



Table Tennis News

No.223 £1.50
JUNE 1994



England's golden girls



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The official magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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Nicola Deaton wins £500 award

DERBYSHIRE'S Nicola Deaton was presented with a cheque for £500 when she was awarded the Jeremy Green Memorial Award recently, by the East Midlands Development Officer Harold Taylor (pictured right).

The presentation was organised by the Sports Aid Foundation.

Syed defeats world no. 1

MATTHEW SYED, the Oxford University student and England table tennis international is transferring to a new club, following one of the best wins of his career.



Geoffrey wins free draw

GEOFFREY BANTHORPE from Canvey Island was the winner of the Table Tennis News free draw. His name was picked out of completed comment sheets received at ETTA by 1st March.

Geoffrey, who is a player and club official, won a year's free subscription for the magazine. The comments and criticisms received are being studied by the Public Relations Committee, who will take the best ideas onboard in an attempt to give the readership more of what it wants.

Tsuji picked for England

NATIONAL Junior Champion Jun Tsuji, who is half Japanese, is to lead the English Schools Table Tennis team in the Schools International to be held in Dublin, July 2-4 1994.

Tsuji, 17, from the Grove School, Market Drayton, forms the spearhead of the under 18 boys side to take on Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and Iceland.

He is joined by the North of England's top junior star Andrew Wilkinson, (North Shields), who was named 'Player of the Weekend' at the recent Woolwich Junior British League.

Mark Smith, the England junior number 13 from Bradford also gets the call-up, and will be supported by England number 16 Stephen Lampkin (Sanderstead), who gets his chance due to the unavailability of England number one Darren Blake (Surrey).

Jennifer Coleman, Brentwood's England number eight, leads the girls under 18 team which also includes Clare Lowe (Formby), Sally Russell (Kettering), Nicola Evans (St. Leonards) and Cambridgeshire's Eva Kaum.

Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield), who last month caused a shock by beating England senior squad player Alex Perry to lift the National under 18 title in Bridlington, is named as the top player in the boys under 16's team.

"With our strength in depth we would hope to win", said the ETTA's Vice Chairman Gail McCulloch, who announced the England squad.

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

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- Understanding of table tennis
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Interviews likely to be held late August - ACT NOW!!

Job description and application form available from:

Doreen Nightingale, English Table Tennis Association,
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Striving for equal opportunities, this post is funded by the Sports Council (Northern) and the English Table Tennis Association

Syed, the new England number two from Reading, defeated the world number one Jean Michel Saive during the Belgium club cup final.

Matthew was representing Menage for the last time before travelling to France to sign for French club Montpellier, on a one year contract expected to start in the Autumn. He bowed out in style, beating Saive, the man who was crowned European champion just one month ago in Birmingham. The score 18-21, 21-18., 21-16.

Despite this win, Syed's club Menage lost the final 4-2 to the European club champions Charleroi. Syed will continue his studies at Balliol College, Oxford, where he will be taking his final exams next year.

Singapore

THE Commonwealth Table Tennis Association is delighted to announce that the 12th Commonwealth Championships have been awarded to Singapore.

The Championships will be played immediately prior to the 1995 World Championships, which are being staged in Tianjin, China.

The dates of the Commonwealth Championships will be the 20th - 27th of April 1995.

T.T. VIDEOS SYD FRYER

8 Cleveland Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA15 8AY - 061-980 8110
GOTHENBURG 93 - TAPE NO.1 - Coaching Tape: Featuring all leading players (except Swedes), commentary and analysis by Donald Parker. TAPE NO.2 - Swedisch Mens Team Matches v Frances, N. Korea (Group & Semi), Germany, Belgium and China (Final). Last game from each set played a presentation ceremony. Camera: Syd Fryer, commentary and analysis Donald Parker. Priced £15.00 each inc. p&p, full three hour tapes.

ITTF take a firm line on the liquid glue ban

THE International Table Tennis Federation's Council at its meeting in Tianjin in China, at the end of May, took a very firm line on the liquid glue ban which is to come into force on the 1st August 1995.

The Council were told by Dr. Rufford Harrison, the Chairman of the ITTF Equipment Committee, that the act of 'regluing' constituted a danger to health. The effect of the vapours can cause damage that may not show up for several years. Those most at risk are children and pregnant women. Dr. Harrison said that in the period between now and August 1st 1995 he wanted to reduce still further some of the substances in the ITTF approved glues, following information recently received from the manufacturers of the glue.

Another move following Tianjin is to dispose with the use of glue rooms forthwith. The toxic levels are felt to be too high and any regluing at ITTF events should be outside in the open air.

The ITTF target is to ban regular regluing.

The ITTF are in the process of developing a device that will test bats. If the bat has been recently glued with solvent based liquid glue then the vapours from the glue will be detected by the device.

From August 1st 1995 players will be able to use PSA sheets or use a bat that has been glued for some days, therefore, the vapours and speed from the glue will have evaporated. Another possibility is that the glue manufacturers will have developed by then a water based glue that will help speed up the bat and will be relatively free from dangerous solvents. If this product is available the ITTF will be happy for it to be used although the glue may take several hours to dry.

In addition to Dr. Harrison, ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura, was very firm about the banning of glue. As well as the dangers to health, Mr. Ogimura was concerned about the bad image the regluing gave the sport and feared that table tennis could lose its Olympic status if this unhealthy state of affairs was allowed to continue for too long.

The only criticism of the ITTF Executive Committee was for delaying the ban from June 1994.

A rule amendment from the Czech Republic seeking to remove the ban was defeated unanimously by the full Council of approximately 40 delegates from all parts of the world.

It seems that from next summer the



Alan Ransome

ITTF will have reached the position we have been in for over a year. Undoubtedly the ETTA ban, in advance of the ITTF one, has caused us a great deal of trouble and has disadvantaged some of our international players. However, we do know that all this time our players have been protected from the long term damage to health of these glues particularly the juniors, who according to Dr. Harrison are the most at risk.

A fully copy of Dr. Harrison's report to the ITTF Council will be circulated to all ETTA National Councillors and copies will be available upon request from the ETTA office.

There were several other important items on the agenda of the four day meeting in Tianjin. The option for Belgrade to organise the 1997 World Championships was withdrawn due to the political situation in the former Yugoslavia. All Council members had sympathy with the Belgade organisers, reports say that their plans were well in hand and the facilities offered would provide an ideal setting for a World Championships. The ITTF are considering new bids to stage the championships. India have already offered to stage the championships and Manchester City Council are considering a proposal from the ETTA to bid for the event.

After the proposal to remove the liquid ban from the Czech Republic, the second most unpopular proposal on the agenda in Tianjin was one from Sweden and Germany to reduce the number of

national teams able to participate in the team events in the World Championships.

The feeling in Sweden and Germany is that with over 100 countries likely to participate in the World Championships, the event is becoming too expensive and too difficult to manage.

A large majority of the Council felt that all countries should have the chance to direct entry. The ITTF run many events and the only one that is open to all National Associations without qualification is the World Championships.

Some delegates felt that more cities would come forward to offer to host the event in conjunction with their Olympic bid or after they have been awarded the games, to gain experience for staging the Olympics.

Delegates said they would rather have a shorter event or reduced hospitality than a 'closed door' policy.

While in Tianjin, Council members were shown the venue currently being constructed for the 1995 World Championships. On the same site there is a large stadium NIA style for the show court matches. A second large hall for non show court matches, and a large third hall for practise plus all eating facilities.

One year out the arrangements made by the Chinese look superb. The whole city of Tianjin, nine million people, appear to be behind the event and the event seemed to be taking on the air of the Olympic games rather than a table tennis championships. All the ITTF Council were very impressed from what they saw. I am sure it is going to be a magnificent event.

Back to the Council Meeting, over the four days there were a number of interesting topics. The flamboyant North American Vice President, Tim Boggan, was successful in his bid to remove discrimination against umpires of over 60 years officiating at ITTF events. Tim's argument was that officiating should be decided by competence rather than age and that regular testing was the answer.

The playing system for the team event matches remains unchanged for Tianjin, the French/Brazilian system of five singles for the Swaythling Cup (men) and the traditional four singles and one double for the Corbillon Cup (women). The European proposal to change the system to six singles and one double as

in the European Championships was deferred for 12 months to the 1995 Council Meeting, to give other Continents the opportunity to try it. Equally the proposal to change the scoring system to 11 up has been delayed to give more opportunity for experiments.

The ITTF would like to see greater prominence given to International Open Championships and are introducing a Grand Prix system to encourage this. Events participating in the Grand Prix will have to accept certain conditions including minimum playing facilities, hotel, playing schedules, and prize money. It is likely that the 1995 English Open will be one of the first Grand Prix events.

While in Tianjin, the Council Members were taken to see the finals of two 'local table tennis tournaments'. The first was the Tianjin Sport Meet where the U14 finals were played and presentations made. All matches were 11 up which the Chinese find is more popular with children. The second was the Otis Cup final sponsored by the lift manufacturers. The tournament played in Tianjin had an

entry of 1.1 million, players in all age groups and divisions. The mind boggles.

Before leaving for Tianjin I attended the Friendly Hotels British League conference in Birmingham on 21st May and gave club representatives details of a proposal that we tabled at the European Championships in Birmingham, for a Western European Mens Club League with possible participation from Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Spain and England to start in September 1995.

France, Belgium, Spain and England have a problem in that the top league clubs in their National League are too strong and thereby spoil the competitive element of the top division. The clubs need to be strong to have any chance in the Europe Club Cup but this tends to make many matches in the National League of little interest to the media, spectators or players.

If this Western Europe League gets off the ground it will provide excellent competitive matches. Players like Saive, Primorac, Gatien, Chila, Podpinka, Eloi, Syed, Cooke and Douglas will all be competing. It will also put competitiveness

back into the National Leagues. A meeting is being held at the European Youth Championships in Paris in July to consider this matter further.

At the Friendly Hotels British League conference it was nice to see a good attendance of club representatives and to learn of a full complement of teams for next season.

Other than the facilities programme which is ongoing, the main development project of the summer is the encouragement of our local leagues to take up the opportunity offered with the sponsorship by the Woolwich Building Society and Sports Match to form a junior division. We have received 192 applications for information so far and more are coming in almost every day.

This together with our facilities programme should make a major impact on the number of people playing table tennis competitively through England.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on Saturday 25th June at 2pm. I hope to see as many as possible of you there.

EVERYONE READS TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Response was first class

THANKS to all of you who took the time to answer our Table Tennis News questionnaire. The response was first class and some of the ideas and suggestions which are still coming in you can expect to see in future issues **writes Jim Beckley.**

But the overall reaction proved that while you felt the magazine could be improved, generally you were more than satisfied with the appearance and content. No less than 81 per cent felt that it was value for money and that's always good to know.

Believe me, we are as determined to make as many improvements as possible but there are restrictions in the form of the amount of time our editor can put in and the amount of subsidy available.

This season has seen more changes (for the better we feel) than for many years. Many of you felt the colour feature on the middle pages was a big improvement and the brighter contents page were just two areas of change. Others were not so obvious but we think made for a more readable magazine.

So what did your answers tell us? Well for a start The Chairmans Report turned out to be the most read feature. 91 per cent of those who answered said they look forward to reading it.

Another interesting statistic was that between two and five of you read someone else's magazine which in turn means the magazine's readership can be put at around 10,000 - a figure most useful for advertisers.

The magazine was mainly read by those in the 41-50 age group (30 per cent) with the 5-30 only accounting for six per cent. Three quarters of all subscribers being between 31 and 60 years old. No less than 85 per cent of readers were players.

Numerous ideas were put forward which you felt would make for a better magazine.



All age groups enjoy reading Table Tennis News. Pictured above during a moment of relaxation at the National Under 10, 11 and 12 Championships is umpire from Plymouth 76 year old Frances Jarvis and Under 11 Champion Andrew Baggaley from Milton Keynes

These included more foreign news to 'where are they now' features. More graphics to make it more visual was also to be the forefront of your ideas and some of the more avid supporters wanted to see the magazine coming out every month of the year.

The most annoying item was the time delay between events and reports and the delay in receiving the magazine.

Suggestions for subjects requiring more coverage included coaching (bring back the Don Parker column) and regular league news. There was also a sizeable demand for independent advice on equipment and for more results.

Whilst we shall not be sending out questionnaires every year, we are always interested to hear your views. So don't hesitate to let the editor know about your ideas.



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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ETTA Teacher Award

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Warlingham County School, Tithepit Shaw Lane,
Warlingham, Surrey.



on

Saturday 9 July 1994, 9.30am - 5.00pm

Sunday 10 July 1994, 9.30am - 5.00pm

Contact: Claire Hunter . tel.: 0732 872566

Scene of yet another first

BLETCHLEY Leisure Centre was the scene of yet another table tennis first when the inaugural Woolwich Junior British League took place over the weekend of 23/24 April **writes Brian Lamerton.**

A workable formula was devised to accommodate 44 teams from the much over-subscribed entry which will now drop down to 36 with the unfortunate bottom eight dropping out to hopefully join others in national 'feeder' leagues next season - the prize being a return to the main event for 1995-96.

Inevitably with the formation - for this initial weekend - of six near equal boys and two girls divisions (the six boys leaders now form a premier division; the six runners-up division one and so on - the top three of each of the girls groups form their premier division) there were a large number of 6-0 results but nevertheless there were some outstanding performances.

BFL Grove whose boys squad of Paul Robertson, Adrian Cadman and Jun Tsuji played unchanged and unbeaten throughout will have teams in both premier divisions (Kathryn Woodward - 10 from 10 star of their girls team) as will the Skylet Andrews managed Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh. Irish girls (Michelle McGreevey eight from 12) made the premier whilst Irish boys (Damien Lynch and Ger Boyle each five from six) just missed out when going down 4-2 to Fellowes Cranleigh. Also from afar Falkirk (Kevin Diddle and Steward Crawford both ever present and unbeaten) won their premier place when defeating divisional favourites Burton Uxbridge 4-2; Crawfords 18-21, 23-21, 21-15 defeat of Gary Peska clinching that result.

Another reversal of the expected saw by far the closest (and longest - commiserations to umpire Bill Lavis) match in which Sedgfield lost 4-2 to Lynda Farrow (Ryan Owen and Leroy Pye two each); five sets to



the third game; seven games to '19' or closer!

Two teams were unlucky to drop out on games/points average. Ellenborough by one game in their three sets all draw with Grove II and South Kesteven Sovereigns by two points, from their draw with Rejects (who were not rejected!).

Busiest, and most successful player of the weekend was Hull Sandhill's Sally Marling, 100% from 12 sets whilst Terry Young of the all-powerful Kingfisher squad joined the previously mentioned boys who took eight from eight.

Nominated 'players of the weekend' were Nicola Massingham (Gonerby) and Andrew Wilkinson (Sedgfield) with Fellowes Cranleigh (girls)

Top picture is of officials and players at the opening ceremony at Bletchley. Middle picture is of the girl player of the weekend, Nicola Massingham, presented by Chris Byrom, the Marketing Manager of Woolwich. Whilst below is the boy player of the weekend Andrew Wilkinson, presented by Jane Adams Woolwich's Marketing Services Controller



Falkirk Boys



Fellows Cranleigh Girls

and Falkirk (boys) taking the team awards.

Our good table tennis friends, the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Milton Keynes, Councillor Les and Mrs. Hostler were with us for the opening and new friends Chris Byrom and Jane Adams, Marketing Manager and Marketing Services Controller of the Woolwich Building Society were with us throughout. We now look forward to meeting



them again on their 'home' territory at Woolwich's Waterfront Leisure Centre.

Another success then for the development team, led by Mike Lewis; thanks to his extended committee, referee Tim Harris, his assistant Dave Nipper, the 'regular' squad of umpires who as ever worked overtime, Milton Keynes Borough Council together with all the staff at Bletchley.

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	S/F	S/AG/F	G/A	PTS
BOYS GROUP A								
BFL Grove	4	4	0	0	24	0	48	2 8
Launceston	4	3	0	1	16	8	35	18 6
De Vere Britannia	4	2	0	2	14	10	30	25 4
Rejects	4	0	1	3	3	21	7	43 1
Sth. Kestevens Sovereigns	4	0	1	3	3	21	11	43 1
BOYS GROUP B								
Kingfisher A	4	4	0	0	24	0	48	3 8
Lennox House	4	2	1	1	14	10	33	23 5
Edmonton	4	2	1	1	15	9	34	21 5
BFL Grove 2	4	0	1	3	3	21	9	43 1
Ellenborough	4	0	1	3	4	20	9	43 1
BOYS GROUP C								
Linda Farrow	4	4	0	0	20	4	43	16 8
Sedgefield	4	3	0	1	17	7	37	22 6
Progress	4	2	0	2	16	8	38	19 4
Kingfisher B	4	1	0	3	7	17	19	34 2
Granville Swadlincote	4	0	0	4	0	24	2	48 0
BOYS GROUP D								
Derwent	4	4	0	0	23	1	46	6 8
Briar Humberside	4	3	0	1	16	8	35	19 6
Clayton Heights	4	1	1	2	10	14	23	28 3
Seasiders	4	1	1	2	11	13	24	28 3
Willis Walker Keighley	4	0	0	4	0	24	1	48 0

	P	W	D	L	S/F	S/AG/F	G/A	PTS
BOYS GROUP E								
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	4	4	0	0	22	2	44	5 8
Irish Boys	4	3	0	1	19	5	39	14 6
St. Marys	4	2	0	2	12	12	27	26 4
Amity Generation	4	1	0	3	7	17	18	35 2
Wembley harrow	4	0	0	4	0	24	0	48 0
BOYS GROUP F								
Falkirk	4	4	0	0	19	5	39	14 8
Burton Uxbridge	4	3	0	1	17	7	36	16 6
Milton Keynes	4	2	0	2	13	11	30	23 4
Bristol	4	1	0	3	10	14	23	32 2
Lillington Free Church	4	0	0	4	1	23	3	46 0
GIRLS GROUP A								
BFL Group	6	6	0	0	31	5	64	12 12
De Vere Britannia	6	4	1	1	27	9	57	27 9
Gonerby	6	4	0	2	25	11	54	24 8
Dunfries	6	3	1	2	20	16	44	37 7
Launceston	6	2	0	4	15	21	34	47 4
Kingfisher	6	1	0	5	8	28	20	61 2
Willis Walker Keighley	6	0	0	6	0	36	7	72 0
GIRLS GROUP B								
Hull Sandhill	6	6	0	0	33	3	67	12 12
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	6	5	0	1	31	5	65	15 10
Irish Girls	6	4	0	2	20	16	46	37 8
Cannona Girls	6	3	0	3	18	18	41	40 6
BFL Grove 2	6	2	0	4	16	20	37	45 4
Progress	6	1	0	5	4	32	10	66 2
Lillington Free Church	6	0	0	6	4	32	14	65 0

Are you with the Woolwich?

THE Woolwich Building Society in conjunction with the ETTA have announced an exciting new plan which could see a huge upswing in youth table tennis - the Woolwich Junior Leagues **writes Graham Carter.**

Woolwich have signed a major three year sponsorship package which is to be put into junior table tennis. The sizeable funding has been doubled by the Government scheme 'Sportsmatch'. Formulated by the ETTA's former Chief Executive Elaine Shaw in partnership with the Woolwich's Marketing Services Officer Jane Adams, the sponsorship deal will give junior table tennis a tremendous boost.

