



Table Tennis News

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The Best of British
by Jaques

Jaques



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

September 1992
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Association

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**Front cover: The Great Britain
Olympic Team
(Picture by John F.A. Wood)**

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National Under 10, 11 & 12 Championships*

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1st June 1993

(Copy date 30th April)

Fiona marries Didier

ON Saturday 4th July 1992, Fiona Elliot married French table tennis player Didier Monnessin, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Penn, Wolverhampton.

Best man was World No.1 and English Open Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien.

Amongst the 102 guests that attended the church service and reception at the Park House Hotel, were 55 French guests, plus Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon and many French players.

At the evening reception another 100 guests arrived, which included Desmond Douglas and Jenny Heaton, plus local table tennis players.



Didier Monnessin and Fiona Elliot

Picture by Nightingales of Newbridge

Guests beat lorry jams

FRENCH lorry drivers nearly ruined the wedding celebrations, by holding up the travel plans of the above mentioned 55 French guests.

Blockades by the French truckers threatened to ruin the day by trapping a coach load of guests, including the best man Jean-Philippe Gatien.

But they managed to get on a flight from Paris to East Midlands Airport and arrived in Wolverhampton, with just hours before the service.

Fiona and Didier, who met four years ago at a tournament, will live in Paris.

Gerald changes sport

GERALD GURNEY whose fascinating articles were featured in this magazine last season, is taking on a different sport.

The Essex publisher is now preparing the official history of the Badminton Association of England for publication in their centenary year in 1993.

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox replaces the old 'Newsdesk' Column, and will be a mixture of news and gossip.

FOR ALL TABLE TENNIS RESULTS TELEPHONE 0891 664300

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Jim Beckley

Welcome back Jim

JIM BECKLEY returns to the post of Vice Chairman, Public Relations, replacing Mike Holt who moves to Vice Chairman, Administration.

In addition to his Public Relations duties, Jim will be writing as a regular correspondent for the Trade Page and Euro Report in this magazine.

Diccon returns

DICCON GRAY has returned from his brief visit to Wales, to continue in the post of ETTA National Development Officer.

Ray's new post

MIRFIELD'S Ray Birch is out to boost table tennis.

The Huddersfield League's Development Officer is now to spread his net even wider as he takes up the position of Yorkshire and Humber's Development Officer.

The 61-year-old has been involved with the sport almost all his

life in some form or other. He started playing when he was 13 in his home town of Newark in Nottinghamshire and continued when he moved to Mirfield in 1970.

He joined the Dewsbury League and later became chairman and coaching secretary, before moving to the Huddersfield League some four years ago.

Claire's Region

CLAIRE HUNTER is the new South East Regional Table Tennis Development Officer.

As some of you are probably aware Claire has avidly played table tennis from a young age and is currently ranked nationally.

She is also an ETTA Coach and has taken on numerous voluntary positions in the past.

Apart from being a table tennis addict, she has a genuine concern and interest in the growth of the game at all levels.

Moving up

XINHUA CHEN moves up from 15th to 13th in the ITTF Men's World Ranking, whilst Carl Prean is also on the rise moving from 22nd to 20th position. Alan Cooke goes from 43rd to 42nd, Matthew Syed has jumped from 71st to 63rd position, but Skylet Andrews has dropped from 73rd to 76th.

Lisa Lomas has also climbed upwards, moving from 37th to 35th. But the other four girls in our top five had moved downwards, Alison Gordon is at 67th, Andrea Holt 75, Fiona Elliot at 88 and Nicola Deaton at 182.

(ITTF World Ranking list as at 2nd July 1992)

Euro '94 update

THE 1994 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOR those of you who may not have heard England are to stage the next European Championships at the

National Indoor Arena in Birmingham during the last week in March and first week in April 1994.

This might seem a long way ahead but the decision to give England the honour of staging the Championships was only made in Stuttgart (venue of the 1992 Championships) last April, giving a maximum period of 23 months to plan, organise and stage what will be the single biggest table tennis event to come to England since the '1977 Worlds'.

There is much to do, for events of this magnitude don't just happen.

This article will be the first of many that will appear regularly within the pages of this magazine during this countdown period.

We begin with a look at the Management Structure of the Championships which is perhaps best set out in table form.

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- A.E. Ransome - ETTA Chairman
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- Miss E.M. Shaw - ETTA Chief Executive
- C.R. Oakman - ETTA Events Manager
- M.D. Watts - ETTA V.C. Marketing

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Breakthrough on sponsorship

AFTER a short summer's break, I am pleased to welcome members back to TABLE TENNIS NEWS! With so many activities going on at the local, national and international levels, I am sure that 1992/93 will be a positive and exciting season.

The Association is pleased to report a breakthrough on the sponsorship front. FRIENDLY HOTELS, the national chain of quality hotels have agreed to sponsor the British League for a period of three years to the extent of £25,000 per annum. In addition, FRIENDLY have offered the Association very attractive hotel rates for the National Council and Management Committee meetings, providing a further saving for the Association in running costs.

One of the main objectives of the sponsorship is to give the British League wider publicity and all club secretaries and press officers are being asked for their support in this respect. The sponsorship has been a success for the E.T.T.A.'s Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, who has been working hard for the last twelve months since her appointment to obtain sponsorship for the Association.

It was great to see that our players representing the British Olympic Association formed one of the largest teams of qualifiers in the recent Olympic Games in Barcelona. Although no medals were won, our players did well, Carl Prean reaching the last 16 of the Men's Singles and the rest of the team Matthew Syed, Alan Cooke, Lisa Lomas, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt all performing creditably. It was also pleasing to see that the B.B.C. and Euro Sport gave some good coverage of the table tennis competitions at the Olympics and this is the sort of publicity that we need to give the sport a higher profile.

On the other hand, despite a large increase in the training and competition opportunities for our juniors last season, the results of our junior players in the main at the European Youth Championships in Topalcany, Czechoslovakia, in July were not good and provide a special cause for concern. The standard of the competition in Europe at junior level is far higher than ever before and basically we have slipped behind. To continue with our current programmes will not be sufficient to regain our high place of



Alan Ransome

previous years and new comprehensive initiatives are going to be needed. I know that Paul Day and Donald Parker are of the same opinion.

This season for the first time both our Men's and Women's national teams feature in their respective Super Divisions of the European League. The first home fixture is the women's match against Germany to be played in Scarborough with sponsorship from Scarborough Borough Council on 6th October. A week later on October 13th, the men play their home return match in the Super Division against the strong Belgium side in Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, supported by Sedgfield District Council.

The Foundation for Sports and the Arts is becoming very effective and I was gratified to see that there were 17 grants awarded for table tennis announced in the July list. Included was £50,000 for the English Schools Table Tennis Association to host the World Schools Championship in Birmingham in April 1993, and a grant of £11,000 to the St. Neots Table Tennis Club for upgrading their facilities.

The Association, through its Development Department, have been able to offer assistance and endorsement to schemes submitted by our members. Many applications for table tennis are in the Foundation pipeline and with the National Lottery due to start in April 1994, the opportunity for the Association to assist its members to obtain funding for facilities and development programme has never been better.

Another new initiative is the Sports Match £ for £ Sports Council scheme for which the Government has set £3,000,000 aside for schemes in this financial year. Full details of the scheme are to be issued in September. However, the information received to date indicates that this programme will be aimed at matching on an equal basis new sponsorship from business for grass roots projects. The minimum scheme is £1,000 (matched totalling £2,000) and the maximum £75,000. The professional aspects of sport are not eligible under this programme. The E.T.T.A. Development Officer, Diccon Gray, will have full information regarding this programme shortly.

The Development Department are moving ahead strongly with the Focus Sport programme. By the middle of September six Development Officers will be in place. Sandra Roden of Dudley is the latest appointment for the West Midlands.

The Regional Coaches programme has commenced during the summer with coaches being appointed for all ten Regions. Courses for coaches will commence in the early part of the new season.

Progress is being made with the organisation of the European Championships in 1994. An agreement has been reached with Grand Slam, the company managed by Derek Brandon, the TV producer who handles the Channel 4 table tennis, to sell the broadcasts from the European Championships both in this country and abroad. A second part to the agreement gives Grand Slam, in conjunction with sponsorship consultant, Helen Day, (ex A.P.A.) a six-month exclusive opportunity to obtain sponsorship for the European Championships.

The Organising Committee has been formed and Clive Oakman has been appointed the Championships Director with assistance from 11 departmental directors. The main thrust of the work in the next few months will be the obtaining of sponsors and officials suppliers, with the real publicity drive for the Championships commencing in the Spring.

The Ranking Committee met in May to review the new scheme supplied by the Canadian Table Tennis Association and felt that the ranking lists produced during the season had been accurate both in terms of the ranking itself and



Doreen Stannard and Johnny Leach celebrating one hundred years of table tennis

the results which had been fed into the computer by Ranking Administrator, Doreen Nightingale. As a result of comments made to committee members and helpful letters received, the Committee recognised that there were some adverse side effects that required consideration. Whilst ensuring that the scheme did not revert to a point purchasing system as was possible for highly mobile players under the

previous system, the Committee did amend the system for the coming season to reduce the significance of losses particularly where a player of lesser standard loses to another ranked much higher. Again, we are grateful to the Canadian Table Tennis Association for their considerable co-operation with this ranking scheme. Full details will be available shortly from Stuart Sherlock, the Ranking Committee Chairman,

whose article will be published in the first ranking booklet of the season.

Last season the Association celebrated 100 YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS. These celebrations were concluded with a special Dinner and entertainment following the Annual General Meeting in July when the President, Johnny Leach, gave a very interesting after dinner talk about his experiences in the second half of the first century. Special thanks are extended to Doreen Stannard who co-ordinated the 100 Years programme and to Gerald Gurney who provided invaluable information on the early years, and to everyone who entered into the spirit of the 100 Years celebration and became involved.

We are now entering the second century for table tennis in England at a time when the sport has a great opportunity through Focus Sport and other initiatives to start to grow again. For this to be fully effective everyone has a part to play. The leadership will come from the Association, but the initiatives taken by our members in their own leagues and clubs will be the decisive factor in measuring the success.

Wishing you all a most enjoyable 1992/93 season!

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Waldner's best show ever stops Chinese clean sweep

JAN-OVE WALDNER, 26, landed Sweden's first gold medal of the Games in the mens' singles final and in doing so stopped China from sweeping up all the medals, shattering Jean-Philippe Gatien 10, 18, 23.

The party given later for Waldner in the harbour on the luxury cruise liner Sally Albatross attended by the King and Queen of Sweden was where he was told, one of the biggest celebrations seen in Barcelona for gold medal winners.

Most table tennis fans have seen Waldner play like a man from another planet and most of us have seen him unmotivated, losing to unlikely names. On this occasion, he stormed the heights and in reality, there came no challengers who seemed likely to stop him.

The fairly generous slice of good fortune that came his way was the draw that steered him clear of the Chinese players. In the second stage opening clash Carl Prean played his heart out to secure a total of 44 points against the maestro from Enschede who was born in Stockholm.

Jorg Roskopf, the pride of Deutschland and European champion was Waldner's next victim. The hall was packed, 5,000 strong to see the Battle of the Giants. Waldner, could do no wrong. Not many players in the world can outgun Roskopf. Waldner's forehand loop was absolutely devastating, his backhand was lethal and even when forced back he was still capable of winning points from the rear of the court, even with the risk of crashing into the ball-boys and girls at the four corners.

Incidentally, the use of ball-boys in major matches on enlarged courts is a favourite idea of the ITTF president Ochiro Ogimura, but this idea has few other supporters.

However, Waldner waltzed through the first two games 15, 14 against Roskopf and then conceded the only game to 18 points. Tension mounted but the Swede bounced back to take the fourth 17.

Having snuffed out the Roskopf challenge, Waldner was perhaps lucky at that point to face Kim Taek Soo (South Korea) in the semi-finals. In the quarters, Kim had been



Jan-Ove Waldner

stretched to five games to get past Wang Tao (China) who at the end of the fifth game was leading but failed to win the final batch of points.

In contrast, Jean-Philippe Gatien, master of five-game battles had to fight all the way to whip out Yoo Nam Kyu (South Korea) at 19 in the fifth, Ding Yi at 5 in the fifth and then 13 in the fifth against Ma Wenge, the Chinese No.1.

So, the two mens' singles finalists reached the last day, with very

different records. Waldner, serene, confident and never seriously challenged, whilst Gatien had been in general scraping along in marathon battles.

One of the major factors in Waldner's brilliant victory was his lethal services. All those who played will agree with Gatien who said at the press conference afterwards "I could make nothing of Waldner's services, they were absolutely deadly, more than usual."

JOHN WOODFORD REPORTS FROM BARCELONA

Chinese Women still have a stranglehold

DENG YAPING, the Chinese world champion completed a hat-trick of gold medals for China when she landed another victory in the womens' singles final.

Deng, only five feet tall was once a penholder but because she is so small her father persuaded her that the Western grip would be more suitable.

But in the final loser Qiao Hong was still suffering from an ankle injury sustained when she tripped over a mat when entering the arena two days earlier, so her mobility was clearly impaired.

Deng and Qiao captured the womens' doubles title earlier and China scored again in the mens' doubles final when Lu Lin and

Wang Tao defeated in the final Jorg Roskopf and Stefan Fetzner, 26-24, 18-21, 21-18, 13-21, 21-14.

Last look at the womens' singles - Emilia Ciosu, 21, from Romania was the only European to reach the quarter-finals of the womens' singles.

Miss Ciosu it seems could be a star of the future although at the moment she is only ranked No. 15 in Europe. Ciosu was beaten in the quarters by Hyung Jung the world No.3 from Korea.

China lift Mens' Doubles

GOLD MEDALS for China and silver for Germany in the mens' doubles final, proves that China is determined to prevent if it can, any further domination of the world table tennis scene by Europe over Asia.

Lu Lin and Wang Tao lifted themselves, to defeat in 67 minutes, the former world champions Jorg Roskopf and Stefan Fetzner 26-24, 18-21, 21-18, 13-21, 21-14, a battle of the highest quality although the German pair did not reach the heights of performance seen in the past.

The first game result proved decisive. The Germans held and failed to clinch five game points, leading from 20-15 to 20-19. The Chinese held the game points for the rest of the game.

Roskopf and Fetzner did well to take the second and fourth games but never looked likely to win the fifth.

At the press conference Roskopf said he was very disappointed to win only silver for the mens' doubles having won the world title in Dortmund.

Hans-Wilhelm Gab, president of the European Table Tennis Union told journalists "Roskopf was not playing at top form. He can often dominate matches with his lethal backhand and forehand strokes. When they lost the five game points in the first game, it seemed likely they would eventually lose, although they played well to win the two games."



Barcelona '92

Prean storms into the last sixteen



Alan Cooke (left) and Carl Prean



Matthew Syed



Lisa Lomas (left) and Andrea Holt

CARL PREAN was the sixteenth seed giving him a group containing World No. 33 - Gyong Sop Choi of Korea. But the British No.1 had to fight some of the way to overcome Roberto Casares of Spain. In the final game however, Prean romped home to win 10.

In his first visit to the table in the singles Carl defeated Baboor of Indonesia, a country that performed well above the standard expected. With two wins under his belt, the new No.2 for Steinhagen in the Bundesliga, stormed past the Korean 16, 12 to reach the last sixteen, an achievement that should ensure he (at least) retains his places on the world and European ranking lists.

Some of the thousands of spectators were not aware how well Waldner was playing as the group play did not extend him. But facing Prean with the winner bound for the quarters, the Swede, said to be a millionaire, commenced an onslaught that ended with his winning the gold medal. Despite the fact that Prean was playing perhaps to the best of his ability, Waldner blazed through 15, 14, 15, so ending the British team's campaign in Barcelona.

After the defeat of the British No.1 both Don Parker and Alan Cooke said they had seen Waldner play well on many occasions but this was one of his best ever displays.

Darling of the masses

MATTHEW SYED was of course unseeded and he was drawn in Jorgen Persson's group. However, the Oxford student enjoyed his stay in Barcelona, easily beating the Egyptian Ashraf Abdelhamlim but more importantly defending brilliantly to knock out of contention the French squad player Nicholas Chatelain 21 and 19.

On his next visit to the arena however, Syed earned cheers from thousands of fans with his spectacular retrieving but was taken out 15, 22 by Jorgen Persson, whose world champion crown looked a little tarnished.

Persson later suffered an embarrassing loss in the eighth finals

losing 14, 18, 8 to Ma Wenge the China No.1

Below her best

LISA LOMAS, the British No.1 did not reach her best level of performance. She suffered a major reverse when she lost 12, -14, 15 to Rossy Dipoyanti of Indonesia, who is ranked 91 places below the Stuttgart silver medalist.

The Indonesian girl, produced a useful top-spin attack and seemed to have had plenty of practice against backspin. But after the loss British women's coach Jill Parker said she thought Lisa had played well below her best.

Lisa defeated the Ecuadorian Maria Cabrera, but her last match was a further disappointment as she went down 14, 9 to Csilla Batorfi who is at present ranked No.12 in the world and No.2 in Europe.

Cycling

ALISON GORDON recovered from a cycling accident in time to play in Barcelona and found herself with only two opponents in the singles. At the start, a strange decision was made not to fill vacancies if it meant calling on reserves from other continents.

However, Alison rose to the occasion as she did in Bolzano with heartening victory over Galina Melnik the former Russian No.2 by 15, 17. Later, however, Alison went down to the group seed Li Bun Hui.

Doubles

ALAN COOKE and ANDREA HOLT, the British doubles-only players in the Games, spent a lot of time practising and watching their squad-mates. Cooke and Prean had two relatively easy wins over Nigerian and Cuban pairs but were prevented from winning the group by the seventh seeds Ma Wenge and Yu Shentong, former winner of the English Open.

Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt were unlucky enough to be in a group with only two other pairs, but they had a sparkling success 18, 19 over Galina Melnik and Valentina Popova, but the British pair made their exit to the seeded Hong Cha Ok and Hyan Jung Hwa of South Korea.



Alison Gordon

Table Tennis is quite safe

IN an exclusive interview with Ichiro Ogimura John Woodford picked out some points of interest....

The president was delighted with almost every aspect of the presentation and success of the table tennis tournament at the 25th Olympiad. He was extremely pleased to receive the total number of spectators - nearly 50,000. For Spain where table tennis although gaining ground is not as popular as in many other countries.

He said: "When we came to Barcelona I could not see how we could improve on the 40,000 fans in Seoul where table tennis is a front-rank sport."

Questioned on the Olympic Games and the table tennis input he said: "It is our firm intention to press for a team event. Other sports are doing the same. We have the space in a nine-day programme, but I

doubt if it will happen in Atlanta, more likely in the year 2000 or even 2004.

This time we have made more than a dozen improvements in presentation, scheduling and other technical points.

Here we have the increased number of 196 players. We have the space in a nine-day programme to include the team events."

