



# *Table Tennis News*

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**TABLE TENNIS NEWS**  
September 1993 - Issue 216  
The official magazine of  
The English Table Tennis  
Association

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## Players of the Month



*This month's choice is Jonathan Taylor and Kate Goodall  
for dominating the National Under 15/18/21 Championships*

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Singles Champion. (Picture by John F.A. Wood)*

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



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(Copy date 30th April)

## Bill Vint's OBE Award goes to Hastings

DURING the AGM held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, on the 26th June 1993, the OBE Award belonging to the late Bill Vint, was presented to the ETTA by Johnny Leach to Robert Sinclair (pictured right), the ETTA's Secretary, on behalf of Bill Vint's wife Nora who was unable to attend the meeting.



## Midland cancelled

THE Midland Open 2 Star has been regrettably cancelled, due to the fixture congestion.

It was due to be played on the 6/7th November 1993.

The tournament committee had looked at alternative dates but there just wasn't a weekend that was really free.

In view of the fact that the British Women's League has moved to the 6/7th November

taking the referee and umpires with it.

The Midland Open which is the oldest tournament on the calendar, is provisionally booked in for next year,

hopefully the weekend will be a free one?

## Changes at Ellenborough

IT is now possible to join without having to play for the club in a league team. The cost for a full year (starting 1st September 1993) is £45.00 (half price: for juniors and students. Reduced price: for family membership). This entitles you to practice and use all facilities.

Enquiries to the Membership Secretary, Eric Flowerday, 7 College Road, Enfield EN2 00E, Tel: 081-367 7520.

For all members we intend to organise an "in house" competition based on leagues of five players who will arrange their own matches. The winner will be promoted to the league above and the bottom player relegated. This format is used successfully at many squash clubs and we hope table tennis players will find advantages in the flexibility inherent in the system.

## Champions

NORTH Shields YMCA are once again champions of the Northumbria League, finishing the season four points clear of Joynsons T.T.C. The Shields

squad of Ian Robertson, Malcolm Lusk, Barry Forster and Andrew Wilkinson won twenty three of the twenty six matches played.

### ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



#### APPOINTMENT



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

In conjunction with ETTA/Sports Council "Focus Sport" initiative, the aim of the post will be to plan and co-ordinate Development of table tennis in the Eastern region.

Salary £15,000 (all hours worked post). Postholder will be expected to live within easy travelling distance (i.e. one hour travelling time) of the office base at Braintree, Essex.

The successful candidate is likely to possess the following:  
 Proven organising/administrative ability (preferably in sport)  
 Effective communication and negotiating skills  
 High level of self motivation and ability to motivate others  
 Experience of sports development  
 Understanding of table tennis  
 Full driving licence  
**Closing date for applications: 8th October 1993**

Job description and application form available from:-  
 Diccon Gray (National Development Manager)  
 English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House,  
 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF  
 Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103

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

**MEN'S EUROPEAN  
 SUPER LEAGUE  
 TABLE TENNIS  
 Comes to the Black  
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 time ever  
 ENGLAND**

**V  
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# Welcome to the new season

THIS one promises to be very exciting for table tennis in England with the staging of the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS in Birmingham at Easter and with the FOCUS SPORT development programme gaining momentum.

The main event of the Summer was the European Youth Championships in Ljubljana, Slovenia in July. Compared with the results of the last few seasons, our teams did well and there are definite signs of improvement. The junior boys finished 6th up from 15th in the previous year. The junior girls were 7th, up from 11th. Alex Perry, with 10 out of 12 wins in the team event, and Nicola Deaton with 9 out of 11, both excelled. The cadet teams also showed improvement but were still only moderately placed, the boys at 16th and the girls at 17th. In the individual events no English players came close to winning medals, although Nicola took the eventual winner of the girls singles, Zuzana Poliackova of Slovenia, to 17 in the 3rd in the 2nd round.

Overall, I was encouraged by the improvement that had been made and by the spirit and attitude of the whole team. We are going in the right direction with our juniors. Nicola Deaton and Sally Marling are real medal prospects at the 1994 European Youth Championships in Paris next year. However, the progress that we have made this year has only been possible because of the great commitment from the coaches and players combined with the increased investment from the Association. This commitment to junior improvement needs to be increased further if we are to win medals at the European Youth level and to have players coming into the senior ranks who are capable of replacing our current successful senior players in due course.

The European Table Tennis Union Executive Committee met at the European Youth Championships and accepted with regret the resignation of the President, Hans Wilhelm Gab, for personal reasons. Nils Bergstrom of Sweden, the most senior of the three Vice Presidents, will be acting President until the European Championships in Birmingham when new elections will take place. The work of the ETTU is on a very strong footing with a full time office in Luxembourg under the control of the professional General Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Palecek.

At the same meeting the ETTU awarded the OLYMPIC SINGLES QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT, European Zone, in 1996 to England. I attended the Qualification event in 1992 in Bolzano, Italy and thought it was one of the best and most competitive championships that I have attended. Staging this event fits in very nicely for the ETTA taking into account our close connections with the British Olympic Association and the Olympic family in general. It will be



Alan Ransome

a marvellous event, another opportunity for table tennis fans in this country to enjoy a great tournament. On the domestic front, the English Table Tennis Association's AGM took place in Birmingham in June. The most contentious item on the agenda was the proposal to reduce the affiliation fees promoted by John Prean and proposed by the Isle of Wight, Nottinghamshire and Bristol. On behalf of the Management Committee I sought support for the rejection of this proposal on the grounds that the Sports Council required as a part of their condition for grant aid that affiliation fees rise at least in line with inflation. The voting was very heavily against the proposal to reduce the fees and I would like to thank the member counties and leagues for the support that they have given Management Committee on this issue.

Since the AGM we have now received confirmation of our Sports Council grant for 1993/4 increased from the previous year by £100,000, from £180,000 to £285,000. This supports our programme to appoint an Information Officer and a Facilities Officer for the Focus Sport programme and a full time Junior Coach to improve further our efforts to produce players who can win at the international level. This increase is a good sign of the confidence that the Sports Council have in the ETTA and gives us further resources in our quest to make table tennis more popular and improve our facility base at local level.

Three weeks after the AGM the National Council met, with one of the main items on the agenda being the glue situation following the International Table Tennis Federation decision in Gothenburg to ban liquid glue completely from 1st June 1994. The delay in the implementation of the ban is to allow time for manufacturers to supply the market with safe alternatives and give the

players time to adapt to the changes. The Gothenburg decision left the ETTA with two major problems. How to stage the European Championships in Birmingham which must be played under ITTF regulations with a glue ban in force in England, and how to be fair to our own top players who would normally use fast glues when they compete for England against opponents who gain an advantage by using the glues.

The main reason for banning the liquid glues that are designed to increase the speed of the racket and the act of re-gluing shortly before play, was due to the concern for the health of the players who expose themselves to the glues. Experts from the ITTF, the ETTU, plus Scotland's Dr. Keith Powell, all agreed that exposure to the liquid glues is a health risk. This same advice was given to the ITTF Council who voted heavily in favour of a ban of the glues worldwide. Maintaining the same principle of protecting the health of the players as paramount, the ETTA Management Committee proposals to National Council was accepted as:

**No. 1:** That the ban of the fast glues and re-gluing 48 hours before play would remain for all events under the auspices of the ETTA, including open tournaments, British League, County Championships etc., as well as the English Junior Open.

**No. 2:** That the English national senior team may use the ITTF approved fast glues when they play in events under ITTF regulations, provided that the players concerned agree to follow the safety instructions for use of the glues as provided by Dr. Powell.

**No. 3:** That the European Championships in Birmingham are played under ITTF regulations and that the Organising Committee provide a supervised ventilated gluing room in accordance with the safety guidelines as provided by Dr. Powell and that the use of any glue inside the National Indoor Arena will be completely prohibited.

Again I would like to thank the National Council for supporting Management Committee on this issue. I do not think that anyone is happy with the situation. The alternatives would have been to return the European Championships to the ETTU and to require some of our players to compete at international level with the equivalent of one hand tied behind their back for the forthcoming season. The overriding factor is that the health of all our players remains protected.

Turning to the new season, publicity for Euro '94 is already in circulation. All affiliated clubs have been mailed with the first issue of EURO NEWS and the first promotional poster. A second mailing to clubs with EURO NEWS TWO, a second poster and ticket information is being sent out in September. This information is also being despatched to affiliated schools and

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2

to Associations and clubs on the Continent interested in bringing supporters groups to the Championships. Further supplies of the promotional information are being widely circulated by the Regional Development Officers, Sports Council, Birmingham City Council etc, etc.

Tournament Director, Clive Oakman, is establishing a full time office at the N.I.A. in Birmingham from the beginning of September and the organisation of the Championships is coming together well.

The European League programme commences on 7th September with a home fixture in the Men's Super Division against Poland in North West Leicestershire. Our Men's team have a real chance to reach the semi final play offs in the European League this season. The Polish team, which is likely to be led by Andrzej Grubba, will provide strong competition and a very good match is in prospect. One worry is the injury to Carl Prean. The wrist problem that hampered Carl's performance in Gothenburg required an operation plus a rest period and it is likely that he will miss the start of the new season. We all wish Carl a speedy recovery and hope that he regains his form quickly.

Our Women's team have a very tough task in the Super Division of the European League this year. The division has been

reduced from 12 to 10 teams and three teams are to be relegated as the number is reduced to only eight teams (one will be promoted). Our first match is at home on 21st September against Sweden at the Edison Club, London.

The first TV event of the season is a challenge match between England and Belgium, in Rothwell, near Leeds supported by Leeds City Council. This is to be played on 1st October and broadcast by BBC Grandstand the following day. The Belgium team will include Jean Michel Saive, the Men's Singles finalist at both the European Championships in Stuttgart and the World Championships in Gothenburg, and again a very good TV spectacular is in prospect. The Association's Development programme has received a further boost with the substantial three year sponsorship from the Woolwich Building Society obtained by Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw. This will include sponsorship of the new Junior British League, a competition which is being organised for the first time this season running along the same lines as the highly successful Women's British League and the Veterans British League. The main benefit of the Woolwich sponsorship will be at local league level where the support will encourage local leagues to establish junior division and thereby attract new young players into club and league membership.

Two further Development Officers have been appointed during the Summer - Martin Ireland for the North West and Stephen Joel for the Southern Region, bringing the number of Development Officers in post to eight. Interviews for both the Northern and Eastern Regions are likely before the end of the year. The Foundation for Sports and the Arts continues to give substantial grants to a wide range of table tennis applicants. In July alone 16 grants for a total of £51,250 were approved ranging from £250 to purchase equipment for the Sharnbrook Club in Bedford to £18,500 to upgrade the Ilfracombe clubs headquarters.

Another section of the Focus Sport programme that is beginning to gain momentum is the National Coaching Scheme. More coaching courses at all levels are now being organised and the number of members who are qualifying as coaches is back on the increase. A major coaching course supported by the British Olympic Association and the Olympic Solidarity Fund is being organised around the European Championships in Birmingham. This is an excellent opportunity for coaches to enhance their knowledge of the technical aspect of the sport and, in turn, to pass on the techniques to their pupils.

All in all, we are embarking on a very busy year. With the help and co-operation of all concerned, we can make it a very successful one.



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## The 42nd World Table Tennis Championships

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### 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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# Slipping into place



Brian Stocks (right), the Development Manager of Sport at the National Indoor Arena, welcomes Clive Oakman (left) to Birmingham

EVERYTHING is slipping into place for Euro 94. As you read this championships director Clive Oakman will have moved to his new address in Birmingham so as to be as near to all the action in the months running up to the event as possible.

Its a move that is considered of prime importance in making sure everything goes according to plan. To have had to work from the ETTA's Hastings office would not have been practical. To have someone on the spot is clearly the answer.

Clive can now be found at the Euro 94 Championships Office, Brewmaster House, International Convention Centre, Birmingham B1 2EA. His telephone number is 021-644 6464.

## Volunteers

NO major sports event can go ahead successfully without the

aid of volunteers. Volunteers are a key element at all major sports events including the Olympic Games and table tennis is no different.

When Euro 94 gets under way we hope to have several hundred helpers in place carrying out tasks as varied as hostesses to programme sellers. All will be required to make sure the show goes off without a hitch. If you can find time to help out, then Clive Oakman would like to hear from you. Give him a ring or write to him at his new address.

## Soccer fans

TABLE tennis/soccer fans will be able to double their money during the European Championships. No less than five Midlands soccer clubs are scheduled to be playing vital end of season football league matches during Euro 94.

So why not combine your trip to Birmingham with a visit to one of the following clubs who each have home games between 26 March and 4 April.

They are: (26 March) Birmingham v Middlesbrough; West Bromwich v Derby; Coventry v Norwich. (30 March) Aston Villa v Leeds United; West Brom v Charlton Athletic. (2 April) Birmingham v Stoke City, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Tranmere, Coventry v Wimbledon. (4 April) Aston Villa v Norwich, West Brom v Birmingham, Walsall v Wigan Athletic.


## National Indoor Arena

THE National Indoor Arena in Birmingham is well known to


many table tennis followers already. The Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open Championships were held at the Arena eighteen months ago and proved to be a huge success.

It is the biggest and best arena of its kind in the country and ideally sited being within walking distance of the city centre. Its layout is perfect for our sport being able to take 19 tables with ease in its impressive hall.

And no-one was more pleased to hear of the news than world champion Jean-Philippe Gatién of France. He found the conditions ideal for his brand of attacking play and went on to win the singles title in style.



## 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

# We're with the Woolwich

A new competition for juniors, a new network of local leagues for juniors - and a new sponsor for the ETTA.

The "Closed" season has enabled us to finalise a sponsorship agreement with the Woolwich Building Society. The agreement, valued at in excess of £90,000 is for the development of junior table tennis at a grass roots level throughout the country. Every table tennis player in the country under the age of 17 should have the opportunity to benefit from this sponsorship.

The agreement is in two parts and covers a three year period. Firstly the Junior British League, intended for launch during the 1993/4 season, will now be launched as the Woolwich Junior British League. The support of a company such as "The Woolwich" is most welcome and immediately gives the first Junior British League the standing it deserves. Entry forms will be distributed this month to those clubs known to be interested. Any club which is interested in registering a team should contact Mike Lewis at Glenavon Cottage, Clifton Down, Bristol, Avon BS8 3HU (Tel: 0272 730788) for more details.

The Woolwich Building Society, a company which has contributed to other sports such as squash, rugby, golf and tennis at grass roots level, is also responsible for enabling us to launch a brand new network of junior leagues, at local level throughout the country. We have developed a proposal specifically for the Woolwich to assist us in building a national network of local junior leagues. It will provide young players with the opportunity to play competitively, probably for the first time for many of them. The impact should be phenomenal for the development of our players of the future.

A completely new concept, what we have done is to



*Nicola Denton, England's Junior Girls Champion, who hopes to play in the Woolwich Junior Leagues*

devise what can best be described as a "franchise" package. The only difference between what we are offering and a franchise is that you pay for a franchise - what we are offering in conjunction with the Woolwich is completely free of charge. It is a fantastic opportunity for leagues to benefit from the package and establish junior leagues now.

The concept is simple. We are aiming to encourage more affiliated leagues to set up a junior league under their auspices and we will supply them with a package to enable them to set up, run and administer that junior league as easily as possible.

The package will include:-

- An organisers pack aimed primarily at those new to organising leagues will give valuable information about how to run a league, arrange fixtures, encourage new teams

to join, obtain local, sponsorship etc. The aim of the pack is to be a complete guide to enable the "first timer" to run a successful league. This means that it can be undertaken either by the Secretary of the Senior Leagues or can be delegated to another enthusiast whose main interest lies with the juniors.

- Stationery. letterheads, press release paper, scorecards etc for easy administration of the league.

- Trophies. The winner of the first division will be awarded "The Woolwich Trophy".

- Promotional material. We will supply posters etc to enable the organiser to promote each new junior league and encourage those interested in entering teams to get in touch with the organiser.

- Letters to possible team captains/organisers. We will supply (for those who want

them) letters which can be sent to those (such as school teachers, youth group leaders etc) who may be in a position to enter a team in the league. The package is designed to make it easy for every league to set up a junior league within its current structure.

The benefits for juniors are obvious. However, the existing local league will also benefit as the scheme will provide the next generation of players. It should also introduce new teams to league table tennis.

What an exciting time! For anyone interested in Junior Development this is one of the greatest strides the sport has made in promoting table tennis for young people.

The success is in the hands of every current league secretary.

Both the ETTA and the Woolwich have already put considerable resources into the project. It is now up to YOU, the membership, to make it work for your sport, your governing body, your players of the future, and most of all, for a company which, in a time of recession, has shown their commitment to our sport.

The Woolwich Junior Leagues will be launched in September 1994. We have one year of preparation to get the structure right and to recruit the players to make it a success.

What a fantastic opportunity for table tennis. In closing I would like to say a very big personal thank you to my colleagues at the Woolwich Building Society whose professionalism and commitment makes me look forward to the launch of the Woolwich Junior Leagues and the Woolwich Junior British League with tremendous enthusiasm.

