



Table Tennis News

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October 1993

**SYED WINS
PENIEL 5 STAR**





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TABLE TENNIS NEWS
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Players of the Month

This month's choice is Chen Xin Hua and Lisa Lomas for their outstanding European victories.

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<i>Matthew Syed who magnificently won the Peniel 5 Star Mens Singles trophy. (Picture John F.A. Wood)</i>	

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



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Graham is our new Information Manager

Graham Carter has been appointed as the ETTA's new Information Officer.

He has been working in table tennis promotion in his spare time for over 10 years.

His PR work includes being a reporter for BBC Radio Sussex, Press Officer of Horsham Angels Friendly Hotels British League club, Pavilion Ladies British Women's League team and the Crawley and Horsham League.

Graham, 31, is also a keen player and has played in local leagues for 20 years. He represented Sussex as a Junior and plays regularly in the top division of the Crawley and Horsham and Haywards Heath Leagues for Horsham Table Tennis Club.

His current employment is at aircraft maintenance firm FLS, formerly known as Dan-Air Engineering, at Gatwick Airport. "My mates there are wishing me luck and are hoping that I will become the new Desmond Lynam."

Graham will be moving to Hastings to take up the new job: "I feel most excited and am very much looking forward to the new challenges."



Graham Carter our new Information Manager

Olympic Games

Just before Sydney were awarded the 2000 Games on September 23, news emerged from the BOA Press Conference at the Cafe Royal in London that Delta airlines are to splash out £4.5m on flight tickets to fly British Olympic teams to Atlanta for a three-year period of acclimatisation and training in the heat.

It will be hotter there in 1996 than in Barcelona, we are told. And from Monte Carlo came the news that women's soccer, beach volleyball and mountain bike racing will make their debuts in Atlanta. No news of sports getting the elbow so far, but if three new sports are in, some

must be out. England manager Don Parker told TTN "I shall be taking teams from Britain to the training sessions in Atlanta and adjacent training centres over the next three years."

Delta's home base is Atlanta, that is why British Airways could not match the American deal.

Back to Delhi!

THOSE who suffered from all sorts of ailments when the World Championships were staged in New Delhi will be fascinated to hear that the 1994 Commonwealth Championships have been switched from Goa to Delhi next January.

Those who may be going this time should start their series of inoculations now!

England ladies beat Sweden

LUTON'S Lisa Lomas led England's Women's team to a sensational 4-1 victory over red-hot favourites Sweden, in a Womens European League match at The Edison Table Tennis club in Hornsey, London.

Lomas set the scene for England when with a mixture of strong backspin defensive play and sharp topspin attacks, she finally overwhelmed Sweden's Asa Svensson 19-21, 21-18, 21-10.

When Lisa returned to the table to face Sweden's No. 1 Marie Svensson, the match score at 3-1 to England, and to the delight of the crowds Lomas took the game and match for her country winning 21-11, 17-21, 21-13.

Early in the evening Alison Gordon beat Marie Svensson 21-17, 12-21, 21-17, and Lomas and Andrea Holt won the doubles beating the two Svensson girls 13-21, 21-17, 21-17.

A full report will appear in the November issue of Table Tennis News.

Broken Jaw

RYAN SAVILL, 17 years old and, last season's surprise member of the European junior England team, has sadly broken his jaw and will be out of action for three months.

FRANCE - Female Player Wanted

To play in Division 2 and win promotion to Division 1 in January. Club situated North of Paris (100 miles from Calais). Student in French required if possible for a school year's teaching job and TT training courses. Contact: TTSQ - BP 189 - SAINT-QUENTIN (France). Contact before end of October.

T.T. VIDEOS SYD FRYER

8 Cleveland Road, Hale, Atrincham, 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 - Swedish 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.

Great start in Europe

ENGLAND have made a great start in the European League with the men beating Poland at Whitwick and the Women defeating Sweden by the same score at the Edison Club in London.

In the match on September 7th supported by the North West Leicestershire District Council. The England trio, Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke all did well in their singles. Poland's only victory came in the doubles when Donald Parker with a 3-0 lead under his belt decided to give emerging Jonathan Taylor and Chris Oldfield the opportunity of European League experience. The lads played well taking the Poles to three games but were defeated in the decider.

Victory over the Netherlands in the next match on 5th October in Stourbridge, (supported by Dudley Borough Council) would almost certainly give England their semi-final place leaving the visit to Sweden for the last group match to decide only the top two finishing places. For the Dutch match, Carl Prean is expected to be back in the England line-up having recovered from the wrist injury that dampened his performance last season.

Carl was hoping to return to the England team for the challenge match against Belgium in Leeds which was televised by BBC Grandstand the following day. If Carl can come back refreshed after his enforced layoff and can recover his best form, then this could be England's best season in recent times. Chen Xinhua is looking fitter and fresher than at any time since his arrival from China. Matthew Syed is looking very good having enjoyed an excellent start to the season and Alan Cooke is also back to full fitness.

With two wins and the doubles from Lisa Lomas the England womens team excelled to beat Sweden on September 21st. The women's division this year is very tough because 3 of the 10 teams are to be relegated and this win for England gives a great boost to the teams chances of retaining their super division place. Lisa Lomas was supported well in this match by Alison Gordon who did well to win her singles and by Andrea Holt in the doubles.



Alan Ransome

RANKING SCHEME RE-WITTEN

Thanks to a remarkable piece of computer software programme writing by Adam Twiss, the revised computer ranking system will be implemented from the 1st October 1993. After taking into account the recommendations and comments from both coaches and players on the tournament circuit and the opinions of National Council, the Ranking Committee decided to introduce a bonus scheme that will be added to the current rating scheme to produce the final ranking list.

The bonuses will be given to each player each time they play a match, so giving extra points to the winner and effectively reducing the level of lost points for the loser. The list will appear with three columns, the first column will be the current rating points figure, the second the current bonus total and the third will be the total of the first two columns.

This will have the dual benefit keeping the accuracy and integrity of the current rating scheme and at the same time encouraging participation through the bonus programme.

To make the necessary changes to the current ranking computer software, the Ranking Committee approached the Canadian Table Tennis Association but after initial indications to the contrary the Canadians were unable to implement the requested changes within the time scale

required.

Ranking Committee member, Geoff Twiss, offered on a voluntary basis the services of his 17 year old son Adam to re-write the programme from scratch, incorporating all the changes. Adam is both a tournament player and a qualified umpire, as well as having excellent skills with a computer. Adam has finished his 'A' levels with five top grade passes this summer and has been accepted at Cambridge University to study Computer Science commencing in October. He accepted the challenge and spent over 300 hours at his computer over a four week period, writing and perfecting the programme. He has not only incorporated all the features of the Canadian scheme but has also added the bonus scheme to meet the requirements of the ranking committee.

The re-written software also considerably reduces the computer running time and the amount of paperwork needed to access the information. The programme also includes an experimental "wins only" listing so that the results of the scheme not including losses can be published for comparison purposes and can be implemented at a later date if found to be a better system.

Our thanks go to Adam Twiss for his considerable highly skilled work and to Canadian Table Tennis Association who have helped us greatly over the last two years when we were experiencing difficulties with the former scheme. Geoff Twiss has produced a leaflet explaining the ranking scheme and the new changes which will be issued with the October list.

PROBLEMS AT PENIEL

My greatest concern so far this season, is the happenings at the Peniel 5 Star in September when a team event was aborted by the withdrawal of both the England and BFL Grove teams at the semi final and final stages following allegations that some of the French and Belgium players were using fast glues not permitted by our regulations. A full investigation into the incident is underway headed by Deputy Chairman, Tony Chatwin, who leads our Competition Department. This Department's responsibilities cover both

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2

the tournament programme and re-gluing regulations.

Reports have been requested from all parties involved. Regardless of the eventual outcome of this investigation this type of incident does great harm to the sport and I appeal to all those who care about the future of table tennis to refrain from actions that cause this kind of damage.

ANOTHER REPORT CONDEMS THE GLUE

The glue issue itself is still continuing throughout Europe and there are some who hope to persuade the ITTF to delay further the implementation date beyond the 1st June 1994. There is however, a new report on the effects of the glue that has been published by a team consisting of Olle Ramnas, Gunnar Barrefors and Goran Petersson, of the Department of Chemical Environmental Science, Gothenberg University. The report itself is written in technical language and is difficult to grasp in full but the conclusion

is clear, I quote:

"The reported major glue solvent components may give rise to general short-time physiological effects. These include potentially lowered reaction rate and coordination ability which may be important for the performance of the players involved. The most important long-time health hazards are likely to be linked to the increased formation of free oxygen radicals from the metabolism of hydrocarbons. These radicals are thought to increase the ageing of the cell; the incidence of cancer, and the development of autoimmune and several other physiological defects. For sportsmen, the effect of hydrocarbons adds to an increased radical formation due to a high oxygen intake. It is concluded that prohibition of the use of organic solvents in sports is essential both to the sportsmen and as a good example in other fields of solvent use."

This is a further report which is added to the four that we received prior to taking our decision to eliminate the fast glues. So far, no technical reports have

been produced supporting any counter arguments, therefore we must expect that the ITTF will remain firm in its resolve and rid the whole table tennis world of this menace from the 1st June 1994 and resist strongly the attempts of those who wish to keep these poisonous substances in our midst.

WOOLWICH SPORTMATCHED

On the junior front, we were delighted to announce in the September issue of Table Tennis News and at a press conference at the European League match in Whitwick the sponsorship from the Woolwich Building Society from the Junior League promotion.

This support is being matched by the Government's Sports Sponsorship programme, Sportmatch, so that the total value to the Association and the Sport over the three years will be in the region of over £180,000. Full details of how Leagues can take advantage of the junior programme will be sent to all League Secretaries shortly.



Present:

The 42nd World Table Tennis Championships

From GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

MORE COMPLETE GAMES AND MATCHES THAN EVER

Tape A - 120 minutes ... Team Competition, Quarter - Finals through Finals

From your courtside seat you'll see the defending World Champion Swedes fight their way into the finals against a determined Chinese team. The team final is the most competitive and exciting in recent memory. Waldner, Persson and the new powerhouse, Karlsson, have all they can do to stave off Ma Wenge, Wang Tao and Wang Hao. Wang Hao shows why he is becoming the "Worlds Best Defender" as he engages Karlsson and Waldner in classic fight-for-every-point matches.

Tape B - 120 minutes Individual Men's Competition, including three Quarter-Finals Women's Singles and Men's Doubles Competition

Upsets abound ... and new faces emerge. Women's number one and two, China's Deng and Qiao, lose early ... France's Chila embarrasses Persson ... Belarus's 16 year old Samsonov surprises Karlsson, Canada's Huang beats Fetzner in one of the tournament's best matches, and Belgium's Podpinka (Klampar's transplanted nephew) uses a swing from-the-heels style to upset Wang Tao and then scare Gatien in the quarters in down-to-the-wire matches. J.M. Saive beat Ma Wenge at his own game in another quarter-final thriller.

Tape C - 120 minutes Individual Competition - Balance of Men's Quarter-Finals Men's and Women's Semi-Finals and Finals

You'll be awed by the new level of power spinning as four Europeans advance to the semi-finals. Waldner's consummate touch prevails over Kim Taek Soo in the quarters, but in the semis he falls to Saive's inspired kill-every-ball tactic. Gatien is too much for Primorac in the semis in a battle of power-loopkills. Badescu becomes the first European woman to reach the semi-finals in 30 years, and her match with Hyun Jung Hwa is one of the best ever in that event. The Men's final between Saive and Gatien is a slugfest between the two masters of that game.

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Individual Competition Tape B £30

Tape B & C £55



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PR2 7EA. ALLOW 3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. Tel: 0772 856022 Fax: 0772 715216

Opportunity for serious chinwag

WHILE the European Championships are in progress and spectators are watching all the action, in other parts of the complex other events will be going on unnoticed. *Writes Jim Beckley.*

For like all major events whether its party political conferences or huge exhibitions, the very fact that so many influential people are together at the same time at the same place, makes it an ideal opportunity for a serious chinwag.

While the players clash head on in the main hall, top officials will be putting their heads together in meetings all over the arena.

Every day of the championships somewhere, some time, meetings will be in progress, decisions being made, crucial votes being taken. The future of the sport will hang in the balance during those eleven days in Spring.

Next door at the impressive International Convention Centre which held the European Community Summit last year, the biggest meeting of all will be taking place.

The Congress Meeting will be an impressive affair with officials from all the European countries as well as further afield gathering for their once a year decision making conference.

Back at the NIA there will be another group of officials with a very different itinerary. A course for coaches is being held for the duration of the championships with top international coaches providing details of winning techniques and styles. There will also be opportunities to attend seminars and lectures and to work closely with some of the world top coaches



Sweden's Asa Svensson in the mood for Euro '94

together with other sports specialists. A total package will be available including hotel accommodation, meals as well as entry into Euro 94. Details from Jill Hammersley-Parker MBE, Highfield House, 64 Regent Drive, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3JD.

Committed Suppliers

SUPPORT for Euro 94 is rolling in nicely. Already we have Butterfly and Nittaku committed to providing a major part of the equipment being used. Butterfly will supply tables, net and post sets, scoring machines and surrounds. While Nittaku are the official ball suppliers.

Other official services include International Tournament Services - a consortium of tour operators and accommodation services ... ITS will arrange tour and accommodation exclusively for the championships.

Weather or Not, a company headed by Jackie Bellingier are the championships official merchandisers, selling every-


thing from T shirts to stickers from caps to key rings and from Ski jackets to pens.

Latest News


DON'T forget that the ETTA's Information Line now has its own Euro 94 slot. If you want the very latest news about the championships from tickets to train times then ring 0891 664300.

During office hours Clive Oakman, the tournament director and Lyn Cupples will be on hand to answer all your questions but during out of office hours the information line might be your answer.

All the previous lines have been retained with county news now linked in with the Update section, the Friendly Hotels British League moves to the No. 2 position ahead of the new Euro 94 line.



VACANCY



EURO '94 PUBLICITY MANAGER

This position is available immediately and will be based in the EURO '94 Championships Office in Birmingham.

Duties will be centred around the promotion of the European Championships to ensure the best possible awareness of the event and as a consequence the best possible spectator attendance.

The successful applicant will be required to promote through the usual media channels, i.e. National, Regional and Local Press, National and Local Radio and Local T.V. In addition a close relationship will be established with Birmingham City Council to ensure the best possible profile of both the Event and the City.

It is likely you will have a PR/Marketing background, previous experience with the media and probably an interest in table tennis.

The position will be for a fixed term contract to the end of the Championships, April 1994. Salary will be £1,000 per month plus commission.

Interested persons should contact the
EURO '94 Championships Office
 Brewmaster House, International Convention
 Centre, Birmingham. B1 2EA
 Telephone: 021-644 6464 for an application form

EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

176

DAYS TO GO



European Curtain raiser

WORDS BY JOHN WOODFORD AT WHITWICK

Before the match, I could not find a single person who knew where Whitwick was on the map or had even heard of it. Few had heard of nearby Coalville and more had heard of Loughborough of course. But, to the great credit of the local community in Leicestershire - Mike Holt country - they turned out a crowd of nearly 500 to watch England despatch Poland 4-1.

So, after winning the prize for the biggest crowd from a small community, the locals enjoyed a sparkling show by England, although contrary to the ETTA press release issued before the match there was no mega-clash between the Polish superstar Andrzej Grubba and Chen Xinhua.

