

SILVER FOR ANDREA HOLT

- FRIENDLY HOTELS
BRITISH LEAGUE
- SPECIAL OFFERS
- ALL THE NEWS!

**TERRY YOUNG &
GLENDA ASHISON
ARE NEW JUNIOR
CHAMPIONS**

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SPECIAL 8 PAGE REPORT

60th English
open
table tennis
championships
Cleveland

Table Tennis

NEWS



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

CAPTAIN'S LOG

February's issue publishes a n eight page special report on the 60th English Open in Cleveland on pages 17-24, where Andrea Holt, who won the silver medal in the women's singles, was England's only medal success in this premier event that promised so much for English players.

Sadly, England's men's team was decimated by various injuries, with Alan Cooke being our only official representative left to fly the flag for England.

Cooke didn't let us down though, playing superbly he reached the third round where he lost to the dynamic Frenchman Damien Eloi, the eventual men's singles champion. Cooke then partnered Holland's Gerrard Bakker and reach the quarter finals, where once again he lost to Eloi who was partnered by fellow Frenchman Christophe Legout, a formidable duo who went on to win the trophy.

The great news is that from next season we will be staging the English Open every year, instead of every 2 years.

Pages 12 to 13 features a report on the fabulous China Tour that was played in front of packed houses at all six venues, plus we had the extra bonus at Stourbridge where an exciting match saw England's men fight back from 0 - 3 down to draw 3 - 3, in front of BBC TV's Grandstand cameras.

True to form Terry Young and Glenda Ashison are the new Junior National Champions, whilst the Cadet titles went to Scott Friday and Lindsey Thornton, see Ken Muhr's report on pages 8 and 9.

ETTA National Council have decided to allow 3rd generation liquid glue to be used at all levels from 23rd January 1995 (see page 6).
John F. A. Wood

NEW JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPION TERRY YOUNG



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The ETTA would like to thank the following companies for the support they give to English Table Tennis.



MBE *for* GEOFFREY ASPINALL

OLDHAM'S MR TABLE
TENNIS RETIRED
HEADMASTER GEOFFREY
ASPINALL RECEIVES AN MBE
IN THE NEW YEARS
HONOURS.

The award marks both his services to tables tennis and the local community.

Grandfather Mr Aspinall, 64, took up the sport at the age of six.

He still plays regularly and was secretary of the Oldham District League for 17 years.

He said "I tried to give up the job but then they made me league president instead.

He plays every week as captain of the Werneth Cricket Club eight table tennis team though he joked: "These days its more a matter of just standing there while other people hit the balls at me."

Formerly head of St Martin's Primary School in Filton Hill, Oldham, Mr Aspinall was heavily involved in all kinds of sporting activities during his years there.

He was born in Huddersfield and spent 35 years working in Merseyside before moving to Oldham with his wife Jean 25 years ago.

He is a lay preacher at Holy Trinity Church, Bardsley, and he helps edit a weekly local talking newspaper for the blind.

GOOD NEWS from the TREASURER

Legislation on VAT was changed from 1st April 1994, making league affiliation fees exempt from VAT, whereas they had previously been standard rated. At first, all the facts available indicated the probability that this would cause the Association to become partially exempt and therefore unable to reclaim all VAT incurred on supplies. The reasoning was that with more than £100,00 of income now being exempt from VAT, Customs and Excise would say that nearly all our VAT costs would have to

be apportioned between our exempt and standard rated income. This would result in a large under-recovery of VAT, i.e. an extra cost burden of the Association estimated at £25000 per annum. It was therefore



PETER HILLIER

agreed, almost unanimously, at a Special General Meeting held at the time of the June AGM to increase the affiliation fee unit by 17.5% as a contribution to this extra cost.

However, in recent months, we have had a considerable amount of correspondence and meetings with inspectors at the Hastings VAT office in which we have put forward a case, in favour of us remaining fully taxable, i.e. able to recover 100% of our VAT costs. The result of all this is a very satisfactory outcome in that the VAT inspectors have accepted that we were fully taxable up to 31st March 1994.

We put in a claim for VAT paid on affiliation fees for the four years to 31st March 1994 and have received a cheque for more than £74000. At the November management committee meeting it was decided to recommend to National Council that two motions should be placed before the AGM:

1. The £74000 be returned to members in full as a rebate from their 1995/96 fees. 2. Half of the £74000 be returned to members and the remainder be placed in a special Junior Development Fund to be invested to give our leading juniors extra opportunities at attain the standards now reached by those in other leading countries.

As far as the current season is concerned, we have to wait until after the end of March 1995 to see

whether VAT incurred on costs relating to competitions and coaching is below £7200 and if this is the case, then the rebate from the 1995/96 fees could be higher.

In future, we will have to look at the results for each year to 31st March in April and only then can we determine the possibility of making a rebate the following season.

If you have any questions on all this, please direct them to me.
PETER HILLIER- ETta TREASURER

1995 BANGOR OPEN

Twenty years ago the Bangor Open was firmly established as the premier table tennis event in Ireland, with top stars from England and Scotland regularly crossing the Irish Sea to compete with Ireland's best. The big names included Chester Barnes, Denis Neale, Connie Warren, Ian Harrison, Stuart Gibbs, Malcolm Sugden, Jill Hammersley, Tommy Caffrey and Jimmy Langan. The advent of Troubles unfortunately led to its demise until last year when a group of local enthusiasts decided to re-establish the event at to retain as much as possible of its original and unique character, including most of the original perpetual trophies, separately staged tournament finals for the spectators, local hospitality and post-event entertainment for which the event was famous. This year the organisers have decided to celebrate the return of peace to the province with an invitation to players in England, Scotland, Wales and Eire to take part in this unique event, with former participants particularly welcome. Overseas visitors will be provided with accommodation by local players or if preferred, reduced price B & B. There will be a Supper Dance after the finals in Crawfordburn Country Club and on Sunday morning, an Invitational International Golf Challenge on the new Blackwood 18 hole par 3 course. The tournament is to be held at North Down College of Technology, using brand new tables. Prize money will be in

excess of £1000, making it the richest tournament in Ireland. Events include men's, ladies, veterans, boys, girls, intermediate singles and open doubles.

If you are free on Easter Weekend in March and would like to enjoy a great weekend of table tennis and fun together with Ulster hospitality, why not contact either Vincent O'Regan on 0247-459089 or Morris McCullagh on 0247-467326 for further information and entry forms.

HUGE OVERSEAS ENTRY *for* KENT 2 STAR

Tournament referee Phil gower reports that a remarkable 64 entries from overseas countries have been received for the forthcoming Thake Transport Kent Junior 2 Star Select.

A total of 285 have entered, making it one of the most popular tournaments of the season. It will be held at Gillingham on 18th - 19th February.

DICKENS WAS THERE

The great writer Charles Dickens was a long term guest at the Great White Horse Hotel in Ipswich, players and officials involved in the England v. Belgium European League match in January were surprised to find out during their stay at the same hotel.

In fact it was, during his stay there that he wrote 'Pickwick Papers', and the hotel is mentioned in the classic book. Other famous guests over the years include Lord Nelson, and it has been open for business for over 400 years! A more modern writer to stay at the Great White Horse was the Daily Telegraph's John Woodford, who wrote the paper's England match report during his stay at the establishment.

1997 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS *in* MANCHESTER

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION BID STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL AND THE SPORTS COUNCIL TO STAGE THE WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1997, WAS SELECTED BY THE ITTF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN TAIWAN AT THEIR MEETING IN MID-DECEMBER WRITES ALAN RANSOME.

The Championships will be staged at the beginning of May '97 using two arenas, the new Manchester Arena which will have 14 tables and 16,000 seats, and the G-Mex Centre which will house 35 tables and 30 additional tables for practice. The full details of the Championships are still to be finalised, but the ITTF's decision gives us a great opportunity to promote table tennis throughout the whole country.

There are many positive affects of bringing the World Championships to England and these include:-

- 1) increasing interest in the sport which will give the many new facility projects which we are currently supporting an excellent chance to attract new members;
- 2) gives our leading players the opportunity to become public figures and sports superstars. One point which has been lacking in recent times, is a table tennis player who is very well known to the general public. Desmond Douglas was the last player who fulfilled this role. The time is now ripe for a new personality to come forward and the staging of the World Championships will give our players a platform.
- 3) we need 49 tables for the World Championships, and this gives the opportunity for

many of our Umpires to officiate at the Championships. Our National Referees and Umpires Committee are busy planning the organisation of recruitment & training courses and seminars to give our County and National Umpires the opportunity of upgrading to international standard so that they can officiate in Manchester.

4) our coaches throughout the Country will have another opportunity to see the world's best players without having to



Alan Ransome

travel abroad. Watching the top players is one of the best ways for our coaches to improve their knowledge of the sport.

- 5) the Association's Marketing Department will have the opportunity to create a media build-up to the Championships which will bring both extra promotion and television for table tennis.
- 6) More of our players will have the opportunity to benefit by playing in their

own Country.

Altogether, the staging of the World Championships should give a massive boost to the sport of table tennis throughout the whole of Great Britain.

TABLE TENNIS *in the* COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Our discussions with Manchester have also included an application for table tennis in their bid to stage the Commonwealth Games for the first time in the year 2002. Manchester have included table tennis within their proposal, and at a meeting on 10th January, the English Commonwealth Games Council approved the nomination of table tennis.

Manchester are the front runners to be awarded the Games. Currently there is no major competitor and a final decision will be taken before the end of this year.

Manchester are proposing that the Commonwealth Games table tennis event be held over 9 days, 4 days for the team events, 1 free day and 4 days for the individual events. It is likely that the venue will be the Matchpoint Tennis Centre (which is located within the vicinity of the airport) using 12 tables, including 4 show courts, plus

practice tables and other facilities as appropriate.

GREAT WORK *by our* TREASURER

The ETTA Treasurer, Peter Hillier, has negotiated a rebate of approximately £75,000 from the VAT man. This money, paid by our member leagues to the ETTA was passed on to Customs and Excise during the period between 1990 and 1994. With a decision from the European Community to support him, Peter has negotiated a full rebate and table tennis is one of the first sports to stake its claim to recover the funds. As the money has originated from our Members, the Management Committee has recommended that Members through their representatives at the Annual General Meeting should decide what should be done with this rebate.

Members may opt to pay all of the rebate back to the leagues in the form of a reduction of the 1995/96 fees. However, our Selection Department are preparing their case to argue that some of the funding should be used to help our leading English Junior Players to improve their standards and assist the long-term prospects of our Senior National Team.

ANDREA STAR OF THE OPEN

From an England point of view, the star of the English Open in Cleveland held from 4th-8th of January, was Andrea Holt. Andrea played brilliantly to beat the Russian No.1 Elena Timina and the Swedish current European Champion Marie Svensson. In the final, Andrea found the twice-European Champion, Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands a little too steady. Other excellent performances were recorded by Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower, which thoroughly delighted the home supporters. One disappointment was the number of withdrawals in the Men's Singles. Prior to the commencement of the event,

Kong Linghui of China and Carl Prean had withdrawn. After the start of the tournament Chen Xinhua and Matthew Syed scratched. Lisa Lomas withdrew at the quarter final stage with an injury after pleasing the crowds with good wins over Lily Yip of the USA and Jana Dobešova of Czechoslovakia.

Despite this, the television coverage for the 60th Open was good. The Women's Singles final was broadcast on BBC Sport on Friday. The new sports cable company, Wire Sport, took several hours of coverage. Special slots were ordered by the Swedish and Dutch television companies, but the biggest coverage of all was received in Asia with Star Satellite covering 37 countries from Hong Kong, giving extensive coverage to the Championship. The star of this coverage was China's Xiong Ke who lost to the inspired Damien Eloi of France in the Final. These victories over the Swedish players, provided excellent television for the Asian audience, as particularly the matches between Appelgren and Lindh produced brilliant table tennis and went to the fifth set.

The English Open Championships were supported by Cleveland County Council who provided many of the services required to run a championships of this size in the form of sponsorship. A new feature of the English Open was the red floor which was well received by both players and spectators. This was sponsored by the Tarket Company who have entered into an agreement with the ETTA to provide the flooring for our major events.

NEW FORMAT A SUCCESS AT ENGLISH OPEN

The new system proposed by the ITTF gave players in the qualification round the opportunity of 3 best of 5's with the group winners going into the first round to meet the 16 direct entry players. The winners of the first round progressed to the 2nd round to

meet the seeded players. The first stage of the tournament, the Qualification Event, was played on 8 tables at Thornaby Pavilion, whilst the second stage from the second round onwards was played on 4 showcourts with tiered seating on both sides.

ENGLAND V. CHINA TOUR to packed houses

The England/China test series played between Christmas and the start of the English Open, proved to be a big success. The television match at Stourbridge produced excellent play for BBC Grandstand, and was shown for 35 minutes on New Year's Eve. The matches at Woking, St Austell, Mansfield and Chester all attracted large, enthusiastic crowds and gave table tennis a massive boost in these areas. Despite the injury to Kong Linghui, the play on the tour was first-class. For England, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke in particular, played well, whilst China as always had a good strong all-round team that was both good enough to win the series by 4 matches to 1 and proved very entertaining for the crowds.

In addition to the fine performance given by Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke, this tour gave Denis Neale the opportunity to include some of the leading young players. In particular Bradley Billington and Alex Perry excelled to give their international career a boost.

Immediately after the Open, a two match test series between England and Russia took place in Hull and Crewe. The Russians the current European champions, were very strong, and the matches were one-sided, but nevertheless these two fixtures gave several of our girls an excellent opportunity to face the best. Alison Gordon did very well at Crewe to win both her Singles whilst Nicola Deaton excelled in Hull to win one. The Russians ran out 9-1 and 8-2 winners across the two matches

NEW CENTRE AT GUILDFORD

On the development front, I am pleased to be able to report the building of a new table tennis centre at the Bishop Reindorp School in Guildford. The school linked with the Challoner Hall Club to promote a project that has attracted in excess of £220,000 of funding. The Centre includes the building of a new Gymnasium which is suitable for 4 tables and the upgrading of an existing gymnasium which will also hold 4 tables. The Centre will use existing changing rooms and other facilities at the school. The funding for this centre has been approved by the Sports Council who have contributed £60,000, the Foundation for Sports and the Arts via the ETTA - £70,000, the Surrey County Education Authority - £40,000 and the school itself have contributed in excess of £50,000 plus the land.

One of the main promoters of this scheme has been the ETTA Vice-Chairman for Coaching, Gail McCulloch, who is both the head of P.E. at the Bishop Reindorp School and one of the prominent members of the Challoner Hall Club. The Headmaster John Maton and Club Secretary Ken Lemon, have also been of great assistance. From an ETTA viewpoint, Claire Moore the Regional Development Officer, and Paul Baker, the Facilities Officer, have been heavily involved. From the Sports Council, Jeff Neslen, has been a great supporter.

It is anticipated that building at the new Centre, will start in March with the Centre being open for the start of the new season. It is planned that the Centre will be open from 6.00pm to 10.30pm Monday to Friday, plus Saturday, Sundays and school holidays. Already programmed is League Play, the Woolwich Junior League Coaching, practice and the Centre of Excellence for the South East.

SAFE IN EUROPE

England women maintained their place in the Super

Division of the European League when they defeated Belgium by 4 sets to 3 in Belgium and by 4-1 in Ipswich on the 17th of January. Belgium will play Poland in the final two-leg fixture to decide which team is relegated. England Men were defeated for the second year running in the semi-finals, this time by Germany. Germany won by 4-1 at Doncaster in December and by 4-0 in Saarbrücken in January. England's place in both the Men's and Women's Super Division for next season is secure and organisers interested in staging European matches should contact Clive Oakman at the ETTA office as soon as possible.

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVE 3RD GENERATION LIQUID GLUES

Following receipt of a report updating the international situation regarding adhesives prepared by Deputy Chairman Tony Chatwin and myself, National Council approved that with effect from Monday 23rd January 1995 the current ITTF list of Approved Liquid Adhesives becomes effective for all categories of competitive play in England.

This will have the effect of allowing all players in England to practice and play with liquid adhesives being used by players in the rest of the world.

Council believes that the latest adhesives approved by the ITTF (January 1995 List) are now acceptable for general use in England. This follows considerable concern about the possible adverse effects of early types of liquid adhesives which were banned by the ETTA on ITTF advice in 1992, forcing manufacturers to produce less harmful adhesives to be approved for use.

Test procedures will be introduced as soon as possible and disciplinary action may follow for any player using banned substances.

A full report will appear in the next issue of TTN.

Alan Ransome, Chairman

NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS *Young & Ashison*

**TERRY YOUNG (BERKSHIRE)
AND GLENDA ASHISON
(SURREY) ARE THE NEW
NATIONAL JUNIOR
SINGLES CHAMPIONS!
THEY LIFTED THE TITLES AT
BUSHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE,
PETERBOROUGH, OVER THE
WEEKEND OF 3RD AND
4TH OF DECEMBER**

WRITES KEN MUHR.

Terry's success was no great surprise for he has been the outstanding junior boy this season. Even though he had shown brief fallibility at the Woolwich Junior British League the previous weekend when his run of 96 consecutive singles victories was finally broken, at Peterborough on the Saturday he was in total control in reaching the final without dropping a game. The England No. 2 Stephen Meddings (Warwicks) then provided sterner opposition in going into a first game lead. Terry immediately levelled but the decider was neck and neck to 11 all. At that point Terry turned on the power to surge ahead 17-12. Although Stephen fought back tenaciously to within one point at 17-18, it was Terry who dominated the play and reaped the reward with a 16-21, 21-16, 21-18 win. Two days later he celebrated his 16th birthday. Terry's 'edge' is that little extra in speed and power plus a self-belief to do what is necessary when the going is tough.

Glenda Ashison's path to the girls final was not easy. She was severely tested by both Joanna Bush-Harris (Sussex) in the first

round, and Tracy Davies (Essex) in the semis, but held her nerve to come through at 21-19 in the third game in both cases. Ultimately she faced the favourite Shelley Ruocco (Essex), but, playing with cool resolve and firing relentlessly both forehand and backhand loops, she imposed her game. Shelley, untroubled in her earlier matches, replied with flashes of attacking brilliance but lacked the consistency to break the Ashison grip on the match, with the popular Croydon High

13, 21-16 in the mixed doubles for her second title. But Meddings, playing with Terry Young, surprisingly also lost in straight games in the boys doubles final to outsiders (Leeroy Pye (Norfolk) and Adrian Cadman (Shropshire). He had earlier survived what would have been the greatest upset of the tournament when in the second round of the junior boys singles, he very nearly went down two straight to Gerry Ashison (Surrey) before coming through 21-19,



School girl winning 21-18, 21-15. Indeed Glenda looks like having the necessary technique, temperament, athleticism and dedication - 'stickability' - to achieve greater things.

Glenda combined with her friend and rival Shelley Ruocco to record a comfortable girls doubles win over Clare Newns (Cheshire) and Sarah Stedman (Sussex), and Shelley achieved further compensation for her singles defeat when partnered by Terry Young she beat Ashison and Stephen Meddings 19-21, 21-

15-21, 21-16.

Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) and Lindsay Thornton (Lancashire) cleaned up the cadet events on the Sunday, winning two titles apiece. Although he had a smooth ride to the cadet boys final, he was given an unexpectedly tough time by the lefthanded Scott Friday (Kent). Gareth dropped the first game 25-27, won the second 21-17 and saw Friday claw back 4 match points before he clinched the final game 21-19. Although he is very talented, Gareth showed

lapses in concentration and application, which Scott, demonstrating greater 'fight', was able to exploit. The boys combined to beat 11 year old Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) - surely a star of the future - and Robert Pountney (Berkshire), 21-14, 21-17 for the cadet doubles.

Lindsay Thornton was the most consummate victor of them all. No-one got near the fast, hard hitting lefthander. Seventeen points, achieved by surprise finalist Emma Smith (Yorkshire) - who had overcome second seed Karen Lockwood 18-21, 21-12, 21-14 in the semi-finals - was the best anyone did against her in the singles. Lindsay, paired up with Alice Howard (Cheshire), was also outstanding in the cadet girls doubles, in which they beat Smith and Charlotte Spink (Yorkshire) 21-19, 21-12 in the finals.

There were promising signs that England might now start bridging the standard gap that exists between our youngsters and our main rivals in Europe, though there is still a long way to go. Out two junior champions play positive 'European' games, which could set the tone and example for others, and there are several talented youngsters on the way 'up'. Moreover, there seems to be a new interest and enthusiasm in coaching and the junior game - I was heartened by the number of coaches, helpers and parents present. In particular, it was good to see so many former top players - Denis Neale, Jai Yi Liu, Donald and Jill Parker, Skylet Andrew, Carole Moore, Nick Jarvis, Alison Gordon, Jackie Bellinger, Colin Wilson and Malcolm Francis among others - advising or watching the players. You don't have to have experienced top play at the sharp end to be a good coach - but it certainly helps!

Tim Holder, the ETTA's Sports Psychologist also gave four well received presentations to parents and coaches on how they can help their charges achieve success in competition through practices such as positive goal setting, communication and performance evaluation.

The competition was well run and the playing conditions good. However, complaints were made about the catering facilities being separate from the main complex, and over the lousy map which confused many - including the writer! Overall though, an excellent Championships.

