

# TABLE TENNIS

# NEWS



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## Broe & Cooke win at Brighton

pages 18 & 19

- **61st English open**

pages 8 & 9

- **Junior/Cadet Masters**

pages 12 & 13

## Virginia Bottomley supports BT Top Sport

pages 6 & 24



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## CAPTAIN'S LOG

What a fantastic National Championship it was  
in Brighton, with two of our more senior stars  
winning the coveted titles of National  
Champions.

Alan Cooke rolled back the years to his former  
greatness by firstly beating a young pretender to  
the throne, Alex Perry, in the semi-finals and  
then he went on to beat the title holder Carl  
Prean in the final.

Cooke then went on to win the treble of Men's  
singles, Men's doubles and Mixed doubles, for  
the first time in fifteen years, since Desmond  
Douglas last achieved the trio.

Alison Gordan became this years Women's  
singles champion when she overcame tiredness  
and the passing of time to power her way to  
victory over the younger title holder Andrea Holt.  
See report pages 18 and 19.

England's Men's team had their most important  
battle of the season at the Bletchley Leisure  
Centre on Thursday 21st March 1996, where  
only victory would keep them alive and kicking  
in the Joola Men's European League Super  
Division, when they faced fellow strugglers  
Poland, in a fight to the finish.

We needed to field our strongest team, but  
that alas was not possible. Bt the lads did their  
best against an inspired Polish team, before  
losing 2-4. See details page 4.

Hope to see you all at the 61st English Open at  
Kettering.

*John Wood, Editor.*

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

- 61st ENGLISH OPEN at Kettering
- WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

*COPY DATE SEPT ISSUE - 1st AUGUST 1996*

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



Table Tennis Snippets Compiled by John Wood

# MICHELLE & GARETH

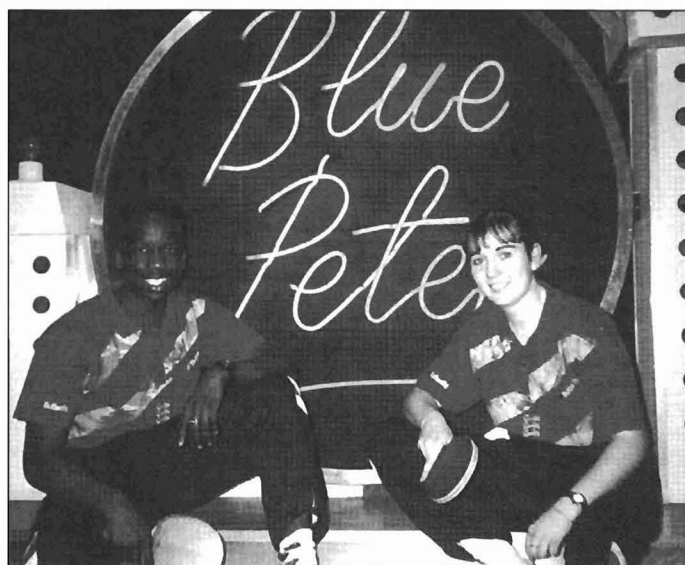
## *Fly the Flag*

ON MONDAY 4TH MARCH 1996 NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONS MICHELLE HAYNES AND GARETH HERBERT MADE AN APPEARANCE ON THE BBC'S **BLUE PETER** PROGRAMME.

They arrived at Studio No 3 for a 1.30pm meeting with the Assistant Producer where an outline plan was drawn up. Over forty camera, lighting and sound technicians were

involved whilst presenter Stuart Miles and the two players put the final touches to the production.

At 4pm a full dress rehearsal was run through but despite feeling



nervous both Michelle and Gareth showed great maturity as they expertly demonstrated and explained their skills.

However, their final performance

recorded LIVE in front of millions of viewers stole the show and both players were a credit to themselves and their sport.

# ENGLAND LOSE

## *to* POLAND

England's men's team lost 2-4 to Poland in the first leg of a relegation battle against Poland in the Joola Men's European League Super Division, at the Bletchley Leisure Centre, on Thursday 21st March 1996.

Matthew Syed was the star of the evening for England, winning both his singles, but sadly a tired Alan Cooke couldn't lift himself to the standard of the previous Sunday when he became National Champion, losing both his singles in three.

England's star of the future Alex Perry followed on from his triumphs at Brighton by taking Poland's Lucjan Blaszczyk close, before he lost to the World No.43, 16-21 in the third.

This loss means we will have to win 4-1, or level the two match series by winning 4-2, then its count back of games, in the away match in Ostroda Poland at the end of March.

***Pictured left to right is Desmond Douglas, Richard Habgood and Paul Judd.***



## **BRIGHTON REUNION**

Three members of the highly successful 'Warwickshire County, Wilmott and Carter cup teams from 1972 to 1982, had a nostalgic reunion at the National Championships in Brighton, when former Captain Richard Habgood met up with former players Desmond Douglas and Paul Judd.

Douglas as most people know is a former English National Champion, Judd, who emigrated to Canada in 1982, was the English Junior Open Champion in 1966/7 season.

Of the three, only Douglas now plays at the top level, whilst Judd is the present Director of Coaching in British Columbia and Habgood is the ETTA Vice Chairman (Selection).

BY ALAN RANSOME

# WORLD CHAMPIONS

## *for Kettering*



China, the current World team champions led by their singles champions, Kong Ling Hui head a star studded entry for the 61st English Open Championships at the Kettering Arena over the Easter period, 3rd to 8th April.

National teams from 35 countries, probably the largest number ever to play in the Open will travel to Kettering from all parts of the World including Japan, Canada, Brazil, Algeria, Barbados, Tanzania and Singapore plus many of the top European stars from Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Austria and others.

The key reason for the bumper entry that we have received, is that the 1996 English Open is the first event in the new ITTF Pro Tour which is a Grand Prix style series of selected International Open Championships in which players can earn points to qualify for the Tour finals. Participation in the tour brings with it a prize fund of \$30,000 and international TV coverage. The actual tour finals which take place in China in December have a prize fund of \$200,000.