The reasons for Grubba's non-appearance can only be guessed - all countries including England must make way for the young players - and Grubba and Leszek Kucharski have had very little in common with the Polish TTA for some years.

It was therefore a young side for Poland and they were very useful players. Piotr Skiorski,



England's Chen Xinhua

21, has been in the Polish side for some time, but he was quickly sent packing 12, 15 by Matthew Syed who a few days later at Brentwood collected four more very delectable scalps - Mommessin, Marmurek, Cabrera and Philippe Saive.

Piotr Szafrak, 20, was disappointing, against the Chen

back-spin he was completely outclassed 14, 8. Alan Cooke took sometime to find some of his best shots. He recovered in the first game to beat Lucjan Blaszcyk, 20, whose outstanding win in Gothenburg was against Quin Qianli from Austria.

In the second game however, the Derbyshire top-spinner lifted

his game to win 17. That left England three up and gave Don Parker the chance to give European League debuts to Jon Taylor of Manchester and Chris Oldfield of Sheffield. Our two young men of the future won the first game 12, but the two young Poles managed to turn the tables neatly 17, 13 to reduce the England lead to 3-1.

The final game saw Chen unable to concentrate and having to recover by winning nine back-spin serves in a row to win 21, 17 against Skierski. After the match Don Parker said, "It was a solid start by England. The young players have got to be brought into the side and this was an opportunity."

A win over Holland in the next match should put England on the path to the semi-finals.

SCORES

M. Syed b P. Skierski 12, 15
 Chen Xinhua b P. Szafranek 14, 8
 A. Cooke b L. Blaszczyk 14, 8
 J. Taylor-C. Oldfield l Skierski and Blaszcyk 12, -17, -13
 Chan b Skierski 21, 17

SEE ALL THE STARS AT EURO '94

New rules for 1993/94 season

NEW rules came into force on the 1st September 1993 and they are compulsory.

Firstly, the surface of one side of the racket shall be bright red and the surface of the other side shall be black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball.

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting a motion to continue giving local leagues power to authorise their players to use uncovered rackets in their domestic competitions was defeated. It will therefore no longer be permissible for any player to use a racket with

an uncovered blade.

A point will no longer be lost if the ball is volleyed over the table. This will not be effected by abolishing the separate "volley law" and including the over-the-table volley within the scope of the "obstructing law."

Sportsmatch in League with Woolwich

THE Woolwich Building Society's sponsorship of table tennis (announced in Table Tennis News Aug/Sept edition) has been "Sportsmatched" *Writes Elaine Shaw.*

"Sportsmatch", the government's sponsorship incentive-scheme co-ordinated by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, have guaranteed to match £ for £ the £31,000 invested by the Woolwich Building Society in the first year of the three year sponsorship. Under condition that the government continues the Sportsmatch scheme, that support of the Woolwich sponsorship will continue during 1995 and 1996. The total investment could amount to £168,000 over three years.

"This support by Sportsmatch is fantastic news for table tennis and, in particular, for the future of table tennis in England", commented Alan Ransome, Chairman of ETTA. "It means that £62,000 will go directly to the grassroots in 1994, just at the time when we expect to benefit from the greatest promotional push that table tennis has seen in this country since 1977."

The news of the forthcoming launch of the network of Woolwich Junior Leagues has caused considerable interest. The ETTA has received many enquiries for further information, together with confirmation of intention of involvement from several leagues.

The input of additional funding from Sportsmatch will enable a more beneficial package of support to be provided to those leagues and clubs which enter the Woolwich Junior Leagues from its launch next year.

Twelve months planning and preparation will enable the ETTA and the Woolwich to launch the Woolwich Junior Leagues in 1994. Club and league suggestions will be taken into consideration with



Alex Perry, England's Junior Boys Champion, who hopes to play in the Woolwich Junior Leagues.

regard to the best means of providing the required support to establish and then run the junior leagues. The intention is to provide as much support as possible to enable thousands of junior players to benefit.

During the next twelve months the ETTA's Development Department will research the best means

of setting up, promoting and supporting this venture. Through Table Tennis News and personal contact, leagues and clubs will be consulted, kept informed and motivated to participate. The investment is in the grassroots so the needs of the grassroots will be a major part of the consultative process.

Every league which is interested in the Woolwich League Junior leagues should register their interest with the Woolwich Junior League Co-ordinator at the ETTA's Office in Hastings.

Another part of the Woolwich sponsorship, The Woolwich Junior British League, will be launched this season with entry forms having been distributed last month to addresses known to be, or likely to be, interested in submitting a team. Any team or potential team which has not yet received details should contact Mike Lewis urgently at Glenavon Cottage, Clifton Down, Bristol, BS8 3HU, tel. no: 0272 730788, as the closing date is the end of October.

The Woolwich Junior British League will commence this season with two weekends of competition in Milton Keynes and Woolwich in April and May 1994

Sportsmatch

Sportsmatch provides government funding for approved schemes. It was established last year because of the crisis situation with many sports found themselves as a result of companies pulling out of sponsorships due to the recession. With a fund of £3 million for the first year, Sportsmatch considers applications from new sponsorships which input commercial investment into grassroots sports activities.

The Woolwich Junior Leagues and Woolwich Junior British League are ideal as they not only fulfil the requirement of a significant commercial promotion by the sponsor, but also benefit young people throughout the country.

Full details of Sportsmatch and how to apply for Sportsmatch funding are available from the ETTA Office in Hastings.



WOOLWICH
— BUILDING SOCIETY —

Victory for stylish Syed

MATTHEW SYED was simply fantastic as he took the mens singles crown at the Brentwood Sports Centre, beating Belgium's Philippe Saive in the Peniel 5 Star Open Championships, sponsored by Stafford Charles Limited.

Syed wore his England shirt with pride as he first outclassed Ireland's Colum Slevin 11 and 15 in the semi-final, and then he played like a man inspired when he defeated the highly talent Saive 20 and 21.

Syed's victory was even more fantastic considering he is ranked No. 44 in Europe, whilst Saive is ranked at No. 29.

Syed's defence was as usual immaculate with his rapier like topspin drives flashing past Saive.

The Belgium's forehand hitting was ferocious, but Syed's defence was impregnable with England's favourite son dancing and leaping in the air, as he acknowledged the rapturous applause of the crowd.

In the other mens singles semi-final Saive beat Birmingham and England star Desmond Douglas -21, 13, 12, in an all action battle that saw the quicksilver reactions of Douglas matching Saive's variety of attacking shots, before the Belgium boy won through the final.

The ladies singles final was won by Russia's Elena Timina, who now plays with BFL Grove, when she chopped her way to success against England's Alison Gordon 14 and 17.

Gordon actually took an early lead with big forehand loops, but Timina's tight and varied defence saw the England lady forced into errors as she lost the first game. And in the second leg Gordon was also ahead at 12 -10, before Timina tightened her game to take the title 21-17.

In the semi-finals Timina beat Andrea Holt 17 and 20, whilst Gordon won her way to the final winning against England's No. 1 Lisa Lomas 20 and 10.

The mens doubles was won by Alan Cooke and Desmond Douglas who beat Denmark's Kim Hogsberg and Birger Vest 15 and 14.

England's duo played steady to see off the Dane's attempt at glory, with Douglas's and Cooke's combined play forcing Hogsberg and Vest into errors.

Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt won the Ladies Doubles crown beating Elena Timina and Nicola



Jubilant Matthew Syed and Elena Timina with their singles trophies, whilst pictured below is ETTA President Johnny Leach with singles finalists Philippe Saive (left) of Belgium and Matthew Syed.



Deaton 9 and 13.

The combination of Timina's defence and Deaton's attacking shots held the favourites for a while, but in the end England's pairing of Lomas and Holt ran out comfortable winners.

Earlier the mens groups saw many top players in opposition where Bradley Billington went out to Alex Perry following a very tight battle.

Round one saw the exit of Richard Hyacinth losing to Adrian Dixon, who in turn was beaten by Peniel's Andrew Eden. Chris Sladdin beat Norway's Lasse Holm and Michael O'Driscoll took out Norway's Stian Winther.

Thierry Cabrera, the No. 1 seed comfortably went through to the quarters with straight wins and so to did No. 2 seed Alan Cooke, Phillippe Saive (Belgium), Des Douglas (Wa), Eugenij Brainin (Russia) and Colum Slevin (Ireland).

Douglas beat Cooke 15-15, Saive 19-19 over Brainin Slevin 30-15 against Perry and the match of

**Words by Ron Mackenzie and Ruth Gibson
Pictures by John F.A. Wood**

International Match England v France



THE weekend officially started on Friday evening with an international match staged at Peniel Academy between England and France.

The French team was Olivier Marmurek and Didier Mommessin and England Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed. Alan failed to appear and his place was taken by Jonathan Taylor.

In the first singles Taylor played Marmurek and never seemed to be able to reach the standard he can play. He played very tentatively throughout the first game and the Frenchman took this easily with some fine attacking. The second game was identical to the first and Marmurek took this 21-13.

Matthew Syed came next against Didier Mommessin and with a mixture of defence and attack when required took the first 21-13. Didier came more into the next game and Matt had to rely on his defensive skills in order to sustain the Frenchmans attack. Rallies became very long and tactical but Matt managed to get there 21-17.

The doubles were a complete fiasco with the English team losing the first 21-3. There were innumerable errors in the next game, most coming from the English pair and although play was even throughout the game the French took this 21-17 Taylor was next out against Didier Mommessin and played better, he tightened his game up and with a good attacking flair came good, 21-17. He lost the second game 21-19 with some inspired play coming from the Frenchman. Didier took the final game 21-18 after some good play. Taylor was 7-1 ahead at the start but eventually made some unforced errors and let his opponent in.

The final match with France already holding a 3-1 lead, saw Matthew take on Olivier Marmurek. The Frenchman was held to 9-7 and then his attack just went right through his English opponent and he stormed to a 21-10 win. Matt composed himself for the second game and his defensive play was brilliant. Olivier was hitting the ball hard but Matt was not troubled and levelled with a 21-12 win. The final game saw Olivier hitting very strongly and he went



Pictured above losing ladies singles semi-finalists Andrea Holt (left) and Lisa Lomas with Peniel's Michael Reid, whilst below Johnny Leach is with losing mens singles semi-finalists Desmond Douglas (left) and Colum Slevin.

the day Syed v No. 1 Cabrera. During this match we had everything sustained attack from Cabrera and aerobic defence from Syed. Matt took the first 21-15 but lost the second 22-20 after pulling up from 17-20. The third saw Matt in full flight retrieving from all-over court, and pulling Thierry on to the table and passing him with forehand smashes, 21-12 to Matt.

LADIES DOUBLES

A. Holt (La) L. Lomas (Bo) bt N. Deaton (Dy), E. Timina (Rus) 9.13

MENS DOUBLES

A. Cooke (Eng) D. Douglas(Wa) bt K. Hogsberg (Den) B. Vest (Den)

LADIES SINGLES - SEMI FINALS

E. Timina bt A. Holt 17.20
A Gordon (Bk) bt L Lomas 20.10

FINAL

E. Timina bt A. Gordon 14.17

MENS SINGLES - SEMI FINALS

M Syed (bk) bt C. Slevin (Ire) 11.15
P Saive (Bel) bt D. Douglas - 21.13.12

FINALS

M. Syed bt P. Saive



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into a 6-2 lead but Matt pulled back to 10-10. He then took the lead and started to get his attack going. The Frenchman played very well and one rally went to 16 shots - but Matt pulled the plug on him 21-16.

ENGLAND V FRENCH RESULTS

Taylor v Marmurek 12-21, 13-21, 0-1
 Syed v Mommessin 21-13, 21-17, 1-1
 Syed Taylor v Marmurek Mommessin 3-21, 17-21 1-2,
 Taylor v Mommessin 21-15, 19-21, 18-21 1-3
 Syed v Marmurek 10-21, 21-12, 21-16, 2-3.

Team Event

In the magnificent Brentwood International Centre the brilliant organisation of Dick Roffe had set the stage for one of the most prestigious and well supported open events in the country. Aply supported by referee Peter Roden and his deputies, Phil Gower and Val Roffe and a fine crew of officials and umpires we were all waiting for the off, but unfortunately there were a few mutterings prior to the international team events starting concerning illegal glue substances being used on the bats of some of our foreign visitors, mainly from France and Belgium and this had to be investigated by the referee. It was decided by Peter that as at this stage there had been no official complaints made the team, the tournament should be allowed to progress with him watching the situation very closely. It was at the semi-final stage when France were due to play England and Belgium to meet Grove that the event turned into a complete and utter shambles by official complaints that the players of France and Belgium were using a banned substance on their bats.

England accused France of using illegal glue on their bats and when approached by the referee, Mr Peter Roden, they eventually admitted that this was the case and were immediately disqualified from the tournament. Grove threw the same accusation at Belgium, who strongly denied this. Once again the referee was called and upon investigating the

themselves have taken over. This country has always prided itself on fair play and the Grove and England players, regardless of their opinions, should have agreed to play against Belgium as evidence of illegal gluing could not be proved. The obvious thing to my mind would have been for the matches to have taken place and a sample of the glue on the

In the groups Ireland lost to Belgium 3-0, but did well to beat Switzerland 2-1. In group 1 Belgium beat Switzerland 3-0, group 2 saw England beating Scotland 2-1 and Norway 3-0, Norway beat Scotland 2-1. Group 3 had France beat Grove II 3-0 and Peniel I 3-0, Peniel beat Grove 2-1. Group 4 had Grove I beating Peniel II 2-1 and Denmark 2-0, Denmark beat Peniel 3-0.

Belgium were awarded the title due to both Grove I and England refusing to play against them.



Didier Mommessin of France who had to withdraw from the Mens Singles on Sunday, due to instructions from his Association.

event and interviewing players concerned, decided there was insufficient evidence to prove Grove's accusation and therefore he would have to allow the match to continue. Grove immediately withdrew from the tournament and England, now becoming Belgium's opponents in the final, did likewise.

It does appear that referees are no longer running our tournaments but in actual fact players

Belgium player's bats could have been taken and analysed at a later date. If the glue had subsequently proved to be illegal and Belgium had been tournament winners, the prize money would have been taken from them and presented to the runners-up.

It appears sportsmanship is becoming less evident, amongst some of the top players who feel their own satisfactions have to be complied with in order for table tennis to take place regardless of sponsorship and spectators. I have no doubt this could affect future sponsorship with Stafford Charles Ltd who had agreed to assist us on a long term basis. Should this be the case there are bound to be repercussions, and quite rightly so.

Comment on the Glue Rumpus at Brentwood by John Woodford of the Daily Telegraph

JOURNALISTS at Brentwood were told that the organisers took ample precautions before the tournament with faxes to the foreign associations, warning them of the strict glue regulations in force in England.

Although the entente cordiale between the French and England national - is good enough to produce a marriage - Fiona and Didier Mommessin - this was the second time in three years that the French team has been at the centre of a dispute at Brentwood - there were problems of who qualified in 1991.

There was and still is a feeling that had England manager Don Parker been present he would have directed his men to play on and they would have done so.

The crowds who came to watch the action - 500 at Brentwood - and the sponsors of the two remaining five-star events - Brentwood and Middlesbrough - do not deserve this sort of fiasco. There is a large section of opinion who will lay the blame on the ETTA National Council for trying to rush the rest of the world into the immediate glue ban last January when it was not realistic and not possible for the trade and the players to change overnight. No player has died or as far as is known, has become permanently ill through using glue over two decades. Reasonable time should therefore have been given by England to change to the alternative of double-sided adhesive film. It seems highly unlikely that England is right and the rest of the world is wrong.