**New National
Cadet Singles
Champions
Gareth
Herbert and
Lindsay
Thornton.**

ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bushfield Sports Centre, Peterborough 3rd - 4th December 1994

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals: Terry Young (Maidenhead) bt Vince Avery (Essex) 21-14, 21-17
 Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) bt Michael James (Bridlington) 22-20, 21-10
 Final: Terry Young (Maidenhead) bt Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) 16-21, 21-16, 21-18

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals: Shelley Ruocco (Hornchurch) bt Kathryn Woodward (Stockport) 21-12, 21-14
 Glenda Ashison (Southwark) bt Tracy Davies (Essex) 21-15, 19-21, 21-19
 Final: Glenda Ashison (Southwark) bt Shelley Ruocco (Hornchurch) 18, 15

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Terry Young/Steven Meddings bt Reagan Nettleingham/Stephen Joslin

(Essex) 21-17,21-11
 Leeroy Pye (Norwich)/Adrian Cadman (Reading) bt Christian Thompson (Kent)/Gareth Herbert (Slough) 16-21, 21-15, 21-15
 Final: Leeroy Pye/Adrian Cadman bt Terry Young/Steven Meddings 21-14, 21-17

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Shelley Ruocco (Hornchurch)/Glenda Ashison (Southwark) bt Zoe Fisher (Welwick)/ Nicola Silburn (Leeds) Clare News (Birkenhead)/Sarah Stedman (Arundel) bt Kathryn Woodward (Stockport)/Michelle Haynes (Nottingham) 17-21, 21-18, 23-21
 Final: Shelley Ruocco/Glenda Ashison bt Clare News/Sarah Stedman 21-13, 21-13

JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Terry Young/Shelley Ruocco bt Stephen Joslin/Joanna Bush-Harris (Arundel) 21-18, 22-20

Steven Meddings/Glenda Ashison bt Michael James/Kathryn Woodward 21-16, 24-22
 Final: Terry Young/Shelley Ruocco bt Steven Meddings/Glenda Ashison 19-21, 21-13, 21-16

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Semi-final: Gareth Herbert (Slough) bt Howard Quarley (Camberley) 24-22, 21-8
 Scott Friday (Kent) bt Robert Pountney (Camberley) 21-13, 21-9
 Final: Gareth Herbert bt Scott Friday 25-27, 21-17, 21-19

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-final: Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) bt Alice Howard (Cheshire) 21-13, 21-6
 Emma Smith (Selby) bt Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) 18-21, 21-12, 21-14
 Final: Lindsey Thornton bt Emma Smith 21-10, 21-17

CADET BOYS DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Gareth Herbert (Slough)/Scott Friday (Kent) bt Howard Quarley (Surrey)/Adam Quarley 17-21, 9-27, 21-14
 Robert Pountney (Camberley)/Andrew Baggaley (Milton Keynes) bt Timothy Simpson (Doncaster)/Owen Collingbourne (Yorkshire) 21-14, 21-12
 Final: Gareth Herbert/Scott Friday bt Robert Pountney/Andrew Baggaley 21-14, 21-17

CADET GIRLS DOUBLES

Semi-finals: Lindsey Thornton (Lancs)/Alice Howard (Cheshire) bt Karen Lockwood (Cheshire)/Trudie Bloor (Shropshire) 21-11, 21-16
 Emma Smith (Selby)/Charlotte Spink (Leeds) bt Terri-anne Nolan (Cheshire)/Gemma Lloyd (Cheshire) 14-21, 21-17, 21-17
 Final: Lindsey Thornton/Alice Howard bt Emma Smith/Charlotte Spink 21-19, 21-12

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ENGLAND'S MISSION *in* GERMANY

England men's team had a dual mission into Germany - to play the second leg of the European League semi-final against Germany and onto Karlsruhe for the European Nations Cup. This is the story of the defeat in Saarbrücken and an astonishing success in Karlsruhe where England qualified by beating France 3-1 and winning £5,300!

The Germans do most things in style - they employed a live band of 24 musicians, just to play the two national anthems in Saarbrücken. Billington and Perry guided into the limelight both on the China tour and in Germany, quite unexpectedly, performed to the best of the best of the ability, although making progress against Jorg Roskopf, Peter Franz and Richard Prause, whilst not looking impossible, seemed extremely unlikely. The 4-0 result was predictable.

Billington never looked outclassed as he scraped together 14,12 against the mighty Roskopf. Peter Franz then suffered some uncertain moments as Alan Cooke failed to clinch a game point at 20-19 in the first game, after which Franz sailed on to win 20,9.

With Germany 2-0, ahead, Perry conjured up some very useful points against Prause, 18 in the first, 16 in the second. The Germans then finished England off in the doubles 15,10 by Franz and Torben Wosik against Cooke and Perry.

WILY MAZUNOV'S

The Russian brothers Andrei and Dimitri some will say, are not the players they were two or three years ago. They defeated England 3-0 in the opening group match in Karlsruhe, making it blatantly clear that they still command a touch of class, maintained no doubt, from playing in the Bundesliga.

Alan Cooke, improving as the tour progressed did not secure the three game points offered to him by Dimitri and went down 21,16. Syed was not so impressive in the starting match against the Russians losing -16,-12 to Andrei.

Two Chesterfield men, never

having played together before, Cooke and Billington tried in vain to stem the Russian advance in the doubles but no joy, going down -16,-13.

FRANCE MEET THEIR WATERLOO!

Alan Cooke, now brimming with confidence (who said that all sport is 80 per cent confidence?) stunned the 2,000 mainly German fans with a revenge win over Eloi for Thornaby 20,-14,18.

With England scenting victory at 2-0 ahead, came the doubles. This time the captain's selection - Billington and Perry - nearly came off. They won the first against Legout and Eloi 20 and led 16-12 in the second before the French re-gained their confidence, pulling away from the deficit and winning the third 10.

THRILLING CLIMAX

The Germans love defenders like Syed and Chen. The situation was that England must win to go through with the tall, lean Balliol College defender in one corner and the chunky, short-legged Eloi in the other, knowing that this was the crunch match of the tournament for him and the French - £5,000 for reaching the semis or much less for failure.

The crowd saw Syed at his best, but saving the Very Best until last. He lost the first -13, hitting back in the second with some well-timed attacks.

Retrieving from the barriers, with the crowd on the edges of their seats, Matthew found himself 14-18 down in the last game, having won the second 14.

Incredibly, Eloi lost his way. He seemed to have two choices as he led 18-14 - thrash on with his attack hoping to burst through the Syed back-spin or play it steady and hope the England player would crack and make the mistakes. Eloi made the wrong choice. He continued to attack finding the floor or the net as Syed went on to lift himself to a famous victory 22-20!

England were through! The Stadium erupted, a standing ovation - it was the last match of the night. The hands of the

England team were raised to heaven as the prospect dawned on them that they were through against all the odds - even the normally placid Don Parker back home was surprised - and most important to the professionals, they were destined to share £5,300 of the prize kitty.

The following morning, England were beaten 3-0 by the world champions - Sweden - Karlsson, Persson and Waldner. No disgrace, reasonable scores, the end of a great run, it is not often that we have Waterlooded the French!

ENGLAND WOMEN STAY UP

Unbeaten performances by Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt helped England to a 4 - 1 victory against a young Belgium side at The Corn Exchange, Ipswich.

The success was in a European

Women's League stage 2 match, 2nd leg, and means England avoid relegation from the Super Division. The match was sponsored by Ipswich Borough Council and Manulife Financial.

It followed on from the 4-3 victory away in the 1st leg in December, giving them a 8-4 win on aggregate. England therefore continue to be amongst the top 8 countries in Europe by competing in the Super Division next season.

Belgium must now play another play off legs, probably against Poland during February to decide who will be relegated to Division 1.

INFO LINE CANCELLED

Sadly, the ETA Information Line is to be discontinued on March 31st as we have been informed that it is no longer viable.

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Closing Date: February 27th 1995

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Striving for equal opportunities, this post is funded by the Sports Council and the English Table Tennis Association, in conjunction with the English Schools' Table Tennis Association

Alan Cooke was my Man of the series for England. When injuries forced his regular team mates to withdraw. Cooke did not budge. He played in all six matches, which were played during a period of just seven days. Cooke always entertained, earning the applause of the crowds and the respect of the mighty Chinese.

Alan collected valuable wins also, with 5 out of 11 games played. Matthew Syed was the top performer in terms of results, with 6 wins from 9 and posed the Chinese many challenges.

In defence of China, they started the matches just 24 hours after arriving from a 20 hour flight. Not much time to recover from the massive journey and the ensuing jet lag.

MATCH 1 WOKING LEISURE CENTRE 28th DEC 1994

WOKING WONDERS

The China Tour made a triumphant start when almost 1000 spectators packed into Woking Leisure Centre to witness England defeat China 4-2.

It had been some years since an

COOKE wins the respect of the MIGHTY CHINESE

canvas tunnel, accompanied by swirling mist (dry ice) and the music of Status Quo: "Rocking All Over The World".

This was described by Alan Cooke as being the "best presentation of a match I have ever seen".

On the table, Matthew Syed scored two great wins and looked in peak form to earn him the Man of the Match award. Carl Preat and Alan Cooke added one each to round off a great team performance.

Both of China's points were scored by Xiong Ke, who later was to scale the heights at the English Open.

RESULT: England 4 China 2
 Alan Cooke lost to Xiong Ke 21-19/19-21/20-22. Carl Preat beat Jiang Shan 22-24/21-17/23-21. Matthew Syed beat Li Jing 21-9/24-22. Alan Cooke beat Li Jing 21-15/21-17. Carl Preat lost to Xiong Ke 18-21/19-21. Matthew Syed beat Jiang Shan 21-10/21-19.

MATCH 2 POLKYTH LEISURE CENTRE Cornwall 29th DEC 1994

"KING" KONG AT ST. AUSTELL

Kong Linghul, the 19 year old who is ranked No.13 in the World, made his first appearance in what became an ill-fated tour for the Asian Champion. Kong scored two for China to set up a series levelling 4-2 victory, and gave an insight into why he is being thought of as a future World Champion.

With a very relaxed manner, and a preference for his forehand, Kong hit with striking force. Nevertheless, Alan Cooke took him to deuce in the third. However it was "local boy" Alex Perry, from Crediton, Devon, who stole the attention of the full-house Cornish crowd.

Perry, 19, called in as a late replacement for Andrew Eden, was evenly matched with "King" Kong and at 18-18 in the third had the St. Austell audience on the edge of their seats. Alex could not quite pull off the shock of the year, but came close enough to earn rapturous applause and a further international appearance later in the tour.

To conclude, it was obvious that Perry has developed his game by several points since moving to Sweden, where he gains practice with Waldner and Appelgren.

RESULT: England 2 China 4
 Matthew Syed beat Xiong Ke 21-12/21-11. Alan Cooke lost to Kong



Mayor of Woking Borough Council, Councillor David Thornton pictured presenting the Trophy to the victorious England Team.

international had been staged in the South East. The table tennis enthusiasts of Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and Berkshire voted with their feet in appreciation of the efforts of Woking Borough Council in bringing the event to Woking.

A new way of introducing the players was used by the Tour Manager and Master of ceremonies Clive Oakman. They emerged under spotlight from a

CHINA'S SIX MATCH TOUR OF ENGLAND WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. AUDIENCES AROUND THE COUNTRY WERE TREATED TO SOME GREAT TABLE TENNIS, NOT JUST FROM THE MAGICAL CHINESE, BUT FROM ENGLAND TOO. AROUND 4,000 PEOPLE PACKED INTO SPORTS CENTRES ACROSS ENGLAND TO SEE A HEROIC PERFORMANCE FROM BOTH SIDES, FIGHTING AGAINST INJURY AND EXHAUSTION. CHINA WON THE SERIES 4-1 WITH ONE DRAWN, AND GREW IN STATURE AS THE TOUR PROGRESSED WRITES GRAHAM CARTER.

Linghui 21-14/17-21/21-23. Alex Perry lost to Li Jing 17-21/17-21. Alan Cooke beat Xiong Ke 21-19/21-18. Alex Perry lost to Kong Linghui 20-22/23-21/18-21. Matthew Syed lost to Li Jing 11-21/9-21.

MATCH 3 CRYSTAL LEISURE CENTRE West Mids 30th DEC 1994

ENGLAND EARN DRAW AT STOURBRIDGE

B.B.C TV Grandstand cameras witnessed match which produced rows, high drama on the table, and an uncharacteristically late appearance at the Crystal Leisure Centre by Carl Preen.

Carl's journey to the Midlands from the Isle of Wight had taken nine hours, thanks to cancelled ferries and Sunday service trains. Arriving to be told that he was third in the line-up was maddening, as he had not had time to glue-up his bat, or even get a warm-up knock.

An argument which lasted for an hour before the match rested on the team captains and the players not agreeing to a preferred playing order put forward by BBC TV.

Then, there was argument over shirts - the Chinese team colour is white. - unsuitable for T.V. coverage in England, but acceptable in Asia where orange balls are the norm. In the end, the Chinese Team refused offers of red shirts from England, due to sponsors' rules, so the settled on using their individual practice shirts - which were not of uniform colour. On the table, in front of another superb crowd, England went 3 - 0 down with Kong Linghui only just

managing to overcome the world class defence of Matthew Syed.

Chen Xinhua created the TV audience and local crowd alike to an entertaining display to start an England come back, although his opponent was switched to Jian Shan when Kong Linghui bowed out from the whole tour with severely strained tendons in his shoulder.

Matthew Syed continued the fightback against Li Jing and then Alan Cooke withstood the pressure to overcome Xiong Ke in a hugely entertaining three set marathon to earn England a 3-3 draw.

RESULT: England 3 China 3

Alan Cooke lost to Jiang Shan 21-19,15-21,13-21
Matthew Syed lost to Kong Linghui 21-19,19-21,19-21
Carl Preen lost to Xiong Ke 12-21,14-21
Chen Xinhua beat Jiang Shan 21-18,21-19
Matthew Syed beat Li Jing 21-15,21-11
Alan Cooke beat Xiong Ke 21-17,19-21,21-18

MATCH 4 KESTEVEN TABLE TENNIS CENTRE 1st JAN 1995

CHESTERFIELD DOUBLE AT GRANTHAM

Bradley Billington was named Man of the Match at Grantham when he scored one of England's two points. Looking powerful and well composed Billington, from Chesterfield rose to the challenge against Li Jing, emerging the winner by a margin of 21-17,21-19. Alan Cooke made it a Chesterfield double by securing a good win against Xiong Ke. However, injuries were now starting to take hold and in



ALAN COOKE

quick succession Chen Xinhua and Xiong Ke reported troubles. Chen was unable to appear again on the tour after losing to Xiong Ke.

More drama was to occur after the Grantham match, with requests from the Chinese team for urgent physiotherapy resulting in a midnight trip for two players, Kong Linghui and Xiong Ke, to the Grantham hospital to receive treatment from local physio expert Andy Thomas.

RESULT England 2 China 3

Bradley Billington lost to Jiang Shan 15-21,17-21
Alan Cooke lost to Li Jing 25-27,19-21
Chen Xinhua lost to Xiong Ke 15-21,13-21
Bradley Billington beat Li Jing 21-17,21-19
Alan Cooke beat Xiong Ke 21-19,21-19

MATCH 5 MANSFIELD LEISURE CENTRE 2nd JAN 1995

COOKE ONLY WINNER AT MANSFIELD

A great Mansfield crowd of over 700 enjoyed another feast of international table tennis. The trusty Alan Cooke produced the sole England win, against Li Jing and thrilled his local home fans with an open attacking display against the left handed Xiong Ke.

Alex Perry, in his second match of the tour, took a game off Xiong, who is ranked No. 43 in the World. By this stage in the tour China were gaining the upper hand, despite being without their No. 1 Kong Linghui, who by now was sitting out, counting time before returning to China.

China leapt to a 5-1 victory, but

Nottinghamshire table tennis enthusiasts were given an insight into just how strong Chinese table tennis is. In an interview with the Mail on Sunday reporter, Kong said that table tennis is by far the largest sport in China - the National Sport, and that other sports have gained little or no ground against table tennis.

At Mansfield China clinched the series.

RESULT: England 1 China 5

Alex Perry lost to Xiong Ke 15-21,21-13,11-21
Alan Cooke beat Li Jing 21-14,21-16
Matthew Syed lost to Jiang Shan 15-21,15-21
Alan Cooke lost to Xiong Ke 24-26,21-14,15-21
Bradley Billington lost to Li Jing 19-21,16-21
Alex Perry lost to Jiang Shan 13-21,19-21

MATCH 6 NORTHGATE ARENA LEISURE CENTRE 3rd JAN 1995

SYED SHINES AT CHESTER

Another double by Matthew Syed lifted the massive 900 plus Chester crowd to a crescendo as the Reading defender out-chopped first Jiang Shan, then Xiong Ke.

Syed's performances were much appreciated and his tactics will no doubt be monitored by the Chinese coach Yu Yuansheng, in preparation for the World Championships in China next May, after being videoed by the touring team.

Alan Cooke put in another scintillating performance. In a tense marathon, he reached deuce in the third, but fell to Xiong Ke. Every point was watched with baited breath by the numerous Chester crowd.

The England team included Billington, looking good again and Jonathon Taylor. No-one played badly, it's just that, in the words of England coach Denis Neale: "No-one bad comes out of China!"

RESULT: England 2 China 4

Matthew Syed beat Jiang Shan 21-16,17-21,21-17
Jonathon Taylor lost to Li Jing 16-21,18-21
Alan Cooke lost to Xiong Ke 22-24,23-21,20-22
Bradley Billington lost to Li Jing 21-23,18-21
Matthew Syed beat Xiong Ke 21-13,22-20
Jonathon Taylor lost to Jiang Shan 14-21,18-21



Old friends meet again at the China Tour at Stourbridge. All ex-members of Birmingham League Committee, until the Sykes' left for Germany in 1974. Left to right: Jim & Helen Sykes, Richard Habgood, Barry, Sheila and Gareth Hayward.

Peniel did well to stay in touch with the leaders as they were forced to field a much weakened side in their match with Policy Plus St. Neots. This was due to the continued absence of the injured Sean Gibson and the absence through illness of Andrew Eden.

Clive Carthy and Vince Avery were drafted into the team and Avery won a crucial set against Mick Harper 21-12, 21-14. John Holland and Steve Dorking won all of their singles and combined to beat Harper and Stuart Palmer in the doubles to give Peniel a narrow 8-6 victory.

Drumchapel Glasgow and Horsham Angels shared the points in a 7-7 draw, the Angels pulling back after Glasgow had built up a 4-1 lead.

COOKE & DOUGLAS UNBEATEN

ALAN COOKE AND DESMOND DOUGLAS BOTH RETAINED THEIR UNBEATEN RECORDS IN THE FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE AS BFL GROVE CRUSHED DML WHITE HART LAUNCESTON 14-0 TO REACH THE HALF-WAY STAGE OF THE SEASON HAVING WON EVERY ONE OF THEIR MATCHES, AND TWO POINTS AHEAD OF TEAM PENIEL OF BRENTWOOD **WRITES AUBREY DRAPKIN.**

ALAN COOKE



Vymura International's problems continue and they are stranded at the foot of the table without a solitary point to their name after losing 4-10 to Sedgfield.

BFL Grove second and third teams are on top of both first divisions at the halfway stage. In the Northern Section Raman

Subramanian picked up the player of the match award, leading the second team to a 7-1 victory over Uxbridge. The Burton side's only success was, in fact, a shock result with Junior Stoddart beating Michael O'Driscoll 21-15, 21-16.

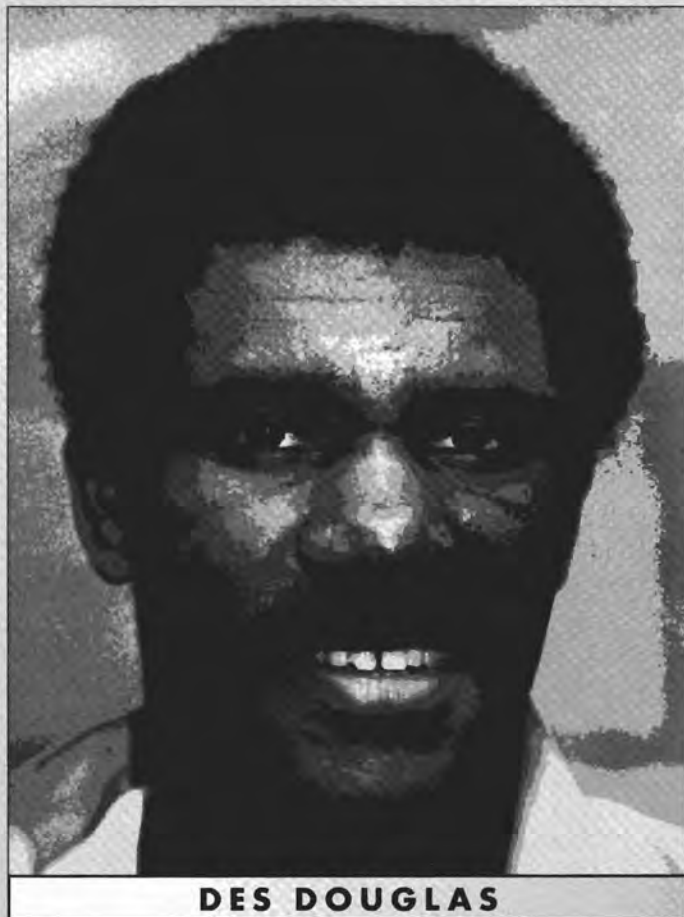
The star of Grove's third team in the Southern section was

Napur Santra who beat both Jimmy Stokes and Terry Young in the Market Drayton club's 6-2 victory over the previously unbeaten OLOP club of Reading. Carl Morgan, however, lost his 100% record when he went down to both Stokes and Ben Johnson.

Olton and West Warwickshire and Ruston Marconi maintained their challenge for promotion in

the North with victories over Leicester Lions and Bribar Humberside respectively whilst Linda Farrow retained third spot in division one South by winning 7-1 at Byng Hall.

City of Leeds and BFL Grove Colts are level on points at the top of division two North, Leeds winning 6-2 at home to Derwent and Grove having a 5-3 home



DES DOUGLAS



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victory over Uxbridge seconds. In the South Eastern section of the second division Barclays Bank beat Ashford 5-3 to stay one point ahead of Pillinger Air Croydon who won by a similar score against Fellows Cranleigh. Linda Farrow seconds gained their first points of the season by defeating Peniel seconds 7-1. Cheltenham Saracens go to the top of division two South West after victories over Jolliffe Poole in a rearranged match and Hawbush Dragons. Brabar Colley Hyundai dropped their first point of the season when they were held by Launceston seconds and are now one point behind Cheltenham but have a game in hand. At the other end of the table

Amity Generation Fareham surprised Gridfine St. Neots to record their first victory of the season.

The third division East leaders are Progress who have Crusaders Lincoln and Brent Juniors breathing down their necks.

Leckie top the Midland section on set

difference from Launceston thirds with OLOP seconds only one point adrift.

Abbeydale have a two point cushion at the top of three

North and Horsham Angels thirds are in a similar position in three South.