The schedule for the Open is designed so that most of the best matches are played on the show courts and are timed for the benefit of the players and the spectators. The top games will be played Easter Saturday with the singles last 32, Easter Sunday with the last 16 and quarter finals. On Easter Monday the semi finals of the singles and all the finals.

The Open will undoubtedly be the main table tennis event in Britain

THE ITTF PRO TOUR'S FIRST EVENT WILL BE THE THE 61ST ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD AT THE KETTERING ARENA FROM 3RD TO 8TH APRIL.

SELECTION TO BE PART OF THE PRO TOUR WILL ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE EVENT. WE ARE EXPECTING THE STRONGEST FIELD FOR SOME TIME AND WITH THE EVENT BEING STAGED IN THE CENTRE OF THE COUNTRY OVER THE EASTER BREAK IT PROVIDES AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORTERS AND PLAYERS ALIKE TO ENJOY THE LAST OPEN EVENT IN EUROPE BEFORE THE ATLANTA OLYMPICS WRITES  
**ALAN RANSOME**

this year and is the top Open in Europe this side of the Olympic Games.

### ITTF VISIT TO MANCHESTER

As part of the monitoring of the organisation of the World Championships which are to be held in Manchester in April/May 1997, the ITTF Executive Committee visited Manchester from the 14th to 16th March combining this with a meeting of their Executive Committee.

Amongst the ITTF party were the President, Mr Xu Yin Sheng of China; Vice President, Hans Giesecke of Germany; Adham Sharara of Canada; Yap Yong Yih of Malaysia; George Segun of Nigeria plus Committee Chairman, Colin Clemett of England, Mr Yao Xhenzu of China and the professional staff members, Albert Shipley, Ian Marshall, Anders Thunstrom and Cao You.

The ETTA and the World Championship Organising Committee were represented by Deputy

Chairman, Tony Chatwin; Vice Chairman, Richard Habgood; myself plus World Championships Executive Director, Matthew Henderson and Tournament Director, Mike Watts. The party were invited to an official dinner by the Mayor of Manchester,



*Alan Ransome, Chairman ETTA*

Councillor Mrs Joyce Keller. A tour of the two arenas that will be used for the World Championships, Nynex and G MEX took place. Matthew Henderson and I made a presentation to the ITTF on the

progress that has been made with the organisation so far. Separate discussions took place between the Stuart Sherlock and I with representatives of the ITTF Technical Committee plus Colin Clemett and Anders Thunstrom with regard to the playing schedule and the teams events systems. The ETTA have made some fresh proposals to the ITTF for the playing for the team events aimed at producing a fairer, more competitive and interesting team system and have produced a schedule for the individual events that gives more initiative to the players from the weaker nations as well as a better spread and structured programme for the top competitors. Our proposals have taken into account the views and requests of players, coaches, TV and media and will give the spectators a chance to see more play from better players. The proposals were well received by the ITTF and a final decision on the exact schedule and system will be taken at the ITTF Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in May. The ITTF visit was hosted by Manchester City Council as part of their support for the World Championships.

### ALAN COOKE AND ALISON BROE SHINE IN THE NATIONALS

Alan Cooke and Alison Broe were the stars of the English National Championships that were played at the Brighton Conference Centre on 16th and 17th March. Alan Cooke won the men's singles for the third

time and won both doubles partnered by Desmond Douglas and Nicola Deaton. Alison Broe won the woman's singles for the fourth time, keeping up her tradition of winning the National title in every Olympic year. Previously Alison won the titles in 1984, 1988, 1992 and now 1996. The men's singles produced some interesting matches. In particular Alex Perry's victory over Desmond Douglas and two victories for Carl Prean over Terry Young and Bradley Billington and his final with Cooke. It was disappointing to see that Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed and Lisa Lomas did not play in the Nationals.

The National Championships were supported by Brighton Corporation and the Brighton Hoteliers Association who's Chairman is Ken Matthews, the husband of former England International Karenza.

**WORLD VETTS FOR MANCHESTER**

At it's meeting on March 10th, the ETTA Management Committee decided to accept an offer from Manchester City Council to be the host city for the World Veterans Championships in June 1998. The Championships will be played at the G MEX centre. G MEX have sufficient space to hold one hundred tables together with the appropriate level of spectator seating as well as restaurants and bar facilities within one complex. A wide range of hotels are available near by. Mike Watts who is currently working in Manchester as Tournament Director for the World Championships 1997 has already been appointed as the Tournament Director for the World Veterans.

**YOUTH SPORT TRUST**

Good progress is being made from an ETTA point of view with the Youth Sport Trust Top Programme, the government initiative to introduce sport to children at school, give them a chance to join a club and have the opportunity to continue in the sport of their choice into the long term future. Table tennis was prominent at the launch of one programme, BT Top Sport in London last month. The whole scheme will start in April with the first two



*The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley meets Lisa Lomas at the BT Top Sport launch*

programmes, Top Play and Top Sport.

British Telecom are sponsoring Top Sport to the extent of £750,000. Guests at the launch included the Rt. Hon Virginia Bottomley, Minister of Heritage, Sports Council Chairman John Beckwith. Table tennis was represented by Richard Yule, Diccon Gray and Lisa Lomas with Diccon and Lisa leading a Top Sport table tennis session with some of the youngsters at the school. The National Lottery are supporting the Youth Sport Trust with grants totalling £7.7 million.

Table Tennis has little involvement in Top Play which is a sports skill learning programme for youngsters in Primary Schools aged between 4 and 9 years. Table tennis has a major role to play however in Top Sport programme, in which our sport will be introduced into the vast majority of schools for youngsters aged between 7 and 11 years over the next 3 years.