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Two awards for Dick Roffe

DICK Roffe of Essex received two surprise awards at the Peniel 5 Star tournament in September, firstly he was presented with beautiful cut glass decanter by Peniel on the Saturday, then on the Sunday he received the coveted ETTA Merit Award for 40 years Service to table tennis from ETTA President Johnny Leach, after the Mens Singles final between Matthew Syed and Philippe Saive. *Writes Ruth Gibson.*

His 40 years service to table tennis makes an impressive list starting in the 1952/3 season when he was a Barking and District League committee member, where he held the post of Junior Match Secretary and other positions. Plus he represented the League as County representative.

Sketchy details only for few years. Coached younger members played and organised local leagues championships.

By 1961 played at North Ilford in Ilford League, founder member of Redbridge Sports Centre. Organised league championships and coached youngsters.

In 1964/5 he was introduced to the Barking Committee ("There are some really nice people I would like you to meet - bring your book - you can take the minutes!") said a kindly soul. Stayed involved with the Barking Committee until he moved to Thurrock. (Life Member, Barking).

Whilst in Thurrock he ran the ECTTA club - Played representative matches, coached the youngsters - Qualified as a Coach and Umpire. Ran the local championships- Played in Basildon and Southend and



helped out in their championships. Helped organise the Times Superleague at Chadwell St. Mary for the County. Sat on Thurrock Sports Council to improve table tennis in area. Sports Personality of the year 1976. Life Member of Thurrock Table Tennis League.

Liaison Officer at World Championships in Birmingham 1977 and in 1979 was hospitality/Liaison Manager for Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.

Also in 1979 he received Corti Woodcock Award from County, the highest award in Essex for administration.

Helped organise Scottish Open at Meadowbank. Assisted in the negotiations for sponsorship from Barclays Bank for Essex to promote their 3 Star, and helped to retain 3 star status when threatened.

Umpired at World Student Games in Cleveland and at the First World Championships for Disabled at Stoke Mandeville and subsequently at other championships there. (English/European)

Organised at Mini Olympics for Mentally Handicapped both at table tennis and other sports, and organised the Essex/Peniel 5 stars, and is a Life Member Essex County Table Tennis Association.

Over the year has played in East London, Barking, Ilford, Becontree, Dagenham, Romford, Brentwood, Thurrock, Basildon and Southend Leagues.

Pictured above Dick Roffe with the beautiful cut glass decanter, he received from Peniel, whilst below Dick accepts his ETTA Merit Award from ETTA President Johnny Leach.

Sky and Des became a team



Skylet Andrew (left) and Desmond Douglas

DES DOUGLAS JOINS STIGA AND SKYLET ANDREW IS NOW DISTRIBUTOR

England stars Skylet Andrew and Des Douglas are the new distributors for Stiga Competition products in the UK and both players will be sponsored by Stiga for at least the next 3 years. Sky, who has been with Stiga for over 8 years, was offered the agency in the summer and after frantic discussions and meetings he decided that it was better if he did it rather than let a company with no interest in table-tennis handle things. Then Des agreed terms with Stiga and decided to have a part in the business side as well as the playing side.

The team was complete, two players who are great friends and have travelled the world playing for England had combined to have a very positive input into table-tennis in our country.

Sky and Des are really excited about the future and have plans that are already in motion including a catalogue that will be called Des Douglas Table Tennis DDTT, which will promote mainly Stiga, and the signings of top junior stars Steve Meedings and Darren Blake. Des says "We want to help the young players as much as we can, obviously that can only be done if we make money but our main objective is to encourage an environment where kids want to play table tennis and can see a light at the end of the tunnel." Stiga in this country has truly come into a new era or as they say in their catch phrase

'A New Generation'; new distributors players and products including an exciting new blade called 'The Ultimate Wood' which has a completely new feel, Syncro and Mendo rubbers which are used by Des Douglas, Sky Andrew and Peter Karlsson. Sky says "It is important that we all pull together to promote our game. Kids are our future and it is imperative that they are set fair and healthy standards and that is what we aim to do. Likewise, to the market and we will applaud any other brand that promotes table tennis and gives something back, to the game.

Any clubs requiring sponsorship assistant should write to:
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<i>As used by Des Douglas</i>			
CHIBA TRACKSUIT	£70.00		£49.95
<i>Purple/grey, red/navy, lemon/royal</i>			
EVOLUTION SHIRT	£24.99		£18.99
<i>Navy/royal, red/royal</i>			
BOXER SHORT	£14.99		£9.99
<i>Royal, navy.</i>			

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The toughest job in table tennis

CLIVE Oakman has one of the toughest jobs in table tennis - at least until next Easter. For as Championships Director for Euro 94 he is the key player responsible for pulling all the strings together to make it the most successful event ever. It is an unenviable task but if anyone can do it Clive can. *Writes Jim Beckley.*

Clive began playing youth club table tennis at the age of 14. Turned to cycling for a while before returning to become league secretary for the Burnham and District League. Seven years in table tennis business came to an end last year when he took up the job of National Events Manager for the Association.

Married with two daughters, his wife Chris finished her first London Marathon this year in the commendable time of 4 hours 58 minutes and feels she could have gone faster.

But Euro 94 is a massive undertaking by any standards and to make sure the job is done properly he has had to move away from home and take up offices in Birmingham. Along with secretary/PA Lyn Cupples he is coordinating the 1001 things that will make or mar the most important tournament in the world next year.

A typical day in the life of Clive's busy schedule includes negotiating contracts with the NIA, dealing with trade exhibitors, meeting officials of local leagues, talking to sponsors and television people and being available at all hours, literally.

He recently had to stay up half the night just to receive an assignment of thousands of leaflets, so as to save on delivery costs. It's a 60 hour week that will roll on until the end of April next year.

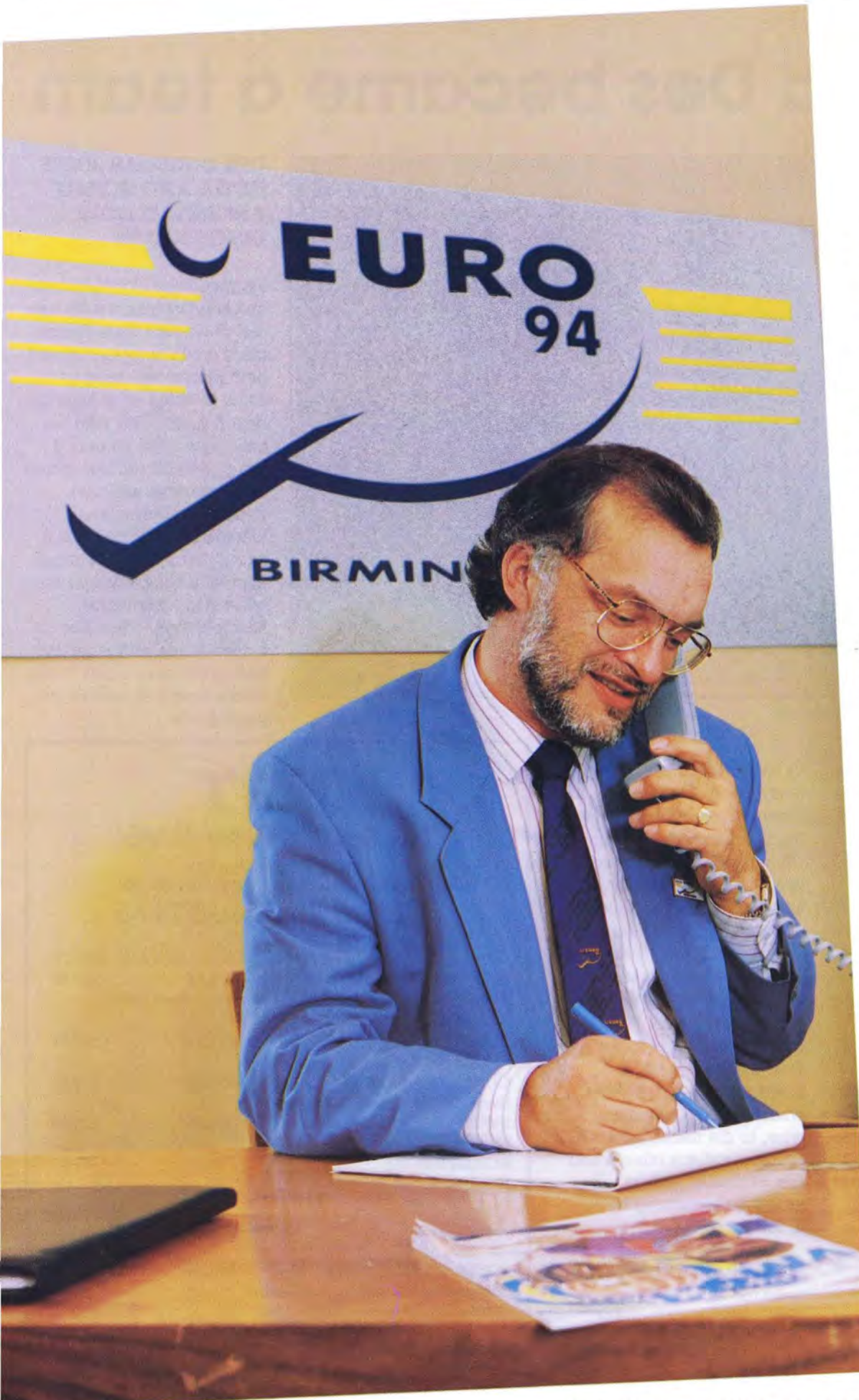
But at the end of the day the sport should benefit enormously.

"These championships will provide the sport with a vast awareness not achieved since the World Championships almost 20 years ago. But unlike then, we have the Join a Table Tennis Club campaign, Woolwich Junior League programme and Focus Sport as well as ten regional development officers in place which should provide positive benefits," says Clive.

He added: The publicity from TV alone may well enable us to get more sponsorship not just for the association but for leagues throughout the country."

That publicity machine has already moved into gear. Thousands of leaflets and newsletters have been distributed around the world. Already we know that people as far away as China are talking about Euro 94.

"The aim is to make sure it is the biggest and best European Championships ever. We already know that China is sending a delegation to spend the entire eleven days here. They have been impressed with what they have heard and seen already so are sending a team to check out how we do it. Clearly they are hoping to pick up some ideas for the world championships in Tianjin in 1995."



Clive gets to grips with another problem

Pictures by Simon Livingstone Studios



Clive with Chief Executive - Elaine Shaw

Even stronger squad

CHAMPIONS BFL Grove, seem to have an even stronger squad of players this season despite the loss of Nicky Mason, England International, Alan Cooke, has been signed during the closed season along with the Russian player, Evgueni Brainin. Both of them played in the opening match against Bathwick Tyres along with Desmond Douglas, Chris Oldfield and Steve Ward who played in the doubles set. Needless to say BFL Grove ran out 14-0 winners. *Writes Aubrey Drapkin.*

Team Peniel are without Matthew Syed this term, but still started with a 9-5 home win against DML White Hart Launceston.

Sean Gibson, Andrew Eden and John Holland were all unbeaten although they were all given very close games by Launceston's new signing, Alex Perry.

Vymura International also had a new signing on parade when they visited Policy Plus St. Neots. Jonathan Taylor, formerly of Grove, made his debut and won

Supported by  Schildkröt

all three of his singles as Vymura edged home 8-6.

Yet another new signing, Euan Walker, turned out for Sedgfield District when they visited newly promoted Horsham Angels and he also won his three singles in his first match. With Bradley Billington and John Hilton also in form the North Eastern side took both points with a 10-4 scoreline.

It was good to see Adrian Dixon back in action for Olton and West Warwicks and they started the new campaign in Division One North with a 6-2 home win over Ruston Marconi, Lincoln. Dixon took one set, but Andrew Rich and Barry Johnson were both unbeaten with Johnson taking the 'Player of the Match' award.

BFL Grove II were able to turn out a very strong team led by England International Mike O'Driscoll and ran out 7-1 winners away to British Gas CMK.

O'Driscoll, however, did not have things all his own way when he was pushed to the limit by Ian Musk with the England player only just winning the third end 21-19.

give OLOP their first points in the First Division. DFL Grove III made a winning start by winning 6-2 away to Rejects whilst the Welsh side, Bribar Colley Toyota, had a similar score at home to BSG Brentwood.

Levis Westfield, Leicester Lions, and Uxbridge Burton all started with victories in division 2



BFL Grove's Alan Cooke

Derek Munt was voted player of the match as Humberside got off to a great start with a 7-1 home win against Cheltenham whilst the local derby between City of Sunderland and Sedgfield District ended up 5-3 in favour of the Sedgfield side.

OLOP Table Tennis Club of Reading made a good start to life in the First Division with a 5-3 home win over Graham Spice Larkhall. New signing, John Souter, won both of his singles and was well supported by Eddie Hatley who also won two. Tony Duffield weighed in with one to

North and Levis running up the highest score - 7 - 1 at home to Leckie Table Tennis Club of Walsall. Newly promoted Uxbridge did exceptionally well to beat the City of Leeds 6-2, although the visitors were without Dave Indricks. The other newly promoted side in the second division North, Derwent of Selby, did well to gain a 4-4 draw away to Vale Royal, Warrington.

John Taylor, Costas Papantonio and David Baker were all in fine form for Linda Farrow who defeated Byng Hall 7-1 in division 2 South East. Despite the

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score there were some very close and exciting sets in this one. Farhat Rasul and Peter Harry were both unbeaten for JAGS who defeated newly promoted Team Peniel second team 6-2 whilst Pillinger Air (Croydon) had Martin Lowe and Henry Buist to thank, for their 6-2 home win against Norwich Todd Foxwood. Newly promoted Ashford played a 4-4 draw away to Fellows Cranleigh thanks mainly to Justin Goodall who won both of his sets.

In Division 2 South West there were only two matches played on the opening day and both of these ended up all square. DML White Hart Launceston II looked well set to get both points away to BFL Grove Colts when they held a 3-1 lead, but the Colts hit back strongly to lead 4-3 before Launceston won the final set of the day to share the points. Kingshurst Bribar fought back from 3-0 and 4-2 down to gain a 4-4 draw away to Amity Generation Fareham.

Unfortunately the match between VRS Fareham and Horsham Angels II was not played

due to a car accident involving the Horsham Angels players. Nobody was seriously injured, but two of the players were badly affected by shock and the car was very badly damaged.

Newcomers, Gridfine St. Neots., made an excellent start in Division 3 East with a 6-2 home win over Chelmsford League, but fellow newcomers, Peterborough, went down by the same score away to Fellows Cranleigh II. Brent Juniors picked up two points on the opening day with a 6-2 win away to BSG Brentwood whilst Britannia Ipswich and Norwich Todd Foxwood shared the points.

Bribar Colley Toyota II made the best start in Division 3 Midlands with a 7-1 success over DML White Hart Launceston whilst Horsham Angels III, Parkside Dragons, Newport and OLOP II all won 6-2 away from home.

History was made in Division 3 North when Drumchapel Glasgow became the first Scottish team ever to play in the British League and they started with a 5-3



success away to fellow newcomers Co-op of Manchester.