A major network of junior leagues is being created. Local leagues all over England are setting up new junior leagues called Woolwich Junior Leagues.

WHAT IS A WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUE?

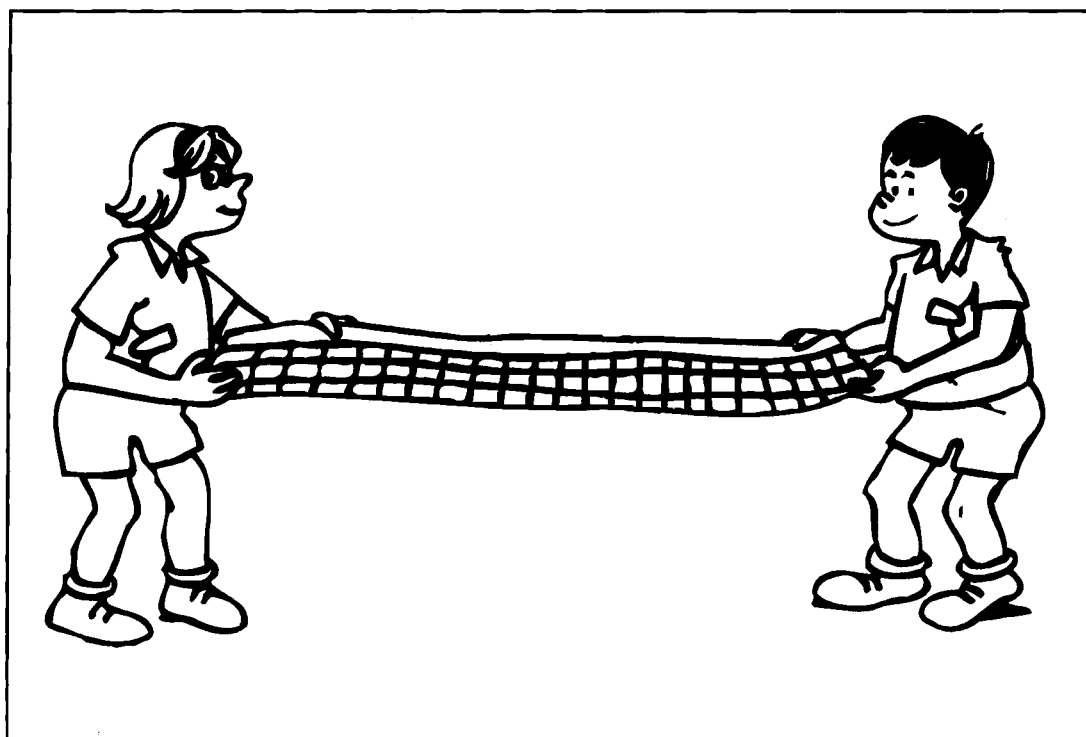
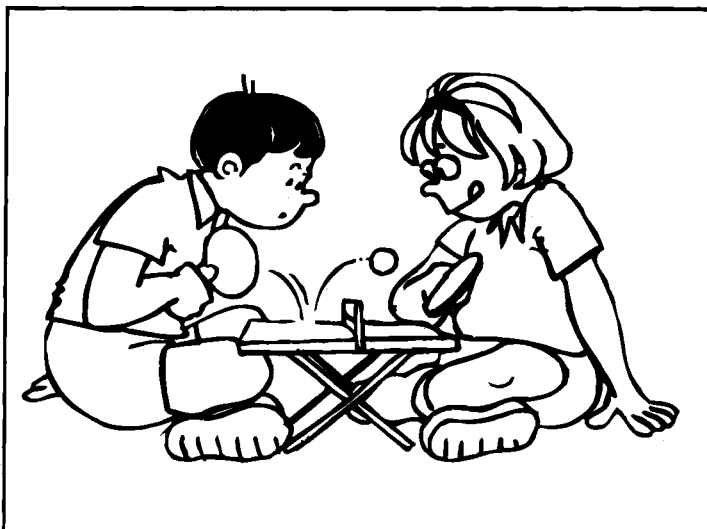
A local league, organised by local officials, starting in Autumn 1994. It is aimed at recruiting the vast number of 'recreational players' onto the first rung of the competitive ladder.

The ETTA and the Woolwich have produced an excellent Organisers Guide, showing how the league could run and offering advice to anyone interested in setting up a junior league. Perhaps you know some youngsters who might like to take part, but may not yet have made the big step into joining an existing league, composed mainly of adults?

The ETTA has put forward guidelines as to how the sport could be played. Two-person teams, best of five games with the first to 11 points the winner, are suggested. It is hoped that the leagues will take place on a regular day each week in a multi-table venue.

This makes the game more sociable, cuts running costs, means that players can set aside a known day to play, and that a match can be completed within two hours, allowing youngsters a greater proportion of playing time. Importantly this format allows a finishing time appropriate to young people. A seven o'clock start could result in the players completing by nine and home say by 9.30pm.

The guidelines given in the organisers guide can be used entirely at the discretion of the local organiser(s). The ideas are not 'law' and can be adapted to suit local preferences.



There are many advantages in taking up the Woolwich scheme. ETTA affiliation for each player will be free in the first year, and reduced in years two and three. The ETTA provides specially made trophies free to the winners of each Woolwich Junior League.

Help will be given with publicity and promotion. A press guide has been produced showing how to obtain local publicity, which is being provided free.

Specially produced Woolwich stationery is available free to provide a professional touch to all letters, scorecards, and press reports. In addition posters will be provided to help with recruitment, with a space to enter local details.

It is a great opportunity to become involved in a new national initiative. It is supporting a major new sponsor. It will have the backing of national publicity and the professional expertise of ETTA staff at the headquarters in Hastings, plus the regional development officers.

Why not set up a local Woolwich Junior League in your area? This is the time to give youngsters a chance to enjoy competing in a life-time sport. It should also see exciting leagues grow, as juniors progress in age, and look to compete against adult opposition.

If you would like to organise a Woolwich league, get in touch with the ETTA now on 0424 722525, and ask for the organisers' pack.

Vymura stay in top flight

Supported by  Schildkröt



Vymura's Jonathan Taylor

WITH BFL Grove already assured of the title, interest on the last day of the season was concentrated on the relegation issue at the foot of the Premier Division where Vymura International were one point behind Bathwick Tyres. The South Western club played host to Policy Plus St. Neots without the services of Adrian Moore and went down 3-11 but Vymura gained an unexpected point at Sedgefield thanks mainly to Jonathan Taylor's victory over Bradley Billington coupled with success for Paul Hutchings and Stephen Horsfield against Eddie Smith and Keith Rodger respectively. The point was enough to keep Vymura in the top flight thanks to their superior set difference at the expense of Bathwick Tyres **writes Aubrey Drapkin.**

with a 7-1 victory at Humberside whose Phil Neal did exceptionally well to beat Matthew Brown. Olton and West Warwickshire won by a similar score at British Gas Milton Keynes to finish in second spot. Cheltenham Saracens had been out of their depth in this division all season and their final match once again reflected this when they went down 1-7 at Sunderland, Graham Slack getting their only set. Third placed Sedgefield were forced to field a weakened side at home to Ruston Marconi Lincoln and went down 2-6, Dave Gannon and Richard Tilford Both winning all of their sets for the visitors.

The Grove club's third team had already won the first division south but second place was still undecided. Unfortunately Grove were forced to field a very weak team against the Welsh club, Bribar Colley Toyota who ran up an 8-0 victory to finish runners up one point ahead of the Reading side, OLOP, whose 6-2 win away to Rejects turned out to be all in vain. A fine performance here, however, by Terry Young who beat both Darren Blake and Simon Philipsz. This defeat for Rejects left them bottom of the table.

Champions BFL Grove showed just how much better they are than the rest of the division by crushing second placed Team Peniel 12-2. Alan Cooke, Desmond Douglas and Evgueni Brainin were all unbeaten in the singles and Grove found a new star in Steve Slater who beat both Sean Gibson and John Holland.

BFL Grove second string also wrapped up the first division north title

There was a close finish in division two north with Uxbridge Burton claiming the title on set differences only from Vymura seconds by winning 5-3 at Vale Royal Warrington. Junior Stoddart and Tim Sheppard were their heroes winning all of their sets with Kevin Green getting one. Vymura had been favourites to beat Derwent and win the division but the Yorkshire side put a spanner in the works when they held them to a 4-4 draw. Derwent won the first three sets of the day but the Cheshire side hit back to lead 4-3 only for Derwent's Chris Nicholls to beat John Hope in the final set to deny Vymura the title. Leckie's defeat at Leeds condemned them to the third division for next season.

Linda Farrow were runaway winners in the second division South East and Byng Hall took second place despite a 6-2 defeat on the final day by bottom of the table Norwich Todd Foxwood. Phil Logsdon and Andrew Hawes were both unbeaten for Norwich but their efforts came too late to save them from relegation.

In the second division south west, Horsham Angels seconds were already crowned as champions and it was between DML White Hart Launceston seconds and VRS Fareham for the

away to Amity Generation Fareham whilst VRS were curtailed to a 5-3 victory by Bathwick Tyres seconds. With the teams level on points, Launceston edged into second place by a mere three sets.

Newcomers, Peterborough, came out on top in division three east by virtue of their 6-2 victory away to bottom of the table Britannia Ipswich. Even without Dennis Neale they were too strong for the home side and turned in a good all round performance. BSG Brentwood seconds were the runners up and they finished on a high note with a 7-1 home victory over Gridfine St. Neots. The St. Neot's side enjoyed a reasonably successful first season in the league and at one time looked possible winners of this division, but they fell away badly in the latter part of the season.

Bribar Colley Toyota seconds finished four points ahead of the field in division three Midlands but it was neck and neck for second place between DML White Hart Launceston thirds and Hawbush T.T.C. who met at Dudley on the final day of the season. The home side needed to win 8-0 to take the runners up spot and when they led 4-0 at the halfway stage it looked distinctly possible. But Launceston grabbed a couple of sets in the second half to edge Hawbush out.

Drumchapel Glasgow were far too strong for division three north and

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FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

having sewn up the championship turned out a reserve side against third place Sedgfield and even then came away with a 4-4 draw. Moorland Seasiders of Blackpool won 7-1 away to Crusaders Lincoln to finish as runners up.

Likewise Barclays Bank were runaway runners in the Southern section and it was left to the rest to fight for second place. Rejects seconds did it with a 7-1 victory away to

Ellenborough whilst their main rivals Linda Farrow seconds were losing 3-5 to Graham Spicer Larkhall seconds.

So another season comes to an end! Congratulations to all of those who were successful and to the others - there's always next year. A big thank you to Friendly Hotels for their sponsorship and to everyone involved at all levels in the running of the league.

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PLACINGS AT END OF SEASON 1993/94



	P	W	D	L	Sets		Games		PTS
					F	A	F	A	
PREMIER DIVISION									
BFL Grove	14	14	-	-	185	11	377	48	28
Team Peniel	14	11	1	2	128	68	277	173	23
Sedgfield	14	7	3	4	101	95	233	227	17
DML Launceston	14	6	-	8	82	114	193	256	12
Horsham Angels	14	5	1	8	85	111	202	256	11
Policy Plus St. Neots	14	5	1	8	83	113	201	257	11
Vymura International	14	2	1	11	65	131	176	284	5
Bathwick Tyres	14	2	1	11	55	141	151	309	5
DIVISION ONE NORTH									
BFL Grove II	14	13	-	1	86	26	183	76	26
Olton & West Warwicks	14	11	2	1	86	26	180	71	24
Sedgfield II	14	7	4	3	69	43	156	115	18
R. M. Lincoln	14	6	2	6	57	55	131	126	14
City of Sunderland	14	6	1	7	60	52	145	129	13
Briar Humberside	14	2	4	8	35	77	89	172	8
British Gas CMK	14	2	3	9	40	72	110	159	7
Cheltenham Saracens	14	1	-	13	15	97	55	201	2
DIVISION ONE SOUTH									
BFL Grove III	12	8	1	3	58	38	135	98	17
Briar Colley Toyota	12	6	4	2	60	36	130	89	16
OLOP	12	6	3	3	53	43	124	103	15
Edison	12	5	3	4	46	50	113	117	13
BSG Brentwood	12	4	1	7	43	53	108	123	9
G.S. Larkhall	12	2	4	6	41	55	103	133	8
Rejects	12	2	2	8	35	61	89	139	6
DIVISION TWO NORTH									
Uxbridge Burton	14	9	2	3	71	41	161	106	20
Vymura International II	14	8	4	2	69	43	155	119	20
Leicester Lions	14	7	3	4	63	49	145	113	17
City of Leeds	14	7	2	5	59	53	137	126	16
Derwent T.T.C.	14	3	6	5	53	59	129	138	12
Levis Westfield	14	3	4	7	44	68	116	154	10
W.I. Warrington	14	3	3	8	45	67	107	152	9
Leckie T.T.C.	14	1	6	7	44	68	114	156	8
DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST									
Linda Farrow	14	13	-	1	78	34	174	87	26
Byng Hall	14	9	1	4	69	43	165	117	19
Ashford	14	8	1	5	62	50	146	128	17
P.A. Croydon	14	6	1	7	56	56	130	135	13
Team Peniel II	14	6	3	7	46	66	116	153	11
Fellows Cranleigh	14	4	2	8	50	62	123	148	10
JAGS	14	3	3	8	45	67	120	155	9
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	2	3	9	42	70	108	159	7
DIVISION TWO S.W.									
Horsham Angels II	14	11	3	-	81	31	176	90	25
DML Launceston II	14	8	3	3	71	41	150	94	19
VRS Fareham	14	7	5	2	68	44	156	130	19
Jolliffe Poole	14	4	4	6	49	63	121	150	12
BFL Grove Colts	14	3	6	5	47	65	119	149	12
Bathwick Tyres II	14	4	3	7	49	63	123	143	11
Kingshurst Briar	14	3	4	7	48	64	118	146	10
A. G. Fareham	14	1	2	11	35	77	104	165	4
DIVISION THREE EAST									
Peterborough	14	11	1	2	77	35	163	88	23
BSG Brentwood II	14	10	1	3	77	35	169	91	21
Gridfine St. Neots	14	8	1	5	58	54	140	126	17
Brent Juniors	14	7	2	5	65	47	147	114	16
Fellows Cranleigh II	14	5	2	7	54	58	130	130	12
Chelmsford League	14	3	4	7	49	63	117	146	10
Norwich Todd Foxwood II	14	3	2	9	37	75	86	165	8
Britannia Ipswich	14	1	3	10	31	81	83	175	5
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS									
Briar Colley Toyota II	14	12	-	2	75	37	172	98	24
DML Launceston III	14	10	-	4	68	44	155	107	20
Hawbush	14	9	2	3	65	47	148	125	20
Horsham Angells III	14	6	2	6	64	48	151	122	14
OLOP II	14	5	3	6	58	54	140	135	13
P. D. Newport	14	5	1	8	44	68	111	152	11
Bathwick Tyres III	14	3	2	9	40	72	105	159	8
Bromsgrove	14	1	-	13	34	78	89	173	2
DIVISION THREE NORTH									
Drumchapel Glasgow	14	12	1	1	88	24	187	73	25
Moorland Seasiders	14	8	4	2	68	44	149	119	20
Sedgfield III	14	6	5	3	61	51	143	122	17
Uxbridge Burton II	14	6	1	7	57	55	138	131	13
AALCO Leeds	14	5	2	7	47	65	120	148	12
BFL Grove IV	14	4	3	7	51	61	123	149	11
Co-op	14	3	2	9	40	72	110	159	8
Crusaders Lincoln	14	3	-	11	36	76	97	166	6
DIVISION THREE SOUTH									
Barclays	12	11	1	-	81	15	170	46	23
Rejects II	12	6	2	4	55	41	126	103	14
Linda Farrow II	12	6	1	5	53	43	120	109	13
WSIHE L.H.G.	12	5	2	5	46	50	110	124	12
G.S. Larkhall II	12	3	3	6	40	56	105	132	9
Ellenborough	12	3	1	8	30	66	81	144	7
Adeyfield N.A.	12	2	2	8	31	65	90	144	6

Timina celebrates birthday as BFL Grove win premier

ELENA TIMINA ended her stay in this country when, on her birthday Sunday May 8th, together with Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower she lifted 'The Butterfly Bowl' in celebration of BFL Grove's fifth successive womens British league premier division title **writes Brian Lamerton.**

All comers were beaten without the loss of a set; only once in 30 sets were they taken to a third game and Sally Marling's reward for taking Lisa Lomas that far was nine points!

Hull Sandhill who selected from Sally, Alison Evans, Linda Radford and Maria Thornley were 'clear' in second place whilst last seasons promotees Graham Spicer and Welsh ladies drop back into the first. Outside of Grove the Welsh fielded the most successful 'premier' player in Natasha Williams who won eight from 10.

When Graham Spicer's Teresa Bennett and Horsham Angels Claire Hunter took part in a live radio programme on Saturday afternoon they discussed the possibility of their teams changing place the following day; this proved prophetic as Claire together with Emma Hurling and Sally Weston despite winning only one match throughout the weekend took the second promotion place. Winners of division one were Grove II, thus doubling their premier division representation for next season. Jose Bongers returned a 100% record for the second successive season and was well supported by Michelle Martin, Claire Marshall and Nicola Meddings. Milton Keynes Dawn Barnett with nine from 10 (losing only to Bongers) was second in the divisional averages.

Sandra Rider, Cathryn Johnson and Lynda Fahey led division two averages when together with Helen Shields and Ruth Ferrie Olivetti Bribar 'stormed' into division one with five league points to spare; the addition of Michelle McGreevey (seven from 10), to the Irish ladies squad helped move them from mid table to the second promotion place. A valiant nine from 10 return by Lesley Keast failed to save Eddison from the



Pictured above are the winners of the Premier Division BFL Grove, (left to right) Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Helen Lower and Elena Timina. Whilst below is happy birthday girl Elena Timina



drop into division three.

Division 3A winners Westminster played unchanged throughout both weekends, being represented by Karen Harden (who topped the divisional averages) Sandra Duncan and Kate Ryan.

Gonerby won an exciting last match to take the division 3B promotion place when they defeated Pavilion Ladies, who had led throughout, by four sets to two; Nicola Massingham in retaining her 100% record just tipping the balance.

Of the newcomers, brought in to fill gaps created by first leg withdrawals, Colonsay, led by Paula French had two wins and two draws from their five outings showed that they will be a force to reckon with in future seasons. Norton who lost only to Colonsay were the most improved team of the weekend, their remaining four matches providing six points against only two from the first weekends five outings; Tracey Spencer, Alison Taylor and Julie

Bickerton winning six sets apiece.