He added: "In Atlanta it is expected that several sports will be taken out of the Games, but table tennis is quite safe.

When King Juan Carlos visited us last night he was so impressed with the huge crowds and the highly-charged atmosphere that he stayed on for a longer time, despite being overdue at the water pool where the Queen and his family were waiting for him and Spain were winning medals."

Olympic Notebook

Compiled by John Woodford

● SYDNEY seemed to be the popular front-runner for the 2000 Olympic Bid, according to reports in Barcelona, but strange things happen when the votes are counted and Manchester cannot be ruled out. The IOC have ruled out allowing its members to accept gifts of any competing cities. The next Olympic stop is of course Atlanta in 1996. The 2000 bid cities are Sydney, Berlin, Beijing, Brasilia and Manchester.

● HEAT - It was extremely hot in Barcelona. Relief was at hand in the venue itself and in the better hotels. The players accommodation in the Olympic Village was described as good, but no air-conditioning. The ITTF purchased 15 fans for the table tennis players and these proved essential.

It was extremely difficult for anyone to sleep well without either an electric fan or air-conditioning.

● RICHARD EATON, well-known British racket sports writer spent his second night at Barcelona on a bench outside a main railway station. Around 1am he tried to put his key in the lock of his apartment door only to find the key bent. Trying to straighten it the key broke in two. Efforts to wake the other inhabitants at two-hourly intervals and to wake them by telephone failed. He eventually gained access to his accommodation at 6am, although arriving home at that hour was not unusual in Barcelona, especially for those unlucky not to have air-conditioned bedrooms.

Footnote: Richard Eaton only just managed to find room on the benches at the station - many people sleep in the streets and on the beaches during the Games!

● THE OPENING CEREMONY was the most memorable occasion of its kind I have ever seen. All the competitors who marched in had to watch the spectacle on large screens outside. The scale of the entertainment was gigantic, the atmosphere was electric and unforgettable. Did the archer miss his target when he tried to fire the Olympic Flame? Yes, he did - but it was fired by a button as a back-up system!



TOP PICTURE: Lisa Lomas has a drink with Sweden's Marie Svensson (centre) and Lotta Erlman (right), in the British Hospitality Lodge.

2nd FROM TOP: Her Royal Highness Princess Anne meets the Great Britain Women's table tennis team.

3rd FROM TOP: Alison Gordon's mother, Helen, sits proudly with Edd the Duck, Great Britain's lucky mascot.

BOTTOM PICTURE: Time to relax at Barcelona for (left to right) Andrea Holt, Lisa Lomas, Hagen Bower of New Zealand, Carl Prean and Alan Cooke.

RESULTS FROM BARCELONA

MENS SINGLES - Semi Final

J. Gatien (France) bt Ma Wenge (China) 20, -20, -16, 12, 13 - J. Waldner (Sweden) bt Kim Taek Soo (Korea) 9, 18, 9

Final - WALDNER bt Gatien 10, 18, 23

WOMENS SINGLES - Semi Final

Qiao Hong (China) bt Li Bun Hui (North Korea) -15, 15, 8, 11 - Deng Yaping (China) bt Hyan Jung Hwa 6, 19, 17

Final - DENG bt Qiao 6, 8, -15, 21

MENS DOUBLES - Semi Final

J. Roskopf, S. Fetzner (Germany) bt Kang Hee, Lee Chul (Korea) 15, 22, 20 - Lu Lin, Wang Tao (China) bt Kim Taek Soo, Yoo Name Kyu (Korea) -13, 17, 13, 15 - **Final - LU, WANG bt Roskopf, Fetzner 24, -18, 18, -13, 14**

WOMENS DOUBLES - Semi Final

Chen Zihé, Gao Jun (China) bt Li Bun Hui, Yu Son Bok (Korea) 12, -17, 13, 19 - Deng Yaping, Qiao Hong (China) bt Hong Cha Ok, Hyun June Hwa (Korea) -17, 17, 17, 12. **Final - DENG, QIAO bt Chen, Gao 13, -14, 14, 19**



A Friendly introduction

THE English Table Tennis Association is delighted to welcome a new sponsor to table tennis. With immediate effect the British League will be known as the Friendly Hotels British League, as

Friendly Hotels plc embark on a three year sponsorship of this event. A most appropriate sponsorship as Friendly Hotels are situated in locations throughout the country, and cater for the sports enthusiast by providing leisure facilities at all of their properties and television with satellite channels in many of their rooms.

Founded in 1986, the group has 22 premier 3 star hotels with two additional properties currently under construction in Loughborough and Cardiff. Their policy is to grow but in a controlled way - their sponsorship of table tennis will assist in their awareness campaign.

All hotels meet the high criteria stipulated by Friendly and all rooms have en-suite facilities, colour television, radio, in room movies and/or satellite channels, telephone and a Friendly hospitality tray. Premier plus rooms, which are equipped to an even higher standard, are available at most hotels and benefit from additional facilities such as a trouser press, mini-bar, hairdryer and personal toiletries.

All Friendly hotels provide free parking and leisure facilities free of charge to residents. In some cases the leisure facilities include swimming pool, sauna, solarium, spa bath and fully equipped gym.

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NFD Grove top Peniel

NFD GROVE of Market Drayton walked away with the British League Premier Division last season, defeating Team Peniel of Brentwood 16-6 in the two legged championship play-off. Having established a 8-1 lead in the first leg it was highly unlikely that there would be a major upset in the second match. In the event Grove were extended by the Peniel side, but ran out 8-5 victors with Desmond Douglas completing the season unbeaten with three more victories to his name. The surprise in the match was the Michael O'Driscoll was unable to win a single set, losing out to Steve Dorking, John Holland and Matthew Syed.

The only other matter which was not concluded by the time the mag went to press for the last issue was the outcome of division 3 East. Britannia Ipswich and Levis Westfield had finished level on points at the top of the division and on a count back it was impossible to separate the teams who shared the title, being level on points, set difference, and games difference.

Looking ahead to the new season NFD Grove look set to dominate the Premier Division again, which, this season, has been extended and seven teams will compete instead of six as last term. Ellenborough, who would have made the numbers up to eight, have had to withdraw at the last minute due to their top players being tied to play in the Belgian League who will not allow players to play in their league and also in any other league.

NFD Grove's rankings are, once again, headed by Desmond Douglas with Chris Oldfield at number two, Nicky Mason at three, and newcomer John Broe at four. Michael O'Driscoll drops to five with two more new faces Euan Walker at six and Steve Ward at seven. Team Peniel rely on the same squad that finished as runners up last time round. The only other surviving clubs from last season in the Premier Division are Bathwick Tyres, who are also struggling to replace Paul Giles who has moved to DML White Hart Launceston, and Confederation Life St. Neots who will turn out the same team once again.

Yugo Cars of Peterborough have disappeared from the scene following the loss of their sponsorship and three new clubs come into the top flight, Vymura International of Hyde, DML White Hart Launceston, and Sedgfield District (formerly Stephens NYSD). The latter have signed four new players to strengthen their squad having attained Premier Division status. Ian Stokes, a rare departure from NFD Grove, lines up at number one with former European Champion John Hilton coming in at two. Mike Stead retains his place in the team and other newcomers are Eddie Smith, the Northumberland number one and Keith Rodger the former Scottish International.

There are changes in the first division North with Chan Construction of Birmingham, Bribar Humberside, City of Milton Keynes and Cheltenham Saracens all coming into the



NFD Grove I, the British League Champions 1992 (left to right) Chris Oldfield, Jonathan Taylor, Michael O'Driscoll, Nicky Mason, Desmond Douglas, and Ian Marshall (Capt.)



Aubrey Drapkin who will be writing this column this season

division to replace Vymura (promoted to the Premier) Norwich Foxwood (relegated to the second division), Liverpool (disbanded), and Britannia Ipswich who pulled out of the first division last season.

In the first division South, Launceston's place is taken by Edison Table Tennis Club of Haringay. Victoria Park Mazda of Cardiff have disappeared from the scene, but BSG Brentwood complete the division.

Levis Westfield, Vale Royal Warrington, Vymura International II and Sedgfield District II are all promoted from the third division to the second division North, whilst Chan Construction II, OLOP Table Tennis Club (Reading), Leckie Table Tennis Club (Walsall) and VRS Fareham all go into the second division South West. Its all change in division 2 South East with five new teams taking part. Norwich Foxwood come down from the First Division, Kleinwort Benson Gillingham switch from the Second Division South West and promotees are Britannia Ipswich, JAGS (Dulwich) and Linda Farrow (Central London).

The third divisions have been revamped in an attempt to cut down on the travelling that was excessive for some teams last season.

Ten new teams line up in the Third Division this year. AALCO Leeds, Derwent Table Tennis Club (Selby) and Sedgfield District III all take their places in the Third Division North whilst Brent Juniors and City of Milton Keynes II come into the Third Division East. Leamington Boys Club and OLOP II take their places in the Third Division Midlands whilst three new teams come into the Third Division South. They are Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association (Hemel Hempstead), WSITHE Lennox House Group (Chiccester), and Linda Farrow II.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



More teams - More juniors

REMARKABLY the number of teams playing in the County Championships continues to increase. For the 1992/3 season 196 teams have entered compared with the 187 teams which played last season. The most pleasing factor is that four extra Junior teams will compete next season - bringing the number to 60. There is no team from Durham next season but there are five new teams - Bucks 2, Hunts, Glamorgan 2, Sussex 3 and Kent 2.

The Senior section loses Northants 2 and Cambs 2 but there are three extra teams - Cheshire 2 (who withdrew last season), Devon 3 and Kent 2 - giving a total of 63 teams. The Veteran section continues to increase and 73 teams will compete next season. Devon have entered a team and other new teams are Bucks 2, Bedfords 3 and Hants 3. The Championships will again embrace 26 Divisions.

At the Annual Conference in London an alteration to Regulations was proposed to allow Veteran teams, who had won promotion from Div 3, to be able to go

forward to Div 2, even if the County concerned already had a team in Div 2. The existing system meant that a Veteran team could consistently head a Div 3 league table at the end of season but be enforced to continue to play at the lower level. This change in Regulations was approved.

This change in Regulation engendered further discussion concerning promotion. Conference came to the view that it would be beneficial if the change could be applied to all 3 sections - and to include such promotions to Divisions 1. This would mean that the restriction of one county team per division, except in the lowest divisions, would be applied only to Premier Divisions. However a proposition for such a comprehensive change had not been submitted, in accordance with Regulations.

Another Regulation change was approved to allow four Veteran teams to be promoted from Division 3.

Maurice Goldstein Trophy

This trophy had been competed for, over

the past few seasons, between the Champion senior team and the runners-up team of the same season. This was not included in the Regulations. The County Championships proposed that provision be made in the Regulations for this match and that it should be substituted for the present Regulation regarding a match between the Champion County and the Rest of England. However this proposal did not receive sufficient support and was not approved.

The Championships programme gets under way on 26 September, when 80 matches are scheduled. The first Junior Premier Division matches are arranged for the weekend 10/11 October at Burton-on-Trent. The weekend 7/8 November sees the first Senior Premier Division matches at Milton Keynes and also the Veteran Premier matches at Hyde, Cheshire.

County Championships news will be available on the Table Tennis Information Line (0891 664300) from week commencing 21 September.



Richard Darnell and Sarah Lupson

Picture by Derek George

Essex joins Hertfordshire

THE WEDDING of Essex and British League player Richard Darnell and Sarah Lupson took place at St. Mary's Church, Hitchin, on 27th June 1992. Members of the Essex County Table Tennis Association and their partners, crossed the border into Hertfordshire in glorious sunshine to join the celebrations.

The couple met whilst working in the same tax department at Clark Whitehill in London. Richard, who is a member of the Institute of Taxation, is now Tax Manager for Lee Associates in Holborn. Sarah is taking her final examinations next Spring.

After the wedding reception, held at the Blakemore Thistle Hotel, Little Wymondley, the happy pair left for their honeymoon in St. Lucia.

They will live in St. Albans, Hertfordshire. Table Tennis guests included: the bridegroom's parents Laurie and Margaret Darnell, Bobby and Sylvia Stevens, Brian and Sheila Brumwell, Bill and Jean Wadling, John and Ann Cook, Chris and Sarah Knight, Andrew and Kate Wadling, David Cole, Alison Gower, Martin Cole, Claire Weston and Steven Rand.



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Waldner the millionaire?

THE new Olympic Champion Jan-Ove Waldner, reputed to be the sport's first millionaire, is also doing quite nicely on the World All Star circuit. At the last count he was second in the money stakes having earned \$123,400. Only Ma Wenge (China) can top that with \$124,600. The circuit is becoming more successful by the week. Spectators are increasing and players are earning more money.



Jan-Ove Waldner 1992 Olympic Champion

Yugoslavian World's now in doubt

YUGOSLAVIA could lose the World Championships scheduled to take place there in 1995, but the Mayor of Belgrade is resisting any moves to take them away despite the current upheavals. Nevertheless, China has put in an offer to stage them if the political situation does not improve.

Elsewhere there seems to be no shortage of countries wishing to host the World Championships. South Africa and Egypt have both shown considerable interest and their requests are currently being considered by the International Table Tennis Federation.

New rules

WITH effect from 1 September there will be no colour restrictions for advertising on clothing and on the inside of surrounds. And players identification numbers on the back of the shirt will take priority over any advertising placed there. From 1 September 1993 players will not be allowed to receive advice at any time during the match, not even at the interval between games.

New members

NEW members of the ETTU include Albania, Croatia, Estonia and Slovenia. All four are expected to send in entries for the European Championships in Birmingham in 1994.



Jorgen Persson

President Persson

WORLD Champion Jorgen Persson is the new President of the Club of Table Tennis Professionals. The new organisation is bidding to emulate the lucrative ATP tennis union to give its players a brighter future. Their immediate aim is to improve players working conditions and provide back-up for negotiations with sponsors. The address is: CTPP, Staufenplatz 6, D-4000, Dusseldorf 12, Germany.

Europeans '92 correction

TABLE TENNIS NEWS reported in the May/June 1992 issue that Lindh was a Karlsson victim 6, 18, 20. This was incorrect.

In fact, Lindh was beaten by Costintini Massimo of Italy 20, -17, -13, 21, 16 and Karlsson beat Karoly Nemeth of Hungary 6, 18, 20.

ETTU new Secretary

VLADIMIR PALECEK has been appointed full time general secretary of the ETTU. Vladimir takes over the position vacated by our own George Yates and now conducts his business from an office in Luxembourg.

Joola continue as sponsors

TABLE tennis supplier Joola will continue their sponsorship of the European League. Teams in the Super, 1st and 2nd divisions should all make full use of the Joola name in publications and programmes.

Gothenburg

INCOME from television at next years World Championships in Gothenburg is likely to reach an all time high.

ETTU CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

2-6	555 World Cup	
4	Europe Club Cups	
10-12	New Zealand Open	Invercargill
12-13	Europe Masters Cup	Bonn
11-13	Bulgarian Invitation	
14-20	World University Champs	Lyon
14-27	World All Stars Circuit	
15	European Womens League	
22	European Mens League	
23	World All Stars	
24	World All Stars	Barcelona
25-27	World All Stars (Grand Prix de Paris)	Paris
26	EML 1st division	
28-2	Oceania Champs/ African Champs	

OCTOBER

1-4	Romanian Open	Craiova
6	England Ladies v Germany	Scarborough
9	European Club Cups	
13	England Men v Belgium	Newton Aycliffe
17	EML 1st Division	
29-1	Italian Open	Venice
29-1	Hong Kong Open	

Billington & Holt show

BRADLEY BILLINGTON and Andrea Holt took their respective singles trophies at this year's Under 21 ETTA/Halex Championships, held recently at Bridlington.

This was a special win for Billington from Chesterfield, because he has not picked up a bat for 15 months. It was his first tournament since his hip injury, which has kept him out of competitive table tennis.

In the final Billington faced the challenge of Grant Solder from Essex, who was last season's Under 18 Champion.

The first game was a comfortable win for the talented Billington 21-13. But the second leg was much more exciting with Solder powering his way to a 15-10 lead, before the man from Chesterfield pulled back to level it at 17-17, and go on to take the title 22-20.

Andrea Holt won the Under 21 Women's Singles crown for the second year running, when she beat Yorkshire's Sally Marling in the final.

But once again the lass from Lancashire lived dangerously, losing the first game heavily 12-21, and in the second she was 16-18 down, when Marling slipped and Holt scraped home 21-19.

The third and deciding leg was a



Bradley Billington (left) and Andrea Holt

monumental battle between two determined women, which saw Holt narrowly defeat Marling 24-22.

Billington added another trophy to his cabinet when in partnership with Steven Shaw, they defeated Andrew Eden and Jonathan Taylor, 19, -17, 20.

Holt also won two trophies when she paired up with Kate Goodhall to take the Women's Doubles crown, beating Sally and Samantha Marling 9 and 19.

The Mixed Doubles saw Goodhall capture her second trophy when in partnership with Darren Howarth they overcame the challenge of Andrew Eden and Sarah Seaholme from Hertfordshire, 12 and 11.

Shaw & Goodhall take U18's

STEVEN SHAW and Kate Goodhall powered their way to victory in the Under 18 singles finals.

Firstly, Shaw showed his true talent when with powerful topspin attack he blasted Barry Forster 13 and 12 to take the trophy. Then Goodhall beat the holder Sally Marling 12, -10, 17 to win the Women's Singles, and take her third trophy of the weekend.



Under 18 Singles Champions Steven Shaw and Kate Goodhall



Samantha and Sally Marling making sandcastles at Bridlington

The logo for HALEX, featuring a stylized 'H' inside a triangle on the left, followed by the word 'HALEX' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of the word.

Friday's fabulous five

SCOTT FRIDAY broke all the records when he took all five trophies in the ETTA/HALEX Under 10, 11 and 12 Championships held at Milton Keynes and Grantham, recently.

Firstly, he won the Under 11 Boys Singles trophy at Grantham, when he beat Peniel's Stephen Linnecar 8 and 10, then he travelled to Milton Keynes to take another four trophies. Winning the Boys Singles Under 12 final where he beat Darren Ashall from Yorkshire, 13 and 15. In the Under 10 Singles final he overwhelmed Tim Yardy 5 and 11. He won the Boys Under 12 Doubles crown in partnership with Gerald Ashinson and the Under 10 Boys Doubles with Tim Yardy, where they beat Hertfordshire's twins, James and Oliver Wakelam.

In fact the only boy to stretch Friday was Berkshire's Ali Subhan, when they met in the semi finals of the Boys Under 12 singles, with Friday narrowly defeating Subhan - 19, 21, 16.

The fabulous five trophies that Friday, the boy from Kent, won, is quite remarkable because he is still only 10 years old.

Tracey Davies from Peniel in Essex, is this year's Girls Under 12 Singles Champion following her victory over Debbie Pestka of Nottinghamshire, -21, 17 and 19.