Another new club, Moorland Seaside (Blackpool), also looked like starting with a win when they led 4-2 in their match away to BFL Grove IV, but victories by Andy Stokes and Claire Marshall in the last two sets of the day gave the home side a share of the points. There was another drawn game when AALCO Leeds entertained newcomers Uxbridge Burton II. It was another case of the newcomers looking likely to take both points with a 4-2 lead and having to settle for a draw but Julian Gittens and Paul Clarkson saved the day for the home side.

Sedgefield III got off to a good start with a 5-3 victory away to Crusaders Lincoln..

Barclays Bank, virtually the former Wellingborough side that played in Division 1, looked to be far too strong for Division 3 South and an all round performance from John Kitchener, Andy Withers, Mark Randle and Andy Edmonds gave them an 8-0 success in their first game when their luckless opponents were Rejects II. Ellenborough started with a 5-3 home win against Linda Farrow II Whilst Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association and Graham Spicer Larkhall II shared the points in a 4-4 draw at Hemel Hempstead.

FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE RESULTS 19 SEPT 1993

PREMIER DIVISION

Policy Plus St. Neots	5	9	DML White Hart Launceston I
Bathwick Tyres I	5	9	Sedgefield District I
Team Peniel I	9	5	Horsham Angels I
Vymura International I	2	12	BFL Grove I

DIVISION 1 NORTH

Olton & West Warwicks	8	0	Cheltenham Saracens
British Gas CMK	4	4	Sedgefield District II
Bribar Humberside	4	4	City Sunderland
Ruston Marconi Lincoln	2	6	BFL Grove II

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

OLOP I	3	5	BSG Brentwood I
Rejects I	2	6	Edison
Graham Spicer Larkhall I	0	8	BFL Grove III

DIVISION 2 NORTH

Leicester Lions	5	3	Uxbridge (Burton) I
Levis Westfield	2	6	Derwent
City of Leeds	No Result		Vale Royal Warrington
Vymura International II	7	1	Leckie

DIVISION 2 SOUTH EAST

Linda Farrow I	No Result		Ashford (Kent)
JAGS	4	4	Norwich Todd Foxwood I
Fellows Cranleigh	2	6	Pillinger Air (Croydon)
Byng Hall	7	1	Team Peniel II

DIVISION 2 SOUTH WEST

VRS Fareham	6	2	DML White Hart Launceston II
Bathwick Tyres II	5	3	Kingshurst Bribar
BFL Grove Colts	7	1	Amity Generation Fareham
Horsham Angels II	6	2	Jolliffe Poole

DIVISION 3 EAST

Gridfine St. Neots	2	6	Peterborough
BSG Brentwood II	7	1	Norwich Todd Foxwood II
Fellows Cranleigh II	3	5	Britannia Ipswich
Chelmsford League	No Result		Brent Juniors

DIVISION 3 MIDLAND

Bromsgrove	3	5	DML White Hart Launceston III
Bathwick Tyres III	4	4	OLOP II
Bribar Colley Toyota II	2	6	Hawbush C.C.
Horsham Angels III	3	5	Parkside Dragons Newport

DIVISION 3 NORTH

Co-op	2	6	Moorland Seaside (Blackpool)
Uxbridge (Burton) II	3	5	Sedgefield District III
BFL Grove IV	3	5	Crusaders Lincoln
Drumchapel Glasgow	7	1	AALCO Leeds

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Adeyfield N.A.	2	6	Rejects II
WSITHE Lennox Hse Grp	5	3	Linda Farrow II
Barclays Bank	7	1	Ellenborough II



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Good and interesting reading

JIM BECKLEY *ETTA Vice Chairman for Public Relations*. Jim has been in newspapers all his working life, starting at the News Chronicle and then moving on to the Manchester Evening News, the biggest regional paper in the country. He was on the sports desk for about 4 years, moved on to Public Relations about 5-6 years ago during which time he started his own Sports PR business.

"National journalists who are feature writers ... people like to read about people rather than events ... their background and what they are up to ... we have a chap in Manchester Paul Hince. Paul is a former Manchester City footballer ... but a brilliant feature writer. You very rarely come across them ... it's the use of words, the way that the phrases come out which are absolutely brilliant. Not many people have that ability. There's a chap on the Daily Mail, Ian Wooldridge, who has won many an award, who is again a feature writer and John Roberts from the Independent. Ian Wooldridge tends to be a little political on occasions, but that's what newspapers very often want ... These are the people who influenced me. You enjoy reading them and you naturally think 'I wish I could do that.'" In table tennis we have got two major writers, John Woodford and Richard Eaton. Two very different people, both friends of mine ... Richard's way of writing is different than the Telegraph. It requires a more in-depth view of the sport.

Having seen both sides, moving from (the) journalistic side into public relations, you clearly see the differences between PR and journalism. Public Relation employees, I believe, should have had a basic journalist training, 90% of them do not have this, they usually come from advertising agencies or from college, university etc., 90/85% of PR is about press, clients want to see stories and articles in the press so you have got to understand the press ... I see press releases, which are still the main armoury of Public Relations consultancies coming to me every day, badly written, badly timed. At the end of the day they have got to understand that 96% or thereabouts of press releases that go to papers, are binned ... You have got to be part of that 3 or 4% that get through. To do that you have to be a journalist or understand journalism. You have got to understand the very basics, not just writing in double spacing, it's also writing in a certain style and timing - knowing that if you do a story they want it by a certain time. Newspapers react to minutes and you really have to be on the ball. I often think that clients who are paying thousands of pounds to PR companies are getting very

The Experts' Expert; The Writers' Writer (With acknowledgement to the 'Observer')

On the same lines as 'The Coaches' Coach' (see in earlier editions), I asked some leading table tennis scribes to ponder on their literary peers and significant others, who had in some way been influences, sources of inspiration or encouragement, or simply were people who they admired. There were again, of course other writers I would have loved to have interviewed - former 'Table Tennis News' editor for many years, George Yates, who was unfortunately unwell; Ron Craydon, the other tennis historian; and longtime Yorkshire, columnist, Rea Balmford, for example - but there had to be limits. As it is I interviewed 13 subjects and - table tennis journalists being writers and me being a sympathetic non-brutal editor - some of the transcripts go on a bit! But I believe what they have to say makes good and interesting reading.

Writes Ken Muhr

poor service ... There is a great deal to be done in PR as far as sport is concerned.

RICHARD HAPGOOD, *table tennis writer and radio sports journalist. On ETTA Public Relations Committee.*

"When I look back on approximately 25 years in table tennis, some of the influences that have left a lasting impression upon me have been mainly from the administrative side. Coming from Birmingham, Maurice Goldstein was the league secretary. In 1973 he became the ETTA President and continued in that position until his death in 1988. When I was about 20 years of age, I was asked to consider becoming the first editor of the Birmingham Table Tennis News. For ideas and thinking I suppose the influence there was George Yates's English Table Tennis News...

I continued with the Birmingham Table Tennis News for some period and in the early seventies, with the advent of local radio, I was asked to contribute to a programme for a new station that was starting up in Birmingham in 1974. It coincided with a Midland Open Championships that was taking place and I went in on the very first day of the radio station which was on the Thursday before the championships which were going to take place on the Saturday and Sunday. That interview went quite well ... and I was asked on the Saturday/Sunday to do further pieces on the Midland Open. Monday came, telephone (call) came from the new station and said "that went quite well. What else is happening in the table tennis world? Can you come in tomorrow night and

do a spot?" That was on a Tuesday and I never missed another Tuesday for the next 6 years. Influences from that aspect caused me to consider all types of radio broadcasting and during that time I did the World Service, national radio 'Sport on 2' as it was then, and some of the sports I had to cover for and behalf of BBC included tennis, football, rugby and table tennis of course. In fact I became a general back-up man and filled in for an awful lot of other correspondents if they became unavailable ... Some of the people I listened to, noted their style, I wouldn't say I copied ... just listened and tried to learn as I have gone along - Brian Butler, Peter Jones are two names that are no longer with us on national radio. Peter Jones unfortunately has died. Brian Butler retired a short while ago. He was in fact the chief football correspondent for the BBC.

I suppose some people would say that I am a 'people person'. Influences there have been gained mainly from conversations ... early influences in table tennis stretch from Christer Johansson, who I had a long in-depth discussion with in 1970 at the European Junior Championships in England. Then I was fortunate enough to meet him again in Rotherdam in '72 and he pointed me in certain directions on the management of people."

JOHN WOOD, *sports journalist and photographer. Editor of Table Tennis News.*

"Influences table tennis wise are ... three players, Carl Prean, Mathew Syed and Chen Xinhua. That's because they play with long pimples

- and I do!... I quite admire Richard Eaton and John Woodford for different reasons; interesting to learn that Richard Eaton's career and Desmond Douglas's started roughly at the same time ... I didn't know that until Richard Hapgood told me Ken Muhr and myself on the Piccadilly Line en route from the Bonnington to the Caernarvon (Hotel)! Sport wise, I haven't got anyone specifically ... Photographically I can specifically remember people. Kent Gavin of the Daily Mirror, a very good photographer ... who did really influence me in my younger days, much younger days - I'm still young you see, young at heart! - was Peter Wilson, also of the Daily Mirror. He was a great writer of all sports. One time I was involved as a participant in all sports, which included boxing - I had a trial for England; I played against Middlesex Colts at cricket, for Eaton Manor Colts - that's a club in Hackney; I was reasonably good at badminton and squash. I was really an all round sportsman and one time table tennis was one of many other sports I participated in. So Peter Wilson was a big influence on me as a writer."

JOHNNY LEACH, *former world mens singles champion, book author and News of the World table tennis columnist. President of the ETTA.*

"Obviously I have been writing for many years on table tennis but the person I have really learned a great deal from in my opinion is one of the best writers of sports that I have ever come across - a guy named Kenneth Wheeler. A lot of table tennis - the older table tennis fraternity - will know of Ken because Ken actually created the Eagle Girl table tennis championships which ran for many, many years; the Eagle comic and the Girl comic. It was a really great success and he organised the Five-a-Side Evening Standard and wrote books for many of the top sporting stars. Ken is still a very great friend of mine and now is editing a magazine called 'Sports Teaching' which is the official journal of the National Council for Schools' Sports. I mix with Richard Eaton, who is a great writer on table tennis, and of course there is John Woodford, and in the past I have been reporting with Peter Wilson, who I greatly admired and Sydney Hulls, who was the Daily Express so I have mixed with a lot of the top writers of my time. Out of interest, Peter Wilson who many people will know - I had a £10 bet with him that Ann Haydon would win Wimbledon, when she was really at the top in table tennis, and I won that bet!"

To be continued



**Ruth
Cleminson
married
Sean
Gibson
in
September**



**Teresa Moore
married
Jeremy
Bennett
in May**



Rome wasn't built in a day

THE new Coaching Committee has met and various areas of the National Coaching Scheme were seen as being in need of an overhaul. *Writes Gail McCulloch.*

Obviously Rome wasn't built in a day and so certain priorities will have to be set, including the following (but in no particular order):-

- a) Each Region to produce an upto date list of active coaches. This information to be stored on computer, and used as a back up for new coaches.
- b) The manual to be updated. This will probably be in 2 sections - basic and advanced.
- c) Coaching course content to be standardised and assessment procedures to be altered to improve the quality of coaches.
- d) Centres of excellence to be under tighter control in terms of the coaches programmes and the players commitment and learning structure.
- e) Advanced players to be monitored in terms of their practice/training opportunities



Departing Coaching Administrator Bethan Davies

Forthcoming Coaching Courses

16/17 October

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Brighton University

Coach: Dave Berriman 0273 680397

Regional Coaching Chairman: Roy Pugh 0843 221934

25/26 October

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Cranbrook (Kent Youth Service only)

Coach: Dave Berriman 0273 680397

Regional Coaching Chairman: Roy Pugh 0843 221934

30/31 October

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Earlsheaton Sports Centre, Dewsbury, W. Yorks

Coach: Derrick Marples 0246 850367

Contact: Lorna Brown 0484 431433

13/20 November

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Bewbush Leisure Centre, Crawley

Coach: Dave Berriman 0273 680397

Regional Coaching Chairman: Roy Pugh 0843 221934

20/27 November

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Idsall Sports Centre, Copplice Green Ln, Shifnal, Shrops

Coach: Jill Harris. Tel: 0922 612675, also Reg. C. Chairman

Contact: Victoria Wilkinson. Tel: 0743 254032

24 November /18 December

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Compton Park Act. Centre, Paget Rd, Wolverhampton

Coach: Jill Harris Tel: 0922 612675

Contact: Sandra Roden: Tel: 021-446 4659

11/12 December

Sport Leader, Teacher and Assistant Course

Venue: Waterfront Leisure Centre, High Street, Woolwich, SE18

Coach: Reg Rockall 081-341 9081 (Also R.C. Chairman)

National Trials

THE Junior National Trials will be played at Whitchurch Sports Centre, Bristol on December 18th (Jnr Boys, Cadet girls) and December 19th (Jnr girls, Cadet boys)

There will be 192 competitors (JB-64, JG 48, CB 48 and CG-32). In the 2 junior events the top 4 competitors will be invited to play in the Junior Masters on December 29th and 30th.

Entry into the trials is via qualification at Regional level except for the top ranked players who have an automatic qualification.

Regional Coaching Chairman

APOLOGIES to Campbell Eaton (N. West) Beron Walker (Yorks) for the omission of their photos in the last issue of TT News. Unfortunately they were absent when the photos were taken, but this does not mean that coaching is not alive and well in those areas.

Coaching Awards

THE awards have been restructured and renamed as follows:

- a) Coaching Award (Short introduction)
- b) Sports Leaders Award/ Teachers Award (12 hour training)
- c) Coach - Level 2 (12 hours theory plus 12 hours practical)
- d) Coach - Level 3 (12 hours theory plus 3 four hour National Coaching Foundation Courses)
- d) Coach - Level 4 (senior)

Euro Coaching Course

THIS is a must for all coaches who wish to keep up to date with modern techniques and training methods. Application forms are available from Jill Parker.

Coaching Administration

REGRETTABLY we said goodbye to Bethan Davies, our coaching administrator, at the end of September. Bethan has been with the ETTA for 15 years. However, the lure of the green, green grass of home has tempted her to return to Wales. We will miss her and send her our best wishes. Meanwhile, all coaching matters will be administered by Jill Parker in Preston.

Ron Moseley

A FLEET Street agency journalist of the Old School, Ron Moseley, died peacefully at his home at Billericay on March 23, aged only 65. Michael McDonnell, the Daily Mail golf correspondent described Ron as the "doyen of agency golf reporters."

One of the friendliest writers I have ever worked with, he was also for about a decade, the doyen of the smaller bunch of table tennis journalists. I worked with him initially some thirty years ago when the English Open was first held at the Dome and Com Exchange at Brighton. Until about five years ago, he covered almost every England Open, The English National Championships and the Commonwealth Championships for his agency The Press Association, Britain's only nationwide agency.

Older readers of this magazine may recall that he was the Press Officer for the ETTA at the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham. He also attended many European League matches in England.

For twenty-five years he carried the 'by-line' of the Press Association table tennis correspondent, up to the time when he was accepted the job of full-time golf correspondent for 'P.A.', when his horizons expanded even more rapidly to cover The Masters at Augusta, witnessing four British victories by Sandy Lyle in 1988, Nick Faldo in 1989, Ian Woosnam in 1990 and Faldo once more in 1991.

He was immensely involved in golf and bridge, but always had a 'soft spot' for table tennis. His final event was a 100 Club dinner at Stourbridge three years ago.