Irish Ladies went home with a piece of crystal in each hand after being nominated 'team of the weekend' in addition to their division two runners up spot; Sarah Jane Smith of Gonerby was 'women of the weekend'; Councillor Miss Mary Whitehouse, Mayor of The Metropolitan Borough of Dudley opened proceedings on Saturday morning, Steve Franks, manager of The Crystal Centre whose staff provided excellent support throughout, and his wife were guests as 110 sat down to dinner in the luxuriously appointed Copthorne Hotel where two more birthdays were celebrated, Mary Hefferman and Elizabeth 'Baby' Blanch and finally E'TTA Chairman Alan Ransome was prominent at the trophy presentation ceremony on Sunday at which time a special presentation was made by womens league organiser, Christine Lewis, to Jose Ransome, until recently womens committee chairman and founder committee member of the womens league, inscribed 'To Jose - from your friends of the womens British league'.

Pictured top of the page is Copthorne Hotel Head Chef Terry Malyon playing breakfast table tennis with Michele Cohen from Milton Keynes. Whilst centre is Jose Ransome, who received a special presentation. Bottom picture is of woman of the weekend award winner Sarah Smith of Gonerby



WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE FINAL POSITIONS 1993/94

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BFL Grove	10	10	0	0	57	3	20
Hull Sandhill	10	8	0	2	40	20	16
S. Kesteven Sovereigns	10	6	0	4	31	29	12
Hull Sandhill	10	3	1	6	21	39	7
Graham Spicer	10	1	1	8	13	47	3
Welsh Ladies	10	0	2	8	18	42	2

FIRST DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BFL Grove II	10	9	1	0	45	15	19
Horsham Angels	10	5	3	2	37	23	13
City of Milton Keynes	10	5	2	3	30	30	12
Amity Generation	10	3	3	4	30	30	9
S. Kesteven Sovereigns II	10	2	2	6	22	38	6
Bayer Bradford	10	0	1	9	16	44	1

SECOND DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Olivetti Bribar	10	8	2	0	44	16	18
Irish Ladies	10	5	3	2	36	24	13
Bio Strath	10	5	2	3	30	30	12
Fullerians	10	3	2	5	27	33	8
Edison T.T.C.	10	1	4	5	25	35	6
Oaks Club	10	1	1	8	18	42	3

DIVISION 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Westminster	9	6	3	0	38	16	16
Bribar Belles	9	4	3	2	31	23	12
Norton T.T.C.	9	2	4	3	28	26	10
City of Sunderland	9	3	1	5	25	29	9
Dumfries	9	1	1	7	12	42	3
Colonsay	5	2	2	1	16	14	0

DIVISION 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Gonerby T.T.C.	9	8	0	1	44	10	16
Pavilion Ladies	9	7	1	1	36	18	15
BFL Grove III	9	5	1	3	30	24	11
Leicester L.C.S.C.	9	3	0	6	20	34	6
Worcester Ladies	9	1	0	8	13	41	2
Team Juic	5	0	0	5	7	23	0

Marling and Deaton's ferocious fighting spirit

THE ferocious fighting spirit combined with talent that is outstanding in England saw Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton produce a splendid triumph in the last hour of the team finals at Bridlington, when they battled back from 0-2 in arrears to win 3-2 in an enthralling contest that lasted well over three hours, deserved an audience of 400 but only got 40.

At two points it seemed likely to be over in an hour or so as the girls struggled back to the wall against the two Belgian girls who had beaten them in the semi finals of the singles Martine Hubert and Severine Thone.

The Belgians, both strong and athletic compared with our more lightweight and feminine contenders, looked good enough to win through to the singles finals and to win the team event. Just how good they really are will be seen in Paris in July when the Eastern bloc countries (now increased in number with the splitting up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia) will be the favourites to win most of the medals.

Team finals at Bridlington have a habit of going on and on. This was no exception. Sally seemed alarmingly nervous as she lost the first game eight to Thone and the second 18. Worse was to follow when Nicky took the first eight but lost to the other two -15, -14 to Hubert who had retained her girls singles title the previous day.

The evening got even blacker as the English pair lost the first game of the doubles -18. The turning point came as Belgium were beaten 15, 20.

Having been crushed by Hubert in the girls singles semi finals, it seemed unlikely that Sally could be taken back into the ring having been knocked almost out of it.



England's triumphant Nicola Deaton (left) and Sally Marling

Words by
JOHN WOODFORD
of the
Daily Telegraph
Pictures by
JOHN WOOD

Again, after a set-back in the first won by Hubert 20, the Yorkshire girl showed her courage to take the second 13 and then survive four match points before winning 24-22 - England were on the way to a frantic climax.

- With the score 2-2, it needed a further special effort by Miss Deaton who responded splendidly after an uneasy start, losing the first game 10. But piling on the top-spin combined with flat-hitting and ferocious drives the Chesterfield girl smashed her way to a famous



Tracy Davies, winner of the Cadet Girls Singles title

victory 16, 17 against Hone.

Carole Moore the England girls captain played a vital role in the England victory.

She urged on her two young players transmitting much of the fighting spirit for which she was famous a few years ago and converting into a stunning victory that saw Carole and the

girls in a tearful threesome embrace on court as the applause from the tiny audience died away.

What else happened in Bridlington? Tracey Davies of Essex, number two on the England cadet girls list, must surely win the number one spot after she won the cadet girls

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN - 2

singles title 13, -14, 11 against the number one Debbie Pestka of Nottingham.

A great 'gold' for Tracey to whom England will be looking as one of the best prospects, following the departure of a group of juniors into the senior ranks shortly, including of course, Deaton and Marling.

Blake and Ian Eaton (Derbyshire) were the only two English players to reach the quarters of the boys singles which was dominated by the Dutch and the Belgians. Blake lost to Dupuis and Eaton lost to another tiny hard-hitting youngster Cedric Merchez.

The boys singles winner was Jorg De Cock (Holland) he knocked out the tiny Merchez in the final 15, 18.

GLUE FLARES UP

GLUE reared its ugly head again. Although the ETTA National Council has relaxed its stance for the 1995 English Open, the decision to retain the ban in England seemed at Bridlington just as absurd as it did at the Peniel Academy flare-up last September, which has resulted in 'killing' the Brentwood tournament this year.

What happened in Bridlington was that the foreign players were gluing-up overnight in their hotel bedrooms - evidence from hotel owners confirms this - and then hoping the smell would not reveal itself the next morning.

Paul Butcher (Sussex) and David Purdy (Devon) refused to play on against a Belgian pair who were alleged to be recently glued-up. One of the Belgians admitted the offence, leaving referee Richard Scuton in a very sticky position.

However, he acquitted himself well after a jury meeting lasting nearly an hour involving the foreign team captains. He persuaded the Belgian coaches to withdraw the two boys from the boys doubles but otherwise to play on.

Pictured top is the Boys Singles winner Jorg De Cock of Holland, whilst below is the Girls winner Martine Hubert from Belgium



The threat was that the whole ten-strong Belgian team would withdraw from the tournament, possibly along with other foreign teams and the whole event would have been wrecked as happened at Brentwood. Butcher and Purdy were awarded the second round tie after having lost the first game.

YOUNG MAN ON THE WAY UP

TERRY YOUNG of Berkshire was the most successful player for England. He won match after match against home and foreign opposition, whilst Darren Blake (Surrey) had a nightmare weekend, failing to win against the lower-ranked Belgians and not winning a game in the team event until he played against Scotland and even then it was a struggle. He seemed to be playing as if the glue on his bat was getting dryer and dryer - but of course, he could only have glued-up 48 hours before the event.

Amongst the cadet boys for England, Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) caught my eye with 'out-of-this-world' backhand skills that would have done credit to Desmond Douglas, this boy could be the next Des!

The boy who impressed me last year was Kevin Vissers of Belgium. This year however, the whirlwind hitter was stopped by the Greek player Paragiotis Gionis; it was the Greek youngsters who were impressive enough to provide both finalists in the boys cadet singles.

Another impressive English player was Christian Thompson of Kent. He lost to the Greek Klaudio Kirou in the cadet singles.

The biggest embarrassment of the tournament for England came when the England first team boys Blake and Young lost to Greece 3-1, with Young defeating Gionis and Blake losing to Gionis and Kirou. Earlier, Blake and Young had lost to the Belgian THIRD team 3-1, again with Blake losing to Obert and Vissers, whilst Young beat Vissers 22, -15, 17.

● Donald Parker, the England team manager assess-

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 30 April - 1st and 2nd May 1994

FINAL RESULTS

Boys Singles

Jorg De Cock (NED) beat Cedric Merchez (BEL) 15, 18

Girls Singles

Martine Hubert (BEL) beat Evelien Hengstman (NED) 13, -20, 9

Boys Doubles

Jorg De Cock (NED)/Jurgen Pastoors (NED) beat Davy Van Vinckenroye (BEL)/Cedric Merchez (BEL) -22, 9, 18

Girls Doubles

Nicola Deaton (ENG)/Sally Marling (ENG) beat Martine Hubert (BEL)/Severine Thone (BEL) 19, -17, 20

Cadet Boys Singles

Klaudio Kirou (Gre) beat Paragiotis Gionis (GRE) 19, 19

Cadet Girls Singles

Tracy Davies (Eng) beat Debbie Pestka (Eng) 13, -14, 11

BOYS TEAM FINAL

BELGIUM - 3

Davy Van Vinckenroye
Cedric Merchez

bt
bt

NETHERLANDS - 2

Jurgen Pastoors 14, -17, 11
Jorg De Cock 20, 20

Van Vinckenroye/Merchez

bt

Pastoors/De Cock -19, -17

Van Vinckenroye
Merchez

lt
bt

De Cock -16, -17
Pastoors 16, 19

BOYS TEAM PLATE FINAL

ENGLAND II - 2

Ben Johnson
Jun Tsuji

lt
bt

ENGLAND - 1

Terry Young -15, 20, -19
Darren Blake 17, -19, 18

Tsuji/Andrew Wilkinson

bt

Young/Blake 21, 13

GIRLS TEAM FINAL

ENGLAND - 3

Sally Marling
Nicola Deaton

lt
lt

BELGIUM - 2

Severine Thone -8, 1-8
Martine Hubert 8, -15, -14

Marling/Deaton

lt

Thone/Hubert -18, 15, 20

Marling

bt

Hubert -20, 13, 22

Deaton

bt

Thone -10, 16, 17

GIRLS TEAM PLATE FINAL

ENGLAND II - 2

Gemma Schwartz
Shelley Ruocco

bt
bt

BELGIUM II - 0

Cindy Guillaume 17, 8
Aurore Raulier -18, 15, 19



Two of England's II Boys Team Plate winners Jun Tsuji (left) and Andrew Wilkinson. The other member of the team was Ben Johnson

ing his team for the European Youth Championships in Paris seemed to have many headaches in trying to pick a team that would win medals in the French capital.

Almost during the tournament, Terry Young rose from number eight to number three on the England ranking list - he

Pictured on opposite page are (top) England's golden girls Sally Marling (left) and Nicola Deaton (right), celebrating with team captain Carole Moore (centre)

seems to be a 'must' for the England party, but someone else is going to miss out.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TEAM FOR SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN 2 - 4 JULY 1994

BOYS - Under 14

Scott Friday
Gareth Brown
Robert Abbotts
Gerry Ashison
Robert Svensson

Under 16

Steven Meddings
Vince Avery
Terry Young
Kevin Dolder
Adrian Cadman

Under 18

Jun Tsuji
Ian Eaton
Andrew Wilkinson
Mark Smith
Stephen Lampkin

GIRLS - Under 14

Lorna Dutch
Emma Smith
Alice Howard
Joanna Barraclough
Anna McNamara

Under 16

Glenda Ashison
Clare Newns
Tracy Davies
Nicola Silburn
Rebecca Sparkes

Under 18

Jennifer Coleman
Sally Russell
Clare Lowe
Nicola Evans
Eva Kaum

Rainham, Kent
Newcastle, Tyne & Wear
Hastings, East Sussex
London SE1, Surrey (Met.)
Torrington, Devon

Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands
Brentwood, Essex County
Maidenhead, Berkshire
St. Helens, Merseyside
Market Drayton, Shropshire

Market Drayton, Shropshire
Northwich, Cheshire
North Shields, Tyne & Wear
Bradford, West Yorkshire
Sandersted, Surrey

Shanklin, Isle of Wight
Selby, North Yorkshire
Birkenhead, Merseyside
St. Mellion, Devon
Croydon, Surrey (Met.)

London SE1, Surrey (Met.)
Birkenhead, Merseyside
Brentwood, Essex County
Leeds, West Yorkshire
Ipswich, Suffolk

Brentwood, Essex County
Kettering, Northants
Formby, Suffolk
St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex
Cambridgeshire



SOUTH WEST REGION

Alf Peperd

I understand that a new centre of excellence has started at Wellington in Somerset. Head coach, Tony Carey and player coach Andy Creed plus helpers are assisting youngsters with their coaching from surrounding counties in the South West Region.

News from Fred Ingram and Jeremy Williams in far flung Cornwall - the Cornish County Table Tennis Association regret having to report the sad news of the passing of Mrs. M.T.R. Pearce, MBE and J.P. who died recently. Mrs. Pearce was President of the Cornwall County Association from 1965-1977 and played a very prominent role in its activities.

In the end of season Individual Closed Championships held at the Cornwall Indoor Tennis Centre, Halgavor Park in Bodmin, the following ran out as worthy winners:

Mens Singles

Jeremy Williams (Falmouth) beat Martin Rowe (Holsworthy) 10, 21

Womens Singles

Esme Stevenson (Bude) beat Shirley Luckhurst (Netherell) 10, 13

Intermediate Singles (U21)

Kevin Worth (Launceston) beat Jon Pocock (Cambourne) 20, -23, 19

Senior Vets Singles

Tim Wiltshire (St. Austell) beat Dennis Williams (Falmouth) 10, -18, 13

Mens Doubles

J. Williams/N. Thomas beat M. Briggs/G. Marquand 20, -17, 15

Womens Doubles

S. Luckhurst/B. Jacobs beat E. Stevenson/Menzel 12, 21

Mixed Doubles

M. Rowe/E. Stevenson beat R. Jacobs/B. Jacobs 13, 10

Junior Boys Singles

Kevin Worth beat Graham Worth (both Launceston) 18, -17, 17

Junior Girls Singles

Sarah Richardson (Launceston) beat Anna Reed (Falmouth) 17, 6

Cornwall's annual presentation dinner and disco will be held at The



Alf Peperd at BBC Radio Gloucestershire

Crossroads Hotel at Scorrer, Nr. Redruth, where it is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

And finally, yes, yet another busy season of table tennis broadcasting on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, South and West, 32 live weekly broadcasts from September 1993 - May 1994, plus radio interviews for the sports programme with the following: Andy Browett (Gloucester's new Chairman), Judy Morley and Dave Harvey (both respective county singles winners), season 1993/1994, Dave Dean (as usual upon The Cotswold Junior).

Roy Fowler, a Cheltenham veteran preparing himself to go to Australia for the Worlds Vets, Clive Oakman, (interviewed at the NIA for his views upon Euro 94) and broadcast over several of the BBC's South and West Regional stations.

Mel Carey, (interviewed at The

Cotswold) in her second year as SWR Development Officer. And finally, a very friendly interview with an old friend of long standing Ken Muhr of Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, all of these interviews have been broadcast and may I extend my grateful thanks to all, who have throughout the season, helped me to compile this column.

Berryman (Sussex and Kent), Jane Barella (Women in Coaching), Tim Holder (Biorhythm and psychology), Skylet Andrew (International player's view of the European Championships) and an update from the European Coaching Course.

On Regional Centres of Excellence, one hall has been lost at the Hugh Christie School at Tonbridge, but Allan Fisher is negotiating for the continued use of the sports hall. Two satellite centres for feeding into the main Centres of Excellence could be opened, but there would have to be 80 per cent self-funding. Possible candidates are the Newman School at Hove and at Maidstone. RDO Claire Hunter reported that a large work programme is being prepared for projects next year, but with the impending re-organisation of the Sports Council, plans cannot be made beyond 1995.

SOUTH EAST REGION

John Woodford

AT a meeting of the region held at the NIA in Birmingham on March 30th, Roy Pugh reported that a Regional Coaching Workshop had been arranged for July 3rd at the Limsfield LTC, Oxted. Those contributing will be David

National Team Cup Competitions

NO sooner does one table tennis season draw to a close than we have to start making arrangements for the next. This is to remind everyone that by mid July 1994 all league secretaries should have received from the ETTA entry forms for the 1994/95 competitions. Entry forms for the Gainsford Cup competition will be sent to all Womens British League secretaries.

Next season sees the incorporation of two more events, the Veterans Team competitions. The men will be playing for the Alec Brook Memorial Trophy and the women the Pat Archdale Cup.

For anyone who is not quite au fait with

these events here is a brief resume:

The Wilmott Cup is for teams of three men representing the league, the JM Rose Bowl competition is the womens equivalent; likewise the Carter Cup for junior boys, Bromfield Trophy for junior girls and the Alec Brook Trophy for veteran men and the Pat Archdale Cup for veteran women.

Players for the two cadet competitions, i.e. Johnny Leach Cup for cadet boys and the Jill Hammersley Cup for cadet girls can be a representative team from the league or from one club.

The Ormesby Cup is for the champion mens team in the league and if they do not

wish to enter, the league may nominate another team.

The Gainsford Cup is open to any club which wishes to enter a womens team. The players do not have to play as a team in the local league, but of course, they must be bona fide members of that club. Womens British League teams are also eligible to enter.

The closing date for entries will be about the middle of August 1994 so please, just because your mind might be on cricket or what other summer sport takes your fancy, do take time out to send in your entries and if you have a new league secretary make sure he or she is put in the picture.

Thoughts on the Championships

WHILST having a tea break in the cafe at the National Indoor Arena on the second Saturday of the European Championships, I mused on the happenings of the previous ten days. Looking out of the window I read on the side of an old Birmingham building 'Hudson, Edmunds & Co. Brass & Copper Tube Manufacturers' and then looked at the NEW Birmingham the 'Novotel' where we were staying. What a difference! **writes Geoff Scruton.**

On the walk across to the N.I.A. I passed the 'James Brindley Place' where new development was taking place. James would have been pleased with the redevelopment of his canals which flowed past the N.I.A. But to table tennis.

THURSDAY Arrival and registration - the N.I.A. was heaving with the numbers of players, officials all collecting their tags/bags and other items necessary for the Champs.

FRIDAY - Oh no! the lift down to the umpire's rooms was 'out of order' so 65 concrete steps down and 65 steps up to the main arena. Do the draw, take the draw to the print/computer room and finally get the match going, Denmark v. Israel ladies, on the outside courts - four and a half hours - organised chaos downstairs again but loud applause from the centre courts - when would I be there?

SATURDAY - Met the umpires from Lithuania they speak good English. Made the centre courts whoopee! France v. Italy ladies, good crowd.

SUNDAY - Another hectic day, larger crowds, went to the medics for cotton wool so I could sleep at night!

MONDAY - A clattering of feet, the 1000's of school children arrived, funny how they all sit right at the back when all the best seats were available at the front. However one of the teachers rapidly brought them down. Had an afternoon free and actually went back to the Novotel to watch 'Countdown'.

TUESDAY - Less to do and spent some time walking around the trade stands etc. I think more spectators are here than in the arena.