British League

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FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE

PLACINGS AT 18 DECEMBER 1994

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BFL Grove	7	7	-	-	90	8	14
Team Peniel	7	6	-	1	59	39	12
D. Glasgow	6	3	1	2	49	35	7
Horsham Angels	7	3	1	3	52	46	7
Sedgefield	7	3	-	4	42	56	6
Policy Plus St. Neots	6	2	1	3	39	45	5
DML Launceston	7	1	1	5	31	67	3
Ymura International	7	-	-	7	16	82	-
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
BFL Grove II	7	6	-	1	40	16	12
Olton & West Warwicks	7	4	2	1	36	20	10
R M Lincoln	7	4	2	1	33	23	10
Ymura International II	7	3	3	1	29	27	9
Sedgefield II	7	2	2	3	30	26	6
Uxbridge (Burton)	7	1	3	3	21	35	5
Humberside	7	1	-	6	18	38	2
Leicester	7	-	2	5	17	39	2
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
BFL Grove III	7	7	-	-	44	12	14
OLOP	7	6	-	1	40	16	12
Linda Farrow	7	4	1	2	29	27	9
Edison	7	4	-	3	38	18	8
Milton Keynes	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
Horsham II	7	2	1	4	21	35	5
BSG Brentwood	7	1	1	5	19	37	3
Byng Hall	7	-	-	7	11	45	-
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
City of Leeds	6	4	2	-	34	14	10
BFL Grove Colts	6	4	2	-	29	19	10
Sedgefield III	6	2	3	1	27	21	7
Moorland Seasideers	6	2	1	3	24	24	5
Derwent	6	1	3	2	21	27	5
Peterborough	6	2	-	4	21	27	4
Uxbridge (Burton)	6	-	1	5	12	36	1
DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST							
Barclays Bank	6	5	1	-	30	18	11
P A Croydon	6	4	2	-	31	17	10
BSG Brentwood II	6	3	1	2	31	17	7
PT Fellows Cranleigh	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
Team Peniel II	6	2	1	3	20	28	5
Ashford (Kent)	6	1	-	5	18	30	2
Linda Farrow II	6	1	-	5	15	33	2
DIVISION TWO SOUTH WEST							
Cheltenham	8	7	-	1	48	16	14
B C Hyundai	7	6	1	-	44	12	13
DML Launceston II	7	4	1	2	35	21	9
Kingshurst	7	3	-	4	30	26	6
Jolliffe Poole	8	2	1	5	27	37	5
Gridfine St. Neots	7	2	1	4	20	36	5
Hawbush	7	1	1	5	15	41	3
Amity Generation	7	1	1	5	13	43	3
DIVISION THREE EAST							
Progress	7	6	-	1	44	12	12
Crusaders Lincoln	7	5	1	1	40	16	11
Brent Juniors	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
P T Fellows Cranleigh II	7	3	3	1	34	22	9
Byng Hall II	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
Britannia Ipswich	7	2	-	5	23	33	4
Peterborough II	7	1	-	6	12	44	2
Rejects II	7	-	-	7	6	50	-
DIVISION THREE MIDLAND							
Leckie	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
DML Launceston III	7	5	1	1	33	23	11
OLOP II	7	5	-	2	34	22	10
Nottingham League	7	4	-	3	32	24	8
P D Newport	7	3	2	2	31	25	8
Ymura III	7	2	1	4	25	31	5
Bramsgrove	7	1	-	6	17	39	2
BFL Grove Colts II	7	-	1	6	16	40	1
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Abbeydale	7	5	2	-	38	18	12
BFL Grove IV	7	5	-	2	37	19	10
D Glasgow II	7	4	2	1	36	20	10
AALCO Leeds	7	4	-	3	34	22	8
Sedgefield IV	7	2	2	3	23	33	6
City of Leeds II	7	1	2	4	24	32	4
Moorland Seasideers II	7	2	-	5	19	37	4
CWS Manchester	7	-	2	5	13	43	2
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Horsham III	7	5	2	-	39	17	12
G S Larkhall	7	4	2	1	35	21	10
Norwich T F	7	4	2	1	35	21	10
Barnets League	7	4	1	2	31	25	9
Rejects	7	4	-	3	28	28	8
Ellenborough	7	2	1	4	26	30	5
Adeyfield N A	7	-	1	6	19	37	1
Linda Farrow III	7	-	1	6	11	45	1

YOUNGSTERS GAIN EXPERIENCE *against* RUSSIA

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS
RUSSIA STAYED ON AFTER
COMPETING IN THE 60TH
ENGLISH OPEN TO PLAY
ENGLAND IN A TWO
MATCH WOMEN'S
INTERNATIONAL TEST
SERIES. PREDICTABLY, THE
FULL-STRENGTH RUSSIAN
TEAM STUFFED A
WEAKENED ENGLAND SIDE
COMFORTABLY WRITES
GRAHAM CARTER

England fielded a below strength team in both matches, which came the very next day after the Open. Both Lisa Lomas, (arm/nerve) and Andrea Holt (calf muscle) were absentees due to an injury, giving the chance to the younger stars of the future to stake their claims for England selection.

Out of the quartet of youngsters used, Nicola Deaton and Kate Goodall looked the favourite candidates to one day break into the England side.

Sally Marling, thought by many to be a bigger talent, looked tense and nervous at Hull, and turned down an England call-up at Crewe. Such a rebuff is probably not the best way of impressing the England Manager, and could spell the end

to her supporters' hopes of selection in the near future

DEATON DARES *at* HULL

Nicola Deaton showed a tremendous determination and was rewarded by gaining England's sole point during their 9-1 defeat by Russia at the Woodford Leisure Centre, Hull on 9th January.

Deaton, 18, fought hard as if to say 'pick me' to the England selectors. She attacked well to beat the 19 year old Tatiana Shahova 21-19/21-16. This was not all: in her second match she came closest out of the England team to grabbing a second success, against World Team Cup champion Galina Melnik.

Deaton played with real 'bottle', to quote a neighbouring spectator and only narrowly lost to the world No.46 21-11/19-21/21-18, after being 18-all in the third.

Left handed attacker Kate Goodall also gave her England career a boost, taking games off both the two world class defenders Elena Timina and Trina Palina.

GORDON *provides* CREWE SUNSHINE

Alison Gordon showed the up and coming players just how it is done when she gave a classy attacking display to win twice for England, as the home side went one better, losing 8-2 to Russia on 10th January at the Victoria Centre, Crewe.

Gordon, fighting off tiredness following the previous night's match and the Open, picked up England's two points and showed just why, at 32, she is still an automatic choice for England, along with Lomas and Holt.

She has the game to beat the big guns in Europe, gained through 15 years of playing for the England Women's team.

At Crewe she tore through the inexperienced but highly promising attack of Tatiana Shahova 21-16/21-11. In a closer match she made nonsense of the ranking list by out-attacking world No.46 Galina Melnik - 43 places ahead on the World List - for the third time in the last three encounters between the two stars.

HULL

ENGLAND 1 RUSSIA 9
Gordon lost to Timina 10-21/11-21
Marling lost to Melnik 12-21/16-21
Goodall lost to Palina 22-20/9-21/12-21
Deaton beat Shahova 21-19/21-16
Gordon/Goodall lost to Timina/Palina 12-21/13-21
Marling/Deaton lost to Melnik/Shahova 17-21/16-21
Gordon lost to Palina 20-22/12-21

CREWE

ENGLAND 2 RUSSIA 8
Goodall lost to Palina 17-21/14-21
Gordon beat Shahova 21-16/21-11
Deaton lost to Timina 15-21/6-21
Thornley lost to Melnik 15-21/15-21
Goodall lost to Timina 15-21/14-21
Gordon beat Melnik 21-8/15-21/21-17
Deaton lost to Palina 14-21/10-21
Thornley lost to Shahova 11-21/11-21
Goodall & Deaton lost to Palina & Timina 14-21/12-21
Gordon & Thornley lost to Melnik & Shahova 12-21/16-21

Nicola Deaton and Kate Goodall could not take a game but gained valuable experience in both singles and doubles against the 1992 English Open Women's doubles champions Timina and Palina.

Maria Thornley from Blackpool achieved an important step by making her England senior debut. She faced Melnik and Shahova and to have this sort of world class match practice can only help her future prospects.

REVISION OF ITTF BANDS

As expected in a system which protects players from the full effect of losses, the rating points of the English players have continued to rise. In order to maintain the fairness of the system, the ITTF Rating Bands used to allocate Dummy Ranking Points to opponents have been revised in consultation with Don Parker. The next review will be during May 1995.

MEN			WOMEN		
World Position	Old Points	New Points	World Position	Old Points	New Points
1-10	3850	3895	1-10	3300	3330
11-21	3750	3795	11-30	3210	3240
21-30	3650	3695	31-50	3140	3170
31-40	3575	3620	51-70	3020	3050
41-50	3500	3545	71-100	2900	2930
51-100	3450	3495	101-150	2800	2830
101-150	3300	3345	151-200	2675	2705
151-200	3200	3245	201+	2550	2580
201-300	3100	3145			
301+	3000	3045			

Stuart Sherlock
Chairman Ranking Panel

THE NEW ENGLISH OPEN MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION

DAMIEN ELOI

FRANCE

60th English
open
table tennis
championships
Cleveland

THE ENGLISH OPEN

HOLT'S MELODY & CRESCENDO

THE ENIGMA'S VARIATIONS REACHED A SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED MELODY AND CRESCENDO. ANDREA HOLT, WHOSE VERSATILE TALENTS HAVE OFTEN PROMISED SO MUCH BUT HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN MADDENINGLY UNPREDICTABLE, FOLLOWED HER REGAINING OF THE ENGLAND NUMBER ONE RANKING WITH MOST NOTABLE PERFORMANCES OF HER CAREER **WRITES RICHARD EATON AND JOHN WOODFORD.**

The 24 year old Lancastrian became the first woman for 16 years to reach the final of the English open, achieving that at the Thornaby Pavilion in Cleveland with displays which showed just how difficult and confusing she can be to play against when she uses her unusual mixtures of attack, defence and counter attack in well-timed combinations.

Holt scored a 23-21, 21-14, 21-17 victory in the third round over the seed Elena Timina, who had led Russia to the European Team title last April in Birmingham. She followed that by beating another European champion - Marie Svensson, who had been woman's singles winner at Brum's big event, and whose heavy forehand loop usually makes her a dangerous proposition for defensive players.

But though Holt often defends she does other things well too. She found ways to contain or prevent the second-seed Swede's attacks, producing an 8-21, 21-15, 24-22, 21-18 victory that was not only the sensation of the tournament but made the most media-worthy story at the

English Open for several years. It was also the best English achievement in the women's singles since Jill Hammersley-Parker also reached the final in 1980.

In that year Jill went onto win the title at a time of great personal problems. Now she was coaching Andrea, and it would have made the perfect last harmony had the two of them been able to compose a victory in the final over an adversary when each in different decades have found extremely difficult to play

against.

Bettine Vriesekoop, however, was still too good, even at the age of 33 and after one retirement, and she deserved her 21-6, 23-21, 21-13 triumph over Holt. So often has the Dutch player been a barrier to the English, that it was almost a surprise to find it was the first time that top-seeded former European champion had won the English Open.

SHOCK MEN'S WINNER

Meanwhile Daimen Eloi was becoming a shock men's winner. The quick-footed, slick-handed Frenchman achieved that by beating the Chinese left-hander Xiong Ke, in four games in the final. But for a change it was the women - and in particular Holt - who got more of the attention.

There has been an indication this might happen. Holt had beaten Timina during the Euro's and not only knew she could beat her former team mate from BFL Grove again but knew clearly how it should be done. Her attack, she was certain, was better than her opponent's, and her defence was good enough to prolong the rallies against the tenacious Muscovite and to extend the first game to more than 15 minutes.

EXPEDITE

Then would come the expedite rule; then attack would become more important than defence. And sure enough at 16-17 in the opening game, it did.

Nevertheless that game went on for fully another eleven points, all of which were vital. Timina gave hints that since moving to The Netherlands last year she may have improved her attack, particularly on the backhand. Had she been able to pinch that first game she might have carried enough weapons to have made a long match of it.

Instead Holt, with a patience and a discipline that suggested an encouraging new maturity may be emerging, took the first 23-21 and then dominated the second game. She served well, and occasionally finished rallies quickly. Usually she pushed, chopped or floated when Timina

ANDREA HOLT



served and waited for attacking errors induced by the 13-stroke per rally rule. Most notably of all the trainee teacher nearly always stuck to her plan.

A smash into the net from Timina, which put her 12-17 down, was symptomatic of her frustration. Another smash, which took a net cord, and went off the table, gave Holt the second game 21-14.

The third was different. There were moments when Holt lapsed into indiscreet offensives and she trailed 7-9, 11-13 and 13-15. Then the pattern reasserted itself, with a smash off from Timina taking Holt to 15-15, and a forehand loop off getting the home crowd excited and carrying the English player to two points ahead.

There was a brief recovery by Timina from 15-19 to 117-19, but then Holt played a daring smash and drop shot combination, and was rewarded by a push from Timina into the net under pressure. Match point: another forehand loop from Timina into the net, and Holt had a famous victory.

The next opponent, like Holt, was a surprise quarter-finalist extracting frequent forehand looping errors from Muller, and then elicited some more mistakes from 15-15 onwards in the second game to help her take it 21-16, it was only in the third that Holt encountered difficulty.

In this she had to save three games points, again mostly with defensive play, using her twiddle and the reverse and long-pimpled rubber combination to drag a Muller smash into the net to reach 19-20, and driving a forehand loop from Muller off the table to reach 20-20.

Each time it was the forehand chop which tempted Muller to have a go and which brought mistakes. It was this same stoke that lured her into a faster loop at 22-21, which she put it off the end of the table again. On her first match point Holt felt free to risk a forehand loop return of serve and saw it whistle away for a winner.

A night's rest, a new and stronger opponent and dramatically increased expectations with the crowd and media brought a different tougher set of problems for Holt the next morning. Almost before some people had settled into their seats Holt was 1-9 down against Marie Svensson, the European Champion from Sweden. The first game evaporated 21-8 against an opponent with a fierce fierce

forehand loop and a liking for playing against backspin defence.

"I thought Andrea might go to pieces after that first game," admitted Jill Hammersley-Parker, who was in Holt's corner. "But she didn't and she was brave. She had to try to pin Svensson down on the backhand, wide, because she is good from the middle of the table; she had to get good length, when defending; and she had to risk attacking occasionally on Svensson's serve, because she's got a good serve and can be dangerous with the follow-up".

Holt also mixed her defence better. She used chop, float a loop from half distance, twiddle cunningly, counter-attacked cleverly, and served deceptively. It was an intelligent performance as well as one of heartening character.

At 10-9 in the second game Holt kept her nose in front with a backspin and side spin serve followed by some sharp attacks, and at 15-14 kept ahead with some tricky topspin defence, causing Svensson to put a drop shot into the net. Suddenly doubts seemed to spring into the second seed's mind and she won only one point on her next sequence of five service points, once looping into the net, twice looping off, and once smashing off. By reaching one game all Holt visibly acquired extra confidence.

In the third and fourth games through she had considerable assistance from an edgy Svensson. The Swede led 17-13, 19-16 and 20-19 in the third game, but when faced with the backhand push return of serve on game point Svensson delivered an air shot with an attempted forehand loop. Holt then earned herself two game points, the second with brilliant defence from wide of the table. She clinched the third game with several more superb backhand chops combined with a push, which caused Svensson's loop to take a net cord and go off.

Holt knew she could win then, and she did because Svensson's mind began to react to the doubt created by the English player's variety and deception. Fine aggressive attacker though she is, Svensson revealed some startling mistakes when it really mattered.

At 16-16 she smashed a high ball into the net and at 16-17 she did another air shot with a forehand loop (from a good backhand chop). The Svensson slipped to 16-19 as Holt suddenly took the initiative with a rousing



England Team Captain Denis Neale gives 'Cookie' tactical advice against France's Eloi.



below: Alison Gordon conqueror of Germany's Nina Wolf

above: Lisa fighting both her opponent and also injury



60TH ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

XIONG KE

**MENS SILVER
MEDALLIST**



CHINA

DAMIEN ELOI & CHRISTOPHE LEGOUT

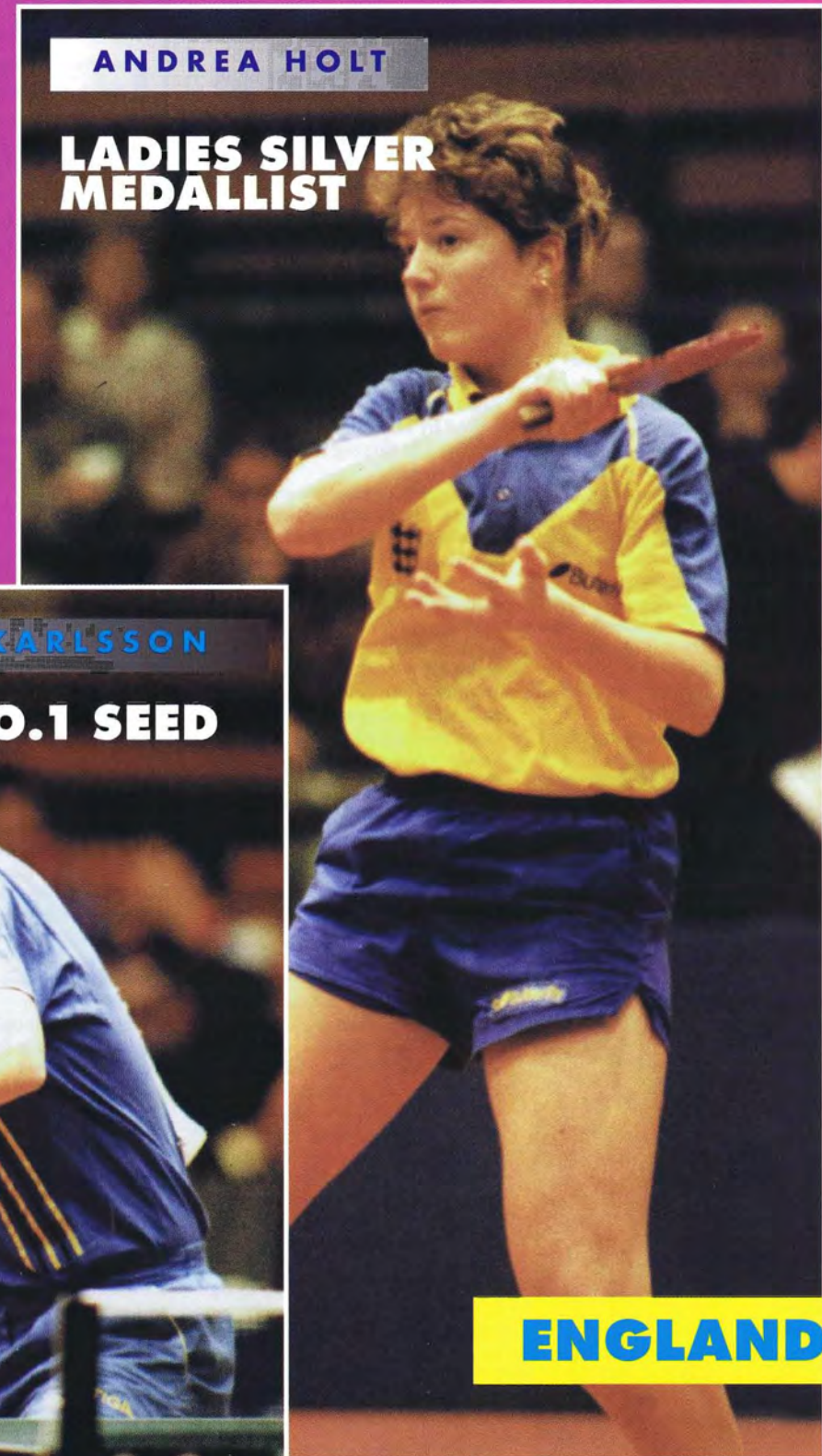
MENS DOUBLES GOLD MEDALLISTS



FRANCE

ANDREA HOLT

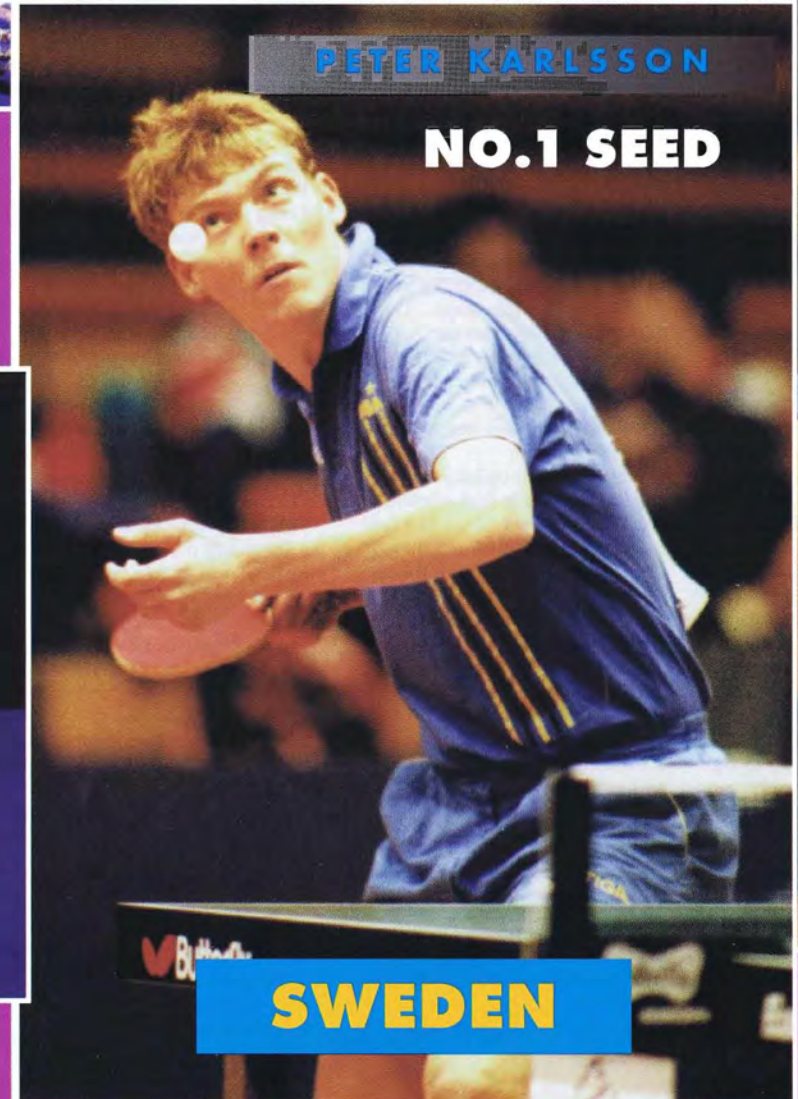
**LADIES SILVER
MEDALLIST**



ENGLAND

PETER KARLSSON

NO.1 SEED

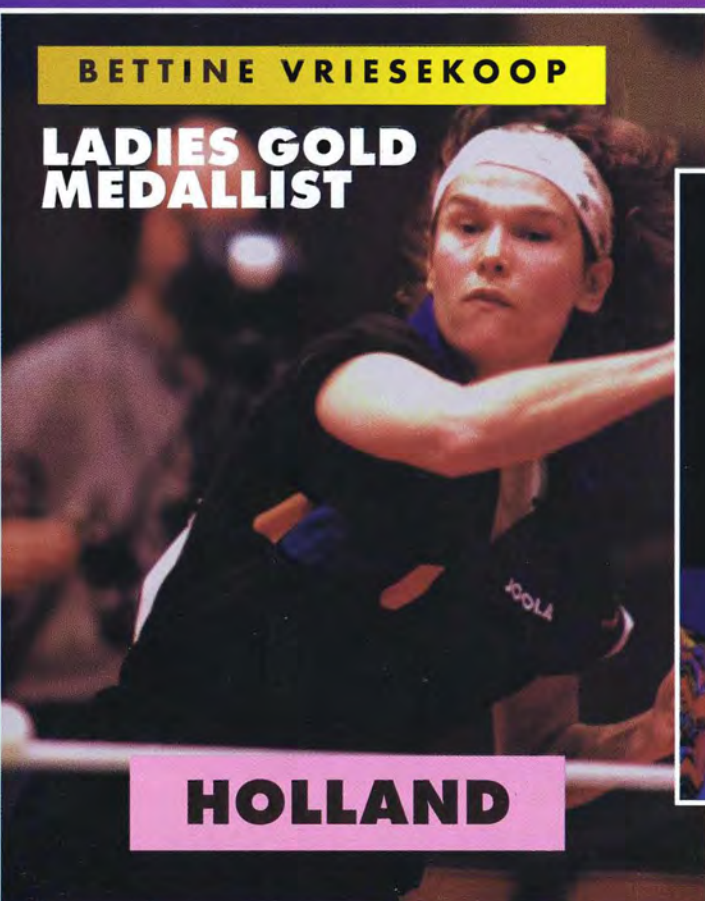


SWEDEN

CLEVELAND
4-8 JANUARY 1995

BETTINE VRIESEKOOP

**LADIES GOLD
MEDALLIST**



HOLLAND

ASA & MARIE SVENSSON



SWEDEN

**LADIES DOUBLES GOLD
MEDALLISTS**

combination of a forehand loop return of serve and a backhand kill. The England number one won the match with tight spin serve which the European champion pushed into the net.