**WOOLWICH**  
— BUILDING SOCIETY —

# Gothenburg fantastic glue debate

MOST people know that one of the biggest rule changes in the history of the game will take place next year when liquid glues will be banned by the International Table Tennis Federation. Although this will come about for health reasons it is possible that the scale of the change created in the technical and tactical areas will be greater than the red-and-black rubber rule of the 80's, and as great as anything since the sandwich bat rule of the 60's.

Far fewer people know the twisted tale that led to the change. First it was for the ITTF Council to make the decision; then the biannual general meeting had a go; after that the ITTF executive committee. First glue was to be banned this year; then it was next year; September '94 became June '94 after another bout of lobbying. It had as many convolutions as a game of snakes and ladders.

All this had profound consequences not only for the players but for the European Championships at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham in March and April. England, the only country to prevent its players from using any glues at the World Championships in Gothenburg, was now under intense pressure to fall in line with other nations.

The ups and downs of the debate indicated clearly what a political hot potato was being bandied about. It had been rumoured many weeks before that the ITTF would consider banning liquid glues before the world championships, but had decided against it in deference to the wishes of the host country.

In Gothenburg, lengthy debate at the ITTF council brought the announcement from ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura that the ban would take place in four months time. The media were satisfied, England were delighted, the recently formed Club of Table Tennis Professionals (CTTP) bristled.

Rapidly the CTTP called its own press conference, at which some of the leading players indicated their displeasure that so important a change should take place so imminently. The European Table Tennis Union, it was said, was sympathetic; but the ITTF, it was alleged by CTTP President Andrzej Grubba, had failed to consult the players.

With a thinly veiled threat, the CTTP said it would organise an international event of its own in Germany next year, with sponsorship and major prize money - outside the auspices of the ITTF. Leading names in the ITTF responded by saying that if this were to happen, the players concerned risked being banned from major events like the world championships and the Olympics. A



Pictured above is Bernd Musmann of the Dräger company that manufactured the famous glue tester

Words by  
Richard Eaton  
of The Times  
Pictures by  
John F.A. Wood

Pictured right is ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura. Whilst below is a couple of used Dräger glass tubes that changed colour when air from illegal fast glues past through them.



head-on collision seemed possible.

Instead Ogimura caused another surprise by allowing the glue controversy to continue still further at the ITTF's biannual general meeting. Many thought the council decision, publicly announced, had been final. But assiduous lobbying from ETTU President Hans Gab and private discussions between Grubba and Ogimura caused the debate to go on.

The eloquent and influential Gab argued there were too many practical obstacles to providing alternative adhesives if glue were to be banned this year, and that the most dangerous of the toxics had already been outlawed.

Grubba felt the adaption required of leading players to compete with slower adhesives needed more time for them to make. "We are not

prepared for such a major change", he said. Ogimura, once a great player himself and reputedly a players' man, appeared persuaded by this.

So the date of the glue ban was altered, a postponement of both date and decision was announced, with the ITTF executive committee to decide later during the world championships. To England's dismay, the talk was of September 1994.

Now it was the turn of ETTA President Johnny Leach and Chairman Alan Ransome to lobby hard. Their words, by all accounts, were heeded sympathetically by Ogimura. They made progress. The date of the ban was brought forward again. But only by three months, and not enough to avoid a dilemma about the glue regulations for the European Championships.

"The decision was made taking into consideration the time required for manufacturers to have supplies (of pressure sensitive sheets) ready worldwide, and the dates of the European playing season," explained the ITTF's press release.

What had not been taken into consideration was the potential public relations damage from all of this. Some media men were openly contemptuous of the humming and ha-ing. Others washed their hands of it.

In the end the ITTF escaped with its reputation only a little tarnished. Its image probably remains of a governing body concerned to clean up its sport whilst being sensitive to important interests. But it was seen to change its mind too often for comfort. And it was extremely lucky to avoid wholesale criticism.

## Famous glue tester

THE famous glue tester, the machine that was to "breathalyse" bats, turned out to be a judge without powers.

First, it had been announced, it was to be used to ensure no competitor at the world championships used other than ITTF listed glues, on penalty of disqualifications. This, on second thoughts, apparently seemed risky.

What if some ingredient in the adhesive or plywood failed the bat through no fault or with no knowledge of the owner? It would be an unfortunate way for a top player to lose the chance of a world title. There might even be legal consequences.

So instead, we were informed on arrival in Gothenburg, if a bat failed the glue test, the equipment would be impounded and the competitor allowed to play with something else. But a trip down to the testing area revealed that this was not to happen either.

No disqualifications, no bats impounded, and a third entirely different policy was followed. "We are just using this in an advisory way, informing and trying to educate players on which glues are safe for them," we were told.

Well, OK. But why the changes? Did the Club of Table Tennis Professionals dig in its heels? Or was it the organising committee of Sweden? Perhaps, given the potential legal implications, the ultimate decision was wise. But it did seem like a three-step retreat.

# Something of a triumph

IT was something of a triumph for England's men and women both to remain in the top group of the World Championships in Gothenburg in May. Unprecedented injury problems and an endless glue controversy left the men in particular vulnerable to relegation. Instead, a damage limitation exercise was efficiently performed.

Meanwhile the home country Sweden and the other favourites China won the men's and women's team titles respectively - but surprises occurred immediately the individual events began. Defending men's singles champion Jorgen Persson collapsed like a punctured balloon, perhaps because of the pressure of the team final only thirty six hours before and the colossal media demands that followed it.

His compatriot Jan-Ove Waldner, clearly the world's best player since before winning last year's Olympic title, was also below his best. He may have been suffering from a side strain, but it was far less easy to account for the defeats of the two top women's seeds, Dena Vaping and Qiao Hong.

The two Chinese players had won the Corbillon Cup apparently with something to spare, and yet only three days later Deng, the title-holder and Olympic champion, and Qiao, the former title-holder, were hardly the same players.

It raised questions about the format. Holding the individual events after the team tournament has been criticised in the past, and once more it may have contributed to the high voltage shocks. Several players looked jaded.

It may be almost impossible to hold the team and individual events separately, for financial reasons, but the game nevertheless needs to consider that the best players may become world champions less often than we would like.

Nevertheless the dashing and charming Jean-Philippe Gatiien will be a popular mens champion and many will be pleased that Hyun Jung-Hwa at last got the better of the ultra-dominant Chinese women.

An even more important question was that of who used what glue. Everyone was allowed to use fast glues except the English, and most of us thought it would be the last time we would see (or smell) anything of it.

We were wrong. First it was banned, then it was postponed, then there was a compromise. It left glue legal for the European Championships in Birmingham next year and the ETTA council with the dilemma of whether or not to lift its ban for the one event.

Many of the international media were highly critical of the ITTF handling of the legislation and its contradictory announcements. One of them described it as "dithering" but more of that later.



*The England squad pictured at the Scandinavium, Gothenburg.*

**Words by  
Richard Eaton  
of The Times  
and John Woodford  
of The Daily  
Telegraph  
Pictures by  
John F.A. Wood**



## England's gallant efforts

ENGLAND was the only nation amongst 96 banned from playing with liquid glue. They overcame this ludicrous barrier plus long-standing injuries to Carl Preatn's wrist and Alan Cooke's back. Happily, Chen Xinhua's physical problems were not so prominent and the workload fell on the shoulders of the slim-line Matthew Syed, who at the time, was still doing studies for his exams at Balliol College, Oxford.

To relieve the workload during the play-off matches, Don Parker followed many of the other teams by bringing in reserve players giving Alex Perry two extra

matches when he took the first game from Ma Wenge, the Chinese super-star who was brought down 19, -19, 15 by Alan Cooke in the team event.

England men finished in twelfth place in the Swaythling Cup, two places below China, although there were England supporters present who felt that because of the World Team Cup qualification only senior players should have performed for England in the play-off matches.

England women's team finished in 13th place, one below Chiba in 1991. After some losses in the early stages, they dodged



*Triumphant Jean Philippe Gatiien*



The victorious Swedish men's team (above) whilst pictured below is the happy Chinese women's team



relegation by winning their last two group matches 3-1 against France and 3-0 over the USA, with Nicola Deaton making a highly successful world championships debut and looking extremely impressive amongst the older players.

Lisa Lomas's seeded position took her through to the third round of the women's singles after back-spinning her way to victory over Polona Frelj (Slovenia) and Luba Mladkova of Slovakia, before losing in the early morning to Li Bun Hui of North Korea. Andrea Holt had a bad draw losing to Daniela Gergeltcheva in Round One whilst Fiona Mommessin lost a gigantic struggle to Lotta Erlmann (Sweden) by these staggering scores 20, -28, 14, -19, 20! A match to remember.

Chen Xinhua suffered a worrying round three defeat to the

young Korean Kim Myong June, aged 21. Earlier, Carl Prean bravely appeared on court for his mens singles match with his wristheavily bandaged and clearly in pain. Despite the hazard he went to five games with the young Swede Fredrik Hakansson after the England champion led 18-4 in the fifth game but could not hold on as the Swede desperately hit every ball to win through in one of the finest rear guard actions of the tournament.

## Abundance of mental strength

SWEDEN laboured for nearly three hours in the final to defeat China 3-1 and so retain the world

premier team trophy, the Swaythling Cup.

At several points in the final battle it seemed that the Chinese players were on course to regain the coveted trophy and defend it on Chinese soil in two years time.

But the Swedish trio Jan-Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson and Peter Karlsson showed an abundance of mental strength.

It was Karlsson, playing in his first Swaythling Cup final who opened the scoring for Sweden, attacking with venomous top-spin to storm through the defensive expert Wang Tao.

But the Chinese squad quickly hit back as Ma Wenge raised his game to super-world-class to bring down Jan-Ove Waldner 21-14, 14-21, 22-20, the finest clash seen since the tournament began a week ago.

The next Swedish ace to the rescue was Jorgen Persson the reigning world champion erupted into action with the accent on his superb backhand play, putting the host country on the victory path to hall Wang Tao 26-24, 16-21, 21-16.

Even Waldner looked uncertain at times in the final game. Wang Haos defences looked impregnable at times causing Waldner to falter and lose the second game 17-21. But the top seed for the singles title once again showed his authority, but not until the closing minutes when he finally closed in on Wang. Hao's defence to win 21-13.

Persson said after the Swedish victory "I was nervous at first, but when it was 8-7 to me in the

second game I regained my confidence. It was a perfect start for me hoping to retain my world singles title."

## RESULTS

Swaythling Cup Final  
Sweden 3 China 1  
P. Karlsson def Wang Hao 13-21, 21-19, 21-16  
J. Waldner lost Ma Wenge 14-21, 21-14, 20-22  
J. Persson def Wang Tao 26-24, 16-21, 21-16  
Waldner def Wang Hao 21-16, 17-21, 21-13

## Impressive Chinese Women

CHINA regained the Corbillon Cup women's world team title without even dropping a set, and by beating North Korea 3-0 in the final. It was a typically impressive performance, but considerably helped by an unusual piece of politics.

The two Koreans, produced a remarkable bit of history by playing together last time and winning the 1991 world title, had now decided to split. This a sports quiz curiosity question from the Gothenburg semi finals.

Which world champion lost her team title to a member of the same team? The answer is that Hyun Jung-Hwa did. The South Korean who had been a part of the combined North and South team that triumphed in Chiba, Japan, lost twice to former team mates in Gothenburg - to Li Bun Hui and to Yu Sun Bok.

But Li and Yu could make little impression upon the Chinese. Yu was beaten in straight games in the opening set of the final against Qiao Hong, the 1989 world champion, and although Li's left handed aggression earned her a good start and the first game and first game against the 1991 world champion Deng Yaping, it did not last.

Diminutive Deng, less than five feet, was a bouncing bundle of fast hitting, and effectively ended the final as a contest when she allowed Li only ten points in the third game. After that Deng and Qiao, the Olympic women's doubles champions, comfortably won the third set, as expected.

This made it all the more surprising that less than a week later Hyun should succeed Deng as world champion. She had

appeared to be under as much pressure and working as hard as anyone in the team event, yet her thin, wiry frame and ultra-intense application lasted the long course well.

The unexpected absence of her previous tormentors undoubtedly had something to do with it. Li lost to the Rumanian Otilia Badescu while Yu subsided in straight games to Germay's Nicole Struse. Badescu made surprisingly effective use of a slightly limited close-to-table counter-hitting style and came within a single point of being the first European in the world women's singles final for 20 years.

That point was saved by the emotionally more resilient Hyun, who also recovered from 15-10 down in the final game, and from 20-15 down in the third game. Badescu was left paralysed in disbelief.

Two Chinese emigrants accounted for Deng and Qiao. Deng went out in five games in the third round to the Singaporean Jun Hung Jing, making mistake after uncharacteristic mistake in the process. Only a few minutes later Qiao was out. Her conqueror was Jie Schopp, the young German whom some say has the ability to become a world champion one day herself.

Another former Chinese citizen, Chen Jing, reached the final where she lost in straight games to Hyun. Chen was the women's singles Olympic gold medalist in 1988 after He Zhili had been excluded by China for winning the '87 world title against orders, but the Seoul heroine has now quit mainland China to represent Taipei.

Many thought Chen's left-handed Western grip looping would earn her another major title. But the right-handed pengrip attack of Hyun produced more varieties and better mixtures of slow and fast, and better serving. Thus ended a women's event of extraordinary surprises.

## Gothenburg news

JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN said after winning his world crown "Saive was very nervous at the end of the match. I was trying not to make the same mistakes as I did in Barcelona at the Olympic Games and trying to keep cool when the pressure was greatest." After struggling to defeat Zoran Primorac in the semi finals,

Gatien said "I think the Swedish players play under too much pressure in their own country and that is why they have lost. I am pleased to not be playing against Jan-Ove Waldner in the final because I have lost to him twice at the French Open and in Barcelona."

JORGEN PERSSON said after losing to Patrick Chila "This was the worst fifty minutes of my life. To lose to a qualifier makes me feel unwell, but there are a lot of good players around and Chila is one of them."

OTILIA BADESCU, the only European semi finalist said after her superb win over Li Bun Hui from North Korea the fifth seed. "This is easily the best win of my career. I am just hoping that I can



England's umpiring duo at Gothenburg Liz Wilson and Bill Lavis.



Some of England's players and supporters at Gothenburg

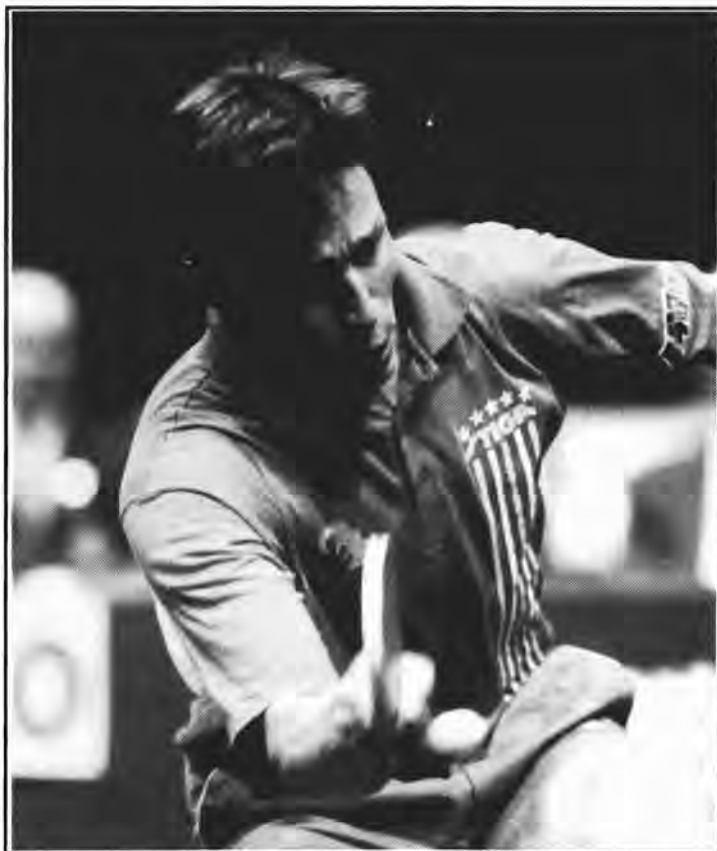
play well enough to reach the final and win a silver medal."

ELENA TIMINA, who lost only a game all season in the British League for Grove, who was paying her own way in Gothenburg said "I am extremely unhappy with the Russian TTA, they should respect me. I have played well here in the team event. They do not pay for me to compete because I am playing in England, but I cannot earn any money playing table tennis in Russia."

JAN-OVE WALDNER, who endured the biggest shock of all when he lost to Jean-Michel Saive in front of 7,000 Swedish fans said "I am not angry because I lost. He played better than me. I did not play well enough to win."



Video man Syd Fryer enjoying himself with Anna Berglund of the Gothenburg Tourist Board



Losing semi finalist Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner, who was beaten by Jean Michel Saive.



Pictured above is Barry Granger and right is birthday boy England team manager Donald Parker



DONALD PARKER the England manager summed up. "Despite fitness and injury problems with Carl Prean, Alan Cooke and Chen Xinhua, we have avoided relegation, qualified for the European Nations Cup and we are almost certain to have qualified for the World Team Cup in Paris next year."