WEDNESDAY - Free day went down to the practise hall hoping to get a knock. Surprise, Surprise! who's this? John Wood our Table



Pictured above is steward Doris Dawes festooned with badges. Whilst below Table Tennis News Editor John Wood is snapped in action in the Media tournaments

Tennis News Editor actually playing in the Media Tournament. He looked good, I won't mention the scores!

WEDNESDAY - Was mens team final day so I talked to some of the other umpires from Europe, strange to hear the Lithuanian and Bulgarian umpires talking in Russian. The French umpires spoke very good English.

THURSDAY - Individual events commenced. Some good matches to umpire and to watch. The lady in the yellow jumper at the door to the playing arena has a chest overflowing with badges!

Met ex-President of the ITTF - Roy Evans in the restaurant.

FRIDAY - Had the afternoon off so was shown around central Birmingham by my colleague, Dave Roden. Centenary Square, Chamberlain Square and the 'Flooiee in

the Jacuzzi'. A fine day but bitterly cold, glad to be back inside the N.I.A.

SATURDAY - Walked along the canal towards Fazely admiring how the Water Boards have improved the sides, although the lock mechanism is still as Brindley designed it. Umpired on the outer courts and saw one of the photographers fast asleep in his chair. No it was not John Wood - John is like his table tennis playing perpetual motion!

SUNDAY - Early start 8.00am, we should be used to it by now. On court one, womens doubles quarter final and the unfancied Lithuanian pair won. My Lithuanian umpire friends were delighted.

Watched some great play on the centre court in the afternoon and evening.

MONDAY - The last day. Suddenly it's nearly all over. I had enjoyed the hustle and bustle, the cheers, the tears, the atmosphere and apart from the last four semis and finals for me it was pack my gear and make travel arrangements. Farewell Birmingham. Farewell N.I.A. Farewell to colleagues. Truly the world's biggest table tennis event this year. I was proud to be a part of it.



Billington's outstanding performance

THE County Championships programme was completed earlier this season in view of the European Championships. The enthusiasm for these Championships certainly prevails. There were just short of 700 matches with 1400 players taking part **writes Doug Moss.**

The outstanding performer this season was undoubtedly Bradley Billington (Derbyshire). For the third consecutive season he was unbeaten and this time it was in the Premier Division! His performance certainly influenced Derbyshire getting second place in the Premier League table. Jonathan Taylor (Lancashire), who played only in the second series of matches, also got 100%.

Helen Lower (Staffs), who had a remarkable record of being unbeaten in four seasons, did lose one match in the Premier Division this season but shared top place with Maria Thornley (Lancashire).



Bradley Billington

Berkshire led the field in the Junior Premier Division. Gareth Herbert (Berks) was the only player to get 100% wins. Next in line was Ben Johnson (Berks NU.1), who lost only once. Sally Marling (Yorkshire) was top girl with 100% wins for the third consecutive season.

In the Veteran Premier Division Tony Clayton, a former international, shared top place with Malcolm Corking (Yorkshire). Each player won 12 of their 14 matches. Doreen Schofield again topped the ladies section with 100% wins. Carol Hewitt (Sussex), who played only in the second series of matches, was also unbeaten.

A player with a remarkable record in the championships is Natasha Williams (Clwyd). Natasha had four consecutive seasons unbeaten as a junior and this season, as a Clwyd senior player in Division 2A, she again achieved 100% wins!



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Coaches converge on Milton Keynes

**COACHES CONFERENCE
TO DEBRIEF THE
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS ON MAY
22nd AT THE MILTON
KEYNES TABLE
TENNIS CENTRE**

MANY coaches from various regions around the country converged on the centre to attend a Conference to discuss various aspects of Euro 94. Speakers for the day included Donald Parker, Gail McCulloch, Matthew Syed, Paul Day, Stuart Sherlock, Tim Holder and Jill Parker. The morning session was under the Chairmanship of Alan Ransome *writes Melanie Carey.*

Donald Parker - A Captain's Viewpoint

England's two bronze medals were an excellent achievement. We must realise the extent of Government support that other countries we competed against receive, allowing them to employ large number of full-time coaches who have considerable contact time with their national players. This often occurs at Special Centres with residential and educational facilities attached. These countries include Sweden, France and Greece.

Don then highlighted events from the championships that had been under the control of the captain. But he queried whether they had been handled in the best interest of the player. Examples included Applegrens absence from the team. Would Sweden be European Champions? Waldner's finger. Why did the team doctor sit and watch? And finally Paul Day's support of Skylet Andrew.

He concluded with explaining some new techniques. Players are showing greater consistency and are equally strong on both wings.

Matthew Syed - A Player's Perspective

This was an entertaining yet informative speech despite peer group pressure (Wilson and Satchell) raising his anxiety level.

He provided a clear insight into the teams preparation at Lilleshall prior to the championships. All controllables, i.e. accommodation, food, playing facilities and equipment, were excellent. A good team spirit existed throughout the even despite the views of many spectators. There was obviously a slight disappointment at only receiving a bronze but our players are perfectionists.



Coaching course at Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre

Paul Day - Selection Procedures

This presentation provided an insight into selection and how the selectors minds tick. Much of the explanation focused around justice and the future. No longer are players perceived as having made it when they reach cadet or junior levels instead they should be looking to develop into competent seniors. But what are we doing to stop the considerable drop-out.

Gail McCulloch - Euro 94 Coaching Course

Gail expanded upon the May issue of Table Tennis News. She talked about some of the topics mentioned these included Psychology - Glen Osth and Biomechanics - Michel Gadel.

Those who survived the Siberian conditions went away from the course thinking about their coaching in a different light.

Stuart Sherlock - Ranking Scheme

This comprehensive explanation of the ranking, sorry rating scheme, completed the morning session which had been both long and intensive, concentration levels were wavering.

However it is important to explain to our players the system which is based upon the probabil-

ity of wins and losses. They should with questions both relevant and poignant being asked to the panel.

Lunch, what a spread!

The afternoon session consisted of workshops.

Workshop 1 - Practical Psychology Tim Holder (the man without a white coat)

Tim explained the use of Visualisation or 'daydreaming' within a match situation. This allows the player to re-focus especially following a mistake. Remember the big mac attack!

It was slightly disappointing that due to the lack of time we could not work on the practicalities of this.

Workshop 2 - Technical Donald, Paul & Matthew

Now was the opportunity for everybody to become active practising various table exercises incorporating both power backhands and forehands.

There were slight differences in the speed of the feeders!

Workshop 3 - The Coaching Scheme Gail and Jill

During this time Centres for excellence were explained. Any

see themselves being banded into a rating of similar ability.

The morning session closed coach is welcome to attend and assist if required.

New Publications that have been produced that include table tennis were circulated.

The afternoon session was completed with an open forum to hopefully gain the answers as to where do we go next in providing regular get togethers and training.

The coaches then departed to their respective areas of the country to implement and discuss further the aspects of the day with their coaches and players.

The day before some of the coaches had attended a presentation skills workshop for tutors. All the presentations were of a high level. This showed the capability we have in our tutors to deliver coach education courses in all areas of the country in a professional way and to the same standard.

This weekend proved very beneficial in both educating our coaches and allowing people on the same wave length to meet and discuss items. Often this was achieved whilst relaxing in the bar at the hotel! There should be some play its not all work. Let's hope these weekends become a regular event.

When a volley was a volley

End of Point

IN the old days (you remember - when a volley was a volley) umpires were careful not to call the score, until the ball was dead. This was because it could have got a bit tricky if the point was scored and then the player volleyed the ball at the back of the court. Now, some umpires are inclined to score the point as soon as the ball has obviously missed the table, but of course something could still go wrong before the ball is dead. A player may touch the table with his free hand; touch the net, or move the table. Conclusion - as previously, don't call the score until the ball is dead *writes Jack Randall and Fred Groom.*

Rackets on the table, and.....?

It is now becoming well accepted that the players

should leave their rackets on the table when they go to take up to two minutes rest between games. This is to obviate any necessity to examine the rackets again to make sure they have not been changed. The same should be said of the ball. Some players take the ball with them in their pockets after wiping it during the rest period. The question was raised that the possibility exists of a player having in his pocket a different ball of the same make which for some reason he prefers, and could swap it. Perhaps the ball should remain on the table with the rackets.

Birmingham

If you think everything is all sorted out with interpretation of the Laws and Regulations, it takes a high powered gathering such as we got at Birmingham to quickly disillusion you.

The following subjects were raised:-

Suppose just as a player was about to serve, his opponent, who has been officially warned about swearing, expresses the opinion that the server could with advantage be more expeditious in applying the racket to the ball. However, his advice is couched in more inflammatory terms. A penalty point is awarded. If the score was 5-4 and the penalty point made it 5-5, it is fairly clear that service would change over. Suppose, however, they were in expedite, who would serve next? Changing server could negate the alternating advantage of serving and receiving under the terms of expedite. The question will be put to the Rules Committee of the ITTF and their ruling will be published as soon as it is received. Watch this space.

It has been laid down that in singles only one nominated adviser may give advice to a player during intervals or authorised suspensions of play. It has not been spelled out what routine is to be followed if an un-nominated person advises a player during play. It is agreed, however, that if a nominated adviser is dismissed from the courtside because of advising during play, another adviser cannot be nominated for that match.

The extreme pressures on the organisers and referees to keep things going smoothly for the visiting public and television was underlined when umpires were replaced after multiple faulting when it was judged that the players were serving from a point further from the table than the body. Perhaps a neater solution would have been to appoint two assistant umpires (c.f. regulation 3.3.2.2.) who would have been in more advantageous positions to take the relevant decisions. Either they would have corroborated the decisions, or the players would have been more careful.

Expedite

Since returning from the European Championships I (FG) have been asked by several people to explain the expedite system, as a ladies match, which went to expedite, had been shown on television. The general reaction when all had been explained was why, when they had 13 strokes in which to win the point, did the players go for a winner after only two or three. The father of the Scottish umpire of this match told his son that it was a good thing he called "stop" because from then on they played properly.

Expedite certainly livens up a dull game, but we are waiting for the time when the players get to expedite and then win alternate points and infinitum. What does the referee do then, poor thing?

Thank you

Jack has received a letter from Jesper Hammerstrom, one of the Danish umpires at the European Championships, and the following is an extract from it:

"Jakob Edlund and I want to thank all the umpires, umpires managers and the referees. We had a bad experience being exchanged, but thanks to the support from all of you, we got over it fast. We would be pleased if you could 'broadcast' our thanks to the others."

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Dennis Neale wins bronze

7th WORLD VETERANS TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, MELBOURNE

IN April this year 90 veteran table tennis players from England travelled to Melbourne, Australia to compete in the Veteran World Championships. All arrived very tired after a long flight but we were impressed by the vastness of the city and how well spaced out the buildings were, the architecture was so varied **writes Pauline Steel.**

After a good nights sleep it was time to go to the accreditation point. The Royal Exhibition Building which would be the venue for the event. This grand old Victorian building was built in 1880 for the Melbourne International Exhibition and now hosts many sporting events. The table tennis would

be played on 66 tables placed on two levels in the building. It was nice to sign in without any queuing perhaps this was a good sign for the start of the event.

With 1800 competitors from 48 countries this major event was about to commence. Four players were in each group in the various age ranges and only the top two would compete in the main event, the bottom two would be entered into a consolation event. Thank goodness for a lot of smiling faces from the English players as a good many of them qualified for the main event. The Saturday saw the qualifying for the doubles and once again many of our players went through.

The Sunday was a free day, some participants went on organised trips to places like

Phillip Island to see the fairy penguins, others chose a trip to the wineries. Quite a few decided to take in the sights around Melbourne or just took a trip to the beach.

Monday and Tuesday was back to table tennis when we got down to the serious business. The players started to fall in both the singles and doubles events. In the over 40 mens singles Nigel Eckersley lost in the last 16 but Benny Robertson our star player went a round further before losing in three to Peter Raidl, Austria. Benny and Nigel paired up well to take a silver medal in the over 40 doubles. Gold went to Derek Schofield and Matt Shearer for the over 60 doubles an excellent result which they have achieved for the third time. Connie Moran gained a bronze in the over 60 event and Dennis

Clare a bronze in the over 80 event. Dennis Neale lost in the quarter final of the over 50 singles but gained a bronze in the over 50 doubles with Brian Hill.

It was a very well organised tournament with things running to schedule. Congratulations to the organising committee.

After the finals everyone donned their party gear and went to the World Congress Centre for the farewell party which gave everyone a chance to let their hair down and relax. The players all said their goodbyes and most were continuing their journeys around different places in Australia.

I came home thinking how nice the Australian people were and that the country had a nice feel about it, I shall certainly think of going back to see more of it.

IN MEMORIAM

DENNIS REED

By John Woodford

SUSSEX sport in general suffered a sudden loss of a keen sportsman on March 30th, when Dennis Reed, the current chairman of the Sussex T.T.A. died from a brain haemorrhage in a Brighton hospital.

Many of us inside table tennis were not aware of his widespread activities in other sports; he played cricket, football, table tennis, badminton and snooker for Hove British Legion Club over a period of nearly 40 years.

He was 68, lived in Hassocks with his wife Daphne and lived only twenty four hours after being taken ill.

In table tennis he was a player, an umpire, a tournament referee and a keen administrator at all levels. He leaves a daughter and a son Alan who is a



The late Dennis Reed

player close to county standard.

Dennis would have been the first to say "Life must go on". The Sussex T.T.A. will be bouncing back with new faces on the top table next season, but the loss without any warning of Dennis Reed will provide much extra work for the county's officers and others who help with the Sussex administration.

Regional Notes

LONDON REGION

By John Llewellyn

A mixed bag of news to report just before we depart for the summer break. Firstly the good news for the Bromley League that their junior side have reached the final of the Carter Cup, the National Boys U/17 league competition. The trio of Chris Hall, Robert Waller and Lee Smith (all from Eltham Manor Club) will be facing Hull in the final.

The London Junior Table Tennis Scheme (LJTTS) has just ended another excellent season, with events taking place in Hammersmith, Redbridge, Bromley and Tottenham. Literally hundreds of kids took part, with the best players reaching new standards of excellence. The best example

being Jason Sugrue of Progress TTC in Willesden, who made a very successful debut for England against Belgium, and still put in an appearance in the finals of LJTTS winning the U/21 advanced.

Colin Wilson, the Regional Development Officer has been keeping busy this time concentrating his efforts on club development. Two highly successful meetings taking place at the Aldborough Table Tennis Centre in Ilford. The meetings discussed how clubs can develop their playing facilities and improve membership along similar lines to that of clubs in Europe. Anyone interested in club development in the London Region can contact Colin Wilson, Greater London Region Development Officer for Table Tennis, LBH&F, Community Recreation, 181 King Street, London W6 9JU, 081-748 3020 ext. 3523.

'Approved list'

I would like to keep the table tennis population informed of the current situation with respect to glue.

The ITTF banned compounds of which there was evidence of them causing cancer.

However, certain compounds on the 'approved list', although there is not evidence of them initiating cancer, can have far more harmful effects than banned ones.

For instance, toluene, a banned substance has an OEL (Occupational Exposure Limited) of 50 parts per million whereas n-hexane (an approved substance) has an OEL of 20 parts per million. The OEL is the industrial exposure standard issued by the Health and Safety Commission.

N-hexane can cause loss of sensation in limbs, drowsiness, vertigo, respiratory effects, affects the eyes and is a reproductive hazard.

Solutions containing more than 5% of this solvent are considered 'HIGHLY HARMFUL'.

I have only a full analysis of three of the twenty 'approved' glues, and two of them contain 15-20% of this material.

It is very probable that some of the other glues could be up to 70% n-hexane, but manufacturers hide this fact by declaring 70% aliphatics, which is the approved class of compound but constitutes many thousands of solvents; some of which are highly harmful.

Medical evidence is now available showing that the 'approved' solvents can be broken down in the body to form free radicals which cause cancer. The risk is higher in sports persons due to their higher oxygen intake. These risks are far higher if people apply glue with their hands as was observed at the European Championships.

Incidentally, measurements at ceiling level in the Glue Room at Birmingham showed OELs above those allowed in industry. Exposure levels at nostril level during regluing are known to be several times higher than this.

If the ITTF are going to allow the continued use of glues they can, at least, be made much safer.

How we deal with the legislation when tournaments are held in public halls and involve professional players requires serious consideration or there will be sticky times ahead.

Although, not a health factor, bats when glued up are actually illegal for a time span. This is because the vapours from the solvent expand the rubber and sponge thickness allowed by ITTF rules.

Before making your judgements on glue consider the following facts.

The general lobby to keep glue (i.e. the manufacturers - money, ETTU and national bodies - performance, players - performance/money) is carried out via the media making statements like "nobody has dropped dead yet"; "Subek has been glued up for twenty years and is a picture of health" (has he submitted a blood sample to Professor Dolinar in Switzerland?).

During all the debate on the matter the ITTF has offered the opportunity for any bodies opposing the ban to provide an 'expert' to argue the case against the harmful effects of these substances. The opportunity has not been taken up.

On the other hand the ITTF has requested independent bodies (e.g. Stockholm University at the World Championships) to monitor and report on the situation. They showed that even at the World Championships, safety limits could not be kept below those allowed in industry.

One may argue that, like smoking, it is up to the individual.

I can agree with this but my concern is for the young children who will have to resort to glues in order to compete and who will not handle them in a sensible fashion.

Sports have physical risks of which one is aware before once commences playing but here we have a needless unknown risk.

Dr. Keith Powell
Dumfries, Scotland

Coaching

I am a disabled table tennis coach, running a coaching school for 20-24 school children aged eight to 11.

Reading the February edition of Table Tennis News, page four 'Chatterbox', I am very interested in the table tennis marathon organised by the Yorkshire and Humberside Federation, as I would like to organise something similar with my kids, with all the money raised going to the Exeter and District Multiple Sclerosis Society (I am an M.S. sufferer). Could you please forward to me any information you can lay your hands on about this marathon, or any other worth while fund-raising events that I could use to raise money for an excellent charity. Here's hoping to hear from you.

Robin Davis
Whipton, Exeter

Noxious solvents

I am inclined to change my mind about liquid 'bicycle' glue. Not fundamentally.

And not regarding banning the use of noxious solvents, which I support. But I do not see the logic of banning the practice of regluing to get a faster, spinnier effect, if there is no likely health hazard. And now, I understand, there are safe, water based 'fast' glues on the market. So if gluing up with these is not harmful to health, it and they should be allowed. However, I must qualify my remarks:-

1) Some people have been using the health harm argument as a back door to reduce speed/spin, but the two issues should be kept separate. On the latter issue, I don't believe that less speed and spin will necessarily enhance play aesthetically - it probably will help Asian flat hitters - while some of the most spectacular rallies would no longer be possible.

2) If the new 'clean' glues perform as well as the toxic ones, which is essential, then there should be no motivation to use the latter. Obviously a very small minority will cheat or experiment with illegal substances, and there should be heavy penalties if they are found out. Effective monitoring is a real, practical problem, but I understand that there now is a device, which could be used at major

tournaments, which can 'smell' out toxic solvents on the bat.

