berkshire's other 2 match wins.

of seasons ago, have made everyone sit up. In the absence of pregnant Julie Stitch (nee McLean) she has started the new season as county No. 1.

And she could not have started off in better fashion in her star role than by winning both her clashes in the opening match. Warwickshire 2nds' Dawn Bromley and Susan Clarke soon felt the impact of Joanne's forceful play. Susan tumbled 19 and 10 in the second and third games. The final two games were also the turning point for Dawn.

No. 1 Susan also went down to promising Barrow youngster Fiona Harris, to put Cumbria's women on top in a 7-3 reverse. Warwickshire 2nd names first: Ian Ferguson beat Mark Temple (Carlisle) 22-20, 22-20; beat Kevin Hodgson (Barrow) 21-11, 21-18, Steven Meddings beat Hodgson 21-19, 21-17; beat Neil Yardley (Barrow) 21-10, 21-14. Mark Jackson beat Yardley 12-21, 21-13, 21-18; beat Temple 12-21, 21-16, 21-19. Dawn Bromley beat Fiona Harris (Barrow) 21-13, 21-16; lost to Joanne Burgess 21-17, 16-21, 14-21. Susan Clarke lost to Burgess 21-11, 19-21, 10-21; lost to Harris 20-22, 19-21.

Cumbria are being sponsored by Whitbarrow Village Luxury Timeshare, Holiday Cottage and Leisure Club, near Penrith. The deal includes free use of club premises for home county matches and a new kit for each squad member.

Whitehaven have welcomed new teams from the Calder Club, Seaton Boys Club and Kells St Mary's. Seasoned campaigners, former champions and founder members of the league more than 50 years ago, Whitehaven News, have bowed out. At the time of writing the full composition of the two divisions had not been finalised.

Last season's Balsall Trophy team knockout final is still outstanding. A new trophy is to be struck in memory of the late Bruce Foster.

Division 1 champions last term were YMCA B with Whitehaven News runners up. In Division 2, Mirehouse B were champions with Workington Town Boys' Club A runners up.

There are to be no postponements. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture forfeits points. If neither are able to play the match will be void. Teams may, however, change match night by mutual agreement within the scheduled week of the fixture. George Bell, Tom Mitchell and Gordon Brown will be town team selectors.

Jimmy Cummings, who plays in the Carlisle League and has represented the county, went through the season with a 100% record for the Whitehaven News.

Anyone in Cumbria with any news items, especially relating to leagues, should ring me on 0946 67121 or write to 5 Monkway Cottage, Whitehaven, Cumbria.

DERBYSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

MY APOLOGIES TO Helen Lower and Staffordshire. I can assure Helen that I can spell her name and that of her county despite what appeared in the September issue of this publication.

News from around the county is lacking with towns not having started their leagues matches at the time of writing.

Derby

Last season's increased entry in the Derby League, which was helped by the ETTA League Development Fund, proved only a temporary blessing for hard-working local officials with the entry dropping once again for this season.

Top local club Long Eaton have been pleased to obtain sponsorship from Stuart Palmer, the local Rover car dealer, who has provided club shirts for all the players. Long Eaton are hoping that car sales will be boosted so that the rest of the kit can also be obtained. Helen Rainford, whose father has a Rover car, featured in a photographic session at the car showroom.

The Derby league headquarters has moved from the Derby High School to the Derby Tertiary College where a choice of Sports Halls provides the appropriate size hall for the sessions - last season a 12 table facility was often being used by a couple of tables.

The East Midlands Cadet league provided an early competitive outing for Helen Rainford, James Astley and Kirit Dayaram at Grantham with the joy of a 10-0 win over Worksop 2nd and 9-1 over Burton 2nd being tempered by an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Grantham 1st.

An early tournament outing for Helen Rainford saw her reach the quarter finals of the cadets at Kirklees before losing to Nichola Smith.

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

PENRITH JOURNALIST JOANNE Burgess is slowly but surely creating her own story. Her performances for Cumbria since being introduced to the squad a couple

Counties 3

DEVONSHIRE

J Vincent

THE COUNTY FINISHED its most successful season ever by winning the Maurice Goldstein Challenge Trophy with a 7-3 victory over Lancashire.

At the South West Regional Preliminary trials at Wellington in Somerset, our cadets did brilliantly with four boys and four girls qualifying for the final trials to be held in Plymouth on 8th November. Bright prospects Peter Thomas and Robert Svensson from North Devon, Daniel Adams (Torbay) and Marcus Cronin (Plymouth) were joined by the talented Lucy Perry (Crediton) and Liz May, Zoe Warren and Joanna Harracloough from Plymouth.

The juniors also did well with Lucy and Liz doubling up. They were joined by evergreen Jonathan May and the much improved Gareth Bufton from Plymouth.

The rise in fortunes of our cadets stems from an enterprising idea whereby Junior assessments with ranking points are run on a monthly basis by Cedric Foster, a top Division 2P and D League player. Players with talent from all over Devon have been spotted early at these assessments and invited to training sessions in Plymouth. With the help of parents the county has been able to run three Junior teams at varying levels to encourage and develop its players.

Participation of the young has spread to the "Golden Oldies" with Devon now running a Veterans team led by Mike Short and Penelope Perry, quite a formidable double act!

The county veterans ranking list is as follows:

Men

1. Mike Short
2. Graham May
3. Keith Rise
4. Roger Annis
5. Peter Nicholson
6. P Dunston
7. K Hawkins
8. P Goulding
9. R Avent
10. M Putland

Women

1. Penelope Perry
2. Pam Rowe
3. Madelaine Pitman
4. Stella Williams

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

THE ESSEX INTER-LEAGUE competition for 1991/2 kicks off with 16 leagues and 128 teams competing for honours. There are 29 entries in the men's divisions and Competitions Secretary Roy Franklin tells me that it will be interesting to see if Waltham Forest can retain their title. However, a new ladies champion league will be crowned this season as Burnham are not among the 11 entries! Dagenham must be favourites to retain their mixed divisions title, says Roy, and he thinks that Brentwood are almost certain to hold on to their Junior title. There are 17 entries in this category but no fewer than 65 in the Veterans, which must be a record. Romford, the holders, face stiff opposition from Dagenham and Southend.

The weekend of 5/6 September saw the completion of the Junior Trials of the county, held at SETTS. Subsequently the following ranking lists (leading positions) have been announced

Junior Boys

1. Cris Sladden
2. Ryan Savill
3. James Wickens
4. Andrew Taylor
5. Stephen Joslin
6. Reagan Nettleingham
7. Wayne Smithies
8. Lee Grant
9. Daniel Perham
10. Nicky Lapwood

Junior Girls

1. Shelley Ruocco
2. Cathy Sibbald
3. Michelle King
4. Karen Mason

5. Nikki Kennard
6. Claire Hart
7. Laura Bawden
8. Dawn Reed

Cadet Boys

1. Reagan Nettleingham
2. Paul Lucas
3. Sean Ram
4. Richard Hart
5. Ian Kennard
6. James Tideswell
7. Andrew Faiers
8. Edward Mehen
9. Clive Noonan
10. Richard Pond

Cadet Girls

1. Catherine Woodcock
2. Jennifer Addison
3. Natalie Bawden
4. Amy Fraser
6. Susan Holmes

U12 Girls

1. Natalie Bawden
2. Emma Reed

U12 Boys

1. Stephen Mays
2. Richard Cutlan
3. Daniel Contale
4. Paul Woodcock
5. Simon Harrigan

News in from the Clacton League is that this season they have 4 divisions, with a helpful number of 44 teams. Division 1 looks a 3 horse race, opines my correspondent, Tony Oswick, pointing out that the champions Walton A will be without Ian Graham and Fred Dove, but that Derek Wood and Jimmy Dove have joined Peter Burrows and John Rise to make a still formidable line-up. Brotherhood A have a powerful squad of Dave Binns, Brian Cartwright, Ken Beach and Mick Buckley, while last year's runners-up St Andrews A have added Steven Higgins to their regular trio of Iain Vine, Colin Stallwood and Martin Hogg. Tony is looking forward to a very interesting season.

Sadly the Clacton League will be starting 1992/3 without one of its stalwart members, George Meakin, who died during the summer. George had been associated with local table tennis for over 30 years and had served the league in many capacities. He was also very well respected throughout the county and at one time sat on its Management Committee. However, he will be best remembered for his immense contribution to coaching within the local Clacton area. He will be sadly missed.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

WHEN GEORGE NOVOTH the County Coaching Officer first mentioned the name of Mike Tyrell to me, roughly a year or so ago, I had to admit that Mike's name meant absolutely nothing to me, such was my ignorance - and considering that Mike lives only a couple of villages away from me, made the situation even more ludicrous.

So, with hindsight, I decided to investigate, and this is what I found out about Mike Tyrell of Apperley in Gloucestershire.

Peter Cruwys, current County Vice Chairman, was looking for a venue for table tennis coaching in February 1990, Mike lived near the village hall and volunteered his services, Peter accepted and now Mike in turn has some 22 youngsters all receiving very adequate coaching from him and Andrew Aldridge - I understand that Graham Slack (Cheltenham's current singles champion) also helps out occasionally.

Mike attended an ETTA Coaching Course in Plymouth last April and intends to put to good use all that he learnt on the course, currently with help from Andrew Aldridge they both voluntarily run the table tennis section, under the wing of the Apperley Social Club. The Apperley TTC is but one section of community life that this rural village has - other sections cover Keep Fit, Dancing and Social Club evenings. A village well resplendent in all forms of social entertaining and activities, and for all I know, cider drinking as well!

Bob Davis, who without doubt has been Cirencester's leading light regards table tennis for some considerable time - tells me that contrary to some other Leagues in the county (that are facing problems with lack of players and perhaps venues as well) Cirencester are in fact increasing their overall membership.

Bob adds that this season they will have 28 teams in the league as opposed to 23 last year - Oh, how I wish we could say that in Gloucester city, where this season we are down to an all time low of 4.5 divisions.

Cirencester are further fortunate to have two schools as their disposal, where they can accommodate 10 teams in one and six in the other, plus good playing facilities. The League at Cirencester has only been affiliated for a few years and to hear of such success spells good for its hard working administrators.

And finally, perhaps Cirencester's luckiest break is to have the local newspaper enter a team in the league which is run by their Sports Editor, who unfailingly, includes weekly results and tables in the paper.

Counties 4

Bits and Pieces

Seven teams have entered the South West Cadet League for the forthcoming season, Neil Henry takes charge of the Gloucester A team, and Peter Humble is in command of the Gloucester City B side. I am reliably informed by Stan Johnstone that he will once again be editing Cheltenham's Newsletter - to date I have not heard from any other potential scribes.

Sad news, George Novoth who has done much hard work for Gloucester city in the role of coach, has tendered his resignation, I hope in the next edition of this magazine to announce George's successor, George will certainly be missed.

HAMPSHIRE Brian Lamerton

THE NEWLY FORMED Selection Committee under the chairmanship of Pete Woodacre have produced the following ranking lists:

Senior Men

1. Graham Toole
2. Micki Sinanan
3. Mark Bleakley
4. Ramesh Bhalla
5. Tony Duffield

Veteran Women

1. Gill Larking
2. Sandra Simpson
3. Mary Barron
4. Pat Wales
5. Vera Hutchinson

Senior Women

1. Sarah Hammond
2. Sarah Turner
3. Serena Sinanan
4. Barbara Savage
5. Clare Woodham

Junior Boys

1. Jeremy Wilson
2. Kevin Macken
3. David Dobson
4. Gareth Scaddan
5. Alex Rorke

Veteran Men

1. Chris Shetler
2. Graham Outrim
3. Maurice Shave
4. Robert Cox
5. Ken Burton

Junior Girls

1. Lorna Dutch.
2. Donna Granville
3. Wanda Hutchinson
4. Sonia Pointer
5. Carly Scaddan

You will note that the rehabilitation of the Isle of Wight has been further advanced by the inclusion of three of their juniors, two of them in team places.

The opening matches produced two wins and a defeat for the Veterans sides and a double success for the two junior teams over Berkshire 2nds.

My opinion of 'block' matches has been well recorded in these columns, suffice therefore to say that if both the editor and myself are quick off the mark you will get first news of the Senior A side with your late Christmas cards and the first, and last, news of the Senior B team will be in the May/June edition by which time most of you will have put away your table tennis gear for more summery pursuits!

So, to those that were played. The Veteran A (Chris Shetler, Graham Outrim, Maurice Shave and Gill Larking) defeated Bucks by 8 sets to 1, the B's (Bob Cox, Ken Burton, Ray Lush and Sandra Simpson) won by 7 sets to 2 against Somerset 2nds and the newly formed C string went down to Sussex 4ths by 6 sets to 3 with Norman Stagg, Wally Pay and George Cole winning a set apiece.