Parker added "Looking at the mens finalists Gatien and Saive, I shall be happier than before preparing players because we have a team capable of beating them next season."

## Exam in Sweden

NICOLA DEATON had the unusual experience of sitting a GCSE examination in Gothenburg. Arrangements were made to sit her Sports Studies paper at the British Consulate in that city.

On the morning of the exam the Swedish post failed to deliver the question papers after being sent from England by post instead of in a Diplomatic Bag. Smart work by Carol Moore, who was in charge of the England juniors led to the missing papers arriving by fax and all was well.

In England, Nicola's school Mount St. Marys College, Sparhill, Stafford were in charge of the unusual happening.

## More jobs

ALAN RANSOME the ETTA chair collected two more jobs in Gothenburg - he is now chairman of the Commonwealth TTA and in place of George Yates he is on the ITTF Executive Council.

## Speedy strikes

STEFAN FETZNER (pictured below) the German No.2 who is well down the Euro-pean ranking list looks as though he is a Top Tenner - a string of victories for "Speedy" included two enormous wins - against Ma Wenge and Kim Song Hui.



## Not so dear

A number of British fans chose not to come to Gothenburg because of the high prices of liquid refreshment, especially beer and food. In reality, it was possible without much trouble to find, for example, excellent Chinese restaurants with meals at £8 per head. Swedish cafes with very reasonably priced dishes and a free drink at lunchtime and lower-priced accommodation from £15 a night upwards. Beer in some hotels was over £4 a pint, but not in some of the bars where a brew could be purchased for £2. In the players accommodation there were free bananas daily and also in the Press Centre where coffee was only 50p.

## RESULTS

### MENS SINGLES:

J.P. Gatien (Fra) beat J.M. Saive (Bel) 19, -17, 14, -17, 18, Bronze Medals: Z. Primorac (Cro) and J.O. Waldner (Swe).

### WOMENS SINGLES:

H.J. Hwa (Kor) beat C. Jing (Tpe) 16, 15, 14, Bronze Medals: O. Badescu (Rom) and G. Jun (Chn) beat M. Wenge/Z. Lei (Chn) -18, 12, 13, 15.

### MENS DOUBLES:

W. Tao/L. Lin (Chn) beat M. Wenge/Z. Lei (Chn) -18, 12, 13, 15

### WOMENS DOUBLES:

L. Wei/Q. Yunping (Chn) beat D. Yaping/Q. Hong (Chn) 19, -14, 17, 21.

### MIXED DOUBLES:

W. Tao/L. Wei (Chn) beat Y.N. Kyu/H. Jung (Kor) 20, -13, 9, 13.

### MENS TEAM:

Sweden beat China 3-1, Bronze Medal: Germany.

### WOMENS TEAM:

China beat Korea Dpr 3-0, Bronze Medal: Korea R.

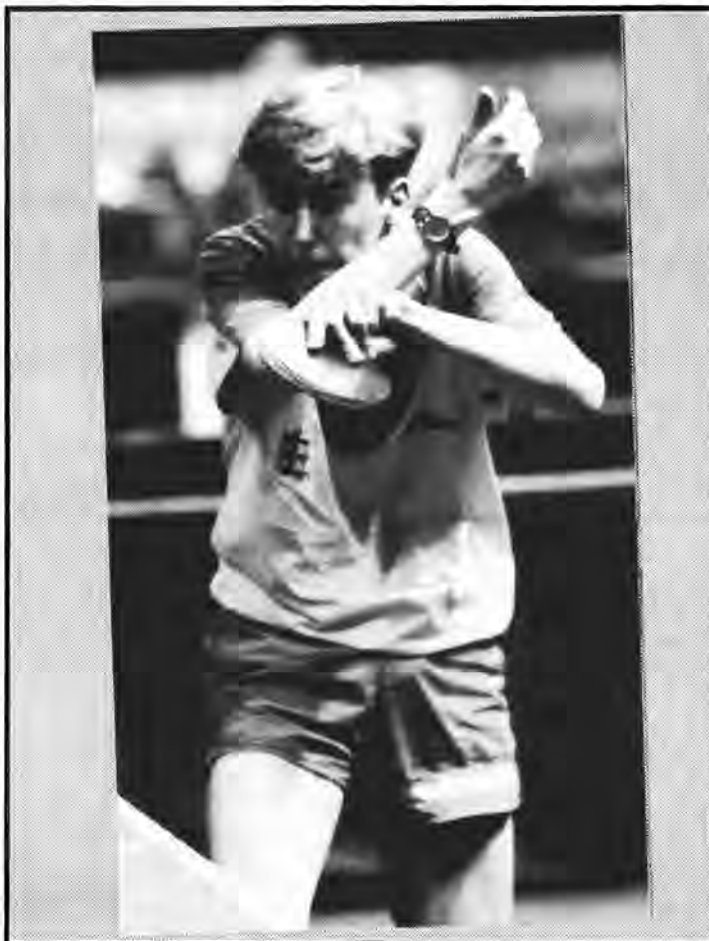
# Finest performance for years

TWELVE MONTHS on from the poor results in Topolcany, and one wondered what was in store here in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1993. A year makes a big difference and, without exception, each of our teams surpassed expectations.

Flying the flag was our Junior Boys' team whose final position of 7th was nine places up from last year. This was one of the finest performances by a Junior Boys team for many years and is a credit to the players for their hard work in training as well as all the team captains.

In a group of three teams to start, the Junior Boys beat Armenia 4-1 and Bulgaria 4-1 to win the group and play in another group of three to decide who goes to play for one to four, five to eight or nine to twelve. The second group contained the powerful German side. For this match, Ryan Savill was brought in to replace Cris Sladden, who had played with Alex Perry and Richard Hyacinth in the first two matches. Ryan had a tough task as he was matched against Thomas Schroeder, the defender, in the first game. He lost two straight and was followed by Alex who fared no better against Kostner. This was Alex's first defeat in the team events and Richard too suffered his first when he then lost in a close game to the Germany No.2 Zwick 14, -13, -13. The doubles was lost, so we lost 4-0 and had to beat Poland to play for places five to eight. Cris Sladden was brought in, replacing Ryan, and he contributed a singles win (18, -8, 16) against Baranowski, earlier beaten 20, 15 by Alex in a 4-1 win. We then beat Slovakia 4-3, Cris winning two, and played Denmark for 5th or 6th, but were defeated 1-4. Alex's results of 10 out of 12 were exceptional.

The junior girls, 10th last year, were second to Romania in the first group, having beaten Wales and Finland 3-0. Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton played the matches, except Romania when Gemma Schwartz replaced Nicola. At the next stage, Sweden were beaten 3-0 and Greece and Italy 3-1, but a 3-0 defeat by Hungary meant playing for five to eight, Slovakia beat us 3-0 and we then beat Czech Republic 3-0 for 6th place. Nicola played well throughout the team event and was well supported by Sally who tended to play the opposing No.1's each match.



*Alex Perry's results were exceptional*

The Cadet Boys had a tough start when they met Germany first match. A 3-0 defeat was not as bad as the score suggests as Stephen Meddings lost his game 11, -17, -15 and the doubles was deuce. A 3-1 win over Croatia saw us playing for 13 to 24. Michael James beat Carneros, 5, -14, 17 Stephen beat Fernandez 8, -19, 11 and Stephen and Terry Young won the doubles for a 3-0. The next match against Luxembourg was won 3-2 and Terry Young played his first singles matches and won both, to secure a victory. Playing for 13 to 16, we lost the next match against the Slovakia 3-2, after taking a 2-0 lead and, in the last match against the Netherlands Gareth Herbert was brought in for singles, played very maturely for his young years, but could not prevent a 3-0 defeat. The final position of 16th was 10 up on 1992!

The cadet girls started off badly. In their group of five, they lost to Slovenia, Germany and Croatia, only beating Scotland 3-0. All the girls were played - Kathryn Woodward, Tracy Davies, Debbie Pestka and Michelle Haynes. At the next stage, playing Bulgaria, we were 2-1 up and lost the last two games 19 in the third. This defeat didn't dampen the girls' spirit, they then went out to beat Belgium 3-1 (Kathryn won two, Tracy one) and Italy 3-1 (Tracy one, Kathryn two) to meet Georgia for 17th or 18th. The 3-1 victory was well deserved as all four girls had stuck to their tasks throughout the 17th place, on reflection, was a good achievement, five places up from last year.

The individual events saw only two players reach the third rounds: Alex and Sally. Alex's first match, against Martin Grezo of Slovakia was very close. At 1-1 and 17-20, Alex kept his head to win 22-20. Richard Hyacinth beat Nikonorov of Estonia 15, 11, Cris Sladden won 13, 14 against Robertson (Wales), but Ryan Savill lost to Stauffer of Switzerland, who went on to reach the quarters. In the next round Richard and Cris were both defeated (Stenberg, Sweden and Keinath Germany) but Alex managed to win over Sanchez of Spain. In this game, the Spaniard smashed his bat and, it appeared, that he was given a bat that had just been reglued by a team mate. This was against the rules, but could not be proved. Anyway, Alex, after waiting for five minutes while this was sorted

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT by Donald Parker

THE travel arrangements turned out to be excellent. With an early start from Heathrow it was necessary for most of the squad to stay overnight near the airport. We managed to do this at little cost staying with families and with leaving early we were able to practise Wednesday evening as well as Thursday.

The playing conditions were very good, the food as expected and the accommodation very basic. The schedule for team matches was reasonable but not enough matches for the junior boys. The scheduling for the later rounds of the singles was poor.

Tim Holder was with the team, covered by SSSP, and did a first class job. Obviously we had to buy in food to supplement the diet and a small amount of drink.

Barry Granger was a great help finding out information which, but for this service, would have been difficult to acquire.

Several parents attended and there were no problems and their support was appreciated by the players.

# EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

out, proceeded to demolish Sanchez 21-13 for a two straight win. In his next match, he faced the highly rated Filimon (Greece), formerly Romania, and lost 17, 11.

The junior girls singles saw Gemma lose her match 19, -19, -5 to R. Tsetali of Greece, but Nicola beat S. Cohen of Israel 15, 10 and Sally had a bye. In round two, Sally, with a suspected pulled muscle in her leg, beat Svelle of Latvia 19, 11, but Nicola lost in a close game to Poliackova of Slovakia (the eventual winner) -16, 15, -17. In the third round, Sally lost to the No.1 seed Fazekas of Hungary -14, -19.

In the cadet boys, Terry Young lost 16, 19 to Marcussen of Denmark (who reached the semi final) and Gareth lost to Doichinov of Bulgaria 14, 12. Stephen Meddings beat Meier of Luxembourg 17, 16 and Michael James defeated Aho of Finland 15, 9. Round two saw both boys lose, Stephen to the talented Vissers of Belgium 19, 17 and Michael to Loewenstein of Austria -18, 14, -13 in a match that he could have possibly won as it was only 8-10 at change of ends in the third.

The cadet girls singles saw Tracy Davies beat Mitikadou of Greece -17, 17, 18 and Michelle Haynes defeat Sirin of Turkey 13, 18. Kathryn Woodward lost in the first round to Stepankova of the Czech Republic 12, 13 and Debbie Pestka had a bye. In round two, Debbie lost to Jensen of Sweden 16, 18, Tracy lost 10, 20 to Kashulina of Russia and Michelle lost to Larsen of Denmark 7, 15.

Only the mixed doubles and cadet girls doubles yielded any success for our squad. Richard/Nicola beat Dvoracek/Holoubkova of the Czech Republic 17, 22 and Winther/Bjorna of Norway -18, 17, 9 before losing to the runners up Koestner/Delle of Germany -17, -24. Alex/Sally beat Erlandsen/Rusten of Norway 15, 10 and Ben-Ari/Cohen of Israel 18, 13 before losing to the eventual winners Samsonov/Pavlovich of Belarus -15, -14. In the cadet mixed doubles, Terry Young/Debbie Pestka beat Tosic/Curi of Croatia 17, 19, Sliepen/Snijders of the Netherlands 19, 16 before losing 19, -16, 19 to Ritchey/Gajic of Sweden. James/Woodward, after beating Doryn/Przybliska (Poland) 10, 7 also lost in the 3rd round to Marchev/Nikolova of Bulgaria 16, -11, -11.

In the cadet girls doubles, Woodward/Haynes defeated Bentley/Powell of Scotland then Vera/Heinz (Spain) before losing to the Russians in the quarters Kashulina/Lapteva 2-0, Pestka/Davies beat De Blas/Moreno of Spain before going down in the quarters to Ganina (Russia)/Wimalasuriya (Germany) 2-0.

## RESULTS

### Junior Boys Team

1 Russian, 2 Germany, 3 Sweden (Final 4-3)

### Junior Girls Team

1 Hungary, 2 Lithuania, 3 Croatia (Final 3-2)

### Cadet Boys Team

1 Italy, 2 Czech Rep, 3 Russia (Final 3-0)

### Cadet Girls Team

1 Russia, 2 Romania, 3 Czech Rep (Final 3-1)

### Junior Boys Singles

Samsonov (Belarus) bt Hakansson (Sweden) 2-1 Junior

### Girls Singles

Poliackova (Slovakia) bt Boileau (Fr) 2-0

### Junior Boys Doubles

Samsonov (Bel)/Koestner (Ger) bt Andrianov (Rus)/Fadeyev 2-0

### Junior Girls Doubles

Herczig/Harsanyi (Hun) bt Fazekas/Molnar (Hun) 2-0

### Junior Mixed Doubles

Samsonov/Pavlovich (Bel) bt

Koestner/Delle (Ger) 2-1

### Cadet Boys Singles

Gardos (Hun) bt Sharon (Israel) 2-1

### Cadet Girls Singles

Steff (Rom) bt Encea (Rom) 2-0

### Cadet Boys Doubles

Piacentini/Giardina (Ita) bt Lundqvist/Nyqvist (Swe) 2-0

### Cadet Girls Doubles

Encea/Steff (Rom) bt Wenzel/Wenzel (Hun) 2-0

### Cadet Mixed Doubles

Gardos/Encea bt Petrovic/Dermasija (Slovenia) 2-1

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# Premier title goes to Sedgefield

SEDFIELD who played John Hilton, Ian Robertson and Malcolm Corking unchanged are the first mens winners of the British Veterans League and Dagenham Ladies the Womens. These are the basic facts of a superb weekend in Grimsby early in May but there was much fine table tennis, and drama, behind the headlines.

With Market Deeping forfeiting the first match of the competition to British Gas due to Denis Neale's late arrival, Gas went on to an unexpected 4-2 victory and the final afternoons clash between Sedgefield and Deeping had lost some of the its "bite", never the less with the first five sets all going to "3" the 5-1 score in Sedgefields favour was a little flattering. Robinson beat Neale 17 in the third, Hilton beat Neale 19 in the third and in a reversal of fortunes Corking lost to Dave Harvey 22-20 in the third. Hilton was the only ever present Premier player with a maximum.

When the short list was drawn up on Saturday night for "player of the weekend" Derek Schofield who had taken two off British Gas and beat Neale (10-21; 21-11; 21-14) was very much in the frame but on Sunday both he and his Vymura International team faded away into next seasons First Division.

Up from Division One come two teams, Trend & Blend, Bournemouth and Bribar Humberside, who many thought unfortunate not to have made the Premier first time round. Now they have the chance to prove themselves; their match with each other, won 4-2 by Bournemouth, was a classic although had Humberside played Don McGilvray in this match things might have been different; McGilvray, local hero Matt Sheader and Brian Hill all won seven out of eight during the weekend whilst for Bournemouth Tony Clayton and Brian Burn were both unbeaten from eight.

OLOP having finished day one with a 100% record, obtained a fighting draw with Fullerians on Sunday morning and with Andy Meads unbeaten went into the final match, with Bribar Kingfisher, firm favourites to win Division Two. Three hours later they had not even won promotion! First set, Meads record went, 21-17 in the third to Eddie Herrity, second set Keith Horton lost out to a pair of "19s" against Syd Montgomery. Although Graham Outrim pulled one back against Colin Dyke the writing was on the wall, Herrity beat Horton 22-20 in the third, Meads again pulled OLOP back and then, as they awaited the presentation ceremony, all eyes were on the only match remaining in the hall Montgomery versus Outrim; stage management at its best! First game 21-15 to Montgomery; second game 21-15 to Outrim one game each and, wait for it, the final game 31-29 to Montgomery and a 4-2 victory for Kingfisher. Meanwhile Fullerians fielding Chris Boothby, Stuart Seaholme and Derek Balding with Captain David Seaholme sitting this one out, quietly and efficiently got on with a five sets to one demolition of Barclays Bank to take the Divisional title.



John Williams (right) player of the weekend

Thompson Insurance and Portsmouth were head and shoulders above the rest in Division Three. John Williamson, the only player apart from Hilton to score 10 out of 10 over the weekend, and later to be named "male player of the weekend" and Rob Dodds won two sets apiece as Thompson's defeated Portsmouth by four sets to two. Dodd dropped but one of his 10 sets as did Bob Cox and Ray Lush for Portsmouth.

Great Grimsby whose scratch squad led by Mick Corry took the place of late withdrawees Isle of Man had their appetite wetted for more and had a creditable draw with Seasiders of Blackpool to show for their efforts.