**VRIESEKOOOP
WONDERFULLY
FIT**

It was a thrilling win, but to follow it the final was something of an anti-climax and a little predictable. Even at the age of 33 Bettine Vriesekoop is probably as good as when she was European champion - wonderfully fit, relentlessly patient with her slow looping, extremely experienced, and particularly good against backspin defence. It was Vriesekoop who had beaten Jill Hammersley-Parker in the 1982 European final and Lisa Lomas in the 1992 European final. Now she beat Holt in the English Open final 21-6, 23-21, 21-13.

Vriesekoop has the control and tactical ability to move her defensive opponents in an out and to choose the right ball from which to deliver the faster attack. Holt tried to attack more herself in the second game, and had one great chance, a game ball at 19-20 on Vriesekoop's serve. But the Dutch player continued the same

steady slow-looping and Holt did a backhand chop into the net.

It was her only opportunity of getting into the match and applying real pressure to Vriesekoop. After the top seed had won the second game - with ten successive slow loops which caused Holt to chop the ball long - the contest tilted her way.

Vriesekoop is professional, astute, hard working, and plays to her strengths, and is a worthy English Open champion.

LOMAS INJURED

She also accounted for another English hope, Alison Gordon, by 21-19, 14-21, 21-11, 21-19 in a fine fighting third round match. Meanwhile the English national champion Lisa Lomas progressed one round further only to be halted by an arm injury which has been bothering her for much of the season.

That gave Svensson a walk-over to go through to meet Holt. Another BFL Grove player, Tong Feiming, showed how good she is against backspin defence by outplaying the fourth seed Russian Irina Palina to reach the quarter-finals.

Three other leading English players, Chen Xinhua, Carl Prean and Matthew Syed were all ruled out through injury, and Alan Cooke's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals for the first time were ruined by the deft little Damien Eloi.

Cooke's third round score was 21-14, 22-24, 21-19, 21-12 and no-one did better than that against the in-form Frenchman, not even the top-seed Swede Peter Karlsson, beaten in four games in the quarter-finals, nor the Chinese left-hander Xiong Ke, also beaten in four, in the final.

Xiong, like so many of the English, was injured. He had to go to hospital with a painful shoulder during the England v China series and received court-side treatment throughout the English Open.

Yet he beat two former members of the Swedish world title-winning teams, Mikael Appelgren and Erik Lindh, and battled through all the way to the final hurdle. Did some of our players lack adequate treatment or did they lack the same commitment to trying to win this country's premier event.

THE NEW SYSTEM

Those fans who were unable to travel to Thornaby might be interested to know the players re-

60TH ENGLISH OPEN IN CLEVELAND

**THE GREAT
INJURY MYSTERY**

BY JOHN WOODFORD OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THIS LIST OF PLAYERS
WHO FAILED TO APPEAR
ON COURT FOR
THEMSELVES AND FOR
ENGLAND, BETWEEN
DECEMBER 28 AND
JANUARY 11 WAS AS
FOLLOWS:

1. Chen Xinhua, thigh muscle injury.
2. Carl Prean, leg injury sustained in practice.
3. Matthew Syed, shoulder muscle injury.
4. Lisa Lomas, shoulder and neck muscle problems.
5. Andrea Holt, calf muscle strain.
6. Sally Marling, no reason for pulling out at Crewe after actually arriving at the venue.

One national newspaper said "The biggest disappointment and the greatest mystery was how England players should have come to be so badly injured that they had to withdraw from Britain's premier event."

Another aspect of the mystery is why ETTA physiotherapist Luke Smith was dispatched to Holland with the woman's team for a one-evening match but was not engaged for a totally punishing six-match tour in seven days, on which players of both sides were required to play at world level, literally, night after night with some long-distance travelling, between the venues.

actions to The New System, apparently designed in the corridors of powers to create elite tournaments for the professionals.

The sixteen elite seeds in the two singles events did not enter the fray until a late stage. They then paired with sixteen survivors from the qualifiers and group winners. Some players had to play only once a day - Nicola Deaton was one of them, on game at 8pm.

A consensus of opinion from the England squad is that players need not one, not three but two matches a day. And, in a five day tournament there should be room for a team event - a unanimous viewpoint.

Another talking-point from the players was that the reduction from eight tables to four was done a day too early, in fact with careful planning a day could be saved on the whole tournament and top professionals would have had plenty of time between games.

The basic entry fee of £25 for the ordinary players, possibly brought in to keep down the numbers was unpopular and caused a number of players to stay at home, especially those who live a long way from Thornaby - most people do. This

is at a time when there is a shortage of tournaments - the English National at Kings Lynn being the only major event up to the Commonwealth and World Championships.

Credit is due however, to the ETTA Management for making such a bold format experiment. The number of teams - 27 - made it the biggest event in Europe this season, but many teams used the English Open to gain experience to their young players. The list of absent stars was longer than the England casualty list - Waldner, Persson, Saive, Gatién.

These top men are now playing only in odd events preparing for China in May and of course, protecting their high world rankings. All current ranking systems seem to have the major flaw that by playing only one game in six months, a high rank can be held - Jean-Michel Saive wants to go to the Tianjin as the No.1.

**GALLANT
CHINESE
VISITORS**

The gallant touring side, with four players instead of five originally expected, carried three

60TH ENGLISH OPEN

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES FINAL:

Damien Eloi (France) b. Xiong Ke (China) -15, 14, 15, 18

SEMI-FINALS:

Eloi b. Thierry Cabrera (Belgium) 15, 14, 11;

Xiong b. Erik Lindh 13, 12, -10, -14, 17.

WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL:

Bettine Vriesekoop (Holland) b. Andrea Holt (England) 6, 21, 13.

SEMI-FINALS:

Vriesekoop b. Asa Svensson (Sweden) 18, 17, 10; Holt b. Marie Svensson (Sweden) 8, 15, 22, 18.

MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL:

Christophe Legout/Damien Eloi (France) b. Xiong Ke/Li Jing (China) 12, 16.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL:

Marie and Asa Svensson (Sweden) b. Wang Wei (USA)/Petra Fichlinger (Austria) 14, 14, 15.

players with shoulder muscle injuries through both the tour and the Open. Two Chinese players received hospital treatment at Grantham from a local physio after midnight.

A travelling physio would have given daily massage and of course dealt swiftly when problems arose.

Engaging a tour physio for seven days (and missing his New Years celebrations) might have cost the ETTA £800, money that might have been well spent, if only out of courtesy to our Chinese guests who travelled with no leader or a physio, just a team captain who proved to be a tough character during any negotiations.

Another alternative would have been to engage local physio's to be on stand-by at the tour towns - to leave two teams bound for the Open without physio cover appears to me to be a monumental blunder that should never happen again on future tours.

EARLY STAGES

The Middlesborough Evening Gazette table tennis correspondent Alan Ransome -

who has written a weekly column in that regional paper for over 30 years, had little good news on the first day; the only English winner was the English junior title holder, Glenda Ashison from Surrey.

Alex Perry, who after the Open played in the three matches for England, could hardly believe the strength of his second stage group - he lost 3-1 to David Johnston (France) Keinarth (Germany) and the qualifier Masahimoto of Japan who later became an Alan Cooke victim 10, 10, 16 in round 2 of the main competition.

Two other qualifiers were Chris Oldfield who later lost to Kei Sato in round 1 at 12 in the fifth game and Derbyshire's Bradley Billington. The Derbyshire and England player was in the second stage qualifying after taking out Michael James and Drago Surbek. In Round 1 however, Billington was dismissed 17, 11, -11, 14 by Peter Nilsson of Sweden.

Jonathan Taylor, who like Perry is playing professionally in Sweden, fell by the wayside losing to a Slovenian player.

Helen Lower gave her all to

reach the second round of the singles. Her increasing number of fans are asking why such a supreme fighter has not yet been given a chance for England? She is a full-time professional player at the same club in France as Denis Neale - Bethune, near Calais in the French national League. The best match I saw at Thornaby was Lower's stunning five-games victory against the Slovenian Petra Dermastija after scoring only seven points in the opening game.

Alison Gordon hunted out the German player Nina Wolf 12, 15, 11 but just failed to take the final winner Bettine Vriesekoop to a fifth game, losing at 19 in the fourth.

How strong is Grove's Tong Feiming? There were some answers at Thornaby. Ian Marshall will be pleased with three Feiming victories that took her to the quarters - Dubravka Sisak (Croatia) Tatiana Kostramina (Bulgaria) and the Russian Irena Palina, before losing 16, 15, 15 to the Swedish pocket-dynamo Asa Svensson a new Grove ranking list might read - 1 Feiming, 2 Holt, 3 Lomas - some No.3 when clear of injuries.

Matthew Syed who played brilliantly against China in Chester and would have expected to do well in Thornaby, sustained a should injury. Carl Prean had an accident playing table tennis at home while Chen Xinhua hobbled in, thought he was fit but then had second thoughts.

When Lisa Lomas pulled out of the singles after playing through the pain barrier to beat Jana Dobesova to reach the last eight, it completed a dismal weekend for the players and organisers alike.

This is just not an English problem with leading players throughout Europe also struggling to keep an increasing number of injuries at bay.

Fetzner, Roszkopf, Saive, Appelgren and Persson have all had their problems this season.

Consider this lengthy list of events World Team Cup, World Cup, Euro Nations Cup, European Masters, World Doubles Championships, All Star Circuit, European League, Euro Top 12, Olympic Games plus all the various leagues in Europe which attract our players the length and breadth of the continent.

Add to this list the tours that our players undertake in this country and you have a problem of enormous proportions.

England manager Don Parker feels our top players are taking on too much.

"Many of our top players are overplayed and overtired. They are constantly being asked to play tournaments all over the world and sooner or later it catches up with them," he said.

"For a whole host of reasons the top players are the main target for organisers and that has the knock-on effect on our B squad who rarely get the sort of competition they need."

"Some of these players are travelling everyday of their lives and the pressure to play can be considerable."

Nowadays most teams have their own teams of doctors and physio's standing by to ease aching muscles and to help with more serious injuries.

"We believe that prevention is better than cure and all the England players are advised about how to look after themselves."

"Whilst I am 100% behind what the ITTF is doing in promoting the game, there is the other side of the coin which points to a fast rising problems that is not going to go away."

THE INNER GAME

There are many books and coaches which show you how to play a better forehand or backhand.

The Inner Game training course is different. It will show you how to improve *mentally*.

Have you ever wondered why you get nervous at douché in the third? Why some players win more close games than others?

If you want to improve in this area then *this training course is for you*.

The course is for players and coaches who wish to progress in the game and want an advantage over their opponent.

The course will be run by Steve Mills former Yorkshire No.1 and England No.8.

For more information on
The Inner Game
Phone Steve on 01635 254292
or 554572

INJURIES DECIMATE ENGLAND

No so long ago injuries were unheard of and most players would survive a season without worry. If they were unlucky enough to be caught out it was rarely serious enough to warrant withdrawing from a match or tournament. You played through the pain barrier. Not so now writes Jim Beckley.

The programme our leading players are being asked to undertake is growing and that in turn is providing a difficult and almost impossible situation, especially when sponsors are involved and ranking points are at stake.

Typical of the problems that surfaced at the English Open in Thornaby last month, when wave after wave of players reported injuries that decimated the original draw which had to be re-made, were shoulder injuries, groin strains, sprained ankles and more sinister, fatigue.

It's a growing menace throughout table tennis and, to be honest, the world of sport in general.

THE ENGLISH OPEN

**THE NEW ENGLISH OPEN
WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION**

BETTINE VRIESEKOOP

HOLLAND

60th English
open
table tennis
championships
Cleveland



SO THE FIRST THREE NATIONAL LOTTERY DRAWS ARE OVER. AND IN THE VERY FIRST WEEK FIVE "MILLIONAIRES" WERE CREATED FOLLOWED BY FOUR IN THE SECOND

WRITES CAROLINE SEARLE

LOTTERY LOLLY

Before you reach for your 'phone to set me straight, we are talking where the first week is concerned, about five "good causes" - who each received £2,531,876 as their share of the first week's unexpectedly bumper lottery share-out - rather than individual prize winners. £2.5 million. That's a gift-horse which any sport cannot afford to look in the mouth by pining for training and competition grants rather than capital projects. The government has set the guidelines for the £1.6 billion likely to come to sport up to the Millennium and, whilst the Sports Council is fighting hard to

onwards. There is no need for panic attempts to return forms by 4 January. It is not a once-and-for-all deadline. Schemes can be submitted at any time of the year (except those seeking more than £5 million for which a set of deadlines will be issued later this year). In fact, it might be an advantage for an organisation to miss the early crush. Sports facilities - from grass-roots community schemes to large stadia - will be eligible for grants. So, too, will substantial

centre or a swimming pool". But there will also be a need for would-be projects to show financial, construction and design viability as well as the correct level of safety standards. A solid system for on-going management will also be a factor. (See selection criteria table). The Lottery Sports Fund does not intend to provide 100% of the cost of projects. Applicant organisers will need to provide at least 35% of the cost from other sources. This may mean

submissions including outline planning permission and building regulations approval where relevant. It will also be necessary to show sources of finance. The application form itself, once returned to the Sports Council, will be examined at the initial stage by a team of independent assessors. Their report and the application form will then go forward, together with any comments from the consultees, to the Lottery Grants Panel. You could be forgiven for not envying this group of 12-15 people their task. They could well face over 15,000 detailed applications in the first year and will need to show a sound analytical mind together with great integrity and independence in deciding which schemes to fund. The Lottery Grants Panel chaired by Trevor Brooking and Gerald Dennis, which is a separate legislative body to the Sports Council and is accountable to government via the Department of National

Your best bet of getting some

extra flexibility over revenue funding, sport needs, for the present, to play the "Capital ball" to ensure its share of the cash bonanza.

How can sports governing bodies, associations, clubs, centres, trusts, local authorities or schools access the money which will be distributed via the relevant Sports Councils for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland? For the purposes of this article we will stick with England.

Application forms are already available from the Sports Council by ringing their lottery help-line on 0345 649649. The forms come in a package with guidance notes, a comprehensive guide explaining how to develop and manage a project and other information leaflets. The help-line staff can also answer many initial queries to help applicants complete the forms.

Completed submissions will be accepted, from organisations not individuals, by the Sports Council from 4 January 1995 and the first grants are likely to be made from March/April 1995

equipment purchases provided they have a long life-expectancy and are related to a permanent site. In some cases the Sports Council may also consider grants for refurbishment if this will genuinely upgrade the facility and lead to increased community use. Public access is one of the keys to success in seeking funding. (See "Table of Examples").

As Rodney Walker, Sports Council Chairman, explained: "This is a tremendous boost for sport. I want every community in the country to be able to point to a project which the lottery has funded by the year 2000. Every million pounds, for instance, could buy 30 natural turf pitches, four athletics tracks, 200 cricket pitches, a community sports

organisations working to find partnership funding. Projects under the level of £5,000 will not normally be considered for funding, although the Sports Council can give advice on alternative sources of funding.

Each application pack includes a number of consultation forms. The guidance notes will explain that these need to be sent to the relevant local authority and sports governing body who have already agreed to help the Sports Council in assessing projects. For governing bodies this may prove time-consuming in the first instance but carries the reward of extra funding for their sport.

Applicants will need to take care to send complete

Heritage, will be a representative mix of individuals. Some will be Sports Council Members, others will be drawn from amongst top sportsmen and women as well as experts in the field of construction, engineering, design and finance. They will be appointed in mid-December 1994.

If a scheme is rejected, the Lottery Grants Panel can recommend that it be re-submitted a year later or that the applicant should reconsider the scheme and possibly make a new application. The Sports Council will make sure that every unsuccessful applicant is given an explanation as to why their project failed to meet the criteria. Equally, it will have an on-going help-line and monitoring system for successful projects.

Decisions will be made as speedily as possible. Over to you and good luck.

* Caroline Searle, works for the Sports Council Press Office on Lottery matters.



STAR GUNN *for* WARWICKSHIRE

WARWICKSHIRE WAS THE ONLY TEAM NOT TO DROP A POINT. THEY HEAD THE TABLE AFTER WINS OVER CAMBS. AND LANCs 2NDS. PHIL GUNN WAS WARWICKSHIRE'S STAR PLAYER - HE DID NOT DROP A SINGLE GAME IN HIS 4 MATCHES **WRITES DOUG MOSS.**

SENIOR DIVISION 1A

Nine matches were played at the St. Neots T.T. Centre. The results were:-

BU 7	SK 3.
BU 4	ND 6.
SK 4	Y 6.
CA 7	Y 3.
WA 7	LA2 3.
CA 4	WA 6.
SK 4	CA 6.
Y 6	ND 4.
LA2 5	BU 5.

The other most successful players - each with 6 wins - were John Burleton (Bu) and Helen Newbound (Ca). There were many hard fought matches with a third of the events going to a decider! One such clash was the Suffolk/Yorks match. Tim Dyson (Y) beat Phil Logsdon at 19 in 3rd game and Helen Shields (Y) beat Claire Lowe at 18 in a deciding game! The Yorks team was also involved in a 6-4 win over Northumberland when Andrew Horsfield (Y) beat Ian Robertson 17,-18,18 in the final event of the match. Andrew Wilkinson (Nd) - a Junior last season - had 2 good wins in this match including the defeat of Stephen Horsfield 16, -15, 22!

The Div. 1A teams meet again over the weekend 18/19 February when 14 matches are due to be played.

One match played at North Shields Y.M.C.A. - ND 5 WO 5.

Worcs were the visitors and it was a match in which teams were without their No. 1's - Eddie Smith (Nd) and Malcolm Green. The result was a draw with the Worcs. ladies - Sandra Roden and Janet Hunt - winning their 4 events. Steve Horton (W), after a break from County Championship matches, got the other event with a very good 13 and 16 win over Steve Coverdale. Steve Coverdale beat Adrian Tottey (Wo) at 15 in the 3rd game of the final event to earn Northumberland a point.

SENIOR DIV 2A:

ST2 9	ST3 1.
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Just one match in this Division during December, when the Staffs. 2nd and 3rd teams met at Norton TTC, Stoke on Trent.

All matches were decided in straight games finishing 9-1 to the 2nd team. Staffs 3rds got the final event of the match when S. Davis beat A. Stokes 18 and 16.

JUNIOR DIV 1A:

CW 2	Y2 8.
SK 6	CW 4.
DY 6	LA1 4.
NK2 3	SK 7.
NK1 6	NG 4.
NG 2	Y2 8.
NK2 6	NG 4.
NK1 8	CW 2.
SK 4	Y2 6.
DY 5	NK1 5.

10 matches were played at Kesteven TTC. Yorks 2nds took the lead after getting 3 wins. Their hardest match was against Suffolk when the Yorks girls lost their 4 events to Rebecca Sparkes and Claire Lowe. But the Yorks lads - Peter Marshall, David Smith and Wayne Marsh - were unbeaten. Derbys and Norfolk 1st teams have each dropped just one point, as a result of their drawn match. Scott Habershon and Helen Rainford won their 4 events for Derbys.

Derbys had a good 6-4 win over Lancs 1st team despite Glen Payne getting two comfortable wins for Lancs.

JUNIOR DIV 2B:

SK2 5	HU 5.
HE2 4	HE1 6.

The Suffolk/Hunts clash was a hard fought match. The match proceeded 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4. At this stage Vicky Gray, Suffolk's most successful player, beat Kirsty Pryke 8 and 7 to earn a point for the home team. Adam Champion struck back with a 2 straight win over Chris Brook to get a point for Hunts. Herts 2nds put up a good fight against their 1st team before going down 4-6. Tim Seaholme, the 2nds team's No. 1, won both his matches at 18 in the 3rd games!

JUNIOR DIV 2C:

GN2 6	SO 4.
GS 3	WO 7.
HR 1	WO 9.
GS 9	HR 1.
WI 6	DV3 4.
CO 7	DO 3.

Glam. had a 6-4 win over Somerset. They are the only team not to have dropped a point and have established themselves at the top of the League Table. Andrew Rumary (So) played well to win his 2 events. The Glos, Herefords and Worcs teams met at Cheltenham. Glos and Worcs team both had a 9-1 win over newcomers Hereford. Chris Jones (Hr. No. 1) played well to get a win over the Glos and Worcs No. 2 players. The Glos/Worcs clash was a hard fought match. Worcs got a 7-3 win but Jonathan Bunn (Gs) lost his events at 18 and 24 and 3rd games! Wilts beat Devon 3rds 6-4. Wilts team is very well served by Tim O'Mahoney and Debbie King who are unbeaten.

JUNIOR DIV 2D:

BK2 0	SY2 10.
K3 4	HA2 6.
SY3 5	BU2 5.
SX3 8	MI2 2.

Surrey 2nd team established themselves at the top of this Division when they gained a

maximum win over Berks 2nds. Sussex 3rd team are nearest rivals having continued unbeaten with an 8-2 win over Middx 2nds. Mark Forder, William Reardon, Toyin Bakare and Kelly Farrier won all their events. The Kent 3/Hants 2 fixture was a hard fought match with 6 events going to a decider. Visitors Hants 2nds did well to get a 6-4 win with Stuart White and Donna Granville winning their 4 events. Bucks 2nds got a draw on their visit to Graham Spicer Institute to meet the Surrey 3rd team. Mark Cole (Bu) beat Michael Chan 19 and 28 and also had a win over Dhiran Patel 20, -18, 20!