The juniors both played Berkshire 2nd on the same day; the A's (Jeremy Wilson, Kevin Macken, David Dobson, Lorna Dutch and Donna Granville) winning by 10 sets to love and the B's winning by 6 sets to 4; Gareth Scaddan won both his sets in this match whilst Kevin Smith, Ben Hibberd, Wanda Hutchinson and Sonia Pointer won one each.

Each year the Hampshire Schools Sports Association make a presentation to the outstanding player in each nominated sport, the 1991 table tennis award, just announced, goes to Mark Shetler from the Gosport and Fareham Association.

No. 1 position and the brothers from Watford Dave and Stuart Seaholme in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Whilst the top 3 women are Watford's Sally Bax in No. 1 spot, with Sue Felstead of North Herts at No. 2, and Sylvia Tyler of Cheshunt in the No. 3 position.

ISLE OF WIGHT John Prean

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEX Rorke and Lorna Dutch who won their sections of the Hampshire Trials. Both gained places in Hampshire Junior County teams as a result. Lorna is only 12. If she retains here enthusiasm, she could go a long way, certainly near the top of English Junior Ranking Lists. Both players gain greatly from the support of parents who are themselves table tennis fanatics.

Lorna owes her first place winning from 15-20 down in a vital 3rd game. That certainly shows good nerve and, dare one say, fortune. My advice: Next time don't leave it quite so late!

Our teams in the Southern Regional League began their campaign and all three were well beaten by the Cippenham Club's teams. The A side's final stages I missed as the match started rather late. The Premier place the team gained after all, despite not winning the lower section, may take some holding on this form! It was good to see that the Regional League now has three divisions. Considerable thanks are due to Graham Trimming who not only runs the event efficiently and well, but also plays with great and dramatic enthusiasm and no little success. I saw him enjoy a very good win vs Mike Turner.

It was a good idea to enter a second team in the second division so that younger players could also gain experience. That Ali Hulbert and Greg Burns certainly did, though losing all three to Cippenham B. Inexperience, in fact, was the main enemy and they appeared rather nervous. However, they got better as the afternoon progressed and could have won one or two. Both are hard and energetic hitters, but the formality of getting more than half the hits on the table needs more attention and sometimes even Waldner needs to play 'bread and butter' shots. In short, sometimes spin can win points. Not all balls have to be hit at 100 miles per hour. It was left to Veteran Joe Daly to deliver the solitary point. He showed that even at 50 a good technique works wonders.

Cal Prean, still our only player on the ETTA Halex Ranking List continues in the No. 2 spot, a topic most of our members raise with me and that is why I do here. After winning 47 and losing 23 last season, he ended at No. 2 to his rival who had scored 33 wins and 22 defeats. That may not sound too great to those with averages of 90% in their local leagues, but these boys play against the world's best. This season Carl has won 10 and lost 7 whilst Chen Xinhua has won 1 and lost 3. 1-3 is obviously better than 10-7. The rest is history.

"Carl" wrote Mr Woodford elsewhere, "seemed to have the troubles of the word on his shoulders". Indeed.

Last month, John Prean complained that Carl would have been better off if he had not played in the US Open. He is right! Carl's US Open exploits were marred by two losses to players with ratings more than 300 points below his own, players he would be expected to beat 19 times out of 20. Each loss cost him 30 points; without those losses he would certainly have done much better. If only we could all choose which matches to include and which to ignore!

John now compares Carl's and Chen's NUMBERS of wins and losses but our ranking scheme takes account only of the QUALITY of those wins and losses. This is a far fairer system for opponents obviously differ in standard. If it DID work on numbers alone, any players with a 100% record would be guaranteed the No. 1 spot, regardless of who these wins were against, or of how good a player they really were. Carl's average of 59% wins would inevitably place him in a very long way down the rankings, below a large number of lesser players who had better averages.

GEOFF TWISS, for the Ranking Panel

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

HERTFORDSHIRE'S VETERAN RANKING trials were held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in September with the top three men being John Taylor of Barnets in

KENT Adrian Hall

THERE WERE MIXED fortunes for our sides on the first county weekend. Kent Junior I disappointingly went down 4-6 to Berkshire, with the Berkshire boys all ranked higher than the Kent boys a couple of good results could have given us a result

Counties 5

as our girls were reputedly much the stronger. In the second match Christopher Hall overcame the odds to beat Terry Young 21-17, 16-21, 21-18 to level the scores at 1-1. Nicola Duke and Natasha Barham then gave Kent a 3-2 lead and this became 4-3 when Barham chalked up her second win, but then Berks' Helen Goatley had a splendid win over an out of sorts Duke 20-22, 21-17, 17-21 to put Berks in a winning position, a position not wasted as Ali Subhan beat Hall 21-14, 21-19 for the 6-4 win.

Kent Junior 2nd put out two sides to take on Sussex 2 and 3 at Ashford. Kent 2 beat Sussex 2 6-4 with two wins each for Glen Ritchie and Ben McCarthy who were ably supported by Christian Thompson and Heidi Steers who had an excellent win over Sara Coggan, for Sussex Clare Brown took her maximum. Sussex 3 reserved the result with a 6-4 win over Kent 2 for Kent Scott Dawtry, Paul Smith, Nick Pattman and Crystal Hall each won one game, but it was the maximums of Niall Munro and Tina Beaney that swung the match Sussex's way.

Surrey Vets 2 proved too strong for Kent Vets 2 imposing a sound 7-2 defeat. Kent's Ray Tilling with a singles win and in partnership with Pam Butcher in the mixed doubles were Kent's lone successes with both John White and Keith Clarke looking short of match play, for Surrey Frank Hams and Dave Crowley were unbeaten in the singles. Ex Kent player Julie Pilfold also won her singles match against Pam Butcher.

Better news from the Kent Vets 3 side as they beat Herts 3 5-4 at Barnet, despite having to concede both ladies matches due to the injury of Brenda A'herne in the first leg of the mixed doubles. Two wins each from Ted Tydeman and Mel Dixon and one from new vet Barry Grimwade was enough to see Kent home.

Plans are well in hand to bring perhaps ten Chinese players and coaches back to Kent next August to run an in depth training camp similar to the one attended by our players in China in August. If all goes according to plan, the players and coaches invited will include at least 3 ex-world and Chinese national champions. Watch this space for more details or talk to Reg Thompson or Adrian Hall as there will be places available to players from outside Kent for three of the four weeks.

LANCASHIRE Stan Clarke

THE COUNTY TRIALS for the coming season were held at Clayton Green Leisure Centre over the 5/6 September with Seniors and Juniors on the Saturday and Cadets and Veterans on the Sunday. The county rankings for the coming season are as follows:

Senior Men

1. Sean Gibson
2. Andrew Eden
3. Jonathan Taylor
4. Nigel Eckersley
5. Stephen Scowcroft
6. Graham Clarke
7. Howard Whewell
8. Nigel Jobling
9. Barry Elliott
10. David Griffiths
11. Michael Dore
12. Ron Pennington

Senior Women

1. Andrea Holt
2. Marie Thornley
3. Brenda Buoye
4. Tamar Connolly
5. Paula French
6. Carol Mitchel
7. Lindsay Thornton

Junior Boys

1. Darryl Meredith
2. Phillip Musgrove
3. Kevin Dolder
4. Mathew Coombe
5. Glen Payne
6. Tony Johnston
7. Phillip Ellison
8. John Pilkington
9. Les Richmond

10. Alan Marsden
11. Ben Thorber

Junior Girls

1. Tamar Connolly
2. Emma Fletcher
3. Lindsay Thornton
4. Kirsten Williams
5. Jayne Schofield
6. Andrea Flintoff
7. Julie Rushton

Cadet Boys

1. Gregory Lee
2. Jay Bailey
3. Robert Frial
4. Stewart Toole
5. Andrew Clarke
6. Michael Moir

Cadet Girls

1. Jody Mellor
2. Suzanne Geldard
3. Kim Roberts
4. Julie Rushton
5. Kirsten Williams
6. Keeley Smithson
7. Andrea Flintoff
8. Wendy Brown
9. Stephanie Gibbons

Veteran Men

1. Phillip Blake
2. Bill Clements
3. Bill Russell
4. Derek Whatmough
5. Barry Crook
6. Tony Rigby
7. R Bennett
8. P Evans
9. Alan Chase

Veteran Women

1. Mabel Neary
2. Olwyn Burroughs
3. Christine Crumblehulme
4. Lesley Smallwood

The entry for the two senior events was disappointingly low although the standard was high. However, the entry to the two junior events was much higher than expected, especially the girls events which should make life easier for the Selection Committee.

Jack Bond, former Captain of Lancashire County Cricket Club, has returned to the area and is playing in the Bolton League. I hope he has better results than the Lancashire cricketers have enjoyed this year.

LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

THE ELBOW TANKARD continued and was completed on time, mainly due to the work of organiser Bob Graven-Griffiths.

In the first quarter final the Good, Bad and Ugly (Knighton Park) met Bali Hi. It was Alan Passingham winning three from his four games and Dave Small four from six which put them into the semis. The second quarter final match was between British Shoe and Villagers I (Great Glen). The Shoe took this one comfortably 13-7 with Andy Box and Makendra Mistry winning four from six each and Derek Butt three from four.

Norman McLean held on to a six point start against Shirley Pickering of Park Keepers in the final game of a tiebreak match. John O'Connor was the Gas hero winning six of his seven games to earn his side's passage into the semi final.

The semi finals brought together British Shoe and Good Bad and Ugly. GBU got their revenge for their only defeat in the tournament this year when they won by 11-9, Alan Passingham won four from four, Tony Walker and Dave Small won 2/6 each. The doubles proved to be the match winner as the Parkside won 3/4. For the Shoe Andy Box won 3/6, Makendra Mistry 2/6 and Derek Butt 3/4.

The second semi final was a more convincing win for Villages II against Leicester Gas, with a strong all round performance from the team it gave them a 11-7 win.

On to the final and this was played at the Magpie YC in a wonderful spirit, especially on the Great Glen side Villages II because they were on the receiving end of a 11-5 scoreline against the Good, Bad and Ugly.

Alan Passingham with his excellent handicap was the sole breaker winning all his games. One game of note was when Tony Walker came up against Kevin Hall, Tony received a 14 point start and suddenly found himself 17-0 up, but a remarkable fight back by Kevin gave him the game 27-17. Tony did not let the second game slip. Dave Small played a vital part in this final with some wonderful backhand topspin. Well done to both teams for an excellent final.

The Leicester and District TTL got off the mark with a full ten divisions and a couple of reserve teams in case any team dropped out.

Coaching at the Schools has restarted after the summer recession and I am pleased to report that the keenness is still there.

No news from either Hinckley League or Loughborough League to report on. The Leicester TTA have released their recent ranking list and it as follows:

Senior Men

1. Chris Rogers
2. Dave Gannon
3. Mark Illingsworth
4. Phil Smith
5. Maurice Newman

Veteran Men

1. Maurice Newman
2. Steve White
3. John Illiffe
4. Colin Truman
5. Mick Meredith

Senior Women

1. Karen Smith
2. Joanne Heath
3. Eileen Shaler
4. Jane Rogers
5. Sandra Hall

Veteran Women

1. Eileen Shaler
2. Shirley Pickering
3. Pat Kilsby
4. Barbara Holt
5. Christine Dawson

Counties 6

Junior Boys

1. Mathew Hobday
2. Lee Brunning
3. Adrian Wilford
4. Alex Tuckwell
5. Chris Tuckwell

Junior Girls

1. Helen Griffiths
2. Kathryn Freer
3. Rachel Griffiths
4. Laura Smith
5. Cheryl Sprintall

MIDDLESEX Lorna Taylor

RICHARD HYACINTH HAS done well to top the Junior National Rankings, overcoming Alex Perry for the first time and now ranked 38 in the senior men. Caroline O'Leary did well to reach the semi finals in the restricted and girls singles at the Bristol Junior 1 Star. Chris Boothby performed well in his first county veteran match at the No. 1 position. The current Middlesex ranking lists are as follows:

Senior Men

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

Veteran Men

1. J Holland
2. C Boothby
3. A Taylor
4. J Smith
5. N Slifkin
6. W Brookman
7. M Isaacs
8. P Safranek
9. M Waldman
10. G Ailward
11. S Waldman
12. G Hawkins
13. I Steele
14. A Boyle

Senior Women

1. L Keast
2. S Williams
3. A Smith
4. S Kubelka
5. K Kottasz
7. E Kottasz
8. L Souter
9. E Blanch
10. R Fisher
11. J Solley
12. M Heffenhann
13. J Weare
14. C O'Leary
15. J Jablon

Veteran Women

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

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Dennis Millman

TABLE TENNIS IS back - and to give the season a good start, the Bat Workshop Junior Top 12 produced the usual crop of unexpected results, even if at the end of the day the trophy went to the solitary girl competitor - Sally Russell, who thus regained the crown she won in 1990, but lost last year to Julian Marshall.