Davies also went on to take the Girls Under 12 Doubles trophy in partnership with Verity Cleminson, when they beat Lindsay Thornton and Catherine Corkill, -18, 25, 21, in a thrilling final.

Trudy Bloor from Shropshire won the Girls Under 10 Singles trophy when she beat Susan Johnson, 18 and 17, in the final.

The winner of the Under 11 Girls Singles trophy was Lindsey Thornton, when she defeated Heidi Simms 10 and 19.

Seven year Katy Parker, the daughter of Don and Jill Parker, won both the Under 10 and 11 Girls Consolation titles, beating Michelle Sunter 16 and 15 in the Under 11, and Emma Laughran 16 and 8 in the Under 10.

Young Katy has a cracking forehand for someone so tiny

TOP - Tracey Davies (left) and Scott Friday

MIDDLE - Lindsey Thornton (left) and Scott Friday

BOTTOM - Trudy Bloor receives her Under 10 Girls Singles trophy from Errol Cohen (left) Halex Operations Manager and David Hildreth Recreation Manager of Milton Keynes Borough Council



ETTA County Supplement

BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

THE 1991/92 SEASON is no sooner over and the trophies presented before the new season is upon us. Local leagues will be keeping their fingers crossed in the hope that the ever increasing costs will not force too many clubs to call it a day. Two years ago you could book a school hall for £5 or £6 an evening, now with market forces in full swing, costs range from £20 plus an evening to up to £25 per hour. Should you run over your allotted time, be prepared for a caretakers overtime bill of around £11 per half hour. Community grants have been slashed and are only available for approved 'Youth Groups'.

On the table tennis front Reading and Bracknell leagues had good seasons with many close calls and fine contests throughout the year. Pride of place in Reading goes to Sonning Common and Peppard who took the first and second divisions. Early club OLOP chased them home on both occasions but could not quite match their strength and depth. The OLOP club did however take division 3, mainly due to Japanese attacker Takeashi Takatane, aided by Fred Brewster, Femi Iyayi and Stuart Champion.

The Bracknell Premier League went to OLOP for the second year running as did the John Howard Handicap Shield. Finally, well done to Ali Subhan, selected for England for the Youth Tournament held in Czechoslovakia. The 12 year old Woodley star had to find £500 as his contribution towards the costs.

Next month details of the final placings in the Newbury and Maidenhead Leagues, plus a few words on two of Berkshires Fathers of table tennis who have decided to retire from their posts in the Berkshire and Bracknell Leagues after many years of service.

Roll of Honour - Reading

Division 1 Champions:	Sonning Common A
Division 2 Champions:	Sonning Common B
Division 3 Champions:	OLOP D
Division 4a Champions:	Berks Sports B
Division 4b Champions:	Trench Green A
Division 5a Champions:	Mushroom A
Division 5b Champions:	Nalgo A
Division 6a Champions:	Longfield B
Division 6b Champions:	ICL
Division 7 Champions:	Birch Copse D
Youth Division 1 Champions:	OLOP A
Youth Division 2 Champions:	OLOP C
Team Handicap Champions:	OLOP A
Team Knockout Champions:	OLOP G

Roll of Honour - Bracknell

Premier Division Champions:	OLOP A
Division 1 Champions:	Camberley B
Division 2 Champions:	Lightwater A
Division 3 Champions:	SSV B
Division 4 Champions:	Lightwater B
Howard Shield Team Handicap:	OLOP

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

CUMBRIA FINISHED SEASON 1991/92 in their best ever position of third in Division 2a of the County Championships.

Congratulations were showered on the team at the County Association's

annual meeting in the Howgill Centre, Whitehaven. Bob Gale of Kendal was re-elected Chairman with Miss Clarise Rose of Ambleside again Vice Chairman.

Colin Taylor of Millom remains as secretary, assistant match secretary and umpires secretary. Brother John continues as match secretary. Treasurer is again Richard Johnstone of Workington, who carries on as tournament secretary, assisted by Ken Douglas, also of Workington.

The Press secretary's job is still in the hands of Gordon Brown of Whitehaven with Eddie O'Hara of Barrow re-elected as coaching secretary and Ron Rigg (Whitehaven) a former county secretary, auditor.

Whitehaven table tennis circles were rocked in May by the untimely death of 39 year old Bruce Foster. A member of Whitehaven News teams which won the Whitehaven League first and second division titles and the Halsall Cup knockout, Bruce had an unorthodox style which won him through many a tussle. He died in West Cumberland Hospital after a short illness following the discovery of cancer on the bladder. The league were well represented at his funeral at St James Church, Whitehaven. Mourners included League chairman John Cotterill. Bruce is survived by a widow, Lesley, and two young sons below school age.

The county have again entered a senior team in the County Championships for the coming season, but have again ruled against entering a junior side.

DERBYSHIRE Malcolm Allsop

PRIDE OF PLACE must go to Bradley Billington and Stephen Shaw won the singles titles and then combined to win the doubles at the National Under 21 and Under 18 Championships.

It provided a splendid end to a season for Derbyshire, especially as Bradley has fought back so bravely after an injury which could have ended his career.

Congratulations to 80 years young Trevor Jenkins in winning two gold medals at the Veterans World Championships. Playing in groups of 12 proved no handicap to fitness fanatic Trevor who came through his group into the semi finals and still had enough energy to gain a convincing victory over Lazlo Bellak after leading 12-0 in the first game. Not content with one gold medal, he also combined with Ballak to win the doubles for his second title.

At the AGM of the Derbyshire TTA Tony Chatwin lost his position as President to Brian Smith who has contributed so much to Burton League and the County Association both in financial terms and through his involvement at committee level. It is nice to see the workers getting their reward and appreciation and no one has worked harder than Brian.

The Derbyshire committee remains as last season with increased efforts being made to improve participation in the Inter-Town League.

Derbyshire senior team failed to regain their Premier division place after the second weekend of matches, despite maintaining an unbeaten record - with Bradley Billington and John Holland returning 100% records. The damage was done by Staffordshire who forced a 5-5 draw when Helen Lowe won both her singles, inflicting the only defeat of the campaign upon Nicola Deaton. 8-2 victories over Cambridgeshire and Warwickshire could not undo the damage of an inferior sets average, as we wish neighbours Staffordshire the best of luck in the Premier Division next season.

The Junior 1st team ended the season with a 2-8 defeat by Suffolk, after Suffolk had lead by 7-0 but relaxed to allow us a flattering scoreline.

Counties 2

Amber Valley

The Amber Valley Senior Singles was won by K Meakin over Pete Wain, with Meakin combining with C Richardson to beat Wain and Terry Cotterill in the doubles final. Stuart Colebrook won the Junior title against D Adams.

Burton

Stephen Shaw retained his Burton league men's singles title with victory over teammate Stephen Thomas. Jane Vickers won the Ladies Singles against holder Rose Haggard and Richard Tilley the Junior Boys, beating Chris Fisher.

Derby

Long Eaton proved the most successful club in Derby, taking the top two places in the Premier Division and Long Eaton 3 winning Division 2 title.

Matlock

The Matlock tournament held at Lea Green Sports Centre attracted over 50 competitors, a good entry for a small league of two divisions. Geoff Gill won the men's singles in the best final of the night in three games over John Davies. Pat Thorley won the women's singles and combined with son Paul to win the mixed doubles. Paul also won the Under 17 and Under 21 events

The season ended on a sad note with the news that Connie Smith (wife of Derbyshire President Brian Smith) and Ben Whittaker (Vice President of Derby League) had both passed away.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

ANYBODY WHO READ my last report (May/June) probably thought I had run out of steam when apparently describing the Junior Premier Weekend. In fact, the editor deleted my last three paragraphs, which read as follows:

In the first, Cris scored a great win over Ed Hatley (not at his best), then Shelley Ruocco showed what a wonderful competitor she is by fighting her way to victory over Dian Chan, an equally courageous opponent. Shelley really came of age over this weekend, and is likely to be our No. 1 player for the next three seasons.

On Sunday morning, we were obliterated 9-1 by Devonshire, although had things gone better for us, it could have been 5-5! Cris played his only bad match of the weekend to lose to a very sharp Adrian Vincent. Julie Rand lost her first game -19 to Claire Pengelly, then led 18-7 in the second. How she went on to lose the game from there is quite a mystery. Nerves no doubt. Then Shelley was poised to beat Lynsey Heyward and actually had two match points. A tannoy announcement came at this moment, and she served into the net! Seconds later, she had lost 23-21. Later on, Shelley had the chance of taking out Claire once more in a deciding game, but just lacked that essential experience in the end game. Ryan saved our blushes by beating Jonathan May, else it would have been 10-0!

Our final match was against Middlesex, and since our players had been socialising with their throughout the weekend, perhaps they had become too friendly. How else can you explain Ryan Savill losing to Dov Katz 14,-17,-4.

Once again the best matches were reserved for the closing stages.

Cris Sladden gave his best performance as an Essex Junior that I have seen by beating that super player Richard Hyacinth and Shelley then put us 5-4 up by beating Joanne Weare. It would have made a fairy tale ending to the weekend if Wayne Mitchell could then have beaten England No. 8 David Baker. In the event, he played magnificently. The first game went 21-19 to David, the second 24-22 to Wayne. In the third it was point for point until they stood at 18-18. Here David played three incredible rallies to pull the match out of the fire for himself and his county. So it was 5-5. Our overall position of fourth was very creditable but what I will remember most of the weekend was the marvellous camaraderie of our group of players, and the way they all played for each other. It was a pleasure to be with them.

Funnily enough, he also took out my report on the Closed Tournament of the Waltham Forest league where I recorded the men's singles win by Clive Carthy over John Denmore by the scores -14, 20, 21 and the women's singles triumph of Maggie Pavitt over Kelly Bennett 16, 18.

I was lucky enough to be present at the splendid South Kesteven Sports Centre in Grantham on 6th June when two Essex teams were in action in the National Team Finals. Southend League were in the final of the Carter Cup with a team of Cris Sladden, Ryan Savill and Richard Lawrence, with Daniel Perham as 12th man and in opposition was an unfortunately not at full strength Northumbria League side led by Andrew Silkinson. The Southend lads had a reasonably comfortable 5-1 win, although Andrew beat Richard, and made Ryan go all the way on the third game. In the Jill Hammersley Cup for cadet girls, Chelmsford League faced Maidstone and fielded Sarah Davison (recently transferred by us to Suffolk for a huge fee), Karen Mason and Shelley Ruocco. Early on Crystal Hall defeated Karen, but wins by Shelley and Sarah over Rachel Woolven and Alison Smith saw the Essex girls 4-1 ahead. Then, amid scenes of great excitement Karen clinched the match by defeating Alison -14, 13, 19. Congratulations to both Southend and Chelmsford Leagues.

Internally, there have been some changes at the top. Mike Watts has recently been very ill, and has also had employment problems. As a result he has had to step down from being Chairman. I am sure, however, that we have not seen the last of Mike as a worker for the county and we all wish him well, particularly healthwise. Our former Treasurer, Brian Rowlen, from Clacton, has taken over as Chairman and I am sure that he will do a great job.

We also have to bid a fond farewell to Clive Oakman, our Vice Chairman, who has served the county with distinction for quite a few years. He has, of course, now taken an important ETTA position and already shown how good he is at that.

In July we took 16 of our promising youngsters to Tonbridge, where matches took place between Kent, Surrey and ourselves under the mantle of organiser Bob Taylor, to whom considerable thanks are due for his efforts. I was unfortunately unable to be present, but I believe that everybody had a very good day.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Essex junior players Cris Sladden, Linda Radford, Shelley Ruocco and Vincent Avery all of whom represented England in this summer's European Youth Championships.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

IT'S BUT A PERSONAL opinion, but I have always thought that the first reports of the season for TTN are often a little difficult to compile, and perhaps more so now, as copy date is 1st August.

However, in Gloucestershire, fortunately our County AGM is usually held in June so that paves the way for me to report our next

Counties 3

season's committee - here they are:

President:	L C T Davis
Chairman/Nat Councillor:	L J Smith
Vice Chairman:	P Cruwys
Gen Secretary:	D Dean
Treasurer:	K Bridle
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs J Smith
Umpires Secretary:	Vacant
Selection Secretary:	D Wyatt
Coaching Officer:	G Novoth
Publicity Officer:	A F Pepperd

plus 3 representatives from each affiliated Leagues in the county.

It appears that members in the Stroud League have formulated a 1st Division summer league, they appear to be the sole participants of summer league play anywhere in Gloucestershire - well done Stroud.

Information just in is that Cheltenham Saracens have gained promotion from last year's Division 2A to the 1st Division North in the British League, they are to be congratulated upon this success.

Cotswold National (Select) Junior 2 Star

Owing to an unfortunate clash of dates, the above will be staged on the 30th/31st January 1993 and run at the new Pitville Sports Hall in Tommy Taylors Lane in Cheltenham - all Juniors please note.

The Senior County Closed Championships will be held on 6th December at the same venue and Mrs G Smith will be the Hon Referee. Junior events are to be held at St Benedicts School, Cheltenham, on Sunday November the 1st, the Schools Championships will also be at St Benedicts on 28th February 1993.

World VETS Championships, Dublin 1992

Three Gloucestershire players attended these Championships - Dave Harvey from Cheltenham, Denis Holland from Gloucester and Mickey Holbrow from Stroud TTL.

Dave Harvey, after qualifying, fought his way into the last 16 in the singles event, where he was beaten by England's Nicky Davis - Holland and Harvey teamed up for the doubles championships and reached the last 16, before going out to the eventual winners - Liang Geliang and Jacques Secretin.

Geliang, the current holder of the singles title, beat Secretin in three sets in the final to retain his title.

There were nearly 1,300 entrants in the championships, they came from 47 countries and the most successful English competitor was Matt Sheader who won the over 60's singles and in partnership with Derek Schofield retained their over 60's doubles title.

Back in the early summer, Adrian Moore ran a one day coaching session at Swindon, Gloucestershire's county coach George Novoth was in receipt of four entry forms for this event, of which only one player from Gloucestershire actually participated, he was Daniel Nelmes.

George Novoth attended the Under 12 Halex Championships on 14th June at Bletchley Leisure Centre where Daniel Nelmes reached the semi final of the consolation singles. All remaining Gloucestershire entries failed to get past their groups.

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

HERTFORDSHIRE'S CHAMPION CLUB is once again that highly talented team from North Herts, Norton Three Horseshoes. In the final, held at the Barnet TT Centre recently, the three gladiators from North,

Mick Harper, Keith Samuels and Dave Hyde, brushed aside the challenge from Cheshunt's Ellenborough 5-0, to win the Aubrey Seaholme Trophy.

The three men of Ellenborough, Chris Marlowe, Alan Lamprell and Tony Teff, were unfortunately no match for the skills of the trio from North Herts. The intermediate final was a much closer affair with Barnets' Hadleywood narrowly defeating Hemel Hempstead's Wellcome 5-3. Hadleywood's trio of Hanrahan, Robinson and Maddock took an early 3-1 lead but the men from Wellcome, Chris Dunning, Paul Brownlie and Terry Franklin, fought back and levelled the match at 3-3, but the lads from Barnets rallied and took the next two, to take the trophy.

The Minor Final was between Barnets Exiles and Hemel Hempstead's Kings Langley with the team from Barnet the victors 5-2. Exiles trio of Tiller, Richard and Francis proved on the day too strong for the men of Kings Langley, Billy Banner, Jimmy Wheeler and Reg Gray.

Barnets were once again in the winning frame, with their team Ravenscroft beating North Herts' Bedwell 5-1 in the final of the Minor Minor competition.

The county trials will as usual be held at the Barnet TTC with the senior trials on Saturday 5th September, the Junior trials on Sunday 6th and the Veteran trials on Sunday 13th September.

On behalf of the county, I wish good luck to the three county teams that have gained promotion, the seniors who now play in Division 1, the junior team who will now play the Premier Division and the Veterans who will be in Division 1.

Coaching sessions for all age groups have now commenced on Saturday mornings at the Barnet TTC from 10.30 am to 12 noon. It is also hoped to run coaching courses for women and girls plus courses for retired people. Contact Iris Boucher on 081 440 5594.

If you want to be an umpire, your county needs you. Contact Dave Edwards on 0923 679170 (h) 0923 251155 x 238 (b).

I trust that every Hertfordshire player and administrator has an enjoyable as well as a successful season.

ISLE OF WIGHT John Prean

IT WAS GOOD to hear that my former colleague Jim Beckley has been restored to the ETTA Management Committee as Vice Chairman of Publicity and PR which includes responsibility for this magazine. I have confidence in Jim and hope the dark days of censorship are over.

Our men's team in the Southern Regional League did not gain promotion to the Premier Section, a point separating the top three teams with ours unfortunately not on top. Again Roger Hookey did not have enough support.

I have reported on the success of our junior team in the Hampshire Inter-Town leagues. The juniors will find life harder in the higher division but with Alex Rorke and Greg Burns in the side, I have every confidence that they will not lose their place. The cadets may be hard pressed to repeat their championship winning performance with Greg and also Stuart Dover moving up into the junior ranks. However, Danny Burns will still be there, a bright prospect at 12.

We feel excited at the prospect of having a player in the Olympics. At the time of going to press I did not know his results, but Carl Prean's training had gone well and we had high hopes. Carl reached the finals of the US Open where he lost to the former Chinese player, now playing for Canada, Johnny Huang, but an earlier victory vs Zoran Primorac, ranked above Carl in Europe, was an epic. Carl was ranked in the top 10 in Europe for the first time - at No. 9. He tells me he has beaten all players above him this season except the new European champion Roskopf to whom he lost 19 in the third the last time they meet a few weeks ago and Waldner to whom he lost in 5 in the Swedish Open. He defeated Gatien in the

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European Club Cup in February. The Frenchman is now ranked No. 1 in the world. Carl expressed some disappointment at having lost his No. 1 ranking in England, having held this for the best part of 2 years. With Carl's record of 47 wins to 23 defeats against Chen Xinhua's 33 wins to 22 defeats over the season, I can offer no explanation of this mystery. Carl also reckons that he had the harder matches as he played in the No. 1 spot in all of England's team matches.

The Inter-Island Games will take place on the Isle of Wight next summer. These mini-Olympics for smaller islands should give a useful boost to the local sports centre and will include table tennis. With facilities poor and too few one hopes that the 'Games' may bring some improvement. Many other areas have the same problem and those who travel abroad will have noted the difference in facilities there and here. Rising rents of otherwise deteriorating premises have added to the basic problem. On the whole island there is only one club where youngsters and others can play fairly regularly. The rest is of the once or twice a week variety, not enough to build real skills and enthusiasm for the sport.

KENT Adrian Hall

10 YEAR OLD Scott Friday much as expected won the national U10 and U11 boys singles titles but even by his own high standards performed remarkably to also take the U12 title and added to these the U10 and U12 Boys Doubles. 12 year old Christian Thompson seeded No. 2 disappointingly went out in the quarter finals of the U12 singles but made amends by reaching the doubles final.