VETERANS DIV 1A:

ND 3	HE 6.
WA 7	OX 2.
WO 4	LE 5.
CH2 2	LI 7.
OX 3	ND 6.
LI 5	WO 4.
LE 6	WA 3.
HE 6	CH2 3.
CH2 8	OX 1.
ND 2	LE 7.
WA 3	WO 6.
LI 4	HE 5.
WO 2	HE 7.
LE 5	CH2 4.
OX 2	LI 7.
WA 5	ND 4.

16 matches were played at Barnet TTC Herts and Leics came out on top each having wins. Herts closest match was against Lincs. Stuart Seaholme (He) had to beat Ken Philipson in the final event of this match - he won 23, -16, 12, Leics toughest match was against Worcs. Worcs made a great start with Eric Hardman beating Maurice Newman 12, -20, 22 and then went on into a 3-nil lead. Leics came back well to win the 2 doubles events. The match evened at 4-4 when Keith Fellows beat Roy Norton to give Leics the win. Another hard fought match was the Warwicks/Northumberland clash. Despite Ian Robertson being involved in 3 wins Warwicks got the 5-4 win when Phil Paine beat Bob Dodds 19, -11, 15 in the final event.

Players who were unbeaten in singles events over the weekend were Brian Hill (Li), Ian Robertson (Nd), Eileen Shaler (Le) and Sally Bax (He).

VETERANS DIV 1B:

BU 3	K2 6.
SO 1	SY1 8.
SY2 7	E3 2.
BK 6	E2 3.

Kent 2nds, with a good win over

Bucks at Milton Keynes TT Centre, have maximum points and are well established at the top of the Table. Nearest rivals Surrey 1st team had an emphatic win over Somerset by an 8-1 margin. Surrey 2nds were well on top with a 7-2 win over Essex 3rds. Ray Murray and Brian Adams each had a win for Essex 3rd team. Essex 2nds, on their visit to Kingfisher Club, Reading, also went down to Berks 1st team.

VETERANS DIV 2A:

CW	2	WA2	7.
LA2	7	WA3	2.
NP1	6	NG	3.

After this series of matches there are 3 unbeaten teams in the Division. Muriel Cox came into the Northants 1st team and won her singles and the mixed doubles with Keith Jones in their 6-3 win over Notts. Warwicks

has 100% singles wins, Middx 1st team improved their position with a 6-3 win over Surrey 3rd team. John Holland (Mi) won his 2 singles and the men's doubles. In his first singles event he certainly had a hard fight before beating M. Fisher 18, -17, 23! Kent 3 beat their 4th team, who were without a lady player, 7-2. Nova Sayadian (K3) lost both his singles matches.

VETERANS DIV 2B:

NK1	8	E4	1.
HE2	9	BD2	0.
HU	6	BU2	3.
BD1	7	CA	2.

Norfolk is certainly the top team in this Division their latest success being the 8-1 win over Essex 4th team. Chris Brewer and Steve Howlett are unbeaten and Mick Broughton has lost only once. Hunts got their first points with a 6-3 win over Bucks 2nds.

teams being level on points and sets. Avon beat Glos 2nds dropping just 1 event when Graeme Holton (GS) had a -19, 18 20 win over John Higgs. Devon had a similar win against Wilts 1st team. All events were 2 straight including Wilts' one win - Basil Thompson beat Mike Putland 10 and 15. Glos 1st team went into a 2-nil lead over Hants 2nds after Roy Fowler had beaten Charlie Childs at 24 in the 3rd game. However Hants came back well to win 5-4. Devon 2nds are still without a point after losing to Dorset 2nds 2-7.

VETERANS DIV 3A:

Y2	9	ST1	0.
CH3	5	BD3	4.
HE4	6	NP3	3.

The top 2 teams - Yorks 2nds and Staffs 1st - met at Bradford and the home side got an emphatic 9-0 win. After 4 matches the Yorks

season at the expense of Northants 3rd team. Keith Hartridge (He) was involved in the winning of 3 events.

VETERANS DIV 3B:

SX4	3	HE3	6.
BK4	2	HA4	7.
HA3	6	DO3	3.
WI2	9	WI4	0.

After this round of matches there are still 3 unbeaten teams - Herts 3rd, Hants 3rds and Wilts 2nds. The Herts and Hants teams meet in February. Herts 3rds visited Hove and beat Sussex 4th team 6-3 with Tony Teff (He) winning both his singles events. Wilts 2nds had a maximum win over their 4th team. Hants 3rds had a 6-3 win over Dorset 3rds when Ray Lush remained unbeaten this season. Hants 4th team visited Kingfisher Club, Reading and came away with a 7-2 win.

Just 1 event went to a decider when Richard Mole (Ha4) beat Geoff Civil 13,-17, 12.

VETERANS DIV 3C:

HE5	4	OX2	5.
DV4	4	DV3	5.
WI3	0	BK3	9.
HR	2	SO2	7.

The 2 unbeaten teams in this Division met at Barnet. Oxon 2nds did well to win 5-4 and take over the lead. George Pullin (Ox) won his 2 singles events and Sue Gokger (Ox) won her singles and the mixed doubles with Dave Harse. Devon 4th team put up a good fight against their 3rd team before going down 4-5. Wally Walton (Dv4) won both his singles and the mixed doubles with Madeline Pittman. Somerset 2nds visited Hereford and won 7-2. The men's doubles was a close contest with Alan Maidment/Andy Seaward winning -17, 19, 20. Berks 3rd team got a maximum win on their visit to Swindon to meet Wilts 3rds.

SENIOR DIV 2A:

(Late Result)

LI2	2	WA2	8.
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Warwicks 2nds continue unbeaten after their visit to Lincoln 2nds. They came away with an 8-2 win. It was Simon Upson (WA) who dropped the 2 events. It was a close contest the respective No. 1's when Andy Wignall beat Simon Upson 17, -19, 17.



(LANCASHIRE)

NIGEL ECKERSLEY

VETERAN PREMIER DIVISION

2nd weekend played at Ashford TTC, Middlesex 14/15th January 1995

RESULTS			
Cheshire	6	Lancashire	3
Kent	6	Essex	3
Dorset	9	Hampshire	0
Sussex	2	Yorkshire	7
Yorkshire	5	Kent	4
Essex	5	Cheshire	4
Lancashire	5	Dorset	4
Hampshire	4	Sussex	5
Cheshire	6	Yorkshire	3
Hampshire	2	Lancashire	7
Dorset	5	Essex	4
Sussex	5	Kent	4
Kent	5	Cheshire	4
Yorkshire	5	Dorset	4
Essex	7	Hampshire	2
Lancashire	4	Sussex	5

FINAL POSITIONS						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Dorset	7	5	2	40	23	10 (90-63)
Lancashire	7	5	2	40	23	10 (89-63)
Yorkshire	7	5	2	36	27	10
Cheshire	7	4	3	36	27	8
Kent	7	3	4	32	31	6
Essex	7	3	4	30	33	6
Sussex	7	3	4	25	38	6
Hampshire	7	0	7	13	50	0

2nds visited Clwyd and, with all event decided in straight games, they came away with a 7-2 win. Alan Pierson (Wa) is undefeated so far this season. Lancs 2nds is the other unbeaten team after a 7-2 win over Warwicks 3rd team.

VETERANS DIV 2C:

SX2	8	MI2	1.
K3	7	K4	2.
MI1	6	SY3	3.

Sussex 2nds continued their unbeaten run with the 8-1 defeat of Middx 2nds. Andy Meads (Sx)

Hunts won the 2 vital doubles events. Cambs lost their first match of the season on their visit to Bedfordshire. D. Hyde (Bd) continues with 100% in singles and doubles. Beds 2nds did not fare so well getting the "whitewash" from Herts 2nds.

VETERANS DIV 2D:

HA2	5	GS1	4.
GS2	1	AV	8.
W1	1	DV	8.
DV2	2	DO2	7.

Avon and Devon 1st are the top

team has maximum points and has won 25 of the 36 events played! Ches. 3rds had a 5-4 win over Beds. 3rd team. An important factor of the win was Ches. winning the 2 doubles events, Phil Luxon/Eileen Edwards (Ch) won the mixed doubles against Alex and Val Murdoch 20 and 19. Suffolk met Norfolk 2nds at Britannia Dome, Ipswich and with Norfolk 2nds leading 3-1 the match had to be abandoned as the floor had become very slippery. Herts 4th team got their first win of the

GATIEN topples SAIVE

JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN,
FRANCE'S FAMED WORLD
CHAMPION, HAS ADDED
THE INDIVIDUAL WORLD
CUP TO HIS LIST OF
INDIVIDUAL TRIUMPHS
**WRITES GRAHAM
CARTER.**

Playing in the 1994 Koos Group World Cup in Taipei just 1 week before Christmas, Gatien showed a true fighting spirit to topple the World No. 1 Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) 21-18 in the 5th, after being 2 games to nil down in the final.

During the last year Gatien, the sweetheart of many a female spectator, had looked to be ousted from the super elite, after having gone down to 6 in the World rankings and making an early exit from Euro '94.

However at the World Cup, the hard work that he must have been putting in paid off as he dispatched, in the quarter finals, World No. 2 Wang Tao deuce in the 4th, then pipped the Olympic Champion Jan-Ove Waldner in a five game semi-final.

China's Wang Tao showed there is little or no gulf left between the top Europeans and the Chinese when he won the World All Stars Circuit in Lisbon on 29th - 30th October, against Jean-Michel Saive in the final.

Wang Tao also won the World All Star event in Charleroi, Belgium on 15th November, but it was Saive who had opened the account two days earlier in Barcelona when he took the 1st Circuit event, beating Wang Tao in the semi and Sweden's Peter Karlsson in the final.

England's own Matthew Syed had the honour of being invited to compete amongst such illustrious company. Unfortunately his chance to scalp famous heads did not quite happen: he went down 21-10, 21-11 to Saive in Barcelona and 21-8,

younger Swedish stars, became Nordic champion, when he beat the better known Erik Lindh in the final.

In the Joola European men's League Super Division, Germany and Belgium finished top of groups A and B, but by very close margins. In the second stage matches, the reigning champions Belgium stopped France (European men's team

at the Dome in Doncaster (report in December issue). The 2nd leg matches of these play-offs were due to be played on 17th January.

The play-offs for relegation amazingly featured Sweden. They walloped Denmark 4-1, with Erik Lindh (2 points) and Hakansson unbeaten. In the other group, Poland unexpectedly beat Austria 4-3. The super fast reflexes of Ding Yi held true for Austria with 2 points, but Schlager and Qian Qianli drew a blank.

Germany and Sweden made progress in the European Women's League Super Division stage 2 (semi-final) matches, 1st leg.

Jie Schopp and Nicole Struse both out gunned the former European champion Bettine Vriesekoop as Germany, the holders, won 4-1. European champion Marie Svensson scored twice and Pernilla Pettersson once (against Toth), as Sweden came home 4-3 despite being without their regular No. 2 Asa Svensson.

FINALS DATES

The European men's League final, over 2 legs is scheduled for 11th and 25th February. The women's on 14th and 28th February.

Results

World Cup
December 15th-18th 1994
Taipei

Quarter Finals:

J-M Saive (Bel) bt C Peng Lung (Tpe)
16,-20,-19,16,14
Z Primorac (Cro) bt J Huang (Can)
15,19,-18,12

J-P Gatien (Fra) bt W Tao (Chn)
15,19,18,20

J-O Waldner (Swe) bt K Linghui (Chn)
13,18,-8,13,17

Semi Finals:

Saive bt Primorac -18,19,12,18
Gatien bt Waldner 19,-17,-13,10,12

Final:

GATIEN BT SAIVE -17,-15,18,24,19



JEAN PHILIPPE GATIEN

21-2 to Zoran Primorac in Belgium. Still, the England star's World Class potential has obviously been spotted by the European organisers.

PERRY'S SWEDISH ADVANCES

Alex Perry, who has been playing full time in Sweden this season, has been making real advances. Since joining Grondby - the same club as Waldner, Perry has come on leaps and bounds. he has won 5 Swedish domestic tournaments, including a major tournament in the Under 21's. In the words of his English coach, Malcolm Francis, "the way Alex is playing now, he is definitely the 6th best English player". Well, I'm sure Andrew Eden will have something to say about that! Fredrik Hakansson, one of the

champions) 4-3.

Jean-Michel Saive confirmed his position as the World's best with 2 wins, one of whom was Gatien 21-4 in the 3rd. Jean-Michel's brother Philippe Saive clinched the last rubber against Patrick Chila, after Belgium recovered from 3-1 down.

Germany smashed England 4-1

WORLD ALL STAR CIRCUIT

Barcelona 13 November 1994

MS	Jean-Michel Saive (BEL)	bt	Matthew Syed (ENG)	10,11
	Wang Tao (CHN)	bt	Kim Taek Soo (KOR)	15,-16,17
	Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA)	bt	Zoran Primorac (CRO)	13,-16,19
	Peter Karlsson (SWE)	bt	Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	20,15
SF	Jean-Michel Saive	bt	Wang Tao	-18,6,13
	Peter Karlsson	bt	Jean-Philippe Gatien	18,19
F	JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE	bt	PETER KARLSSON	19,-15,20,15

Charleroi, Belgium 15 November 1994

MS	Wang Tao (CHN)	bt	Jean-Michel Saive (BEL)	12,18
	Zoran Primorac (CRO)	bt	Matthew Syed (ENG)	8,2
	Kim Taek Soo (KOR)	bt	Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA)	14,20
	Peter Karlsson (SWE)	bt	Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	22,13
SF	Wang Tao	bt	Zoran Primorac	19,19
	Kim Taek Soo	bt	Peter Karlsson	17,-10,16
F	WANG TAO	bt	KIM TAEK SOO	12,13,7

Letters to The Editor, TTN, 5, The Brackens, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 5JA

T.T.T.V.?

Anyone who saw the 60th English Open on Cable TV over this month should do as I did, which was to write to Cable Magazine thanking Wire TV for their coverage and hoping we will be blessed with more table tennis, maybe even a regular spot! Unless we form a united front and acknowledge these events then they will go unnoticed. We have more chance seeing more table tennis than we do winning the National Lottery, so remember the next time you fill in your ticket and wait to win of Saturday evening then cursing "I've lost again, but least that letter I wrote ensures that table tennis is on the telly again this week".

Come on people put pen to paper, promote your sport yourselves or be subject to endless hour's of snookers and darts.

S. HEYLIGER Nottingham
Send your letter to: The Editor, Cable Guide, Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 0XZ.

"Different"

There is a saying "in Norfolk we dew diffrunt". Even so, players see, to be abiding by the black/rubber rule. I regret that the colour has become so important and not the type of rubber.

The people who had "different" type bats were usually characters who added something to the table tennis scene. One person who greatly helped table tennis in Norfolk was Bill Todd, who sadly died two years ago. The bat he used had no rubber on one side. However, one was always ensured an enjoyable evening when Bill was around. Most people play table tennis to enjoy the company of others of an equal ilk, and have a pleasant social evening, hopefully winning. How often when we feel a bit "down" do we play a match, stagger home and realise our spirits are lifted. A lot of us do not look at the colour of the rubber, unless we are in the top notch of table tennis. My husband - Ray Hogg - gave his personal view, in a previous T.T. News of illegal bats. The article was, of course, his own opinion, but I must make it clear that Norfolk County Committee do not uphold this view. The Norfolk County Committee rule is that if you play with a person with an illegal bat, games won by them are forfeited.
Ruth Hogg (Mrs)
Treasurer of Norfolk County Table Tennis Assoc.

CAPACITY CROWD

Congratulations to the English and Chinese teams who provided excellent post Christmas fare for the capacity crowd at the Woking Leisure Centre.

Brickbats to whoever was responsible for the opening ceremony. Flag bearers and both teams entered the darkened arena through a black curtain amidst clouds of 'stake smoke' into a very inadequate spotlight. No-one could see where to go - chaos! The spectators could barely see the players during the announcements - a complete farce.

Fortunately the table tennis made up for all that went on before.
Brenda Bennett. Sevenoaks, Kent.

VOUCHERS!

I would like to know what your readers think of the variety of vouchers that are given to the players as prizes throughout the country. As I feel there is a lot of confusion over where they can be used and how. Plus the time allowed for the players to spend them.

After the Cadets and Juniors played hard tournaments all over the country it seems very unfair that they are given pieces of worthless paper as their reward that they cannot use as and when they see something that they need at the venues that they play at.
C ELLIS. Huddersfield.

SOFTWARE

As a member of the Cirencester Table Tennis League I noticed that in previous issues of the Table Tennis News you have requests for information on computer software products that might ease the Match Secretary's load - e.g. the letter from Sally Russell (York and District TTA) in the June issue.

In answer to this appeal, I would like to draw your attention to a product called TABLE TENNIS MANAGER from Reverb Software.

This is a dedicated package, costing £55 (inclusive), which not only produces instant league tables and individual Player Team fixtures lists to be readily produced (as well as the full League Fixtures schedule).

A Woolwich league can be accommodated it required and either the 10 point scoring system or the 4 points for a win system, can be chosen at the start of each new season.

For further information or to order a free demo disc contact Reverb Software on 01285 653374.
Mike Cutts. Swindon.

FUTURE OF OUR SPORT

The Christmas festivities and the turn of the year have come round again and, although, because of 'deadline' dates they will appear very late, it is time to wish all friends, old and new, in table tennis all the very best as I look into 1995.

But, and I am not criticising any individual, I do not like what I see as I look at the future of our Sport, and I ask "where are the Counties - not only my own Yorkshire - going?"

At one time there was clearly defined path in our sport, dependent on competitive performances at each level of the ladder - the top players in the club at local level selected to represent the league in the 'Inter Town' league, from which the top bracket were considered for County 'colours' and, finally, the last move from County to International honours.

But the ladder has had to many of its rungs broken - it is no longer in a fit condition for players to climb - the way to the top is now personal coach, sponsor, club - not the table tennis club with half a dozen teams playing a different levels of the local League, but the British League club which pulls in its players from all corners of the country - all expenses paid by the sponsor.

But these are not the clubs to which a youngster comes and receives basic coaching from some of the old hands, not so much in tactics, etc., but in the very basics of play and, equally important, club pride and 'team spirit'.

No, today's club could well be the end of a 100 - 200 mile motorway drive, visited for seven home matches per season for a negotiated monetary reward.

Tournaments, once the way to become noticed, have declined dramatically, not only in Yorkshire where I ran three tournaments, all of which used to be considered as top class events in their own right, but throughout the country, and here I must point a finger at the Ranking Scheme, although I do appreciate the national economic situation, making sponsorship difficult, if not impossible to obtain, also plays a major part.

I appreciate the difficulties and the advantages of a national Ranking Scheme, but there is something wrong when players and advertisers get down to pre-tournament discussion with a pocket calculator at the ready to decide "Is it worth while entering this event?"

The top 12 - 20 decide to stay away - it is too big a risk; 20 - 50 in the ranking list suddenly become the players at risk; and, before we know where we are, number seventy plonk becomes the top seed.

Oh for the days when the top stars used to enter the tournaments for the thrill of competing, and they were just as likely to appear at the 'Blankshire Open' as the English closed - even if the prize was only a silver 'pot' and a book token.

Equally worrying, I find, is the sad decline in the County Championships, something which, over recent seasons, has moved down into the domestic 'Inter Town' Leagues.

Those trying to put together teams to compete in the County Championships find themselves in a similar position where, even in the Premier Division, the teams are often well below full strength.

I know the comment - "Silly old living in the past," but I will finish by going back 25 or more years to a Saturday evening in Pontefract Town Hall when Yorkshire took on Essex in a County Championship decider in front of a full house of 500 plus spectators, with more locked out.

Yorkshire, with the crowd behind them, were favourites, Essex with Chester Barnes on the treatment table and unable to play, the underdogs, but every player gave 110% in the cause, the Southern County shaded it in the final game and were applauded off by that very disappointed, but sporting and appreciative crowd.

It would not happen now - the players, officials and one or two men - with or without their dogs - would amiably discuss a 'good game' and drift away - "see you at the next British League game".
REA BALMFORD. Yorkshire.

SPECIAL MENTION

May I through your excellent magazine thank the ETTA for giving the Table Tennis players in the Chester area the opportunity to see top class table tennis. England v China played at the Northgate Arena Chester was excellent entertainment played in the right spirit.

A special mention should be made of Clive Oakman and his excellent team who ensured that everything went smoothly from start to finish.

I hope that Chester will be the venue for a similar event in the future.

B. BUTTERFIELD
Secretary Chester and District TTL

WHILE INTEREST IN THE NATIONAL LOTTERY CONTINUES UNABATED, IT IS TIME TO REMIND TABLE TENNIS NEWS READERS THAT, WHEN IT COMES TO GRANT APPLICATIONS THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT. **WRITES GRAHAM CARTER.**

Did you know that the Foundation for Sport and the Arts has so far awarded well over £1 million to table tennis development during the last two and a half years?

Set up by the well known Pools companies, such as Littlewoods and Vernons, the F.S.A. provides grant aid to worthwhile projects and causes in, as the name suggests both Sport and the Arts. I was founded with more than half an eye on the plans of the National Lottery, and was able to come on stream well in advance of the Lottery to serve as a charitable funder.

WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH TABLE TENNIS?

Plenty. A glance at the list of known recipients of awards on this page will show how many people and organisations have benefited during 1994. In fact the figure is far more than we have shown as there are several grants awarded to organisations where the ETTA have not yet heard the good news.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS CAN RECEIVE F.S.A. GRANT AID?

All sorts: equipment, tables, building conversion, refurbishment. Anything really to do with Development work.

ETTA CAN HELP WITH APPLICATIONS.

The ETTA helps members clubs, Leagues and individuals with applications. Firstly, contact your Regional Development Officer. He or she can help with putting your case together to give it the best chance of success. (By the way success is not guaranteed: the F.S.A. is an independent body which receives up to 500 applications per week!)

Secondly, the ETTA helps by providing National endorsement.