3) Some apparently 'clean' glues still contain (safer) solvents, yet no solvents are completely harmless. Therefore the notion of 'minimal' or 'acceptable' risk could be introduced and in this we would have to be advised by medical/epidemiological or scientific experts. For all practical purposes, approved glues must not be unhealthy.

4) Gluing up is not a very sociable activity and may cause irritation to some, even if there is no physical health harm. Therefore, for major events it is still sensible to allocate 'gluing up' areas.

If, as seems probable, European countries (whose players have most to lose) persuade the ITTF that the use of water based or otherwise non-toxic fast glues should be allowed - and these genuinely are not harmful to health - I do not see that the ETTA can have any rational reason not to support this. Of course, if the world falls in behind us in banning all fast glues, then our players and coaching techniques will have a head start and big 'edge' on Europe! What are the chances of that happening? More likely, we will be left behind Europe.

Ken Muhr
Stony Stratford

11 up?

MEMBERS have been asked to comment on a new scoring system which would end the '21 up' system. As a result of new proposals, said to have the support of ITTF President Ogimura, games would end at 11.

A weakness of the proposals is that they do not address the complete issue. Would deuce take place at 10 all? Presumably yes. How often would service be changed? The answer I have heard most often is every three points. A far, far better idea would be to play to the tie-break system of tennis. Our player starts with one service and after that players serve twice and then change service. The system has worked quite brilliantly in tennis.

Having answered these questions, should we change? Would it make our sport more interesting? The period of trial would be one of two years, i.e. the time between the biannual meetings of the ITTF member countries. It cannot be denied that most matches are over long before the '21 up' bell tolls. Matches, now played to best of three to 21, would then be played to best of five up to 11. This will be slightly shorter, no bad thing in reducing late nights at local level.



The Editor
Table Tennis News
5 The Brackens
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP2 5JA

Again one hears rather violent responses, such as threats to go out of the game. One can understand all that in a matter of principle, but in this case which leaves the basic game undisturbed....? Surely it will be more fun for spectators and TV people generally prefer it, because it supplies more drama.

In England the system was tried in two 'Top 12' tournaments and after one of these a poll showed that nearly 70% of the spectators had liked it. There were 15% "don't knows" and 15% against. Some players hated it, others realised that the sport had to try new things, since old ones had not worked in terms of increasing membership and TV, to name only two targets.

As we watch hours of other sports on TV, we cannot feel that ours is a perfect sport. Therefore trying new things is essential. Some will work, some will not. The failures are not cast in stone. We can revert to previous practices. To do nothing cannot be the answers. THAT can only lead to decline.

John Prean
Isle of Wight

'Expedite'

I feel I must put pen to paper after witnessing, on BBC Television, the performance of Lisa Lomas in the European Singles Championships on Saturday 2nd April. This did absolutely nothing to generate interest in the women's game!

I was appalled to hear comments from Donald Parker that Lisa was playing for an 'Expedite' situation, and that he felt this was the England game plan. Unfortunately for Lisa, no doubt playing to orders, this tactic was not successful.

For months and months we were all being told that these championships would generate massive interest in our sport and that we should all be gearing up for the influx of people wanting to play the game. After watching the match in question, I would be surprised if females currently playing did not give

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 be considered.

up because of the negative attitude shown at national level. My 14 year old daughter, who plays in the local league and is ranked nationally in the top 40 cadets, walked out in disgust whilst watching this match, calling the method of play 'pathetic'. This does not encourage aspirations to represent one's country, which should surely be the aim of every keen sports person.

We in Hull do not teach a 'pushing' game, but coach both sexes to attack a long ball. This strategy obviously works well for the successful nations, as was shown in the women's final of the championships. I remember attending a seminar in Bridlington at last year's Junior Open when Donald Parker pleaded with coaches and parents not to teach push, but to attack as per Sweden, France, Holland etc. It seems strange that team orders for the women do not follow this criteria.

I realise the situation called for certain tactics, but surely to deliberately play for expedite is setting the English women's game back 20 years. If women's table tennis is to progress, a positive attitude is needed. Players should be trained to use attacking strokes whenever the opportunity arises. To have tried and lost is better than not trying at all!!!

Roger Watson
North Humberstone

European Championships Reporting

I do not see a lot of papers regularly nowadays, but my impression of the coverage of the European Championships in the national press was that the space given was meagre indeed. What was even more disappointing was that too much of what occupied that space was not concerned with the play but with such matters as the marriage proposal of a player who as yet is not quite in contention for a title.

Equally troubling was the repeated reference to a 'record' attendance of five thousand. What sort of record this constitutes was not explained; but I do hope that the new generation of table tennis enthusiasts will not be deceived. The fact is that, for the annual English Open Championships, table tennis was regularly able to fill the eight thousand seats available at the Empire Pool, Wembley from the mid thirties until the war, and then again from 1948 until about 1959. During these post-war years, the semi finals night attendance was normally well in excess of five thousand too.

George White
Newbury, Berks

Computer software

I am writing in the hope that through your publication I can gain help and advice with regard to the above.

My association has set aside funds to purchase a PC primarily for the use of the Match Secretary. It is to be used for the recording of match results with the hope of producing instant league

tables and individual players averages which at the moment takes a lot of time and lengthy manual calculations. However, to date we have been unable to find any software to do the job.

I am therefore hoping that out there amongst your readers is a Match Secretary with this all-singing, all-dancing programme who can help me and who can perhaps also advise me on hardware as well.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sally Russell, Hon. General Secretary
York & District T.T.A.

Opportunity

'A rare opportunity' by Ken Muhr in Mailbox of Issue 21 has made at least one reader think.

If, as has been stated elsewhere, there are three million people who play table tennis in a casual manner and 50,000 who are registered for competition there might be some simple measures which could increase the latter figures as follows:-

TWO-A-SIDE - This format is the basic number to have a game. Two friends are more likely to form a team than they are in trying to find a third player at any one time. It is accepted that sides would register more than just the two in a team but it would still be easier to find two than three. The doubles would add some interest to the final outcome and a 100% record in this area could be compensation for an indifferent season. More teams would be registered within a club which is more beneficial when playing players 'UP'. Without a second team you cannot do it.

SCORING - Using an 11 point five sets format would reduce the number of points to win a game from 42 to 33 but could lead to tighter finishes.

SERVICE - Only the server can win points. The service changes when a server fails to win the point played for. (This would be similar to badminton).

DOUBLE PLAY - All returns are 'open' and can be returned by either player. Children find this more natural to do and seem not to like the alternate shot method.

DRESS - It seems natural that white should be the colour for all racket sports with an appropriate coloured ball being used. This may seem controversial but in the early development of table tennis, cricket and tennis clubs bought tables for use on rainy days. This liaison should be encouraged even if it is us that has to change.

TABLES - The fold over table which allows one person to practise would encourage many youngsters to 'have a go'. With odd numbers turning up this would prevent 'sitting out'.

BRITISH LEAGUE - It is only county cricket that receives publicity in the national press. Most other county pursuits (including table tennis) do not get much of a mention. If every league was encouraged to support the league by providing teams then the sport might be perceived in a different manner. At least even the lowliest league player would understand the structure in table tennis. Do not abandon county teams but shift the emphasis back to the leagues.

EQUIPMENT - The 'Barna' bat saga should be a warning that banning

equipment is not the way to treat loyal players. Perhaps veterans should have been allowed to continue with their 'old' bats and only seniors barred from their use. Who would now risk an investment in blade or rubbers that might be illegal before you play. It happened with my expensive 'open sponge' bat in the 60s.

Whatever format table tennis takes for the future publicity is essential and must be positive. Have sports writers been approached to give their views on how the sport can be improved for not only spectators but for those who follow league tables when ever they appear. Without a 'national' venue for the sport it is difficult to advise someone where they can see a top ranked match, not so with tennis or football.

I think the way forward is to find out how the various suggestions (mine included which are not original) can be made to work as opposed to listening to people who will find every reason they can think of for saying it won't work without even giving things a fair trial.

Ronald Roucher
New Barnet, Herts

Suspension

THE February issue of Table Tennis News gives the results of the Disciplinary Committee hearing on the subject of Phil Newton's previous association with the unaffiliated Sheffield Works Table Tennis League.

I write to inform you that the Sheffield Table Tennis League held a special league meeting in January 1994 to discuss this decision and decided unanimously to ignore the suspension. A letter to this effect was sent to the ETTA General Secretary a month ago, but up to now we have no response from him.

The reasons for the Sheffield League decision are as follows:-

The Sheffield Works League disaffiliated from the ETTA in 1986/87. Since that time no effort to persuade them to re-affiliate has been made by the ETTA, nor has there been any contact with the Sheffield T.T.L. to ask us to request our registered players not to play in the 'Works' league.

In fact our enquiries lead us to the conclusion that every player in the Works League also takes part in one of the affiliated leagues in South Yorkshire or North Derbyshire. However the ETTA have made no such enquiries and have found Mr. Newton guilty of "play with or against players not affiliated to the ETTA". This is patently not true as all the players are affiliated through other leagues.

The verdict also mentions no permission being granted by the County Association General Secretary, but when we contacted the Yorkshire League General Secretary he assured us that the ETTA had never asked him if permission had been granted.

The original charge against Mr. Newton came indirectly through a letter from our Publicity Officer giving details of our AGM in 1992 where a motion to disaffiliate was narrowly defeated, (ironically partially due to Mr. Newton's arguments in favour of remaining affiliated).

Mr. Mike Holt of the ETTA was handling the investigation and assured both our Publicity Officer and myself in February 1993 that no further action was likely.

However, ten months later, Mr. Newton is charged and suspended. We have been unable to obtain any explanation for this change of heart after almost a year.

At the Sheffield League meeting it was felt Mr. Newton had not been fairly treated and was being victimised without a full investigation of the facts.

Until similar action is taken against all players in unaffiliated leagues and tournaments, we are not prepared to uphold the suspension.

This matter has also been discussed by the Yorkshire T.T.A. who are also not happy with the hearing on sentence and have written to the ETTA to this effect.

By their actions the Disciplinary Committee have made sure that the question of disaffiliation will once again be on the agenda at this year's AGM and the need of the clubs may make for a different result from two years ago.

Harry Sargent, Chairman
Sheffield T.T. League

Appeal?

THE Civic Service Table Tennis Association has passed to me a copy of a letter of 14th December 1993, in my capacity of Secretary of the Departments of the Environment and Transport Table Tennis Club. I am therefore writing on behalf of my Club to ask that the ETTA reviews its decision to ban Mr. Newton for a year.

I have known Mr. Newton for about 15 years and for this time at least he has always been a most enthusiastic and dedicated active supporter of the game. He, as a great organiser of table tennis activities, has always to my knowledge applied the rules and law to the letter. When the 1992 Sheffield League AGM proposed a motion to disaffiliate from the ETTA it was Mr. Newton who **opposed the motion**, explaining problems he was aware of in another league in Sheffield. Yet he is the player to be suspended. I was particularly surprised to learn he has been given no opportunity to appeal against the ETTA's decision.

I am aware that there is no automatic right to an appeal on a disciplinary matter. However, I would hope that the ETTA would exercise its discretion in allowing an appeal. Should Mr. Newton decide to cease all his helpful activities in the game it would be a national loss and it would seem ironic that the ETTA could punish itself in such a way.

I am also aware that the ETTA's constitution does not allow affiliated players to play against non-affiliated players. If you check I am sure you will find Mr. Newton is affiliated to the ETTA (albeit by another league).

Since he moved away from London our local table tennis has suffered in his absence. Members with his administrative and playing qualities are extremely hard to find. It would be very sad indeed if Sheffield was made to suffer in the same way as us in London.

I should be most grateful for an early response from the Management Committee and I would urge them to exercise some common sense in this

matter. A narrow-minded response is likely to result in the continuing decline of the game in this country. I am certain Mr. Newton would respond as well, if not better, to a reprimand from the Association. Any final decision should be based on the interests of the game as a whole and not just of an individual. In conclusion I therefore hope to learn he is at least allowed an appeal by discretion rather than by right.

*M.J. Loveder, Secretary
Departments of Environment and
Transport TTC*

Anniversary

THE West Wilts Table Tennis League was formed on 8th April 1935, and thus will celebrate its 60th anniversary next year. To mark this milestone, a history of the league is being compiled by our Chairman, John Ford, and this is nearing completion with the intention of launching it in book form at a reception evening to be held in Trowbridge (Wilts) on Saturday 8th March, 1995.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has played in our league over the past 60 years and who may be able to help in filling in some of the details. I would ask them to get in touch with John Ford at his home - 'Silver Birches', Wellhead Lane, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3PW, telephone 0373 822546 - or at his shop, telephone 0225 752460. Obviously, an early response would be appreciated.

*Malcolm Phillips, Hon. Secretary
West Wilts T.T.L.*

Disgust

I feel I must write to you direct to lodge my disgust, no outrage, of your decision concerning the new law number 2.4.6.

I have used my Barna single colour hard bat for over 40 years playing in the Bournemouth League in and around the 3/4/5 divisions. I have never played in a higher grade nor do I wish to do so.

To try to conform to the new ruling, I have coloured one side of my bat black and the other has stayed the same so I do have two colours but this is not acceptable, as enclosed copy memo states.

I would describe myself as a league 'bread and butter' player. This law has now taken all this enjoyment out of the game for me.

I have run a small club called West Moors, just outside Bournemouth, but if I cannot be allowed to use this bat in the future I will be forced to "hang up my bat", not what I thought the ETTA or the Bournemouth Association is about. It could even force our little club to close.

I would have thought there were many such players as myself in the country, and if they think the same as myself this could mean a lesser number playing table tennis next year.

I would think the players in the lower leagues should be allowed to use hard bats at our own Bournemouth League's discretion.

Please, please think again for your average player.

*R.G. Burt, Secretary
West Moors Table Tennis Club*

Incensed

HAVING read the comments from John Parker in the March/April News I have to say I was extremely incensed at his reference to so called 'greedy retailers'. I have been in the table tennis retail business for over twenty three years and have never known a time when profit margins for retailers have been so small. The profit margin on table tennis equipment is now virtually non-existent. It has been the retailers that have suffered most from price cutting.

Just as an example the trade price of Sriver from the importers is £13.29 per sheet plus 17.5% VAT. Most retailers are selling this rubber around £17 per sheet. After the retailer pays the VAT he is left with just £1.18 and if the customer pays by credit card he loses a further 60p from this small profit margin.

Whilst I am not wishing to make a case for the manufacturers of table tennis rubbers I should like to point out that the manufacturers of carpets do not have to pay large sums of money to have their carpets ITTF approved. If double sided adhesive tapes are over priced then I can assure Mr. Parker that it is not the fault of the retailer who are working on a very small mark up even on this item.

Most retailers of table tennis equipment are just struggling to survive and quite a number have gone out of business in the last few years. If there was big profits to be made from table tennis equipment then it would be available in general sport shops and not just from the small businesses mostly run by enthusiastic table tennis players. Mr. Parker would do well to research the subject of high pricing first before rushing into print slating off the retailers.

*Brian Windett
Nationwide Sports*

Sports League Administration Program

LEAGUE Secretaries looking for a versatile computer program with which to run their League might like to consider my own program, which has been used successfully for several years by the Cambridge and District League. The program, which runs on IBM PC's or compatibles, among other machines, maintains club, team and player records, averages, league tables etc, and has the ability to run leagues organised on any reasonable lines. The program can be told such details as how often teams play each other, how league points are awarded (by individual sets, or points for matches won or drawn), how ties are to be broken, and many other properties of the individual league. A knockout tournament can also be run by the program. Although initially designed for table tennis, the program can deal with a wide variety of sports leagues.

Anyone would like further details is

welcome to contact me by letter or telephone (0954 250332 at home, 0223 335465 at work).

*David Harrison
61 Harlestones Road
Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 4TR*

Jekyll and Hyde

THE question of sport in schools (Circa 1994), exposes yet another of those two-nations schisms that transpire to make us such a wonderful Jekyll and Hyde Society.

In the one corner, flexing their muscles and running on the spot, are all those health freaks who are all in favour of compulsory school games, in perhaps the full belief that they are a cure for all forms of juvenile delinquency, rounded shoulders and a host of other factors akin to youth, and that a full return to the spirit of the playing fields kind of competition will make men of our children, or, in the cause of school girls, women.

I read in a national newspaper only a few weeks ago that a well known Midlands school had banned all sport because it was thought to be too competitive, and some even suggested elitist as well, the people who support this theory cower in the other corner, and I would suggest are growing in numbers every day - they are the milksops who perhaps when younger hated all games at school and were for ever obtaining notes from their respective parents begging for them to be excused football or rugby or what ever, because of a chronic snuffle and who would no more inflict sport on their own children than they would stuff them up the chimney.

For myself, I confess that when younger I did embody both the Jekyll and Hyde tendencies, I was never really happy on the football or rugby field, battling with the elements of extreme bad weather conditions, mud, rock hard frosty pitches and some demented whistle - blowing sports master for ever yelling: come on now chaps put your backs into it?

But there it is, it did not really do me any harm, and at the end of the organised sporting day, I was always ready to play anybody who would take me on in the recreation room on an old battered Jaques 9' x 5' table, that really was my sporting highlight, funny thing was few others, Masters of the day or fellow school boys really appreciated our sport as much of a game, but of course those of us in table tennis all know that they were wrong, and we were right.

*Alf Peppercorpe,
Gloucestershire*

Farcical

BY continuing the anti glue stance, have the antiquated National Council actually thought of what harm they are doing to the potential future of every young player in England? Hopefully the truth of their actions might just be

enough for those responsible for the increasingly farcical situation to actually use some common sense for a welcome change. THEY ARE CHEATING OUR YOUNG HOPEFULS OUT OF ANY POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL FUTURE. Yes CHEATING!

Like many grass root enthusiasts bringing young players into the sport, I often wonder if the rapid improvement of a new young player indicates that here we have a future Des Douglas or Alan Cooke. Like others, I will help and advise both player and parent on the expensive road to the top via the junior tournament circuit etc. What chance has that young player have of bridging the gap between national and international status. Answer - absolutely none, unless perhaps the ETTA think we should all be trying to produce defenders or combination bat players. Our young stars of tomorrow have no chance against their European counterparts, and the situation is going to get much worse in the long term.

Along with the vast majority, I fully agreed with the original ban back in December 1992 (was it so long ago). Our national leaders confidently predicted that the world would soon follow England's lead. It is plainly obvious that it is not going to happen. During England's glue free period, its top event for young players, The English Juniors Open, has degenerated into a complete farce. Only three foreign countries bothered to enter this year and they were allowed to openly flout the English glue regulations. The Referee was placed in an impossible situation with decisions having to be made on a point of politics rather than fact.

The ETTA will court the world's top players by brushing aside their objections in order to stage major events but their own membership take second place to paranoid fears of upsetting grant funding bodies.

The anti glue champions now seem to be totally immersed in their own propaganda. Do they really believe that responsible parents, coaches, club and tournament organisers would fail to strictly control and ITTF ruling? Even the ETTA Chairman himself succeeded, in a BBC Radio debate with Skylet Andrew on the eve of the last National Council meeting, to make our sport sound more dangerous than Formula One motor racing. Yes, I agree that fumes from glue can be harmful, but that has been known for as long as glue has existed. We have to fall in line with the rest of the world and continue to campaign against glue but also ensure that all concerned should be strict in its controlled use.