Maidstone U14 Girls in National Final

The team of Crystal Hall, Alison Smith and Rachel Woolven disappointingly went down 5-1 in the Hammersley Cup final to Chelmsford. Their only victory came when Hall beat Karen Mason. Hall also lead 20-18 against Sarah Davidson before losing 26-24, 21-15. Chelmsford were led by England No. 1 Shelley Ruocco but it was unranked Mason that caused the major upset when she beat Smith.

Tonbridge and District League

Mark Henderson retained his Open singles title when he defeated the new Tunbridge Wells champion Mike Cripps in the final. Roger Pingram/Ron Terry beat M Llewellyn/Paul White in the Open doubles. Juliet Houghton and Paul Duke won the top senior and junior averages to win the Baldry Cup and Pilcher Trophy respectively.

Teen and Twenty A team of Mark Henderson, Caroline Brown and Paul Duke won the first division title from Leigh A's team of Mike Cripps, R Alderman and J Lynch by 184 points to 150.

Bromley Boys Brigade Make National Finals

Bromley came runners up in the National finals of the boys Brigade tournament at the Meadowbank Stadium in Scotland. The team of Grant Scheen, Christopher Hall, Andrew Newbon and reserve Craig Brooke were one of eight teams to make the finals from 116 entries and came runners up to Hartlepool just losing 3-5.

Junior Tournament Successes

Alison Smith won the cadet singles and doubles titles at the Wylie and Holland Grove 2 Star in May. She beat Ruth Hickman (Cams) 21-12, 21-17 in the singles and teamed up with Trudy Bloor (Shrop) to defeat Heidi Simms (Sussex)/Hickman 17-21, 21-15, 21-11 in the doubles final.

Scott Friday had a good weekend at the Shire Catering 1 Star beating Daniel King (U11 Schools Champion) 21-7, 21-15, to win the U12's and Darren Ashall 17-21, 22-20, 21-16 to win the cadets reversing a 19-21, 16-21 defeat by the same player in the U13's. Friday went on to win the cadet doubles and came runner up in the U15 singles losing to Adrian Cadman 13-21, 15-21.

Kent Squad off to China

A mixture of senior and junior players left for a month's training in China at the Tianjin Institute of Physical Culture. Training will consist of a 6/7 hours per day training schedule 6 days per week with the four Sunday rest days spent on organised sightseeing trips. Our thanks to Wang DaZhi for the invitation and organisation.

LANCASHIRE Stan Clarke

LAST SEASON TURNED out to be one of the most successful on record for the County representative teams, the Senior Premier team finished as runners-up to Devon with only sets average separating the two sides.

The senior second team ran out as comprehensive winners of their division, winning all of their matches with some ease. Both veteran teams finished top of their respective divisions and are promoted, with the 1st team reaching the Vets Premier Division for the first time. Congratulations are due to all of the players concerned and to the non-playing captains and administration team. The two junior teams have experienced a testing time but the 1st team managed to retain their place in the Premier division in a close run series of matches. The junior 2nd team also managed to retain their place in the 2nd division. The lack of quality junior players is an ongoing problem for the selectors and it looks as though things may get worse before any significant improvement is seen.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League 1st Division was won by Warrington in what has been the most open contest for some years, with the result in doubt up to the last match. Liverpool Ladies were again winners of the women's 1st division for the fourth year in succession but the result was extremely close with only sets difference separating Liverpool and Oldham.

The Lancashire Closed Tournament held in conjunction with the Preston Guild celebrations and organised by Preston League saw Sean Gibson of Charnock Richard beat the challenge of German school teacher Marcus Dick in the final of the men's event whilst Marie Thornley of Chorley beat Brenda Buoe of Liverpool for the Ladies Championship, interestingly Brenda (then Williams) was the last winner of the Preston Guild tournament before Maria was born. Brenda was at that time very young it must be said.

It was indeed heartwarming to see the return of an open championship to the county after several years without an open event, in this case the Blackpool 2 Star Open, sponsored by the Marie Curie Cancer Charity. The event was held at the prestigious Norbreck Castle Hotel and was very ably run by the Blackpool Committee with Stuart Sherlock doing his normal efficient job as referee. The presence of representative junior teams from England, Germany and Japan along with a number of highly ranked English senior players ensured a high standard of competition. The men's singles was won by Des Douglas who easily overcame the challenge of Tomas Schroeder of Germany. The women's singles was won by Rika Matsuoka of Japan who beat Andrea Holt in three tight games. One excellent idea was the "hotpot" supper and disco which was held in the hotel after the finish of play on the Saturday evening which was well attended and enjoyed by so many of the players and officials.

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In case you are wondering why there is a new writer for these notes after so many years it is because our former correspondent George Yates is still recovering from a stroke and does not feel able to continue with the task he has so ably performed for so many years. I am sure you will all join me in wishing George a speedy and complete recovery from his illness, I only hope that I can represent your interests and views as well as George has for so many years.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

THE INTER-TOWNS TOURNAMENT was played at a new venue for table tennis in Leicester, and very pleased we were with the amenities at the Parklands Leisure Centre. The manager was pleased to stage the event and told me he would like more table tennis to be played there.

There were two events, the seniors and juniors - four teams in each event playing a round robin.

Leicester 1st won the senior event winning all their three matches, the closest being against Loughborough, the Leicester team was represented by Steve White, Les Baker and Dave Grundy.

In the Junior event, Leicester I made it a double, winning their three matches also and their closest match against Hinckley I was 5-3. Well done to the representatives in the Leicester team of Lee Brunning, Dean Langley and Adrian Clifford.

Coaching at the moment of writing is taking a well earned rest, but I know all concerned are happy with the way the youngsters have come on in the past season. At the Soar Valley complex Steve Jonker knows he has many players ready for the league and are keen to do just that. I am very pleased with the youngsters at the Primary School on the Eyres Monsell complex, just hoping for the numbers to increase.

On to the summer League (Elbow Tankard). Five groups of five teams have been busy and completed on time and we are now into the knockout stage and the draw is as follows:

Goons I v British Shoe Corp
Freddies Heroes v Ironmen
Saints v Villagers II
Casual Clowns v Park Keepers
Gas I v Goons II
The Casualties v The Good, Bad and Ugly
Bali Hi v Sparke
Villagers I v Bali Hi II

Many readers may wonder how we derived at the name of this event 'Elbow Tankard'. Well, it goes back over 25 years when two well known players and committee members at that time came up with the idea of the summer league. The two members I refer to are the late John Ellis and John Bowness, and I am proud to say I was on the committee with them. Hence the ELBOW TANKARD was born.

Leicester and District TTL

The forthcoming season is looking good with an increase in teams entered with a waiting list for the first time in many years, is this a hint of our favourite game is on the up again, let's hope so.

May I wish everybody a good 1992/3 season.

MIDDLESEX

Tony Taylor

FIRSTLY I MUST thank Iris Moss for the years she has written the county notes, but has now retired from this post but continues her many duties in the county for table tennis.

Here is the later than expected report on the Middlesex Closed Championships. It was held at the Tottenham Sports Centre on the 21st and 22nd March and it was pleasing to welcome back for the first time for many years an all star line-up in the men's singles mainly thanks to the sponsorship of the Linda Farrow organisation.

The younger players performed well with Neil Charles and Nicky McKoy taking games off John Souter and Graham Sandley respectively. A not so young Dipak Topiwala gave Nigel Tyler a close game before losing in the third. Eventually Nigel Tyler won the event, beating Graham Sandley in the final who had earlier surprisingly triumphed over John Souter in the semis.

Sanya Kubulka was the star turn in the ladies singles, beating Sara Williams in the semi final and Kitti Kottasz in the final.

Robert Weare had a busy time winning both the Junior boys doubles and Junior mixed doubles and losing a close game to James Sprackling in the final of the Junior boys singles.

The Junior girls went to form with the four seeds Sara Williams, Caroline O'Leary, Lorna Taylor and Joanne Weare reaching the last four before the evergreen Sara emerged the victory.

There were some promising performances in the cadets with Nisha Parmar and David Miller performing well to reach the finals but Joanne Weare and Anthony Jeyarajah won their respective events.

Results

Mens Singles	N Tyler
Womens Singles	S Kubulka
Mens Doubles	C Wilson/J Souter
Womens Doubles	E/K Kottasz
Mixed Doubles	D Goode/S Williams
Veterans Singles	T Taylor
Junior Boys Singles	J Sprackling
Junior Girls Singles	Sara Williams
Junior Boys Doubles	J Sprackling/R Weare
Junior Girls Doubles	C O'Leary/S Williams
Cadet Boys Singles	A Jeyarajah
Cadet Girls Singles	J Weare
Cadet Boys Doubles	A Jeyarajah/M Michaelides
Cadet Girls Doubles	E Faulkner/N Parmar

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

NO SOONER DOES one season end, then another begins, even if the early activities are confined to the Olympic Games, the Rushden Athletic Individual League and the typewriters of various scribes throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Gwil Evans' imaginative initiative has taken off on a moderate scale with numerous avid enthusiasts not content with the usual eight month season, now ready to battle on an individual basis for an additional three months. With the county's leading players holding a watching brief, Steve Brown and Mike Pond shared the main honours.

Summer activities also included the Tina Coleman Memorial Trophy in which the opening draw for partners produced the usual

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intriguing pairings, resulting in the closest event since its inception 14 years ago.

In Group A, five of the 6 pairs won three rubbers each, with Sue Moloney and Anne Abbott, together with Cath Walsh and former county player Christine Price, going through to the semi finals, while a similar situation in Group B gave the Jane Bayes/Joanne Abbott and Chris Howells/Cathy Parkinson partnerships a place in the last four. Surprises were not over, for in the semi finals it was the turn of the underdogs, with the group runners up both accounting for the winners of the opposite group, with both games being decided late in the third end.

In the final the younger pair held their form, with the steadiness of Howells and the incisive attacking of Parkinson gaining the ascendancy, and proving too much for the experience of Walsh and Price, with the 21-10, 21-16 scoreline proving the most decisive of the day.

In the second annual Reznor (UK) Ltd Doubles Challenge, Wellingborough gained revenge over the Banbury counterparts, winning by 12 rubbers to 4 with Dave Marsh/Dennis Millman, Tom Stapleton/Kevin Shields, Alan Knight/Gwil Evans and Steve Adams/Graham Brown remaining unbeaten. Then after some superb refreshments, the Reznor Knockout competition was staged with pairs consisting of one player from each league. This resulted in a clear-cut victory for Wellingborough's Alan Knight, teamed up with Banbury's Colin Astbury, with Chris Millman and his Banbury partner in the runners up slot.

On the administrative side, the county association has a new Chairman, with longest serving committee member Ken Marchant finally taking over the role he has occupied for so long in an unofficial capacity. With Arthur Palmer as his deputy, Steve Brown having forsaken the sidelines to become senior match secretary and newcomer Alan Knight bringing his youthful enthusiasm to the position of Events Organiser all seems set fair for a successful season.

Sadly one face will be missing. Mick Morris, for more than 20 years a member of the Wellingborough Management Committee, and for a short time County Chairman, collapsed and died while playing cricket, a game he approached as zealously as his table tennis and his many other diverse interests. Perhaps he is best remembered for the superb way he masterminded Wellingborough's Annual Dinner Dance and Prize Presentation, but he had many other fine attributes and as testimony to his popularity, Wellingborough's Citadel was full to overflowing for his funeral. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Margaret and his family on their tragic bereavement.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON Bolton who won a silver medal in the Over 60's singles in the World Veterans Championships.

Congratulations are also due to Debbie Pestka upon her international selection for the Junior 6 Nations tournament, and Michelle Haynes who completed the international good news with her selection for the England Schools team for the international event.

The county AGM was not very well attended, and resulted in all the officers being re-elected for a further season.

Following the meeting, Gary Stephens gave a presentation upon the Notts Leisure Services Training Scheme, and emphasised the need for coaches to be trained now to deal with the upsurge in interest being created by the scheme. It is too late looking for coaches when they are required, they must be trained in readiness. Anyone interested in becoming a coach should contact their League coaching officer, the county Coaching Officer Ralph Green or Development Officer Roy Bayliss.

The County senior team travelled to Wellingborough already

champions of their division, and gained a convincing 10-0 victory over Northants.

The Veterans gained a close 5-4 win over Staffordshire to finish as runners up, a position which the junior team also achieved with a 9-1 victory over Leicestershire. With the junior team expected to be stronger next season, a request has been made to the County Championships secretary for promotion for this team.

Nottingham won the county inter-league competition convincingly with 11-1 wins over Newark and Worksop and 12-0 over Mansfield with a team consisting of Junior Stoddart, Paul Wood, Mark Green, Kevin Green, Angela Brettell and Ron Bolton.

Worksop finished as runners up after gaining 8-4 wins over Mansfield and Newark.

Mansfield

Micro Image won the Premier Division with the other titles going to Alliance (Division 1) and CMB Aerosols (Division 2). The Youth League, sponsored by Eve Trakway, was keenly contested and efficiently organised by Steve Riley.

Nottingham

Mark Illingworth won the men's singles at the Nottingham Closed tournament beating surprise finalist Peter Furneaux. Illingworth had beaten Mark Green in the quarters and Terry Bull in the semis. Furneaux beat John Bayliss, Mark Pearson, Ken Phillipson and Ransford Scott on his way to the final.

In the women's singles, top seed Theresa Butler beat Angela Brettell. Ken Phillipson took the veterans title with a win over Van Dinh Damh. Ron Bolton took the over 55 (supervets) title with a win over Terry Baxter. Gary Pestka won the junior boys; with Debbie Pestka winning the cadet girls and combining with Theresa Butler to win the womens doubles. Mark Illingsworth won his second title in the mens doubles partnered by Chris Kinsey when they beat the young combination of Gary Pestka and Mark Green.

GPT I team beat Redcliffe C by 25 points in the final of the Handicap Cup, sponsored by Keyprint of Keyworth. Mapperley Sports won the Premier Division of the Nottingham League again. Keyworth won Division 1 with an all-veteran team of John Ellis, Ron Bolton, Dennis Collins and Dave Inkleby.

The Junior team reached the semi final of the Carter Cup with a convincing 5-0 victory on the south coast against Worthing.

Worksop

Paul Clarke won the Division 1 Open singles for the 7th time with a victory over Mick Bartrop. The change of night for the Worksop sessions from Sunday to Tuesday have proved successful with an increased attendance.

SOMERSET

Andy Seward

WELCOME TO THE new season. Can the county repeat the successes of last season? The omens look good as the playing strength appears to be little changed. However, both of the veterans teams have gone up a division, the 1st team by merited promotion, the 2nd by forced promotion (having finished 5th!!!)

Few changes on the admin side. The Somerset AGM elected the following, or in some cases the following were elected:

Chairman - Brian Reeves

Secretary -

Brenda Thorne

Team Secs: Senior -

Lee Sadler

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Veterans 1 - John Crabtree
 Veterans 2 - Mike Baker
 Junior - Martin Rumary

1992 Somerset Closed

Eight tables, 233 matches and very few surprises in the 1992 Somerset Closed held for the first time in Mendip League territory.

In the men's singles the top 4 seeds duly took their semi final positions. In two superb attacker/defender semi finals, Lee Sadler (just) overcame Brian Reeves and Phil Payne played the match of the day to beat Ron Weatherby. In the final, Phil defended with remarkable control and occasionally counter attacked to beat Lee in an outstanding match.

Melanie Carey (Bridgwater) beat Judy Craig (Taunton) 21-6, 21-13 to retain the Ladies singles for the 9th time. Melanie dutifully cleans the trophy and brings it to the tournament every year only to have it presented back to her! Judy had earlier won through to the final by beating the No. 2 seed Tina Sadler (Yeovil) 24-22, 21-14.

A brief resume of the other finals. Top billing to Shirley Dark and Judy Craig who retained their ladies doubles title again, beating the favourites Mel Carey and Tina Sadler. One day the organisers will make Shirley and Judy the No. 1 seeds! In the mens doubles, top seeds Lee Sadler and Ron Weatherby beat Richard Jones and Rob Millard (Mendip) and in the mixed, Lee and Tina beat Brian Reeves and Mel Carey 18-21, 22-20, 22-20. Brian Reeves predictably retained the veterans title, beating Graham Green in the final.

Junior Results

U17 Boys Rob Millard beat Mark Smith
 U14 Boys Andrew Rumary beat Stuart Bailey
 U12 Boys Gavin Murphy beat Matthew Gitsham
 U17 Girls Julie Ashcroft beat Claire Shobbrook
 U14 Girls Claire Shobbrook beat Karenza Tissington
 U12 Girls Rebecca Mason beat Lizzy Harrison

Next month, sorry no table tennis news, we've all gone scrumpying!

SURREY Terry Vance

INTER LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

Sadly there was no Sutton Trophy this season, despite trying to run it in conjunction with the Surrey Junior Development League. Hopes are high of running it next season.

the Harding Cup was again dominated by Thames Valley with Leatherhead and Croydon deciding 2nd place in the last match of the season.

	P	W	L	Pts	Sets F/A
1. Thames Valley	3	3	0	9	17/4
2. Croydon	3	2	1	5	12/9
3. Leatherhead	3	1	2	4	10/11
4. Byfleet	3	0	3	0	3/18

Averages - Men

L Nicholls 100%
 S Frank 75%
 S Hunt 66.7%
 E Emecz 50%
 C Green 50%

Averages - Women

B Winn 100%
 C Ashley 50%
 D Chan 33.3%
 H Lindfield 33.3%

In what was one of the closest fought competitions for many seasons, Wandsworth have regained the Percy Johnson Cup they last held 10 years ago by a point from Thames Valley. Thames Valley were unbeaten but lost the cup to Wandsworth who had a better sets total (this does not seem fair - Editor).

	P	W	L	Pts	Sets F/A
1. Wandsworth	5	4	1	13	30/5
2. Thames Valley	5	5	0	12	22/13
3. Croydon	5	3	2	10	22/13
4. Byfleet	5	2	3	6	13/22
5. Leatherhead	5	1	4	4	13/22
6. Reigate	5	0	5	0	5/30

Averages - Men

S Campbell 90%
 M Lowe 87.5%
 C Unitt 70%
 S Davis 50%

Averages - Women

S Holloway 90%
 R Langheim 83.3%
 D Bangerter 62.5%

Surrey AGM

Mike Barrett was elected the new Vice Chairman and a new auditor was found, namely Don Amor. The Trevor Channing award went to Cyril Peters who joined the Reigate League after national service in 1947 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1950. He became Treasurer in 1957 and did this job for 21 years. In 1975 he was elected Vice Chairman and was promoted to Chairman in 1980, a position he still retains. To recognise his devotion to the Reigate League, he was made a Vice President in 1978 after 28 years on the Committee. He has now served the Reigate Committee for 42 years. A worthy winner indeed!

The Charles Bourne Trophy was presented to Ron Crayden for his many years service to table tennis.