Arron Taylor created the early shocks with wins over Sally and Joe Trippett had the proverbial field day, beating everyone with the exception of the eventual winner. Meanwhile Paul Adams had lost only once and when he faced Sally in the final match, the mathematical possibilities seemed endless, but the favourite made no mistake to leave the final order:

1. Sally Russell
2. Tom Trippett
3. Arron Taylor
4. Paul Adams
5. Joe Trippett
6. Paul Thomas

7. Paul Wood
8. Martin Gibbs
9. Andrew Thomas
10. Henry Arthur
11. Stuart Pond
12. Neil Gibbs

Sally also made a superb debut for the senior firsts, when she won both her singles in a losing match against Essex II, while Mike Pond, Dave Marsh and Gordon Shaw, also making his debut at any level, had good reason to be satisfied with their unbeaten displays which gave the Veteran seconds and thirds opening victories against their Bedfordshire and Sussex counterparts.

Kieron Dabbs returned to form to account for the Essex No. 1 in a pulsating encounter, and franked his form the following day in the British League, when he won twice for Levi's Westfield against Vymura International II. However, like Well Connected, Levi's early season results have been disappointing.

It is pleasing to see that the Pennine Senior Top 12, the next major event on the county calendar, contains the names of Graeme McKim, David Gallo and Adrian Roper, talented performers who should help to make this an intriguing competition, but sad to hear of the illness of Gerald Finney, the supremo of Brixworth sponsors Pennine Designer Packing and Display. All his playing colleagues wish him a speedy recovery.

The county's new sponsorship committee contains the names of three star performers of yesteryear - Brian Bond, John Palmer and Mike Pond, all of whom continue to participate successfully at veteran level. Hopefully their astute business acumen will help put Northants on a sound financial footing, and one of the early decisions made was to switch the County Closed to a much later Saturday 17th April, with a separate finals night on the following Monday.

At the end of the day however, success is all down to the dedicated league players who are just beginning another season, full of hope and expectation - not necessarily of hitting the highspots, but of enjoying the cut and thrust of sporting competition.

This perhaps was perfectly illustrated by the opening match of the season at Rushden Athletic, when after losing all four singles to Peter McLellan and Ian Yamall, Caroline Perkins and Muriel Cox just held on to take the doubles at deuce in the third. The delight on their faces, and the genuine handshakes told it all.

NORTHUMBERLAND Aubrey Drapkin

THE COUNTY TEAMS made an excellent start to this season's County Championships campaign with victories for the senior and veterans teams on the opening day. Unfortunately, the Junior match against Derbyshire was cancelled due to a mixup whereby the visitors thought that Northumberland had agreed to take part in playing the junior fixtures in their division at a central venue over two weekends. This had been suggested by one of the counties in the division but 'North' had not been in agreement.

Eddie Smith and Ian Robertson, both of whom are doing well for Sedgfield District in the Friendly Hotels British League, led the County seniors to a 7-3 victory away to Cheshire. Neither of them lost a game and the same goes for Caron Guthrie who won both of her sets.

A special mention for Steve Penman, only ranked at 12 in the county but who was drafted into the team at the last minute because of injuries to other players. Steve did well to beat Rob Bevan in his first match to give 'North' a 2-0 lead. He lost out to Peter Flint, but could be well satisfied with his day.

Karen Newby lost both of her matches but came close to Zoe Buchanan, losing 18-21 in the third end.

The Veterans started with a 6-3 win over Notts. Pat Tindale, John Russell, Maurice Cheek (a late replacement for Fred Short) and Pauline Long all took one singles and 'North' won both doubles. Russell and Cheek combined to take the mens whilst Trindale and Long were successful in the mixed.

North Shields YMCA eventually won the National Power Northumbria Summer League, narrowly beating Blaydon Youth Club to take the title.

However, they got off to a bad start in the Winter League when they went down 4-6 at home to Glebe. Because of the late arrival of the visitors the match did not finish until nearly 11 o'clock and Shields were then in trouble with an irate warden who kept both teams locked on the premises until 11.30 pm. Certainly not the way to encourage sport despite the great help that the YMCA management give to the County Association.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARE VERY pleased to have received the balance of money due to the Leagues from the ETTA League Development Fund, which finished last November, with the money going towards the Notts Leisure Services Sports

Counties 7

Training Scheme - which Diccon Gray wrote about in Table Tennis News a couple of seasons ago. The scheme is going from strength to strength and being copied by other progressive counties.

The further expansion of the training scheme sees advanced sessions for personal performance advancement and the provision of money for coaches to upgrade their qualifications; as it is appreciated that the players going through the scheme must have coaches available to help them compete at the highest level.

Coaching at the Sycamore Centre in Nottingham has been extended to take in more of the younger players with an earlier starting time of 6.00 pm, but still going on until 10.00 pm.

The Mansfield League, described to me as "a hotbed" by an outsider, continues to provide new initiatives. The League has handbooks and scoresheets sponsored by the local newspaper Chronicle Advertiser (Chad) and the Youth League sponsored by Eves Trakway. This amounts to £1,000 so the League are looking forward to the Sportsmatch scheme - I am sure that the League can put the money to good use.

Paul started his Saturday sessions at Sutton. Eleven youngsters at the first session rose to 20 for the second. Well done, Paul.

Russell Winfield had a good day at Grove School, winning the Restricted B and Consolation Singles events.

Nottingham's team in the East Midlands Cadet League had a successful first day with a 8-2 win over Lincoln and 10-0 wins over Burton 2nd and Worksop 2nd. The team consisted of Matthew Orchard, Russell Winfield, Debbie Pestka and Laura Morris.

The Nottinghamshire County Closed Table Tennis Championships will be held at Sycamore on Sunday 6th February.

Junior Boys

1. Rob Millard
2. Andrew Hewitt
3. Alan Russell
4. Corin Webster
5. James Hayne
6. Andrew Rumary
7. Robert Horton
8. David Lockyer

Junior Girls

1. Julie Ashcroft
2. Claire Shobbrook
3. Claire Taylor
4. Victoria Squire

Some successes at the Regional Preliminary Trials held at Wellington last month, four through to the finals. For a county going through a transitional stage with the juniors, four is fairly healthy.

Rob Millard won his group comfortably, Andrew Hewitt qualified by the skin of his proverbial. In the Junior Girls section, our only entrant Julie Ashcroft duly qualified for the finals. Just one qualifier from the cadets which is disappointing, Claire Shobbrook. Congratulations to them all.

Next month, news from the local leagues and a report on the first county matches. Thought for the day: "It is said that a day is a long time in politics. Similarly, fifteen minutes is a long time in table tennis."

SUSSEX John Woodford

SOMERSET Andy Seward

WITH NO COUNTY matches to report on, a chance to review the county rankings for the first half of the season.

At this time last season, I thought that the County rankings would generate some heat. However, all went cold. So attempting to eat fire again, here at the latest deliberations.

Veteran Men

1. Brian Reeves
2. John Crabtree
3. Graham Green
4. George Philpott
5. Mike Baker
6. Colin Allsopp
7. Paul Hewitt
8. Peter Butterworth
9. Vernon Adams
10. Kelvin Lum
11. Graham Durdey
12. Martin Rumary
13. Alan Maidment
14. Terry Millard

The Veterans Ranking list shows several changes. Graham Green resumes his county career in the 1st team with Mike Baker taking control of the 2nds. Two other newcomers come into the top 10. At No. 10 comes first time veteran Kelvin Lum, and at No. 4 the not so new veteran George Philpott resumes battle after a few years sabbatical.

Veteran Ladies

1. Shirley Dark
2. Wendy Pryce
3. Diane Helsdon

Rob Millard is again the top junior and there is little change in the rest of the list. The two Andrews, Hewitt and Rumary, both sons of ranked veterans, make progress and it is pleasing to see the pair of them and the two top junior girls, Julie and Claire, in the latest national ranking lists.

OVER THE PAST two years a new pattern has emerged on the running of the all-Sussex Senior and Junior Championships. Organised for many years in the past by the British League and then for a number of years by the Sussex TTA, the present setup sees the Worthing TTA in charge, supported by a sponsor, Express Sports of Uckfield.

Last season it was generally agreed that Worthing handled both events and the inter-league championships with honours. On this occasion there have been problems finding dates and choosing dates. As we all know, there are no vacant dates on the calendar except June!

Worthing have unsettled some players and administrators by running the senior event on the Saturday for several reasons. One of the best is that schools are entering a team event at the junior event for the first time - private schools have other work on Saturdays, so everyone in Sussex wants to play on Sundays.

However, the Sussex TTA will reserve their judgement on the issue until after the event when the number of players entered is counted and the Worthing organisation is given another stiff test.

In the British League, Horsham Angels in Division 1 and Lennox House (Chichester) in Division 3, are going for promotion. The West Sussex side are managed by Tim Holder, well-known "sports scientist" to the England squad.

At Horsham, the twin spearhead of Ritchie Venner and Michael Hammond is performing well, although the Angels slipped when they were minus Hammond away to Edison, Haringay.

On the junior scene, the two incredibly young Sussex junior champions Paul Butcher and Sarah Stedman are meeting little opposition inside the county, but you can be sure there is plenty waiting outside on the tournament circuit. Both have the best part of two seasons left as juniors.

Sussex Junior Rankings:

Boys

1. Paul Butcher
2. Kevin Doyle
3. Paul Hancock
4. James Beale
5. Niall Munro
6. Paul Cunningham
7. Martyn Sims
8. James Beer
9. Adam Flavell
10. Robert Abbotts
11. Chris Hancock
12. Brian O'Connell
13. Mark Forder
14. Jonathan Atkinson
15. Harry McCamey

Girls

1. Sarah Stedman
2. Joanna Bush-Harris
3. Sara Coggan
4. Clare Brown
5. Tina Beaney
6. Nicola Evans
7. Alison Griggs
8. Heidi Sims
9. Emma Forder

Counties 8

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

THE JUNIOR COUNTY Trials were held at the Pensnett School on Sunday 6th September to provide a new ranking list for the coming season. Keith Becket (Dudley) emerged as Boys No. 1 for the first time. Young Lewis Cook (aged 11) enters the rankings at No. 8 and shows great promise for the future. As expected, Carrie Hunt (Worcester) retains her No. 1 spot in the Girls rankings, with Stephanie Price improving to No. 2.

Boys

1. Keith Becket
2. Richard Painter
3. James Gommersal
4. David Stephens
5. Tim Evans
6. Ian Gittins
7. Nathan Whitehouse
8. Lewis Cook

Girls

1. Carrie Hunt
2. Stephanie Price
3. Zoe Evans
4. Julie Palmer
5. Jenny Ponsford
6. Louise Evans
7. Estelle Shenton

There were no senior trials this year, however, the following ranking list has been formulated.

Men

1. Malcolm Green
2. Trevor Washington
3. Eric Hardman
4. Ken Walton
5. Jeremy Duffield
6. Mark Brookes
7. Steve Horton
8. Kwok Chan
9. Adrian Tottey
10. Jason Thompson

Veteran Men

1. Trevor Washington
2. Ray Dixon
3. Roy Norton
4. Mervyn Wood
5. John Stafford
6. Kwok Chan

Veteran Ladies

1. Janet Hunt
2. Linda Reid
3. Helen Pogmore
4. Barbara Jukes

Women

1. Sandra Roden
2. Mandy Mytton
3. Alison Westwood
4. Sue Horton
5. Janet Hunt
6. Helen Pogmore
7. Linda Reid
8. Joanne Hill

Congratulations to Mandy Mytton on the birth of her baby son Jack and Sandra Roden on her appointment as Table Tennis Development Officer for the West Midlands.

Women's British league at the close of the 1991/2 campaign, are scheduled to entertain Prossonzy from Moscow in the opening round of the European Knockout Cup.

On the home front, two major tournaments, the East Yorkshire Junior at Bridlington, which this year enjoys 2 star select status, and the Yorkshire and Humberside 2 Star Graded Championships at Halifax - probably the leading event in the country to cater for a range of players from those in the top echelons of the ranking lists to the no less enthusiastic lesser lights - are already up and running.

And Yorkshire is proud to cater for that mass of keen participants, some of whom are hoping to make their way up the ladder, while others, the life blood of our sport, just wish to be involved in a weekend of highly competitive table tennis and to make new friends in the game.

Domestically the Yorkshire League has again topped the century, attracting over 100 teams from all corners of the county, with the 'central venue' method of play this season extended to the ladies Division.

Two dates for your diaries - The Closed Championships - Senior at York Railway institute on 9th December and Junior at Millthorpe School on 24th January. Both will be staged in York and while the Yorkshire Tournament committee appreciate that some players will be disappointed because both Junior and Senior events coincide with national dates, these clashes were unavoidable, taking into account the congested calendar.