It's bad enough to see our top players struggle to adapt to the change from non glue table tennis to international play with glue. It's much worse having to assist the ETTA in a process that guarantees our youngsters will fail to reach international status. That leaves a nasty taste in the mouth. The ETTA might have the bare faced cheek to talk of development through FOCUS SPORT and continue to cheat our kids, but surely they should have the brain power to work out just where English table tennis will be in a few years time if the ITTF and ETTA continue on separate paths.

*Keith Wilson
Sedgfield District T.T.C.*

News from the Counties

BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

THE Berkshire and local towns table tennis season has come to an end as usual there are winners and losers.

Perhaps the main loser this season was on the tournament front with several local events not taking place and many of those that did were poorly supported.

A combination of low entry, lack of organisers and a very decreasing number of table tennis players playing

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



Andrew Grantham OLOP Target Steel captain being congratulated by local veteran John Creighton after OLOP cadets had won the Reading Youth League title

more and more tournaments, the latter particularly applies to the top juniors and dedicated veterans.

Back to the action, Berkshire juniors won the 'Premier' league, the small group coached by Jim Stokes have come on by leaps and bounds this season. Gemma Schwartz and Ben Johnson completed their junior careers in style, leaving behind some very able substitutes not least Terry Young, Ali Subhan, Gareth Herbert, Kay Leslie and Susan Johnson. Reading junior Praveen Reddy caused a major upset in the Prudential Junior Masters, beating the number one Gareth Herbert to take the title.

No shocks at senior level where John Souter became the 1994 Prudential Master at the expense of Ben Johnson.

John Souter unbeaten all season also won the Reading singles title, beating Jimmy Stokes and led the way as Kingfisher 'A' took the Reading division one title. Justin Mead, who organised the Prudential Masters, captained the Kingfisher 'B' team in runner up spot.

Dave Duncan won the Reading individual handicap, while YMCA took the team title at the expense of last years winners Our Lady of Peace.

OLOP Target Steel won the Youth

League title, a great result for Andrew Grantham, Roddy Kay and Gareth Soden, all still cadets. Charvil took division two for the second year running. Maidenhead's Premier League was won by Old Gords Falcons with Kingfisher 'A' in second spot. It was a great team effort from Marc Priddle, Mark Banks, Lisa Crick and junior ace Terry Young.

Old Gords Eaglets won the Youth League division one with Allwood Eagles taking the second. Michael Childs won the mens single title. Our Lady of Peace and Broadmoor TTC high jacked the Bracknell Wokingham and District League. OLOP St Annes Manor taking the Premier Division ahead of Artel SSVVA, while Broadmoor took the team 'John Howard Shield' Handicap, just beating newcomers from Sindlesham School, led by veteran Dave Ward. Broadmoor also won the 'Presidents Cup' Handicap, to crown a great season for the club.

On the British League front OLOP Scottish Provident failed by just one point to win promotion to the Premier League. OLOP beat Rejects 6-2, Terry Young recording a fine maximum, including the scalp of Daren Blake. Colley Toyota however beat League Champions Grove 8-0, to snatch the

runners up spot. OLOP veterans did somewhat better, winning the veterans division two led by captain John Millward.

Finally Reading cadets Ali Subhan, Gareth Herbert and Robert Poutney have reached the zone final of the Johnny Leach Cup, beating Bracknell cadets in the zone final.

News from Newbury in the next round-up and outstanding news and views on the Berkshire front.

CORNWALL Jeremy Williams

With the 1993-94 season drawing to a close in Cornwall, championship issues have now been decided in the Mid Cornwall First Division and the West Cornwall Premier Division with nearly all fixtures now complete. As expected Redruth Highway easily retained the West Cornwall Premier with only one defeat all season. The battle for second place, however, proved somewhat closer with Camborne A pipping arch rivals Falmouth Docks A by just two points. In the Mid Cornwall First Division things were a little tighter with Roche A eventually coming out on top ten points ahead of St. Austell - Slades A who have dominated the league for many seasons. The up-to-date league tables are now as follows:-

West Cornwall Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Redruth High. A	17	16	0	1	143
Camborne A	18	13	1	4	116
Falmouth Docks A	18	12	4	2	114
Mevagissey A	18	7	4	7	96
St. Ives A	17	7	3	7	88
Redruth High. B	17	8	2	7	86
Truro A	18	7	5	6	85
Camborne B	18	2	4	12	57
Truro Palace A	18	2	1	15	49
Truro Palace B	17	1	2	14	46

Leading Averages:-

J. Williams (Falmouth Docks A) 100.0%; G. Reed (Redruth A) 93.6%; J. Bassett (St. Ives A) 90.2%; G. Lobb (Redruth B) 82.4%; S. Lobb (Redruth A) 82.0%; M. Peters (Redruth A) 78.0%; J. Pocock (Camborne A) 75.5%; R. Jacobs (Truro A) 72.3%; A. Chapman (Camborne A) 63.5%; R. Bartlett (Mevagissey A) 60.9%.

Mid Cornwall First Division

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Roche A	18	16	1	1	150
St. Austell Slades A	18	16	1	1	140
Mevagissey A	18	14	0	4	127
Siblyback A	17	10	3	4	105
Newquay	18	9	3	6	104
Cubert	18	6	2	10	82
Bodmin A	17	3	2	12	57
Mount Charles A	17	6	1	10	56
Bodmin Hospital A	18	2	0	16	34
Bodmin Hospital B	17	0	0	17	22

Leading Averages:-

R. Bartlett (Roche A) 95.8%; D. Kitt (St. Austell) 91.1%; M.N. Johnson (Siblyback) 88.9%; A. Brooks (Mevagissey A) 85.4%; P. Trethewey (Roche A) 85.4%; T. Wiltshire (St. Austell) 80.4%; J. Wakeham (St. Austell) 78.4%.

The Cornwall County Closed Championships held at the superb venue of Bodmin Indoor Tennis Centre on eight tables over the weekend of March 19th and 20th were again a resounding success.

Although entries were some way short of the boom years in the late seventies and early eighties, there was a reasonable entry throughout with nearly forty eventually entering the mens singles. Of the eighteen titles on offer only one was retained, that being the Cadet Boys Singles, which was won by Launceston's Graham Worth.

The final results were as follows:-

MENS SINGLES

Jeremy Williams (Falmouth) beat Martin Rowe (Holsworthy) 21-10, 23-21

WOMENS SINGLES

Esme Stevenson (Bude) beat Shirley Luckhurst (Metherell) 21-10, 21-13

INTERMEDIATE U21 SINGLES

Kevin Worth (Launceston) beat Jonathan Pocock (Camborne) 22-20, 21-23, 21-19

VETERAN SINGLES

Roger Jacobs (Truro) beat Austin Chapman (Camborne) 15-21, 21-17, 21-14

SENIOR VETERAN SINGLES

Tim Wiltshire (St. Austell) beat Dennis Williams (Falmouth) 21-10, 18-21, 21-13

MENS DOUBLES

Jeremy Williams (Falmouth)/Nevil Thomas (Truro) beat Mike Briggs/Gary Marquand (Saltash) 22-20, 17-21, 21-15

WOMENS DOUBLES

Shirley Luckhurst (Metherell)/Barbara Jacobs (Truro) beat Esme Stevenson (Bude)/Julie Menzel (Camborne) 21-12, 23-21

MIXED DOUBLES

Martin Rowe (Holsworthy)/Esme Stevenson (Bude) beat Roger Jacobs/Barbara Jacobs (Truro) 21-13, 21-10

PLEASE NOTE

Would county correspondents please note that in future would they please send their copy for County Notes to:

John Wood, 5 The Brackens,
Hemel Hempstead,
Herts. HP2 5JA

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Kevin Worth (Launceston) beat Graham Worth (Launceston) 21-18, 17-21, 21-17

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Sarah Richardson (Launceston) beat Anna Reed (Falmouth) 21-17, 21-6

CADET BOYS U14 SINGLES

Graham Worth (Launceston) beat Ben Pocock (Camborne) 19-21, 21-13, 21-12

CADET GIRLS U14 SINGLES

Anna Reed (Falmouth) beat Julia Mitchell (Camborne) 21-15, 21-9

UNDER 12 BOYS SINGLES

George Kimberley (Mevagissey) overall winner - Ben Hunkin (Mevagissey) runner up

UNDER 12 GIRLS SINGLES

Event not played

JUNIOR DOUBLES

Kevin Worth/Graham Worth (Launceston) beat Ben Pocock (Camborne)/Avadh Srivastava (Truro) 21-11, 21-17

JUNIOR TEAM KNOCK OUT

Launceston College beat Falmouth Docks A 4-0

CONSOLATION SINGLES (SENIORS)

Neil Martin (St. Austell) beat Davie Menzel (Camborne) 21-12, 21-6

CONSOLATION SINGLES (JUNIORS)

Adrian Noot (Mevagissey) beat Mark Thomas (Falmouth) 21-8, 21-13

DEVONSHIRE

John Vincent

A most successful Devon County Closed tournament with around 70 players participating which was well up on last year. It was good to see so many veterans from all over the county keenly contesting singles and doubles events.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Paul Whiting beat Gary Wilson 14, 15

LADIES SINGLES

Helen Wright beat Jane Swabey 11, 23

MENS DOUBLES

Paul Giles/Jonathan May beat Paul Whiting/Mike Shearman 18, -19, 20

LADIES DOUBLES

Helen Wright/Jane Swabey beat Sue Buddell/Joanna Barraclough 18, 14

MIXED DOUBLES

Gary Lambert/Jane Swabey beat Paul and Debbie Whiting 17, -8, 20

VETERANS SINGLES

Mike Short beat Graham May 19, 8

PLATE SINGLES

Chris White beat Kevin Buddell -20, 15, 14

There were some outstanding performances by the juniors with Joanna Barraclough beating Sue Buddell 11, -12, 19. Joanna also battled well against eventual champion Helen Wright in the semi final losing -19, -17.

Peter Thomas showed his vast improvement this year by beating Chris White 18, 17 and veteran Phil Goulding -19, 14, 13 before losing out to Tony Sweet -18, -14.

Twelve year old Robert Svensson played well giving Jonathan May a close call before losing -20, 19, -15. He also did well against veteran Les Coles' combination bat only losing -19, -17.

ESSEX

Steve Kerns

MISSING out on automatic promotion from Friendly Hotels British League Division III (East) are BSG Brentwood II team. Although, they played superbly to beat Gridfine St. Neots 7-1 in their last game they were not able to overhaul the Peterborough side. Team captain Dave Bowles fielded his strongest team of Damian Holland, Ian Attridge, Stuart Gibbs and England number 13 junior boys Reagan Nettleingham and although they did all they could hope for the Peterborough team did not slip up as might have been expected. With the likelihood of Dennis Neale and Brian Hill playing in Australia in the World Veterans Championships there seemed a distinct possibility that they could slip up. It was not to be, they beat Britannia Ipswich 6-2.

The BSG Brentwood I team featuring the home-grown talents of Martin Cole, Ryan Savill, Steve Rand and Dave Cole finished fifth in division one (south). Martin Cole, ever present for this team in their five years of existence finished the season with a 50% average from the number one spot, whilst Steve Rand playing at number three excelled with 18 wins out of 24 for a 75% average. Both Martin (nationally ranked 57) and Steve (number 94) can surely look forward to further progress upwards.

On the administration front the county say goodbye to Roy Franklin after eighteen years service on the competitions sub-committee, the last eight of which have been as inter-league supremo. The county are hugely indebted to Roy's continued devotion to their cause, as was recognised in 1988 when he was the recipient of the Corti-Woodcock award, the county's top award for service to the game.

Bill Wadling has also bowed out as senior match secretary. After seeing the county win its first senior premier title for 15 years he could hardly have picked a better time to retire!

In the Clacton league it was pleasing to see St. Andrews A win the first division title after patiently serving their apprenticeships at this level. Their team of mens singles champion Nigel Hodder, and the home-grown talents of Iain Vine, Colin Stallwood and Martin Hogg have the talent and youth on their side to dominate for some time yet.

In the March/April edition I questioned whether BUSC A would be able to go the whole season in the Braintree league without dropping a single point (on the four point-a-game system). Their team of Peter Hayden, Terry Dowsett and Ian Hayden kept everyone guessing all the way to the last hurdle, which just happened to be the team most likely to dent their proud record. On the night it was Witham A led by a Simon Wood's maximum who overcame BUSC 6-4. Nevertheless, the BUSC team's performance over the season was still exceptional, and will be very difficult to beat.

The mens singles at the Braintree Closed Tournament was won by Peter Hayden (he of the rubber wrists!), an Essex junior - first teamer from 13 years ago. Although, confined to one league game a week his touch was as sharp as ever, and he beat Andy Wadling 15, 18

in the final. The ladies singles went to the ever-green June Plampin with a narrow -15, 20, 16 win over Jean Thompson. This was June's thirteenth win in the event, 38 years after reaching her first final. The indefatigable Derek Wood took the veterans title with a 16, 17 win over Ian Whiteside. Already, this season Derek had finished as runner-up in the veterans event in Chelmsford, and taken two titles at Colchester and Clacton.

Other results were as follows:-

MENS DOUBLES

Hayden/Terry Dowsett beat Wadling/Whiteside -18, 20, 15

LADIES DOUBLES

Sarah Davison/June Plampin beat Diane Garner/Jean Thompson 15, 15

MIXED DOUBLES

Sarah Davison/Steve Kerns beat Jean Thompson/Derek Wood 10, 18

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Paul Davison beat James Gronland 12, 8

RESTRICTED SINGLES

Ian Morrison beat Ken Edwards -17, 14, 18

It was disappointing that the European Championships did not secure more television coverage as they produced some truly breath-taking play. The athleticism of the Saive brothers, the touch of Waldner and the numerous upset wins in the ladies singles all made compulsive viewing and surely would have created mass media-interest.

Finally, it was great to see so many defensive players in action, culminating with Solopou's superb fifth game win over Gatien.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Al Peppard

THIS being the final report of the season, it bears a remarkable likeness to the first report of the season, in so far that in preparing both reports the writer is rather awkwardly between three lines of fire, i.e.: Past, present and future, and at this specific time of the year the past has long since been reported, and the future is still yet to come.

I think that one of the major problems facing any County is that of a concerted effort to seek out respective star players of tomorrow, and in direct relation to finding those with the necessary potential, then I must admit (at the possible chance of causing offence to some), only a limited few so far appear to indicate the necessary dedication and apparent willingness to contribute to higher table tennis levels.

A counties administrative force can perhaps provide the best coaches that are locally available, but if the playing media are not fully prepared to throw in their all, then that coaches efforts are to a very great extent counter productive.

Writing these notes in late April, the majority of grass roots league players all over the county will have put their bats away to pursue summer activities - and indeed, why not? many of whom are not likely to ever get any better, but money wise, they do provide the financial nucleus that keeps this sport of ours well and truly alive.

Others may continue to play perhaps once a week in organised summer leagues, for aspiring juniors striving to better themselves, then this

is an excellent way of keeping in touch with table tennis and not only demonstrates, courage, but enthusiasm and dedication, vital ingredients for any players all round improvement.

Then of course we inevitably arrive at the other end of table tennis spectrum - one which is not often given much serious thought to, that's the administrative side - the hard working non-paid delegates who often as soon as one season ends, get down to the nitty-gritty business of drawing up plans for next season, they are in my opinion as important as the players, both work and play hand in glove, the players need the administrators and likewise vice versa.

I covered Gloucesters, Cirencesters and Cheltenham's finals nights in last month's Table Tennis News, but because Strouds F.N. was held over until the European Championships were over, so far, they have not had a mention. However here are Strouds F.N. results.

Staged at the Maidenhall School Recreation Centre at Stonehouse the championships were well supported by a large spectator force, and the evenings play commenced with the open singles semi finals between Tony Clarkson (Woodchester B) and Mark Johnson (Cirencester A), Johnson ran out the winner 13, 13.

In the other semi final, last years runner up John Fannin (Frampton A) beat Rob Willsher (Cirencester A) 15, 10, so the final became a tussle for supremacy between the two finalists, and what a night it became for veteran county player John Fannin - John by the way plays in three of the four Gloucestershire affiliated leagues, and in the final he beat Mark Johnson 10, 14, to claim the singles crown that evaded him last year.

John Fannin also retained his veterans singles title by beating Ray Poole (Forest Green A), -20, 13, 12, in the final.

The ladies singles was won by Mrs. Liz Johnson who beat Emma Parker in straight games, 13 and 18, the open doubles went to Dave Adamson and Ian Heskins both of whom play for Frampton A, they overpowered Bob Davis and Rob Willsher (Cirencester A) 19, -19, 15.

Other successes in the championships came the way of Terry Smith (Frampton B), who won the perpetual 'Pat Toomer Shield', the Andrew Golding award went to young Suzy Robinson and Mrs. Marcia Heaven collected the annual Committee award for services rendered. Jonathon Bunn took the Michael Holbrow award and veteran player Keith Simmonds was awarded the Paul Bowcott trophy.

The second division singles was won by Nick Collins and Terry Smith became the unfortunate runner up.

The third division singles was captured by Kevin Pride and the runner up was Steve Hawker.

In the fourth division singles, youth had its way in proclaiming its winner who was Jonathon Bunn and the runner up was Alan Lardner.

The Albert Mann Handicap Team Cup was won by Frampton A, by a clear 20 points margin over Sheepscombe A.

The league winners are as follows: First - Frampton A, runners up Cirencester; Second - Frampton B, runners up Randwick A; Third - Forest

Green B, runners up Forest Green C and Fourth - Whiteshill Vets C, runners up Forest Green G.

Concluding this county report for the 1993/94 season, I must congratulate our second county vets team of Sheila Matthews, Peter Wood, Alan Giles and Graham Holton upon winning Division 3C of the veteran division, by set average - you do not get them closer than that.

Green B, runners up Forest Green C and Fourth - Whiteshill Vets C, runners up Forest Green G.

Have a great summer

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

THE last of the inter town leagues was settled with the Portsmouth squad of Bob Cox, Ken Burton, Ray Lush and Mary Baron retaining their veteran title.

Mark Wilding is this seasons Portsmouth mens singles champion; a title which another Pompey player, Steve Reilly took at the neighbouring Gosport and Fareham championships. George Cole (Veterans), Gareth Scadden (Juniors) and Anne Abraham (Ladies) were other G & F winners.

Congratulations to umpire Mike Strode who was selected to umpire the mixed doubles final at the recent European Championships; this match came a couple of hours after pronouncing himself 'shattered' as he assisted your scribe with a ladies singles semi final which went to 'deuce' in the fifth. Harry Spraggs also carried the flag for Hampshire at the NIA.

Congratulations to general secretary Harold Albery, this years winner of the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy awarded by the ETTA to the person who "has rendered the greatest contributions to table tennis in the county field."

Good to see a Hampshire team, Amity Generation, taking part in the Woolwich Junior British League; Greg and Danny Burns, Gareth Scadden and Paul Shutler being their squad at the inauguration of the event at Milton Keynes.