Whilst the OLOP versus Kingfisher marathon was proceeding in the main hall further drama was being played out in the minor hall (officially called the Martial Arts Hall!) between West Warwickshire and Dagenham Ladies who starting level on match points had already assured themselves of the top two places in the Womens "A" Division. The line up was West Warwick; Eileen Shaler, Joyce Coop and Margaret Maltby. Dagenham; Lesley Radford, Beryl Voss and Marjorie Dawson. The match proceeded evenly to two sets all, then Maltby, previously unbeaten, lost to Voss 22-20 in the third; Coop versus Dawson; had Coop who won the first two straight it would have finished three sets all, seven games all and then it would have been down to points where women player of the weekend Lesley Radford had already settled that in her teams favour with a crushing 49 points margin from her two victories; As it was Coop was taken to a third by Dawson where she won at "19" to make the final match score three sets all but with the title Dagenhams.

The eight womens teams had divided into two four team mini leagues on Sunday morning after jostling for position in two similar size leagues on Saturday. Bribar Clarke topped the final "B" Division with Pat Bassano, Carol Judson and Ruth Bentley losing but two sets in total to their three opponents.

Team of the week was Division One winners Trend and Blend Bournemouth.

As with the first weekend at Burton, support in all respects, from the local authority, this time the Borough of Great Grimsby, was outstanding. So enthralled was Deputy Mayor (Mayor by the time you read this) Councillor Steve Norton after he had opened proceedings on Saturday morning that he had to be reminded of his next appointment and returned together with his wife on Sunday for the last hour or so of play and to present the prizes. Further council support was forthcoming on Sunday from the Chairman of the Events Committee Councillor A. Webster and Chief Recreation Officer Pierre Bibby was never far away. The Sports Centre staff too excelled themselves.

So, the end of a very successful season for another first; the calendar may be congested but there must always be room for this one; full marks plus to the instigators. We start going again on September 25th!

## VETERANS BRITISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sedgefield District	5	5	0	0	26	4	10
British Gas	5	3	1	1	16	14	7
Market Deeping	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Larkhall/Spicer	5	2	0	3	11	19	4
W. Warwick 'A'	5	1	0	4	12	18	2
Vymura International	5	0	1	4	7	23	1

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bournemouth	5	5	0	0	26	4	10
Bribar Humberside	5	3	1	1	22	8	7
PAA TTC	5	2	1	2	9	15	5
Shamrocks (Ireland)	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Graham Spicer	5	0	3	2	11	19	3
Reading YMCA	5	0	1	4	5	25	1

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Fullerians	5	3	2	0	22	8	8
Bribar Kingfisher	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
OLOP	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Aldborough	5	2	1	2	16	14	5
Barclays Bank	5	1	0	4	7	23	2
W. Warwick 'B'	5	0	1	4	7	23	1

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Thompson Insurance	5	5	0	0	26	4	10
Portsmouth	5	4	0	1	24	6	8
Seasiders (Blackpool)	5	1	2	2	10	20	4
Vetchworth	5	2	0	3	16	14	4
Adeyfield	5	1	1	3	8	22	3
Great Grimsby	5	0	1	4	6	24	1

WOMENS DIVISION 'A'	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Dagenham	3	1	2	0	10	8	4
West Warwick	3	1	2	0	11	7	4
Bombers	3	0	2	1	7	11	2
Worcester	3	0	2	1	8	10	2

WOMENS DIVISION 'B'	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bribar Clarke	3	3	0	0	16	2	6
Bribar Belles	3	2	0	1	12	6	4
Letchworth	3	1	0	2	6	12	2
Merseyside	3	0	0	3	2	16	0

# A triumph for table tennis

THE day after the official opening by H.R.H. Princess Anne, the table tennis team event began at 0930 on the Sunday morning. Her Royal Highness was introduced to the table tennis co-ordinator for the games, retiring I.W.T.T.A. chairman Alan Hulbert.

Sponsored by Ransome Sports and the Island Association, and in an excellent venue, Warner's Harcourt Sands at Ryde, the visiting islands' teams were very well looked after as were the team of umpires.

As well as assisting with the whole running of the events, Brian Lamerton had gathered the team of excellent arbitrators, who not only were top notch, but with just the right amount of humour.

There were three lady umpires, Doris Moors, Brenda Bubb of the Isle of Man, and Mrs. Connie Moran, who shared duties with her husband Bill. Also controlling games with skill were Messrs. Randall, Groom, Howes, Strode and Kelly.

Leading the team of Island backroom staff, Alan Hulbert delegated the jobs to be carried out, and the superb organisation was a credit to Heather Wykes, Secretary, her husband John, Pete Urry who managed the Island players, and Sue Mitchell who was the organiser's girl 'Friday', and not least, Warner's hard-working staff.

So to the teams entered in this truly world wide competition, some near and others from thousands of miles away - Faroes, Gotland, Greenland, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Prince Edward Islands, Saaremaa and Shetlands.

Many of the competitors had met two years ago in Aland, and so were pleased to renew the bonds of friendship forged at that time.

Gotland, who won all but one of the Gold medals two years ago started the games by beating P.E.I. 4-0. The latter team coming from Canada, largely at their own expense, so there were only four of them, one of which was a lady.

Greenland, highly fancied and far from being frosty individuals, were warm and courteous, overwhelmed Shetland, who approached every game with a smile even though they knew they had no hope. How could anyone forget Alan Blackadder and the ebullient Mr. Watson losing 4-0.

Saaremaa, with a team of only three, fought bravely but lost to the I.O.M. 4-1. Like anyone who had been under the Russian heel, these shy Estonians, took a while to come out of their shells, and did not converse very well in English.

Our own Island team were in action against the Faroes, the latter side being fancied to win a medal, and beat the locals 4-1, with school-teacher Regina Stevens winning her singles in three. The mens doubles team appeared to have never played together before, ending a disastrous first session.

The second session began with a win for the Isle of Wight, 4-1 against Shetland. Ian Urry and veteran Joe Daly losing the mens doubles against the weakest team here.

Jersey overcame the I.O.M. 4-1, with Maria Bubb narrowly beating Dawn Buckley in the

third. Two of the other games went to three, so it wasn't that one-sided.

P.E.I., lost 1-4 to Greenland, and once again there were some close games, where Anne Van Donkersgoe lost in the third to Mielsine Thorning. The Forrester brothers narrowly lost the mens doubles.

Saaremaa went down 4-0 to Gotland, with the most points scored for the former team being sixteen. Maris Ringas stroked the ball well, but lacked an accurate drive.

Session three began after lunch, and the I.O.M. started with a 4-2 win, where the No.1 Gary Proctor beat Peter Niclasen of the Faroes 28-26, 21-18, to start the match. It became noticeable that Maria Bubb looked off form, and when asked about this, her team manager father stated that Maria had just recovered from glandular fever.

## TEAM EVENT POSITIONS

	P	W	L	F	A
1 GOTLAND	8	8	0	32	1
2 JERSEY	8	7	1	28	12
3 I.O.M.	8	5	3	22	20
4 FAROES	8	5	3	24	17
5 GREENLAND	8	4	4	23	21
6 I.O.W.	8	3	5	21	26
7 SAAREMAA	8	3	5	16	25
8 P.E.I.	8	1	7	13	21
9 SHETLAND	8	0	8	6	32

Gotland carried on as in the morning session by winning 4-0 against Jersey, although the latter's No.1 Frank bougeard lost in three to a very impressive Ola Granlund. P.E.I. had a brilliant match against Saaremaa, the latter winning 4-3, the result hanging on the third game of the seventh match. The spectators were sweating buckets.

Greenland and the Isle of Wight fought all the way to a seven match finish, Ian Urry lost 12 and 16 to Kreutzmann, Roger Hookey easily dispatched Hansen 9 and 10. Regina beat Thorning 17 and 15 to make 2-1 to the Home Island. Then our lack of doubles technique let us down again when Urry/Hookey lost 14 and 17, and to compound the failure Stevens/Elvers lost the ladies doubles. Roger made the score three all eight and 13, but Urry lost 17 and 11 to put the local team in a precarious position in the team event.

The final session on the opening day began with Gotland maintaining their wipeout of the opposition by overwhelming the Faroes 4-0.

P.E.I. continued to play good table tennis and still narrowly losing the match. This was the case when they lost 4-3 to the local team, who were trying new doubles partnerships. Joe Daly/R. Hookey in the mens event but they lost 11 and 12, likewise Urry and Elvers who also lost 17 and 9 in the mixed.

The Shetlands were enjoying every moment of this tournament, and their humour kept the

spectators amused and getting behind them because they were the underdogs. Andrew Blackadder/Robin Watson lost the mens doubles in the third to Ewan Waterson/Gary Proctor of the Isle of Man, who won the match 4-1.

Jersey were much too strong for Saaremaa, although Saar and Esko lost to Ellis and Bougeard, each in the third, and the match 4-0.

Gotland finished the team event where they were at the end of day one, at the top and there was nothing the I.O.M. could do, and wisely they played their No.2 lady Julie Owen, giving Maria Bubb a rest. Gotland won 4-0.

Jersey No.1 Frank Bougeard beat I.O.W. No.2 Joe Daly eight and 10 while the Channel Island No.2 lost 19 and 18 to Roger Hookey. Denise Buckley lost 15 and 15 to Amanda Elvers, Urry/Hookey were humbled 13 and six by Frank/Eugene, and at last a doubles win for the locals when in the mixed, Regina/Ian beat Denise/Frank - 11, 12 and 15. Frank beat Roger after an exciting duel 25-23, 21-17. 4-2 to Jersey.

Who would win the wooden spoon was the last team event of the tournament, because up to this point neither of these teams had won a match. Rob Watson lost 11 and 17 to Graham Forrester, whilst Aaron Irvine lost seven and 13 to Chris Forrester. 2-0 to P.E.I.

Could the Shetlanders halt the slide to the basement? Up stepped the ladies to do battle, Inga Tait and Anne VanDonkersgoed had a super match which the former won -17, 18 and 17. 2-1 to P.E.I. Andrew Blackadder/Watson had a fine win over the Forrester brothers, 17, -12 and 15 to make the match score 2-2.

In the mixed doubles, Inga/Rob lost a three setter 23-21, -11 and -16 to Anne/Chris. Rob beat Chris 23-21, 17 to square the match at 3-3. Aaron lost to Graham 11 and eight to lose the match and take the wooden spoon.

## SINGLES

THE mens singles final was won by Chris Petterson, the best player of the tournament, when he beat his fellow countryman Roger Dahlbom, 21-16, 21-13.

These two men teamed up to take the mens doubles gold medals beating Frank Bougeard and Eugene Ellis, 21-10, 21-15.

Gotland featured again in the womens singles final, with their best lady player Yvonne Sjoberg on display defending her title, against Isle of Wight star Regina Stevens, a Cowes High School teacher.

Stevens really flew the flag for the Isle of Wight by winning gold, 21-12, 23-21.

The Mixed Doubles was an all Gotland affair with Chris Petterson and Jenny Nygren taking the gold 21-16, 21-16, against Roger Dahlbom and Yvonne Sjoberg.

The womens doubles gold medal was won by Gotland's Yvonne Sjoberg and Jenny Nygren, when they beat Greenland's duo Mielsine Thorning and Maren Hansen, 21-16, 21-15.

# At home with Lisa Lomas

by John F.A. Wood

LUTON'S LISA LOMAS is a vegetarian with her favourite meal being pasta with different sauces and salads, washed down with the occasional Germany white wine or Italian red wine.

Since her recent trip to China, where she attended a summer training camp hoping that the country that has produced so many table tennis legends will help produce just one more, her taste for Chinese food has increased, with her favourite rice being wild or wholemeal rice.

She likes strong blue cheeses like Stilton with a glass of vintage port.

Most vegetarians like nuts but Lisa doesn't, but unlike totally committed veggies she does like fish.

Her favourite watery delights are smoked salmon, halibut, sole, rainbow trout and prawns, but not the other varieties of shell fish.

Although Lisa is a vegetarian she doesn't mind cooking meat dishes for her Chesham United goalkeeper and printer husband Andy.

Surprisingly, Lisa has never baked a cake!

Unfortunately Lisa's busy life leaves her no time for gardening.

Lisa refuses to wash husband Andy's muddy football kit, but does all the other washing.

She came home once from a World Championships to discover that Andy had done no washing at all, and he had gone through his entire

wardrobe, including 30 shirts.

Lisa's favourite television programme is 'Mr. Bean', with Rowan Atkinson. She also watches Sky and Eurosport.

Lisa who is ranked number seven in Europe, wants to be number one by the end of 1994.

With this aim in mind she recently launched an ambitious sponsorship campaign to become a full professional by the end of August.

She said "I am going to reinvest a significant part of additional sponsor funds in improving training facilities. Unfortunately many English top players live abroad and good sparring partners are scarce."

The European Championships silver medallist intends taking the initiative and attract more top players to the Luton area to help her meet this challenge.

The sponsorship campaign, Meet Lisa Lomas Challenge, is being co-ordinated by Dutchman Ron Veldhuizen, responsible for marketing and sponsoring the Dutch Table Tennis Association.

"1992 was a good season with the silver medal in Stuttgart, the qualification for Europe Top 12 and the Olympics in Barcelona. The 1993/94 season could be so much better if all the conditions were right," said Lisa.

*Lisa Lomas pictured in her kitchen at her Luton home by John F.A. Wood*





# Restrictions lifted on promotions

AN important regulation change was made at the County Championships Conference in June. This has the effect of removing the restrictions on Counties having more than one team in any Division - except the Premier Division. This change has applied in forming the Divisions for the 93/94 season. In the past it has meant some very strong county 2nd teams having to remain in lower divisions. Removing the restrictions on promotions should have the effect of levelling out the standard in divisions. The fact that the change does not apply to the Premier Divisions will provide that eight Counties will still be represented at that level.



Undefeated in her first season in the seniors Helen Lower (above) and top junior Adrian Vincent (left)



The overall entry for the Championships for the 93/94 season is one down on those competing last season - namely 193 teams. The Senior Section has 58 teams, which is six down on last season. The following teams have withdrawn - Bedford 2nd, Bucks 2nd, Cambridge 2nd, Ches 2nd, Glamorgan, Norfolk, Northants and Yorkshire 2nd. There are two new teams - Kent 3rds and Staffs 3rds. The total of Junior teams remains the same as last season - namely 60. There are two withdrawals - Derby 2nd and Staffs 2nd - and two new teams - Kent 3rd and Norfolk

3rd. The Vets section shows an increase of two teams. There are two withdrawals - Wilts 4th and Yorkshire 2nd - and four new teams - Devon 2nd, Kent 4th, Hants 4th and Warwickshire 3rd. With six fewer Senior Section entries there are two fewer Divisions - now 24 embracing the three sections.

At the Conference a number of county representatives expressed the view that the effects of the Ranking Scheme had made it difficult to get the best players to represent their county in the Championships. It is to be hoped that the change in the Ranking Scheme to provide bonus points for participating in events covered by the Scheme, and further bonus points for wins, will have a good effect.

The outstanding performance in the County Championships was surely achieved by Helen Lower (Staffs), who in her first season in the Premier Division got 100% wins. Remarkably this was her 4th consecutive season undefeated in the County Championships. In the Mens

Section Skylet Andrew (Essex), who played in only the second series of matches, was the only player unbeaten. Nicky Mason (Surrey), with 92% wins, lost only once.

Adrian Vincent (Devon) did very well to top the Junior Premier averages with 93%. Sally Marling (Yorks) played in only the second series, but again got 100% wins. Lynsey Heyward (Devon) played in all matches and was beaten only once (93%).

The Veteran Premier Division leading player was Tony Clayton (Dorset), the former international, who had 93% success. Joyce Coop (Dorset) and Doreen Schofield (Ches) topped the ladies section with 86% wins. It is interesting that Tony Clayton's nearest rivals were Derek Schofield (Ches) and Derek Welsman (Surrey) who both got 90% wins.

Natasha Williams (Clwyd) certainly deserves a mention being another player to remarkably achieve four consecutive seasons unbeaten in the Junior Divisions.

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

**FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS  
TELEPHONE 0891 664300**

*Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times*

# Taylor's & Goodall's triple

JONATHAN TAYLOR and Kate Goodall won three trophies each at the National Under 15/18/21 Championships at Bridlington in late May.

In fact Goodall missed out on a fourth trophy when Taylor teamed-up with Maria Thornley to win the Under 21 Mixed Doubles final, where they beat Goodall and Darren Howarth 21-13, 21-19.

Taylor's triple triumph was crowned by his brilliant Mens Under 21 singles win over No.1 seed Chris Oldfield from Yorkshire, in an all attack topspin final.

The lad from Lancashire dominated the first game from Stuart to finish winning 21-12. But Oldfield came back really strong in the second leg with his fast flashing backhands to win 21-14.