FSA AWARDS Grants TO TABLE TENNIS

LIST OF FOUNDATION FOR SPORT AND THE ARTS AWARDS KNOWN BY THE ETTA DURING 1994

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Awarded
● Battle TTC (Sussex)	To assist costs to start a TTC	£1,750
● Battle & Longton School TTC (Sussex)	To purchase new equipment	£1,000
● Becorp TTC (London)	To set up a TTC	£4,000
● Benenden TTC (Kent)	To assist the formation of a new TTC	£2,915
● Boston & District TTL (Lincs)	To clear outstanding debt	£10,000
● Bramley Ebenezer TTC (Yorks)	To upgrade club facilities	£5,600
● Bromley TTC (WO)	To purchase new equipment	£1,600
● Carr Manor High School TTC	To purchase new equipment	£750
● Cookridge Primary School TTC	To purchase more equipment	£1,000
● Cooper & Jordan CE Junior School (ST)	To assist with set up costs	£1,000
● Cowling County Primary School (Yorkshire)	To purchase new equipment	£500
● Forest Green TTL (GS)	To purchase lighting	£2,333
● Glusburn CP School (BU)	To purchase new equipment	£500
● Lancing TTC (Sussex)	To upgrade facilities	£3,500
● Larkhall TTC (Surrey)	To purchase club kits	£750
● Matthew Murrey High School TTC (Yorks)	To purchase more equipment	£1,000
● Milton Keynes TTL (Bucks)	To set up a schools coaching programme	£2,000
● Minsthorpe High School TT Section	To purchase new equipment	£1,000
● Plumstead Common Working Mans Club	To purchase tables, lights, barriers	£500
● Poole & District TTC (Dorset)	To assist set up costs	£6,000
● Sindlesham School (BK)	To purchase equipment	£4,000
● Southampton TTA (Hampshire)	To start a school Table Tennis scheme	£2,460
● St. Pauls Primary School (Sussex)	To purchase new equipment	£1,000
● St. Philips TTC (London)	To purchase more equipment	£1,000
● Sutton-in-Craven CE School (Yorkshire)	Set up costs	£846
● Wembley & Harrow TTL (Middlesex)	To purchase new equipment	£3,800
● Westcroft Leisure Centre (London)	To purchase a Table Tennis Table	£750
● Windsor Boys' School TTC	To purchase new equipment	£1,000
● Worcester TTL (Worcs)	To replace worn out equipment	£1,000
Total (known) amount awarded by the F.S.A. to Table Tennis		£63,554

This is done at the head quarters at Hastings. After seeing the planned scheme and after getting to know something of the people putting it through, the ETTA can state that the scheme and organisation are bonafide. This is important to the F.S.A., who need to be sure that the money they are providing is being put to good use.

WHAT DOES AND F.S.A. APPLICATION NEED?

- 1) Concise covering letter.
- 2) Written background to the organisation, including club/league constitution.
- 3) A proposal - the number of people who will benefit, a background description of the people on the committee, costings of the project, including 3 tenders (if appropriate). Also, details of own fund raising schemes and any other grants. "God helps those who help themselves" is a phrase which could be applied to F.S.A. grant application.
- 4) A copy of your organisation's accounts.
- 5) Letters of Endorsement from other agencies such as your local M.P. - support from him/her is very influential and can make all the difference. Alternatively from your local authority or local Sports Council!

WHAT TYPES OF SCHEMES DO BEST?

The schemes gaining the most 'yes' votes are the ones which involve: young people, dual use of premises/facilities and projects from very local committees.

CONTACT YOUR R.D.O. AND APPLY.

The ETTA encourages every club in England to make an application. There is no minimum amount you can ask for, but the maximum is £100,000.

Please be patient: the Foundation receives up to 500 applications per week from all sports, so it may take a little time to process - perhaps 5 months.

If you've got poor facilities at your club, why not speak to your R.D.O. and apply? To quote another old phrase: "Nothing ventured, nothing gained!"

KINGFISHER WIN BATTLE OF BOSWORTH

KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB IN READING HAVE WON THIRD PRIZE IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION TO SELECT ENGLAND'S BEST CLUBS OF THE YEAR.

Nominated by the ETTA as table tennis representative, King-fisher were presented with a plaque and cheque for £1000 by Gratton Endicott, the Secretary to the Trustees at the CCPR annual conference at Bosworth Hall on 24th November.

Brian Halliday and Colin Dyke received the prize on behalf of the Kingfisher club, who had finished third out of clubs from 127 different sports who were contesting the competition.

This is the second year in a row that table tennis nomination has effected honour at the CCPR awards: last year Ian Marshall collected a similar prize on behalf of BFL Grove, who also achieved third place.

The contest is based upon good club administration, running a coaching and development programme, organising competitions.

"Kingfisher's achievement is outstanding. They are a great example for other clubs to follow", said ETTA National Development Manager Dillon Gray, who attended the conference.

South West REGIONAL NEWS

In the final (ETTA South West Regional Trials), which were held at Wellington Sports Centre of Saturday 17th of December, the following Junior/Cadet/Players qualified for the National Trials at Whitchurch on Sunday 21st January 1995 writes Alf Peppercadet Girls, Suzy Robinson (Gs)



Brian Halliday and Colin Dyke of the Kingfisher Club, received £1000 cheque prize from Gratton Endicott of the F.S.A. at the CCPR 'Club of the Year' awards.

who qualified as No1., Gemma Loughran (Av) who qualified as No2. Cadet Boys, David Porter (Av) who qualified as No1., Daniel Nelmés (Gs) who qualified as No2., Paul Adams (Av) who qualified as No3. Junior Girls, Ann Humble (Gs) who qualified as No1., Elizabeth May (Dv) who qualified as No2., Melanie Garlick (Gs) who qualified as No3. Junior Boys, Tim O'Mahoney (Wi) who qualified as No1., Tom Orlick (Av) who qualified as No2., Graham Worth (Co) who qualifies as No3., Andrew Rumary (So) who qualified as No4.

The first SWR meeting took place under the chairmanship of Andy Steward at Andy's home on 11th December 1994.

Those present were: Andy Steward, (Chairman ETTA (SWR)). Doug Parsons, (Treasurer). Les Smith, (Competitions). Val Clack, (Coaching). John Burtenshaw (Avon). Ron Chapman, (Wilts). Peter Hancock, (Cornwall). Keith

Pointing, (Devon).

Apologies for absences were received from Pat Archdale (in Portugal), Harvey Webb (at the Dorset closed), and Alf Peppercad (at the Glos'shire closed).

The Chairman hoped to introduce Steve Ward, the new RDO for the SW. Region, however, Steve had entered the Middlesex 3star prior to his official appointment as the new RDO, the Chairman stated that he hoped to appoint a Hon-Secretary and a minutes Secretary at some future stage.

COUNTY UMPIRE'S

It was noted that there are a number of coaches in the region who still need to pass the County Umpire's test paper in order to compete the Level 3 Stage, Les Smith and Andy Steward volunteered to mark any submitted papers that might come to hand.

COMPETITIONS

There was some discussion on

the success and failures of the various competitions that were organised by the region over the past few years, it was agreed that a woman's team tournament should be held again this season, everybody agreed that the new purpose built facility at Deer Park School Cirencester, would be an appropriate venue, with May 1995 as the possible date for opening.

THE WAY FORWARD

Keith Ponting stated that the only way forward could only be achieved if all and sundry worked together, i.e.: Communications should be improved and relevant information passed on the Counties.

It was agreed that there should be a further Regional Committee Meeting (Hosted by the Chairman), possibly in May 1995.

AVON

by **BOB MURRAY**

COMING SEASON

Only the Veterans have been in action since my last report, maintaining their unbeaten start to the season with an 8-1 victory over Gloucestershire 2nds. Gary Baldwin and Bob Murray won both their singles and teamed up to take the men's doubles. John Higgs and Linda Porter won one set each and also teamed up to take the mixed.

The County Closed Championships were held at the beginning of December. Top seed Andy Creed took the men's title with some comfort and Linda Porter beat Gillian Beer to take the ladies crown. Results in full:-
 Men's Singles: A Creed bt H Dalton 13,13
 Men's Doubles: M Bridgeman/ A Sheppard bt G Long/B Fudge 22,20,18
 Ladies Singles: L Porter bt G Beer 11,19,11,15
 Ladies Doubles: G Beer/L Porter bt J Morgan/J Saunders 11,6
 Veteran Singles: B Murray bt D Price 13,8
 Junior Boys Singles: T Orlik bt G Long 14,16
 Cadet Boys Singles: M Loughran bt P Adams -15,17,19
 U12 Boys Singles: D Porter bt N Rogers 10,20
 Junior Girls Singles: J Orlik bt G Loughran -18,10,20
 Cadet Girls Singles: G Loughran bt J Orlik 17,19,15
 U12 Girls Singles: G Loughran bt S Dauncey 14,14
 Junior Doubles: T Orlik/G Long bt P Adams/M Loughran 17,15
 Class 2 Singles: D Daniels bt K Armstrong 19,15

BRISTOL LEAGUE

Bristol's junior side have made an excellent start in the new Woolwich Junior British League division 2B. After the first weekend's matches they lead the division with a maximum 10 points from their 5 games. Graham Long took the "Woolwich Player of the Weekend Award" after winning all of his 10 sets and he was ably supported by Tom Orlik (8 from 10), Leigh Iles (3 from 6) and Brian Smith (3 from 4).

I understand that three Bristol officials also did sterling work at this event: Mike Lewis (Deputy Organiser), Tim Harris (Referee) and Dave Nipper (Assistant Referee).

I provided the headline news from the Bristol Closed championships in my last report but promised the detail for this issue. The results were as follows:-

Men's Singles: A Creed bt B Reeves 10,15
 Men's Doubles: M Bridgeman/P Payne bt E Roope/H Dalton 17,18
 Veteran Singles: R Murray bt B Reeves 16,13
 Veteran Doubles: R Murray/D Price bt D Coombe/K Watts 13,10
 Over 55 Singles: R Smith bt K Watts 21,22
 Div 1/2 Singles: G Long bt D Bull 18,18,15
 Div 3/4 Singles: D Daniels bt D Richards 17,19
 Div 5/6/7 Singles: L Iles bt B Smith 13,15
 Div 1-4 Doubles: D Coombe/K Watts bt D Bull/A Brailey 11,19
 Div 5-7 Doubles: G Holmes/D Richards bt

NEWS from the COUNTIES

COUNTY NOTES IS FOR THE PUBLICITY OF COUNTY ACTIVITIES. THE ACCURACY OF WHAT IS PUBLISHED IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS, AS THE EDITOR CANNOT POSSIBLY KNOW THE 'FACTS' MAY BE INCORRECT. COPY CONTAINING LIBELLOUS OR PERSONALLY ABUSIVE MATTER OR 'POLITICAL' COMMENT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED.

N Johns/G Copper 9,16
 Junior Boys Singles: G Long bt T Orlik -20,20,13
 Cadet Boys Singles: L Iles bt P Adams 8,12
 U11 Boys Singles: D Porter bt D Rumley 4,11
 Junior Girls Singles: J Orlik bt G Loughran 17,14
 Cadet Girls Singles: J Orlik bt G Loughran 16,18,16
 U11 Girls Singles: J Iles bt L Jones 17,18
 Junior Doubles: G Long/T Orlik bt B Smith/L Iles 15,17
 Cadet Doubles: B Smith/L Iles bt J Orlik/G Loughran 11,15

WESTON LEAGUE

Worle 'C' and YMCA 'B' are the front runners of some strong teams in the Weston premier division this season. last season's champions Nailsea Sports haven't achieved last year's consistency having already suffered three defeats.

In Division 1, Musketeers hold a narrow advantage over Bleadon YC although the latter have a game in hand. The two sides met at Bleadon with the home side emerging 7-3 winners. A maximum from Ann Sandford was supported by a double from Reg Manaton and one from Chris Parkinson. Ann and Reg then teamed up to take the doubles.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

by **ANDY HUBBLE**

GOOD PROGRESS

Both county senior and veteran sides have made good progress in their early games. The senior team consisting of K Richardson, M Harper, A Withers, Y Hooks and H Newbound played Warwickshire and Yorkshire on the 5th November and Suffolk on the 6th November. All matches were played at St. Neots.

The first match resulted in a narrow defeat at the hands of Warwickshire by 6 games to 4. Helen Newbound was undefeated, Keith and Mick were the other point scorers.

The evening match saw an upturn in fortunes with a 7-3 win against Yorkshire. Keith, Andy and Helen scored maximums and Mick added the other point following a 21-19 third end win against Andrew Horsfield.

On Sunday against Suffolk the second win of the weekend was gained by a 6-4 margin.

Helen secured her third successful maximum to complete an excellent undefeated weekend. Keith, Mick and any each contributed one apiece and Yvette prevented a whitewash

weekend with a win over Janet sounding. Mick and Keith's wins were both against Stuart Palmer which finished what would be regarded generally as a successful weekend.

The next scheduled senior matches are on the weekend of 18th and 19th February.

The veterans side have also made a good impression in Division 2B. On the 24th M Stennett (2), J Turner (1), R Fenson (1) and a doubles win for M Stennett and J Turner secured the result.

On the 15th October Hunts were the visitors to St. Neots and a good all round performance saw Cambs with a 7-2 win. The team consisted of M Stennett (2 1/2), B Hagger (1 1/2), C Gay (1 1/2), and J White (1 1/2).

Two weeks later Buckinghamshire visited St. Neots only to fall foul of a whitewash 9-0 result. M Stennett, B Hagger, J Turner and J White were the games veterans inflicting the damage.

The fourth veterans match took place on the 19th November but details were not available at the time of writing.

The recent Eastern Region Junior Trials at St. Neots saw only one of Cambs juniors progress to the second stage. James Walton confirmed his status as the top junior in Cambs and goes on to compete on December the 18th, again at St. Neots.

Although as mentioned in the November issue we do not have a Cambs junior side, the youngsters at Wisbech thoroughly enjoyed their first venture in the St. Neots Junior Invitation League. Indeed Wisbech seems to be giving the junior scene a boost at present with numbers increasing every week at the regular Monday evening coaching sessions.

The English Junior National Championships were held at the Bushfield Sports Centre, Peterborough on the 3rd and 4th December 1994.

James Walton represented Cambridgeshire and in the U17 singles event won his group with comparative ease beating Mark Forder of Sussex, a much higher ranked competitor. James was eventually defeated by Andrew Sugarman of Yorkshire (ranked 25) in a close three ender. On Sunday in the cadet championship James (ranked 12) adopted a more attacking game and played his way through to the quarter final stage without losing an end. The draw then saw him drawn against the No. 1 seed Gareth Herbert (the eventual winner). James went down 21-12, 21-16 but was not disappointed with his performance.

The 17th of December saw the second stage of the Eastern Regional Junior Trials to the final stages which will be held on the 21st and 22nd January 1995 at Whitchurch Sports Centre at Bristol.

On the 18th December the Wisbech junior side of James Walton, Matthew Knott, Alan Bennett and James Warren were in action in the second round of matches in the St. Neots Junior Invitation League. Again results were mixed but although being defeated 6-3 by Kettering, wins of 5-4 against Hunts Central and 7-2 against Peterborough ensure a mid table position half way through the

season.

Nothing else to report so I will finish with a New Year goodwill message to all involved in table tennis and I hope that 1995 sees an upturn in the general attention given to our technical yet enjoyable sport.

DERBYSHIRE

COLIN DEATON
CLOSED EVENT

The annual Derbyshire Closed event was again held at the Mackworth Tertiary College, Derby and a good entry was received with perhaps a record entry in the Junior events. This aspect is particularly pleasing and shows the coaching commitment appears to be paying some dividend. These were the results from these championships.

MEN'S SINGLES

S Shaw (Burton) bt J Bamford (Derby)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

N Deaton (Chesterfield) bt S Cooke

(Chesterfield)

MEN'S DOUBLES

Bamford/Shaw bt Isherwood/Boult

(Chesterfield)

VETERANS SINGLES

A Gregory (Matlock) bt D Stilla (Derby)

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

H Roinford (Eastwood) bt S Merrick

(Burton)

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

M Isherwood (Chesterfield) bt S

Hobbershon (Chesterfield)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

R Haggard (Horton)/J Vickers (Derby) bt

N Deaton (Chesterfield)/S Milne

(Chesterfield)

MIXED DOUBLES

S Shaw/N Deaton bt J Vickers (Derby)/J

Davies (Matlock)

As expected both Steven Shaw and Nicola Deaton retained their respective Singles titles and both collected their second title winning the Mixed Doubles event.

How pleasing it has been to see the Derbyshire players in the limelight over the Christmas and New Year period.

Alan Cooke has played some superb table tennis whilst playing in the Test matches against China and in the process, picked up some valuable computer ranking points. The wins he gained may well see him deservedly, we think, gain promotion in the National Ranking List.

Another success in the same test series was the form of Bradley Billington who displayed some of the table tennis we know he is capable of.

Both players could well be featured in England's plans for the future and with the Commonwealth and World Championships forthcoming, both Bradley and Alan may have further International recognition.

Nicola Deaton played in both the Test Matches against Russia. The first one against Russia, played at Hull where they lost 9-1 witnessed Nicola playing really on top form gaining the sole win for England and performance against the World Ranked Russian Galina Melnik where the score stood at 17 all in the third and final game before the experienced Russian took the game.

So the performance of Cookie, Bradley and Nicola kept Derbyshire well and truly on the map on the International front and all their progress in the future will be monitored with real interest.

It was also encouraging to observe that Lorraine Groaves has joined the Derbyshire squad as a qualified umpire. She recently obtained her umpires certificate alongside County Secretary Les Allwood.

Both these newly qualified umpires are very active, not just on the Derbyshire scene. We congratulate them both on their new umpires qualifications.

By contrast it was disappointing to hear of the attack suffered by Burton Supremo Terry Gadsby prior to Christmas.

Terry is, without question, one of the guiding lights in Derbyshire Table Tennis and the news that he has been ordered to rest at home will be a big body blow for Burton and Derbyshire table tennis.

It is no surprise that he is to resign as the National Councillor for Derbyshire and a successor is already being sought. We wish the dedicated Terry a speedy recovery because table tennis in Derbyshire would not quite the same without him.

Chesterfield's Mick Thorley, I am delighted to say, is back after quite a long illness. Mick, who had a quadruple by-pass is now playing again in Matlock, Chesterfield and Sheffield and playing again, I am reasonably informed, with the same sort of determination and enthusiasm we all experience prior to his illness.

Finally, Derbyshire's Handicap County Cup Competition has produced a very close encounter in the first round where Castle Donnington of Derby beat Waingroves of the Eastwood League by the slender margin of twelve points.

Also, the Derby League are again promoting the annual popular Derby Junior event. This event has matured to become one of the most popular Junior events in England and again it is to be staged at the Moorways Centre. A good entry is anticipated.

ESSEX

STEVE KERNS

MIDDLESEX 3 STAR OPEN

Essex's top performance of the month goes to Linda Radford (Dagenham), who was at her very best at the Middlesex 3 Star Open tournament, taking the Ladies title with wins over close friend Helen Lower and an emphatic 14,11 success in the final against Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire).

Other Essex players to enjoy good wins at this tournament were the unranked Gary King (Dagenham) who had a particularly fine 18,19 win in Men's Band III over Middlesex's Jason Sugrue and James Wickens (Thurrock) who beat Surrey's Dave Harding in Men's Band II. The narrowest of losers on the Saturday was Steve Joslin (Chelmsford) who

almost stopped the emergence of Nigerian sensation A Warriola in the second round of Men's Band II when he led his opponent by a game and 20-17, only to see his opponent recover and win a tight decider.

Steve Rand (Brentwood) went on to reach the semi-final of this event falling to Surrey's Darren Blake, after halting the strong run Ian Attridge (Dagenham) had made to the quarter-final. Ian had previously beaten John Payne (Middlesex) very convincingly and won a tight encounter against the up-and-coming Neil Biggrave (Bucks). On the Sunday Don McGilvray (Dagenham) gave the inexhaustible Warriola (are we sure he was a Nigerian and not a Kenyan?) as much trouble as anyone until his loss in the final, just going down 18,19-18 in round three.

Congratulations to Shelley Ruocco (Dagenham) who took the Junior Girls Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles at the English Junior Closed with Glenda Ashison and Terry Young respectively. She was only one game away from taking the triple crown losing the Junior Girls final to Glenda. Also with reason to be pleased is Steve Joslin who has enjoyed a brilliant spell of late and has climbed to No. 7 in the Junior Boys National Ranking list. Another player on the way up is Suffolk's Sarah Davison who plays much of her table tennis in the Chelmsford and Braintree leagues and who has jumped to the No. 7 spot in the Junior Girls list.

BRENTWOOD LEAGUE

The Brentwood League may have a case for boasting the strongest premier division in the county this season. The teams battling it out for the title are led by Brentwood TT Club A (Steve Rand, Paul Sayer, Paul Stephens and Jon Stokes) followed by Buttsbury A (John Holland, Dave Finlayson, Steve Willis and Ev Lucas) and Cranston Park (Linda, Peter and Leslie Radford, Feisal Mauthoor, George Pavitt and Mark England). Brentwood Table Tennis Club C in fourth place are able to choose a team from Martin Cole, David Cole, Ian Hayden, So Man and Gary Ward, whilst fifth place Peniel A can call on the likes of Vince Avery, Keith Buers, Jennifer Coleman, Ben Lineker, Tracey Davies, Verity Cleminson, Sam Cleminson as well as the highly promising Tim Yardy. At the half-way stage no one look capable of getting close to the leaders.

THURROCK LEAGUE

In the Thurrock league's top division Steve Willis' team Port of Tilbury A lead the way followed by last year's champions Comrades A (Terry Guymey, Keith Shepherd, Paul Morris, George Shippey and new signing Mick Smalldon). Also in the running are Aveley Sports A lead by James Wickens and Karl Grant. Nevertheless, Comrades A remain the favourites to retain their title.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ALF PEPPERD

SEVERE BLOW

The Gloucestershire Junior and Senior Closed Championships were both played off just before Christmas, and commencing with the Junior event here are the results.

This event was dealt a severe blow by the lack of entries in the U12 and U14 section, the Organisers eventually cancelled both of these age groups, leaving the three main championships to be played.

In the U17 Doubles, the number 2 seeds Robin Price and Scott Nichols from Gloucester, beat the unseeded pairing of Jon Bunn (Stroud) and Aaron Mortimer (Gloucester) in straight games 15,17 to take the title.

Stroud's Suzy Robinson, the 4th seed, caused a minor upset in the Girls U17 event, beating the No 2 seed Melanie Garlick (Gloucester) -8,17,19.

This victory took 12 year old Robinson into the final against the reigning champion 14 year old Ann Humble from Highnam Glos, Humble who was the defending champion bet young Suzy 12 and 16 to retain her singles title.

There were no major upsets in the early stages of the Boys U17 singles, with all four seeds successfully reaching the semi-finals.

Jon Roberts (Chelt), the current title holder, beat Gloucester's Aaron Mortimer for a place in the Final, while in the other half Robin Price disposed of Jon Bunn over three games.