Good to see new sides from the county competing in the British League with Leeds outfit Aalco and Selby based Senior Thermal Derwent both in Division 3 North.

Ray Burch, County Development Officer, put on a Women in Table Tennis Awareness/Action Day in Doncaster with Jose Ransome, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt in attendance. The support was enthusiastic and it was good to see several disabled players involved.

Finally, because this is where he would want it - if he could not keep it out altogether that is !! - a sincere welcome to Dewsbury's Bevan Walker who has taken over the 'hot seat' as Chairman of the County Association.

He has a difficult act to follow in Eric Hill but he will do it in his way and his personality has already shown through in a number of the county's major departments. Best wishes of all to Bevan and give him and Yorkshire that little extra support that can make all the difference when it is needed.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

ONCE MORE A hectic season is underway and already, before these first notes for the new term have been written, Yorkshire has seen the Kirklees Junior Open, pipe opener for the Junior season, the preliminary Regional Junior Trials and no less than three matches for each of our four teams in the newly sponsored Friendly Hotels British League, while most of the Leagues have had a week of competitive action.

And, looking ahead, there are many important events scheduled to take place across the length and breadth of the Broad Acres, some of which will be history by the time these notes appear in print.

Nationally, we are looking ahead to the Women's European League clash with Germany due to be hosted by the go-ahead Scarborough league, in which our own Katie Goodall from Leeds is named in the England squad, while in the same week and still with the ladies, Hull Sandhill runners up in the Premier Division of the

England lose to Sweden

JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION

I was amazed to read in the National Press that the English team were outclassed by the Swedish team in this opening match of the European League in Olofstrom. Few would argue that Sweden are not the best in the world especially looking at their line-up in Olof. With their first win being recorded by the world singles champion, the second by the Olympic singles champion, the third by the world doubles champions and the final one by the worlds singles champion with his second win. Beaten we were, outclassed we most certainly were not.

In the opening match Chen Xinhua played quite superbly against Persson to win the second game but unfortunately made a disastrous start in the third. When the game was as good as over and victory was impossible Xinhua played some exhibition points which thrilled the crowd. Carl Prean took the second match very convincingly against Peter Karlsson to level the score at 1-1. Matthew Syed was in all fairness outclassed by the Olympic champion, Waldner, but then again so



Carl Prean

would any defensive player. Alan Cooke and Carl Prean played very well against the world champions, Karlsson and Von Scheele, and with the score at 13-13 in the third had a very good chance to level the match. Carl led Persson 19-13 in the first game and with his excellent record against the world champion a win in the first game would have created a completely different story.

Had we forced the sixth game to be played Matthew Syed would have had an excellent chance against Peter Karlsson whom he beat at the Europeans in Stuttgart.

SCORES: Chen v Persson -16, 15, 11. Prean v Karlsson 18, 17. Syed v Waldner -8, -12. Cooke/Prean v Karlsson/Von Scheele 16, -16, -13. Prean v Persson -19, -14.

I took a video of the match and have put a commentary on highlighting the important coaching points from a tactical and technical point of view. Whilst not of BBC quality it will give you an opportunity to see the match for yourself and judge whether we were outclassed or not. It will also give coaches an opportunity to observe current, advanced techniques. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy please contact Sid Fryer (061-980 8110), the cost being £12.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 16)

VETERANS 2D:

De 4 Av 5,
Wi 4 Gs 5,
So 2 Ha 2 7.

Devon, a new team to the Vets Section, put up a good fight and squared the score at 4-4 against Avon. Ernie Brown (Av) beat Roger Anniss in the 3rd games for the Avon win. Glos, on demotion, made a good start with a 5-4 win over Wilts 2nds. Dennis Holland (Gs) was involved in 3 wins. Hants 2nds did well with a 7-2 win over Somerset 2nds. Bob Cox (Ha) made a vital contribution with 3 wins.

VETERANS 3A:

Hu 2 4 Be 3 5,
Wi 3 5 Wa 2 4,
Be 2 4 No 2 5.

Newcomers Beds 3rd team did well, on their visit to St. Neots, to get a 5-4 win over Hunts 2nds. At 4-4 Derek George (Bd) won the last vital match for the win. It was a surprise to see Warwicks 2nds, last season's champions of the Division, beaten 5-4 by Wilts 3rd team. Basil Thompson was involved in 3 vital wins for Wilts. Northants 2nds went into a 4-nil lead against Beds 2nds. The homesters fought back but were finally beaten 5-4.

VETERANS 3B:

Do 3 2 Su 3 7,
Su 4 6 Ha 3 3,
He 3 4 Ke 3 5.

On their visit to Dorset Surrey 3rd team went into a 3-nil lead and kept on top to win 7-2. Newcomers Hants 3rd team visited Hove and, with the Sussex 4th team getting wins at 21 and 19 in 3rd games, they went down 3-6. Kent 3rd team, on demotion, just pipped Herts 3rds 5-4 when Mel Dixon (K) got a vital win in the final event.

VETERANS 3C:

No 3 5 Su 3 4,
Gl 2 3 Be 3 6,
He 2 He 5 7.

Dave Marsh played well for Northants 3rds. He was involved in 3 of the wins in the 5-4 defeat of Sussex 3rds. His two singles wins were at 18 and 19 in 3rd games. Glos 2nds, on demotion, met Berks 3rd team and lost 3-6. At match score 1-1 Berks players won 3 successive events at 18 and 17 in 3rd games to establish a lead and secure the win. Herefords received the Herts 5th team and lost 2-7. The match was closer than the score suggests as Pat Meredith (Hr) lost to Brian Gale -22, 17, 21 and Carol Milne (Hr) lost to June Nelson, -18, 20, -21.



Sweden's world champion Jorgen Persson

The Experts' Expert: The Coaches' Coach

(with acknowledgements to the 'Observer')

WHO do our best coaches look up to? Who are their influences? I asked 12 leading coaches (mostly at the English Junior Open) to name names, giving their own criteria. I do not claim that the exercise was scientifically/empirically valid. There are many other top coaches that could have been interviewed - Hans Soova, Sylvia Broadbent, Alan Fisher, Mike Kercher, Peter Charters, Peter Simpson, Lloyd Lewis (individual coach) and John Preat (parent coach) to name but a few - and who I asked obviously affected the outcome. Also I deliberately gave the coaches no time to consider their responses. After the interview and off the record, respondents thought of/wished they had mentioned other names and were sometimes concerned that omissions might cause offence! But the following is only a snapshot, an (albeit accurate) reflection of what, in a moment of time a sample of coaches, selected objectively-subjectively by me, said of their peers. I hope it rings true and stimulates interest and debate.

JOHN SOUTER, former Middlesex and England international, and now coaching at the Grove Club, Market Drayton - "I started playing when I was about 10. I had the best start I could which was a club called Brent Juniors which was then run by a very strict coach called Tony Pacitto. That was very important to be very strict when you first start...the discipline was very good...once you can get your head right and the discipline right then it's just a question of practising the things you need to practice...After about 2 years I went to a coach called Malcolm Studden...if I hadn't gone to Malcolm I would not have been as good as I was. He coached me to play more and more aggressive. Definitely in the latter years as a junior, also as a senior, it tended to be not a question of, who can miss the ball? but, who can win the point?...Technique wise Malcolm was very good for that...but it was all thanks to Tony in the first instance - if you get in the habit of practising hard and dressing very smartly you feel as if you want to work hard for the rest of your life...the first 2 or 3 years are very important for your mental approach."

GAIL McCULLOUGH, coach at South East Centre of Excellence, coach in schools and Surrey County Captain - "I started coaching using methods from Mike

Kercher who taught me in the first place...I also used techniques developed at college in terms of teaching how to manage people...in terms of specific table tennis, lots of people have different expertise. For example, I have a great deal of respect for Peter Corner the way that he works with young girls and gets them going. Similarly Dave Fairholm's grass roots techniques have been very, very good. Peter Hirst was the first one that really hit me about teaching good players so I used lots of things from him. Also, going back a long time now when Don Parker first came out of college before he became a national coach, he came to my school with Peter Hirst to get some experience and I saw how he started, and I have seen him in national training centres since and how he has developed...he deals with only good players and uses training techniques rather than coaching techniques...Nicky Jarvis has worked at our Centre of Excellence a few times. He is I think good with the good players...you pick up odd things from various people...Derek Marples...I can't say one person, I like to feel I use the best of all of them."

RODEN FULLEN, coaching in charge of the Centre of Excellence in Wakefield which has been running for about 11 years and has produced over the last 7 or 8 years, 7 England number ones. In their best year they had 5 players from the club playing in Europe - "Coaching wise, looking at the present set-up and people in this country, I feel that technically we are not very expert. There is probably only about half a dozen coaches who I would refer to who I would use in my sessions and from whom I would feel my players would benefit. One of those in particular I would mention is John O'Sullivan from the Liverpool area who I feel technically is very good. A lot of his own research has been based on university knowledge and expertise where he has had various things tested such as spins and effects on funny bats, difficult effects on tables, different floors...so he has used outside knowledge at a fairly highly expert level to validate his own theories...Nicky Jarvis is one of the few top players who has made the transition to a reasonably high level coach, and he is just starting to

reap the benefits with his squad at Peniel...If I have to pick one coach to coach players at all levels, senior and junior, I would go for John O'Sullivan."

NICKY JARVIS, former England international and national coach, and has been coach at Peniel (School) for 4 years where he starts players at '8, 9, 10 years old' and hopes to see them through to their 'full potential' - "I want to be involved with a scheme or system that has a fulfilment for myself as well as the players, that gives me the motivation that is necessary to work very hard to try to achieve what the players want to achieve. I am lucky to be in the situation where I have got that facility. The only slight problem with it is the limitation on the amount of players who I can choose from. Everything else is a big plus...some of the talented players are starting to show signs of hopefully being in the England seniors in 3, 4, 5 years time...I want to be able to be involved with players who have the potential to play for England, but not only that but the potential and, very important, the right game so that they can win when they play for England...and develop the mind so that they can win...That is very difficult because you have got to work with the players all the time. You can't be a coach who just captains players at tournaments and then sees them 2 weeks of the year."

I think from a man management point of view Don Parker has done a tremendous job over the last few years and certainly in his days when he was a junior coach come captain he worked very hard to get the players in the right frame of mind...recently he has managed to keep the England team together and make very difficult decisions...letting players do certain things...his decisions and the way he has gone about organising the England team and managing the England team has helped England to flourish certainly in the men, and England women are coming on quite well...when I was a junior I had a lot of conversations with Christer Johansson, who was the Swedish coach at the time, and basically his views were the same views that I have now. I probably respect him as a coach more than most others...a person I can relate to and I tend to agree with his views on

attitudes, techniques and discipline of players...A few years prior to that I was influenced strongly by Ogimura. Probably Ogimura was the person who influenced my game more than anyone else."

DAVID FAIRHOLM, former ETTA national coach and director of coaching. Currently Director for Coaching for the Scottish Table Tennis Association with the job to train and retrain coaches, set up coaching schemes and generally to promote and foster table tennis the length and breadth of Scotland. Took his first coaching qualification in 1973 - "I would like to think I have taken the best out of a number of people...A lot of people who have inspired me to coach may not even have been involved in table tennis. Obviously Brian Clough, who is the Nottingham Forest manager, was a big inspiration and having watched him work and worked with him, I think he would be an inspiration for anyone to play or coach. Possibly the greatest influence of all was in a book I read called 'The Coach' by Ralph Sabock, who is an American high school coach in which he talks about the values and ethics of a coach...I still quote an awful lot of what he said and wrote."

In table tennis there have been many people I have looked up to...a lot of them are my fellow national coaches of that era. I was trained initially by Peter Simpson and I possibly quote Peter more than anyone else in table tennis...So Peter was quite an influence and so was another Peter, Peter Hirst. Where Peter Simpson was a thinking coach, a quiet coach, a methodical coach...in Peter Hirst you have a very dynamic, positive, authoritative coach, a good leader of men, a very loyal leader...Possibly my influence in Nottingham was a guy named Dave Linley, a man of great principle, a gentleman, a gentleman's coach, who was kind to everyone, gave everyone a chance, but within his kindness he was a guy you couldn't push around. He had presence...I still go back to him for a bit of advice and inspiration. Obviously of all the coaches the father of them all is Jack Carrington. Jack was the best leveller of coaching; if every you coached from the extreme Jack would always quote from the opposite...a very balanced gentleman, possibly the best of us all."

(Continued next issue)

Grant aid to individuals

THE Foundation for Sport and the Arts are prepared to make grants to individuals, only in exceptional circumstances.

However, in a statement given to us by Graham Endicott, the Foundation Secretary, news is given of a special opportunity for people aged between 11 and 25.

A joint initiative from the Foundation and the Prince's Trust offers the possibility of grants, normally up to £550, for people with self-development projects in athletic sport. Although grants may be made to under 14's there would have to be a special case.