The ETTA, together with the English Schools Table Tennis Association have been heavily involved in the production of the lesson cards for the scheme and for the training for the teachers. The ETTA Coaching Committee Chairman, Gail McCulloch, held three training days in the North, Midlands and South for ETTA tutors earlier this year. Gail's presentation of these training days won acclaim from the Youth Sport Trust.

The ETTA Regional Development Officers are acting as regional contacts for this scheme linking closely with the Youth Sports Trust's Youth Sport Managers in each

participating authority.

An important benefit of Top Sport Programme is that youngsters introduced to the sport will have the opportunity to join a table tennis club and under the third stage of the programme, Top Club. The ETTA are working with local clubs to encourage them to enrol, take on the new recruits and to give youngsters the opportunity to play in a Woolwich Junior League and enjoy weekly structured coaching sessions. Full details of the Sports Council and National Lottery support for the Top Club programme has not yet been announced but it is likely that significant grant aid will be available to help the selected clubs. All together the ETTA's target is to appoint 400 clubs throughout the country over the next two years to take on the role of introducing new youngsters to club table tennis.

The Youth Sport Trust was one of the major topics at the Sport Council's Recreation Management Conference held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham between 19th and 21st March. The ETTA was provided with space for a stand by the Sports Council as part of the governing body village. From the stand, ETTA personnel were able to provide information about table tennis for local authorities and other key personnel. The ETTA were well represented at Recman. Our team included Chief Executive, Richard Yule; Director of Development, Diccon Gray; Facilities Officer, Paul Baker; and myself plus several of our Regional Development Officers on specific days.

Another major topic to be discussed at Recman was the British Academy of Sport which is currently at the consultation stage. The Sports Council are giving this programme fast track priority. The ETTA has produced a detailed submission and is keen to be part of the new programme.

**FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT**

The ETTA's Facilities Programme continues to gather momentum. Three major specialist centres Bishops Rheindorp in Guildford with 8 tables, the Young People's Institute in Hull with 5 tables and the Cippenham Club in Slough with 8 tables are now all at the building stage. Conversion projects are going ahead in both Bolton and Rochdale and facilities projects in Kent, Okehampton, Bridlington, Scarborough, Dewsbury and St Austell are all progressing.

Two publications on table tennis facilities the 'Lottery Guidance Notes', an update on data sheet 42 will be published by the Sports Council shortly and the ETTA 'Facility Strategy' document is coming close to being finalised.

The facilities programme is continuing the assist with the creation of new and improved playing opportunities for thousands of players nationwide.

Preview of 61st English open at Kettering by Mike Johns

# KONG

for

# KETTERING

WORLD CHAMPION KONG LING HUI (CHINA) LEADS A STAR STUDDED FIELD FOR THE MEN'S SINGLES TITLE AT THE 61ST ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS WHICH ARE TO BE HELD AT THE KETTERING ARENA OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

PLAY COMMENCES ON WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL WITH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SINGLES PRE QUALIFYING GROUPS AND CONTINUES UNTIL THE FINALS ON THE AFTERNOON OF MONDAY 8TH APRIL.



*World Champion  
Kong Ling Hui*

Kong is not expected to have things all his own way, compatriot Wang Tao (2), Belgium's Jean Michael Saive (3), another Chinese Ma Wenge (7), and Germanys Jorg Roskopf (8), will all fancy their chances of being the first ITTF Pro-Tour tournament winner.

Who else is likely to be involved in the latter stages? Min Yang, Italy (19), Chen Xinhua, England (20), Lu Lin, China (21), Dmitri Mazunov, Russia (27), Philippe Saive, Belgium (28), Werner Schlanger, Austria (29), Petr Korbel, Czech Republik (33), Carl Prean, England (34), Matthew Syed, England (40), Ding Yi, Austria (41) and Steffen Fetzner, Germany (45), will be pushing the top seeds hard. Not only in hope of winning the excellent prize money, but also, in order to gain valuable points in their quest to qualify for the Pro-Tour finals, to be staged in China later this year.

Other players in the Worlds top 100 who have entered are: Pen-Lung Chiang, Chinese Taipei (50), Qianli Qian, Austria (54), Andrei Tasaki, Japan (61), Thomas Von Scheele, Sweden (66), Kayode Kadiri, Sweden (68), Wen Chia Wu, Chinese Taipei (70), Hugo Hoyama, Brazil (71), Alan Bentsen, Denmark (86), Gurhan Yaldiz, Turkey (86), Josef Planchy, Czech Republik (96) and Maxim Shmyryou, Russia (98).

All the above, out of a total entry,

in the Men's' singles, of 149, gives the event both quality and quantity and should ensure that our referee Richard Scruton and his team, have little chance to rest between now and the end of the Championships.

The Women's singles seem just as impressive. Top seeds are likely to be: Jing Chen, Chinese Taipei (3), Lijuan Geng, Canada (6), Ying Yang, China (7), Li Ju, China (8), Po a Chai, Hing Kong (9), Jun Hong Jing, Singapore (14), BettineVriesekoop,

Netherlands (16) and Jie Schopp, Germany (17), but they will be pushed all the way by other entries from the top 100. Nu Wah, China (20), Hui Wang, China (22) Xia Liang Ni, Luxembourg (23), Fei Ming Tang, Chinese Taipei (25), Fliura Abbate-Bulatova, Italy (27), Yong Tu,

## TRADE EXHIBITION

As at the English National Championship, in conjunction with the Open, we will be running a trade exhibition. Exhibitors who have so far booked space are: Simon Fraser Sports, Tees Sport, Bat Workshop and Bribar Table Tennis. The ETTA will also have a sales stand.