Forthcoming Events

South of England Juniors 24/25th October 1992 (Monkshill Sports Centre, Croydon)
 Surrey Junior Championships 22nd November 1992
 Surrey Senior Championships 27th December 1992
 South of England Seniors 13/14th March 1993 (Westcroft Leisure Centre, Carshalton, Surrey)
 Organiser for South of England Juniors and Seniors - T Vance, 081 390 4068 (h) or 071 798 2731 (b)

SUSSEX John Woodford

JANET SMITH, THE champion of Scotland has been released by Sussex to play for Surrey this coming season. Her Scottish commitments have prevented her appearing for Sussex and inside the county for many events.

The crunch came when the Sussex selectors decided not to invite her to play in the second Premier Division weekend, mainly on the grounds that would have had to leave out one of the other girls both of whom had given sterling service over two seasons. The answer to the problem was clear to many supporters - send three ladies to the event and play whoever appeared strongest in the vital last matches.

Sussex had other problems however with the team and it is possible that even if Janet had played, Sussex might still have been relegated, as they were, with the subsequent 'loss' of their third senior team.

Many counties have problems with their star performers. I am sure Sussex supporters will wish her well with Surrey, even if she did not hit it

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off with the Sussex selectors.

It is ironic that she has been unable to play in the all-Sussex Championships for two years due to clashes with World and European Championships - in 1993 with the World's being played later she would have been free.

However, Sussex will start the new campaign with a large batch of Junior and Cadet players who seem certain to win more games than they lose - amongst the batch are Paul butcher, Sarah Stedman, Joanna Bush-Harris, Clare Brown, Paul Ciccelli and Kevin Doyle. And of course for the first time there will be three Junior teams playing for Sussex.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TABLE Tennis Association welcomes a new President, Vera Royal, who replaces Ian Crickmer. We would like to thank Ian for his excellent services and wish Vera every success in her new role.

During the closed season, Beryl Shammon organised a 40th celebration of the county's association, bringing together players from the past and present. Not even our international umpire Doug Young, calling expedite after 15 minutes, could prevent Ian from delivering a detailed account of the past 40 years.

As we prepare ourselves for yet another busy year of table tennis, it is worth reflecting on the concluding events in the local leagues last season.

Congratulations to Mark Brookes who put pay to the title hopes of county first team player Eric Hardman, Paul Garner and finally teammate Julian Wooton to record his first Dudley men's title. Joanne Hill won the ladies event. Thorns, inspired by the season's leading player Ken Walton, remained unbeaten on the way to a record 11 Kidderminster Mens Singles with Mandy House winning her 4th consecutive ladies final. Martin Lewis, Neil Savery, Jeremy and Mandy were the top Kidderminster side in the form of Harriers A.

The Worcester league ladies final saw a repeat of last year with Sue Horton beating Alison Westwood in straight sets. Nick Myton displayed good fighting qualities to capture the mens title. YMCA Bats consisting of Jason Thompson, Craig Ward and Steve and Sue Horton were undefeated league champions with Catshill Youth Centre A of the Bromsgrove League claiming their title in the very last match. Ron Butterton, Craig Ward and Mark Fiddian were the successful trio. Martin Madkins was the League's most consistent player.

The Express TV were Malvern League champions with Willie Ahern contesting the men's and veterans finals and winning both - against Malcolm Dicks. Bengeworth Red were the top team in Evesham but by only one point. Lewis Siket and Jill Stride were straight set winners of their respective finals.

Peter Bird's county knockout competition brought together for the 4th year running Bromley and Thorns from the Dudley league. Thorns were able to recover from 1-3 down to take the final 5-3 and make in 2 titles each. The Handicap final was won by Cripplegate Guild (+120) who defeated Studley Road Youth centre (+90) by 15 points in an exciting finish.

Dudley remain County champions for a 4th year, despite some strong opposition from the other leagues.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a successful season and look forward to reporting the action.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THERE WAS A touch of the orient in East Yorkshire towards the close of last season when a squad of young table tennis stars from Japan arrived in Bridlington to compete in the English Junior Open Championships which were once again held in the resort.

Prior to the tournament itself, a two match international test series was played with matches taking place at Haltemprice Sports Centre on the outskirts of Hull, and in the market town of Driffield, between Bridlington and York.

England selected their players for the four marathon 16 game contests - both boys and girls played separate matches - from the top echelons of the junior ranking lists and must feel a considerable degree of embarrassment after the boys had gone down 16-0 and 15-1 while the girls were only marginally better with scores of 12-4 and 13-3.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that, while at senior level the gap between our players and those from the Far East is closing, the same is not happening where it is most important - among our up and coming youngsters.

It is a recognised fact in any sport that a touring side, living and training together on the other side of the world, are usually more coordinated as a unit and, thus, possibly better motivated to win.

The young players from Japan demonstrated a high standard of physical fitness, concentration and general 'table discipline' which in turn, resulted in a lower 'error rate'.

There also seemed to be a much greater variety of pattern of play among the visitors which meant that the English boys and girls, all of whom played the basic European attacking style, faced a different challenge on each visit to the table.

The results of the end of season Closed Championships at Leeds are now to hand, with Bradford based Dave Indriks the new MS champion after overcoming the challenge of Gary Boyes in a three set final. Joanna Roberts beat Cathryn Johnson in the ladies event, while Indriks picked up a 2nd trophy when he partnered Sandra Rider to a XD win, thus retaining the title he had won 12 months previously.

He missed out on the 'hat trick' in the MD with Paul McKrieth when Keith Bell - Neil Harris proved too strong in the final, while Mrs Rider also 'doubled up' claiming the LD honours with Mrs Johnson at the expense of Rachel Brook - Lynda Fahey.

Other results were JBS Richard Potter; JGS Angela Metcalfe; VS Alan Jones.

Following the AGM the county is now under new management, and I cannot close these notes without paying tribute to two long serving officers who will no longer be in the committee room this coming season.

Both Eric Hill and Ron Wilson have given a tremendous amount to Yorkshire and no words that I can put together can thank them adequately for everything that they have done for the county.

Eric will continue to be heavily involved in Bradford with the Clayton Heights Trimda club, as well as putting in maximum effort to reduce his golf handicap - where have I heard that before! while Ron will hopefully not have forgotten how to address his colleagues on the Referee's table at the Yorkshire and Humberside Open after taking a refresher course in 'Northumberland-speak' to prepare for his return to that area which the Mediaeval Scots abandoned to the native savages.

So it is a very sincere thank you to both, who will join me in wishing every success to the new man in the hot seat, Bevan Walker. Bevan has always been his own man, and has firm ideas of how he intends to lead Yorkshire into the final years of the century and it is up to us all to give the new 'skipper' the support he deserves in his efforts to keep England's biggest county in the forefront of the sport.

Olivetti Bribar's Sandra Rider Women of the Weekend

AFTER my fourth British Womens League weekend I am beginning to run out of superlatives with which to describe events; drama, suspense, excitement, cheers and tears there were in plenty (Well, I didn't actually see the tears but I know there were a few). Very competitive, good spirit, complete lack of unwanted problems, an apparent easy ride for referee Karen Tonge and her assistant Peter Roden but that largely due to their pre-planning and ability to keep on top of things throughout. Not an easy ride for the Umpires; most sat throughout 30 sets during the weekend heat without assistance, last off the table on Saturday evening, Wendy Pryce, made straight for the swimming pool and then found that there were no places left at the dinner table! For the record I made four live local radio broadcasts during the Saturday afternoon and with the help of local freelance reporter Campbell Williams we made most of the locals and a link up with John Woodford in Eastbourne ensured our usual coverage in the quality Nationals.

From the opening, led by the flag bearing dancing students of Ysgal Gylun Gymraeg Glantaf to the closing presentations which included Sandra Rider (Olivetti Bribar) as "Woman of the Weekend", Graham Spicer "Team of the Weekend", and the special presentation of an inscribed silver salver to Mike Lewis in appreciation of four years very hard but very successful work as Organiser (Mike is handing over next season, but will never be far away), it was all grand stuff. And not forgetting, of course, the hour long presentation after dinner on Saturday by Pat Archdale of "100 Years of Table Tennis" in which with the help of players suitably dressed and equipped from her own T.T. Museum Pat took us through the complete history highlighting on 1903, 1933, 1963 and 1993. Yes, 1993 and those of you who were not present are in for a shock next season when you see the dress and electronic equipment with which the modern players and officials will appear! By the time Pat was finished it had been a long day (especially for Pat as we loaded her car up for a midnight return to Bristol), but many stayed to enjoy the picture and video quiz prepared by Jill Parker.

Oh Yes, what about the Table Tennis! Well as with the presentations (by Messrs. Ransome, Chatwin & Gibbs) at which all winning and runners-up teams were rewarded with a cheque and three pieces of Crystal let's start in reverse order.

Division 3B. Clear cut winners here; sponsored by Kebbel Homes Fulleriens were one of only two teams to win 5 out of 5 over the weekend and Lesley Keast (9 out of



Sandra Rider

10), Angela Smith, Sarah Seaholme and Maria Williams romped home by 5 points from Pavilion Ladies. Newcomers LESSA for whom Shelley Ruocco also won 9 out of 10 had the satisfaction of completing the double over Grove 3.

Division 3A - real drama. The final match between Grove 2 and Olivetti Bribar had all the emotions previously described and then some - needing a draw to gain promotion at the first attempt Olivetti lost to Grove 4-2; Nicola Meddings, on her birthday and Jose Bongets (a maximum from 10 sets) ruined Helen Shields otherwise unbeaten record. So, 17 points each but in this case the rules say that the result between the two teams shall decide the issue - but wait for it! not over the weekend but over the season and at Stourbridge Olivetti had won 4-2 - so it was over to the calculations of Peter Roden, 1st Grove 2, 2nd Olivetti Bribar.

Although only drawing with City of Milton Keynes Bayer Bradford jumped over CMK to take first place in Division 2 as CMK also dropped points in draws with Vymura & Oaks. For Bayer Katherine Goodhall won 8 from 8.

Hull Sandhill 2 and Plymouth Pavilion who started the weekend in the two Division 1 promotion places were never going to surrender that situation and so the real excitement was left until Sunday afternoon when they met each other. When Carol Giles played her last set of the seasons event, retaining her 100% record and running that of Jean Parker the match score stood at 2-2 all but wins for Alison Evans over Elaine Short and Samantha Marling over Clare Pengally saw Hull home by 4 sets to 2 and divisional winners by 4 points - not as comfortable as it looks.

Premier division - and N.F.D. Grove march on, one set lost during the weekend (Helen Lower to Hull's Joanne Roberts) and the best wishes of all to Ian Marshall, Alison Gordon, Fionna Elliott, Andrea Holt and Helen as they attack Europe next season. A close run for second place, an in-form Nicola Deaton's brace for Commonwealth All Stars in their drawn match with Hull Sandhill 1sts not quite enough to stop their opponents from being runners-up. In the opening two sessions Sanja Kubelka the Yugoslav playing for Fellows Cranleigh whilst losing all 4 sets took each of her highly ranked opponents to a close third game. Nicola Deaton, Jill Harris, Fionna Elliott and Andrea Holt.

There was no compassion for our very hospitable hosts, led by TTAW Gen Sec Steve Gibbs, who find themselves back in Division 1 after one season in the top flight. Next seasons dates are 20/21 February and 24/25 April 1993.

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	L	D	SETS		GAMES		PTS
					F	A	F	A	
NFD GROVE I	10	10	0	0	58	2	116	17	20
HULL SANDHILLS I	10	6	2	2	34	26	81	64	14
COMMONWEALTH ALLSTAR	10	6	3	1	36	24	82	63	13
FELLOWS CRANLEIGH	10	1	5	4	20	40	51	85	6
PLAYLINE SOVEREIGNS I	10	1	7	2	15	45	37	97	4
WELSH LADIES I	10	0	7	3	17	43	52	93	3

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A	PTS
HULL SANDHILL I	10	9	0	1	45	15	96	43	19
PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS	10	7	2	1	41	19	90	48	15
AMITY GENERATION	10	5	4	1	28	32	65	75	11
GRAHAM SPICER	10	1	5	4	25	35	65	83	6
BRISTOL LADIES	10	1	6	3	21	39	55	87	5
SHOESTRINGS	10	0	6	4	20	40	51	86	4

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A	PTS
BAYER BRADFORD	10	7	1	2	41	17	91	48	16
CITY OF MILTON KEYNES	10	5	0	5	35	25	85	62	15
PLAYLINE SOVEREIGNS II	10	6	3	1	37	23	81	56	13
OAKS I	10	3	5	2	27	33	63	84	8
VYMURA INTERNATIONAL	10	3	6	1	22	40	57	80	7
CITY OF NEWCASTLE	10	0	9	1	18	42	44	91	1

DIVISION 3A	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A	PTS
NFD GROVE III	10	8	1	1	50	10	106	31	17
OLIVETTI BRIBAR	10	8	1	1	48	12	101	37	17
SUNDERLAND LADIES	10	6	2	2	31	23	84	58	14
WELSH LADIES II	10	4	6	0	25	35	61	80	8
BRIBAR BELLES	10	2	8	0	17	43	48	90	4
OAKS CLUB II	10	0	10	0	3	57	12	116	0

DIVISION 3B	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A	PTS
FULLERIANS	10	9	0	1	47	13	98	37	19
PAVILION LADIES	10	7	3	0	36	24	85	59	14
LESSA	10	5	4	1	35	25	81	64	11
NFD GROVE III	10	5	4	1	37	23	87	59	11
WORCESTER LADIES	10	2	7	1	24	36	56	79	5
BSAD	10	0	10	0	1	59	9	118	0

Focus Sport Development

HAVE you an unaffiliated league in your county and want to do them a big favour? Then get them to affiliate as soon as possible. They should be amply rewarded. The ETTA/Sports Council Focus Sport initiative will give table tennis a lot of support and local leagues will be among the main beneficiaries.

£250,000

For a start of £1/4 million is going towards providing each of the ETTA's 10 regions with a full time development officer plus part time staff coaches for the next three years. That £1/4 m spread among the counties gives around £6000 per county, available in development and coaching effort.

Each regional development officer will be guided by a plan agreed by the counties in the region.

Five of the development officer appointments have already been made. First to be appointed was Colin Wilson in the Greater London Region. Colin has been operating since February and is already beginning to make the Region buzz.

Firstly, like any good marketing man, he wanted to find out what people thought about his product. He sent a questionnaire to 650 coaches, officials, players and key organisations.

Information

Much helpful information has been obtained, including responses from groups concerned with the disabled, the Womens Sport Foundation, local authorities, sports centres and the organisers of the London Grants Scheme. An early gain has been financial and other assistance from the London Council for Sports and Recreation.

Meantime Colin had been active with a number of promotions. Some of the highlights are: A pilot 'Play T1' scheme has introduced 80 youngsters to a ten hour session - including matchplay for beginners. The scheme is now being structured as a charitable trust and this month a programme of school exhibitions and coaching starts. Two London boroughs have



Colin Wilson, the first Development Officer to be appointed

already booked 30 sessions each. A new seven-table club has been started with tables from the ETTA easy purchase scheme.

Other facility developments are in hand in both North and South London. And, of course, a seven-table facility available for match play just once a week could mean 14 new teams in a league.

Filmed

Table tennis has been filmed for T.V.'s Newsroom South-East programme. With more control over actual filming it was possible to show rallies! Other media contacts have been made offering future prospects for publicising T.T.

Four new courses are starting covering youth work, over 50's and mentally handicapped people. T.T. has been featured in two Festivals of Sport. A summer play scheme was arranged. There have been five coaching weekends.

1000 requests

As evidence of the interest created Colin tells us that over 1000 requests for information have been dealt with and he has attended some 200 meetings.

In other regions things are progressing, but in different ways. The North-West and South-West decided to finalise their regional officers. These two regions look like being the first to publish.

faithful bands of enthusiasts within the Counties. Development is what it's all about but enthusiasm is the key!

Next month - more about the new RDO's and pen pictures of the staff coaches.

Regional Staff Coaches

North-West : Stuart Sneyd
Northern : To be appointed
Yorkshire/
Humburside : Peter McQueen
W. Midlands : To be appointed
E. Midlands : Derek Marples
Southern : Ken Muhr
South-East : Nigel Thomas
London : Ken Muhr
Eastern : Paul Tarrant
South-West : Kevin Satchell

And there's more....

Apart from Sports Council support T.T. can also obtain financial help from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

We are pleased to be able to list below the following successful applicants to date.

Applications can be much helped by an endorsement from the ETTA at national level. Please contact either Diccon Gray or Doreen Nightingale at Hastings. Address for applications is:- Foundation for Sport and Arts, PO Box 666, Liverpool L69 7JN Tel: 051-524 0235/6.

GRANTS IN RESPONSE TO TABLE TENNIS

	£	
Exmouth Table Tennis Club	2,000	Enlarged playing area
St. Neots Table Tennis Club	11,650	Enhancement of venue Tables and heating
Wirral Table Tennis League	3,500	Refurbished pavilion Tables and equipment
Failand Table Tennis Club (Bristol)	2,000	Tables and net
Castle Hill Table Tennis Club (Maldenhead)	250	Lighting
Oxhey Jets Table Tennis Club (Watford)	250	Equipment
Enborne Lodge School (Newbury)	500	Table, nets and posts
Selby Table Tennis Association	250	New equipment
Dulverton Table Tennis Club	400	Tables
Andover & District Table Tennis Association	461	Lighting
Cross Flatts Youth Club (West Yorks)	500	Set up table tennis
S.S.V. Table Tennis Club (Bracknell)	250	Equipment
Bradford & District Table Tennis Association	250	Equipment
Leicester Area Training Centre for Table Tennis	250	Table tennis robot
Rush Common Primary School	500	Schools table tennis club
Gravesend & District Table Tennis League	347	Table

Modern techniques and trends and the Coaching Response

By Ken Muhr

THE following is a rough transcript of a talk I gave to Banbury coaches on Friday, 13th March, 1992. The comments are not all from my own observations, and I fully acknowledge contributions from David Fairholm, John Souter, Colin Wilson, Nick Jarvis, Jackie Bellinger and John Burleton (and, after the talk, from Don Parker). However, I do not claim that these experts would agree with everything I say, so that I must accept responsibility for how these ideas are pooled together. And they are generalised comments; inevitably there are always exceptions to them.

There have been no totally new techniques recently, only the continuation and extension of trends started several years ago. I shall put these trends under separate headings, although they tend to be connected with each other. This paper relates more specifically to the men's game, which is generally several years ahead of the women's game (my authority is Jill Hammersley Parker!).

The trend towards two wing power

TOP European players are getting stronger on both wings. Like the Hungarian men of the 1970s, Swedes such as Persson and Lindh (and sometimes Waldner), and the German Roskopf can hit hard on both forehand and backhand so that it is difficult to 'keep them out' (of making a strong attacking shot). Even control players such as Appelgren have had to strengthen their backhands as any weaknesses are exposed and exploited by opponents.