Well that's about it for this season; good luck to those leagues arranging Woolwich Junior leagues and also to those organising 'Commit to hit' sessions in support of Regional Development Officer Steve Joel's efforts to both increase the number of people playing table tennis and also to raise some money for charity. I leave you with some early dates for next season, all at Redbridge; Saturday 3rd September - men's trials; Sunday 4th September - junior trials and Sunday 23rd October - senior championships.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

WATFORD'S Dave Edwards has become one of England's latest international umpires, and at the age of 31 he is the nation's youngest.

His first tournament was the European Championships at Birmingham and his first abroad will be the six nations cadet tournament in Copenhagen, Denmark, in June.

Dave past his international exams in February 1994.

One of Hemel Hempstead's favourite players Mark York, was married to Kim Norris on Saturday 21st May 1994.

The reception, held at The Post House, Hemel Hempstead, saw many of his table tennis team members in attendance plus several of his opponents, who celebrated well into the early hours of the morning.

Meanwhile, Watford have won the Senior Inter-League competition when they defeated all comers at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 24th April 1994.

The Watford foursome of Glen Wilkes, Justin Skinner, Dave Seaholme and Caroline Seaholme, were undefeated winning the trophy for the first time for several years.

Runners up were Barnet's first team of John Taylor, Neil Stratton and Maria Williams.

John and Tim O'Leary recently flew the flag for Hertfordshire at the National Under 15, 18, and 21 Championships at Bridlington.

In the under 15 singles John reached the last 32 where he lost to the eventual winner Steven Meddings.

John then lost to the mighty Alex Perry in the under 18 singles in the last 16 of the competition, losing six and 14.

Tim lost out also in the last 16, he was beaten by Vince Avery from Essex 13 and 10.

In the under 21 singles both boys were beaten in the opening round. John lost to Yorkshire's Michael James and Tim was beaten by Surrey's Paul Butcher.

The Champion Club competition which was due to be played in May will now be contested in September.

Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling who plays for Horsham Angels in the Women's British League, won promotion with her team from division one to the premier division next season.

I trust you all have a wonderful summer.

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Prean

ROGER Hookey became Island Champion for the sixth time and so joined the elite of multi-champions, the likes of Eric Green and the legendary Jim Daly. He got better as the event progressed. Lorna Dutch is the new ladies champion, at 14 the youngest ever. She beat Regina Stevens in a very good final. Regina who, not long ago, was in the country's top 20 women, had won the Island's top 12 in December and beaten some of our best men. She looked short of practice this time and that was no way to prepare for the England number three cadet girl. A gripping final for all that with Lorna fighting back after being 17-11 down in the second to win in straight games to create an undoubted sensation.

Greg Burns, who reached the semis here, was the Island Junior Champion. Chris Angus, Hookey's main rival, left his best form to the end of the season when, on our finals night, he achieved a tour de force which will take some beating. He played eight games in four hours, all semi finals and finals of events played on other days to that stage, and won the lot. First he won the Veterans, then the 'Handicap Doubles' with 14 year old Danny Burns for whom we see a bright future (but only if he works

hard on his game), then switched bats for the conclusion of the 'Hard Bat' events. Naturally he won both doubles and singles, the first with John Pointer, the second after a fine final with Peter Urry who plays with a hard bat all the time. Luke Canavan won the title for players from divisions four and five which was one event Angus could not win! Jackie Urry was the unlucky finalist. She lost 19 in the third, missing a high ball at 19 all, a moment she will remember for a long time. For all that, Luke was a worthy winner, playing a modern if not yet consistent game, but he knows how to hit the ball.

An interesting, if not pleasing curiosity was the fact that more players participated in our 'hard bat' events, albeit with borrowed bats, than did in our County Championships where less than 30 entered. With at least half a dozen contenders who had a fair chance and more potential outsiders, the old cry that it was a waste coming could not be heard. There were no Dalys or Preans about who might be seen as certainties. There is, of course, no really suitable venue on the island, where there is (a) enough room and (b) social facilities where those who have been knocked out can refresh themselves for the next event or drown their sorrows whilst they remember happier days.

Our new centre, which would correct all that, is still on the rails and moving hopefully towards the conclusion of formalities and the start of building. It is proving no easy matter, though it is good to endorse ETTA policies in such matters which sees the creation of such centres as a major priority.

Our juniors duly won the Hampshire Inter-Town Junior League, winning all their matches. Nic Hutchings went through both weekends unbeaten, a good way to sign off from the junior game. Lorna Dutch was similarly successful among the girls and she has three more years as a junior. She can go a long way which may include the 'European Youth Championships' one day, but only when she realises what is involved in practise and planning before the big events and I speak in terms of years rather than hours.

Our 'fixed team' won the Hampshire Mixed Inter-Town Championships, a noble feat and one we had never managed before. We were helped by having to play only two matches. It was good to have Lorna in the team and in the second match, won 7-5 vs Aldershot, decisive!

We performed poorly in the second division of the Hampshire Inter-Town Men's League and deserved to stay down! However, it was an almost solitary blemish on a good season. I nearly forgot our cadets' second place (joint) in the Hampshire Cadet League. It was achieved without Lorna who would have been one of our trump cards. The other was Danny Burns who won all his matches.

Carl Prean returned from Birmingham with a bronze medal in the team event of the European Championships - par for the course, since England had won two silver and two bronze in the last four campaigns. In the singles he lost to Waldner in the last 16, not an unusual state of affairs. It is not clear why he draws the same opponent so often in major events. The schedule was, to put it mildly, unfortunate from

his point of view and it remains unclear why one who had to play almost 'last thing at night' should have to go on so early the next morning. When one allows for the time it takes to eat and then digest before going to bed, the sums did not make sense and Waldner is not an opponent one wants to meet on unequal terms. All that in our own country!

I can only echo the astonishment in these parts when Carl's number four English ranking was noted here. However, such nonsense is not his problem, but that of those who compile such nonsense with apparent full official approval. A sad business.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

ANOTHER season closes and the Leicester and District Division One champions are Loughborough Kingfishers, with last year's champions runners up. Electricity were third.

Generally it has been a good season all round and clubs have to be congratulated in making it easier for the committee.

We did not lose to many teams throughout the season, and the prospects are looking quite good for next season, I have been told already of new teams being formed.

Once the table tennis centres are formed no doubt there will be a rise. Things are definitely looking rosier. One such centre is opening next September at a leisure complex in Aylestone.

I have now got most of the cup competitions results and they are as follows The Corral Cup was won by Loughborough Kingfishers who beat Electricity 5-1. Mike Meredith and Ryan Keates got two each with one from Steve Safrany.

The Saracen Cup was won by British Shoe who beat Belgrave W.M.C. 6-0 all three British Shoe player scored two each Mick Box, Ken Whitehead and Dave Wagstaff. This team also won the Division Three title.

The Frith Trophy was won also by British Shoe who beat Leicester Electricity 5-2. For the Shoe Derek Butt and Richard Hough won two each with one from Dave Silvester. Electricity's two successes were from Bob Kenyon.

The fourth event, the Lillian Williamson Memorial Trophy, was won by Kingfisher Park who won 9-0. The Park side were represented by Alan Passingham, Tony Walker and Helen Griffiths.

The Leicester and District League's Summer Competition the 'Elbow Tankard' has commenced and nineteen teams have entered. Four sections have been formed and the top two in each will go into the finals.

Not too many results are in at present so we will give the progress in the next edition of Table Tennis News.

The Leicestershire County Junior Championships were held at the end of April at the Rushey Mead School and thanks go out to the organisers and helpers to make it a successful event.

In the Under 12 mixed event Nimesh Chandedana (Soar Valley) was unbeaten in his four matches in a round robin. He was taken to three by the runner up Alison Brierley (Knighton Park) all the other three players in this event were related to league players, they were

COUNTY NOTES - 4

Leane Boulter, Ajay Nakershree and Jiten Modha, the last two are aged seven and eight..

The Under 14 Mixed event had fourteen competitors Laura Smith (Knighton Park) just overcome Daniel Marriott (K.P.) 18-21, 21-16, 21-19. The other semi finalist were Mikir Gokil (Rushey Mead) and James Lancaster (Knighton).

In the Under 17 Girls there were only two entrants the winner was Kathryn Freer (K.P.) over the holder Laura Smith also Knighton 21-19, 21-19.

Under 17 Boys seventeen entrants. The winner was Matthew Hobday (New Brownstone Goons) who beat Stuart Palmer (K.P.) 21-12, 21-10 to show his quality in his last junior match. He was also unbeaten in the under 17 level, and has been a credit to his county. Semi finalists in this event were Pritesh Nakershree (Rushey Mead) and Abraham Conteh (Electricity). This event was very strong and we saw some excellent play throughout under 17 doubles. Mathew-Hobday and Stuart Palmer defeated Jitesh Patel and Pritesh Nakershree 21-19, 21-23, 21-19.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

THE Inter-Town competitions have been completed, the veterans cup again attracting the most entries with Spalding the only town not to have a team entered. Grimsby won to regain the title they had previously held for seven years until Stamford pipped them on a count back of games to take the title last season. Surprisingly Stamford only finished fourth this season, second place went to the much improved Lincoln team.

TOP AVERAGES

Tom Marland 19/21, Mick Corry 17/21 (Grimsby), Peter Banks 17/21, Ces Pickwell 15/18 (Lincoln).

Boston retained the Butcher Cup with a good all round team performance with Spalding runners up thanks to a fine effort by Rod Goss winning 10/12. Others: Mick Dudman 9/9 (Lincoln), Mike Bailey 9/12 (Grimsby).

In the Haigh Cup (played home and away) the main contenders were Grantham the title holders and Lincoln last year's runners up, both teams unbeaten until they played each other, then the Lincoln team came out on top and went on to win the title and reverse last year's positions.

TOP AVERAGES

Simon Pullen 14/18 (Grantham), Andy Wignall 14/18, Peter Mackie 12/15 (Lincoln).

VETERAN CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grimsby	8	8	0	0	61	19	15
Lincoln	8	7	0	1	56	24	14
Scunthorpe	8	5	0	3	45	35	10
Stamford	8	4	0	4	47	33	8
Gainsbor.	8	4	0	4	43	47	8
Grantham	8	3	0	5	32	48	6
Boston	8	2	1	5	26	54	5
Mablethorpe	8	1	2	5	27	53	4
Grimsby II	8	0	1	7	23	57	1

BUTCHER CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Boston	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Spalding	5	3	0	2	35	15	6
Grimsby	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Lincoln	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Grantham	5	2	0	3	31	29	4
Gainsbor.	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

HAIGH CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Lincoln	8	7	1	0	63	16*	15
Grantham	8	5	1	2	57	23	11
Gainsbor.	8	2	2	4	40	40	6
Boston	8	3	0	5	25	55	6
Grimsby	8	0	2	6	24	55*	2

*match with only two players each team

MIDDLESEX

Lorna Taylor

JASON Sugrue is definitely coming into his own this season, playing exceptionally good table tennis and has improved unbelievably well. The March/April ranking list ranked him the number two cadet boy in England. He was recently picked for England and in which he made his debut in April.

Despite the valiant efforts of our junior teams in the first Junior British League held at Bletchley in April, the results were overall disappointing. Several teams were fielded but with the accent on future years new talent. Including progress bringing out both a girls and a boys team, with Jason being the top player. Wembley and Harrow had a young and fairly inexperienced side nationally, however considering two of the players have about five years left in the juniors, we can expect great things in the future from them.

Due to West Middlesex beating Wembley and Harrow in the Rose Bowl (ladies team) Zone final they faced Plymouth. They put up a great fight but also to no avail. There were some good matches with Plymouth fielding a strong side of county players. The West Middlesex side consisted of Mateja Glusic, Gilleen Blanch and Liz Blanch.

There was a burning issue as to whether inter-league matches should be played in the week day evenings or weekends. Matches have been known to extend to the early hours of the morning when played in the evenings. The committees have been locked in combat discussing these all important topics! However, despite expedite conferences the matter still remains unresolved. For further news watch this space!

Colin Wilson, the development officer for the Greater London area, is continuing to do exceptionally well in his job in creating more players and venues as well as encouraging potential organisers and coaches. He recently made a presentation to the Sports Council about how Focus Sport initiative is developing and I believe he made a good impression. Some of the developments in Middlesex which Colin has administered recently include a wide variety of marketing campaigns.

On the 7th May, the London Borough of Hounslow open a new Borough Centre for Development, with star guest Desmond Douglas. Allen Roper has been appointed the new

Development Officer for the Wembley and Harrow League. He has already started up coaching in two of the schools in the area in conjunction with Lowlands TTC. Progress WHS TTC are still looking to establish a joint venture with Hammersmith and Fulham LBC in conjunction with the Linford Christie Stadium Project. This will hopefully bring a far stronger framework for county and regional needs. Haringey Sports Association have just been awarded a £15,000 grant to put table tennis tables, nets and balls into all the 28 schools in the borough. They also have a development programme to back it up. Camden and Islington's Coaching Development Programme at the moment is to produce better players and coaches. Westminster have just held a ranking tournament and Hounslow have planned their first tournament for the 21st May. A new club has opened in Kensington and Chelsea due to the appointment of Michael Foster, the Middlesex coach and now the Sports Development Officer for the borough. Hackney have now had two borough junior ranking tournaments. There is also some thought into a specialist facility at Islington Tennis Centre. The London Junior T.T. Scheme have just been awarded a grant for £5,500 which I am sure is greatly needed.

Since the European Championships in Birmingham in April, Colin Wilson has been getting a considerable amount of general enquiries about taking up the sport. The amount of people asking for information packs has gone up threefold.

On the inter-league front, the Victor Barna Cup (mens team) was won by North Middlesex, with the following players representing them: Graham Sandley, David Goode, Nicky McKay, Simon Rackall, Chris Marlow, Simon Proffitt, John Proffitt and C. Millward. The Norman Pegg (womens team event) was also won by North Middlesex, with their team consisting of Morta Pluckeva, Claire Plumridge and Lesley Keast. Sara Williams (Willsden) gained a 100% record in this cup. The B.W. Birmingham (juniors) was won by West Middlesex. The Ted Connel Premier (veterans) was won by North Middlesex and the Ted Connel Division 2 was won by Staines.

Contrary to rumours caused by the misprint of my name in the recent edition of this publication my name has not been changed by deed poll or matrimony. I am still free and single!

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

THE drama of the Macs Supermarkets County Mens Singles began early for Ian Hawes, who was caught cold in his initial group match by young Paul Adams, went down 21, -16, 17. Fortunately in his first game Adams had been beaten in straight games by Hartley Hancock, and when Hawes brushed aside the early shock to despatch Hancock by the short route, the number one seed found himself through to the competition proper.

Steve Silk and Terry Luxton were not so fortunate, failing to make progress when beaten by Richard Bashford and Mike Pond respectively.

However forty eight hours later on finals night at Glamis Hall, Hawes

began in devastating form, when his fierce, persistent attacking play eclipsed former veteran champion Keith Jones at the semi final stage to set up a final against number seven seed Ryan Keates, whose occasional fallibility had only temporarily been exposed by the defensive technique of Steve Brown.

The final between Hawes, the Kettering Closed title holder and his Northampton counterpart failed to achieve its potential, with the fleetness of foot and the greater match fitness of Keates giving him the edge in all departments, and it was not until late in the second that Hawes was able to make any impression, and Keates went on to take the title in straight games, and with it the number one position on the Macs Supermarkets County Ranking List.

Earlier Keates had joined Sally Russell in the mixed doubles - an event in which they had ended as runners up twelve months ago. This time there was to be no mistake, and the leading singles exponents proved too strong for Ray Kingston and Clem Little.

Miss Russell also retained the womens singles, on this occasion beating Towcester's Donna Furniss, and then combined with her beaten opponent to register a fourth successive win in the womens doubles to achieve the traditional treble, an accomplishment denied to Keates. In the closest game of the night, he and Brown fought out a protracted battle with Kettering Town's Gordon Shaw and Terry Luxton, only to fall victims to Shaw's tenacity and Luxton's spasmodic brilliance.

Russell, in her final year as a junior, notched a sixth successive girls singles, but in the open doubles it was the boys who took the honours, with Joe Trippett and Paul Adams just holding off Nicky Spence and Andrew Thomas at duce in the decider, before the beaten finalists took the under 14 event against Majid and Imran Soorty.

In the under 17 boys singles, Paul Adams made an excellent start and then gave nothing away against a tentative Joe Trippett before going on to gain a comfortable win.

After performing superbly on the Saturday, Ran Kingston's form deserted him, and he fell an easy victim to an impressive Michael Edwards, who took the veterans singles for the first time, to add to the doubles he and Kingston had fully earned against Shaw and Mike Pond.

In the over 50's events, Keith Jones reigned supreme in both singles and doubles, but Gwil Evans provided several surprises on his way to an unrewarding final. Jones combined with Dick Cole to take the doubles at the expense of John Palmer and Dennis Millman, and Cole was again in the ascendancy in the 60's competitions, reversing last season's defeat at the hands of Millman, before the Kettering pair combined together to take a third successive doubles.

At the other end of the spectrum, Gabrielle Evans took the under 14 girls title, and Andrew Thomas in the corresponding boys, James Fitton held on to the under 12 trophy against a worthy challenger in Imran Soorty, who together with his brother Majid again had an excellent tournament.

In the classified events Alan Ashberry beat Mark Adams in the Class

1 Singles, and then with Phil Slade, survived a 20-14 third end semi final deficit against Tom Cardwell and Dennis Millman, before proving too experienced for Adams and Tom Trippett in the final, while Lee Cooper, not satisfied with the Class 3 Singles, added the Class 2 for good measure, with Neil Gibbs coming out top in Class 4.

Mark Adams was a runner up for the third time when he failed to contain Paul Smith in the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy, but the happiest winner of the day, with the possible exception of Tournament Organiser Arthur Palmer, was Clem Little, who beat Muriel Cox in the Over 40's womens singles to gain her first major success.

SOMERSET

Andy Seward

THE last two months of the season has seen the usual local League Closed Tournaments and also the County Junior Assessments for next season.

Fourteen boys from most parts of the County (and elsewhere, guess which player), duly attended the Junior Boys assessments at the 'hur' at Henton. After five hours of play on two tables, fifty-one matches having been played, the Chief Ranking Officer declared the result - that if the players were ranked in one particular order, only one match (out of the 51 played) would be an 'unexpected result'!

So congratulations to Michael Ong (Millfield), Andrew Rumary (Gurney Slade), Chris Sayers (Millfield), John Summers (Wells), Simon Gitsham (Bridgwater) and Gavin Murphy (Bridgwater).

And so to the history lesson. I am grateful to Jim Sadler for his research on the topic.

YEOVIL & DISTRICT LEAGUE

The Yeovil League was founded in 1947 and by 1950 had grown to 20 teams. A well attended 'finals' night was organised at the end of the 1950 season and the then President of the Association Mr. H. J. Perris presented the awards. The lucky winner of the draw won a Bergmann bat - second prize was a dozen eggs!! Entrance to the finals was by programme only at a cost of 2d.