Ron was married for 14 years to Katy who hails from Dublin. She attended a considerable number of table tennis events with Ron in Britain as far afield as Cardiff and of course much further afield on the golf tournament circuit. He also had three fine sons by a former marriage.

One of his greatest thrills was playing golf at Penina in Portugal with the late Sir Henry Cotton.

His knowledge of sport, especially golf and table tennis was considerable.

Tributes to his generous spirit were made at his funeral held at the Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay where over 200 people turned up to say their farewells. I represented the table tennis journalists and the ETTA.

John Woodford

Tom Matthews

TOM MATTHEWS, MA was elected Chairman of the English Schools Table Tennis Association in 1973. He was more than surprised at this decision as he had only been a table tennis addict for five years although he was very much a sportsman. He had gained blues in soccer and lawn tennis as a student at Bede College, Durham. Immediately after graduating from Durham he took a Diploma in Physical Education at Carnegie College, Leeds, where he played and enjoyed most games.

The 1939 war found him in the Army and after a two year spell with a Parachute Battalion, he returned to the Army Physical Training Corps as a Supervising Officer P.T. in the Mediterranean zone until demobbed in December 1945. Three years were

spent as a lecturer in PE at a Teacher Training College in his native Northumberland. A back injury compelled him to relinquish this line of country and return to normal teaching. In 1961 he became Headmaster of Moor Grange High School, Leeds, where table tennis became a major sport. The premises housed the "Centre of Excellence" for table tennis run under the auspices of the Sports Council. Tom Matthews was a distinguished Headmaster and held in the highest possible esteem by the L.E.A., staff parents and pupils during his 17 years at Moor Grange.

He was Chairman of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association from 1973 until 1978 when at the age of 64 he retired from teaching. He was then elected President of the Association and continued to serve in that Office

until 1989. He was net part of the ESTTA in its first few formative years - but was a senior officer during 16 development years. He saw the inauguration of both the Individual and International Competitions for school children.

His wise counsel and knowledge welded together the Executive Committee of the Association - school teachers from all parts of the country. He led by example and determination. A series of serious heart operations did not deter his endeavours.

After his retirement from full time teaching Tom actively encouraged schools and organisations to participate in table tennis. He lectured to students at Carnegie College in Leeds, promoted "table tennis rallies" in his area and arranged demonstrations in Junior,

Middle and High schools throughout the country. Almost every day of every week during the table tennis season saw him in some voluntary activity for the sport of table tennis.

His enthusiasm for young people was not channelled entirely into table tennis activities. He was a "City Challenge" Director for the Outward Bound Trust and a Gold Level Field Assessor for the Yorkshire Dales Expedition Panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Tom's funeral took place on 18th August 1993 in Leeds and was attended by representatives of local, county and national table tennis bodies - a sign of the contribution he had made to sport particularly for the benefit of young people and the high esteem in which he was held by all with whom he worked.

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A DOZEN FREE 3 STAR BALLS WITH EVERY ORDER OVER £25

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LongFeint	£17.99
Super Sriver	£19.99
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Friendship 729	£14.99
Friendship FX	£14.99
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S.M.L.	£69.99
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Stiga Classic Off	£19.99
Stiga Dyna Power	£29.99
Appelgren A/R	£17.99
Appelgren Falcon Off	£19.75
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Persson Power Play	£19.75
Persson Power Speed	£24.95
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Gatien A/R (New)	£16.99
Gatien A/R + (New)	£17.99
Gatien Off Spur (New)	£19.75
Gatien Overdrive (New)	£22.49
Andro Orion A/R	£18.99
Scholer Micke	
Advance Off	£19.99

BAT CASES

Lion 2 Bat Ballet	£ 5.99
Salvo Butterfly	£14.99

BALLS

Lion 3 Star	
£8.99 per doz = 75p	
£49.99 per 6 doz = 69p	
£79.99 per gross = 55p	

TSP + Nittaku

£5.99 per 6 = 99p	
£10.99 per doz = 91p	
£59.99 per 6 doz = 83p	

Schildkrot £8.99 per doz

FOOTWEAR

Butterfly Salvo	
3 - 5 £23.99	5+ £27.50
Waldner (New)	
3 - 5 £23.99	5+ £27.50
Banda and Andro	
3 - 5 £23.99	5+ £27.50

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Bert & Charlie, Sussex Stalwarts



Sussex stalwarts Bert Fretwell (left) and Charlie Seaman

BERT FRETWELL and Charlie Seaman are the senior citizens of Sussex table tennis. As young men in their prime they were a force to be reckoned with at county championships level in those far off days. *Writes John Woodford.*

I can just remember Charlie Seaman playing at the Orange Hue Club in Brighton and at the Aquarium playing an avalanche of forehand drives that seemed to me at the time so hard that the balls would frequently disintegrate! He went on to play for England five times under the direction of Victor Barna, after winning the Brighton mens singles

crown at the age of 16.

After the war he returned to Brighton playing for that town and for Sussex on countless occasions before retiring in the late fifties, donating the Seaman cup and still taking an active interest in the sport.

Bert Fretwell has been in the front line of almost everything in Sussex table tennis for past 42 years. The only exception was when he was in the army at the time of Al Alamein - Bert was working in Cairo at the time.

Back from the Desert War, he ran the Mikado Table Tennis saloon in Brighton, a venue that became the venue

for visits from a number of international players including Richard Bergmann.

Bert coached for many years, became chairman of the Sussex TTA and is still umpiring at tournaments and British League matches and refereeing many other events. He is still President of Sussex and refereeing many other events. He is still President of Sussex being elected a Life Member along with Charlie Seaman at the Sussex AGM in 1992.

The contribution made by these two stalwarts to the sport and to Sussex over four decades is too large to be estimated.

BOOK REVIEW by Paul Tarrant

Know the Game - Table Tennis
Published by A & C Black,
London

THIS book is offered by the publishers, in collaboration with the ETTA, as an introduction to table tennis for the complete beginner.

Many coaches, or indeed more experienced players, might cringe at

it's suggestion that you should learn to 'steer' the ball not hit it. In the service one should 'bottom-spin' or 'mixed-spin' the ball (in referring to sidespin). The text suggests a 'chop the topspin' or 'topspin the chop' philosophy on return of service, the push may be taken late to allow more time ... and so, on.

Even more confusing, to return a 'mixed-spin' service one apparently has to 'move with the serve' and 'play outside the ball', also for a 'bottom spin' serve that cannot be topspin, "the safest answer is a simple blocking action." Although the

text goes on to say that an open bat should be used, the terminology is contrary to present usage and as such could be very confusing.

Criticisms aside, I do like the "Arthur Murray" style of foot diagrams. Equally amusing and seemingly related is the suggestion that you should "take your partner" when practising 'touch and position' in the gymnasium, or that "you can practise hundred of touch balls before you even bother a partner!

This book could do with an update on basic techniques. The

JUNIOR SCENE

The Corbet Arms 2 Star

BFL GROVE'S eleven year old Trudie Bloor proved to be the most successful player on duty at the Corbet Arms Hotel Junior Open Table Tennis Championships held at Grove School last weekend.

The England number one girl in the under 12 age group won every event in which she was eligible to play. The under 12 girls' singles saw her beat Sarah Nutch of Leeds and Iona Davies of Wrexham in the final stages to clinch the title whilst Miss Nutch was again the final victim in the under 16 girls' event and a similar fate befell the girl from Leeds in the under 14 final as Miss Bloor completed a hatricket of titles.

There was to be similar success for BFL Grove's Peter Ackred in the restricted titles in the under 13, under 14 and under 16 age groups and adding further success on Sunday to clinch the under 13 boys' title.

The major events, the under 17 boys' singles and under 17 girls' singles competition were dominated by players from BFL Grove.

Jun Tsuji clinched the boys' title with a final victory over clubmate Adrian Cadman whilst BFL Grove's Welsh international Delyth Davies won the junior girls' title with clubmates Heidi Thurland and Krissy Sherwin finishing in second and third places.

terminology also needs to be brought more into line with current texts, so as to allow a smooth progression were the reader to attend coaching sessions or to read some of the more technical literature available.

Summarising, a book for the complete beginner with basic (some outdated) rules and a very simplified 'all round' view of the game. Coaches receiving some of the readers of this book to their sessions will almost certainly have some changes to make.

Kingston Table Tennis Centre

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

THE most exciting development in English table tennis for many years has just come to fruition. The new table tennis centre at Kingston was handed over from the contractor, Laings, to the Milton Keynes Community Trust. It is expected that the Milton Keynes Table Tennis League in the form of a limited company set up for the purpose, will take over responsibility for the building and a full programme of league matches, coaching, practice, and representative games will be arranged, writes Tony Curzon.

Completion of this project marks the culmination of a long period of planning which started in the 1970's when the League Committee Fund raised several thousand pounds towards the project which then lay dormant for several years until it was resurrected in 1986. Following visits to other centres such as St. Neots and Ellenborough a brief was prepared and an approach made to the Development Corporation and Borough Council for funding. During 1988 a marvellous opportunity to provide exactly what the League had hoped for presented itself when the Development Corporation marketed a site at Kingston, in the East Flank of the City, for a District Shopping Centre. Subsequent discussions between the Development Corporation and developers resulted in Tesco putting forward a scheme which included a table tennis centre and gymnastics centre as part of a package of commercial and community facilities. A start on the site was eventually made in October 1990 and after a 14 month contract the Centre finally opened its doors.

NEED FOR A NEW CENTRE

Table tennis in Milton Keynes has developed over the years, as in most other parts of the country, in a variety of makeshift venues ranging from works canteens to church halls. There has only been one venue devoted exclusively to table tennis - AHW - and whilst the club has produced many good players it is cramped and lacks many modern amenities. If table tennis is to compete with other sports in an increasingly sophisticated sports market, good modern facilities are essential. The number of league players in Milton Keynes has declined over the last few years at a



The Kingston Table Tennis Court; Milton Keynes

time when the population of Milton Keynes itself has been expanding rapidly. A shortage of good venues is known to be a major contributory factor in this decline. It is ironic that this should be the case when Milton Keynes plays host regularly to top class events such as European League Matches, the English Closed Championships, National Top 12 tournaments and a National under 21 tournament. The new Centre should reverse this decline and provide a showpiece for the promotion of the sport. Milton Keynes is fast becoming a major regional centre for business, shopping, home and leisure. By the year 2000 it will be one of the largest cities in the UK. The new table tennis centre will have a large potential catchment and is an ideal location close to the M1. It should therefore be able to both benefit from and add to Milton Keynes growing reputation as a modern, progressive City where sport can be performed at the highest level.

ROLE OF CENTRE

The Kingston Centre will be able to satisfy a number of important objectives:

- As a purpose built Centre it will provide the proper physical and environmental conditions for the sport which should lead to an improvement in standards
- Being available exclusively for table tennis it should lead to an expansion of the game locally.
- It will provide an important social and administrative focus for the game locally.
- It will be used for all levels of

play including practice, coaching local league matches, inter-league, British League, domestic and County tournaments. It could also be made available for national squad training and even international matches.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The Table Tennis Centre is situated within the Kingston District Centre at the junction of H8 Standing Way and V11 Tongwell Street. It is joined by a tall glass atrium to a gymnastics centre which will be run by the Milton Keynes School of Gymnastics. The building is smartly clad in a combination of buff brick and cream coloured panelling. The centre has its own dedicated parking (shared with the gymnastics centre and other community buildings on the site) and is attractively landscaped.

GROUND FLOOR

Entrance lobby with space for circulation contains a kiosk which can be used as a shop for the sale of table tennis equipment and/or as a control point for the building.

A main hall measuring 30m x 13m which can accommodate six tables for league play or eight for coaching/practice. Specialist coin-operated lights have been fitted which provide the recommended 450 lux at table level, whilst the background lighting is dimmable to create that big match atmosphere. Walls are dark and non-reflective which gives an airy, spacious feel to the hall. A heating system has been installed to provide a constant 13°C temperature and the ventilation

system will provide frequent air changes.

Male and female changing rooms with toilets and showers and vanity units for making up for that important televised match!

There is an equipment store for tables, chairs, surrounds etc. and a cleaner's store along with bar store for barrels, crates and spirits

FIRST FLOOR

A viewing gallery with 27 fixed seats overlooking the main hall. Again the lighting is dimmable.

Office/committee room for the administration of the Centre's and League's affairs.

Bar/lounge measuring approximately 10m x 5m. This has been fitted with a carpet and down lighters and is ready for the installation of a bar servery, furniture and games machines to create an intimate space which will be the social hub of the building.

Kitchen with a range of fitted kitchen units capable of supplying hot and cold refreshments.

SECOND FLOOR

Operating plant. Space for additional storage of equipment.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE

A company limited by guarantee has been established in order to run the centre on behalf of the league. A board of directors has been appointed and a lease is being negotiated with the landlord - The Milton Keynes Community Trust.

Chess players

TABLE tennis and chess are two games that have great worldwide popularity. There is a noticeable connection between interest in one of these games and interest in the other. In many cases players of chess are of players of table tennis. Great champions in table tennis play chess for relaxation, in many instances, and, similarly, one finds that some chess champions do intense table tennis for relief from the stress of chess activity. The popularity of chess and table tennis for mathematicians is also quite striking.

The writer of this article has been interested in table tennis and chess since the 1960's. Many of his friends who played either game also played the other. World Chess Champions Bobby Fischer (1972-5), U.S.A., Tigran Petrosian, (1963-9) and Alexander Alekhin (1927-35 and 1937-46), Russia, all played table tennis for fun to some extent. When Peter Larsson of the world champion Swedish team was in Illinois, U.S.A., in 1992, I asked him if any of his team-mates were chess players. He said Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren played chess.

As table tennis players, Great physicist Niels Bohr (Denmark), Werner Heisenberg (Germany) and Edward Teller (Hungary), who were extremely important for the development of the quantum theory of physics in the 1920's, delighted in many games of table tennis. Teller studied for his doctorate under Heisenberg at Leipzig University in the late '20's. Although he had suffered a trolley car accident that had cost him a foot, he fought through that handicap to become one of the best table tennis players among the physicists who competed with Heisenberg. Dr. Heisenberg was amazed at this display of Edward Teller's strength of character.

The most prolific pure mathematician of our century is Dr. Paul Erdős (Hungary). Like Teller and Heisenberg, he has been well known for taking relaxation with many games of table tennis and chess. I predict that ETTA readers of this letter will, in many cases, have noticed the frequent occurrence of joint interest in table tennis and chess or mathematics. Quite probably the demands for rapid, precise thinking in controlling the table tennis ball are found to be of practical value to practitioners of analytical disciplines.

An event where high-speed chess (time limit, 5 minutes per game or less) and table tennis are both played would be fascinating to many people.

Laurence W. Johnson
Illinois, U.S.A.

Censorship

IN THE past I have read rumblings of discontent in the columns of the magazine about censorship. Almost certainly these complaints have been made by people wishing to put forward an anti-establishment view, one notable contribution being a particularly complainant.

Several months ago I wrote a letter defending the Ranking System and suggested that there were other more relevant reasons for a general drop in entries, a drop certainly not evident in VETTS tournaments despite the fact that their own Ratings System also included losses in the calculations. I

further suggested that the inclusion of Ratings events, giving players the opportunity to compete in their own standard in Open Tournaments would be very popular. I hear there will be such an event or events this season, which is good news.

The ETTA Chairman was clearly impressed by my letter. He wrote to me personally to say that all members of the Committee who were due to discuss the future of the Ranking scheme at that time would be given a copy of my letter, which he said would be published in the next issue of the magazine.