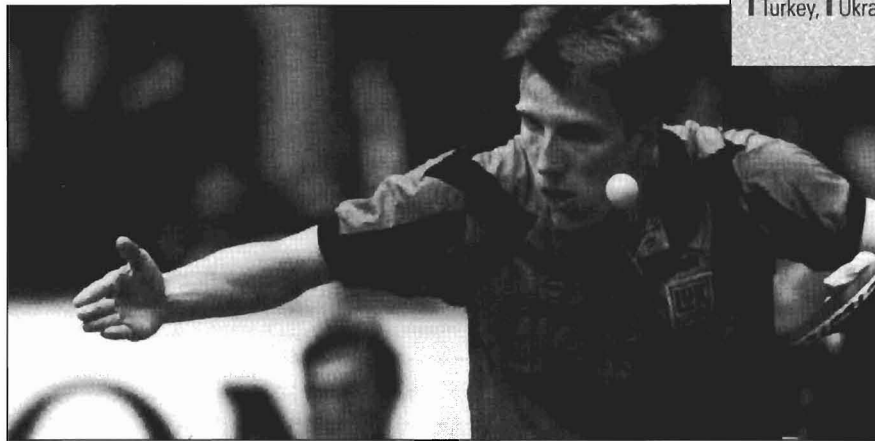
Switzerland (29), Jing Xu, Chinese Taipei (73), Rika Matsuoka, Japan (80), Suetlana Bakhtina, Russia (82), Alison Broe, England (84), Chiu Tan Chen, Chinese Taipei, (86), Ceclie Ozer, Belgium (88), Jolanta Prusiene, Lithuania (90), Petra Fichtinger, Austria (95) and Barbara Chiu, Canada (97).

A total of 94 entries have been received for the Women's singles

and with over a third in the worlds top 100 competition will be fierce.

Many of the overseas players have also entered the under 21 events and this will give England's promising youngsters a second opportunity to gain experience against the best the World has to offer.

Such a strong entry begs the question, 'Will this be the best



**Germany's Jorg Roskopf**

English Open ever?' Only time will tell, but for sure, England's participation in the ITTF Pro Tour has secured the strongest entry in many years. If all goes well and the tournament is a success, it will be a 'feather in the cap' of the Management Committee, who only nine weeks before the event and with no main sponsor took the decision to go ahead.

**COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 61ST ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*A total of 35 countries have entered:*

- || Albania, || Algeria, || Austria, || Barbados, || Belgium, || Brazil, || Canada,
- || China, || Chinese Taipei, || Croatia, || Czech Republic, || Denmark,
- || Germany, || Hong Kong, || India, || Italy, || Jamaica, || Japan, || Lithuania,
- || Luxembourg, || Netherlands, || Norway, || Poland, || Russia, || Scotland,
- || Singapore, || Slovenia, || Spain, || Sweden, || Switzerland, || Tanzania,
- || Turkey, || Ukraine, || Wales and England.

ORGANISED BY



**GREATER LONDON CLOSED TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
at  
**CRYSTAL PALACE NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE**

on  
SATURDAY 11TH MAY 1996  
SUNDAY 12TH MAY 1996  
COMMENCING 9.00am  
£1800 PRIZE FUND

SUPPORTED BY



**EVENTS**  
**Singles**

Senior Men	Entry Fee	£6.00
Senior Women	Entry Fee	£6.00
Junior Boys	Entry Fee	£3.50
Junior Girls	Entry Fee	£3.50
Cadet Boys	Entry Fee	£3.50
Cadet Girls	Entry Fee	£3.50
Veteran Men	Entry Fee	£5.00
Veteran Women	Entry Fee	£5.00

**Doubles**

Senior Men	Entry Fee (per player)	£5.00
Senior Women	Entry Fee (per player)	£5.00
Junior Boys	Entry Fee (per player)	£3.00
Junior Girls	Entry Fee (per player)	£3.00
Cadet Boys	Entry Fee (per player)	£3.00
Cadet Girls	Entry Fee (per player)	£3.00
Veteran (Men/Women)	Entry Fee (per player)	£4.00

**ENTRY QUALIFICATION**

- a) Born in Greater London
- b) Not less than one years bona-fide residence
- c) Not less than one years continuous full-time employment
- d) Not less than one years full time attendance at an educational establishment

ENTRIES TO: Alan Shepherd, Flat 6, 32 Green Road, Southgate, London N14 4AU  
Closing date: Monday 22nd April 1996  
Cheques/PO made payable to Crystal Palace Sports & Leisure Ltd.

X .....

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

POST CODE: .....

TEL NO - DAY: ..... EVE: ..... CLUB/LEAGUE .....

EVENT: ..... PARTNERS NAME (if applicable): .....

I agree to observe the regulations of the tournament and enclose £ .....  
Cheque/P.O. to cover my entry fees. (Please send S.A.E. for acknowledgement)

Signature ..... Date: .....

**QUALIFICATION FOR ENTRY (PLEASE COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING):**

- a) I was born at: .....
  - b) I have continuously resided at: ..... since: .....
  - c) My place of business (for at least 5 days a week) has been: ..... since: .....
  - d) I have attended full-time education at ..... since .....
- Doubles partner qualification for entry (a,b,c,d) .....

# ENGLAND'S APPRENTICES *at* WORK

**WHEN IN A FEW YEARS FROM NOW, ILLUSTRIOUS NAMES LIKE DESMOND DOUGLAS, CARL PREAN, ALAN COOKE AND CHEN XINHUA HAVE PASSED INTO THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS, NAMES LIKE JONATHAN TAYLOR, ANDREW EDEN AND ALEX PERRY WHO PLAYED IN BAYREUTH (PRONOUNCED BY-ROYT) FROM JANUARY 18-20 COULD BE OUR TOP TEAM WRITES JOHN WOODFORD.**

**O**n this occasion, politics, cutting down commitments and unfitness prevented

England fielding their top trio - Prean, Chen, Syed, in that order.

This left Alan Cooke on his debut as an England captain-player-manager with the awkward decision of whether to play himself or leave it to the lads. His decision was to throw them all in at the deep end to give them most valuable experience at this elite level.