Applications to: Helen Sampson, The Prince's Trust, 8 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BA, marked 'Prince's Trust/FS & A Joint Initiative'.



Paul Tarrant

Staff Coach Eastern Region Paul Tarrant

A late starter in T.T. is the new Staff Coach for Eastern Region. He is Paul Tarrant, who started in the Hemel Hempstead league at the age of 22.

Paul was encouraged to help with coaching by Joe Morris and took over his session when he retired. Too his credit Paul is still running the same session which is for players of all ages.

He has also run the Hertfordshire junior teams and taken the squad to many tournaments. Since 1988 Paul has run courses for coaches and assisted on a wider front at Regional Coaching sessions at St. Neots.

Paul's other interests (which he rarely has time for) are dingy sailing and photography.

Apart from his Staff Coach job Paul also has a new challenge in coaching the Great Britain Deaf T.T. team and one of his ambitions is to run a coaches course for deaf players.

The Les Bridges Interview

Having been interviewed in the October TTN about Focus Sport in the South West, it seemed logical to get a wider perspective from Diccon Gray, the ETTA's National Development Manager. I caught up with Diccon at the Earls Court Exhibition arena where he was supervising a table tennis demonstration.

Q. How many regions have appointed Development Officers and Staff Coaches to date?

A. Each Region has a Staff Coach - that is 10 appointments. Five Regional Development Officers have been appointed. We have been able to get things moving quite well and have had input into all 10 Regional Development plans. We are reasonably happy about the situation at present.

Q. Is it too early to talk about solid results, as opposed to activities organised?

A. Early days, but plenty of activity suggesting that results will follow. It will all be carefully monitored with weekly reports to myself and Regional Chairman and an assessment procedure will be introduced. This will ensure that both Sports Council and ETTA investment is maximised with tangible achievement.

Q. Are you concerned about the possibility of setting things in motion without adequate resources for follow-up?

A. Resources, especially human resources, could be a problem area. As you are aware we have a number of volunteer enthusiasts doing most of the work and we can't really expect them to do more. Development Officers see maintaining these volunteers, and recruiting more help as a key part of their task. There are a number of ideas for the future - Such as more family table tennis with parents and young children being coached together, with the parents eventually becoming helpers.

Q. Now, a difficult and somewhat political question. Some people in the sport believe that the large amount of money being put into the sport would be better used if given out direct to Counties and Leagues for development use. What is the answer to that?

A. This is understandable and was indeed done with the ETTA League Development Fund. However, via the Regional Committee, Counties will have a considerable input and of course many have already been involved in assisting production of Regional plans required by the Sports Council.

The Development department believe that the money will be well used. My answer (above) to your second question makes it clear that all activity will be carefully assessed. Additionally, I should point out that we are being very selective with our

choice of Regional Development Officers. Generally they will be people with pedigree T.T. backgrounds, professionals who have the negotiating skills and the time to get talks started with local authorities, and other people who can help T.T. We are confident that this will benefit the sport in the long term.

Editor's Note: Any questions from T.T.N. readers? Send them in.

London Region Report

Efforts are continuing to build upon the achievements of the first six months in the post (see earlier reports). The Regional Development Plan has again been an important part of recent work, but progress has also been made in several other areas. Examples are given below.

Regional Development Plan

The 'Position Statement' and 'Priority Areas for Action' have now passed through E.T.T.A. Regional Committee and Regional Sports Council Office. After a great deal of consultation and drafting, a 'Final Draft' has now been compiled and sent to the Sports Council and the Working Party for their approval or amendments. It is hoped that the final document will be approved by the London Council for Sport and Recreation in November as planned.

Borough Initiatives

Barnet

A Disability Festival was held on 18th September. The Trainee Regional Staff Coach attended to maximise table tennis interest in the event. Polybat was supplied, courtesy of Croydon, to enable everyone to take part.

Brent

Brent have expressed an interest in hosting a Borough Tournament. Local E.T.T.A. contacts are established to help organise and benefit from the event.

Bromley

Steps are being taken now to start a Club with five Tables at the Priory Leisure Centre.

Croydon

Two schools are being identified as a possible Specialist Facility for Table Tennis.

Harrow

A table tennis presentation was made at the Mike Heaffey Centre's Development meeting. It is provisionally planned to hold a Player/Coach Day for people with disabilities, and a Coach Education Course with emphasis on disability. The adapted game of Scotball has been examined and submitted to the B.T.T.A.D. for comment, with a view to E.T.T.A. approval.

Carthy takes the gold medal

CLIVE CARTHY became an unexpected World Champion when he took gold at the 5th World Corporate Games, held at the recently opened Goresbrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham during October 3-4th.

Michelle Cohen, the England No.28, secured the main prize in the Women's singles.

Barclays Bank emerged as champion company, both in the table tennis and the overall event, which was contested amongst a reported 5,000 people across 22 sports ranging from Dragon boating to Petanque. ETTA President Johnny Leach presented the medals in an Olympic style presentation ceremony with fanfare.

So what exactly was this all about? Well, the idea was a multiactivity celebration of sport being an important part of life. From the business world, Sir John Harvey Jones spoke about how a healthy body helps produce minds fit for business.

Large companies, especially banks, were the main partici-



Clive Carthy

pants. The overall games opened and closed with ceremonies at Spitalfields Market. Entrants were treated to a carrier bag of goodies at the registration held in the opulent supercentre at Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

The Table Tennis tournament suffered from a disappointing entry. Between 300 - 700 players were coming, we were led to believe in the preliminary meetings. However, when it came to it, there were just 120, and the overseas element consisted of a handful from France.

There was also an unfortunate clash of dates which resulted in the top two players, Paul Whiting and Gary Lambert, scratching from the semi-final stage in order to retreat to Cornwall for a Friendly Hotels British League fixture.

The officials, who included Michael Close, Phil Gower and Barry Granger, did an excellent job and those who did take part had quite a bit of fun - mainly at their companies' expense.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

APPOINTMENT

South West Regional Table Tennis Development Officer (Full Time 3 year fixed term contract).

In conjunction with ETTA/Sports Council 'Focus Sport' initiative, the objectives of the post will be to plan and coordinate the implementation of the South West Development plan for table tennis.

Salary £15,000 (all hours worked post). Postholder will be expected to live within easy travelling distance of likely office base in Bristol.

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: 21st November 1992

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 (South West) and the English Table Tennis Association



RESULTS

MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Bronze	Gary Tendler	(Nat West)
Silver	Andy Edmonds	(Barclays Bank)
Gold	Clive Carthy	(Hong Kong Bank)

WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES

Bronze	Kate Wadling	(Hong Kong Bank)
Silver	To Thuy Zung	(British Airways)
Gold	Michelle Cohen	(Imperial Tobacco)

MEN'S UNDER 30 SINGLES

Silver	Mark Randle	(Barclays Bank)
Gold	Paul Amos	(Barclays Bank)

Final Amos bt Randle 16, -17, 14, 22

WOMEN'S UNDER 30 SINGLES

Silver	Elizabeth Blanch	(B.B.C.)
Gold	Gillian Blanch	(B.B.C.)

Final Gillian bt Elizabeth Blanch 14, 18, 18

MEN'S 30-39 SINGLES

Final	John Kitchener	(Barclays Bank)
	beat Andy Withers	(Barclays Bank)

MEN'S 40-49 SINGLES

Final	Tony Taylor	(Barclays Bank)
	beat Geoffrey Edmunds	(Otis Elevator Liverpool)

Silver Salver for 'Scotch Bob'

WHEN Bob Edon informed the Cleveland committee that this was to be his last Cleveland senior tournament they felt this sad occasion should be marked with a special presentation.

Bob, a Stockton man, has been connected with the Cleveland tournament since the early days. At that time it was known as the Teeside Open.

On the formation of Cleveland County he continued in his present role and has successfully completed 20 years service.

Bob was delighted with the gift, a silver salver, and was seen putting it to good use before the tournament ended.

He and his family moved north of the border to Aberdeen where he is known as 'Scotch Bob'. He managed to bring some of his expertise to the Scottish tournament scene and has successfully run the North of Scotland Open for some years.

Although many miles away he looked forward to his annual trip to Cleveland to meet his many Sassenach friends.

He told the Umpires that the last four working on Saturday evening would be rewarded with a nip of Drambuie from his flask. This year served up on a Silver Tray. I believe only three were rewarded as he kept one for himself.

His is a record of senior tournaments which will be difficult to emulate.



Bob Edon, Referee of Cleveland 5 Star 92, being presented with a Silver Salver by Colin Davison, Chairman Cleveland T.T.A.



Jacky Foong



Graham May

Following in Father's footsteps

JACKY FOONG won the Welwyn Garden City Table Tennis League's mens singles trophy, beating De Havilland clubmate Keith Hartridge in the final.

Jacky's father, Sek Seong Foong, is a former number one in his native Malaysia.

Devon Veteran gets new lease of life

GRAHAM MAY retired on health grounds as General Secretary of the Plymouth and District League after 19 years in the hot seat plus two further years on Committee.

His many friends in Devon and Cornwall wish to thank him through Table Tennis News, for the hard work, dedication and help that he has given to so many players and officials. We shall miss his expertise with the paperwork and his ability to resolve problems so speedily.

Graham had a heart attack which resulted in him having a by-pass operation in January 1992. He has made a successful recovery and is back playing table tennis in Division One of the Plymouth and District League. Recently he won a County ranking tournament and is now Devon No.2 male veteran and ready to make his debut in the County Vets team.

Graham represented the P & D League on the Devon Committee for many years and he still retains his position as selector and continues to give considerable backing to the Juniors.

May he enjoy many more years on the Devon bandwagon.

The Ranking Scheme

IT is a daunting task to try to explain the current Ranking Scheme to a readership with widely different degrees of knowledge and understanding of it already. I have decided to go for an explanation in stages, of which this is the first, rather than an all-in-one technical treatise. (I refer the impatient to last November's edition of Table Tennis News which did indeed carry all the technical details, most of which are still relevant today.)

Our new ranking scheme has been welcomed by some, hated by some, but all accept the need for some system of determining the relative standards of our players. Above all the system must be FAIR, based on objective criteria rather than on someone's subjective opinion.

Every player has a RATING which states how good a player he or she is. If players improve, their rating goes up; if they hit a bad patch, their rating falls. Whether they are Junior, Senior, Veteran, Man or Woman, their rating should identify their standard. Of course it is not quite that simple in practice, since we do not play women at all levels, so men's and women's ratings are not strictly comparable in our system at present.

Once you know the ratings of two players, you SHOULD be able to work out which one will win when they play each other. But, of course, not all matches go to form, and the weaker player may win - either by chance or perhaps because he/she has improved, in which case an adjustment to the ratings would be appropriate. Some rating points should be transferred from the loser to the winner, thus ensuring a dynamic list where ratings are constantly changing.

The number of points to be transferred depends on the difference in ratings. Players on equal ratings should have a 50-50 chance of winning or losing. A big

An introduction by Geoff Twiss, member of Ranking panel **PART ONE** *The Conceptual Framework*

difference in ratings indicates that the odds are more heavily stacked in favour of one player. In other words the ratings also allow us to see how much better one player is than another. Ideally a separation of 100 points should indicate the same difference in standard whether it occurs at the top of the table or at the bottom. On our system it represents about a 1 in 4 (or 25%) chance of an upset, with the stronger player likely to win on three occasions out of four.

The big advantage of the current system over the previous one is that it distinguishes between the players who have lots of points because they are good and the lesser players who had been to more tournaments and had therefore collected just as many points. The concept of ratings rather than points-for-wins is fundamental - players can no longer get to the top just by going to more tournaments than anyone else. It is the loss of points when players lose matches that makes our present rating system so much fairer as a guide to real playing standards.

Whenever a match takes place between two players who have a rating, the winner gains points and the loser loses points. If one player is much better than the other, the points transfer is small if the match ends as expected; the weaker player gains many more points if the match goes the other way. Under the new system it doesn't matter how often players play, for once they have reached their correct rating, they should be winning and losing in equal

proportions. They should eventually reach stable level, but it is a level that reflects the balance between points won and points lost.

The more results the computer gets for any player, the greater the accuracy of the rating it produces. For this reason we took the decision to open the scheme up this year to ALL singles events if tournament organisers choose to register them. So whenever two players meet, whether in main events, in class or

restricted events or even in consolation events, their match results can be used to determine their ratings. It will inevitably cost more to enter the greater numbers of match results into the computer, so players will pay 50p per event towards this in 1992-93. (This sum will usually be included in the event entry fee to keep matters simple). It may be some time before every organiser makes use of this facility, and indeed there is no compulsion on them to do so, but the system should become more accurate as a result.

Over the next few months I will explain in more detail how your match results get into the computer, how it tackles the task of calculating your rating, and what the various "flags" like I, N and R all mean.