Surprise, surprise, my letter was never published. Maybe it was considered too heavy, too pro establishment perhaps, and that it might upset those prominent figures who believed that players enter tournaments with the principal objective of gathering ratings points. Some kind of reverse censorship perhaps? But let us suppose for a moment that the critics are right and that players do enter just for the points.

Now, I hear that points are to be awarded to entrants just for turning up. Well, well, now we know that you do not need to win to gain ratings points, surely this idea could be extended. Scrap the losing of points and concentrate on different ways of point gathering. It appears that these attendance points will be awarded whether a player has travelled just five miles of 250 miles to be there. Let's be logical about this, chaps. Surely it's only fair that the long distance traveller should be awarded more points than the local player.

But why restrict these handouts to attendance only? Is not the well turned out player worth a few extra points? Many tournament organisers ask that losers should umpire the next game on their table. We all know about those crafty devils who retire to the little room as soon as they have lost. Why not knock of a few points for this behaviour? Better still why not award extra points to volunteer umpires. If the critics of the present scheme are to be believed there should be a veritable queue of players only too anxious to umpire.

I am sure that more fertile imaginations than mine could come up with many more ideas for giving away points. Perhaps there should be a sub committee set up to investigate. With sufficient imagination and suitable incentives this could lead to huge entries and this would lead to players ensuring that in future their entries were sent in early, an organiser's dream. Ranking lists could be completely reshaped - we might even finish up with a new number one! Utopia could be just around the corner! This all follows quite logically if it is true that players enter tournaments to garner extra ratings points.

There is enormous scope here to bring back the good old days, if only, Mr Editor, you have the courage to print this letter. Somehow I doubt it!

Ron Etheridge
Beckenham, Kent

The Word

I HAVE received many comments, most favourable, on the series I compiled on "The Experts" Expert: The Coaches' Coach." I would advise readers that a similar series, on "The Writers' Writer", starts in the Table Tennis News in the October 1993 issue.



The Editor
Table Tennis News
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We've shot ourselves in the foot again

It would be presumptuous of me to give my opinions on table tennis writers, but I would like to mention three outstanding journalists from other sports, all of whom have sadly died in the last 20 months.

The very name John Arlott, who passed away in December 1991, encapsulates cricket; he was the (Hampshire burred) voice of cricket. In 1947 Dylan Thomas wrote to Arlott:-

"You're not only the best cricket commentator - far and away that; but the best sports commentator I've heard ever: exact, enthusiastic, prejudiced, amazingly visual, authoritative, and friendly. A great pleasure to listen to you."

A Guardian tribute by Frank Keating to Dean Maskell, who died a year later than Arlott, noted that although the two were very different men, "through radio, their voices epitomised for generations the perception of lulling, leisured ball-playing on sunlit day." He could write, but it is broadcasting on tennis for which Maskell was famous. And Dan's key to greatness was that he was a master of silence for, as he put it, "Economy of words is what most viewers enjoy." And timing - he knew just when to speak.

Arthur Ashe, Wimbledon men's singles champion of 1975 had once remarked, "had someone been in the long sleep, and had suddenly awakened to hear Dan broadcasting from Wimbledon, he would have instantly known all was right with the world."

Arthur Ashe was also a writer, of several sports books and newspaper columns: it was through his copy for the British "Observer" that I was able to appreciate his journalistic skills. Like some other very intelligent people, Arthur Ashe could put over an original or perceptive view, crafted from "feel" and insight, in an intelligible, interesting way - express complex ideas simply.

What possible relevance have these three to table tennis? Only that their personalities, integrity and skills gave their respective sports a higher status, dignity and profile - the written (and spoken) word from the right people has power. And maybe their particular sports helped make them too - a reciprocal process. So good writers (and broadcasters) do, or can do, a huge amount for the image and publicity of table tennis. But is table tennis a sufficient arena to retain the attentions of a successful professional journalist? Or, like Harold Evans, a one time table tennis columnist (and player) who went on to become editor of the Times/Sunday Times, will he/she move on to more lucrative and influential pastures? We must savour, nurture, hold on to what journalist talent we have loyal to table tennis, and recruit more. Our sports needs it, and needs them - the scribes and broadcasters.

Ken Hurl
Stony Stratford.

IT gives me no pleasure to report the following: In July our National Council made the decision to force all our members to play with red and black rubbers respectively. This has caused a number of our players to call it a day. In the main, they enjoyed playing with their old "Bama bats" or similar, which suited their game and to which they had grown accustomed. They did not want to take up another game.

The result is that we have lost some old friends, our league has lost members and income and so has the ETTA. For the first time in years we are unlikely to report an increase in membership. Our efforts in that direction were nullified by a pointless and foolish decision taken elsewhere. I voted against this, but to no avail.

Once again the sport has shot itself in the foot with unerring precision.

John Preen
Isle of Wight League

Clashes

WHILE appreciating that it is difficult to arrange a busy season of tournaments with the minimum of clashes I feel that the dates chosen for this season's National U10/11/12 events, June 4th and 5th are about the worse possible.

Many education authorities provide primary school children with two weeks holiday at this time of year, and a high proportion of families take the opportunity to go away. This is certainly the case in the Stockport and North Cheshire areas, which provided a quarter of the entries in last seasons' girls U10 event.

Already I have one talented 9 year old girl bemoaning the fact that she will miss her only chance of competing in a National U-10 event. Is it too late for a re-think?

Alan R. Blears
Stockport

PLEASE NOTE

We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Mailbox. Your letters that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome, as are replies.

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

South West Region

by Alf Pepperd

A few years ago at a British League match when Alex was playing for Bathwick Tyres, I interviewed him for BBC, South and West Radio, one of the questions that I asked him was, what comes first with you, your education or table tennis? I shall not divulge his reply, but, I have no hesitation in saying this - he is I know at the time or writing awaiting his Economic's "A" results, and also working towards his maths and other studies. I fear that ere long, Alex Perry will have to make a rather big decision - that of being a full time T.T. pro player OR going to higher education fields, whatever his choice, I certainly wish him well

I do not know Lucy Perry well enough to even suggest that perhaps she would even wish to cumulate her famous brother, Alex would indeed be a very hard act to follow and Lucy is still a Cadet Player, least ways at the time of writing she is No. 8 in England as an U12, and 42 as a Cadet Girl, I suspect that when the next ranking lists comes out, Lucy will be considerably higher than 42.

And, finally, on this saga of the Perry family, I come to Penny who is currently ranked at No. 3. as a Lady Veteran, with her greatest highlight coming in the English National Championships last March when she beat Margaret Dignum, 17, 15, in the final of the All England Ladies Veteran Championships. This win presented the Perry family with a unique double - mother and son both national champions at the same time, as Sir James Saville would say - "How about that then."



The Perry Family

Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

MUCH has happened in the south during the "close" season; we have appointed a development officer, the regional plan has been published and we have a new chairman (I refuse to be called a chair, so now you know who the new man is!)

23 years old Stephen Joel, a member of the Chippenham club who has coached junior table tennis at high level and is resident in the region at Windsor has been working in the Sheffield area since graduation from the University of the same city. Stephen took up his post on 6th September and is based at the Sports Council's Reading office. It is Stephen's aim to contact all leagues before Christmas but if you want to speak to him first he will be pleased to hear from you on Reading (0734) 483311.

Approximately one thousand copies of Development Plan have been distributed to counties, leagues, clubs (406 of you), schools and local authorities etc. If by chance you have been missed or require additional copies contact Stephen.

After 12 years as Chairman, since the inception of regional committees, Ray Yates has

decided to retire although he will not doubt "pop up" from time to time, possibly as a link with the disabled. Thanks Ray for all your effort; you leave a number of notable legacies not the least of which is the regional league which has kept up its record of increasing in numbers every year; this season we shall have 23 teams in 4 divisions (3 Mens, 1 Ladies). Whilst increasing in teams we have "lost" one club, founder member Amity Generation - thanks for your support and hopefully your absence is only temporary.

In an endeavour to keep up numbers and widen the distribution of "jobs" John Cunningham of Berkshire will take over from myself as Press Officer and Eleanor Hughes (Oxfordshire) has agreed to join us as Womens representative. I am indebted to these two and also to existing officers who have agreed to carry on; Harry Spraggs (Treasurer), Mick Strode (Competition Secretary) and Graham Trimming (League Secretary). Derek Langley, national appointed as Coaching Chairman together with County, Schools and Veteran representatives complete the "squad"

John will take over these notes next month when he will be able to report on the seasons first league matches and also on the 25th September conference at Marlow. I hope that I shall have seen many of you there.

London Region

by John Llewellyn

THE summertime has proved to be highly eventful for table tennis in the London Region. First and foremost was the production of "table tennis Focus Development Plan." The plan gives guidance not only as to the way we should be developing table tennis in London but nationally as well. A true blue print for the sport.

Many changes have taken place in the London Region Table Tennis Committee. Formerly known as London and South East. In April they decided to split completely from the South East Region to form two separate bodies. New members to the committee are John Llewellyn press officer, Reg Rockall coaching chairman (North) and Karen. With the former Commonwealth champion who has taken over as women's representative.

Colin Wilson the regional development officer, has achieved a number of notable successes during the summer. Two major conferences were run in August at Edison TTC, the first an advanced coaches seminars and second a Women's Fun and Social Day. Grant applications have been going well in the region. Foundation for Sport and the Arts have given grants to Time and Talents TTC in Rotherhithe totalling £7,150, £1,000 to Graham Spicer TTC in New Maldon and £600 to St. Pauls TTC, Wandsworth. Junior development programmes have been launched in both the West Middlesex and Wandsworth TTL's. New coaching has been generated in the London Boroughs of Croydon, Marton, Barnet, Haringey, Harrow, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Waltham Forest. The biggest success though is that of staging the first international match in London for five years. Reg Rockall's Edison club held the England v Sweden Women's European Super league match on the 21st September.

News from the Counties

AVON

Bob Murray

VERY little to report this month with my only information coming from the Weston-Super-Mare league.

Weston have made a net gain of one team this season which has enabled them to restructure their divisions. They will now have seven teams in a Premier Division, seven teams in Division one and eight teams in Division two. Teams will play each other three times in each division.

The two new teams in the league season are additional sides at Winscombe Lawn Tennis Club and Worle School.

I hear that Chas Davies a stalwart who will be well known across the country has decided to hang up his bat at the age of 76 - we wish him well.

On the county scene we will again be fielding four sides this season: two seniors, one veteran and one junior. The veterans with new additions Gary Baldwin and Linda Porter may achieve the highest placing although I am ever optimistic about our juniors who should be challenging for promotion.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

Brighton's Joanna Bush-Harris, 15, can claim to have experienced the toughest group draw in an open tournament for a long time - at the Peniel 5 star at Brentwood in the womens singles group she played Kate Goodall and Nicola Deaton

A tough draw indeed for Kate and Nicola. Many referees would have slipped one of the two names into the hat when they emerged together, but not Peter Roden, the 'straightest' referee in Britain, which is not suggesting that we have other referees who do not play straight bats - on the continent of course, a different matter.

Sussex youngsters have recently spread themselves around the Friendly Hotels British League - Paul Butcher, still with one year left in the juniors is playing for Ashford, whilst Paul Ciccelli won the 'player-of-the-month' award recently playing for Rejects in Division 3 (South) as he defeated Chris Marlow and Laz Brown to help his club to a 5-3 against Ellenborough. Kevin Doyle is also putting in some 'demon' shows for Horsham Angels thirds.

Wesley Bush-Harris was the only scorer for Lennox House (Chichester) when they lost their first match against Rejects, at Mitcham. Meanwhile, Horsham Angels seconds are waiting to hear the result of the £200 claim from a Fareham club for an unplayed match.

"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.



Scottish Provident General Manager Geoff Johnson hands over the Friendly Hotels British League sponsorship cheque to O.L.O.P. secretary John Cunningham.

The Angels were sitting in Scott Greenbrook's car at Horsham waiting to take-off for Fareham, when were smashed into by a woman driver allegedly reading a map. Both cars were write-offs, no-one seriously hurt but the players were too shaken to find another vehicle and make the journey. Nigel Thomas was apparently after not losing his match fee. The decision of the league will be made shortly.

SUSSEX JUNIOR RANKING LISTS:

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

1. Sarah Stedman
2. Joanna Bush-Harris
3. Clare Brown
4. Sara Coggan

5. Tina Beaney
6. Heidi Sims
7. Emma Forder
8. Tracey Huntley
9. Sharon Roberts
10. Sara Cohn

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

It is with great sadness that I open this season's County notes by paying tribute to Tom Matthews, a much respected Vice President of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association, who died in early August.

A full obituary by John Arnold, the Wakefield based President of the English Schools T.T.A. appears elsewhere in this issue, but it is only right that the County should add their condolences to those received by his widow and family from his many friends, not only in table tennis, but in sport in general, work with young people, and teaching.

All who have met Tom have benefited from their association with him, all with the poorer for the passing of a man of many parts, but one whom I prefer to remember just as a true gentleman.

The playing season got under way over the first weekend in September with the Kirklees 2* Junior Open Championships at Huddersfield, and the home players were very much to the fore, particularly in the Junior Boys Singles event where three of the four semi-finalists were based in the Broad Acres.

A real thriller saw Bradford's Mark Smith come past Phil Neal of Hull at 19 in the third in one semi, while Mike James, just out of the Cadets and surely one of Yorkshire's biggest young prospects, got the better of Ian Eaton (Ch) in the other.

And there was to be no stopping the boy from unfashionable Bridlington at this stage, and using all the 'know-how' he has assimilated in a summer much of which has been spent in representative play - World Schools' Championships, European Cadet 'Six Nations' and finally the European Youth Championships in Ljubljana, he ran out 22, 17 winner.

Consolation for the losers came in the Elite Class 2 Singles with a three set victory over top Scot Stewart Crawford, while in the parallel Cadet Elite Class 2 Darren Ashall (Wakefield) took the title with a win over Robert Scensson (Dv) and added the Cadet Boys Doubles in tandem with Derbyshire boy Michael Isherwood.

Nicola Smith (Leeds) and the unrelated Emma Smith (Selby) were runners up in the Junior Girls and Cadet Girls Singles respectively - with the titles going to top seeds Nicola Deaton (Dy) and Debbie Pestka (Ng), while Emma also reached the Doubles final with Charlotte Spink (Leeds), only to finish on the losing side once again to Joanna Barraclough (Co)/Karen Lockwood (Ch).

By the time these notes go into print the Yorkshire League, which provides top class competition for teams across the County from Northallerton in the north to Sheffield in the south, and Halifax on the Lancashire border to Scarborough on the North Sea Coast, will be under way.

Mens Premier division, Ladies, Junior and Cadets will again be run on a 'central venue' basis, with Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Scarborough and York hosting matches, thus enabling all teams to play two matches on each scheduled date and reduce both travelling time and costs.

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.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

David Edwards of Abbots Langley, Herefordshire has recently been selected to umpire at the European Table Tennis Championships to be held in Birmingham from 25th March to 4 April 1994.

David began umpiring in 1985 at the age of 22 after realising that he would probably not attain the standard required for a County player, although still wanting to be involved in table tennis at the highest level.

He began umpiring junior, senior and veteran county matches, then in 1989, he wanted to go further and include National tournaments. The number of tournaments increased each year and now he attends over 25 tournaments a year which take him as far apart as Hastings in the South to Middlesbrough in the North. In 1991, at the age of 27 he became the youngest National Umpire on the circuit, and now hopes to take the international exam at the end of the year in time for the European Championships.