Taylor, Eden and Perry responded superbly. They were not likely to win anything apart from the £700 for finishing bottom, but the name of the game was nerves.

Nerves must learn to be steady when facing as they did in their first match mighty Sweden who of course won 3-0. Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner stayed on the bench leaving Peter Karlsson, Erik Lindh and Tomas Von Scheele to cope with England's young task force. It was Eden who fired on all

cylinders only losing 15, 17 to Karlsson.

Sweden have a similar problem to England and Germany - soon they must leave out their top men Waldner, Persson and concentrate on the young who are still juniors. Similarly, Germany has to look beyond Roskopf, Fetzner and Franz but seeing their vast resources you can be sure they have a pack of star juniors up their sleeves.

The next morning, Jon Taylor rested on the bench whilst Eden and Perry had a crack at the hosts; the final score was never in doubt, but the scores looked more promising - Eden took Peter Franz to 20, 13 with a cascade of cracking forehand drives and that unorthodox angled wallop down the backhand court.

Alex Perry secured 17 points against the awesome Roskopf in the first game, but the lefthanded German closed the door in the second 11.

England's final match against Austria, saw further improvement by our youthful squad. Jon Taylor (who Matthew Syed is tipping as a good bet for England in the future) stormed through the first game 18 against Werner Schlager, who earlier had been showing extreme improvement. The Taylor forehand and backhand shots had Schlager in some trouble, but in the following games he and his coach managed to get re-organised enough to win 16, 17.

Ding Yi, like a few others in their thirties seems to be fading; he had to fight hard to overcome Alex Perry 18, 17, great scores against an Olympic quarter-finalist. In the

doubles Eden and Taylor were eclipsed rather surprisingly by Schlager and Karl Jindrak 12,13.

The finals day saw Germany put paid to a gallant run by the young Yugoslavs Slobodan Grujic and Aleksanda Karakasevic who are clearly two young men to watch for in the future - Germany went through 3-0.

Then came the defeat of Sweden 3-0 by France who won the final 3-1 over the hosts.

After this defeat Sweden must certainly look ahead, but the temptation of taking a large chunk of the £70,000 prize money was too great. The weakness of this Corbillon format was exposed. Jean-Philippe Gatien despite losses by Patrick Chila was in theory able to win all the matches on his own by winning two singles and the doubles.

How this format ever became adopted is a mystery - no singles player should be able to dominate a team match.

However, Gatien went through the whole tournament undefeated and never seriously troubled - his victims included Waldner, 19, 16 in the semi-final and Jorg Roskopf 19, 18 in the final.

The German Hospitality was faultless, the hotel superb, the fleet of Opel limos made life comfortable in the bitterly cold weather and the media facilities could not be faulted with results available in around two minutes from the last point.

## RESULTS ANALYSIS

<b>SWEDEN 3 ENGLAND 0</b>		
<i>Karlsson Peter</i>	<i>Eden Andrew</i>	21-15, 21-17
<i>Lindh Erik</i>	<i>Taylor Jonathan</i>	21-11, 21-11
<i>Karlsson Peter/ Von Scheele Thomas</i>	<i>Eden Andrew/ Taylor Jonathan</i>	21-11, 21-17
<b>GERMANY 3 ENGLAND 0</b>		
<i>Franz Peter</i>	<i>Eden Andrew</i>	22-20, 21-13
<i>Roskopf Jorg</i>	<i>Perry Alex</i>	21-17, 21-11
<i>Roskopf Jorg/ Fetzner Stefan</i>	<i>Eden Andrew/ Perry Alex</i>	21-15, 21-13
<b>AUSTRIA 3 ENGLAND 0</b>		
<i>Schlager Werner</i>	<i>Taylor Jonathan</i>	18-21, 21-16, 21-17
<i>Ding Yi</i>	<i>Perry Alex</i>	21-18, 21-17
<i>Schlager Werner/ Jindrak Karl</i>	<i>Eden Andrew/ Taylor Jonathan</i>	23-25, 21-12, 21-10
<b>SEMI-FINALS</b>		
<b>FRANCE 3 SWEDEN 1</b>		
<i>Chila Patrick</i>	<i>Karlsson Peter</i>	8-21, 19-21
<i>Gatien Jean Philippe</i>	<i>Waldner Jan-Ove</i>	21-19, 21-16
<i>Gatien Jean Philippe/ Eloi Damien</i>	<i>Karlsson Peter/ Von Scheele Tomas</i>	17-21, 21-10, 22-20
<i>Gatien Jean-Philippe</i>	<i>Karlsson Peter</i>	16-21, 21-18, 21-17
<b>GERMANY 3 YUGOSLAVIA 0</b>		
<i>Roskopf Jorg</i>	<i>Grujic Slobodan</i>	21-12, 17-21, 21-14
<i>Franz Peter</i>	<i>Karakasevic Aleksanda</i>	21-10, 21-17
<i>Roskopf Jorg/ Fetzner Stefan</i>	<i>Grujic Slobodan/ Karakasevic Aleksanda</i>	17-21, 21-16, 21-11
<b>FINAL</b>		
<b>FRANCE 3 GERMANY 1</b>		
<i>Chila Patrick</i>	<i>Roskopf Jorg</i>	19-21, 18-21
<i>Gatien Jean Philippe</i>	<i>Franz Peter</i>	21-12, 21-17
<i>Gatien Jean Philippe/ Eloi Damien</i>	<i>Roskopf Jorg/ Fetzner Stefan</i>	21-19, 21-11
<i>Gatien Jean Philippe</i>	<i>Roskopf Jorg</i>	21-13, 22-20

*Waldner wins***ELECTRIC FINAL**

**SUPERSTAR JAN-OVE WALDNER WON THIS SEASON'S EUROPEAN TOP 12 TOURNAMENT IN BELGIUM, BEATING LOCAL HERO JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE IN THE FINAL, WHILST NI XIA LIAN EASILY BEAT CZILLA BATORFI IN THE WOMEN'S FINAL WRITES **KEN LYONS**.**

**P**layed at the Parc de Sports Charleroi, Belgium, over three days 2/3/4 of February the competition provided some outstanding table tennis.