VIDEOS

By Don Parker

Following the interest in the Video of the 1993 European Championships in Stuttgart, I have produced two more of the same quality. The first is of the September European Super League Match for the men against Sweden (featuring the Olympic Champion and the World Champion), and the second in the same competition against Belgium, in October.

Once again I have put on a commentary highlighting the main technical and tactical points. You can also hear comments from the bench and I feel any keen coaches or players looking to develop a 'positive' style will find either of the tapes very useful.

Should you wish to purchase a copy of either please indicate your preference and send a cheque (payable to Mr. S. Fryer) for £12 to:

Mr. S. Fryer
8 Cleveland Road, Hale, Altrincham,
Cheshire. WA15 8AY

First World Championships to be held in England

NEXT year the English Schools' Table Tennis Association moves into its 25th year and the anniversary will be celebrated in style as it hosts the first World Schools T.T. Championships to be held in Britain over the week from 8th-15th April, 1993.

This is the first event staged in England under the auspices of the International School Sport Federation since 1981, when the volleyball championships were held and, fittingly, it will be held in Birmingham, England's second city, where it all began 25 years ago.

Then, thanks to the initiative of the late E.T.T.A. officials, Tom Blunn and Jack Carrington, a group of interested teachers from the length and breadth of England met in Birmingham and E.S.T.T.A. was brought into being with John Maxwell, now living in retirement in Pickering in North Yorkshire, as Chairman and Gerald Gurney, no stranger to readers of this magazine, as its first General Secretary.

The 'show was on the road' and, thanks to dedicated work from teachers too numerous to mention, as well as generous sponsorship from 'the trade',

E.S.T.T.A. has since gone from strength to strength and next year moves on to the World stage.

An event of this magnitude is, of course, not cheap to stage, and this step could not have been taken without major financial support, and the Association wish to offer sincere thanks for the help, both in cash and kind, which has already been promised.

Only grants of £50,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and £10,000 from the Sports Council have made it possible to bring this prestigious World event to England, while the Recreation and Community Services Department of the City of Birmingham, who have supported 'home' internationals so enthusiastically over the years, will take a leading role.

They have provided a well appointed and central venue in the Birmingham Sports Centre, extensive administrative facilities will be made available

and, in a magnificent gesture, they have placed the services of Leisure Officer Eddie Mitchell at the disposal of the Championships Committee.

Eddie is, of course, a former officer of the Schools' Association, and the expertise which he gained in twelve years as Competition Secretary, plus his local knowledge of both table tennis and sport in general in the Midlands will prove invaluable.

Also highly involved will be the Dunlop Sports Company, who will continue their long association with English Schools after stepping in to provide all the playing equipment for the event.

A number of preliminary meetings have been held and by now all countries affiliated to the I.S.F. will have received invitations and details, with acceptances requested by mid-October.

On the playing front, sixteen countries will compete in both

team and individual competition, with each entitled to enter one boys and one girls team. Each team will consist of four players, under the age of sixteen on January 1st, 1993, all of whom must still be in full time education at school.

As the host country, however, England have the option to enter a 'B' team in the championships and, at the moment, it appears likely that this option could be taken up.

I make no apology for devoting the whole of this article to the most important event which has been undertaken since the inception of organised schools T.T. in 1968, and will conclude these notes with a brief summary of dates for the current season.

Team Championships: Area - Saturday/Sunday, January 16/17th 1993. **Regional** - Sunday, February 21st, 1993. **National Finals** - Saturday, March 20th, 1993.

Individual Championships: Saturday, May 8th, 1993.

E.S.T.T.A. Coaching Course (Lea Green): 13-15th April, 1993.

North West Youth Cup

THIS event was organised by North West Region at Upton Recreation Centre, Chester. Cheshire County Council continued as sponsors of the event for their second year. Fourteen events took place with the Cheshire County Council North West Youth Cup being awarded for one year, to the club gaining the greatest number of points overall for first or second place or losing semi finalist. Akash Kapoor won three of the boys titles and Zoe Buchanan, four of the girls.

RESULTS

	WINNER	SCORE	RUNNER-UP
U21 BOYS	Mark Newns (Birkenhead) (Played as a Round Robin)		Ian Eaton (Northwich)
U17 BOYS	Ian Eaton (Northwich)	12, 15	Mark Newns (Birkenhead)
U17 CLASS 2 BOYS	Akash Kapoor (Stockport)	9, 18	Ian Joynson (Northwich)
U14 BOYS	Akash Kapoor (Stockport)	11, -20, 17	Tristan Swan (Holbeck)
U14 CLASS 2 BOYS	Akash Kapoor (Stockport)	-19, 18, 15	Gregory Lee (Bolton)
U12 BOYS	Gregory Lee (Bolton)	15, 7	Michael Moir (Blackburn)
U17 BOYS DOUBLES	Ian Eaton (Northwich) Mark Newns (Birkenhead)	19, 11	Akash Kapoor (Stockport) Tristan Swan (Holbeck)
U21 GIRLS	Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)	16, 13	Clare NewNS (Birkenhead)
U17 GIRLS	Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)	-16, 16, 12	Clare Newns (Birkenhead)
U14 GIRLS	Clare Newns (Birkenhead)	10, 15	Lindsey Thornton (Bury)
U17 GIRLS CLASS 2	Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)	8, 18	Purdy Jones (Ellesmere Port)
U14 GIRLS CLASS 2	Lindsey Thornton (Bury)	11, 10	Purdy Jones (Ellesmere Port)
U12 GIRLS	Lindsey Thornton (Bury)	19, 17	Alice Howard (Birkenhead)
U17 GIRLS DOUBLES	Zoe Buchanan (Stockport) Clare Newns (Birkenhead)	-20, 9, 13	Purdy Jones (Ellesmere Port) Alice Howard (Birkenhead)

WINNERS of the Club Trophy - Mid Cheshire Table Tennis Club with 46 points

RUNNERS-UP - Gautby Road Table Tennis Club, Birkenhead with 38 points

London Borough honours Tristan

THE Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Kofi Appiah, presents Tristan Newman with the first of the borough's Sports Award in the Junior Category.

The award is in recognition of Tristan's double 'Triple' triumph. He won the Barclays Shield for the under 11 year boys for the third year running. He also won the Barclays Shield for the number one player in the under 14 and under 17 age groups.

With the honour Tristan received an equipment voucher for £50.

Isle of Dogs Junior League Champions

ADAM Brown and Bikash Sen were sponsored by the Isle of Dogs Bursary and London Weekend Television's Youth Adventure Programme to attend the Grant Solder Summer Camp at Chelmsford.



Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Kofi Appiah, with Barclays No.1 player Tristan Newman



Adam Brown and Bikash Sen

COTSWOLD JUNIOR SELECT

January

30th/31st 1993

The programme now includes Class 2 Girl and Boy Cadet Singles on the Saturday, and Girl and Boy Junior Singles on the Sunday.

ENTRY FORMS

Please apply to:
Mr. M.J. Reeves,
21 Martindale Road,
Churchdown,
Gloucester GL3 2DN.
Tel: 0452 713840

Hungarian dominance - the thirties

FOLLOWING their loss of two titles in the Budapest World Championships it was voiced in some quarters that Hungary was on a downward path, more especially as the sport was spreading and becoming more popular. From 21st - 26th January, 1930, the World Championships were staged in Berlin and as so often is the case, the critics were completely and utterly wrong. Ten teams competed for the Swaythling Cup, again won by Hungary, and they swept the board of individual titles with Victor Barna winning the first of his men's singles titles. The unstoppable Maria Mednyanszky won her fourth women's singles and then for good measure the mixed doubles with Michael Szabados and the women's doubles with Annus Sipos. We have seen how the Hungarians emerged as the top country in the late twenties, but their real dominance came in the early thirties with the acclaimed 'Three Musketeers' Barna, Bellak and Szabados. From 1930 - 1935 their total collection of individual titles numbered 28, of which Barna himself won 13. In addition they also managed to annexe five Swaythling Cup victories; not surprisingly they were considered to be invincible.

It was during the thirties that life in Hungary became very difficult for anyone of Jewish origin as there were many in high positions who were anti-Semitic and the feudal system of the country had overtones of Nazism. Many of the Hungarian table tennis stars were Jewish and although they were passionately fond of their country they eventually took advantage of the opportunities that came their way and emigrated.

The World Championships returned to Budapest in February, 1931, where once again the Hungarians won all the titles and the supreme stars were Maria Mednyanszky and Michael Szabados who each captured three individual titles. It was Maria's fifth successive singles title and the last she was ever to win. In the men's singles the underdog, Michael Szabados, reached great heights and actually defeated Barna in three straight games 21-12, 24-22, 21-14 - it was his first and only singles title.

In 1932 the Championships were held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary once again won all the individual events but were surprisingly beaten in the team championship - which was captured by the home country. Victor Barna won the men's singles title again, striking a run of four successive wins and most surprisingly, Maria Mednyanszky lost in straight games to her team mate Annus Sipos 17-21, 16-21, 19-21.

The World Championships were actually held twice in the calendar year of 1933, the first in Baden, Austria, from 31st January - 5th February, and the second in Paris, France, from 2nd - 10th December. The latter event of course, was to cover the 1933-34 season. Hungary won nine out of the ten individual events and the Swaythling Cup on both occasions. It was in the Paris championships that a women's team competition took place for the first time and became known as the Corbillon Cup. Surprisingly, it was won by Germany who just beat the outstanding favourites from Hungary.



Acrobatic Victor Barna

In February, 1935, the World Championships returned to London and a record number of seventeen countries entered. Victor Barna reached dazzling heights, winning three individual titles and helping Hungary to win, yet again, the coveted Swaythling Cup. It was in May, 1935, three months after his successes in Wembley that he broke his arm in a car crash and had a metal plate inserted. Although he competed in subsequent world championships Barna never again won the singles title.

With political difficulties mounting in Hungary, it was not always easy for the top players to carry out extensive tours, but good fortune came England's way in 1935-36 when Barna, Bellak and Szabados were allowed to accept an invitation to tour the country giving exhibitions. Their magical control of the ball and flair for exhibitionism attracted large crowds and gave table tennis a new dimension. It was about this time that they were christened the 'Three Musketeers' and the Barna 'flick' became as famous in its day as Borg's topspin lawn tennis strokes in the seventies. Barna repeatedly said that from the reception he was given in England he felt a close relationship with the country and its people, and it was no surprise when in 1938, he took out British nationality.

VICTOR BARNÁ

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1911, Victor Barna was actually christened Gyoza Vic Braun, but owing to an anti-Semitic campaign in Hungary when he was in his teens, he called himself Barna so as to gain entry into one of the fashionable clubs there. Some English friends, finding his Christian name difficult to pronounce, began calling him Victor and this name found worldwide acceptance. He became the greatest player of his generation and unquestionably the sport has still produced no greater figure. Whereas Ivor Montagu was the architect of table tennis, Victor Barna was the artist who embellished the structure.

At an early age he showed promise at many ball games, principally lawn tennis and football, and it was thought at one time that he might pursue a career as a footballer. It was, however, the competitive spirit of table tennis that fired him, especially as the centre at which he played boasted such names as Bellak, Glancz, Kelen and Szabados. As a youngster he showed promise but according to one of his team mates he was woefully weak on the backhand! By perseverance, practice and application that weakness became his strength and the Barna 'flick' became possibly the greatest single stroke to emerge from the sport, but he denied this description.

Many modern players are quick to point out that today his style and approach to the game would make him extremely vulnerable. This issue however is hardly worth debate as the equipment he used, a pimped-rubber faced bat, was very different from the sponge bats used by the world-ranking players of today. He had a truly remarkable record and no player is ever likely to emulate it. In world championships alone his personal tally was fifteen individual titles plus seven medals as a member of the winning Hungarian Swaythling cup teams. He actually won five men's singles (four in a row), eight men's doubles and two mixed doubles titles. He brought breathtaking table tennis to disbelieving spectators with a style and elegance that inspired the young and touched the senses of the old. For once the well-worn cliché is apt; he became a legend in his own lifetime.

Although the table tennis world mourned his passing in Lima, Peru, on 27th February 1972, Victor Barna left behind more than just a memory; he left us the Swaythling International Club of which he remained President until his death. This Club brings together those who have played in world championships throughout the years and it is an expanding testimonial to one man's genius.

Southern Region

by *Brian Lamerton*

I UNDERSTAND that a very successful regional tournament we held on May 16th, but apart from the fact that Mark Werner and Kevin Smith from the team of the season, Merton travelled all the way from Bournemouth to Reading to meet each other in the final of the Mens Singles with Mark victorious nobody has been able to provide me with any other information - perhaps these notes will jog the memory of the person delegated to advise me.

Merton, promoted only at the beginning of the season from Division 1, and with a final 7 sets to 2 win against Burnham, carried off Premier Division honours in the regional leagues.