So, it was a Roberts V Price final: Roberts the No. 1 seed, took the first game at 15, but Price fought back well in the second, clinching it at 14, and so we came to the third and final game in a power struggle between two very evenly balanced players, Price got off to a very good early start, and when they changed ends Price was 10-2 up, Roberts however was far from beaten and from this seemingly impossible position fought back to level the scores at 18 all, Robin Price however managed to retain his composure and eventually ran out a worthy winner at 21-18 in the third.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE (CLOSED) SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

DARREN GRIFFIN REGAINS SINGLES CROWN

Last years runner-up Darren Griffin, triumphed in the Gloucestershire (Closed) Senior Championships. The semi-finals at Cheltenham Recreation Centre were contested by the four top seeds.

Number one Griffin defeated Graham Slack 14,13 while defending champion Dave Harvey beat Bill Dawe 12,22.

In an exciting final Griffin, exacted

his revenge for the 1993 final by beating Harvey 15,13.

The Ladies singles was a foregone conclusion as Natasha Williams the Welsh Number one now resident in Gloucestershire, proved herself head and shoulders above all other female opposition, easily beating Cheltenham's Sue Labrum 7, 12 to take the title.

The Veterans singles boasted a large entry, the number two seed Dennis Holland withdrew owing to an arm injury, so the coast was clear for England's number eight ranked veteran Dave Harvey to romp into the final against Irishman John Fannin.

The final did not last long - Harvey the defending champion ran out winner, 15, 14 but it must be said that John Fannin put up a great show of resistance, scooping up returns from only a foot or so from floor level.

In the Under - 21 Singles, Natasha Williams strolled to victory over Junior County Player Jon Roberts in the final, beating Roberts 7,11, throughout the entire tournament Miss Williams did not drop one single game.

In the minor singles event, which is closed to all first division players, one of the most exciting matches took place when Gloucester's Alex Robinson found himself 12-18 down in the first game, Robinson, however, recovered to beat Mike Plummer 37-35 and then went on to pinch the second game at 17.

In the final however, Robinson came up against County Junior Aaron Mortimer who ran out eventual winner 13-16,18 this was a great win for the youngster currently ranked No. 3 County Junior Player.

In the men's doubles the defending Gloucester Champions Bill Dawe and Sylvester Callum lost 16,17, to the Gloucester/Cheltenham duo of Darren Griffin and Graham Slack, this was a complete reversal of last year's doubles final, when Griffin/Slack were the then runners-up.

A disappointingly low entry for the Ladies Doubles meant that it started with the Semi-Finals, in the Final Natasha Williams and Julie Taylor beat Sue Labrum and Carole Godding, 16,9 to run out as winners, all four of these finalists hailed from Cheltenham.

Mrs Gill Smith acted as Hon-Referee for both the Junior and Senior events and also presented the medals and trophies, Peter Cruwys was the organiser, greatly assisted by Stan Johnstone, and yours truly had the pleasure of interviewing the respective Men's and Ladies Singles winners for BBC Radio Gloucestershire South & West.

HAMPSHIRE

BRIAN LAMERTON
LONG TREK

Chris Butt, Tina Youny and Elaine Moore made the long trek to Peterborough for the junior nationals in early December with 13 year old Butt (Southampton) winning through

to the third round proper of the cadet singles before bowing out to the eventual runner up, Kent's Scott Friday. Whilst the girls did not the Peterborough tables alight that all three gained from the experience was evident a fortnight later when at the regional trials Butt, already exempt as a cadet, qualified for the National Junior Trials and the two girls (both from Bournemouth) after some good performances including both giving the eventual winner a run for her money, stand by as No's 1 and 2 reserves for the Nationals.

Butt's name is to the fore again as together with Stephen Wisheer he share top spot with a 100% average from 12 sets to sit Southampton at the top of the inter town Cadet league after 4 matches. Portsmouth "A" (Richard Chan, Sam Pitkeathly & David Riddle), Isle of Wight (James Ovnik, Mark Przysocki, Rory Farrelly and Lucy Pointer) and Portsmouth "B" (Jonathan Potter, Matthew Wilson, Charles Barnes and Stephen Chard) are in joint second place with 3 wins out of 4. After one session of 2 matches champions Isle of Wight again lead Division 1 of the Junior section with their team of Greg and Danny Burns, Stuart Dover and Lorna Dutch.

Another excellent newsletter received from the Basingstoke Association (Congratulations Dave Salisbury); this together with a pilot issue by the new Southampton secretary Colin French are the only such publications within our 10 league County (Do let me know if I am wrong!) following the demise of Bournemouth's "21 Up" which poor health forced Harold Pearce to give up.

Both December and January are blank months for our County teams.

Again I have to end Hampshire's notes on a sad note with the passing of Peter Goldring who was still playing in the Portsmouth league until shortly before his untimely death at the age of 71. The title of "Mr Portsmouth Table Tennis" would not have gone amiss on the shoulders of Pete, a Vice President since 1987 in recognition of his 35 years on the Pompey executive (29 years as treasurer, also serving as tournament secretary, results secretary and handbook compiler) as well as serving his Portsmouth Community club faithfully as secretary for 40 years.

Pete whose home was full of table tennis memorabilia and who had lent the local association £35 to straighten their books when taking over as Treasurer in 1965 will be sadly missed.

HERTFORDSHIRE

JOHN WOOD
SUCCESS FOR
HERTFORD

Hertford are this season's Cadet Champions, when they won the trophy at the Barnet Table Tennis

Centre, on Sunday 11th December 1994.

The youngsters from Hertford won all their five matches but received tough opposition when they faced Hemel Hempstead Cadets, whom although they beat 3-1, just pulled through in two of the four games.

In the opening singles Hertford's Daniel Gillet only just beat Hemel's Richard Murrell, after a classic battle winning 26-24, 21-18.

Then in the final game Hemel did all they could to force a draw, which would have won them the trophy but they failed, losing 21-19 in the third, in the doubles.

This win for Hertford was their first Cadet Inter-League trophy and combined with the success of the Hoddesden Table Tennis Club at the Hertfordshire Junior Closed tournament in November, proves that Hertford has a rosy table tennis futures.

The three Hertford stars were David Wooten and Sharon and Daniel Gillet, with Daniel Gillet being the top player with a 100% record.

Hemel Hempstead's trio of Paul Higgins, Richard Murrell and Gary Curran won the runners-up spot, with Higgins recording a 100%.

CADET INTER-LEAGUE 1994/5

	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
HERTFORD	5	5	0	17	3	10
HEMEL	5	4	1	17	3	8
BARNET	5	3	2	13	7	6
WATFORD	5	2	3	8	12	4
N. HERTS	5	1	4	3	17	2
HERTFORD II	5	0	5	2	18	0

ISLE OF WIGHT

JOHN PREAN
1ST DIVISION

It looked as if our 1st Division was about to open up into a real contest when both Roger Hookey and Mike Turner lost their unbeaten records en route. However, Sandown won the next seven and so left Ryde without the consolation of a single point. Our scoring system awards one point for a 6-4 defeat, three for a win of 6-4 and four for a win of 7-3 or more. Nic Hutchings, having taken Turner's scalp, was then battered by Lorna Dutch, who lost to Brian Farrelly, another chapter perhaps in her problems against combination bats. For an hour or so Sandown my have wondered whether agreeing to a re-arranged date, so that their opponents could field their best team, was a good idea, but their sportsmanship got its right reward in the end.

Hookey and Turner are also our leading lights in the Southern Regional League, where a string of unhappy results has raised the spectre of relegation. The league is full of combination bats which have spelled trouble for our best players. However, the answer is obvious. It is a challenge that has to be mastered.

Prospects seem better in the Hampshire Inter-Town Men's section where promotion is only one match away. Roger Hookey is unbeaten so far with sterling support from Mike

Turner and Nic Hutchings.

Our cadets look destined for a middle place in the Hampshire Inter-Town league, which I regard as a fair effort, as all players are new to such competition. James Ovnik looked authentic in this company with 8 wins from 9 outings and Lucy Pointer (10) has continued to impress against boys of 13 and over. She gets tremendous support from her father John, indispensable if she is to progress.

We had three juniors playing in the British Junior League Weekend for 'mainland' clubs. Danny Burns did best with 8 wins from 9 matches. Lorna Dutch was disappointed with her results, but with two more junior seasons after this one, she should not find it difficult to add 4 or 5 points to her game which would turn the two quarter final places she has achieved so far (Peniel and Essex Selects) into final places and maybe wins. In any normal ranking system this would place her in the top 8, but not in ours, which continues to discourage players of all ages. The "bonus" system, which seems to be an attendance allowance for 'losers', defies comment. I have made the point before that you now get more points for turning up and losing in the first round of say, the Grove 2 Star than for winning the national title. Battered players continue to vote with their feet, but too few open their mouths in protest and so the farce continues.

Our Juniors did not look impressive in the Hampshire Junior Weekend in which they started as favourites to retain their title. Danny Burns, in his first season as a junior, went through the two m matches unbeaten, as did Lorna (or course) in the singles. Unfortunately Greg Burns, plagued by injury all season, lost a couple and, incredibly, a mixed double with Lorna, which seemed an 'impossibility'. The team will have to play better to hang on to the title and games average is likely to be decisive.

ON THE MOON

My 'tongue-in-cheek' exclusive that the Island player Carl Preat had again beaten the English No. 1 Yorkshire's own Chen Xinhua in the German Bundesliga made a national newspaper a few weeks later. However, in reply to readers' questions, it did not appear in our computer ranking list. Presumably it was treated as if played on the moon or not at all. The main point of using computers to decide such matters is that computers are impartial. However, if the input is censored, where is the impartiality? We seem to have arrived at a point of no return to excellence, but a galloping pace to mediocrity. I would go along with this up to a point, if at least it increased numbers, but it has not. The top players seem to stay away from out top tournaments and tournaments themselves are getting fewer and fewer. Junior tournaments seem to survive better, but for how long? I recently saw the European Junior ranking lists among the 80 players listed in the four groups there were only two English players (Marling and Deaton). Who can pretend that our system is good in the face of such

statistics? There are some heartening things going on, but not on the playing side at this time.

KENT

ADRIAN HALL

KENT LEAGUE MID SEASON REPORT

Bromley A are on course to win the Men's Division One of the Kent League being unbeaten after four matches, the clash win N W Kent who are also unbeaten should be interesting. Chris Knight with 12 wins out of 12 leads the averages. There is no clear favourite in division two, but forth placed Ashford are still unbeaten and with Paul Smith, Alan Provan and Fred Coleman prominent in the averages should finish well. East Kent Leagues Folkestone and Thanet are leaders in Division three.

N W Kent A are clear leaders in Ladies Division One with their leading players Jacqueline Mersh and Sandra Collins on 100% records. Maidstone B and N W Kent B are neck and neck in division two, but with their players unbeaten N W Kent will be favourites to take the title.

N W Kent A lead the Veterans Division One with Paul Crisp and Dave Emery on 100% records. Bromley A, winners of this division for the past thirteen seasons are in forth place and the clash with N W Kent may determine the final positions. Bromley C and Medway A lead the second division with Neil Le Milliere (Medway) and Dave Wilkins (Bromley) unbeaten. Sittingbourne B and Canterbury B are joint leaders of the third division but it is Ron Terry (Tonbridge) and Terry Harris (Canterbury) that lead the averages.

£24,000 SPORTING BONANZA GETS UNDER WAY

A new era in the development of KENT JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS began at the when eighty (80) teams of budding stars began their campaign to become champions of Kent.

Sponsors Bribrar Table Tennis have pledge £12,000 to fund the Junior Table Tennis Competition over the next three seasons and the youngsters showed their thanks by turning out in spectacular fashion to compete in the Bribrar Kent Junior League.

Youngsters from all over Kent will benefit from the joint financial award made by Bribrar Table Tennis and matched by Sportsmatch pound for pound, providing a total of £24,000 over three years.

BRIBRAR KENT JUNIOR LEAGUE

	P	W	L	PTS
Tunbridge Wells A	3	0	0	14
Maidstone C	3	2	1	11
Ashford B	3	1	2	3
Folkestone C	3	0	3	2

Tunbridge Wells A team of Angie Bristow and Lee Howes did well to beat the Maidstone C team of Antony Lickfold and Jon Cheng 4-1 in the

Western Zone. A good win here for Angie Bristow over Jon Cheng 21-19, 21-18.

	P	W	L	PTS
Folkestone A	3	3	0	14
Maidstone B	3	2	1	10
Bromley A	3	1	2	6
Tunbridge Well C	3	0	0	0

Folkestone A team of Scott Dawtry and Trevor Griffiths beat the Girls of Maidstone, Crystal Hall and Alison Smith to lead the 1st division of the Northern Zone.

	P	W	L	PTS
Maidstone A	3	3	0	15
Folkestone B	3	2	1	8
Medway B	3	1	2	6
Sittingbourne A	3	0	3	1

The Maidstone A team of Christian Thompson and Scott Friday were never in any trouble in the Central Zone and will be firm favourites for the play offs.

	P	W	L	PTS
Tunbridge Well B	3	3	0	13
Medway A	3	2	1	8
Ashford A	3	0	3	5
Thanet A	3	1	2	4

Tunbridge Wells capitalised on the absence of Paul Smith from the Ashford side to take a commanding lead in East Zone.

KENT GIRLS TOP IN REGIONAL TRIALS

Angie Bristow (T Wells) and Crystal Hall (Maidstone) finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the U17 Girls section of the Regional Trials at Meadowside Leisure Centre, S W London on 18 December 1994 and now take their place at the National Trials at Whitechurch on 21/22 January 1995.

Angie Bristow had a particularly good day being unbeaten and finishing in top spot without dropping a leg. Joining the U17 Girls will be U17 Boys Trevor Griffiths (Folkestone) and Lee Howes (T Wells) who finished 6th and 7th in their category and Justin Dodd (Gravesend) who finished in 5th spot in the U14 Boys event.

All the above players are joined in the finals by those that qualify as a right due to their national ranking at the beginning of the season, U17 Boys: - Christian Thompson (Medway), Paul Smith (Ashford), Scott Dawtry (Folkestone) and Scott Friday (Medway). U14 Boys: - Scott Friday (Medway).

MIDDLESEX

TONY TAYLOR

REGIONAL TRIALS

In the Junior and Cadet Regional Trials held in December Daniel Feseathson performed well to win all his group games in one section and 3 out of 6 in the next group to unexpectedly qualify for the Junior National Trials in January.

As expected Yuki Geswell qualified in the girls singles and our admirable prospect James Wakefield also made it through to the Cadet National Trials.

Our Veterans 1st team returned to winning ways to beat Surrey Veterans

6-3 in a friendly match when Ron Langheim dropped himself. John Holland maintained his excellent form with 3 wins in singles and doubles.

The Veterans 1st and 2nd teams met in a County Match which was very competitive especially when John Holland and Maurice Isaacs finished 21-1 in the deciding games with Maurice just edging home.

Walter Mascarenhas was the star turn this time completing his maximum. Anne Flowerday on her debut also performed well winning in three games against Kathy Nunn helping Middlesex 1 win the match 7-2.

NORFOLK

RAY HOGG

CENSORED?

The furore I created within this County with my own views on red/black now seem to have abated after a rather hairy committee meeting when it was suggested that my article should be censored. A further complaint will be that there was no article in the January edition. I can't win. With the County teams our Seniors took a bashing in their week end but far from being down they all say their game has improved by 5 points from the experience and are looking forward to the next time. This team consists mainly of 'second starting' players who do not get the chance to play representative matches normally. Junior 1st team could be creating a problem for us if they get promotion most of them will be too old to compete and we will have to have a long hard look at who is coming up and dedication of them before deciding on teams for next season. Leeroy Pye has returned to the fold, but may well prefer to play Senior county next season. Veterans 1st team look as though they will return to division 1 after 3 seasons with a settled team of Mick Broughton, Chris Brewer, Steve Howlett and Mary Sawyer with Tony Hipperson and Sue Allen in reserve. Second team doing well with plenty of players to choose from. Match abandoned in our first ever veterans match with Suffolk when the floor at Britannia club decided to turn into a skating rink. To their credit Suffolk have offered to come to Norfolk for the replay and to meet our expenses. Thought will have to be given to the surplus veteran players now available and with Mick Musson making a come back after some 5 years and determined to regain his place in the county team, can we afford a 3rd team? If so is there anyone willing to organise it? What about someone from Kings Lynn where the veterans are coming through thick and fast - they had no less than 7 at the VETTS Eastern masters.

Situations vacant are still a Coaching Officer and now a Schools Representative as Addie Johnson is moving to Sussex.

Foxwood British League team is having a good season after 2 seasons of trials and tribulations. A regular

squad of Phil Logsdon, Russell King, Andy Hawes, Leighton Chipperfield and Mick Broughton make them a real force, and with the possible return of Leeroy Pye who do you leave out?

County Closed is still on April 8/9th at Lynnsport and it is essential that we have a good entry for the satisfaction of what sponsors we have and also to cover our considerable costs and if possible have a bit over for next season. Entry forms should be available now.

NORTHANTS

DENNIS MILLMAN

ENTHUSIASM

The fifteenth Tina Coleman Memorial Trophy for Ladies Doubles, once again demonstrated the enthusiasm of the participants and produced an intriguing competition, with some tense moments in the concluding stages the prelude to an absorbing final.

The flamboyant skills of Caroline Perkins, Joanne Abbott and Maxine Shears, the consistent play of Clem Little, Cath Walsh and Jill Pell, and the wheelchair expertise of Denise Barnett and Irene Weed all took the eye, but at the end of the day, none of these graced the final.

The best game in the qualifying stages was that between Caroline Perkins and Jenna Ashberry (+1) and Viv Smiley and Gabrielle Evans (Scr), and though the first named pair came out on top -17, 10, 15, the losing pair recovered well, to win their remaining seven matches and so qualify for the semi-finals in top place.

National disabled champion Denise Barnett and Waendal Warriors Irene Weed (+9) lost their opening rubber, but then bamboozled a series of opponents and also ended with seven wins to take second place.

Conversely Ann Woolston and Anne Abbott (+6) combined effectively to win their first six matches, but then lost their way, and failing to add to their tally, finished third, while Clem Little and Mary Perkins (+7) won four times, as did Jill Pell and Maxine Shears (Scr), but it was the latter pair who went through, on a count-back of ends.

In the semi-finals, Smiley and Evans again proved too knowledgeable for Pell and Shears, while the wheelchair challenge of Barnett and Weed was finally repelled by Woolston and Abbott, who in a pulsating encounter, reversed their earlier defeat.

The Smiley/Evans combination took an early grip on the final, but Woolston and Abbott made the most of their six point advantage to level the match at one game all. In the decider the initial lead was gradually whittled away by some fine attacking play, and it was Smiley and Evans who took the title - twelve year old Gabrielle for the second year is succession, and Viv at the first time of asking, becoming the twenty-first player to get her name on the magnificent Rose Bowl.

The only action on the County Championship scene came when the

Veteran First picked up a six-three win over Notts after losing the first game of the day. However, Ray Kingston levelled the scores when his fast attacking play proved too much for Mick Peska.

The third singles was vital and in the early stages the visiting John Ellis held the upper hand, but in a tactical battle Keith Jones took the first end to a losing expedite, and then proceeded to win the match with some shrewd attacking tactics.

He and Muriel Cox took the mixed doubles and with Mrs Cox making the transition from Thirds to First with consummate ease, the ladies singles was added in fine style.

The men's doubles was narrowly lost leaving Northants to take one of the reverse singles for the match. Thereupon, Mick Edwards came back to win comfortably against Peska and the match was safe.

Jones went down heavily to some tremendous hitting from Terry Bull, but Kingston played out the final singles with patience to scrape through at deuce in the third against Ellis, and so enhance the final scoreline of an entertaining match.

County Development Officer Gwili Evans and Northants Junior Match Secretary John Russell have invited sixteen juniors and sixteen cadets to participate in two January training sessions under the guidance of John Burleton.

This comprehensive list of players gives some indication of the current upsurge of enthusiasm at this level, and a further series of coaching sessions during spring and summer will pave the way for selection of a team in each age group to compete in next season's County Championships.

Ian Hawes, who is also number one on the Northants Queensberry Scimitar Computer Rankings, holds pole position in the Kettering League ranking list. Chris Handshaw is second, followed by Ryan Keates, Richard Elliot, Julian Marshall, Steve West, Mark Nannery, Terry Luxton, Steve Brown and Gordon Shaw.

With three players in the top six - Hawes, Marshall and West, Team Electric, who currently find themselves at the top of Kettering's Premier Division, are still without a home venue but appear to be thriving in unfamiliar territory. However, they will still have difficulty in staving off holders Higham Band, who presently lead Wellingborough's Premier Section, closely pursued by Old Grammarians A, Westerfield A and Glamis A.

NORTHUMBERLAND

**PAULINE LONG
CAPTAIN'S ROLE**

The County Veterans' team of Ian Robertson, Bob Dodds, John Williamson, Maurice Cheek and Pauline Long beat Oxfordshire 6-3, Leicestershire 2-7 and Warwickshire 4-5 in the first of the Division 1A play-offs held at Barnet during the weekend of 3/4 December.

No 2 England ranked "Benny" played a great captain's role, winning all eight of his singles and three out of four mixed doubles. Bob, John and Pauline each won a singles in the victory over Oxfordshire, and Bob also had a singles success in the nail-biting defeat against Warwickshire, but generally we were unable to take our chances from in some cases winning positions. Hopefully the experience will prove beneficial for the second series of play-offs in February against Cheshire II, Lincolnshire and Worcestershire.

Meanwhile, the seniors minus Eddie Smith, who was working, got a 5-5 draw in their latest fixture at home to Worcestershire. "Benny" and Andrew Wilkinson each won two singles and Steve Coverdale won the last set of the match to ensure a point for his side.

The Carter Cup match involving the Northumbria League and the Carlisle League junior boys' representative sides, resulted in a 3-5 defeat, although Gareth Brown was unbeaten.

Former England No. 1 junior Andrew Wilkinson was recently voted as North Tyneside's Young Sportsman of the Year. He received his award from Councillor Bob Usher, Mayor of North Tyneside, and David Baker, General Manager of the Northern Rock Building Society.

The National Power Northumbria League is at the time of writing in the middle of the Christmas and New Year break and was due to resume activity on Monday 9 January. Gateshead 'A' are still leaders in Division 1, while North Shields YMCA 'C' are at the top of Division 2. DSS'B' head the Division 3 table, and Dunston 'A' are so far proving almost unstoppable in Division 4.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**MIKE TUNNINGLEY
SCHOOLS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A total of seventeen teams entered the Notts Schools Table Tennis Championships which were held at Wellow House School recently. This figure was higher than those entered by our near neighbours Derbyshire and full credit for this must be relayed to the organisers Mr Brian Jones and Mr John Wilde. The senior boys events were dominated by Ashfield School who are managed by Paul Linfield. They completed wins in both the Under 16's and Under 19's events by an impressive 8-0 margin. The hottest contest of the evening was for the Boys Under 13' title where all the preliminary rounds were decided by the odd game or set. The eventual winners were Fairham Community College who defeated Wellow House by a 6-2 margin.