For both the mens and womens event there were two pools of six players with the top two going through to the semi-finals. The mens groups being as follows:

Group A: Saive JM (Bel), Samsonov (Blr), Gatien JP (Fra), Lindh (Swe), Creanga (Gre), Eloi (Fra).

Group B: Waldner JO (Swe), Roskopf J (Ger), Primorac Z (Cro), Chila P (Fra), Yang Min (Ita), Keen T (Ned).

The Dutch supporters were soon to be heard when Keen, playing Waldner, went 6-0 up in the first. The chant being Waldner, Waldner, who the hell is Waldner. Keen took the first 12 and to the delight of his supporters took the second 15. Waldner got back into the match by taking the third 19. Keen sent the Dutch fans wild when he took the next and the match 23-21. Saive's first game was against Creanga and the local hero won with ease 15, 21, 12. In Gatien's first match he met fellow countryman Eloi and soon found himself 2-0 down. Gatien pulled out all the stops to level by taking the next two 7, 16. The decider was a cracker and was even all the way with Gatien just taking it 23-21. Waldner's next match was a bit like his first in the fact that against Primorac he again lost the first two 8 and 13. Waldner began to play superbly and he took the next three sets and the match 16, 17, 16. Waldner in fact, in his group matches, didn't drop another set including beating Yang Min 18, 17, 20.

Group A went the way of the rankings with Saive reaching the semi-final stages by not losing a match and Gatien joined him in only losing one.

So the scenes were set for the semi-finals. Saive v Yang Min and Waldner against Gatien. Saive was welcomed on court by mass hysteria by the home fans and he did not disappoint them by reaching the final with a fine 14, 17, 13 victory over the Italian Chinese Yang Min.

In the other semi Waldner picked up where he had left off in his group with a fine 15, 20, 12 victory over Gatien. The way he won the third even captured the hearts of the French contingent in the crowd.

The place was electric for the final and not a place for the faint hearted. The French joined forces with the Swedes in the crowd to support Waldner and with even more noise from the Belgians the place was buzzing.

In the early stages of the first game it was 5-5. Saive's power play took him to a 14-11 lead but Waldner serving fought back to 15-15. Saive off serve took a slender 18-17 lead. Waldner serving made it 18-all and the tension was getting to everyone. Saive kept his head to take the next two points to make it 20-18. Waldner won the next and to the delight of the Belgians, Saive took the next all-important point to take the first set 21-19. The second set saw Waldner serving first and he trailed 2-3. He levelled at 5-5. Waldner then went into the lead 9-6. Then Saive cut the lead down to 11-9. The crowd then went wild as Saive took the next 5 points against Waldner's service to lead 14-11. Saive had a slender lead after his

service 16-14. Waldner serving pulled out all the stops to regain the lead 18-17. The crowd tried to lift Saive, Waldner increased his lead to 19-17, Saive fought back to 19-19 but Waldner took the next two points in great style to win the set 21-19. It was the Swedish followers turn to go wild with delight. So it was all to play for as Saive fought back in the third set. Waldner went 3-0 up, Saive fought back to make it 2-3. With Waldner serving, Saive took the lead 4-3, at the end of Waldner's serves it was even, with Waldner making it 5-5 with a superb drop shot. Off Saive's serves it was even all the way with the Belgian just in the lead 8-7. Waldner serving played some great table tennis and led 11-9. Off Saive's serves Waldner increased his lead to 14-11. He then increased this to 17-13. The Belgians had gone quiet. Off Saive's serve Waldner again increased his lead to 20-15. He won the next point off his own serve to take the set 21-15. So it was Waldner to start the fourth set. He took a 4-1 lead and never looked back. Off Saive's serve he kept a slender lead 6-4, increased it off his own 10-5, increased it further off Saive's 13-7. Off Waldner's serves Saive pulled back to 14-11. Saive served and the home crowd were trying to lift him with fanatical support. He pulled the deficit back to two points and trailed 14-16. Waldner seemed to step up a gear to take his lead to 20-15 following his service. Waldner sent his supporters wild when he took the next point and the title 21-15. All in all it was a great game and Waldner had left the fans in no doubt that he was the Top 12 Champion of Europe.

The Womens' tournament, by contrast, was a less emotional affair, with the final over in three one-sided games.

But the semi-finals did conjure up one interesting match between Ni Xia Lian and Germany's Nicole Strusse.

However, Batorfi dominated in the other semi-final against Betine Vriesekoop, who could do very little against the Hungarian's serves. In a very one-sided match Batorfi was never in any danger as she won easily 13, 14, 11.

In the more exciting semi-final the Luxembourg Chinese Lian overcame Strusse from Germany. Lian took the first in a very tight game 21-18. Strusse levelled 16, Lian made it 2-1 by winning 12. Strusse fought back to be on equal terms by taking the next 18. But it was Lian who made it through to the final by winning the decider 21-14.

The final was very one-sided with very little atmosphere from the start of the game to the end. Lian had Batorfi running around as she easily won 3-0: 12, 12, 11.

All in all it was a very good three days of table tennis, the catering at the venue for spectators could have been a lot better but still the excellent table tennis made up for that.

Next year's event takes place between January 31 and February 2nd in Eindhoven. Anyone requiring information about this event is advised to write to the following address as soon as possible:  
*European Table Tennis Top 12 1997, Indoor - Sportcentrum, Theo Koomenlaan 1, 5644 HZ EINDHOVEN, NETHERLANDS.*

# THOMPSON *and* HAYNES *the new* MASTERS

CHRISTIAN THOMPSON TRIUMPHANTLY MARCHED ON TO BECOME THE WINNER OF THE JUNIOR BOYS MASTERS TITLE, WHILST MICHELLE HAYNES ADDED THE JUNIOR GIRLS MASTERS CROWN TO HER COLLECTION, AT THE JUNIOR/CADETS MASTERS TOURNAMENT, HELD AT THE CLEEFIELDS SPORTS CENTRE IN GRIMSBY IN FEBRUARY WRITES **JOHN WOOD.**

Thompson achieved his victory by beating highly fancied Gareth Herbert in an action packed Junior Boys final.