A nail biting 5 sets win to 4 win gave OLOP "B" the Division One title over their final opponents Isle of Wight. A walk over and weakened opposition from the final two matches allowed KCD to jump into second place.

As recorded in May/June Amity Generation are Ladies champions.

The premier leading player was Mark Werner with 92.6% followed by Marc Priddle and Paul Bickell, both of OLOP. 5 players recorded 100% in division 1 but from few appearances. The real leader in my book was KCD's Pete Woodacre with 83.3% whilst the Isle of Wight's Roger Hookey, the only ever present member of either mens divisions recorded 77.8%.

A similar situation in the ladies league made Gilligan Galloway of OLOP (92.9%) my leader with the ever present Sarah Turner (Amity Generation) and Barbara Savage (Aldershot) both returning 87.5%.

WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN! - an increase in entry for this seasons regional leagues and the introduction of a third men's division. Welcome to newcomers Artel (Crowthorne), Chalfont St. Peter, Snows (Southampton) and Thatcham; matches start October 3rd.

Close contests at Regional Trials

THE English Table Tennis Association's Regional Junior Trials began on 13th September. The Southern Region held the finals of the Under 17 Girls and the preliminary round of the Under 17 Boys events at the Bulmershe Sports Centre in Woodley.

Berkshire's players did well in some very close groups whose winners were in doubt until the very last match.

The final positions of Berkshire's Under 17 Girls in the Southern Region Trials were:- First Helen Goatly (Reading), Fourth Joanna Stone (Bracknell), Sixth Joanne Barratt (Newbury) and 7th Joanna Hyde (Newbury).

Helen Goatly now goes forward to the ETTA National Junior Trials being held on the 2nd and 3rd January. She will be joined there by Gemma Schwartz (Reading) who qualified via her leading England ranking. Joanna Stone will be the first reserve from the Southern Region.

Some unexpected results were recorded as the Girls group unfolded. Helen Goatly lost her first match to Joanne Barratt, and nearly lost her next to Joanna Stone. She then seemed to sort her game out and beat Lucy Templeton and Wendy Barlow, who were both ranked above her in the England rankings. In fact, Wendy was ranked 25 places above Helen, yet Helen beat Wendy 21-9, 21-12! Joanna Stone did well to beat Joanne Barratt, and may soon qualify to receive an England ranking.

In the preliminary round of the Under 17 Boys event, Ali Subhan (Reading) and Terry Young (Maidenhead) qualified for the final round to be held at Redbridge Community School, Southampton on 8th November. In the process, Terry beat Kevin Macken who is ranked 38 places above him. Ali's group couldn't have had a much closer finish. He figured in a tie for first place with Jeremy Wilson. Both players had won five and lost two, but Jeremy won the group because in the last match of the day he just managed to beat Ali. There was a tie for 3rd and 4th in the group. This was easily resolved by the Tournament Referee, but the tie for 5th, 6th and 7th places had to be sorted out by counting the number of points won by each of the players!

Gareth Herbert (Maidenhead) and Ian Barratt (Newbury) were both unlucky to come bottom in their groups. Amongst several close matches, 11 year old Gareth only just lost 19-21, 20-22 to Terry Young. Ian Barratt won one of his matches and also troubled Ali Subhan in losing 19-21, 21-23 to him.

Mick Stroud was the referee and Derek Langley was the organiser for the day's events. They are to be congratulated on the smooth running of the tournament, which at one stage was in jeopardy when the normal Redbridge venue was found to be unavailable on the scheduled date for the trials.

Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl

THE draw for the national Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl competitions include the following matches for associations within the Southern Region:-

Wilmott Cup:

Reading v Bracknell (winners v Aldershot)
Swindon v Newbury, High Wycombe v Slough, Watford v Maidenhead, Gosport & Fareham v Leatherland whilst Milton Keynes receive a bye.

Rose Bowl:

Reading v Maidenhead, Aldershot v High Wycombe, and Wembley & Harrow v Bracknell.

South West Region

by *Alf Pepperd*

THE SWR Trials at Wellington, Somerset for Juniors/Cadets, despite being down on entries, nevertheless proved to be a highly satisfactory event, and the following are to be thanked for providing the nucleus of a sound working force:- Mrs. Valerie Clack, SWR, Chairperson Coaching, Messrs Dave Nipper and Tim Harris, referee's and Tony Carey the Assistant Staff Coach SWR, Tony throughout the entire Tournament, was to be seen umpiring, proffering well deserved advice to his Somerset Proteges, and at the end of the day dismantling tables and putting them away - indeed a man of continuous action.

I managed a few brief words with Les Bridges - Chairman of the Regional Committee, Les, is much of the opinion that table tennis in general is still a very cheap sport to participate in, leastways in comparison with many other ball games.

He, also thinks that S.W. Focus on Sport could well be a wasted effort, UNLESS more people in our sport are willing to come forward, and perhaps put a little bit more back into the game, a view I thoroughly support.

I would like to thank both Les Bridges and Penny Perry (Credition) for giving me BBC Radio South & West interviews, on the day of the trials.

Below are the finalists, who have qualified for the final round of trials on November 8th. Venue: not known at time of writing.

JUNIOR GIRLS

Kelly Sampson (wi), Lucy Perry (dv), Debbie King (wi), Nicola Bray (co), Tracy Youldon (wi), Julie Ashcroft (so), Liz May (dv), Kelly Harris (av). 1st reserve: Gillian Blythe (dv).

JUNIOR BOYS

Robert Millard (so), Gary Bufton (dv), Jonathen Pocock (co), Andrew Hewitt (so), Barry Fudge (av), Jonathan May (dv), Alex Shepperd (av), David Menzel (co). 1st reserve: Peter Thomas (dv).

CADET GIRLS

Claire Shobrook (so), Nicky Bryson (do), Elizabeth May (dv), Zoe Warren (dv), Lucy Perry (dv), Joanne Barralough (dv), Jessica Orlick (av), Georgina Paulton (do).

CADET BOYS

Marcus Cronin (dv), Daniel Adams (dv), Robert Svensson (dv), Graham Worth (co), Aaron Mortimer (gs), Matthew Loughran (av), Peter Thomas (dv), Ben Pocock (co).

Severity of the bang

YOU have warned a player about wasting time between points, and shown him the yellow card. Because the warning did not have the desired effect, you award a penalty point against him. A bit later, in a fit of pique because his opponent gets a lucky edge point, he gives the table a disapproving bang with his racket. Do you award sufficient points to his opponent to finish that game, or do you, depending on the severity of the bang, have the option of awarding a second penalty point? The discussion arose at the recent World Student Table Tennis Championships held in Lyon. A purely theoretical question, I (JR) hasten to add.

The award of penalty points etc is covered in Regulation 4.4.7.4. "For a first offence the umpire may award a point... for a subsequent offence he may award a game...." Further in 4.4.7.7, we see that "If misbehaviour continues after the imposition of penalties...report to the referee."

So the sequence is: Warn; award a point; award sufficient points to terminate the game; suspend play and report to the referee. Of course, after the first warning, if the player's behaviour is sufficiently serious, the umpire may suspend play and report to the referee without further ado.

Warnings and awards of penalties should be marked by the clear display of a yellow card.

The use of a red card is either by the referee if he decides to disqualify a player, or by the umpire if, after a warning about illegal advising, the advisor is dismissed from the playing area.

It is not in the remit of the assistant umpire to warn people giving advice at unauthorised times, although the AU may be in a better position to observe the infraction than the umpire who is occupied in controlling the game. The matter of advice to players is receiving attention from the legislators, although we cannot say that we are wholly in agreement with the direction in which they seem to be going.

It was noticed in Lyon that the manner of use of the scoring machines did not follow the procedure that has been recommended in the UK. Here, the umpire would expect to find the machine showing no figures at all when he goes to the table. When the players have arrived at the table for the match, he will turn over the small (usually red) game figures to 0-0. The control table can then tell that the proper players are at the table, and that the table is not being occupied by practising. At the announcement of "Love-all" the large (usually black) points score numbers are turned to 0-0. This is often a useful indication to foreign players, who may not fully understand what you are saying while introducing the game, that play should commence.

At the end of the game, e.g.



Harry Spraggs

21-16, the scoring machine is left showing 0 (21-16) 0 for a short period, and is then reset to 0 (0-0) 1. You do not bang over the red figure as soon as 21 points are scored, e.g. to 1 (21-16) 0, because it is clear that two different sets of figures at the same stage of play cannot both be correct.

The Volley Returns

We have received a further letter from Derek Tyler (see December 1991 issue) on the question of abolishing the volley law. He strongly disagrees with our view and asks if we would include in our next article the letter he wrote to the editor of this magazine and which was not published. Derek writes:-

"I feel obliged to make further comment on the suggestion in your 'UMPIRES' CORNER' to change the law regarding the volley. The highly respected and experienced umpires who edit this column declare that no umpire would have difficulty in judging whether the volley was made just over the playing surface, or just behind the end line, because this judgement needs to be made in service. I maintain that the judgement of this part of the service law is far from being easy. The umpire, seated in line with the net, is badly placed to judge situations concerning the end line. Frankly he can only penalise flagrant abuses. This contention is supported by the fact that it was deemed necessary to introduce extra officials for this purpose at the World Championships in Chiba. Furthermore, under Law 3.6.6.1. the umpire has the right to give a warning on the first occasion that he has a doubt about any facet of the service law. No such provision exists concerning the judgement of a volley.

One must not lose sight of the fact that law changes affect the conduct of matches at all levels of the game. A large percentage of table tennis is played in the lower echelons of competition. The umpires there are not experienced officials, but team mates, opponents, or losing players in tournaments, who are obliged by local regulations to accept the "chore" of umpiring. Very often these people "score" the matches but do not control them. They seldom look at the services, and almost never sanction (penalise? - Editor) them. Thus they are not used to "making this judgement in service". On the contrary the law concerning the volley is well understood and accepted. Most players are sufficiently sporting to admit having made a spontaneous volley, even if this is not noticed by the umpire. Should this change of law be made, I can foresee many disputes concerning just where the volley was made.

Please, Fred and Jack, do not propose changes that make problems at lower levels of play. These players are important to the future of the game, and one must try to keep the laws simple and practical. Grasp the nettle, my eminent umpire friends, and turn your attention to the service law, which is far too involved and complicated. Make this easier to administer, and you will give the game an immense boost."

Comment: Derek has the emphasis slightly wrong in the second sentence of his letter. What we said was that the umpire would have no more difficulty when dealing with this than he has now with the service and obstruction laws. We still think that the volley law could be abolished and the obstruction law kept, which simplification sufficiently covers all circumstances.

Umpire of the Month

Harry Spraggs - A Short Self Portrait

Born in Forest Gate, East London where I lived until moving to Fleet, Hampshire in 1970. Married with two sons in their twenties. I am Group Accountant/Company Secretary for six land and property developers based in Rowledge, near Farnham, Surrey. A top grade amateur footballer, I had trials for West Ham United and Chelsea, and a keen athlete. Table tennis was only a third choice sport until a twice broken ankle in the fifties directed my path firmly into it.

Representative honours were won with Essex at football, athletics, table tennis and chess, and later with Hampshire and Berkshire at table tennis.

National Service was served with the Royal Engineers as a quantity surveyor, after which I was treasurer of the now defunct East London Table Tennis League, for eighteen years. Further posts held were Essex Vice Chairman, National Councillor, Selector and Tournaments Secretary. I have also been a member of the N.U.R.C., and the ETTA Equipment Committee under Ron Craydon.

I have travelled widely as an umpire, including the World Championships in Chiba and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Edinburgh and the Isle of Man.

Umpire Selections

Selections have been made for forthcoming events as follows:-

English Junior National Championships - 5th & 6th December

R. Avent, T. Carpenter, D. Edwards, G.G. Hammond, A. Harwood, C.T. Hyland, W.F. Lavis, J. Melnick, H.F.J. Newman, D. Perry, S.E. Sherlock, H.A. Spraggs, M.D. Strode, G. Tyler, Mrs. E.J. Wilson, D. Young, P. May, Mrs. D.M. Nightingham.

Reserves (1) J. Evans, (2) Mrs. D.M. Mermyn, (3) B.P. Lamerton, (4) T.J. Vance)

Veterans British League - 16th & 17th January 1993

Mrs. A.P. Archdale, D. Calver, P.D. Gower, J. Lawton, Miss D.L. Moore, E.A. Pentland, D.A. Poultney, A.L. Seward, G. Tyler, B. Watkins, Mrs. S.A. Gower, Mrs. D.M. Nightingale.

Junior Top 12 - 23rd & 24th January 1993

S. Clarke, J. Lawton, W.V. Moran, D.A. Poultney, P.D. Ryalis, G.T. Scruton, S.E. Sherlock, W.E. Spencer, R. Wilson.

Reserves (1) T.R. Vardon, (2) Mrs. E.J. Wilson.