There briefly was a slight trend towards more back-hand dominated players such as Grubba of Poland and the Mazunov brothers of Russia, but this is now declining as opponents can better handle the



Ken Muhr

power backhand loops and exploit the relatively weaker forehands. In fact for some time now Grubba has executed a much improved forehand whilst the Mazunovs are slipping back in the world rankings. Players with strong backhands need to have strong - even more powerful - forehands. If anything, there is now a return to players running round their backhands to get in their forehands. For example, even though they have excellent backhands, stars such as Persson and Roskopf are fast enough to run round to hit the ball hard with their forehands and recover. This also gives them more variety of response on the backhand wing.

Generally players are using stream-lined (forward travelling), medium or longer length strokes to hit the ball very hard with full commitment. The backhand is produced from the hip, with extra leverage from the elbow and shoulder and a 'snap' of the wrist. Although it is still played from a squarish stance, the emphasis is on power drive rather than the short, sharp

foldover of the Stellan Bengtsson era.

The forehand drive is (usually) produced from a side square stance with the bat coming from behind (rather than below) the ball and a smooth transference of weight, pushing off from the back leg and rotating through the knees, hips and shoulders to the front foot. The top Europeans do not use 'bicycle' glue as a substitute for this weight transference to produce power, but to enhance power. They do a lot of physical training and are particularly strong in their legs, for power and speed of movement.

Because two wing power is so vital, table exercises involving both players playing from both wings are becoming even more important. At their simplest they can start from 'Xs and Hs', but exercises can be quite complex. And it also matters that players can hit the ball straight as well as cross court, so this must be practised.

Bicycle Glue

VIRTUALLY all attacking players at international level are

now using it. They 'glue up' before every match. It increases spin, speed and control on topspin shots - and possibly also control in blocking/chop blocking and parrying loops. But it is also harder to serve and return tight spinny serves.

Even with vulcanising glue the top players still use a body action, unlike some English juniors who just let the bat do the work and play lazy, arm only strokes. In this Waldner has a lot to answer for - his apparent relaxed, laid back (cool), effortless approach has been copied by many youngsters who don't have his superb natural talent, anticipation and fluidity of movement. (In fact Waldner does have good body movement when he is attacking).

With 'bicycle' glue there is less need to start the bat low to loop, though the player may still do so if playing against heavy chop or away from the table. In order to gain power, even against chop, players will normally start from behind the ball, brushing over the top of it with a heavy whip of the forearm and wrist to produce the maximum speed and spin.

There is a debate in English coaching over when juniors should start on glue. Using it too early may stunt good footwork and body action, because there is less time to recover (if it comes back, the ball will come back sooner), less need at a basic level to recover (you will play more outright winners and make more mistakes so there are shorter rallies), and you can get away with hand/eye/arm strokes. Glue used improperly is also a health hazard. But if the attacking player wants to get on it is a definite advantage and facilitates some stroke production that is very difficult without out.

*To be continued in
October's issue*

Kostner takes Junior Open

GERMANY'S Sascha Kostner took the Boys Singles trophy at the English Junior Open, when he beat Japan's Ichirou Imaeda, 13 and 14 in the final, at the Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, last May.

In the semi-finals Kostner beat Japan's Kinjiro Nakamura -19, 17, 16, whilst Imaeda defeated Sweden's David Gustafsson 16, 15, last year's champion.

This year's Girls Singles Final was an all Japanese affair, with Rika Matsuoka defeating her team mate Toshie Murakami 17 and 14.

Sweden won the Boys Doubles when David Gustafsson and Fredrik Hakansson beat Japan's Kinjiro Nakamura and Ichirou Imaeda, 17, 14.

Girls Doubles Champions were Japan's Rika Matsuoka and Keiko Okazaki, when they overpowered Sweden's Marie Persson and Sofia Johansson, 14 and 14.

Cadet Boys winner was Germany's David Assenheimer and the Cadet Girls winner, who was also from Germany, was Nadine Schmidt.

The Boys team winners was Japan, who beat Sweden 3-2, and the Girls team champions were Japan who defeated England's Sally Marling and Kate Goodhall 3-0 in the final.

However, we did taste victory in the Girls Team Plate competition with Nicola Deaton and Linda Radford beating Germany's Nadine Schmidt and Nina Wolf 2-0.



Germany's Sascha Kostner receives the Boys Singles trophy from ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome (left) and Mayor of East Yorkshire, Councillor Tom Brown

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Japan's superstars Rika Matsuoka (left) who won the Girls Singles Crown, and the Girls Doubles trophy with her partner Keiko Okazaki, who celebrated her 16th birthday at Bridlington

Four holders retain titles

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOUR of the eight holders retained their titles when the National Finals of the English Schools' Team Championships were played at the Lea Green Sports Centre in Derbyshire. Peniel Academy, Brentwood (Girls 16 and Boys 11), Grove School, Market Drayton (Girls 19) and Archbishop Cranmer, Leeds (Girls 13) all coming out on top for a second successive season.

Bedford Modern (Boys 19), Whitgift, Croydon (Boys 16) and Archbishop Cranmer (Girls 11), all of whom relinquished trophies in 1990, were back with new squads. It resulted in a blank day for the newcomers to the Finals Day, but the likes of Birkenhead 6th Form College, Sutton High, St. Helens, North Leamington, Warwickshire, Christleton C.P., Chester and West St. Leonards C.P., Hastings will all have benefited from the experience at top level and those still in the education system in twelve months time will be out to go one better.

An enthusiastic Bedford, who dominated the B19 event in the late 80s with three wins in a five year period, and had only Ian Musk (28) in the higher echelons of the national Junior rankings, had good wins over Grove (5-3) and Birkenhead (7-1) with Musk coming undefeated through his four outings and picking up excellent wins over the opposing No. 1, Eddie Wisnayer and Mark Newis, a record which deservedly brought him the Boys 'Best Performance Award' at the end of the day.

In the parallel Girls event there was no stopping holders Grove, who raced away to victory with the loss of only one game, and it was a fitting end to a fine career in Schools T T for the Shropshire team's captain, Claire Marshall, whose loyalty and sportsmanship - or should it be sportspersonship! - are an example of all that is best in our sport.

Whitgift School, Croydon, the 1990 winners, came through to take the honours in the Boys 16, with highly rated top pair Darren Blake and Stephen Lampkin both returning clean sheets. In the final game the London boys overcame Sutton High, St. Helens with the loss of only one game, but the Lancashire lads, in their first year in the competition, were in no way disgraced by the 7-1 scoreline.

Jennie Coleman and Claire Rowlands (Peniel) and Nicola Garnet (Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness) were

all unbeaten when the sides met in the final game in the G16 group with the holders coming out on top 5-3, while the Essex club also claimed the Boys 13 title with the basis of their quartet the squad which had won the Under 11 event twelve months previously, and a new foursome moved smoothly in to take over the Boys 11 top spot.

Also earning 'dual honours' were Archbishop Cranmer Middle School, Leeds in their final year in the Championships before the school closes its doors for the last time in July.

It was a third successive win for the Under 13 team, which shows only one change from that which first stepped up at Under 11 level in 1990 - and that change was the result of a player having left the area.

The two Nicolas, Smith and Silburn, both of whom have represented the County at Junior level, set the example with four wins each, while the first named collecting the 'Girls Best Performance' award after three years without losing a game in any stage of the competition.

Schools International Championship

THE English Schools' Table Tennis Association were delighted to accept the invitation from the Table Tennis Association of Wales to participate in the first Schools' International Championships ever to be held in the Principality, and a large contingent of eight teams travelled down to Cardiff over the first weekend in July.

It is good to see the annual Schools' event 'go round', and I am sure that all the English players and officials would wish me to open these notes with a sincere 'thank you' to all those who worked so hard to make things happen and who proved such excellent hosts.

No names - the list would be too long and somebody would, almost inevitably, be inadvertently overlooked - but, once again "Thank you Wales!"

On the playing front England with, admittedly, considerably more players from whom to select their sides, tended again to dominate both Team and Individual events, taking top place in five out of the six categories in the former, but there was consolation for the host country in the Cadet Boys, where they shaded Ireland on 'games difference' after each side had lost once.

Earlier it had been the boys from the Emerald Isle who had set up the thrilling finale when they overturned England 6-4 in the opening match in

the event while, at the same time on adjacent tables Wales were going down to Scotland. This left Wales to go into the final match against England needing to win 7-3 or better to take the honours, a margin which they achieved with nothing to spare.

Wales also reached the 'play-off' stage of two of the four events played in two groups, crashing heavily to England in the Intermediate Boys, but just being edged out in a tight 6-4 contest in the parallel Girls event. Worthy of mention was the victory of Tina Beaney from Sussex in the England A v England B clash at Cadet level, where she got the better of the higher ranked Kathryn Woodward (Cheshire), the eventual Cadet Girls champion, despite her side's 8-2 defeat.

In the individual competition Senior Girls, Intermediate Boys and both Cadet titles went to the England squad, with Wales, in the person of the redoubtable Natasha Williams, claiming the Intermediate Girls' honours and the Senior Boys trophy going back across the Irish Sea in the capable hands of Jonathan Cowan.

Taking a closer look at the England squad, Richard Smith (Yorkshire) and Ian Collier (Durham) both made the semi before going down to Cowan and Wales' Stephen Gill at the penultimate hurdle. Ian Musk (Beds), who took the Boys award for the player who contributed most to his side's success when his school, Bedford Modern, won the National Team title at Lea Green in March, made the best of his misfortune in falling to the eventual winner in his first outing going on to win the consolation event.

Only Welshman Paul Robertson, who removed Stephen Lampkin, stood between England and a 'full house' in the semi-finals of the Intermediate Boys with Adrian Vincent (Devon), Darren Blake (Surrey) and Kevin Hodgson (Cumbria) all coming through, but it was the battling Cumbrian, the lowest ranked of the three, who took the honours as he dismissed first Vincent and then Blake in long three setters.

The Cadet Boys final threw up a 'Roses' clash with Kevin Dolder (Lancs), who had to pull out all the stops to get past Scotland's Craig Brown, overcoming Yorkshire's David Smith in straight sets.

With the Senior Girls England did take all but fourth place with England No. 1 Junior Linda Radford (Essex) taking out Claire Marshall (Shropshire) - good to see Claire, who has given E.S.T.T.A. loyal and enthusiastic service since she first came on the school scene - and is now in her final year, having a good tournament. Dawn Barnett

(Oxon) removed the younger Caroline Watt (Cumbria) in three, but probably the best victory achieved by the English girls was that of Caroline in Round 1, where she scored a straight sets victory over Irish No.1 Amanda Cooke.

In the Intermediate Girls Lynsey Heyward (Devon), Sally Russell (Northants) and Michelle Martin (Staffs) eliminated Tracey Garratt (Shropshire), Nicola Massingham (Lincs) and Glenda Ashison (Surrey) in the last eight, but it was Natasha Williams who had the last word as she overcame Martin in straight sets.

As did the Cadet Boys, the Cadet Girls final produced a trans Pennine battle with, once again - although as a 'Yorky' it grieves me to say it! - the west side coming out on top as Kathryn Woodward accounted for Nicola Silburn (Yorks), while there was 'Consolation' for one of the newer players on the circuit in Rebecca Sparkes (Suffolk), who beat Ireland's Andrea Glover in the 'Plate' final.

So, after a first class tournament in excellent playing conditions and with accommodation on site at the magnificent Welsh Institute of Sport, the 1991/92 Schools' International can be wrapped up with the results summary below. Players from all the competing countries who still be within the education system will be looking twelve months ahead to Scotland, where I understand that our Scottish friends will play hosts at the Gannochy Trust Sports Complex in the historic city of Perth.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

TEAM EVENTS:

Senior Boys: England (ru Scotland)
Senior Girls: England (Ireland)
Inter. Boys: England (Wales)
Inter. Girls: England (Wales)
Cadet Boys: Wales (Ireland)
Cadet Girls: England (Ireland)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

Senior Boys: Jonathan Cowan (IRE)
bt Stephen Gill (WAL)
Plate: Ian Musk (ENG)
Senior Girls: Linda Radford (ENG) bt Dawn Barnett (ENG)
Plate: Amanda Cooke (IRE)
Inter Boys: Kevin Hodgson (ENG) bt Darren Blake (ENG)
Plate: Ingolfur Ingolfsson (ICE)
Inter Girls: Natasha Williams (WAL) bt Michelle Martin (ENG)
Plate: Joanna Bastin (WAL)
Cadet Boys: Kevin Dolder (ENG) bt David Smith (ENG)
Plate: Gerard Boyle (IRE)
Cadet Girls: Kathryn Woodward (ENG) bt Nicola Silburn (ENG)
Plate: Rebecca Sparkes (ENG)

Comfortable win for Clayton

STIGA NATIONAL MASTERS

ON arrival at Bracknell it was nice to see Tony Clayton and Brian Burn, both former star players, returning to the tournament scene after many years to play in their first vetts competition, plus their Dorset colleague Barry Hill, who has entered one of our tournaments before. The event began with a rare group defeat for that famous actor Henry Buist, taking a rare break from treading the boards, to a bogey player of his, Keith Horton 2-0. Some strange seeding in the mens doubles saw sfs of Holman/Short bt Clayton/Burn 15, 22 and Gibbs/Corking bt Schofield/Sheader the holders, 21, 20 and then bt Holman/Short 19, 19 in the final. The day ended sadly for Kent with my attempt to get us back in the premier division by drowning all three of Dorsets men players falling badly. Sadly they all survived, but surely Barry Hills attempt to explain to his wife with his incredible story of how he came by his scratches on his first weekend away must have failed! On to Sunday and some interesting prelims resulted as follows:- Hissing Sid Montgomery bt Geoff Bax 19 - 19 (from 13-6 down in 3rd), Don Mcgilvray bt Brian Simmonds 18 - 23 18, David Harse (nice to see you recovered Dave) bt Dave Solman 14 - 15 19 and Gordon Chapman's chauffeur, Frank Hams bt Chris Jacob 18, 18.

Round 1 miraculous Matt Sheader bt Andy Meads 15 - 19 14 with Matt apparently turning his bat round the other way from usual and confusing poor Andy, holder Dave Welsman bt Denis Holland 15 13, Montgomery bt John Millward 13 16 16, Keith Powell bt Horton 13 9! Brian Reeves bt Clive Morris - 12 10 15, Stuart Gibbs bt Brian Allison - 16 19 17, last years conqueror of Denis Neale, John White, went down to Ken Phillipson 11 11, Chrs Shetler bt Phil Newton 18 12, Hams bt Derek Wood 18 - 21 16, Arthur Chilvers bt Barry Hill 20 14, Fred Lockwood bt Dave Bowles 8 - 19 14, Mike Short bt Buist 18 15 and Paolo Beck bt Norman Stagg - 10 13 14 (terrific match this one).

Round 2 saw Sheader bt Timewell - 13 14 18, Burn bt Gunnion 13 15, Welsman bt Montgomery 4 23, Powell bt Chapman 9, 16, Connie (Sir Les) Warren bt Robin Stace 9 - 18 16, Shetler bt Judson 9 16, Chilvers bt Hams 2 0, Short bt Lockwood 19 14 and Paul Collins bt Beck 17 27! (I think the highest scoring game of my career).

Round 3 Clayton bt Sheader - 14 14 9, Holman bt Burn 14 17, Welsman bt Schofield 18 - 16 15, Corking bt Powell 12 13, Dave Harvey bt Collins 20 10, Reeves bt Warren - 18 8 18 Connie just failing after a tremendous fight back in the 3rd, perhaps the turning point coming when Reeves made an amazing return of a loop and then stormed in to kill the drop shot. Gibbs bt Shetler 20 18 and Short bt Chilvers 19 15.

Quarter Finals Clayton bt



Famous actor Henry Buist



Nigel Eckersley

Holman 15 11, Corking bt Welsman 13 13, Reeves bt Harvey 11 14 and Gibbs bt Short in the best of the qfs - 17 10 18.

Clayton bt Corking 14 16 in one semi-final and Reeves bt Gibbs 19 25 in the other.

The final was a rather strange affair with all three games being won comfortably, the score being 11 - 15 3! to Clayton. Let's hope we see more of the Dorset boys at our vetts events next season, it will certainly take a good performance by someone to beat Clayton. I think many people were disappointed that Gibbs didn't get to play him as this could well have been a spectacular affair. The rumour that the flood of water streaming through the roof on Sunday was caused by Stan the bat and Brian Burn, having just finished matches, standing on the floor above was, I have to report, completely untrue!

It was very pleasing to see England's best umpires present, namely Dave Perry, Jack Melnick and Pat Archdale, and thanks also to Peter Roden, Phil and Mrs Gower and helpers for a well run tournament.

The Magnificent Seven WORLD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS by Brian Halliday

THE 6th Veterans World Championships took place in Dublin and attracted entries from 39 countries.

There were 30 gold medals at stake and two nations dominated to such an extent that over half the gold medals available went to Germany with 9 and England with 7.

Pride of place in the English camp went to Trevor Jenkins and Matt Sheader with two gold medals each. For Trevor this was a splendid achievement to win both over 80 category events. Even he could not believe his good fortune in being paired with ex-World Champion Bellak and they made the most of the opportunity. Trevor beat Bellak rather easily in the singles final.

The redoubtable Phyl Lauder again took gold in the over 80 ladies doubles but had to settle for a silver in the singles going down at the final stage to Dorothy De Low of Australia 21-19, 21-16.

There was an all England final in the mens over 70 event where both players looked younger and definitely fitter than their opponents. Les D'Arcy took the gold with a 21-17, 21-18 over Ron Bolton.

In the over 60's the incredible Matt Sheader came through both his events unbeaten. A truly magnificent achievement by the popular Lincs player, who had to win eight matches before he faced Hedin of Sweden in the final. Nail biting stuff as Matt won 22-20, 21-19. We

then partnered Derek Schofield to retain their mens doubles title. This time with a 21-16, 22-24, 21-9 win over Emmerlich and Rossler of Germany. In this match Derek made up for earlier singles disappointments by steadying the partnership at the right time. Ralph Gunnion narrowly missed out on a medal losing to that wily Swedish campaigner Skultety in the quarter final of the over 50.

Nigel Eckersley, playing his first 'worlds' acquitted himself very well with a deserved win over John Hilton and then bringing the crowd to their feet with a quite sensational win over Jaroslav Schwan of Czechoslovakia. The deciding game was remarkable with Nigel on a high and coasting at 17-8 up. Schwan then unbelievably took the next 12 points to lead 20-17 only for Nigel to stage a last do or die effort to win 22-20. No wonder he danced on the table. A word of special praise for the Czech who was very sporting and controlled in defeat. Connie Moran and Doreen Schofield took the bronze medal in the over 50 doubles and there was another excellent performance from Gil Knightley who went out at the quarter final stage in the over 40's singles.