The remaining events were a tribute to the Worksop League with Valley School 16 Girls winners, Wellow House Under 13 Girls winners, and Redlands Primary School Under 11 Girls winners. All the winning teams

will represent Notts in the regional finals to be held at Grantham later in the year.

Mansfield Cadet team of Craig Witton, Darren McGachan and Alan Ford were all in top form after completing 10-0 wins over Nottingham II and Leicester II at South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre at Grantham. Mansfield's second string, who consisted of Adam Buxton, John Bramley and James Brown won both their games against Grantham II and Leicester I by a 7-3 margin to complete a fine double for the Mansfield cadets.

The top league match in the Worksop League between Priory Carpets A, the current league champions and the up and coming Sports Centre A team resulted in a thrilling victory for the Sports Centre team of Mark Short, Stephen Harrison and Gary Lee who won by a 6-4 margin. Priory fought hard to protect their 100% record of 3 years and their team of Dale Ajeto, Paul Clarke and Mick Bartrop will no doubt be looking forward to the return fixture in April. Short and Harrison who play for Abbeydale in the British League are certainly making an impact locally and should their progress be maintained high aspirations are held by the league for their future.

The Notts County Inter-Town Championships will be contested at Wellow House School on Thursday 16 February when Newark, Retford, Mansfield, Nottingham and Worksop will be invited to participate.

In the first tournament of the season John Westwood and Gordon Galick won the DTH Engineering Senior Doubles title when they defeated Dale Ajeto and Phillip Middleton in an exciting finish 24-22 in the final deciding set. The tournament had 32 players of 21 years old and was held at the Valley Sports Centre, Worksop.

SOMERSET

**ANDY SEWARD
CHRISTMAS DAY IN
THE WORKHOUSE**

It is Christmas Day in the workhouse and the chief washer-upper has finished his chores. Whilst the manager of the house and assorted guests settle down to the usual 3 o'clock television viewing, what exercises the mind of the chief washer-upper? It's obvious - writing TEN County Notes of course!!

Did Santa give the chief washer-upper any presents which would assist in the writing of these County Notes? Unfortunately, no. Even the 1995 edition of the Guinness Book of Answers has no information regarding table tennis activities in Somerset during the last part of 1994. The book does have a section on table tennis, but Somerset, not a word.

So what information has filtered through to the workhouse?

It appears, surprisingly, that the Seniors are currently the most successful County team we have Somerset. There is a certain stability

about the team this season with Phil Payne, Rob Millard, Steve Palmer and Tina Sadler playing in all the matches. A number of individual successes are worthy of mention. Against Dorset, four wins for the ladies (Tina Sadler and Christine Cowell) were instrumental in the 6-4 victory. Phil Payne's win -20,19,24 against Tony Sweet (Devon 3) gave Somerset another 6-4 win. A comfortable victory 9-1 against Cornwall 2 was followed by a 4-6 reverse against a strong Gloucestershire team led by Darren Griffin and Dave Harvey. The double fixture in February against both Wiltshire 1 and Wiltshire 2 could well determine the Division winners. Can Phil 'stamp' his authority on these matches?

Just as Everton have recently won a match or two, so remarkably have the Somerset Vets 2nd team, well, one to be precise. The chief washer-upper was allowed out of the workhouse, made a appearance against Herefordshire and won both of his singles. Two wins also for Alan Maidment, one for captain Kelvin Lum and two doubles successes. Amazing.

Enough information and comment. It is now six o'clock and nearly time to return to the more mundane tasks. Pass the turkey sandwiches. Happy New Year.

SUSSEX

**JOHN WOODFORD
SEARCH FOR TALENT**

The search for talent continues in Sussex as everywhere else. My best player for improvement in 1994 is Joanna Bush-Harris of Brighton, who is in her last year as a junior and winning many games at both junior and senior levels.

One of her latest successes has been in the Rose Bowl second round, when her pair of victories, put Brighton on the victory path, winning 5-2 against a strong Crawley team, led by Sally Weston the Sussex No. 2 lady.

The clash between Brighton and Crawley contained some almost bizarre results, highly unpredictable might also be an apt description of several of the scores.

I would have bet heavily against Miss Weston losing all three to the Brighton side of Teresa Bennett the Sussex champion, Miss Bush-Harris and Sarah Stedman of Arundel. But that is what happened.

Then came two huge shocks by Crawley. Why this match is of great interest is because it contained the two leading seniors - Bennett and Weston - and the up-coming juniors Bush-Harris and Stedman.

Possibly, the biggest shocks of the campaign came when Marie Campbell, the Crawley No. 3 who plays her table tennis only in the Crawley League, Division 2 beat Miss Stedman 13-21, 22-20, 21-15 and then Jill Green the Crawley housewife who played not long ago for Hampshire trounced Teresa Bennett 21-16, 21-12!

However, two from Joanna, two from Teresa and one from Sarah took

Brighton through, but what a match that was.

Robert Abbots is my choice for the Boy of the Year, despite being dogged by injuries, he has a new personal sponsor - J S Gedge Motorcycles, had a back injury problem earlier in the season.

Playing 5-a-side soccer at school he sustained what seemed to be a badly sprained wrist. This turned into a fracture - he now has his arm in plaster for six weeks but is hoping to be fit for the forthcoming national trials.

In the Junior National Trials at New Malden, Abbots was joined by Kevin C Doyle and Chris Hancock and Harry McCarney of Lewes.

By the time this appears in print, Sussex will have we hope overcome a major problem - no venue, no date for the all-Sussex senior championships - Roger Gillett the East Sussex tournament organiser from Bexhill is the man in the hot seat searching for a venue.

Meanwhile, at times I despair that we can ever get real co-operation between coaches. I know it happens all over the country. Lesser grade coaches quite naturally are unhappy when their promising juniors move upwards, but that is life, surely.

In Sussex, there are two coaches making life difficult for the Sussex TTA/. There are two others who want to do their own thing, without working with the county. It appears that they all want to work independently, but surely, that is not possible if junior talent is going to blossom and be fed into the right channels.

WARWICKSHIRE

↳ PETE WALDEN
ALL CHANGE

It's a case of all change for the Stratford and District League this season. A slight fall in team entries, at the start of the season prompted the committee to try out a new format similar to that introduced in Leamington. Four divisions each consist of six teams who play each other twice before Christmas with promotion and relegation taking place at the start of the New Year, thereby making in effect two winter seasons.

In Division One, Shottery A have claimed the title with the runners-up spot going to either West Warks A or Astwood Bank. Gary Stewart of Shottery Hall looks set to take the top average with 93%.

Royal Mail A are top in Division Two followed by Stratford Foods A. Roy Birtles of Stratford Foods leads the averages with 89%.

West Warks B look set to win Division Three, chased home by Arden and Church Leach. John Mytton from Church Leach is the top player here with a 95% average.

Division Four looks like a tight finish with Royal Mail B favourites to edge home in front of Stratford Foods B and West Warks C. Good to see Mary Rose of West Warks leading the averages here with 93%.

The Leagues only Cup competition, the Sona Cup, will continue to be run just once a year, starting in January.

Another new initiative in Stratford has been the introduction of coaching sessions for juniors at the King Edward Grammar School. It is hoped that these sessions will lead eventually to the formation of a Woolwich Junior League in the area.

WILTSHIRE

↳ STUART MORSE
LAURIE SELBY STEPS DOWN

Hello everybody in Wiltshire, welcome to my first articles for the Table Tennis News. Firstly I wish to thank Laurie Selby my predecessor article writer who has stepped down after many years of superb news writing for this magazine.

As you may be aware this season I was appointed Secretary of the County Association, in my new role I have been concentrating hard on press coverage in all areas of the County Leagues. From my distribution of County match reports and league results to Newspapers, local Cable TV stations and indeed local radio Stations, I have secured a radio spot on BBC Wiltshire Radio every Friday evening, the show is on between six and seven with the Table Tennis slot usually around 6.45. The show started at the beginning of October and I have been able to give reports on County fixtures as well as a round up of all league positions. During November I gave two live broadcasts from the County Junior Championships, as you may have been aware, there have been no County matches for quite a while and news has been rather thin on the ground. As a result I wish to thank, Ernie Howell, Jimmy Lowe, Ron Chapman and Val Clack for assisting me in featuring their coaching facilities on the radio in a hope of recruiting new players to the spot. Trevor "Kit-Kat" Lloyd has kept me well informed on West Wilts events, including the Diamond Jubilee event that is taking place in April at Trowbridge Snooker Centre. The evening is being staged exactly sixty years to the day of the inception of the league. Ticket details can be obtained from Malcolm Phillips 0225 766612. John Ford has also produced a chronicle of the league to celebrate the event.

In Thamesdown league Bill Bailey and Ernie Howell are a constant source of information, for which I thank them, Big Ron in Salisbury along with Alan Cooke also give me little snippets to talk about. Now this is not an exclusive club if you have anything to tell me do so, my number is 0249 815736 and I will get the info published or broadcast if I possibly can.

In the next issue I hope to have great news concerning our Table

Tennis Centre in Devizes to talk about, we have set up a steering committee to decide on our next step and in conjunction with Steve Ward our new South West Regional Development Officer, a series of meetings are planned.

Concerning the Centre at Devizes a working party of Alex Collar, Eddie Roofe, Trevor Lloyd and myself over a five week period have installed twenty Halogen Lights, for four courts in the gymnasium, after running power lines from Devizes TFL hut. Our thanks to you all.

Congratulations to Swindon's Tim O'Mahoney on making it through to the National Finals, good luck in Bristol Tim.

WORCESTERSHIRE

↳ JOHN BARBER
THANKS TO OUR LADIES

Our first team visited Northumberland in the County Championships and came away with a creditable draw thanks to our ladies who were undefeated. Both teams were without their No. 1 players, and Worcs also had Janet Hunt deputising for Mandy Mytton. Our winners were Sandra Roden (2), Janet Hunt (2) and reserve Steve Horton (1), who play very well.

Our Junior team visited Cheltenham to play two matches on the same day against Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. They achieved a meritorious victory over Gloucester, who were previously unbeaten, 7-3. Ian Wood took 2 as did Stephanie Price, with Tim Evans, Alex Hill and Laura Vaghan taking one each. The same player defected Hereford 9-1, the only loser being Hill against Chris Jones.

The Juniors also scored a creditable 8-2 win over Cornwall whose boys were always in close contention taking three sets to the third. Worcs successes were Ian Wood (2), Alex Hill (1), Tim Evans (1), Stephanie Price (2) and Laura Vaghan (2).

Worcestershire Senior 2nd team have also played well to achieve second place in their division. Against Wiltshire 1st team they lost 6-4, their winners being Lewis Siket (1), David Rogers (2) and Joanne Hill (1). Against the same County's second team they won 8-2. (Jason Thompson (2), Siket (1), Rogers (2), J Hill (2) and Sarah Stone (1)). Showing good form David Rogers was unbeaten. Another good victory was recorded against Dorset winning 6-4 the ladies being undefeated. Thus Joanne Hill with another two wins is greatly improved. Other winners were Sarah Stone (2), David Rogers (1) and Lewis Siket (1).

COUNTY JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cadet Girls - There were six entries playing in 2 groups of 3. The group

winners were Alison Rathbone and Kate Hughes who contested the final which was won by A Rathbone 10-17,20.

Cadet Boys - Twenty-one entries played in 7 groups. SF Alex Hill beat Ian Rees 14,13, Stephen Jackson beat Lewis Cook 18,19. Final Hill beat Jackson 17,19.

Junior Girls - Ten entrants played in 3 groups (4,3,3). The biggest upset of the tournament was when Jenny Burchill (age 11) beat seeded Jenny Ponsford and then won her group. She was beaten in the semi-final by Rosalind Sedman-Smith another group winner -18,12,16. The third group winner No. 1 seed had a bye to the final. Final Stephanie Price beat R Sedman-Smith 8,15.

Junior Boys - 33 entrants played in 11 groups. SF Time Evans beat Lewis Cook 16-17,13. Ian Wood beat Alex Hill 20,20. Final Wood beat Evans 17,8. Ian Wood was in top form to beat County Rankings 1 and 2. The losing semi-finalists are both cadets.

Girls Doubles - Ten players entered. SF Stephanie Price/Jenny Ponsford beat Kate Hughes/Sarah Jones 8,4. Rosalind Sedman-Smith/Alison Rathbone beat Jenny Burchill/Louise Evans 17,14. Final Price/Ponsford beat Sedman-Smith/Rathbone 9,5.

Boys Doubles - 32 players entered. SF Tim Evans/Lewis Cook beat Ian Wood/Stephen Jackson -14,16,14. Alex Hill/Dennis Hill beat Tim Morris/Ben Winter 15,19. Final Hill/Hill beat Evans/Cook 23,12.

The championships were staged at Christopher Whitehead School Worcester. The referee was John Mytton.

Entries for the county team competition are again disappointing for this season. Six have been received for the scratch event and ten for the handicap.

The County Closed Championships have been fixed for 22 January 1995 at Droitwich Sports Centre.

In the Veterans section of the County Championships, 16 matches were played at Barnett TT Centre during the first weekend in December. Worcestershire were involved in four of them as follows.

Against Lincolnshire they lost 5-4. Lincs clinched it when K Philipson beat Eric Hardman in the 9th set 20,17. Worcs winners were Roy Norton(1), Trevor Washington (1), Janet Hunt, and Hunt/Norton in mixed doubles.

Against Warwickshire, they beat their neighbourly rivals 6-3. R Norton winning (2), T Washington (1), E Hardman (1), Janet Hunt taking her singles and Washington and Hardman winning men's doubles.

That was the only Worcs victory. Herts fielded a strong team to win 7-2. It was a rare event for Washington to lose both singles. Worcs successes were R Hardman and Washington/Hardman in men's doubles which they just managed at 18-7 and 19.

Finally, Leicestershire beat Worcs 5-4 after Worcs had taken a 3-0 lead. In this encounter Washington won 2, Hardman 1 and Norton 1.

6TH ASHFORD VETS TOURNAMENT

79 men and 17 ladies headed for Ashford (Middx) in this popular post Christmas get-together. Groups of 3 sorted out the entries before the 3 men and 3 ladies tournaments started after lunch on the 7th January.

As few surprises in the groups. Ron Streak beats 'Points' Crowley only to lose to Alan Duke. In the ladies group Muriel Hooker beat Sally Bax.

On the men's 'A' competition in the first round matches D Wood beat S Montgomery in a good match. Ron Wilde narrowly lost to Mike Broughton 17 in the 3rd. Old Middlesex fox Taylor beat Solmon 9 & 12 but the biggest shock of the day was the 21-19, 21-18 win by Graham Outtrim over twice tournament winner Derek Holman.

In the second round Beck beat Isaacs. Outtrim marched on with a first ever win over Taylor. Bhalla beat Herrity and Wood beat Streak. There was an excellent win for Mike Rhodes over Broughton and what was probably the best match of the tournament John Callcut beat Don McGilvray 17-21, 22-20, 21-19. In the third round. Crowley beat Bhalla, Beck beat Callcut, Outtrim beat Wood and Rhodes beat Brookman. (Bill had the consolation of winning a bottle of whisky in the Raffle). The semi finals saw Beck beat Rhodes 12 & 16 and in another fine game and Crowley beat Outtrim 17-21, 21-10, 21-13. The coaching Graham Outtrim has had at the Les Cresswell coaching clinic has certainly paid off!

So to the Final - The demonstrative beck against the laid back style of the lugubrious Crowley. The match swung first one way then the other. Beck winning the first game 21-19. The second game saw the Crowley forehead majestically executed as he often left Beck rooted to the spot. 21-13 to Crowley. The final game saw a 4 point lead by Crowley disappear and Beck forge ahead, 19-16. Crowley fought back to 20-19, only to lose the next point in an excellent skilful final.

The ladies 'A' competition saw Dawson beat Hooker and Knightly crushes Thomas 7 & 12. the semi finals saw Mary Dawson loose to fellow Essex player Marilyn Bawden 22-20, 13-21, 12-21 and Gill Knightly beat Sylvia Tyler 21-16, 21-8.

In an excellent final Marilyn just pipped Gill 22-20 in the 3rd game. In the final of the Men's 'B' competition Ian Schwartz beat Gordon Chapman in the 3rd game after almost letting a 12 point lead slip and in the final of the Men's 'C' competition Barry Morten beat Ian

Mablin.

The Ladies 'B' event was won by Linda Hales who beat Janet Brown. It was good to Linda playing again after injury. Last year she had to scratch in the final through injury. The Ladies 'C' event was won by Joan West who beat Sue Ryan.

So ended a long day 184 matches were played on 7 tables and only 1 competitor out of 86 entries failed to appear.

WOODFIELD 1 STAR OPEN

SAT/SUN 5TH/6TH NOVEMBER

With an entry of 57 players for the junior and Cadet events on the Saturday, a 9 am start was necessary in order to finish play prior to the start of a bonfire party at 7.30 in the evening. (The last final was completed at 7.40).

Playing in groups of 4 with 2 progressing to the knock-out stages, a full days play using seven tables was possible.

Seven players from the Isle of Man and seven Welsh entries were welcome, with our Welsh visitors being very successful, especially the Davies' sisters.

Results: Junior Boys Singles - Alan Hewitt (WK) bt Danny Harris (TTWA) 18, 10. Junior Girls Singles - Delyth Davies (TTWA) bt Judy Cox (LI) 8, 17. Cadet Boys Singles - David Matthews (WA) bt Steven Jackson (WO) -20, 11, 23. Cadet Girls Singles - Jody Cox (LI) bt Siwan Davies (TTWA) -17, 11, 14. Junior Boys Doubles - Alan Hewitt (WA)/Gregory Lee (LA) bt Tim Evan (WO)/Steve Jackson (WO) 16, 12. Junior Girls Doubles - Iona Davies (TTWA)/Siwan Davies (TTWA) bt Delyth Davis (TTWA)/Vicky Hopkins (TTWA) 14, -19, 13.

Carl Morgan successfully defended his Men's Singles title without the loss of a game, and Nikki Meddings won the Ladies Singles event.

Results: Men's Singles S/F's - Carl Morgan (WA) bt Matt Harvey (ST) 7, 16. Andy Rich (ST) bt Adrian Thorp (ST) 13, 16. Final - Morgan bt Rich 16, 16. Women's Singles S/F's - Kale Ryan (WA) bt Penny Perry (DV) -11, 16, 18. Nikki Meddings (WA) bt Tracy Spencer (ST) 20, 16. Final - Meddings bt Ryan 18, 21. Veteran Singles - Ray Dixon (WO) bt Mervyn Wood (WO) 12, -16, 13. Men's Doubles - Andy Rich (ST)/Adrian Dixon (ST) bt Mick Browne (WA)/Chris Leach (WA) 16, -17, 11. Women's Doubles - Nikki Meddings(WA)/Lindsey Thornton (LA) bt Joanna Barraclough (DV)/Penny Perry (DV) 18, -21, 21.

EASTERN MASTERS

GRIMSBY 26/27th NOV 94

Good turn out for the Eastern Masters which saw Phil Bowden win his first 0/40 title when he beat John Hilton 21-14, 15-12, 21-13 in the final. Bowden has beaten Dixon D.Wood and Robertson before he beat Baldwin in S/F. Whilst Hilton had

wins over Hams, Newton, Allison before beating N. Davies in S/F. In the earlier rounds there were good wins for Chris Brewer over Mike Short and Paul Beck over Don McGilvray. It was good to see John Holland on the winners rostrum in the 0/50. John had wins over top seed Gunnion, Bradley and Sheader (22 - 20 in the third) before is 21-13, 22-20 win over Allison.

In the ladies section two more wins for evergreen Doreen Schofield. In the ladies 0/40 singles Sylvia Tyler had good wins over Hickman Jvdson and Maltby, before losing to Ruth Bentley.

UMPIRES SEMINAR

The fact that officials were willing to make journeys of nearly 200 miles is surely indicative of the need for more umpires' seminars to discuss laws and problems.

From Bath and Mevagsissey, umpires gathered in Exeter to talk over the duties of an umpire, and the of their responsibility.

With the President of Devon, Mrs Frances Jarvis in the Chair, the seminar got off to a prompt start discussing equipment i.e. the racquet. It came as a surprise to some to learn that although there was a law covering the thickness of the rubber, there were none governing the thickness of the blade. With the edge trimmed with tape of unrestricted substance it can be used for hitting the ball, and could assist a serious attaching serve.

Richard Avent (Plymouth) queried whether the weight would be to great, but it was agreed that thick balsa wood could be used. Umpires were also warned never ever to assist a player by trimming the rubber on a bat even if a player asked him/her to do so. If an umpire considers the rubber is too large, it is up to the player to arrange the alteration.

Any doubt re colour - Val Addicott (Exeter) asked when is white white? As a shirt that is pale grey under close scrutiny looks dirty white (as do many balls) at the far end of a table. She also asked whether colour cards which used to set a standard can still be obtained.

Adjusting the height and tension can also be a problem because Cyril Whiting (Plymouth) had found out it is not always easy to obtain the necessary equipment to check the facts. Mr Walton that in smaller towns with small sports shops many did not have any net measures at all, while Mr Golding regretted the loss of the notches to measure the thickness of rubbers.

The use of red and yellow cards was thoroughly discussed and most people agreed with David Lancaster (Mevagsissey) that many players did not appreciate the power of an umpire to award penalty points. It

was also felt that the power should be used more frequently to control unacceptable behaviour. Due to the courtesy of the Midland Bank everyone received a blue wallet with two transparent pockets in which red and yellow cards have been placed. With the pliable blue cover it was possible to display the cards either singly or together, and could easily be slipped in a pocket.

The service law was discussed especially with regard to the status of the match being played. Most umpires agreed with Mr Berry that it would be possible to ruin a league match by strictly enforcing the law, but Mr P Jones said that this was not so as tournaments, especially with juniors, where umpires were failing coaches if the failed to insist that the players were not seen to be a least making a real effort to serve correctly.

Discussion of the expedite law again raised the subject of equipment. Every umpire needs a stop-watch; many cheap but efficient ones are available, but could they be bought in bulk and so be purchased even more cheaply.

Mike Hawkin (Bath) said that he could not find a shop selling two coloured plastic disc. This was endorsed by Cyril Whiting and several other members.

It was agreed that the organiser (Mrs Pat Archdale) should make enquiries re: an umpire's pack - watch, disc, net measures and black ball points.

Then clutching a copy of the laws and/or a test paper everyone headed home.

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