The first game went to highly talented Herbert, who led all the way, winning 21-18.

Thompson bounced back in the second with some awesome topspin shots, but Herbert's tremendous serves pulled him back into contention at 20-20. But Christian held his nerve to take it 22-20.

The deciding game was a first class display of fast topspin play by both boys. But it was Thompson who grew in confidence, as he took control of

the game with his powerful forehand loop, taking the Masters crown 21-14.

In the semi-finals Thompson beat Yorkshire's Michael James 19 and 10, whilst Herbert won a tough

consecutive points, before going on to win 21-16.

An excited Haynes said, "I was really determined to not only win the National Junior Girls crown, but also the Masters. I feel really good!"

## ENGLISH NATIONAL JUNIOR/CADET MASTERS - POSITIONS

	JUNIOR BOYS	CADET BOYS	JUNIOR GIRLS	CADET GIRLS
1	<b>Christian Thompson</b>	<b>Michael Chan</b>	<b>Michelle Haynes</b>	<b>Karen Lockwood</b>
2	Gareth Herbert	Graham Babcock	Lindsey Thornton	Trudie Bloor
3	Leeroy Pye	Andrew Rushton	Rebecca Sparkes	Terri-Anne Nolan
4	Michael James	Daniel Clingbine	Tracy Davies	Hannah Yardy
5	Reagan Nettleingham	Richard Mann	Debbie Pestka	Jade Kendall
6	Peter Thomas	Martin Rule	Yukiko Gresswell	Hannah Thompson
7	Peter Marshall	Justin Dodd	Nicola Smith	Katie Hart
8	Andrew Baggaley	James Wakeham	Verity Cleminson	Kathrine Swan
9	Michael Isherwood	Christopher Dunne	Alison Smith	Katy Parker
10	David Smith	Nicholas Wilson	Kay Leslie	Rachael Codd
11	Robert Pountney	Scott Taylor	Karen Lockwood	Sarah Noutch
12	Howard Quartey	Kevin Cruikshank	Nicola Silburn	Gemma Loughran



**Karen Lockwood**

battle against Norfolk's Leeroy Pye, -19, 19, 17.

Thompson, one of Kent's favourite sons, said after his victory, "It was great getting to the final, but winning was the icing on the cake."

Thompson's coach, Adrian Snelling said, "Christian's greatest asset is his natural forehand loop, and we have been building up his game around this strength."

The Girls Junior final was an all attacking affair which saw Nottinghamshire's Michelle Haynes take the first leg 21-14, against Lancashire's Lindsey Thornton.

This final looked like turning into a real close battle with Thornton leading the second 7-6, but then in true champion style Haynes took control by winning the next 8

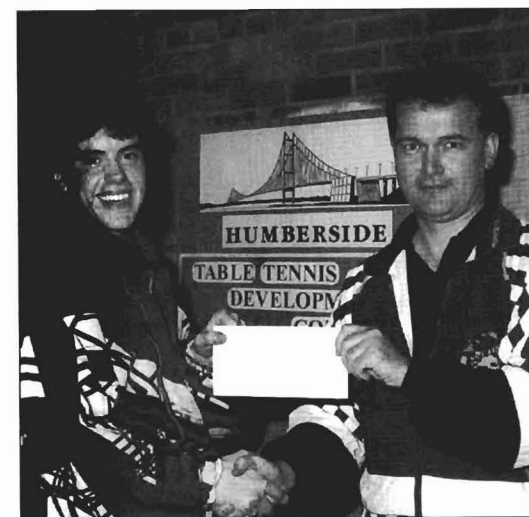
A delighted Phil Vickers, Haynes' coach, said, "I have done over 400 training sessions with Michelle over the last four years, and it really has paid off. It's all about preparation, and she really works hard in practice."

In the semi-finals, Haynes beat Suffolk's Rebecca Sparkes 12 and 16, and Thornton won against Essex's Tracy Davies 17 and 19.

This year's Cadet Boys champion is Michael Chan from Surrey who beat Graham Babcock from Bedfordshire -20, 17, 13, in a thrilling final.

Chan actually led the first 19-16, but Babcock fought back to win 22-20.

The boy from Surrey bounced straight back from this setback taking once again a 19-16 lead, but



**Former England Director of Coaching Don Parker presents the Junior Boys' winners prize to Christian Thompson**

this time he made no mistakes, winning 21-17.

The third saw Chan lead all the way winning the title 21-13.

In the semi-finals Chan beat Daniel Clingbine from Middlesex -19, 9, 13,

the Cadet Girls title when she overpowered Shropshire's Trudie Bloor 12 and 12 in the final.

This Cadet Girls final, which was a repeat of the National final held early this season at the University of Kent, saw Lockwood's long pimples backhand combined with her forehand drive, just too consistent for Bloor.

Like Michelle Haynes, Karen Lockwood added the Cadet Masters crown to her National Cadet title.

In the semi-finals Lockwood beat Essex's Hannah Yardy 9 and 11, whilst Bloor had a narrow victory over Cheshire's Terri-Anne Nolan 18,-14,18.