The hot favourite for the mens over 40 title Liang Ge Liang duly obliged. Runner-up Jacques Secretin, not quite the force of yester-year, managed to take a game in the final. Liang teamed up with the very impressive Heiner Lammers of Germany to win the doubles at the expense of Volk and Lux of Germany. Secretin and his very droll partner Purkart managed a bronze medal.

As in the last 2 worlds Tony Hold dominated the over 50's mens events. Nobody was really able to fathom out his extraordinary bat and his unique playing method, which seems to rely on an unreadable half volley. The only person in the hall who seemed to appreciate him was his doubles partner Johann Kleewen - they duly won gold.

The best final proved to be the ladies over 40's where Birgitta Radberg had a titanic struggle with Germany's Jutta Trapp winning 21-17, 17-21, 21-17.

After the Baltimore problems two years ago there were reservations as to how the Irish would organise an event involving 1300 players and some 5000 matches. Of course there were a few hiccups but by and large the organisation was a credit to the Irish Association. The long delays that caused a furore in the States were kept to a minimum and the general facilities were very good.

A wonderful week of table tennis for players of all standards from all over the world. Roll on Melbourne in 1994.

Rawson routs Robinson

1992 NATIONAL

WHEELCHAIR GAMES

NEIL ROBINSON the British No. 1 from Wales was unfortunate to meet an inform James Rawson at the recent National Wheelchair Games. In three matches they played, Rawson was the victor each time. The first meeting was in the final of the Mens Paraplegic team event, with Rawson and partner Arnie Chan from the Nottingham Panthers Club providing a minor upset in defeating Robinson and Martin Evans from the Rookwood club in Wales, 3-0.

The Mens Tetraplegic team event provided a much more exciting final. With Welsh Wizard Jim Munkley the British Tetraplegic No. 1 in fine form being partnered by Paul 'chubby' Davies representing Rookwood. The match was always going to be close against the 1991 champions, the Independent pairing of rising young star David Russell (journalistic license) and the exiled Scot John Gunn. And so it proved to be, Munkley defeated both Russell and Gunn two straight but the Independent pair both beat Davies. The crucial match was the doubles and as in 1991, the better balanced Independent team ran out victors.

The Womens team event introduced another fine Welsh prospect in Claire Harris who, partnering wily old campaigner Dawn Jackson lifted gold defeating the Independent pairing of Lynn Riding and Megan Martin. If Harris continues to improve as she has she will undoubtedly have a long international career ahead of her.

On to the Class Singles. The mens class 1 singles was played on a round robin basis with Jim Richardson, winning all four of his matches taking gold. The crunch match in the series came against Jeff Davey of Oswestry who took Richardson all the way finally losing 21-16 in the final leg. This was Davey's only loss and he filled the silver medal position. John Senior of Hexham finished in the bronze medal position.

The mens class 2 singles was an altogether more tense affair with a few scores to be settled over the recent selection for the Paralympics. The top four seeds made their way quite easily to the semi final stage and then battle commenced. In the first semi final, Barcelona bound Jim Munkley faced Mick Dolan from Ponteland. The Welshman never gave Dolan a chance to use his most effective shot, the up and under, and was on top the whole game. With a flashing backhand drive down the line he underlined his authority to win 21-10 21-18.

The second semi final pitched David Russell, also off to Spain, against his gold medal partner in the



James Rawson, Champion of Great Britain

team event, John Gunn. This was Gunn's chance to prove the selectors wrong in their choice for Spain and Russell was aware of it. The first leg was a see saw affair which looked to be heading Russell's way when he held a 20-17 lead. However, the tenacious Scotsman battled back to shake Russell and win 22-20. The second set saw Russell in control and with some fine angle play took the set 21-14. On to the final set. Gunn made a storming start winning all five of his services leaving Russell reeling. The boy from Berkshire recomposed himself and stunned Gunn by winning the next nine points. With this it seemed that Gunn had ran out of ammunition and Russell comfortably held the advantage to win 21-12.

The mens class 3 event was undoubtedly the toughest to win. The seeding proved to be accurate with the four seeds filling the semi final berths. The first pitched Neil Robinson the number 1 seed against his conqueror in the team event, Nottingham's James Rawson. Being in love is suiting the Nottingham man and with his Irish sweetheart cheering him on, he again nullified the wicked topspin of the Welshman with some remarkable control. There was nothing Robinson could do to stop a victory kiss being planted on Rawson's face in an unashamed show of emotion as he clinched a place in the final, 21-16, 21-17. The second semi final was a far more sedate affair with Phil Evans of Oswestry always in control against Desmond Douglas lookalike Tim Phillips. The final score told of a

closer match than actually took place with Evans sealing a place against 'romeo' Rawson 21-19, 21-18.

The final proved to be one of the games of the championships with a range of shots straight out of the top drawer by both players. Fine angle met fine angle, heavy top spin met superb blocking and there were some serves which Chen would be proud of. Locked at 20-20 in the first Rawson pulled two points out of the hat to take the first set. The second set followed the same pattern with some superb table tennis being played. It was however, the left handed Lancastrian who took the second set 21-17. With fingernails littering the floor the match moved to the final set. Rawson-Evans, Evans-Rawson, the match swung back and forth until the pendulum finally stopped in Evans favour and a superb backhand sealed the title with a final set 21-19.

The Mens class 4 singles saw little surprise with Nottingham's Arnie Chan defeating Ponteland's Dave Gardner in the final 21-12, 22-24, 21-15.

There was a slight upset in the semi final of the mens class 5 singles with Mick Prendergast of Lodge Moor beating veteran international John Pyne two straight, but Rookwood's Martin Evans proved too powerful an opponent in the final sweeping Prendergast aside 21-10, 21-15.

The biggest shock of the whole tournament came in the ladies class 1-3 singles when, at the semi final stage, Great Britain No. 1 Val Beck

lost to veteran Gill Matthews who hasn't played seriously for many a year 21-19, 17-21, 18-21.

The other semi final pitched Jane Blackburn of Essex against Dawn Jackson of Wrexham. This was also Jackson's chance to prove the selectors wrong but a burst blood vessel in her arm early in the match restricted her from playing her best table tennis and Blackburn eased past 21-11, 21-16.

There was no repeat of the semi final upset in Matthews favour and she found herself totally outclassed as Blackburn sprayed winners down either wing to triumph 21-4, 21-13.

Small entries in the ladies class 4 and 5 events heralded no real upsets with Julia Mitchell and Megan Martin winning the respective events.

The womens open event again found Val Beck against Gill Matthews at the semi final stage but the number 1 seed did not make any mistake on this occasion and progressed to the final 21-13, 21-17. Her opponent was to be Jane Blackburn who made her way effortlessly to the final. Miss Blackburn was in inspired form as she completed a double gold success beating Beck 21-17, 21-15 to finish the weekend without dropping a set.

The mens open singles was Neil Robinson's last chance to win a gold in these championships and he progressed effortlessly through to the last four. Unfortunately for him so had James 'romeo' Rawson and they met for the third time over the weekend. Rawson ran out the 21-17, 22-20 winner to cap a remarkable hat trick of wins against the GB number 1.

The bottom half of the draw heralded an upset when, in the quarter final stage, up and coming Dave Gardner's defensive resistance saw him defeat number 2 seed Arnie Chan. This proved to be Gardner's swansong as Martin Evans of Rookwood proved too powerful in the semi final and it was he who progressed to the final with a 21-17, 21-14 victory.

The question on everyone's lips was would Evans gain revenge for his Welsh compatriots (three defeats by Rawson and lift this most prestigious domestic title, or would Rawson, roared on by his bride-to-be, be crowned King James of Nottingham.

The Nottingham man again proved to be a dragon slayer. With Evans unable to be consistent enough with his heavy topspin and with Rawson, combining excellent defence with a wide variation of shots, in determined mood, the match although close was always going Rawson's way and he was crowned champion of Great Britain after winning 21-19, 21-17.

Disappointment at Topolcany

IN contrast to 1991, Topolcany (pronounced Toppie - charny) in Czechoslovakia did not yield any medals for our junior table tennis team, nor were there any inspiring performances in the individual events.

In the team events, it is the initial group matches that decide a team's fate. If you do not finish in the top 2, then you cannot play off for a place higher than 13. Only the Junior girls managed to be placed in the top 2 of their group; 2nd behind CIS, but ahead of Croatia who they had beaten 3-2 in a nail-biting match when Sally Marling defeated their number 2 Sandra Sever 17, -18, 18 to clinch a win. A similar 3-2 win versus Sweden ensured second place. The girls were conceivably in with a chance of a medal, but they would have to win their next group, which consisted of Italy and Netherlands. Respective 3-1 and 3-2 defeats meant playing off for positions 9 to 12. Their final position of 10th equalled last year.

The junior boys, who finished 15th, one up on 1991, in my opinion did extremely well considering the strength of the opposition. Having finished 3rd in the initial group, they had to play Slovenia and Finland. Winning this group would mean playing for places 13 to 16. The first match against Slovenia and we were 3-0 down. Alex Perry and Edward Hatley then proceeded to take the doubles 14 in the third, Alex won his next singles as did Richard Hyacinth his, but Cris Sladden, after an excellent game just failed and we lost 3-4. As Finland had previously beaten Slovenia, a loss to them would have left us no better than 21st. However, in another inspired performance, we won 4-2 after being 1-2 down and won our group. A loss to Austria at the next stage meant playing off for 15/16 against Lithuania, one of the new independent Balkan states. All looked good at 2-0, but then suddenly it was 2-2 and when Cris Sladden lost to their No.1 11, -10, -20, we seemed to be in trouble. Edward Hatley then proceeded to outwit their No.3 16 and 17 and it was left to Richard to get

a win by beating their unbeaten (in this match) No.2. In a very tight and exciting game, Richard triumphed -28, 10, 15.

26th position for the Cadet Boys was not good, but an element of a bad draw as the team finalists, CIS and Denmark were in their first group. Even so, 5th position meant playing for a final position no higher than 25th. By some quirk of fate, the next group contained Finland and Slovenia as with the Junior Boys. A 3-0 defeat of Finland and 2-3 against Slovenia still saw us top the group. This

good players as will the former 'Eastern bloc' countries. But now so too are the Spanish who only just lost 3-4 to Austria (16th) in the first groupings 1 to 12 if they had beaten Denmark 4-3 in the first group instead of losing by the same score. The Italians finished 10th and they had a player - Mondello - who, in my view, had the best forehand and backhand smashes of any player at the tournament, who reached the semi-final of the Boys' singles and would have had as good a chance as anyone of winning

Meddings progressed into the 2nd round, where he had a very good match against Talavanov from Bulgaria, losing -22, -19. Talavanov then lost in three to the CIS player Cherkassov who was No. 5 seed.

The only successes in the doubles were Marling and Goodhall who lost in the 3rd round 17, 13 to Muller and Bakker from the Netherlands (who lost in the Final), and Perry and Hyacinth who beat the No.4 seeds Varga (Hun) and Tot (Rom) -11, 16, -19 (yes - same scores).

Despite the lack of medals, there was a good team spirit. The Czech organisation was excellent, despite the food at the Hostel not being particularly good. The saving grace was that the majority of things were cheap - beer 15p per pint, coke 20p, steak and chips £1.80, pork chops and potatoes 80p. Many of the restaurants served English food so visits at these prices were frequent! Certain goods in the shops were also inexpensive, although shops were sparse. Leather shoes at £9 per pair were a bargain in the shop next to Colin Deaton's hotel, but the shop was rarely open. One day, when Colin discovered it open, we went in and he offered £20 for three pairs, but it was no deal!

Best performances in the team events were: Sally Marling 5 out of 7, Vince Avery 9 out of 13, Kate Goodhall 5 out of 8, Alex Perry 6 out of 11 and Richard Hyacinth 7 out of 11.

Results of the singles matches:

BOYS

Perry I Angel (Swe) -13, 18, -10
Hyacinth I Krcil (Cze) -11, -16
Hatley I Zoogling (Swe) -7, -7
Sladden I Stankevichius (Lith) 19, -12, -13
Avery I Ritchey (Swe) 18, -11, -17
Meddings bt Tosic (Cro) 13, 17
I Talavanov (Bul) -22, -19
Subhan I Molin (Swe) -6, -6

GIRLS

Goodhall bt Thone (Bel) 13, 15, 12 - I Savu (Rom) 5, -15, -13
Marling bt Mortensbakke (Nor) 15, 9 - bt Schepens (Bel) 12, 14 - I Pinter (Hun) 19, -16, -16
Deaton I Molnar (Hun) 19, -8, -14
Radford I Orge (Tur) -16, -19
Ruocco I Dermastija (Sol) -14, -19
Davies I Poloncin (Slo) -9, -11
Ashison I Mesaric (Cro) -20, -14
Woodward I Abas (Isr) 6, -16, -7

CAPTAINS REPORT by Don Parker

THE journey out to Topolcany went extremely well despite a few anxious moments at Heathrow. A bomb scare on the underground plus Richard Hyacinth forgetting his passport were overcome and the party of 20 arrived in Vienna only 30 minutes late. The journey to Topolcany went very well taking 3 hours.

The playing conditions and organisation were first class. The accommodation was very basic, probably the minimum acceptable although I was told that with the extra countries over 1,000 people needed beds. The food improved over the first few days but still required supplementing to ensure a satisfactory diet. Tim Holder did an excellent job making sure that the dietary intake, including drink, was looked after.

Despite certain countries looking upon this event as a sort of holiday, our coaches did an excellent job maintaining discipline in our camp and we had no major problems. In my opinion it was not a case of the teams performing badly but of a case of them performing to their full potential which, unfortunately, for a number of reasons, is not to a medal chance standard with the exception of the Junior Girls.

was followed by beating Cyprus 3-0 and playing Slovenia again for 25th place. The 3-0 defeat was disappointing.

The Cadet Girls had a difficult act to follow. Last year's 3rd position was never possible, and anything above 24 would be a good effort. In the end, the girls played off for places 21 to 24 having only defeated Scotland in their first two groups. When Latvia did not turn up for their match against us, we played Italy for 21st or 22nd and lost 1-3, with Shelley Ruocco being the only winner against Debora Balboni 14, 7.

On the boys' side, the reality is that we are distinctly behind many other of the top European nations. The Swedes and Germans will invariably produce

had he reached the Final. To produce players of this standard takes specialised training over many years and, unless action towards this end is taken, we will be hard pushed to improve substantially on these performances. Even so, it will be 3 to 4 years before any improvement may be seen.

The individual events results were along similar lines to the team. Each of our junior boys had a player better than him in the first round and each lost, although Alex put up an extremely good fight against Angel (Swe) taking the middle game to 18. Only Kate Goodhall (seeded 15) and Sally Marling won games in the junior girls, both losing in the third round. In the cadets, only Stephen

Foundations laid in Berlin

TABLE TENNIS BECOMES AN ORGANISED SPORT

New Beginnings

1926 was a year of unusual political and social significance. The horrors of the First World War were receding into a distant haze and a new breed of youth emerged bursting with energy, optimism and fresh ideas. It was the year of the Charleston, a frantic, rhythmic dance that swept the world soon becoming an even greater craze than the 'Ping-Pong' explosion of the early 1900s. An eighteen year old American girl, Gertrude Ederle, made the front page news when she became the first woman to swim from France to England and, adding to the excitement, in April of that year, a Princess was born and christened Elizabeth. She later became the revered Queen of England. It was indeed a year of new beginnings.

1926 was also the year when ten dedicated enthusiasts met in the clubhouse of a Berlin lawn tennis club and initiated the International Table Tennis Federation (the ITTF). The meeting took place on 15th January, and those present were - Dr. Georg Lehmann (in the chair), F. Gruber and F. Zinn (Germany), E. Freudenheim (Austria), Hon. I. Montagu, W. Pope and G. Ross (England), Dr. R. Jacobi, Z. Mechlovits and D. Peci (Hungary). Although this meeting is now a recognised milestone in the history of table tennis it poses an interesting question; how did members of four different Associations come to be in Berlin at the same time and in the same place? They came together at the invitation of Dr. George Lehmann, then President of the Deutscher Tisch - Tennis Bund, to participate in a friendly inter-country competition. It was not an official international tournament but more of an ego trip for a few who played an advanced game of 'Ping-Pong'. The personal invitation may well, of course, have been a device by Dr. Lehmann to use a tournament as a means of assembling national enthusiasts.

Dr. Lehmann foresaw great possibilities for the game he loved so dearly and it was his brainchild that a committee be formed to organise and administrate table tennis on an international basis. Therefore, contrary to popular belief, it was not Ivor Montagu but the far-sighted Dr. Lehmann who was the founder-initiator of the ITTF. There is evidence that Ivor Montagu was democratically elected as the first official Chairman (the office has since become President) and it was he who, by his own brand of oratory, diplomacy and organisational skill, shaped what had been merely a fashionable parlour game into an athletic spectator sport. The development of table tennis throughout the world owes much to the wise decisions taken by the splendidly inventive adminis-



Ron Crayden



The Hon. Ivor Montagu

trators and sportsmen of this era; they laid the foundations of the exciting sport we have today.

The meeting that took place in Berlin, although exploratory, pioneered many essential measures for broadening the horizons of the game and it was agreed then to hold a European Championship in London at the end of the year. The 'Founding General Meeting of the ITTF' took place at the Stadium Club, Holborn, on 7th December, 1926, when Ivor Montagu was elected as the Federation's first Chairman. On Sunday, 12th December, 1926, a further Congress was held in a family house in Kensington, London, the home of Lord and Lady Swaythling, parents of Ivor Montagu. Representatives from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Sweden and Wales comprised the first Congress when formal approval was given to a Constitution and Laws of the game adopted.

Although initially it had been decided to classify the tournament as the European Championships, the inclusion of Indian players made rather a mockery of the title. In retrospect therefore, it was agreed to alter the name to the First World Table Tennis Championships. A new era had begun under the leadership of Chairman Ivor Montagu, only 22 at this time.

Ivor Montagu

Only very occasionally there bursts upon the scene someone whose multifarious talents seem to surpass those of all contemporaries, someone who is able to shed lustre on even the most mundane things. Such a person was Ivor Montagu, writer, orator, diplomat, sportsman and leader.

Ivor was born in 1904, the third son of the 2nd Lord Swaythling. Although born into the upper-middle class with a university education, he seemed to have a certain contempt for hereditary privileges although he retained his inherited title. He was a passionate but non-violent Communist and although his beliefs were well intentioned, it is understandable that they were strongly resented in some quarters.