Richard Whitehead (above right) of Nottingham won the Mixed Standing and Wheelchair National Junior Singles Championships at The Guttmann Centre, Stoke Mandeville, in October. Whilst Claire Harris (above left) of Wales, the beaten finalist, went on to win the Mixed Wheelchair Singles crown

Junior Premier Weekend by Doug Moss

THE FIRST series of matches played at Burton-on-Trent Leisure Centre over the weekend 10/11 October, showed that Yorkshire may be relinquishing their hold on the Junior County Championships which they have held for so many seasons.

The Yorkshire team dropped two points with drawn matches against Lancs and Surrey. But no team gained full points. Three teams - Devon, Essex and Surrey - dropped just 1 point with Surrey in the lead having dropped just 6 events.

In the first round Devon met Essex and, although taking a 3-1 lead, were held to a draw. Adrian Vincent had two good wins, including the defeat of Chris Sladden 12 and 17. Yorks fought well to get a draw

against Surrey. Andrew Nicholls (Y) made a good contribution with two wins, including a 18 and 17 win over Darren Blake (nationally ranked No. 5). Nicola Silburn also played well to get a two straight win over Diana Chan.

Lancs had a difficult programme having to meet Devon, Essex and Yorks. They gained just one point by virtue of a draw with Yorks. Philip Musgrove (La) did very well with two wins, including the defeat of higher ranked Darren Lindley. For Yorks Zoe Fisher (ranked 41) had a great 15 and 20 win over Tamar Connolly (ranked 11)! Lancs lost to Devon 4-6 when Adrian Vincent and Lynsey Heyward got wins at 18 and 19 in deciding games. Lancs also suffered a 4-6 defeat

at the hands of Essex. Ryan Savill (E) won two events at 18 in 3rd games and Chris Sladden beat Daryl Meredith - 14, 17, 20. Lancs should improve their situation in the final series.

The most successful players in this series were Lyndsey Heyward (Dv), Glenda Ashison (Sy), Adrian Vincent (Dv) and Andrew Nicholls (Y), who were all unbeaten.

It was gratifying that BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS LTD. provided sponsorship for the series. This included prizes of a high quality mountain bike to both the boy and the girl of the weekend. The selection panel comprised the Regional Sales Manager of Britvic, the Sports Centre Manager and Doug Young, County Championships Chairman. Their choice was Philip Musgrove (La), whose performance included the defeat of Darren Lindley, and Zoe Fisher (Y), who beat Tamar Connolly (La) and lost narrowly

in 3rd game to Michelle Martin (St) ranked seven.

There was a good deal of disappointment that the three top ranked boys - Alex Perry (Dv), Richard Hyacinth (Mi) and Edward Hatley (Sy) - did not represent their counties.

FULL RESULTS

Dv	5	E	5
Y	5	La	5
Mi	8	St	2
He	0	Sy	10
La	4	Dv	6
St	2	Y	8
E	10	He	0
Sy	9	Mi	1
E	6	La	4
Dv	9	St	1
Y	5	Sy	5
Mi	5	He	5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
Surrey	3	2	0	1	24	6	5
Essex	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Devon	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Yorkshire	3	1	0	2	18	12	4
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Lancashire	3	0	2	1	13	17	1
Hertford.	3	0	2	1	5	25	1
Stafford.	3	0	3	0	5	25	0

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*The Editor
Table Tennis News
5 The Brackens
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HP2 5JA*

Affiliation

AT the Sheffield league's annual meeting in June a proposal to discontinue affiliation to the national and county associations was defeated by 69 votes to 34.

Further analysis of the ballot, however, revealed that 14 clubs out of 30 were against affiliation - we work on a one vote per team basis. There were eight absentees who, I know from experience, would have produced a club majority for disaffiliation.

The first obvious conclusion is that the larger multi-team clubs are more in favour of affiliation possibly because they are more likely to have inter-city players and therefore something to lose.

Arguments put forward against affiliation to the ETTA - apart from cost (always a big consideration in Yorkshire!) - included a general lack of communication or a sense of "belonging". No more ETTA handbooks or rule booklets for clubs and a general lack of information and media coverage for the game at national or international level.

In March, the Sheffield league was desperately short of information about the European League promotion play-off against Austria in Hull before we were given a poster by a neighbouring unaffiliated league!

I get a fair bit of local press which is now completely parochial since I stopped receiving national press releases last year without any explanation. The league is also still waiting for an apology for being blamed for the low attendance at the China match on New Years Day when we were not even involved in the organisation.

ETTA expenditure was also discussed and the rise in "Committee Costs" from £20,000 to £31,000 raised a few eyebrows.

But the highlight of our meeting came from an effusive gentleman wearing three hats. He is a registered player in the Sheffield league (affiliated), Yorkshire League match secretary/player in a nearby league (affiliated) and chairman/player in yet another Yorkshire league (unaffiliated).

When asked about the apparent incompatibility of the latter two positions, he claimed that his unaffiliated league (three divisions with 30-odd teams) was too small for the ETTA to bother whether it was affiliated or not.

If he is correct - and he seemed a very knowledgeable person - can I ask just how large a league has to be to warrant concern by the ETTA over non-affiliation.

*John Hatfield
Press Officer, Sheffield TTL*

A response by Vice-Chairman Administration ETTA

Since the receipt of the letter from the Sheffield Table Tennis League, a meeting between the Sheffield Table Tennis League and the English Table Tennis Association in the form of Deputy Chairman Tony Chatwin has taken place, also present were members of the Yorkshire County Association and the Sports Council, most of the points raised within this letter have been dealt with at that meeting, however further comments on several points should be made.

The Association takes very seriously the possibility of any league deciding to disaffiliate and is more than happy to arrange meetings such as the one held recently in Sheffield to emphasise the benefits of membership of the Association and the strengths that lie within the Affiliation system. The Sheffield Table Tennis League have now been able to voice their concerns and heard responses from the Association which have gone a long way to clear up any misunderstandings and misconceptions that may have been held. Such a facility for meetings is available to any league that wishes to share its concern for the future of table tennis with the Association.

The lack of information with regard to rule books, address books, etc. has been dealt with and these should now be in the possession of the appropriate officers of the Sheffield League.

On the subject of press releases, any press officer that feels able to generate publicity on a National scale through major provincial newspapers is welcome to receive press releases from the office and initially they should apply to Jim Beckley, Vice-Chairman Public Relations who will be more than happy to consider all such requests in the light of the circumstances prevailing.

Expenditure is an item which concerns everyone connected with our sport and naturally when committees are working to expand the sport into new areas such as Focus Sport and of course the Euro 94 Championships, it is inevitable that there are more committee meetings, more people are involved in the organisation, and consequently expenses do rise, however I can assure all members that very close checks are kept on expenditure items to ensure that these stay within the projected budgets for each individual area of the Association.

The comments regarding the unaffiliated league in the Yorkshire are being investigated separately and should the information be correct steps will be taken to remedy that situation shortly.

When constructive comment of the nature of the Sheffield League is placed before the Association, we are more than happy to respond in the manner indicated above.

*Mike Holt
Vice-Chairman Administration*

Holiday guide?

I write the following but I doubt it will be printed.

I buy Table Tennis News to read about table tennis. On reading the report on the European Youth Championships it failed to supply readers with who were the eventual winners of any of the events. But it did mention that Muller and Bakker lost in the girls doubles final. But I must be honest it did provide a lot of information for someone going on holiday to Topolcany in Czechoslovakia. It takes 3 hours from Vienna, beer 15p per pint, coke 20p, steak and chips £1.80 (was it rump, sirloin or fillet) and pork chops with potatoes £1.80 (could you have had chips instead). Yes it was great to know you can get a pair of leather

shoes at £9 per pair in a shop next to Colin Deaton's hotel. Is that the name of the hotel or was it the owner? Perhaps I am wrong but when one looks back at results in years to come would it have been good if all the results from the quarters onward had been printed? I know all our players would have given 100% but could someone please tell me why Michael James was not included in the cadet team. The ranking system indicates he should have been included or doesn't this count for anything.

I thought the report on the U18/21 championships was very poor and why have we to wait for a full report on the English Junior Open until the October edition on a competition which was played last May. I always thought it was in the interest of readers to let them read reports on tournaments as soon as possible.

To conclude I thought that Vets Voice and Wheelchair Table Tennis along with the Umpires' Corner were first class articles. But if I want to read about travel and prices, I'll buy a Berlitz book.

*Ken Lyons
Stockton-on-Tees
Cleveland*

Response to 'Holiday Guide'

You are entitled to your opinions Ken, but the facts are that Barry Granger provides his services completely free of charge, and uses his holidays to assist table tennis. True, he is not a professional journalist, but he does his best, and his best is good enough for me. With regard to your criticism of the reports on the English Junior Open and the Under 18/21 championship, in an ideal world I would be allowed to have as many pages as required, but there is a recession. So I have to do the best I can with less pages than last season - Editor

Dismay

The disappointment and dismay upon reading Stan Clarke's report in September's County Notes, stating that the standard of table tennis is low and will get worse in the coming year.

How on earth he comes to that conclusion one just simply cannot imagine. Especially when one thinks of the success and excellent record our juniors have produced over the past year or so.

For example the first team coming second from bottom, but with one or two excellent wins they managed to maintain their position in the premier division which is not bad at all. Taking into account that they are up against the top juniors in this country. The second team coming third in division two A.

Their own individual successes has been tremendous, playing for their local leagues, town team and having some marvellous results on the tournament circuit.

I am sure Stan will understand my concern, maybe if he did a little research, or come and visit our club, I think he will be suitably impressed,

and will see for himself just how well our youngsters are doing.

*Arthur Brindle
ETTA Assistant Coach
Garston, Liverpool*

Confusion

I feel I must make public my dissatisfaction at the confusion caused by a statement made in a table tennis catalogue stating that Teesport is the main distributor of Donic table tennis goods.

I would like to make it clear that Jarvis Sports are still the exclusive, sole, main (or any other name associated with the meaning) distributor of Donic table tennis products within the U.K.

I feel the statement in the Teesport catalogue undermines our position and misleads table tennis customers.

I am not concerned whether it was intentional or by accident but the facts of the matter are that this situation needs clarifying.

*Nick Jarvis
Director - Jarvis Sports Ltd.*

Response from Tees Sport

The statement in the Tees Sport catalogue does not claim to be "THE" main distributor of Donic table tennis goods. The statement indicates that we are a "MAIN DISTRIBUTOR" of several leading brands. No claim is made to exclusivity.

The definition of an EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR is one who has exclusive rights to MARKET a certain brand of goods in a defined territory, such as the U.K. An exclusive distributor normally, but not always, supplies trade accounts only. In the case of Donic goods, Jarvis Sports have the exclusive right to MARKET this brand in the U.K.

A MAIN DISTRIBUTOR is a company which advertises, stocks and offers a full service on a particular brand of goods to the general public on a retail basis. In this context, the statement in our catalogue is, therefore, correct. There is no intention in this statement to cause any confusion.

Normally manufacturers or exclusive distributors work very hard to encourage leading retailers to promote, sell and service their goods and are very pleased when this is achieved. We were surprised by the Jarvis reaction.

As mentioned above, we have no wish to confuse or mislead anyone. Our main aim is to provide a first class service to our customers by providing the equipment they require, from all leading brands.

*David Hutchinson
Tees Sport*

PLEASE NOTE - We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Mailbox. Your letters that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome as are replies. Only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For details of events, dates, organisers and telephone numbers buy the 1992/93 EVENTS DIARY. (Price £3.50).
Ring 0424 722525 - Bethan Davies - pay by credit card or send cheque to
ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE - ENGLAND v FRANCE
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER - 7.00 PM
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Tickets: 091 490 1616

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

VETERANS PREMIER WEEKEND

Saturday 7th November 1992
12.00 noon and 4.00 pm
Sunday 8th November 1992
10.00 am and 2.00 pm

*Vymura Sports Hall,
Talbut Road,
Newton Hyde, Cheshire*

Details: *Derek Schofield 061 483 4744*

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Saturday 7th November 1992
4.00 pm
Sunday 8th November 1992
9.00 am and 1.00 pm

*Milton Keynes TTC
Kingston Centre,
Milton Keynes*

Details: *Geoff Taylor - 0203 678632*

THE MANCHESTER 2000 ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday/Sunday 5th/6th December 1992

*The Armitage Centre,
Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.*

Entries Close:
12th November 1992

Details:
Jill Harris - 0922 612675

THE FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION - SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 1992

Vymura International v Bathwick Tyres - 3.00 pm Details: 0742 885378
Team Peniel v NFD Grove - 3.00 pm Details: 0277 201319
Con Life St. Neots v DML White Hart Launceston - 2.30 pm Details: 0480 77349

ENGLAND v DENMARK - JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

Dunston Activity Centre, Gateshead - 13th November 1992
Start 5.00 pm - Contact 091 490 1616

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