This set up a fantastic third leg which stood at 10-10 with



Alex Perry



Michael James



Pictured above are Jonathan Taylor and Kate Goodall

## Table Tennis Association of Wales

### Cymdeithas Tennis Bwrdd Cymru

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- \* Understanding of Table Tennis
- \* Full driving licence

Closing date for applications:- 30th September 1993

Job description and application form available from:- Stephen Gibbs, General Secretary, Table Tennis Association of Wales, 31 Maes-y-Celyn, Griffithstown, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 5DG

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POST, WITHIN THE TTAW WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES**



### Words and Pictures by

**John F.A. Wood**



Debbie Pestka

rallies of stunningly fast table tennis that set the crowd alight, before Taylor nosed his way in front to take the trophy with a breath-taking display of forehand and backhand topspin drives.

Goodall's fantastic weekend was just plain sailing for the lass from Yorkshire as she breezed through her two singles opponents. In the Under 21 final she easily deposed of Maria Thornley 11 and 8, and then went on to take her much younger opponent Shelley Ruocco from Essex apart 17 and 2.

Alex Perry dominated the Under 18 Boys section, in fact he was head and shoulders above the rest winning all his battles two straight. In the final he overwhelmed Ian Musk of Buckinghamshire 15 and 8.

Local boy Michael James won the Boys Under 15 final when he beat Peniel's Vincent Avery -12, 10, 13.

Whilst Debbie Pestka of Nottingham -26, 17, 13 after a terrific battle in the Girls Under 15 final.

# TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



Pictured above are the Wolverhampton Ladies team that won the Ladies Rose Bowl at the Team Championships Finals at the South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 6th June 1993. Whilst pictured left are the victorious North Middlesex team that won the Men's Wilmott Cup



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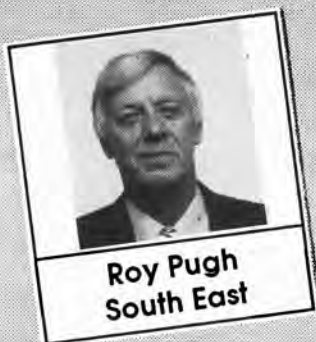
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# Introducing the regional coaching team



## **Gail McCulloch**

### **Vice-Chairman Coaching**



Gail has been involved in table tennis since playing as a Surrey County Junior (and later, Senior) player. Qualified as a coach whilst a student teacher and has been involved with schools table tennis ever since. She is currently on the ESTTA executive committee and

has been a non-playing captain of the schools international team for over 10 years.

Gail is County Captain of Surrey and as a Senior Coach has been involved in all levels of coaching - having coached national players in both Scotland and New Zealand (she actually has dual nationality - UK and NZ citizen).

Our coaching scheme needs an overhaul, and she'd be interested to talk to anyone who has constructive comments and/or who is willing to help Gail achieve this - for the betterment of English table tennis.



# ETTA Services to members



SPORTS AID FOUNDATION

Grants for talented and potentially outstanding sportsmen and women to assist with their training and development costs. Regional and National schemes.

**The Sports Aid Foundation (South/West) Tel: 071-387 9380 - HQ.**



Foundation for sport and the arts

A welcome additional resource giving priority to capital projects for sports which are characterised by athletic endeavour and skill.

**Foundation for Sport and the Arts, P.O. Box 20, Liverpool L9 6EA Tel: 051-524 0235/6.**

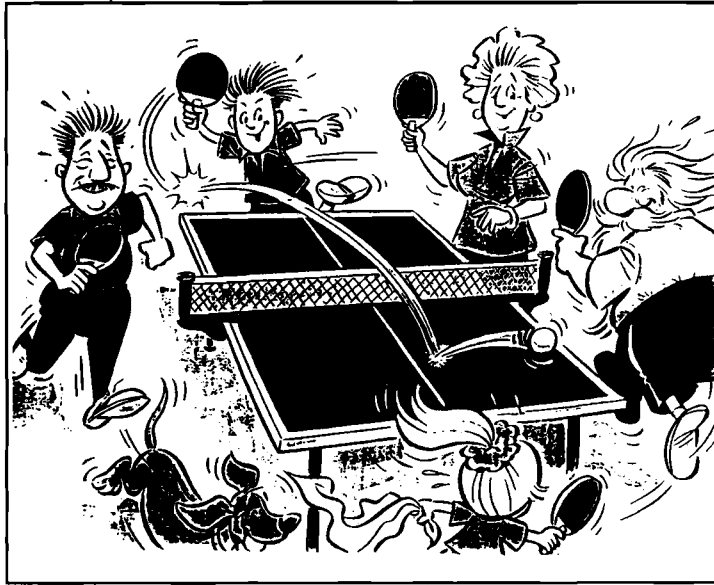


The Sports Council's regional offices are pleased to advise on current Sports Council grant and loan criteria. The resources are directed at selected regional sporting priorities of a capital or revenue nature.



A new scheme to attract commercial sponsorship to grass roots sport with grants matched on a £ for £ basis (minimum £1,000).

The Institute of Sports Sponsoring, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE Tel: 071-828 8771.



## You ask, we help You are welcome!

### THE MONEY MAZE

In spite of the recession and all the pressures of local authority expenditure, there are a number of grant aid options available to Table Tennis. You or your club/league could benefit.

### YOU ASK, WE HELP

Contact the appropriate development officer in your region (in regions without a development officer, contact the ETTA and ask to speak to Doreen Nightingale) for help on how to apply and what to do next.

PS. The ETTA are very keen to see you succeed, and will provide a letter of endorsement to accompany your grant aid application. This will assist your cause significantly.

### ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION



Via the "Focus Sport" programme there are a number of initiatives the ETTA are directly grant aiding e.g. equipment grant, School-Club Link, Coach education.

However the biggest area the ETTA can help with is advice, encouragement and knowledge.

## NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the pipeline with money for sport from 1994 to be administered by the Sports Council.

Likely to be capitol grants (i.e. buildings).

### ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION FULL-TIME REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (RDOs)

#### **West Midlands Region**

(Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire)  
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#### **South West Region**

(Avon, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire)  
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#### **East Midlands Region**

(Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire)  
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#### **North West Region**

(Lancashire, Cheshire)  
Martin Ireland - Contact ETTA.

#### **Greater London Region**

(33 London Boroughs)  
Colin Wilson - Community Recreation, London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham, 181 King Street, London W6.  
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Fax: 081-741 3869

#### **Yorkshire/Humberside Region**

(Yorkshire, part Lincolnshire)  
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#### **Southern Region**

(Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire)  
Stephen Joel - Contact ETTA.

# England sweep the board

INTEREST this month focuses on the Schools' Home International Championships, held in early July and hosted by Scotland in the historic city of Perth. It was once again England who played the dominant role on the table, sweeping the board in the team events without the loss of a game and collecting more than their fair share of the honours in the Individual competitions.

Still resident in my native county of Yorkshire, I am, of course, happy to report English victories but, tracing my ancestry back to the Highlands on the one side and County Cork on the other, my heart goes out to the underdogs, who always come in at a disadvantage - geography!

Scotland, Ireland and Wales all have much smaller populations, fewer large cities and towns, more scattered communities and more difficult and much longer lines of communication, and their players thus cannot benefit from the regular play at higher levels - Inter-League, County, British League and, particularly, on the Junior Tournament circuit, through which the English youngsters hone their game.

I remember, some years ago, Scotland bringing down two girls from Orkney, and, on my asking where they could get competition, the answer was "on the other end of the air shuttle to Aberdeen!"

But enough of the background to the pattern of events - the thanks of all to Scotland for their hospitality at Perth over a hectic table tennis weekend - and players are already looking ahead to next season when the Championships are scheduled for Ireland.

## TEAM EVENTS

**18 Boys:** 1 England, 2 Wales  
**18 Girls:** 1 England, 2 Wales  
**16 Boys:** 1 England, 2 Ireland  
**16 Girls:** 1 England, 2 Scotland  
**14 Boys:** 1 England, 2 Scotland A  
**14 Girls:** 1 England, 2 Ireland

## INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

This was the opportunity for the players from some of the countries outside England to show their paces, and I would pick out three players for special mention.

Ireland's Jonathon Cowan took the honours in the 18BS with wins over Kevin Hodgson (semi) and Ian Musk (final), Meinir Davies from Wales made her way to the final of the 18GS before falling to England's senior No.7 Linda Radford and, at the other end of the age scale, Gudmunder Stephansson, the little blonde hitter from 'guest visitors' Ireland, who thrilled us all at the recent 'Worlds' in Birmingham.

Stepansson blazed his way past all opposition to take the 14BS title, tucking under his belt the scalps of such notables as England's No.10 ranked cadet Christian Thompson, Ireland's top boy Dominick McGreevy, Craig Brown (Scotland) and Ryan Jenkins (Wales), each top rated in their country's line-up.

England's 'boy of the tournament' must be Mark Smith, the battling Yorkshireman from Bradford, who took out the higher ranked Darren Blake (semi) and Andrew Wilkinson (final) to claim the Under 16 Singles title, and then went on to add the 16BD with Wilkinson which, with the team event, brought his tally of 'gold's' to three.

Devon's Lynsey Heyward followed a similar path in the parallel Girls' Singles, taking the title past Emma Sloan (Scotland) and team-mate Debbie Pestka (Notts), and she, too, went on to complete the 'hat trick' as she teamed with Joanne Bush Harris to overcome the challenge of Claire Lowe - Nicola Silburn in the 16GD.

Finally, apologies to those who have not got a mention, but the beauty of this tournament is that so many play their part - congratulations to all for an excellent weekend's table tennis - and I shall hope to see many of you in Ireland next year.

## RESULTS

### BOYS 18

**Singles:** Jonathon Cowan (Ire) bt Ian Musk (Eng)

**Doubles:** Musk, Ray Powell (Eng) bt Kevin Hodgson, Matthew Brown (Eng)

### GIRLS 18

**Singles:** Linda Radford (Eng) bt Meinir Davies (Wal)

**Doubles:** Davies, Natasha Williams (Wal) bt Carrie Hunt, Nikki Meddings (Eng)

### BOYS 16

**Singles:** Mark Smith (Eng) bt Andrew Wilkinson (Eng)

**Doubles:** Smith, Wilkinson bt Darren Blake, Akash Kapcor (Eng)

### GIRLS 16

**Singles:** Lynsey Heyward (Eng) bt Debbie Pestka (Eng)

**Doubles:** Heyward, Joanne Bush Harris (Eng) bt Claire Lowe, Nicola Silburn (Eng)

### BOYS 14

**Singles:** Gudmunder Stephansson (Iceland) bt Ryan Jenkins (Wal)

**Doubles:** Christian Thompson, Terry Young (Eng) bt Dominick McGreevy, Damien Lynch (Ire)

### GIRLS 14

**Singles:** Bethan Daunton (Wal) bt Michelle McGreevy (Ire)

**Doubles:** Lindsay Thornton, Catherine Corkill (Eng) bt Daunton, Dalylth Davies (Wal)

### CONSOLATION EVENTS:

**Boys 18:** Wesley Bush Harris (Eng)

**Girls 18:** Claire Middlemiss (Sco)

**Boys 16:** Paul Fitzpatrick (Ire)

**Girls 16:** Claire Bentley (Sco)

**Boys 14:** Christian Thompson (Eng)

**Girls 14:** Lilja Johannesdottir (Ice)

# Closing the gap

by Jenny Heaton

AT the Cadet Six National Tournament in Steenberg, Holland, in June our young cadet players took the first step on the road to closing the gap, as highlighted by the results at this tournament and the European Youth Championships in 1992.

With great determination, better serving and all round improved technique they came close against all the other teams with the exception of Germany. Doubles and return of service were the areas which made the final difference.

But what an improvement this was. The girls won 18 more matches over the whole tournament than they did in '92 and the boys had their best team performance of the last three seasons.

The girls match versus Sweden shows how close it all was, with six matches going to three, only one of which we won. One was lost deuce in the 3rd, two lost 19 in the 3rd and one 17 in the 3rd. The whole match played on two tables lasted a gruelling three hours.

The two matches against France and Denmark highlighted our need to improve doubles play as we won four singles in each but no doubles. The doubles dilemma was partly due to last minute combinations having to be made when, sadly Nicola Smith was unable to join the team in Holland.

Even against Germany, who only lost four matches throughout the team event, we had good chances in two matches; Debbie Pestka v Bargel -18 in the 3rd and Debbie partnering Lynsey Thornton in the doubles.

Against Holland we were too strong in depth with Debbie and Lynsey winning all five matches against their number three and four. In the top half both Kathryn and Tracy beat Wendy Snijders but lost to Hengstmann (victor over Nicola Deaton at the Cleveland Junior). Kathryn did however take her to three with some good hitting and consistent defending.

Martin Bowden reported that the boys too had chances of reversals in their matches with France and

Denmark, especially when the bottom doubles of Young and Herbert lost -23 in the 3rd versus Denmark.

On the boys side the outstanding performance was by Steven Meddings in both the team and individual event winning 10 out of 15 singles. There were also good performances from Michael James (6 from 14) and Terry Young (4 wins) when they both beat Cabastan (Fra) who a week earlier had reached the semis of the French Junior Open.

### TEAM RESULTS:

Girls v Holland W 7-3, v Sweden L 3-7, v France L 4-6, v Denmark L 4-6, v Germany L 0-10  
 Boys v Holland W 6-4, v Sweden L 2-8, v France L 4-6, v Denmark L 4-6, v Germany L 1-9

## BETTER LOOK TO THE FUTURE

With two of the girls, Tracy (6 wins) and Debbie (7 wins), cadets next season and both Lynsey and Gareth with two seasons left the future is beginning to look brighter than it has for some time, providing they continue to get the opportunities to train and compete regularly as they have this season.

Both Gareth (3 wins) and Lynsey (4 wins) were making their international debuts and both came close to causing upsets in the individual event when Gareth narrowly lost to the number three seed Leitzen (Ger) -22, -18 and Lynsey lost to Larsen (Den), semi finalist at the E.Y.C. in Topolcan in '92.

Last but not least it was so good to see and hear! so many parents of our players supporting all throughout both the team and individuals. They even stayed on to watch the end of the girls marathon with Sweden which almost made them too late to dine.

**Footnote:** For me this saw the end of a tiring 16 days which started with a training camp, then went on to the French Junior in Nantes and finished in Holland; four planes, two trains, two boats, two coaches and five car journeys later (not to mention 82 matches).

## Regional plans

I was interested to read the article on Regional Plans in the April issue, which claimed that the North West Regional Plan simply gives a strategy based on the requirements for the Manchester area.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The North West plan has been published by the North West Council for Sport and Recreation, in respect of the whole of the North West, and sets out recommendations for participation, performance, excellence, coaching, training of officials, marketing, facilities and administration, for the entire Region. In particular, there are recommendations for schools link schemes, establishment of junior leagues, training of coaches, talent identification, regional training centres, training of officials, and improvement of facilities.

The article is also incorrect in stating that a Strategy Working Group has been formed to implement the Plan. In fact the Group which drew up the plan has now completed its work, and it is intended that a professional Development Officer should be employed to assist in its delivery, funded jointly by ETTA and the Sports Council. The North West Council for Sport and Recreation has every hope that as a result of the Plan's production, table tennis in the North West will develop progressively over the next five years. The Plan is the beginning, not the end, of this process.

*Chris Clark  
Secretary, North West Council for Sport  
and Recreation*

## Exciting

I am an 11 year old and I am interested in table tennis. Table tennis is exciting, great fun and a good way of keeping fit, but why isn't it so popular?

I go three times a week at Hounslow Manor and I realise that there isn't many young people going and more worrying is that there is only three girls going to my club. But why?

People these days don't do much to advertise table tennis so not many people know about it. Another problem is that there is very few leagues for young people and club fees are going up all the time. I am going to secondary school this September and I asked them if they play table tennis and their answer was "no, because it isn't very popular with the pupils". I really would like to play table tennis and I hope that in the years to come people will advertise it more and make people realise what a brilliant sport it is. I am a reserve in the Youth Games for Hounslow and I won the Under 12 Girls Novice. I hope girls will learn from this article that girls can be the same standard as boys and for all youngsters to keep trying at table tennis and never give up on it.

*Sabrina Mana Popini, Aged 11*

## Delay

I received the May/June Table Tennis News on Friday 25th June, as it was late in the month, I thought the delay was due to the inclusion of the World Championships, reports and results. I was very disappointed when these were not included.

I remember a few years back, George Yates had all the facts and figures immediately following each World Championships, surely we were entitled to them in this current June issue, which was well overdue.

Probably there is a valid reason, which I am not aware of?

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Ernie Pratt, who did sterling work for the Middlesex and the London Civil Service League.

*L.F. Roberts  
Southgate, London*

●*The reason for the delay of May/June issue was beyond my control. It was due to late arrival of vital copy after the deadline of the end of May. Then it took longer than normal for Table Tennis News to be despatched - Editor.*

## Wooden bats

IN reply to Jack Reeves' letter on wooden bats (April Letters). Using a bit of poetic licence one could possibly apply part of the Seven Ages of Men (As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII) to a player's career.

- 1) A young player starts with a hard wooden bat, a layer of pimples no sponge, learning the strokes.
- 2) Envolves onto sponge rubber, learning spin techniques.
- 3) Envolves onto the combination bat, with pimples or anti-loop to counteract spin.
- 4) Envolves (?) onto a hard wooden bat, a layer of pimples with no sponge, to counteract all spin.