As well as umpiring most weekends during the season, David plays to a reasonable standard in both the Watford and St. Albans leagues. He is also the umpire's secretary for Herefordshire and the match secretary for the Watford League.

The European Championships will be the largest table tennis event to be staged in this country since the World Championships in 1977, also held in Birmingham.

Anyone interested in seeing this fantastic event involving most of the world's top players should contact the Euro 94 Championships office on 021 644 6464 for more information.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

At the time of compiling this report we are awaiting the commencement of a new season at league and county level.

It is worth pointing out that the county first team will play against the second team in the same division. The first team are all established players consisting of the top players in the county. The second team, by comparison, has seen many changes over the past few seasons with the policy of introducing younger players. There has been some discussion about the merit of trials, league performance etc., to determine county selection competition for a place in the second team should be as strong as ever this year with a number of players pushing hard for selection. Mr B Leech (Bromsgrove) informs me that several players from his league would like to be considered. Therefore I see this opening county fixture as a very important one.

Bromsgrove players - Dave Rogers, Mark Fiddian and Craig Ward, plus Dudley county player Jason Thompson

and Lewis Siket (Worcs) have informed a second British League team within Worcestershire. 'Bromsgrove' take their place in Midland Division 3 and their home venue will be Droitwich Sports and Leisure Centre. The team will play against our other side 'Hawbush CC' and expect to do well in the division.

There is quite a lot of activity in Worcestershire on the development scene. A regional centre of excellence will be set up at Christopher Whitehead School starting this month.

Carrie Hunt, who started playing at Christopher Whitehead School, performed very well in the recent schools home international table tennis championships in Perth, Scotland. Teams competed from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. Carrie played her part in helping the England team to win the under 18 girls team championships. She then teamed up with Nicola Meddings of Staffordshire for the doubles competition and played well to reach the final. Unfortunately they were beaten 21-16 in the third to Natasha Williams, the top ranked senior woman in Wales and Meinir Davies.



Hertfordshire's Dave Edwards

KENT

Adrian Hall

Kent v China

A capacity crowd of over 400 were entertained to all that is best in table tennis when Kent and China met in a table tennis extravaganza supported by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Results: Kent 0 - China 3. Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge) lost to Wang Le Qi. 12-21, 13-21. Mark Brown (Tonbridge Wells) lost to Wu Cun Jian. 12-21, 15-21. Martin Hewett (Maidstone) lost to Bei Fong. 10-21, 9-21.

The Chinese training practice of multiball rarely seen in the country was brilliantly demonstrated to the crowd by two of Kents top junior players Christian Thompson and Crystal Hall who had learned to play the system in China last Summer.

Two special challenge matches brought the crowd to its feet with an array of dazzling attacking and defensive shots. Sean Gibson (England No. 8) lost to coach Li Hao Song (former Chinese No. 3) 18-21, 19-21. Skyler Andrew (England No. 7) was the sole winner when he beat defensive skills of Bei Fong 21-15, 21-19 with a combination of comedy and brilliant loop drives.

Medway v China

Following the tremendous success of the Kent v China match the Medway v China follow sponsored by Gillingham Borough Council at the Black Lion, Sports Centre, Gillingham, was again well supported. Result: Medway 0 - China 3

Mick Ling lost to Bei Fong. 13-21, 13-21

Mark Brown lost to Wu Cun Jian. 15-21, 19-21

Spencer Thompson lost to Wang Le Qi. 13-21, 17-21.

Li Hao Song and Jing Yan Ming made an attempt on the world speed hitting record of 173 strokes. The rallies were completed without error and on the manual count it was thought that the record had been broken only to be denied on the evidence of the video camera later on, even so the crowd were hypnotised by the consistency and speed of shot.

The evening was rounded off with an exhibition match between Li Hao Song and Sean Gibson. To the great delight of the crowd it was Gibson that ran out the winner 21-23, 21-12, 21-12.

Chinese Training Camp

The summer training camp organised by the KCTTA with the training under the guidance of our guests from China, proved a great success. Every place was sold out and a significant waiting list developed. Our grateful thanks to coaches Wang Da Zhi, Ma Ming Hong, Li Hao Song and Gao Yi Ming and to players Bei Fong, Li Zhi Ping, Bei Yang, Wu Cun Jian, Jing Yan Ming, Wong Le Qi interpreter Li Ying Dong and son Wang Chu Xi.

Chinese Turn on the Lights

The Larkfield Club played host three times to the Chinese during their stay in Kent, on their last visit coach Wang Da Zhi and county chairman Reg Thompson were able to officially switch on the clubs new halogen lights. The lights and installation were partly paid for by an ETTA grant.

Chinese Ambassadors

The guests from China have made many friends in the county during their August stay. As house guests of the Thompsons, Halls and Stuteley's they have bought a new dimension to our families and friends in terms of culture, food and understanding.

Truly the Chinese have been great ambassadors of both table tennis and their country.

Maidstone Teams Beaten in National Final

There are very few occasions when one league can boast two teams in a national final but that is just what Maidstone can boast as both their girls and boys cadet teams won through to the national team event finals at Grantham.

The girls team of Alison Smith, Rachel Woolven and Jade Stuteley lost 5-0 to Leeds.

Scott Friday managed Maidstones only victory for the boys as they lost 5-1 to the more experience opponents from Chesterfield. Antony Lickfold and Jon Cheng made up the Maidstone team.

Season 1993/4 Kent Junior Rankings

Junior Boys

1. Glen Ritchie
2. Christian Thompson
3. Paul Smith
4. Christopher Hall
5. Ben McCarthy
6. Scott Dawtry
7. Alistair McTavish
8. Scott Friday
9. Lee Howes
10. Lee Smith

Junior Girls

1. Joanne Barham
2. Crystal Hall
3. Angie Bristow
4. Alison Smith
5. Rachel Woolven
6. Jade Stutely
7. Cally Howes
8. Charlotte Eke
9. Claire Chamberlain
10. Laura Pethers
11. Lisa Holloway

Cadet Boys

1. Christian Thompson
2. Scott Friday
3. Antony Lickfold
4. Jonathan Cheng
5. Stephen New
6. Arron Campbell
7. David Richardson
8. Justin Dodd
9. Paul Cronin
10. Christian Hanys

Cadet Girls

1. Cally Howes
2. Lisa Holloway
3. Kelly Grant
4. Kelly Hanys
5. Elizabeth Flynn
6. Ruth Lusted
7. Rachel Dorman

BERKSHIRE

With the new season just around the corner all the local leagues are well into their 1993/94 preparations. A final look at last season, in the Newbury league Thatcham 'A' chasing their fifth successive title were pipped at the final hurdle by Thatcham 'D'. However it was some 'D' team including Dave Reeves, Darren Jones and Janet Parker.

The Newbury and District League celebrate their 60th Anniversary this coming season and plans are already in hand to celebrate the occasion.

Maidenhead and District, Reading and District and Bracknell and District champions were Our Lady of Peace TTC. The club also won the respective handicaps in each league thus achieving their best ever season. As the treble is unlikely to ever happen again a claim has been made to the Guinness Book of Records for entry.

On the county front the highlight was the great achievement of Peter Goutley and his juniors winning division one, and Peter tells me that he has high hopes of lifting the Premier this season. His only worry is which of his talented squad to leave out, and if you look at the current cadet and junior rankings he has some squad and perhaps the best coach in England, Jim Stokes.

Finally for this month the latest Berkshire Senior and veteran rankings.

Senior Men

1. M Syed
2. J Stokes
3. D Barr

4. D Reeves
5. M Childs
6. M Adams
7. C Payne
8. B Johnson
9. D Jones
10. T Young
11. J Mead
12. B Hegedus
13. H Gehlot
14. B Davis
15. C Forrest

Veteran Men

1. Dave Streak
2. Syd Montgomery
3. Peter Bradley
4. Ian Schwartz
5. Geoff Davis
6. Barry Morten
7. Colin Dyke
8. Brian Halliday
9. Dave Wise
10. Mike Harris
11. John Morris
12. Alan Williams
13. Roger Woolven-Allen
14. Geoff Civil
15. John Rose

Senior Women

1. A Gordon
2. J Parker-Stokes
3. G Schwartz
4. S Collier
5. J Parker
6. L Crick
7. G Galloway
8. G Knightley
9. I Walker
10. C Basden
11. M Massey
12. J Godwin
13. M Allan
14. P Spooner
15. S Bruton

Veteran Women

1. Gil Knightley
2. Christine Basden
3. Meryl Massey
4. Jackie Godwin
5. Pam Spooner
6. Sylvia Bruton
7. Jeanne Glover
8. Sharon Mitchell
9. Eve Franey

Stop Press - Sponsorship

The very existence of some clubs in local table tennis is determined by 'Sponsorship' SSV, who play in the Southern Region League and the Bracknell and District League, are once again sponsored by major Environmental company 'Artel'. Our Lady of Peace TTC have received major sponsorship from Butterfly and 'Scottish Provident' at British League and Southern Region level and support from Thatcham Company 'Target Steel' in the Maidenhead League and Reading Youth Division. Wokingham Hotel, St. Annes Manor agreed to sponsor the O.L.O.P teams in the newly named, Bracknell Wokingham and District League.

ESSEX

Stephen Kerns

News has filtered through from the Thurrock league of a new addition to their league of team of handicapped people to play in their third division. they will be playing under the name of Thurrock Wheelers and they are recipients of a grant from the Thurrock Sports Council to assist them in paying for their venue the Tilbury Leisure Centre. At the leagues AGM it was unanimously agreed that they be allowed to play all their matches at home, as the leisure centre is best equipped to cope with their needs. The league has also agreed that all matches in their division should be made up of nine singles, as they cannot play doubles. Their team captain is John Barton, a wheelchair athlete of some note who recently threw an East of England Javelin record of 21:95 metres in the recent Wickford Games. League Secretary Greta Baker reports that the league is delighted to have such an enthusiastic group of people as new entrants, and wonders if they are the only team comprised of wheelchair competitors competing in an Open League in the country.

Inter-league supremo Roy Franklin has reported an entry of 121 teams this year, seven down on last year. All leagues have entered except Silvertown, making sixteen in all Dagenham dominated proceedings last year winning the premier league in the mens, ladies, mixed and veterans categories and will be out to defend their titles.

The Chelmsford league, which has retained its eight division for the past five years looks like seeing a real dog-fight to capture its first division title this season. Last years champions ECCB (Dave Cole, Rik James, Simon Woods, Andy Wadling and Shelley Ruocco) have intense competition from OCs A (Martin Cole, Steve Rond, Mike Hayes and Steve Northcott) and the return of a full-strength Maldon A side of Dave Newman, Dave Bowlers, Steve Dettmar, Stuart Gibbs and Don McGilvroy.

Dates for the diary include the Essex Junior Open tournament on 27th/28th November 1993 at the Harlow Sports Centre. The Junior team this year has to say goodbye to the two lads who did so well in the final year in the U17 ranks Cris Sladden and Ryan Savill, but with players of the calibre of James Wickens, Steve Joslin and Regan Nettleingham coming through the standard of the Essex Junior boys remains highly promising.

In answer to the questions posed by Diccon Gray regarding the format of matches, and particularly the two-a-side (two singles plus one doubles) match the Chelmsford league have been operating a summer league on this format for the past eight years. Entries were up this year to four mini divisions of seven teams so clearly this is providing a popular out-of-season attraction, but

unlikely to become liked enough to challenge the traditional three-a-side format of matches. The obvious disadvantage of the two-per-side make-up is that less people are taking part at a venue at a given time, which could lead to players losing their places in established teams and slipping out of the game.

DERBYSHIRE

Colin Deaton

The Table Tennis calendar opens in Derbyshire with the news that our own Alan Cooke is to be based in England, at least for this season.

"Cookie" who has spent the last two seasons playing in Sweden was missed in our county during this period and the news of him being around in our area is probably just the shot in the arm that Derbyshire needs.

We are quite keen to field our strongest county team this season being promoted last season to the NCC premiere division.

If we can get our strongest teams out which would give us the choice from Alan Cooke, Martin Kinsella, John Holland, Bradley Billington, Steven Shaw, Nicola Deaton and Julie Billington who I am informed is keen to make a come back after troublesome wrist injury.

Maybe we would not quite have the class to emerge as champions but few would argue that we would indeed be a force to be reckoned with.

At junior level unfortunately one county team has been dropped but it is pleasing to note some of our young junior players are continuing to make their presence felt nationally.

Our number one cadet player Michael Isherwood commenced the season with a flourish by notching a double in the Kirklees Open winning the cadet boys singles and cadet boys doubles.

His ambition is to get the English top ranking spot this season and I reckon it is within his capabilities.

I wouldn't go as far as saying he is another "Cookie" but coach Derrick Marples is very pleased with the progress he is making.

Derbyshire national Councillor Terry Gadsby has entered another team in the British National League.

This club, Uxbridge of Burton on Trent, have lost both Nicola Deaton and Steven Shaw to Grove but the dedicated Terry still hopes to experience some success this year with his national league team.

The Matlock League Martin Merlins team have won the Derbyshire County Challenge Cup by the slender margin of four points.

They defeated Derby's Sandiacre in a real tense final with the final score down reading 372 points to 368 points.

Congratulations to Chesterfields Nicola Deaton on gaining the number one junior spot and also being ranked number five in the senior ladies ranking lists.

Neil Houghton (County Junior Captain) is experiencing some difficulty in getting the necessary commitment from our junior squad competing in the junior divisions.

Neil has the full backing of the Derbyshire committee to enforce certain foundations to any youngster who is not prepared to play.

Finally, it was a pleasure to read of the recovery Roy Pacey, the Eastwood area enthusiast, is making after having an attack.

Roy has produced several young players of note over the year and we hope after a rest he will continue his interest and associations with the game at local level.

GLoucestershire Alf Pepperd

In last months County news I mentioned events that had taken place in the Cirencester and Stroud League's, this month I shall dwell upon reports from the Cheltenham and Gloucester League's.

Starting with the former association, Cheltenham are spending £2,500 installing top quality lighting for five tables in constant use at St. Benedicts School in Arle Road, Cheltenham, St Benedicts has for a very long time proved its worth as a T.T. venue, it has in the past been used for the Gloucestershire Schools Championships, and also the County Junior events are staged there regularly every year, and this year I understand is no exception.

I think it possible that the St. Benedicts venue with, of course, the full approval of the education authority, might in time, become a T.T. Centre of Excellence, I sincerely hope that it does. St. Benedicts is booked for junior coaching. Now what better way of providing for the future of the Cheltenham TTA than that?

Stan Johnstone, for several years the stalwart editor of the League's newsletter. Net and Edge, has handed the editorship over to Graham Slack Stan now serves the Cheltenham Assoc. as a county representative on the county committee and Graham takes over the role of county general secretary, a mammoth task, and as well as these duties, Graham is also a county selector.

Darren Griffin, the undisputed county No. 1 singles champion and mostly associated with the Hempstead based Wanderers club in Gloucester has I understand signed on to play for Dowty 1st Division in the Cheltenham League in company with Sylvester Callum, Steve and Alison Cox, I'm sure that Darren will very shortly be making his presence well known. Will he pull out at the end of the season with a 100% singles record? Your guess is as good as mine.

And finally upon Cheltenham, Helen Cox takes over the role of secretary of the association, a job previously held by Sue While, teams in

the towns League have increased from 33 to 26.