His personal life was happy and although his beloved wife, whom he fondly called 'Hell' (from her maiden name of Hellstern) was not often introduced in public, they were very close. In his later years, at least, he was a rather shambling, unkempt figure, but even when dressed in an old khaki shirt and baggy trousers he had a quiet dignity and commanding presence that was almost hypnotic. He was an influential person in the film world and co-wrote the screen play for the epic 'Scott of the Antarctic' (1948), in addition to producing several other quality films. Numbered among his friends were Charlie Chaplin and the great Russian film director Eisenstein. Zoology was also one of his special interests and he went on trips to research and write about the habits of rare animals; on one occasion he went to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia and wrote a treatise on the sex life of a wild camel which was thought to be extinct. For relaxation he was a passionate lover of cricket and spent many happy hours at Lords where he was a privileged member of the MCC. Anyone who knew him soon found that his interests seemed to be inexhaustible and his knowledge quite staggering. It was however his connection with table tennis for which he will be most remembered. He became Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association at the tender age of 17 and five years later the Founder-Chairman (then President) of the ITTF, thus embarking on a table tennis career of high office that spread over the subsequent forty years. He died in November, 1984, only a few weeks after his wife.

Watch your blood pressure

WITH over two hundred watches in their current range, Casio Electronics are famous for having a watch to suit almost every requirement. Now using, they say, revolutionary technology, Casio has manufactured a watch that is capable of monitoring both your blood pressure and your pulse.

The BP-100 is no larger than a conventional watch and, of course, incorporates the traditional timekeeping functions of a digital watch but also incorporates sensors that can monitor pulse rate and blood pressure - both systolic and diastolic (refer to your medical book).

The BP-100 is not intended as a diagnostic instrument designed to replace normal blood pressure measurements taken by qualified medical personnel, especially in the case of



people suffering cardiac complaints. But sporting and keep fit enthusiasts can monitor their pulse rate and blood pressure during training and store up to 30 readings in the BP-100's

memory bank for future comparison. This translates to a full month of daily readings and each set of data will include the date and time the measurement was taken.

Soft drink?

SPORTS drinks are big business. But are they effective, which do you choose and how do they work? It's a confusing market, but one that affects most sportspeople at some stage in their careers.

The latest import comes with the message - When you have had a hard game, the last thing you need is a soft drink! Isostar claim they are Europe's top sports drink and say their research has provided a unique formula.

Isostar, claims their publicity handout, has four different carbohydrates as sources of short, medium and long term energy. Six minerals to replace those lost during sweating and nine vitamins to help supply energy to the muscles.

To back up their case they point to studies in Universities such as Maastricht, Strasbourg and Aberdeen which show that a 2 per cent loss in body weight i.e. 3lbs in a ten stone person, causes a drop in performance of up to 20 per cent.

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Also approved by the International Table Tennis Federation and the ETTA, we shall obviously be seeing more of our Japanese friend in future tournaments.

Pathways to excellence

LATER this year the British Institute of Sports Coaches, in conjunction with the National Coaching Foundation, will be staging an International Congress, entitled 'Pathways to Excellence', which will examine the needs of the growing child in competitive sport.

The programme will be of vital interest to all who are working with young people in

sport, and will identify those essential ingredients which combine to ensure that the process of nurturing talent is achieved in a positive way.

In addition to key presentations there will be group sessions and case studies to illustrate examples of good practice. Further details from: The British Institute of Sports Coaches, 2 College Close, Beckett Park, Leeds LS6 3QH.

Harry Boyle leaves MY Sports

SALES Director Harry Boyle has left MY Sports, the distributors of Halex table tennis balls. Taking over his position will be managing director Merrick Wolman and marketing director Jonathan Singleton.

"He played a major role in helping us retain and maintain credibility with the trade and I am sorry that he will be leaving," said Mr. Wolman.

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'Ausser der Reienfolge'

CORRECTION

IN the last issue of the magazine (No. 27), Vic McGregor was described as the only Eskimo (Inuit, as they like to be called) in the village. Curiously enough, we had written that he was the only non-Eskimo in the village. While it is rather intriguing to think of an Eskimo named McGregor, it is unlikely that we shall see them tossing the caribou in the Iceland games. We could understand it if his name was Cohen - then he would probably be one of the Eskimoses. It is well known that they were God's frozen people.

Further, in the section headed, "We need more umpires", the reference to "Handbook for Match Officials 1992" should read "1991".

World Veterans Championships

I (JR) attended these championships in Dublin mid-June. I am pleased to say that notwithstanding 1200 entries and 52 tables in use, the proceedings finished on time. As on previous occasions apparently, the computer system or program seized up, or crashed as it is graphically said, and the situation was rescued only by the dedication of the few working through the night. Congratulations to the Irish on improving on previous tournaments. I still can't get over the exhibition that Secretin and company staged after the tournament, or the way the Irish pronounce Dun Laoghaire.

Two points struck me. One was the continual use of flash to take photographs without, as far as I know, any complaint from the players not being photographed. The second was a dispute I was called on to settle when at 20-all in the final game the German umpire thought the wrong player was serving. "Aus" she said to the German player serving, and the player promptly served into the net. The dispute arose because the English opponent did not think the umpire had said anything. After consultation with various neutral spectators, one of whom was an American International Umpire, I came to the conclusion that the umpire had in fact called, but the unfamiliar call had not registered with the English player. This emphasises the importance of standardised calls so that the player knows what to expect. I don't know whether "Aus" is a commonly used quick way of saying "Ausser der Reienfolge" (Out of order). Perhaps one of our German readers would like to comment. Incidentally, a let was played, and the game was won by Germany with a creeping ball over the net, and a glancing edge to rub it in! It's a hard life, Maggie!

An interesting point came up about a new racket being marketed



Heather Masters

It has a hole in the blade for putting your finger through to improve your grip. Now Law 3.4.5. says the blade and covering material shall be continuous, so how does the hole affect the situation? It was considered that if the "hole" touched the edge of the blade producing a nick in the edge, although the blade is now an unusual shape, it obviously is legal. Moving the hole towards the centre of the blade by a 1/64th of an inch produces a proper hole, and the query. If the part of the blade with the hole and down to the handle is considered as the gripping surface, then the problem is less important. The racket was declared legal. I don't think any such bat was in use, so the problem did not arise anyway.

Whilst on the subject of rackets, but nothing to do with the above championships, it may interest somebody to know that a Spanish patent was recently issued for, "Synthetic sponge polyurethane coated table tennis racket, consists of polymerised rigid core covered with reinforcement threads under sponge. The number is 2026413. You can obtain a copy from the Foreign Patents section of the Holborn Branch of the British Library (what a mine of information we are!)

National Umpires & Referees Committee (NURC)

The members of the main committee for the coming season are: R.C. Scruton (Chairman); C.J. Clemett (Secretary); L.A. Chatwin; T.S. Openshaw; Mrs. K.A. Tonge; G. Tyler; S.E. Sherlock, and of the specialist panels:

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

Umpire Review
R.C. Scruton; C.J. Clemett, L.A. Chatwin.

Umpire Selection
R.C. Scruton; Mrs. D.M. Stannard; T. Carpenter; Mrs. K.A. Tonge; G.A. Taylor.

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

We have received the following letter from Andy (George Dodgson) Seward, as follows:-

The time has come the walrus said
A chance for us to name
Which rules and regs. we'd like to change
Which would improve our game

The rules are long, the rules are strict

There is no doubt of that
Is it legal, the shirt, the serve
The rubbers on the bat?

But to the players, do we need
To shed a little light,
The only rule now play's begun
'The umpire's always right!!!'

On a more serious note, you asked for contributions for Umpires' Corner. My thoughts probably won't generate as much hot air as the topic on 'volleying', but are as follows:-

1. I am still concerned about umpires standing for doubles. My logic(?) is that there are, probably, 10 times more 'let' services than 'wrong side' serves, particularly when players tend to serve short to prevent their opponent getting in a loop immediately. Standing close to the net, looking down on it is not ideal and a number of let services can easily be missed by the umpire but noticed by the players.

Solution - Allow the service to be as in singles, thus removing the need for the centre line. This would allow the umpire to sit, thus being at a more convenient height for detecting let services and, at the same time, reducing the number of decisions to be made during a service. Not a new idea I know, but worth discussion.

2. I am also concerned about Law 3.6.5. regarding where the ball is struck in service. I am convinced that the entire service, from the start to when the ball is struck, should take place in front of the body. There are two main reasons for this proposal.

a. Whilst umpires (and assistants) sit in line with the net, it is (almost) impossible to make a judgement whether the ball is struck behind the line of the body or not.
b. This would also ensure that the whole of the service action can be seen by the umpire.

This would require the removal of the 5 words 'in line with the net' in Regulation 4.3.2.2. In my view, any restriction to the positioning of officials is unacceptable, it merely allows players to find ways of bending the rules.

Andy

Comment

1. We have always thought that a trial ought to be carried out to see whether standing for doubles makes

it any easier for seeing whether the ball bounces in the correct court or not. The suggested solution, although adopted on a voluntary basis for one season many years ago, received such little publicity and attention that it was assumed that the players were happy with the status quo. What is your opinion on the value of another trial?

2. This contains some interesting suggestions that we hope some people may wish to comment on.

Pen-Picture

This month's pen-picture is of Heather Masters, another of our lady International Umpires.

Table tennis has been part of Heather's life for over 40 years, starting at a youth club in Reading. She has played league, town and county T.T. for both Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and then league T.T. in Yorkshire for 7 years, making 30 seasons in all.

Heather started umpiring in 1972 and when she passed the International Umpire exam Heather and husband John became our first husband and wife umpiring team at the top level. John umpired the men's singles final in the 1977 'worlds' in Birmingham.

After leaving school, Heather worked for an insurance company, where she met John who was her boss. They were married in 1951. When not engaged in T.T. Heather has worked as a laboratory technician for the National Institute for Research in Dairying; as biology technician at Newbury Girls Grammar School, and after moving to Yorkshire, again as a laboratory technician, for the International Wool Secretariat. Now retired, she helps with the local meals-on-wheels service.

Heather has a son and a daughter, and two granddaughters, which keeps her busy with her real passion - knitting, as anyone can observe (and hear) at T.T. tournaments when she is not actually umpiring.

Diamond Jubilee

I read with interest on Page 4 of the MAY/JUNE issue of Table Tennis News of the 6th Anniversary of the North Middlesex League, and I write to inform you that we in the Huddersfield League will also be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee this year.

As one means of celebration we propose to organise a Special Knock Out Tournament in the second half of the coming season, with all clubs taking part. We have already obtained a sponsor for the event, and the final details of the competition have yet to be arranged.

Over the past few years in common with some other Leagues, we have suffered a decline in membership, but last season I am pleased to be able to report an increase in membership, our total going up by 8 to 68 in all. This was particularly gratifying as the increase was in the younger membership of players, largely brought about by the efforts of our Development Officer (Ray Burch), since appointed in a similar position with Yorkshire and Humber side by the ETTA, assisted by our Coach (David Wood) and our Secretary (John Vaughan).

In the history of the League, we are proud that we have produced two England Internationals, in the early 1950's, Raymond Hincliff played a few games at his level, and more recently and currently in the International set up is Michael O'Driscoll.

On a personal note I have been connected with the League all of its 60 years, having played in the very first games back in 1932, and continuing to play, (except for the war years) until 1984. For the past 14 years I have had the honour of serving as Chairman of the League.

For the record I must say I have enjoyed table tennis immensely, and close by wishing the sport every success in the future.

*Stanley Priestley
Chairman Huddersfield T.T.L.*

Partnership

Alan Ransome (TT News April) writes that the pairing of O'Driscoll and Prean in doubles "had not worked out".

In fact, it worked out very well, not least because left-hander/right-hander combinations are far more effective at international level. What broke up the partnership was Michael's reported wish to concentrate on his studies and give international table tennis a miss.

Carl, on his side, was more than happy with the partnership both in personal and playing terms. The latter had included a win against the 1989 world champions Rosskopf and Petzner on their own soil which held out the highest hopes for the future.

*John Prean,
Isle of Wight*

Money Talks

OF the few delegates who bothered to attend the British League Annual Conference many went home somewhat disillusioned. Much of the discussion centred around the top clubs in the Premier (where the money is!), while other clubs struggled to make any impact on the proceedings.

In 1992/93 teams in Division 1 South are again faced with trekking to Shropshire to play NPD Grove III with no satisfactory response being given to the question of their eligibility to that Division. However 3rd division teams have been shuffled to more accurately reflect their divisional title and thereby reduce the travelling costs for some of the 'poorest' clubs in the League.

A number of Division 3 South delegates tried to explain the difficulties in obtaining qualified umpires, particularly in the London area where they seem to be thinly spread - only to be invited to withdraw their teams from the League if they could not comply with the regulation! What a development policy.

I welcome the proposals to introduce a Veterans British League and to a lesser extent a Junior British League. I hope that their divisions will be treated with greater equality.

*Mike Loveder
Camberwell, London*

Flown out!

IS it a sign of current times, or is it my vivid imagination that here in rural Gloucestershire when the yearly A.G.M.'s come around, the general procedure is invariably to return last year's Committee to office almost en-bloc.

The reason for this is that taking individual League's overall membership into full consideration, only a small amount of interest is shown in these meetings, by those persons in general.

A few decades ago, it was considered an honour to serve upon a committee, that thought today has apparently flown out of the window.

Administrators, in our sport are as important as the players - both go hand in glove, and there is no doubt, that today, table tennis is in a certain amount of serious decline, much of this decline is brought about - by a general absence of enthusiastic helpers, workers, call them what you will - because it's my guess that all over the Country, the vast majority of Town - City - County, Committee's are run by older members, most of whom have already given years of unpaid service to our sport, and are indeed, the salt of the earth.

Table tennis, will never regain its former glory at grass roots level, unless more of its members are prepared to play a more prominent and forceful part in the sport.

*Alf Pepper
Gloucestershire*



European dream!

I would like to express my warmest congratulations towards our top three most outstanding junior girls Yorkshires Sally Marling, Katie Goodall and Essex Linda Radford.

During the season all three have improved beyond our expectations and are continually improving to gain the highest standard of play. Currently rated at 5, 6, 7 on the senior womens ranking list this proves their performances. They're even frightening the four at the top!

I may be a lowly ranked male competitor but I do believe that these three girls could create major upsets in the European Junior Championships.

Good luck to Sally, Kate and Linda bring back a few medals for us, girls!

James Slack

(Sadly, they didn't create the major upsets that you predicted, James - Just a European dream! - Editor)

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.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6th EUROPEAN WOMENS LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION ENGLAND v GERMANY

at

Spa Complex, Scarborough
7p.m. - Tickets: John Caton
Tel.: 0723 360939

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13th JOOLA MEN'S EUROPEAN LEAGUE

SUPER DIVISION ENGLAND v BELGIUM

at

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
7p.m. - Tickets: Keith Wilson
Tel.: 0325 354249

Supported by:
Sedgefield District Council

LION SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

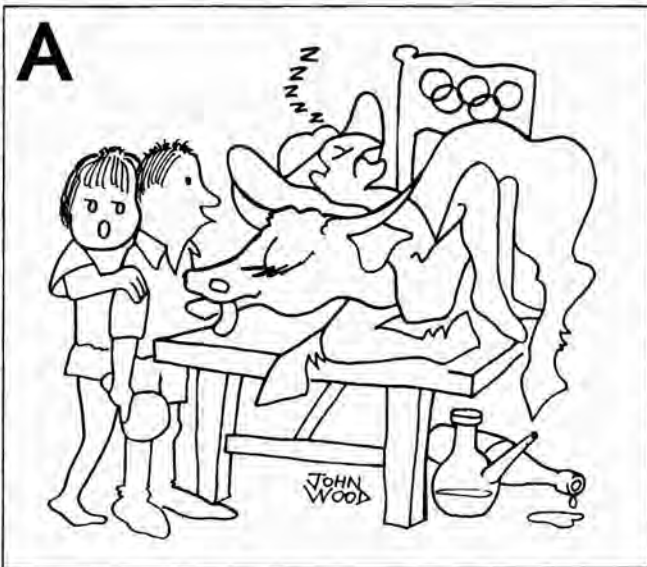
THE first three correct entries drawn from the hat will win, 1st a Lion insulated bat case, 2nd a Lion bat case and 3rd a box of Lion 3 star balls.

All entries must be received by 16th September 1992 addressed to Bethan Davies at Hastings (Editor's decision is final).

In this issue's 'Lion Spot the Difference' competition you are required to circle with a pen the 10 deliberate differences in Cartoon B.

Below are the lucky winners in the May/June 1992 competition:

- 1st: Thiet Phuong Trinh, 16 Birkland Avenue, Nottingham.
- 2nd: Laurie Laken, 28 Cahir Street, London.
- 3rd: M.P. Hillier, 19 Lupin Way, Clacton, Essex.



Name _____

Address _____

SOUTH WEST REGION by Alf Pepperd

BY the time that this appears in print the newly formed South West Committee should have published their Regional plan, for action in the not too distant future, several meetings have been held during the summer months - under the chairmanship of Leslie Bridges from Bridgwater Somerset.

Melanie Caroy, Somerset's No.1 Lady player has recently acquired a B.A. Degree in Human Movement Studies, this was achieved by virtue of a lot of hard work and study by Melanie at Cardiff University.

I understand that Mel has recently celebrated this success by taking a recent well earned holiday in Greece - she will shortly, by taking part in the World student games, which are being held in Leon France in September - Best of luck Mel.

Jeremy Williams, reports from far flung Cornwall, that last seasons Annual Presentations evening was a resounding success, apart from numbers being slightly reduced at the Dinner - Falmouth

Docks, Lanner, Peoples Palace, Redruth Highway, St. Ives and Truro were all very well represented.

I understand, that two youngsters Jonathan Pocock from Cambourne and Wayne Vincent of Helston Godolphin, have improved by leaps and bounds - this recent season, in recognition, both were duly awarded, with Pocock winning the Junior Player of the Year event, and Vincent the Most Improved Player of the Year award, well done lads.

Cheltenham Saracens, Gloucestershire's sole team in the British League, have gained promotion from last seasons Div. 2a South East, to the 1st Div. North, Congratulations!

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	8	7	1	60	12	14
North Cornwall	8	7	1	55	17	14
Swindon	8	7	1	50	22	14
Gloucester 'A'	8	5	3	54	18	10
Knowle	8	4	4	33	39	8
Holymead 'B'	8	3	5	31	41	6
Gloucester 'B'	8	2	6	21	51	4
Holymead 'A'	8	1	7	10	62	2
Swindon 'B'	8	0	8	10	62	0

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

M & G PENIEL 5 STAR TOURNAMENT

Sat & Sun 12 & 13th September 1992

Brentwood Leisure Centre

including

International Team Event

£5225 Prize Money

Contact: Ruth Clemison 0277 374036

STAMCO SUSSEX OPEN 2 STAR TOURNAMENT

10th & 11th October 1992

HASTINGS SPORTS CENTRE

Bohemia Road, Hastings

Closing date for entries 17th September

COTSWOLD JUNIOR TWO STAR SELECT

At Cheltenham Recreation Centre on

Sat/Sun January 30/31st 1993 - **Please note changed venue**

16 Tables - 10 Events (Girl and Boy Junior, Cadet and Under 12)

Closing date for entries: **Monday 21st December 1992**

Organiser: Jack Reeves, 21 Martindale Road, Churchdown,

Gloucester. GL3 2DR. Tel: (0452) 713840.