"That ends this strange eventful history, Is second childishness and mere oblivion, Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

I personally have retrograde, going back from '3' to '2', enjoying the game more and annoying people with my spin services!

I know of at least one Coach who does not like his Juniors playing in local leagues, as their confidence could be severely affected by playing Player '4' regularly.

As a suggestion for a future article, of course, how about an article on how a right handed player could go about playing (and beating) a left handed player.

*John C. Fairweather  
Woking, Surrey*

## Let down

I feel I must write to you at Mailbox to express my utmost disappointment to find that the May/June copy does not contain a full report on the World Championships held recently in Gothenburg.

How members must wait all the summer till September for a complete write up of the results and opinions, even though the April issue promised a report on the Championships.

This is not acceptable especially since the coverage in the "popular press" was as good as non-existent. So by the time we get a report and full results almost five months will have elapsed from the time that they were played until we the grass roots of the sport get a chance to digest who won what. What a let down, no wonder support for the sport is going downhill rapidly. Seeing that the May/June issue came out towards the end of June surely there was ample time to include the full details as we were promised way back in April. We expect better things from our own Association's publication!

*Frank Jackson  
Grimsby, South Humberside*

●*The May/June issue did contain reports of the Gothenburg World Championships, for your reference Mr. Jackson the following pages 2, 4, 5, 16 did actually report on activities in Gothenburg, but there just wasn't time or the space to include anymore. With regard to your comment that "the sport is going downhill", is totally wrong because there are many keen and supportive people involved in table tennis and your written contribution cannot be considered to have come from a true supporter of table tennis - Editor.*

## Campaign

WE as a league are planning a substantial promotional campaign in the coming months. We have implemented or are considering, amongst other ideas, the following:-

- a) Writing to the parents of our many junior players and inviting them to an evening devoted to them.
- b) Writing to all the Parish Clerks in the area seeking information about halls, tables, whether there are any players or teams in existence.
- c) There is a W.I. League in Suffolk and an over 50s group who play each week. It is planned to set up links with them and perhaps introduce a ladies division and, possibly, an over 50s. We already have a junior league.
- d) Introducing some friendly competition part the way through the season devoted to new, or returning, players.



*The Editor  
Table Tennis News  
5 The Brackens  
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Herts  
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e) Sending posters to companies, schools, libraries, churches and councils.

f) We have already adopted a primary school and are getting a decent stream of players from it.

There are other initiatives but the reason I write to seek the assistance of your readers concerning different playing systems. We play three a side, playing all, plus a doubles (except for the junior division). I should like to hear from anyone who uses a different system, or systems, and whether they work. Please feel free to write or telephone with views.

*Tony Mooney  
Chairman & Acting Secretary,  
Stowmarket & District T.T.L.*

## Excellent venue

I was present at the English Open Championship in Birmingham, it is indeed an excellent venue, and I am hoping to go to the European next year. There is, however, an observation which I made during the Championships which is worth a mention.

When I heard that Carl Prean was in the quarter final, I moved down to the front of the arena so as to get a better view of the game, and to give my support to the last English player in the Championships. During the game some players started to walk slowly in front of spectators, looking up to catch the eye of someone in the crowd, carrying massive sports bags over their shoulders, completely blocking the view of spectators in the front rows.

Thinking of the coming European Championships, I would like to suggest that players and officials should be directed which route to take, so as not to obstruct the view of the paying public.

*Ron Black, Swindon*

### 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.

# Melbourne the sports capital

MELBOURNE, the acknowledged sports capital of the Southern Hemisphere, will add to its proud record by hosting the seventh World Veterans Table Tennis Championships in 1994. *Writes Ron Carlton*

All the previous Veterans Championships have been held in the Northern Hemisphere, originating in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1982. The previous Championships were held in Dublin, Ireland, in 1992.

The Championships in Ireland attracted 1200 competitors from around the world. At each venue since the inception of the World Veterans Championships, the number of competitors has increased and Melbourne, which staged the 1956 "friendly" Olympic Games, anticipates at least 1600 players.

Melbourne made its bid for the 1994 Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1992 following the vision and drive of the Australian Table Tennis Association's National Executive Director, Rod Landroth, and Brendon Downey of the Victorian Government's Sport and Recreation Department, with major assistance from Kevin Langridge.

Their determination convinced local table tennis organisations and the State Government that Melbourne was the ideal venue for the first World Veterans Championships south of the Equator. A bid document and video was prepared and professional management team established to present Melbourne's credentials.

The Stuttgart bid was, of course, successful and in Dublin an enthusiastic team from Australia was hard at work publicising the 1994 Melbourne championships.

Since then, planning has progressed at a rapid pace.

Immediately, the most important decision was the choice of venue. Clearly, a stadium that could cater for many matches staged simultaneously indoors required a special venue, indeed.

Melbourne had the perfect place the grand and historic Exhibition Buildings on the

northern fringe of the Central Business District. Built for the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition, it became the home of Australia's first Federal Parliament in 1901. It was also a venue for Melbourne's highly successful Olympic Games.

Now restored to its original splendour and also developed as a convention centre, the wooden flooring of the Exhibition Buildings is an ideal surface for the Championships.

Table tennis in Australia is virtually as old as the Exhibition Buildings, the first major Championships being held in Australia in 1898.

The World Veterans Championship Committee, appointed by the Australian Table Tennis Association, already has plans in place to make the Melbourne event the most successful so far.

A central office was established and a General Manager, Ron Carlton, appointed last December. The office is based in the world's largest, permanent table tennis centre at Albert Park, an inner suburb of Melbourne.

One of the main tasks confronting the Committee is to find sponsors for the Championships. So far, Australia's international airline, Qantas, has kindly donated a considerable amount of air travel, which has enabled committee members to publicise the event overseas.

Many more trips are planned over the next 12 months, particularly to South East Asia. Because of its proximity of table tennis, it is felt that excellent publicity opportunities exist in this region.

Qantas also will play a large role in flying competitors and visitors to the Championships to and from Australia. Package deals and special accommodation rates have been negotiated through Receptive Oceana, a travel company experienced in dealing with large events.

By year's end, Melbourne will be poised to stage the first World Table Tennis Championships in the Southern hemisphere. April 1994 at the Garden City's Exhibition Buildings promises to be the most exciting place on Earth for table tennis players of all ages.

## United Kingdom and Ireland Corporate Games

THE table tennis event of the UK and Ireland Corporate Games held at the Milton Keynes Table Tennis centre on June 18th-19th provided a benefit for local players. *Writes Ken Muhr.*

The established star beat the young pretender when John Burleton, representing Horizon Radio, overcame Ian Musk (Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre) in a scintillating final of the open mens singles. But it was a very close call.

England schoolboy international Musk, a day short of 18, had been on excellent form, recently reaching the final of both the National Under 18 and the English Schools Under 19 boys singles competitions. He was also the Milton Keynes mens singles champion. His adversary (and former coach!), Burleton, once England mens ranked No.15 but now an English Table Tennis Association Regional Staff Coach, happened to be the most successful local league player and current "Top 8" competition champion. There is intense rivalry between the two players. With fierce counter-hitting, Musk trounced Burleton in the first game and held him to deuce in the second. But, two points from defeat, Burleton showed his metal and competitive spirit to come off best from some pulverising rallies, and was in complete authority in the deciding game, the final score being 13-21, 22-20, 21-9.

In an earlier clash, this time the final of the 2-a-side team competition between Horizon Radio and Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre, Burleton had already beaten Musk 21-14, 18-21, 21-8. But he and former top Australian ranked player Steve Cowley lost the doubles in straight games to Musk and Stephen Baggaley. And full-time coach Baggaley clinched the match and title for MK Table Tennis Centre with a tense 21-15, 8-21, 21-15 victory over Cowley. Local Barclays Bank players Brian Risby and Jon Wright came third in the competition, while deaf and dumb players Stanfield Graeme and Hegedus Bela (who seriously worried John Burleton) from Mercury Communications came fourth.

Northants county veteran

Margaret Maltby (Nationwide Building Society) - looking not a day over 30! - won a strongly contested womens singles (40-49 years) group with Bucks veteran Jackie Thomas (Everitt and Jones) runner-up and Wiltshire's Margaret Willson (Sedgwich Taylor) third. Linda Cardiff took the womens singles under 30s title against AIB Bank colleague Melanie Redmond, and Margaret Paritte (Tate and Lyle) won the womens singles 30-39 over Joyce Griffiths (Metal Bulletin).

Two further titles went to Milton Keynes' players, with Jon Wright (Barclays Bank) winning the under thirties mens singles against Dino Ciorra (Nationwide Building Society) and Steve Cowley (Horizon Radio) defeating Brian Risby (Barclays) in the mens singles 30-39. Local taxman Dave Wackrill lost in the final of the singles for men aged 40-49 to the highly rated Don McGilvray (Kleinwort Benson).

Michael Barrett came out on top of Barclays Bank team-mate Paul Morris for the mens 50-59 singles, and together they went down to the Nationwide BS over 40s, two-a-side partnership of Margaret Maltby and Michael Pond. Clifford Carr (Spirit of Sercuricor) took the mens over 60s singles trophy unchallenged!

The prizes were presented by former England ladies international Jacky Bellinger, currently non-playing captain for the England cadet team.

Thanks go to competition director John Jermyn and referee Gerald Hammond, Di Jermyn on the referee's table, all the umpires, and the many helpers from the Table Tennis Centre and the Milton Keynes League - and the players! - for their contribution in making the table tennis a success. Although overall a happy, friendly atmosphere was created, the umbrella organisation of the Corporate Games left something to be desired.

### T.T. VIDEOS SYD FRYER

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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 & 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.

# News from the Counties

## AVON

Bob Murray

A quick resumé of last season's efforts in the Bristol and Weston leagues before returning to the bowling green.

### Bristol League

Knowle of Brislington 'A' with their line up of Hugh Dalton, Eddie Rooft, Paul Hooper and Neil Wrigglesworth eventually took the Premier Division by a comfortable margin from Bristol Club 'B'. Final placings in the other divisions were as follows:-

- Division 1 Champions** - Failand 'A' Runners-up Nailsea Jaguars
- Division 2 Champions** - Southmead Hawks - Runners-up Nailsea Ocelots
- Division 3A Champions** - Hanham Folk Centre 'B' - Runners-up Almonds 'B'
- Division 3B Champions** - Nailsea Tigers - Runners-up AWA Concordes
- Division 4A Champions** - Post Office Sports 'A' - Runners-up Failand 'C'
- Division 4B Champions** - Almonds 'F' Runners-up - Nuclear Electric 'C'
- Division 5A Champions** - Nailsea Lynxes - Runners-up ICI 'A'
- Division 5B Champions** - Leyhill Runners-up Yate Ridge 'E'
- Division 6A Champions** - Alfred Sports Runners-up Civil Service 'E'
- Division 6B Champions** - PBA Crane Drivers - Runners-up Lawrence Hill Buses Olympians
- Division 7A Champions** - Bristol Five Boys Club - Runners-up Lawrence Hill Buses Lynxs
- Division 7B Champions** - Knowle & Brislington 'H' - Runners-up Failand 'C'
- Belsten Cup Champions** - Failand 'A' - Runners-up Knowle & Brislington 'A'
- Morley Mordecai Cup Champions** - Leyhill - Runners-up ICI 'A'

### Weston League

Steve Palmer and Ernie Sutton headed last season's averages for the Weston first and second divisions respectively. Club honours were as follows:-

- Division 1 Champions** - Nailsea Sports - Runners-up Winscombe Renegades
- Division 2 Champions** - Winscombe Lawn Tennis Club - Runners-up Weston Youth Centre
- Archdale Cup Champions** - Winscombe Lawn Tennis Club - Runners-up Bleadon Youth Club

## DURHAM

Keith Wilson

To complete the 1992/93 season, the county's two Friendly Hotels British League clubs completed their business with two promotions. Sedgfield District's 2nd string helped themselves

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to the 2nd Division North title and did neighbours City of Sunderland a favour by beating promotion rivals Leicester Lions in the final match. City of Sunderlands subsequent win at Burslem, thanks to a brilliant Dave Robson double, gave them the runners-up spot, much needed prize money, and a place in the 1st Division for this season. However the club have unfortunately dropped their 2nd team from the league. Bill Collier has done a fine job in managing the club and the demise of the 2nd team could probably have been prevented with more support. As is often the case, and a situation that is all too common for other organisers in the sport, there seems to be the usual unwillingness of players to put a little back into the sport after the labours of others have given them such support and provision of high class competition.

This was also the theme of County Chairman Sam Raistrick at the annual AGM held at Herrington Burn YMCA. Sams fears for the sport as a whole, but Durham County in particular, are based on the same impression of players throughout the county boundaries. However the county management committee have re-inforced their resolve in bringing about a reversal in fortunes. Bob Sanderson will continue to develop a coaching programme this season. Perhaps one or two of the county's senior players might feel obliged to offer their services - watch this space for any response!

The County Closed tournament was held at Seaburn Leisure Centre in May with Peter Lau winning the mens singles at the expense of 16 years old Andrew Wilkinson who had earlier taken out Ian 'Benny' Robertson. Another notable upset came with the defeat of former champion Peter McQueen at the hands of veteran John 'Curl' Williamson. Lynne Yarnell took the womens singles after an entertaining battle with wee Karen Newby, later to become the darling of Sierra Leone fans when accompanying Ian Robertson on a seven day coaching and exhibition tour. Andrew Wilkinson took the Junior Boys title and Gareth Brown the Cadets with young James Eden (12) winning a medal in his first ever season by partnering Martin Gibson as runners-up in the junior doubles.

The County Veterans League ended with a triumph for Peterlee with only one point separating them from

Sunderland.

Hopefully individual leagues will send many items of interest for future publication in these notes but to comply with the request by Bruce McKenzie in the Mailbox page of Table Tennis News (May/June '93), by offering a small anecdote with regard to a well known Sedgfield coach. Normally so well organised, the intrepid volunteer of passing on table tennis knowledge seemed to be the only one who did not know that the leagues weekly session had been cancelled. The sight of suitably attired coach walking into the middle of a Gospel Choir in full flow should have been recorded on camera, if only for the 400 turned heads in the audience and the look of total shock on the coach's face. Un-named - I don't mind owning up to such a mistake.

## ESSEX

Steve Kerns

As the new columnist for Essex, I'll be looking to keep a fair balance between county affairs and local league matters so I'll appreciate if all league secretaries let me have their reports and any interesting snippets of information.

Last season ended with the County Closed being held over the weekend of 15th/16th May at the Clacton Leisure Centre, where happily entries were up this year, if only by three to 1<sup>st</sup>. With 30 events ranging from U12s to O50s this must surely rank as one of the largest events of its kind, and also one of the most difficult to cover without missing too many people out.

The play on the Saturday was dominated by the inform Ryan Savill (Southend) who will long remember the month of May 1993, as following on from his terrific performance at the English Junior Open he retained his three titles in the junior events at the Closed Tournament. In the boys final he excelled to beat top seed and England No.3 Junior boy Cris Sladden 16, -14, 19 in a pulsating final. Not surprisingly when the two lads paired together they took the Junior Boys Doubles title, but they were pushed by James Wickens and Steve Joslin who only lost -20, 18, -13 in the final. For good measure Ryan also took the Mixed Doubles with Karen Mason (Chelmsford). Others to impress were

Regan Nettleinpham who secured the Cadet Boys title and a whole clutch of players from the Peniel School who featured in many of the events.

The senior events on the Sunday were not unexpectedly dominated by top seeds Linda Radford and Grant Solder, both from Dagenham. Sadly Linda received a walkover in the final of the ladies singles after Alison Gower had to withdraw through injury, but she did beat her 18, 12 in U21 girls singles final. Her closest encounter was against Shelley Ruocco (Chelmsford) who only succumbed -20, 18, 18 at the semi final stage. She also annexed the mixed doubles with brother Alan and the ladies doubles with mum Lesley. Further success to come the way of the prolific Radford family was achieved by father Peter who won the mixed doubles O50s (naturally with his wife), although he did suffer defeat in the MO40 singles where Stuart Gibbs beat him 18, 16.

England No 21 junior man Grant Solder swept all before him to take the mens singles title, seeing off players of the calibre of Jason Tendler (17, 10), Ian Atridge (15, 9), Steve Rand (10, 11) and in the final Martin Cole (10, 19). In fairness he never looked under real pressure, whereas in the bottom half of the draw Martin Cole excelled to overcome his alloys dangerous brother David (18, 14), the talented Damien Holland (-18, 12, 14) and best of all the higher nationally ranked Cris Sladden (17, 17).

From a strong field No.3 seed Steve Rand did exceptionally well to retain the U21 boys singles title. After being stretched to the limit by Steve Joslin (-19, 17, 22) he scored memorable wins over No.1 seed Cris Sladden -14, 18, 11 and No.4 seed Damien Holland 18, 16 for a deserved success. Damien had earlier showed his class by ousting No.2 seed Ryan Savill 11, 17.

The mens doubles this year went to last year's losing finalists, and favourites Stuart Gibbs and Ryan Savill an interesting partnership scaling two generations. They secured five successive two-straight narrow wins to take the title. Their opponents in the final were up-and-coming Thurrock junior James Wickens and Grant Solder, an untried pairing but one which the tournament referee Phil Gower had the foresight to seed at No.4.....Not a bad choice!