In 1953, the League boasted 32 teams and affiliated for the first time to the Somerset County Association. The following years were years of steady growth and Yeovil joined the Somerset Inter-Town League finishing second to Failand in 1964. A special mention here of George Philpott, well known to all Somerset leagues who won the Yeovil Mens Singles title in seven consecutive seasons from 1958 until 1964.

There was also the formidable Bonner family, mother Betty and daughters Daphne and Penny, who took it in turns to get their names on the Ladies Singles Cup during this period. It is nice to record that Dennis Bonner, husband of Betty, is still competing in the Yeovil League this season; daughter Penny is number five in the National Ranking List for Veteran Women and her son Alex Perry is number 13 in the Senior Mens list. What a pleasant and talented family.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

HORSHAM ANGELS, still searching for a sponsor for next season in the Friendly Hotels British League have signed a star player they have been eyeing for years - Adrian Moore, the England number 18 based at Bexhill.

Adrian has been signed from Bath. This move strengthens the Angels in player-power; if only they had a sponsor. Any team with Ritchie Venner at number three and the rumbustious Mike Hammond at number four will be difficult to beat for most of the teams in the premier division. Angels will line-up in all probability with Moore at number one, Nigel Tyler at number two.

Meanwhile, National Development Officer Diccon Gray has pulled out of the Angels line-up, perhaps as a temporary move due to pressure of work, but he has a useful young replacement - Alan Cole, also returning to Sussex after playing for several seasons for the Mitcham Club Rejects.

How much did it cost English players to go to the World Veterans Championships in Melbourne? I would estimate that none of the 90 who went from England would have seen much change out of £1,500. Sussex stalwarts Pauline Steel and Gerry Batt-Rawden (our rubbers expert), the man with the long pimples were there. He pulled off an outstanding victory in the Over 60's singles, bringing down the holder from Lincolnshire - Matt Sheader.

WARWICKSHIRE

Pete Walden

AT the time of writing this report, final positions in two divisions of the Leamington and District League have still to be decided. A real tussle is taking place for the top spot for division two with four teams currently in contention. The favourites look to be Lillington Free Church 'C' with three players aged below 15 in their side. St. Georges 'C' will be pushing them all the way to the line though.

Good to see that Hugh Matthews has won the averages in this division. Hugh is instrumental in organising the highly successful tournaments held throughout the season by the Lillington Free Church T.T.C. These tournaments have special sections for both beginners and improvers, and provide the perfect platform for aspiring young players - some as young as six - to get the feel of tournament play.

Leamington division one champions this year are Wellesbourne 'A' with their number one Andy Cockerill topping the averages with 61 wins out of 63, a fine achievement. St. Georges 'A' finished as runners-up.

In division three Potterton 'A' look likely to lead the way home from Radford and Royal Navy Club 'C'. Steve Kurle leads the averages here with only four defeats in 62 stars; well played Steve!

Division four has been settled with Lillington Free Church 'L' finishing ahead of the PHAB club. Steve Shaw from Riverhouse leads the averages with 37 out of 39.

The Warwickshire team handicap trophy, the Mackie Cup, goes this

season to the St. Georges staff team from Birmingham who won an enthralling final against Standard 'B' from Coventry (led by the one and only Mr. Geoff Taylor). St. Georges won by 39 points on the night then received a handicap start of 27 points (which really made Geoff's night!). Their team of Steve McDonald, Colin Rogers and Howard Knight were deserved winners on the night though. Commiserations to Geoff, Bev Williams and Martin Tallis for putting up a splendid fight!

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horon

A few outstanding county matches to report on. The juniors, at home to Wiltshire, made a good start with David Stephens beating Luke Leach and Tim Evans beating Stephen Penfold for a 2-0 lead. Stephanie Price lost her singles - 16 in the third and Robin-Sedman Smith lost to Tim O'Mahoney and Wiltshire were level at 2-2. The next three games went to Worcester thanks to Zoe Evans, Tim Evans and Stephanie Price of lead 5-2. David Stephens lost the next singles and the lead was reduced to 5-3. In the next game Zoe Evans was facing defeat trailing 12-18 in the deciding set against Debbie King. Zoe rallied superbly to clinch the set 21-19 and Robin-Sedman Smith rounded off a good win by taking the final stages for a 7-3 match score.

Worcester II travelled to Cornwall for a double match against their first and second teams. An overnight stay and the need to hire a car made this an expensive weekend but the results were satisfactory. In the match against Cornwall they were beaten 8-2, but beat Cornwall II 9-1. Mark Brookes and Carrie Hunt both won three out of four singles.

The veteran team beat Lincs II 5-4 thanks to a double from Mervyn Wood, one from Kwok Chan and a mixed and mens doubles.

On the league front - Hawbush have won the first encounter between the top two Dudley sides beating Bromley 'A' 6-4. Matt Harvey overcame his back problem to record a match winning hat-trick which included two wins from the brink of defeat. R.O.S. are well clear at the top of the Kidderminster division one and are still undefeated. Evesham Rowing Club head Worcester division one with their rivals losing ground in recent weeks. Kington Bulldogs comprising of Bill Dawson, Andrew and Ernie Smith lead Evesham division one by four points with no defeats. I have been informed that Joe Porter in division two has won six out of 18 this season. Not bad for a 77 year old!

A report on team knockout competitions.

SCRATCH COMPETITION

The current holders, Bromley 'A' (Dudley) defeated Himbleton 'B' (Worcs) 9-0 and Astwood Bank 'A' (Bromsgrove) beat Old Elizabethan's (O.E.'s 'A' - Worcs) by the same score. Himbleton 'C' (Worcs) beat W.G.C.C. also of Worcs 9-0 with the only close match in the competition being won by Redditch Roamers (Worcs) against Cripplegate 'B' (Worcs) by 5-4. Semi final line up: Bromley 'A' v Astwood Bank 'B' Himbleton 'C' v Redditch Roamers

HANDICAP COMPETITION

In this competition we have had one result won by one point and one with a big difference. Full credit must be given to the handicap panel for providing so many close matches in this competition in recent years. The semi final line up W.G.C.C. 'B' (+280) v Upton Sports Club 'A' (+280)
O.E.'s 'A' (+120) v Astwood Bank 'A' (+0)
v O.E.'s 'B' (+250)

These two competitions should represent the best overall teams in the county. Unfortunately the county is failing to attract the top teams from the affiliated leagues resulting with poor competition. Entry forms are available at the start of each season but are being ignored by the majority of teams. I suspect that the problem of finding venues and fitting in the extra matches would be the main cause of this. The county are to consider the possibility of 'two player teams' playing two matches at a venue.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

FOLLOWING last month's notes which featured the growth of our sport among the youngsters in Scarborough, news is to hand from Bradford, where a massive 224 players were at the Eccleshill Sports Centre to complete in the Bradford Schools' Championships.

And the family appeal of the sport was very much to the fore with Heather Shutt, daughter of Bob and Sally (nee Midgeley) both of whom still turn out at top level for Bradford's Unity club, and brothers Craig and Gavin Renton, sons of David, also a Unity player, and grandsons of Richard, former club supreme, who has now moved away to live in Bridlington, all on parade.

Craig, aged seven, was the youngest of the medal winners with a bronze in the under 10s, while another seven year old, Sarah Pearson from Rossefield School picked up a silver in the under 11s.

And still on the family theme, the Listers from nearby Keighley shared eight medals with thirteen year old Joanne taking four golds, James (10) 'doubling up' with a gold and a silver and leanne (12) and Matthew (eight) each claiming a silver.

Joining Joanne as one of the two outstanding players of the tournament was 15 year old Darren Wright (Tong School) who, after taking runner up spot in three events twelve months ago, moved up to strike gold in the 15S, 19S and 19D.

And youth is certainly getting its head across the county, for 13 year old Emma Smith, already a county junior in her own right, pocketed the ladies singles title at the Selby Closed with a win over the steadily improving Vicki Newman.

But top billing in the tournament must go to Chris Nicholls who made history as he became the first player to take the Open Singles title in three successive seasons as, in a report of the 92/93 final, he got the better of younger brother Andrew.

Shocks in the semi final, however, where third seeds Mick Wilcockson and David Jackson were dismissed by Paul

Kirby and Jim Robe who, in turn, gave best to the Nicholls brothers who, incidentally also claimed the doubles title, in the semis.

Over to the Leeds Closed - like Bradford, virtually a West Riding Championship - where Tim Dyson, who had already collected the championship in his home town of Huddersfield, took the major honours as he won the mens singles past Simon Pugh (Halifax) and then teamed with Russell Senior for the mens doubles.

The pair also added the handicap doubles while, on the ladies side, three titles went to Caroline Bentley (Bradford) - singles and the two doubles - with Sandra Rider (Bradford) and Richard Smith (Huddersfield).

Other winners - veteran singles Nick Davies (Harrogate); boys singles Matthew Harpe; girls singles Nicola Silburn; handicap singles Tom Stephenson.

Harrogate Wanderers took the veteran trophy in the Yorkshire Club Championships with a 5-0 victory over Unity (Bradford) - not surprising with a side including Nick Davies, former Sheffield United and Leeds United football star Len Browning and, of course, the legendary Denis Neale.

And, within 48 hours of victory, Denis was on the plane for Australia to compete in the World Veteran Championships in Sydney.

The urge for another fling at top level is obviously there for a man whose stature in Yorkshire table tennis would compare with that of the 'greats' in other sports in the county - Norman Hunter in football, Brian Close on the cricket field and Ellery Hanley in the world of rugby come to mind - love them or hate them, they cannot be ignored and must be respected - and Denis' parting comment typified the man "I'm going out there to win."

And the best wishes of all those who knew Denis in his halcyon days will go with him.

KENT

Adrian Hall

National Team Events

Bromley progressed to the final of the Carter Cup (National U17 Boys Team Event) with a 5-2 win against Bristol. Bromley number one Christopher Hall again turned in a star performance winning all three of his matches. He was well supported on this occasion by Robert Waller who won two, no luck in this match for Lee Smith. For Bristol Alex Sheppard and Graham Long won a game apiece. Bromley now make their way to Grantham on June 12th for the final.

Christian in England side at Junior Open

Medway's Christian Thompson selected for the cadet team in the English Junior Open turned in a spectacular performance in the Junior Team Event when he beat the European number two cadet Dhar Slipean (Holland) 19-21, 22-20, 22-20 and the Belgium number two and European top 10 ranked junior Cedric Marchet 23-25, 21-11, 21-17 for a hat-full of ranking points. Christian lost in the quarter final of the cadet singles to the eventual winner and with his team

mate Gareth Herbert (Berks) reached the semi final of the Junior Plate losing to the England Junior II.

Hillreed Homes Maidstone Closed

The Hillreed Homes Maidstone Closed was played at the Mote Park Leisure Centre on Sunday 13th February 1994. Kent's policy of bleeding young players just out of the junior game in a development county senior side seems to be paying dividends as the youngsters upset some of the seedings to reach the semi finals of the men's singles.

MENS SINGLES SEMI FINALS

Christian Thompson beat Peter Barrow w.o.
Martin Hewett beat Darren Boyce 23-21, 21-18

MENS SINGLES

Martin Hewett beat Christian Thompson 21-17, 17-21, 21-16

LADIES SINGLES

Claire Hunter beat Carly Riggs 21-7, 21-9

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Christian Thompson beat Scott Friday 21-11, 21-10

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Crystal Hall beat Rachel Woolven 21-15, 20-22, 21-18

VETERAN MENS SINGLES

Gordon Harris beat Barry Soilleux 21-14, 21-16

VETERAN LADIES SINGLES

Gloria Dowding beat June Woolven 21-19, 21-7

MENS DOUBLES

Graham French/Mike Ling beat Darren Boyce/Alan Longhurst 21-12, 21-18

LADIES DOUBLES

Allison Pearson/June Woolven beat Claire Hunter/Crystal Hall 15-21, 21-17, 21-14

MIXED DOUBLES

Neil Highams/Claire Hunter beat Martin Hewett/Carly Riggs 21-15, 21-6

Sevenoaks Table Tennis League Closed Championships

The Sevenoaks Sunday League Championships were played at Donnington Hall on Sunday 27th February 1994. As usual these championships were splendidly run by Roger Pingram and tournament organiser Brian Merfield.

OPEN SINGLES

Roger Pingram beat Trevor Milner 21-8, 21-8

OPEN DOUBLES

Adrian Hall/Shev McDonald beat Trevor Milner/Barry Skates 24-22, 9-21, 21-14

JUNIOR SINGLES

Chris French beat Mark Berry 21-19, 21-7

JUNIOR DOUBLES

William Brown/Chris French beat Dominic Hall/Chris Williams 18-21, 21-15, 21-17

OVER 45 SINGLES

Adrian Hall beat Brian Merfield 23-21, 17-21, 21-19

DIVISION TWO SINGLES

Peter Warner beat Derek Allen 21-10, 21-16

DIVISION THREE SINGLES

Chris French beat William Brown 17-21, 21-15, 25-23

Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells Combined Closed

The combined tournament was played at the Hugh Christie School, an excellent venue now being used by the local leagues for tournaments. The organisation was again in the hands of Paul White who has been doing a fine job for the league for many years. There was a surprise result in the junior singles when Daniel Cheeseman beat Ben McCarthy after a three set struggle.

OPEN SINGLES

Andrew Houghton beat Tony Worthington 21-16, 12-21, 21-14

JUNIOR SINGLES

Daniel Cheeseman beat Ben McCarthy 19-21, 21-13, 21-18

VETERAN SINGLES

Roger Pingram beat Tony Cordingley 21-9, 21-17

OPEN DOUBLES

Roger Pingram/Ron Terry beat John Davison/Brian Lees 21-16, 21-19

Gravesend and District Closed

The championships were played at Isted Rise Community Centre on Sunday 13th February with the final staged at the Traders Hall, Northfleet on the following Tuesday.

MENS SINGLES SEMI FINALS

Steve Broad beat Robert May 21-17, 21-12

George Dianin beat Wayne Holder 21-19, 21-17

MENS SINGLES

Steve Broad beat George Dianin 21-14, 21-19

LADIES SINGLES

Pam Butcher beat Gill Russell 14-21, 21-16, 21-8

JUNIOR SINGLES

Justin Dodd beat Steven Reeve 21-16, 21-16

VETERAN SINGLES

Steve Broad beat David Lewis 21-10, 21-15

MENS DOUBLES

David Lewis/Wayne Youngs beat George Dianin/Alan Fitzgerald 15-21, 21-13, 21-15

LADIES DOUBLES

Michelle Phillips/Gill Fitzgerald beat Marilyn Dodd/Gill Russell 23-25, 21-16, 21-14

MIXED DOUBLES

George Dianin/Michelle Phillips beat Robert May/Pam Butcher 18-21, 24-22, 21-16

LANCASHIRE

Stan Clarke

With the county championship matches completed and the final team positions clarified the senior premier side enjoyed a good second weekend moving from bottom of the division to fourth spot thanks to the efforts of Sea Gibson, Jonathon Taylor, Darren Howarth, Maria Thornley and Paul French. The team were undefeated in four matches taking a point from eventual winners Essex and Devon and defeating Middlesex and Sussex. In view of the absence of key players over both weekends the final position was very commendable.

The senior second team finished as winners of their division, remaining

unbaten throughout the season, this team probably more than any other suffered from the non availability of players with only Tamar Connolly being an ever present, however, with a squad containing Tony Taylor, Steve Scowcroft, Darren Howarth, Graham Clarke, Paul Hutchings and Kevin Dolder the team was able to fulfill every fixture except against Cumbria when the N.P.C. was forced to turn out. The real problem for this team is the lack of good quality lady players in the county. Lindsay Thornton and Tama Connolly performed well but with Paul French and Brenda Buocoy ruled out through having played in a higher team the only reserves were Mandy Winskill and Janette Hutchings, with Mandy unavailable due to a back injury the county is beginning to suffer from a lack of lady players.

The most upsetting result is that the junior first team has been relegated from the junior premier division, the absence of number one Kevin Dolder from the final weekend, due to British League commitments, virtually guaranteed that the team would lose its premier division place. I hate to say I told you so, but I do recall that I was subjected to certain amounts of criticism last year when I suggested that the County would soon be suffering from the lack of top quality junior players, well that day has dawned even sooner than I expected. Before I am accused of being short sighted I am aware of the quality of Kevin Dolder, Glen Payne, Darryl Meredith not forgetting Lindsay Thornton, but a county like Lancashire should be producing many more junior players, and if we want to get back into the top flight in the near future then an influx of junior players is desperately needed.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League season is virtually completed with only two promotion places to be decided. In the mens divisions Warrington are champions of division one with Liverpool runners up. Barrow won division two north and Bury division two south with Burnley and Macclesfield the respective runners up. Junior division one was won by Barrow and Bolton runners up, a highly successful season for Barrow resulted in the 'A' team winning junior division 2A whilst Wirral were winners of junior 2B. As expected Liverpool won the ladies division, their fifth win in six seasons with Oldham ladies in second spot, Preston won ladies division two with Wirral runners up.

The vets division one was won once again by Stockport with Liverpool in second place. Burnley won division two with Trafford in runners up place, to emphasise a good season for their various representative teams Liverpool 'A' won vets division six.

Congratulations to Andrew Eden on making the England squad for Euro 94, and on his engagement to his American fiancée.

Congratulations also to Liverpool ladies team who are through to the semi finals of the Rosebowl trophy with a quarter final defeat of Leeds 5/3. Natasha Williams undefeated in three trips to the table and Brenda Buocoy with two wins saw the team through, Paula French came close to the upset of the night losing 21/19 in the third to Joanna Roberts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KIRKLEES JUNIOR 2 STAR

3/4 SEPTEMBER 1994

Huddersfield Sports Centre, Huddersfield.

Organiser: Bevan Walker, 1 Rooks Close, Wyke, Bradford.

Tel: 0274 672005 0274 853 200 (work)

SHIRE CATERING (GROVE) SENIOR 2 STAR

10/11 SEPTEMBER 1994

The Grove School, Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Organiser: Ian Marshall, Greenfields, Betton Road, Market Drayton.

Tel: 0630 653 602

PENIEL JUNIOR 2 STAR SELECT INTERNATIONAL

10/11 SEPTEMBER 1994

Brentwood International Centre, Brentwood, Essex. *Tel: 0277 215 151*

Organiser: Dick Roffe, 54 Curtis Road, Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Essex.

Tel: 0708 472 341

TAYLOR MADE TROPHIES (GROVE) JUNIOR 2 STAR

17/18 SEPTEMBER 1994

The Grove School, Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Organiser: Ian Marshall, Greenfields, Betton Road, Market Drayton.

Tel: 0603 653 602

SELBY JUNIOR 1 STAR

17 SEPTEMBER 1994

Selby High School, Leeds Road, Selby.

Organiser: Mike Wilcoxson, 42 Petre Avenue, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Tel: 0757 706 356

TERN HILL CELLULAR SALES (GROVE) SENIOR 2 STAR

24/25 SEPTEMBER 1994

The Grove School, Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Organiser: Ian Marshall, Greenfields, Betton Road, Market Drayton.

Tel: 0603 653 602