At the Gloucester TTA AGM a proposal from Dennis Oastler from the Rudford club that all divisions for the forthcoming season should consist of eight teams was carried by 16 to 10 votes in favour, each team in all divisions will now play each other three times.

After well over three decades of service as Chairman to the Gloucester Association, Mr Alan Haines resigned the position to become the Associations' new President, Mr Haines was presented with a silver salver tray in recognition of this service, the presentation was performed by Mr Norman Saunders on behalf of the entire Gloucester Association.

Mr Andy Browett succeeds as the new Chairman - the City Committee remains unchanged apart from Rudfords Colin Bruton becoming a committee member, Colin also represents Glos city on the County Committee.

City team secretary, Ray Marshall informs me that he hopes to enter three teams in the Midland League - a senior team, ladies and juniors teams.

Strouds new general secretary Dave Dean will be attending next years European Championships at the Birmingham N.I.A. on a full time basis, Dave will be assisting Ian McFarlane with the computerisation of the championships, Dave's knowledge of computers came to the notice of Clive Oakman the championships director, and accordingly, Clive snapped Dave up.

Dave Dean has also taken on the role of Tournament Secretary/Organiser for the Glo'shire 1 Star Graded tournament to be played on March 12th next year.

The County Selectors have released the following 1st half rankings for season 1993/94

Senior Men

1. Darren Griffin (G)
2. Dave Harvey (C)
3. Graham Slack (C)
4. Ray Powell (G)
5. Bill Dawe (G)
6. Dennis Holland (G)
7. Sylvester Callum (G)
8. Lawrence Symonds (G)

Senior Women

1. Judy Morley (G) PR
2. Heather Tyrer (G)
3. Angela Bristow (G)
4. Alison Cox (C)
5. Julie Taylor (C)
6. Jacqui Carver (C)
7. Liz Johnson (CIR)
8. Kimberley Seife (G)

Veterans Men

1. Dave Harvey (C)
2. Dennis Holland (G)
3. Roy Fower (C)
4. Roy Morley (G) PR
5. John Fannin (G)
6. Alan Giles (S)
7. Peter Wood (G)
8. Rob Wilsher (S)

9. Rob Wilsher (S)
10. Steve Cox (C)

Veteran Women

1. Judy Morley (G)
2. Julie Taylor (C)
3. Sheila Matthews (C)
4. Roz Ross (S)
5. Vivien Hathaway (G)
6. June Hall (C)
7. Barbara Davis (G)
8. Ann Smith (G)

Junior Boys

1. Jon Roberts (C)
2. Robin Price (G)
3. Arron Morimor (G)
4. Martin Elliot (G)
5. Scott Wylie (G)
6. Scott Nichols (G)

Junior Girls

1. Ann Humble (G)
2. Melanie Garlick (G)
3. Emma Parker (S)
4. Suzy Robinson (S)
5. Lynn Holton (CIR)
6. Sarah Dean (S)

Code: C = Cheltenham, CIR = Cirencester, S = Stroud, G = Gloucester.

HAMPSHIRE Brian Lamerton

Three months on it is difficult to recall why this years AGM lasted so long; obviously a lot of people had a lot to say which is no bad thing.

The only items of contention which I can recall were, should we finance a 4th veteran team which was agree and should the inter town mens division be played conventionally or as a block. This was a no win situation as some associations would only enter if it was played one way and some the other.

Eventually we have increases in the number of county teams and also an increase overall in the inter town leagues; this helped by the continued re-integration of the Isle of Wight who have entered a senior mixed team to add to cadets, juniors and veterans.

The Island was also represented at the senior trials when their Roger Hookey caused the major upset of the day giving No. 1 Graham Toole his only defeat of the day after 3 'deuce' games.

We appear to have a well organised and very efficient team management and selection committee this season; trials at all levels being held before the first week in September was out and the following is the result of their deliberations.

Seniors

1. Graham Toole
2. Micky Sinanan
3. Ramesh Bhalla
4. Graham Pointer
5. Roger Hookey
6. Jeremy Wilson
7. Kevin Macken
8. Andrew Ely
9. Mark Giles
10. Mark Bleakley

1. Sarah Costar
2. Sarah Turner
3. Barbara Savage
4. Lorna Dutch
5. Clare Woodhams
6. Rachael Cheffy
7. Jacqui Rice
8. Donna Granville

Veterans

1. Chris Shelter
2. Bob Cox
3. Graham Outrim
4. Maurice Shave
5. Keith Childs
6. Ken Burton
7. Norman Staggs
8. Ray Lush
9. Ken Giles
10. George Cole
11. Terry White
12. Richard Mole

1. Gill Larking
2. Sandra Simpson
3. Mary Barron
4. Teresa Watson
5. Janet Guess
6. Norma Millward
7. Jenny Boswell
8. Andrea Seager

Juniors

1. Greg Burns
2. Gareth Scadden
3. Nicholas Hutchings
4. Dalbir Chaggar
5. Mark Wilshere
6. Lucan Chan
7. Danny Burns
8. Kevin Smith
9. Chris Butt
10. Paul Shutler
11. Stewart White
12. Stewart Dover

1. Lorna Dutch
2. Donna Granville
3. Wanda Hutchinson
4. Sonia Punter
5. Carly Scadden

ISLE OF WIGHT John Prean

Our membership figures are up again, though by only one team this time. We have been able to defy national trends for some years now. This time the new rule concerning rubber colours has not helped and a number of 'Old Barna Bats' players are reported to have called it a day, but they were not the only ones. I did not enjoy having to explain all this to our members, particularly as I had voted against such pointless change in our National Council.

I have found the local scene generally more fun than the national one. During the summer I was elected Chairman of the County. There is much to be done. I see the elimination of our deficit as a priority. We cannot go on losing a few hundred pounds a year indefinitely, laudable though much of the expenditure has been. We desperately need more and better premises in which to play, if the sport

is to survive, let alone grow. Two promising projects are in the pipeline. One is a major one, in partnership with a football club, which will need a lot of work and money to bring it to fruition. If we succeed, it will transform Island table tennis.

Our Juniors travelled to Southampton for the Hampshire trials and surprised us and probably themselves with their excellent results. Lorna Dutch (the County No. 1 Junior Girl) and Sonia Pointer retained their county team places in the 1st and 2nd teams respectively. Greg Burns won the No. 1 place in the trials. Not without anxiety when he lost an early match, but otherwise played extremely well. Nic Hutchings proved the surprise package, capturing the No. 3 spot and coming literally from 'nowhere'. He played very well and showed a good match temperament. Danny Burns (13) was very unlucky to finish 7th and so just missed a place in the 2nd team and the experience and pleasure this would have brought. His time will obviously come. Our summer coaching sessions thus paid off very well. It was fun to be involved in this way again. Even as his father I must pay tribute to Carl Preat who was tremendous in these sessions whilst recovering from his wrist operation which ruined his World Championships and summer training. However, England's loss was our gain, as his coaching was invaluable here. Carl has now returned to his Bundesliga Club and his recovery looked near-complete.

Roger Hookey played very well in the Hampshire senior trials and looks set for a place in the second team. The last Islander to enjoy this honour was the legendary Jim Daly, though Carl Preat did play in the 1st team at the age of 12!

I hope that we shall soon have our own centre where regular practice sessions will take place, covering both excellence and the rest, including beginners. If so, our advance may continue in future years. Watch this space!

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Buff

Well the summer league (Elbow Tankard) has progressed very well and the group winners, two from each went into the quarter finals. The teams were Group A Kingfishers and United, Group B Park Keepers and Cols Colts, Group C Ironmen and Good Bad and Ugly, Group D British Shoe and Gas I

After some very close and exciting quarter finals we progressed to the semi finals which were played his week.

In the first semi final Kingfishers played Ironmen and what a nail biter this turned out to be. After four matches the score was 4-4, then came the all importance doubles which the Ironmen won three from four. Eventually the works team took a 10-6 lead. Kingfishers then made a comeback as Richard Grimley beat

Barry Reeves 2-0, and then in the final encounter Mick Meredith came up against Ian Wetherby. Mick took the first game to make the match score 9-10, but Ian made use of his handicap to beat Mick in the very last game 21-14. So the Ironmen (Burgess) made their passage into the final. Terry Wale (Ironmen) got a 6/6 maximum.

The other semi final Good Bad & Ugly (Knighton Park) played United 1 (Oadby) and beat them 12-8. Dave Small got five from his six games for GB & U and was well supported by Mike Gillett and Tony Walker. Again the doubles proved to be a vital part of the match the holders of the trophy Good Bad and Ugly taking three from four. For the losers United Martin Taylor got four from six.

My bet is that the holders will retain the trophy, mainly because they have played the Ironman twice losing 11-9 and making a draw the second time. But this time they will be more prepared by virtue of team selection, as they have more players to choose from whereas the Ironmen have to rely on the team that has played previous matches. But who knows the works lads may prove me wrong. Any rate good luck to both the teams, I shall be there to see what happens. Will report on the final in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

Coaching is going well at the Soar Valley complex and Rushey Mead school are entering their second team into the league this season. Well done lads.

Hopefully the Eyres Monsell complex will be with increased numbers this term.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

While most of us had a rest during July and August, the disabled players were working very hard. The wheelchair from Grimsby played for Great Britain in the Wheelchair Games in Dublin and in the team event they did very well to finish runners up.

Then on to Germany where 600 players from all over the world took part in an international event, the competition was very high and Colin came sixth in a group of twelve.

Next to Nottingham having been selected to represent England in the international games for players with cerebral palsy, the event called the Robin Hood games had players from 30 countries taking part, in the wheelchair event class 1 & 2 Colin played some excellent table tennis and was rewarded by winning the gold medal an excellent achievement. 3 years ago Colin started playing in Division 6 of the Grimsby league and each season has gone up a division, and starting next season players in Division 3 will have to watch their step especially after all this extra play, he had a very good season 1992/93 and won the individual title for Division 4.

Two other players also took part in the national table tennis championships

held by the British Sports Association for the disabled at Reading,

Judy Smith beat Elaine Marshall (she went to Barcelona Paralympics) and reached the final where she lost in 3 sets to Melanie Davis (The current European Champion) Well played, Judy and Peter Taylor reached the semi final where he lost to Barry Crook of Lancashire but in the play off 3rd place beat Alan Barrett Humberside 2 straight both players are also from Grimsby and play in class 6 standing category.

MIDDLESEX

Lorna Taylor

Nicky McKoy has taken over as first team manager of our senior side from the start of the season. We hope he will lead our team to success again, as we did last year and many years previous. Mark Mitchell has retired from the post after many years of continued support and excellent coaching and enthusiasm.

There has been little rest for some Middlesex umpires, due to the fact they have been kindly donating their services at the National Wheelchair Games. This year they have been held in Stoke Mandeville.

Middlesex Interleague has not changed much from last season. It has lost one junior side, due to the Isle of Dogs pulling out, but has gained one extra team in the Norman Pegg Competition (Women). The Ted Contrell Competition is set to be played on Sundays at one venue, similar in method to the County Championship. At the moment Jack Melnick is in the process of arranging dates and venues over a few weekends.

I am sad to announce two deaths recently. Firstly Connie Edwards has died aged ninety years old. Harry Edwards is now in a residential home and has been a life vice president for many years. Another great loss has been of Buxton Williams who died in August while at Willesden High School. He had done much for the school and a top Middlesex junior, Jason Sugrue and wish condolences to all his family and friends.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

Chris Handshaw's ten year winning sequence as skipper of Town A, Well Connected and Higham Band A in the Kettering League, ended in the final match of last season when Higham, unable to field a full side, lost seven three to Team Electric A.

The Higham side's team members who had gone more than two hundred matches without defeat, were doubly unfortunate because the match had been originally postponed when Electric had failed to raise a side.

However, hard though Handshaw and Richard Elliott played, there was no escape. Handshaw accounted for both Ian Hawes and Keith Jones, while Elliott got the better of Steve West before Hawes and Jones, added the final doubles to complete Higham's demise.

Nevertheless this defeat didn't prevent Higham from taking the title, nor did it prevent the same squad of players from their customary monopoly in Northampton and Wellingborough as the following statistics show. In Kettering the final tally was played 22, won 21, lost 1, points 205, in Wellingborough played 18, won 18, points 168 and in Northampton playing as Barclaycard played 22, won 22, points 208.

Congratulations to Handshaw, whose organisations skills have welded together the expertise and commitment of Graeme McKim, Andy Edmonds, Andy Trott, Adrian Roper and Richard Elliott but that solitary reverse could well herald a change at the forefront of local table tennis.

Barclaycard took the Northampton title by a massive 51 points margin from County Trio, who relied heavily on an estranged McKim, well supported by Steve Silk, but both Adrian Roper and Edmonds led McKim in the final averages, followed by Handshaw, David Gallo, Keith Jones, Chris Gibbons, Steve Silk, Mark Nannery and Phil Snelling.

Other divisional winners were Treasurers A in Division One, where John Moon produced the best individual return, Travellers A in Division Two, Park Avenue in Division Three, Post Office in Division Four and YMCA B in Division Five.

Meanwhile McKim, concentrating on the Kettering League until a nasty road accident brought his season to a premature close, was clinching his eleventh successive mens singles title, with Ian Hawes finishing as the unlucky runner up for the fifth time.

Fortunately McKim recovered swiftly from his injuries, as did his wife Joanne, and was soon back to his ebullient self, just as he was earlier at the Kettering tournament, where the only end he dropped was a deuce game in the semi-final against Richard Elliott.

This perennial champion of unparalleled consistency, also added the mens doubles title in tandem with Chris Handshaw, with Hawes, partnered for the first time by Elliott, again on the losing side. McKim finally completed his own 'grand slam', when with Jane Johnston, he took the mixed event by repeating the win the pair achieved on their only other entry ten years ago.

Hawes was consigned to the runners-up slot for a third time together with Muriel Cox whose day ended more happily when she held on to her singles crown at the expense of Clare Hickman, who had earlier saved five match points against Helen Watts, and then won an absorbing semi-final against Cathy Fleming, who together with Mrs Johnston made sure of the ladies doubles.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

COTSWOLD JUNIOR 2 STAR SELECT TOURNAMENT

Saturday/Sunday 29/30th January 1994

CHELTENHAM RECREATION CENTRE

Girls and Boys Junior, Cadet and Under 12 • Girls and Boys Class 2 Junior and Cadet

All events will have groups of four for initial rounds

ORGANISER: MR. J. REEVES, 21 MARTINDALE ROAD, GLOUCESTER, GL3 2DN

Tel: 0452 713840. Closing date for entries 23/12/93

WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE - SUPER DIVISION

ENGLAND V HUNGARY 7.00pm

Venue:

Victoria Community Centre, Oakley Building, West Street, Crewe, Cheshire

Tel: 0270 211422

Tickets:-

Advance sales: Adults £3.50, £2.50 concessions. On the door £4.00 adults £2.50 concessions.

VETERANS PREMIER WEEKEND

HYDE, CHESHIRE

FOR DETAILS:-
GEOFF TAYLOR
0203 678632

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE

*Bletchley Leisure Centre
Milton Keynes*
Sat/Sun/ 6th/7th November
Details:
Chris Lewis - 0272 730788

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

13/14 NOVEMBER 1993

**SOUTH KESTEVEN
TTC, GRANTHAM**

ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PARKLANDS LEISURE
CENTRE, WIGSTON ROAD,
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Entry Forms available in ETTA Office from
early October. Spectators welcome free entry
TEL: 0533 720789