### 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.



President of Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association Harry Stevens (right) presents the Aubrey Seaholme trophy, for winning the Hertfordshire Champion Club Premier Competition to Arto Viravorian, the captain of Norton 3 Horseshoes of North Herts League

Winner of the restricted mens singles (for players not ranked in the top 200 nationally) was former County No.1 Junior Ian Attridge who secured the title with a 15, 12 win in the final over Terry Guyner (Thurrock).

On the County front, the Management Committee have had to bid farewell to Gill Squier after her twenty years of loyalty to their cause. Phil Gower replaces her as General Secretary but the whole Management Committee acknowledges the enormous amount of work she undertook.

The County's Premier Award, the Corti-Woodcock Award for services to the game was this year won by Ron Pack from the Waltham Forest League. This award always throws up stories with a strong human-interest element and this year's recipient certainly followed suit. As the table tennis correspondent for his local league he achieves a 52 week per year coverage, so regular that over the last eleven years it has only failed to appear on five occasions. Even more remarkably, it had in fact been written on these five occasions anyway! This record coupled with his work in the administrative and coaching fields certainly makes him another deserved winner.

The Harry Walker Award, a Players' Player of the Year Award was this year won by Cris Sladden, who in his final year as a Junior had reached the dizzy heights of No.3 on the English Junior Ranking List, as well as progressing to a fine No.51 on the Senior Ranking List. His success at the Essex Junior Open on top of all this made him another worthy winner of the award.

Finally, the Chemsford Junior Girls team of Shelley Ruocco, Suffolk-export Sarah Davison and the much-improved Karen Mason won the Broomfield Trophy in the finals of the National Team K.O. competitions at the South Kesteven Centre, Grantham with a 5-2 success over Hastings. Shelley Ruocco

was on terrific form and took her three singles in style, and Sarah's two fine successes against very similarly nationally ranked players was therefore the difference between the two sides.

## GLOUCESTER Alf Pepperd

The 45th AGM of the Gloucestershire TTA took place at the new Sports Centre in Cheltenham, there was quite a good attendance and the following were elected to formulate the 1993/4 seasons management committee:

Mr. M.J. Reeves	President
Mr. L.J. Smith	Chairman
Mr. P.F. Cruwys	Vice-Chairman
Mr. G. Slack	General Secretary
Mr. K. Bridle	Treasurer
Mr. L.J. Smith	Umpires Secretary
Mrs. Julia Smith	Minutes Secretary
Mr. P. Humble	Team Secretary
Mr. D. Dean	Co-ordinating Coaching Officer
Mr. A.F. Pepperd	Publicity Officer

Three representatives, from each of the four league's may also serve on the County Committee, and will perhaps be chosen later by their respective leagues. Out of last seasons four participating teams only the Veterans in Division 2D attained victory, and will be promoted to the 1st Division for this forthcoming season, where again the County will be entering four teams in the County Championships for next season, they will consist of, one senior team, a junior team and two veterans teams.

Owing to the death of long standing County President - the late Mr. L.C.T. Davies, Mr. J.M. Reeves was elected to fill the vacancy, and Mr. Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham became a new Vice-President.

Subject to venue bookings being

confirmed, the Gloucestershire Junior (Closed) Championships should take place on November 28th at St. Benedicts School at Cheltenham, and the Senior Championships will be on December 5th at the New Sports Centre at Cheltenham.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by stressing the great success of the Cotswold Junior National 2 Star Tournament held last January, and thanked all members for their help over the entire season. He also expressed his thanks to Mr. Norman Saunders for acting as returning Officer and Auditor, and finally Mr. Smith thanked all venues - including Nuclear Electric and Rudford for the use of their facilities over the past season for staging County matches.

### Table Tennis Coaching report for Novices at Stonehouse

The Stroud and District Table Tennis League in conjunction with the ETTA - South West Region (Focus Sport), provided an introductory session of basic coaching for Novices at the Maidenhill recreation centre at Stonehouse Gloucestershire.

Held on June 30th, some 13 or 14 youngsters attended, most were outright beginners who lined up for a introduction into the sport, and for some, their first basic coaching session.

Mr. Alan Giles from Nailsworth acted as head coach, and several well known table tennis officials stood as ball feeders to the pupils.

It is further hoped that if the scheme continues to attract a good response, then maybe - at a later stage, more advanced coaching may be given, also the possibility could arise of obtaining a table tennis robot and videos into the more advanced stages of coaching. Miss Melonie Carey, the South West Regional Development Officer was in attendance throughout, offering help and guidance.

Gloucester Cities Crypt Schoolboy, Raymond Powell, returned from Perth Scotland in early July after participating in the All England Schools International Championships.

Englands Boys U19 team won the team event, beating Ireland in the final, en-route they beat Scotland, Wales, Norway and Iceland.

Partnered by Ian Musk from Milton Keynes, Powell won the Doubles event beating Kevin Hodson and Matthew Brown in the final.

Ray Powell was awarded a bronze in the open singles, as he got to the semi finals where he lost to his doubles partner Ian Musk.

### Melbourne Veterans 1994

An extract from Table Tennis News May/June '93 - Entry forms will shortly be in circulation in Europe for the trip of a lifetime for some - taking part at Melbourne from April 22-29 1994.

I understand from fairly good authority that Gloucester's Dennis Holland and Roy (Foxy) Fowler of Cheltenham are both fully intending to be there, I have made certain investiga-

tions regards any other possible Veteran players that may be intending to go, but as yet, have not come up with any names, if any one else plans upon going, please contact me.

### Cirencester & District League

Out of the four leagues in Gloucestershire, Cirencester age wise is the most junior one, only formed in January 1986, in the space of the leagues short existence they have done exceedingly well, the main objective of the league is to foster and promote table tennis in Cirencester, within a radius of 12 miles.

In October 1989 in conjunction with the SWR, Cirencester staged a Senior Ladies International match, the then West Germany v England at the Cotswold L.C. at Cirencester, since then, they have established an action plan to promote more table tennis in schools, youth clubs, villages and at the present time they are investigating the possibility of establishing a table tennis centre in the town itself.

Already the following neighbouring villages of Chedworth, Colesbourne, Poulton, South Cerney and Quennington actively participate in the Cirencester League, and I understand that Deer Park School is sort of a general H.Q. for final's nights and other table tennis activities. With regard to 'Focus Sport', Cirencester have taken every opportunity to further the growth of our sport, last season they extended their playing force to three divisions, this year? Perhaps they may even exceed that.

## HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

Norton 3 Horseshoes of the North Herts League won the final trophy of last season in Hertfordshire, when they beat Adeyfield from Hemel Hempstead, 5-1, in the final of the Aubrey Seaholme event of the Champion Team Competition at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, on Sunday 16th May 1993.

The final of the 'intermediate' competition was battled out by teams from North Herts and Hemel Hempstead, and once again North Herts came good when Fairfield 'A' overwhelmed Hiretech 'B' 5-0.

In the 'Minor' section of the Champion Team competition Barnets' Hadley Wood III had a big 5-0 win over Welwyn and Hatfield's Birchwood 'A'.

North Herts were at it again in the 'Mini-Minor' competition with Letchworth LTC cruising to victory 5-0, against Barnets' Exiles II.

This competition which was run for the first time by Hemel Hempstead's Martin Johnson, was so successful that he was invited to organise next seasons, an invitation which I am pleased to report was accepted by Martin.

Next season's Champion Club Competition will be played on Sunday 8th May 1994, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The Sunday dates for the Inter-League Competition are: Cadets 31st October 1993; Juniors 26th September 1993 and 6th March 1994; Seniors 14th November 1993 and 24th April 1994; and Veterans 24th October 1993, 9th January 1994 and 10th April 1994.

Hertfordshire Junior Closed will be on Sunday 12th December 1993, whilst the Senior Closed will be on Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd January 1994.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all Hertfordshire players an enjoyable as well as successful season.

## ISLE OF WIGHT John Prean

The highlights of the summer were produced by the Inter Island Games, a mini-Olympics for small islands from all over the world. Twenty nine such islands entered, but only nine in the table tennis event. These were the hosts, the Isle of Wight, Jersey, Isle of Man, Prince Edward Island (Canada), Saaremaa (Estonia), Greenland, Shetlands, Faroes and Gotland (Sweden) who carried all before them, as they had on the previous four occasions the Games had been staged. But this time not quite, as our Regina Stevens won the ladies' singles and Amanda won the bronze in the ladies' doubles. The Swedes finished first, second and third in the mens, second and third in the womens and won the three doubles events as well as the team event. The latter was played by mixed teams in the old European League format which I did not find entirely enthralling, still less that we finished sixth out of nine, though Roger Hookey played well, losing only three games. Regina was also unbeaten in this, but no trees were uprooted in our doubles play or second singles.

There was some controversy as to whether Carl Prean should be selected in which I did not join. It proved an academic problem in the end, as he had his hand in plaster after an operation on his wrist. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery. He would undoubtedly have played if invited and fit. I cannot comment on the matter, but to leave out ones banker and a player born on the Island does not seem to me good sense unless one sees losing a way of life and popularity.

Anyway, we had a few entertaining days. The standard of play was remarkably high and it was a geography lesson as well as one learned of new places. The standard of umpiring was even higher, as some of our top people were invited. We are very grateful for their contribution.

Next time, in Gibraltar (1995) I hope to see rather more imaginative scheduling and a greater effort to attract spectators. I understand that this time TV coverage by Meridian and Channel TV was quite good, but naturally the cameras followed the medals of home players and we did not

win enough of these, to some extend a self-inflicted state of affairs.

Lorna Dutch could not play as she appeared for England schoolgirls after a 500 mile trip to Perth. She did not lose any team matches, but lost in the U14 Individual to the eventual winner, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory which seemed certain when leading by several points in the third. She did win a 2 Star Cadet event at Grove, which advanced her another place in the rankings after gaining the princely total of six ranking points. I understand the system is about to undergo drastic change and that three points will be awarded just for turning up regardless of whether any of the first matches are won. A very strange state of affairs. One had read earlier that the previous system was a way of "buying" points!

Whatever the wisdom of this, it will hardly favour our players who begin their journeys with a £40 ferry crossing or others in far-flung fringe areas which need help most. One can only express further disappointment and concern.

Congratulations to Greg Burns and Lorna (again) who headed the Hampshire Inter-Town Junior Averages, both unbeaten.

## KENT Adrian Hall Triple Gold for Thompson for England Schools

Medways Christian Thompson was a triple gold medal winner at the International Schools Tournament held in Scotland on the 5/6th June 1993.

Thompson selected for the first time to represent England Schools at U14 level, had a most successful introduction to international table tennis. First Thompson helped England to a gold medal in the team event winning seven out of his eight singles and being unbeaten in the final against Scotland. Then with doubles partner Terry Young the England pair reached the final without dropping a leg and in the final beat the Irish pair McGreevy and Lynch 19-21, 21-19, 21-15. Thompson completed a hat-trick of gold medals when in the consolation singles he beat S. Wilson (Scotland) in the final 21-12, 19-21, 21-9.

### Sporting Excellence

Three Kent Schools Champions Christian Thompson (Howard School, Rainham), Scott Friday (Thames View Junior School, Gillingham) and Crystal Hall (Maidstone Grammar School for Girls) were presented with certificates to acknowledge the excellence of their performances in their chosen sport of table tennis at the Kent Schools Sports Council presentation of Sporting Excellence at Rochester on Sunday 11th June 1993. The presentations were made by Olympic 800 metre athlete and former Kent Schools Champion Steve Heard.

## Kent Metropolitan Schools Table Tennis

Robert Waller U19 and Christopher Hall U16 from the Bromley League were the Schools Champions from the Metropolitan area, and went through to the National Funds. James Morris was the U16 runner up.

### Tunbridge Wells Closed

**Open Singles:** Andrew Houghton beat Roger Pingram 11, 17. **Open Doubles:** Houghton/Michael Cripps beat Pingram/Ron Terry 15, -11, 18. **Veterans Singles:** Pingram beat John Davidson 13, 15. **U14 Singles:** Angie Bristow beat Ashley Steers 13, 13. **U17 Singles:** Jason Cheeseman beat Ben McCarthy 18, 19.

### End of Season Rankings

#### MEN

- 1 Andy Cunningham
- 2 Justin Goodall
- 3 Joe Kennedy
- 4 Paul Rainford
- 5 Phil Cox
- 6 Mark Brown
- 7 Spencer Thompson
- 8 Chris Knight
- 9 Phil Saxby
- 10 Ian Girdler

#### WOMEN

- 1 Juliet Houghton
- 2 Lesley Hollingsworth
- 3 Helen Garlick
- 4 Kim Mudge
- 5 Jackie Mersh
- 6 Kristina Brocklebank
- 7 Carolyn Brown
- 8 Carly Riggs
- 9 Tina Clements
- 10 Julie Thorn

#### VETERAN MEN

- 1 Henry Buist
- 2 Dave Emery
- 3 Paul Beck
- 4 Dave Kellard
- 5 Tom Adams
- 6 Keith Clark
- 7 Gordon Harris
- 8 Mick Pearson
- 9 Graham French
- 10 George McGlone

#### JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 Craig Hastie\*
- 2 Glen Ritchie
- 3 Christopher Hall
- 4 Peter Barrow\*
- 5 Jason Cheeseman\*
- 6 Ben McCarthy
- 7 Christian Thompson
- 8 Scott Dawtry
- 9 Paul Smith
- 10 Alastair McTavish

#### JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 Joanne Barham
- 2 Natasha Barham\*
- 3 Heidi Steers\*
- 4 Crystal Hall
- 5 Rachel Woolven
- 6 Alison Smith
- 7 Angie Bristow
- 8 Charlotte Eke
- 9 Cally Howes
- 10 Jade Stutely

#### CADET BOYS

- 1 Christian Thompson
- 2 Alastair McTavish\*
- 3 Scott Friday
- 4 Antony Lickfold
- 5 Jon Cheng
- 6 Ashley Steers\*
- 7 Adam Beasley\*
- 8 Stephen New
- 9 Tim Chalk\*
- 10 Arron Campbell

#### CADET GIRLS

- 1 Rachel Woolven\*
- 2 Alison Smith\*
- 3 Angie Bristow\*
- 4 Charlotte Eke\*
- 5 Cally Howes
- 6 Jade Stutely\*
- 7 Laura Pethers\*
- 8 Lisa Holloway
- 9 Kelly Grant
- 10 Kelly Hanys

\* To old for the coming season

## New President for County Association

After many years of service to the County Association Cyril Burden has decided due to declining health to step down as President of the County. Cyril has been a calming influence in recent years and his tact and diplomacy will be sadly missed. He is in his own words making way for a younger man that will be able to play a more active part in the development of table tennis in Kent. His place as President has been filled by Fred Coleman, Chairman of the Ashford League and a former County Treasurer.

As expected Reg Thompson was re-elected as Chairman to carry on the excellent work that has made Kent the envy of most other counties.

## LANCASHIRE Part 2

The Preston League was once again the guiding force behind the 1993 Lancashire Closed Championships held at Clayton Green Sports Centre and sponsored by the ROYAL MAIL. A strong entry saw Andrew Eden beat Jonathon Taylor in a close fought three setter. Maria Thornley retained her championship in a straight sets victory over Denise Conroy. The junior boys winner was Glynn Payne who overcame the challenge of Greg Lee, whilst Susan Stringfellow beat Kirsten Williams for the junior girls trophy. Veterans winner was Phillip Biggs who defeated last year's winner Phillip Blake. The mens doubles saw the pairing of Andrew Eden and Graham Clarke prove too strong for Jonathon Taylor and Nigel Jobling and in the ladies event Paula French and Denise Conroy had no problem disposing of the challenge of Julie Clegg and Karen Gibson. Presentations to the winners were made by Mr. Tony Holt area distribution manager Royal Mail Preston.

The Blackpool 2 Star Open

Championships attracted a very high entry in the mens event but the womens event suffered due to the absence of many ladies at the Womens British League weekend. Des Douglas retained the mens title while Andrea Holt went one better than last year to win the ladies event. The event once again sponsored by the Marie Curie Cancer Fund was organised by the Blackpool League with Stuart Sherlock as Referee.

## LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

Not too much to report on at the moment. But I must start with a little moan. Last month the Leicester and District Table Tennis League held its presentation evening and a very successful evening it turned out to be with a good cabaret and quiz enjoyed by all. But the thing that seems strange to me is that a player and his team play for a whole season throughout some rough weather, to win a trophy of some sort, yet fail to turn up on presentation evening to collect their prizes. It's not really fair on the organisers, to miss such an event, after a lot of hard work has gone into it to stage it. And perhaps one of the worse things of all that the trophy secretary has to obtain them set them up on the night, only to find out that a lot have to be packed up and taken home again to be distributed some other way. Perhaps players will think about this for the future.

Anyrate let's get back to action and the Elbow Tankard is at the halfway stage and teams are beginning to see who the quarter finalist are likely to be.

Last years winners Good, Bad & Ugly are in contention again this summer. This season twenty teams entered one of these has withdrawn, but the rest are moving well.

The leading teams to date are as follows - Group A Kingfishers and United, Group B Park Keepers who have a reputation of doing well in this event and Gas I, Group C leaders are Ironmen, with the holders Good, Bad & Ugly in second place, Group D leaders are British Shoe with Knighton Park II team in second spot.

These eight teams look likely candidates for the quarter finals to be held in early August. The final will be played on the 2nd September.

In the next edition of Table Tennis News I should be able to announce the final two teams.

Hopefully the Intertowns Tournament will be held in early September, after it was cancelled earlier in the year due to heavy commitments by teams. That's it for now.

## MIDDLESEX Lorna Taylor

John Souter and Sanja Kubelka were the stars of the Middlesex Closed at Willesden High School, Progress on the 15th/16th May by both producing

hat-tricks of wins.

John Souter sailed to the final of the mens singles without dropping a game. He beat Neil Charles in the semi finals quite comfortably, where in the other half Colin Wilson won in two straight games, over David Goode. In the final Colin Wilson had no answer to John Souter's all round play and finally succumbed to him seven and 13. John and Colin (Sooty and Wils) teamed up to win the mens doubles in three games against Neil Charles and Dipak Topiwala.

The womens singles emerged two fairly newcomers to Middlesex, these being Sanja Kubelka and Marea Glusic. Sanja beat Mary Heffernan in the semi finals who beat surprisingly, Sara Williams deuce in the third, the round before. In the other half Mateja overcame Rachel Knight by the close score of 14 and 24. In the final, however, Sanja Kubelka became the champion of the womens singles by her tremendous attack combined with her footwork by the score of 19 and 18. Sanja joined forces with Sara Williams in the womens doubles to win the event 18 and 11 by defeating Rachel Knight and Lesley Souter.

John Souter and Sanja Kubelka made their hat-trick by combining their superb talents to become the mixed doubles winners by beating John Payne and Joanna Jablon 16 and 18.

In the mixed class II singles, for those people who do not play senior county, John Payne came out on top defeating David Goode 12 and 19.

The veterans mens singles final brought out two young veterans brushing aside Geoff Ailward and Tony Taylor. These being that Chris Boothby won the event by beating Walter Mascarenhas 12 and 16. Its nice to see some up and coming veterans like these to reaching the final!

In the semi finals of the cadet boys singles, Simon Jablon beat Barry Aaraam and Jason Sugrue beat Oliver Wakelem. In the final the two boys gripped the attention of every spectator in the hall as they fought an evenly matched dual of powerful topspins.

This proved a superb match to watch as did their match when they played earlier in the boys singles when Jason came out winning. However this time it was Simon's turn for glory as he beat Jason 17, -22 and 21 in the third! Unto only a few entrants in the cadet girls singles, Sophia Avraam became the victor by proving to be the strongest over Kara Lindsay. Simon and Jason amalgamated their play in the cadet boys doubles to defeat James and Oliver Wakelem -19, 15 and 11.

In the under 12 boys singles many young new stars were proving bright hopes for Middlesex's future, including David Pichon, eight and Luis Dominguez, 10. However, it was the two ten year olds, James and Oliver Wakelem that proved their fine talent. With James winning the hard fought game over Oliver by the unfortunate but nevertheless interesting score of -10, 15 and 19.

We must thank Julian Jablon for the continued support in sponsorship by

'Linda Farrow Sunglasses'. Also, thank you to all those who helped run the event, to which otherwise would not have been able to go ahead. Finally, a word of thanks to everyone who took part and watched to make it an enjoyable weekend throughout.

Congratulations must be given to Reg Rockall's Club, Edison, who won the title Club of the Year by the ETTA's Friendly Hotels British League.

## NORFOLK Ray Hogg

All Norfolk players please note that after much searching we have obtained sponsors for the Closed Championships to be held at Lynnsport Kings Lynn on Saturday/Sunday, February 19/20th 1994. For the benefit of our sponsors apart from anything else we must have a good entry so keep that date clear and you will be bombarded with publicity and entry forms in the not too distant future. Once again I say these championships are not for just the ranked players they are for all registered players in Norfolk so come on have a day out.

Regretfully after 25 plus years we have no representative senior team in the County Championships. We used to have two teams and plenty of players available but nowadays the interest does not seem to be there along with the problem of no-one willing to organise it. Maybe next season will see the return as my sympathies go to the girls from K. Lynn Ruth Acourt and Mary Christie who will now have no County play.

We also have no overall coaching organiser to co-ordinate all the work being done in the various towns and to get the County Junior squad together. In Norwich John Miller and the twins have really got organised and instilled discipline into their charges with the French version of training which seems to be paying off. With three teams in the Junior County Championships this season there is confidence that our players will be up there with the best instead of being there to prop up the others. A rumour of a girl player defecting to Norfolk remains to be seen.

Our two veterans teams this season are in the same division and who is playing in which team should be interesting particularly as their first match is against each other. I have not heard from any new 40 year olds who wish to be considered - if there are any contact me before it is too late.

Financially because of the sponsorship we should be in the black this season but fund-raising is still going on in the background and all players are having to contribute at least for this season.

## SURREY Terry Vance

Welcome to a new season. I hope to be able to provide a more regular articles

by introducing some of our younger players to the art of reporting.

There is belated congratulations to Gail McCulloch on her appointment as Vice-Chairman Coaching to the ETTA.

Unfortunately most of the information given here is a shorter version of articles in the Surrey Newsletter which is published every two months. Therefore these snippets are for the delectation of the Surrey expatriates who do not receive the Newsletter. If you do wish to receive a free copy please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list.

By the time this is published several leagues will have had a meeting with the ETTA officials regarding the way forward for table tennis. If you have not organised one for your league please contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate regional development officer.

A team in the Wandsworth league have been together for three seasons now and the combined ages of the four players is 240 years. They have just won the Division Three title and are wondering if there is another title-holding team of four who can beat their 240.

## WORCESTER Steve Horton

Welcome back after the summer break - they seem to be getting shorter. Although we are at the start of a new season it is worth reflecting on one or two outstanding events that were concluded after my last report.

On Sunday 9th May, over 40 juniors and cadets attended Pensnett School, Brierley Hill, for the annual cadet and junior team tournament. Five leagues were represented in a day on intensive competition with many hard fought games. After one of the closest finals in recent years, Dudley scraped home to win the junior team trophy from Worcester by four games to three. The cadet trophy when to Kidderminster after they beat Dudley 4-2.

In the Worcester league mens final Lewis Siket beat Steve Horton in two close sets and was presented with the trophy by Simon Claxton - ex-county player and champion. Mandy Mytton captured the ladies title with a straight sets win over Janet Hunt to gain revenge for her defeat against Janet in the Kidderminster final.

Jeremy Duffield added yet another win to make it 12 Kidderminster league mens singles titles and extending the record that he set. R.O.S. are division one champions with 20 straight wins from 20 matches and a margin of 18 points over nearest rivals.

An in-form, determined Matthew Harvey beat Julian Wootton in the Dudley league mens final. Matt started well in the match but lost his way and at one stage in the deciding set Julian had established a match-winning lead. Somehow Matt pulled this one out of the fire for a deserved win. Moseley must be congratulated as division 1

champions with no defeats on the way to a second title.

The team knockout competition provided two excellent finals this year. In the handicap final played at the Oak, Malvern - Crowle E (200) beat Crackpots (240) by a mere four points! Well done to the handicap panel!! In the open competition, and a repeat final of the past four years, a tough contest was expected between Bromley and Moseley. Bromley established a 3-0 lead with wins from Mark Hingley, Jason Thompson and Steve Horton. Moseley pulled back to 3-2 only for Bromley to edge a 4-2 lead. Moseley, inspired by Ken Walton rallied to level the match at 4-4 providing a decider between the two No.1's. Steve Horton clinched the title for Bromley by beating Julian Wootton 21-18 in the third.

Dudley retain the county league title for a fifth consecutive year despite some strong opposition.

Finally, on a happy note - congratulations to Murray Jukes (ex-county champion at junior and senior level) who married Rachel Thomas on Saturday 12th June at Rossett near Chester. The two set up home at Tamworth in Staffs.

## SUSSEX

### John Woodford

Only a one per cent reduction in the number of players registered in the county for last season was the best news emerging from the annual meeting of the Sussex T.T.A. on July 25th. This is, I believe, in line with a number of other counties, suggesting that the development taking place in the sport through the country is now yielding positive results.

All the officers were re-elected including the president Bert Fretwell and the chairman Dennis Reed. Despite health problems now improving, Bill Bradley is continuing in the secretarial seat. Areas of congratulation included successes for all three senior teams in the county championships and the return of the senior side to the premier division and the excellent running of the All-Sussex senior, junior and inter-league championships by the Worthing T.T.A.

Some 'Golden Oldies' of Sussex table tennis made appearances at the AGM - Bill Goldfinch the most active Vice-President, former player Rose Bromfield and one of only three Life Members Keith Watts, now an extremely youthful 80 years old, still regarded as the mastermind on the Rules of the ETTA.

During the season there were divisions of opinion on the junior committee but secretary Ian Brown kept cool and this paid off. When the opportunity arose at the AGM to question his report all was quiet in the hall and gallantly Mr. Brown offered his services for re-election and there were no other nominations.

The highest averages in the junior

county championships were Sarah Stedman (Arundel) with 100 per cent and Joanna Bush-Harris (Brighton) with 85 per cent. Still on juniors, at the moment four boys are expected to battle for the top places in the new rankings - Paul Butcher, Kevin Doyle, James Beale and Robert Abbotts. The probable five top girls will be Sarah Stedman, Joanne Bush-Harris, Sara Coggan, Clare Brown and Tina Beaney. Horsham Angels continue to expand in the Friendly Hotels British League. Their move to enter a third team has paid off and led to several new signings including Diccon Gray, Simon Cox and 15 years old Kevin Doyle. The man they want is of course, England No.6 Nicky Mason, who is currently unemployed as a professional table tennis player, despite the fact he only lost one game in the premier division last season.

If Mason led the Angels premier side with Nigel Tyler, Mike Hammond and Sussex No.2 Ritchie Venner at No.4, hopes would rise of a high finished, not lower than third spot.

## NORTHANTS

### Dennis Millman

Although mid July seems far removed from the practicalities of table tennis, it is presumably as good a time as any to begin my twenty first year of Northants Notes.

In May, an enthusiastic and well attended AGM elected John Palmer as the new President of the Northants County Association. Palmer, who is still adding to his many county representative appearances, still holds the record for the greatest number of consecutive victories in Kettering's Premier Division, and his table tennis expertise, plus his business acumen, should make him an ideal figurehead.

All the remaining officials were re-elected en block, with the addition of Keith Gamble as the new coaching administrator, and one of his first tasks was to organise a course for the training of coaches, a much needed commodity in local circles.

For the first time in many years Northants will not be represented by a senior side in the County Championships, but will however continue to support three veteran teams and also one at junior level. However with the return of a new style 'Macs Supermarkets' computer ranking list, and the introduction of two new competitions, the season certainly looks like being an eventful one.

The first of the new events is the 'Rams Sports' Challenge Trophy and this will be a knock-out competition, open to all clubs within the county. Teams will comprise four players, who will each play two singles, with a final doubles added to ensure a positive result. Teams may include only two players ranked in the top forty.

The second innovation is the Westfield Invitation Trophy, based on two divisions and to be played at Westfield's new Sanders Gate Centre on

Wednesday evenings throughout the winter.

The premier division will feature twelve top ranked players from within the county paired into six teams, and in addition eight top level players from outside the county have been invited to form a further four teams. Division one will contain ten teams featuring players ranked within the top fifty in the county.

The local entry will be headed by Kieron Dabbs and Graeme McKim who will be seeking not only to win the best prizes ever offered in local table tennis, but also to add further laurels to their many previous achievements.

Finally congratulations are extended to County Events Organiser Denise Barnett for winning Group Five in the National Wheelchair Table Tennis Association National Championships at the Stoke Mandeville Games, to add to the No.1 position she achieved at the National Les Autres event at Birmingham in April.

## SOMERSET

### Andy Seward

Last April, in the sleepy little Somerset market town of Shepton Mallet, hardly the centre of the table tennis world, the usual enthusiasts gathered to take part in the Somerset Closed Table Tennis Championships. Well, almost the usual gathering. Two long serving Somerset players were notable by their absence.

Melanie Carey, the winner of the ladies singles title for the past 10 years decided not to defend the trophy this year. "The hardest decision of my life", said Mel who now spends most days and some evenings working as the R.D.O. for the South West, "but I'll be back next season."

The other regular attendee missing from the Championships was Ron Weatherby. Ron outwardly displayed a languid style which belied his unexpected fierce hitting, yet inwardly displayed great determination, winning the Somerset Closed in 1991. Somerset wish Ron and family well in pastures new in North Wales.

The main beneficiary of Mel's absence was Tina Salder (Yeovil), who won the ladies singles for the first time in an excellent match against Judy Craig (Taunton).

The mens singles went totally to form...another triumph of the Somerset Ranking System...resulting in all of the top eight seeds reaching their allotted quarter final positions. In the top half of the draw, Phil Payne (1) and Brian Reeves (3) came through safely to the semis. In the bottom half, Lee Sadler (2) overcame his ring rustiness to beat County Vet Graham Green but fellow vet John Crabtree (4) was just edged out by top junior Rob Millard (7).

The ensuing semis were classics. Brian overcame expedite and his energy gap to beat Phil and book his place in the final after three long and exhausting games. The second semi also went to three, the in-form Rob

Millard beating Lee Sadler in a superb no compromising attacking match.

In the final against Rob, the defensive qualities of Brian Reeves ensured that he was in total control. Rob came back strongly in the second game but Brian just held on to become mens singles champion again - his previous success being ten years ago.

Next month, spotlight on the Yeovil League and its influence on the Somerset scene.

## YORKSHIRE

### Rea Balmford

To wrap up the 1992/3 season, the final Yorkshire League tables are to hand, with Bradford taking top honours as they claimed the championship of the Premier Division after returning eight wins from their eight outings, with Dave Indriks taking the Merit Award.

Sheffield, beaten only by Bradford, were in runners-up spot, with the pattern repeated in mens division one where Bradford III shaded Sheffield II for the championship, but this time the individual award went to the steel city with Chris Cattell the recipient.

Sheffield turned the tables at veteran level, where they headed division one, three points clear of Bradford, with Huddersfield one further point behind, while in the ladies' section Leeds pipped Hull.

Joanna Roberts (Leeds) was the second member of a league winning team to take the Merit Award, but the pattern was broken in the Vets, with the honour going to Hull's Mick Farnill, despite his team finishing in fourth place.

Huddersfield were good winners in the junior premier, and it was pleasing to see enthusiastic Scarborough topping junior division one, while Leeds (junior and cadet girls), Bradford (cadet boys), Scarborough (vet division 2), Leeds (vet division 3) and Bradford V (vet division 4) completed the tally of winners.

Bradford also made it a clean sweep of Yorkshire Club Championship honours with Clayton Heights, already winners of the junior, adding the Veteran title with a victory over Harrogate Wanderers, and S.A. Labels taking the prestigious mens award after beating Leeds outfit Yorkshire Bank in a 5-4 thriller.

And, finally, a brief look ahead at the coming 1993/4 season. The county championship teams will have to be streamlined, with just one senior and one veteran side entered, plus two junior sides - as one of the old school, I personally have mixed feelings, but accept that, now that British League has arrived and that ranking points take priority over participation - these two are not particularly related - the 'good old days' when Counties battled it out in front of hundreds (yes - it did happen) have gone for ever.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### JOOLA MENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE

#### *ENGLAND v POLAND*

Tuesday 7th September - 7.00 pm  
**HERMITAGE LEISURE CENTRE**  
Silver Street, Whitwick, Nr. Coalville,  
Leicestershire  
Tel: 0530 811215  
Tickets: Adults £5.00 Child £3.00

### JOOLA MENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE

#### *ENGLAND v NETHERLANDS*

Tuesday 5th October - 7.00pm  
**THE CRYSTAL LEISURE CENTRE**  
Bell Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands  
Tel: 0384 442255  
Tickets: Advance sales - £4.50, £3.00  
On the door - £5.50, £3.50

## BBC TV INVITATION

*Chen*

*Prean*

*Cooke*

*Syed*

#### *ENGLAND v BELGIUM*

Friday 1st October and  
Saturday 2nd October  
Venues to be advised

Contact: ETTA 0424 722525

*Jean Michel*

*Saive*

*World Championship  
Silver Medallist*

### WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE

#### *ENGLAND v SWEDEN*

Tuesday 21st September  
Venue to be advised

### WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE

#### *ENGLAND v HUNGARY*

Tuesday 2nd November  
Venue to be advised

#### **Veterans British League First Weekend**

*Grimsby Leisure Centre,  
Cromwell Road, Grimsby*

Sat/Sun 25th/26th September  
Details:  
Mike Lewis 0272 730788

#### **Junior County Premier Weekend**

*Everton Park Sports Centre,  
Liverpool*

9th/10th October  
Details:  
Geoff Taylor - 0203 678632

#### **Womens British League First Weekend**

*Bletchley Leisure Centre,  
Milton Keynes*

Sat/Sun 6th/7th November  
Details:  
Chris Lewis - 0272 730788