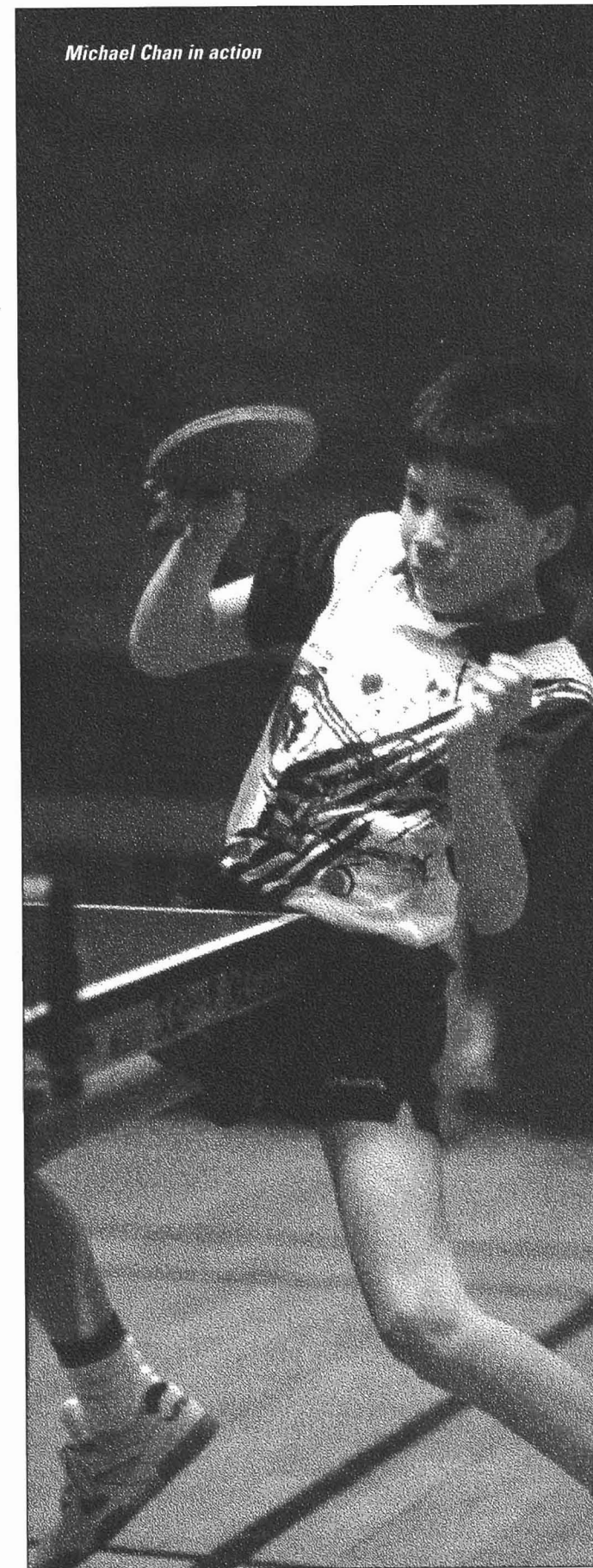
The English National Junior/Cadet Masters is an elite event, and this year proved to be of a very high standard with some very close, high performance matches, where England's most promising youngsters put on a display of top class table tennis and sportsmanship.

**Former England No1 Nicky Jarvis is pictured presenting the Junior Girls' prize to Michelle Haynes**



whilst Babcock won against Lancashire's Andrew Rushton 14 and 19.

Cheshire's Karen Lockwood won



*Michael Chan in action*

# POLICY PLUS DEMOLISHED

## *in St Neots*

Elsewhere there were a few surprises in February with Horsham Angels, having defeated bottom of the table Ruston Marconi with an 8-6 win away to Team Peniel. Although to be fair, Peniel were without Andrew Eden. Nevertheless another excellent performance from the Angels gave them four points from their two February matches to lift them above St Neots and out of the two relegation places. Ruston Marconi Lincoln gained their very first victory of the season and did it in style with an 11-3 win over St. Neots. Stephen Slater was their man of the match remaining unbeaten throughout but Lincoln are still three points adrift at the foot of the table.

A fine performance from Nicky Mason helped Linda Farrow to win 8-6 at Glasgow but then they were unfortunate when they took on Darlington at home. Lin Tei was unable to play in the singles as he did not arrive in time, being held up in a London traffic jam caused by a bomb scare, and he had to be content with partnering Nicky Mason in the doubles. Mason once again produced excellent form but the Linda Farrow team had two reserves in and went down 5-9. Darlington also had a reserve playing, when Andrew Wilkinson replaced Michael O'Driscoll for his Premier Division debut. And he certainly did not let the side down winning all three of his singles, including an excellent victory over John Taylor, and also partnering Tim Dyson in a doubles victory.

Vymura continue to dominate the First Division North and have now

**BFL GROVE OF MARKET DRAYTON DEMOLISHED POLICY PLUS ST. NEOTS 13-1 AT ST. NEOTS TO RETAIN THEIR ONE HUNDRED PER CENT RECORD IN THE PREMIER DIVISION OF THE BRITISH LEAGUE. CHRIS OLDFIELD WAS THE ONLY PLAYER ON THE GROVE SIDE TO LOSE A SET, FALLING TO CHRIS ROGERS IN THE VERY FIRST MATCH OF THE DAY WRITES AUBREY DRAPKIN.**

won ten out of ten matches played. The 6-2 victory at home against Humberside was followed by a 7-1 win away to Milton Keynes. Olton and West Warwicks won 5-3 at Uxbridge and followed this with a victory at home to BFL Grove seconds by the same score but they remain five points behind Vymura. City of Leeds gained a welcome point in their fight against relegation when they held Darlington seconds to a four all draw but were unable to keep this up in their next match, going down 3-5 to Uxbridge.

DML White Hart Launceston have opened up a three point gap at the top of the Division One South after winning 6-2 away to Edison who were unfortunate when Simon Rockall was forced to retire in the first match of the day because of injury. Launceston then beat Horsham Angels 7-1 in their next match whilst Edison, without the injured Rockall, went down 2-6 at home to OLOP. Colley Motor Group took advantage of this for, having beaten OLOP 5-3, they then defeated Cheltenham Saracens 6-2 to take over second place. In their previous match the Saracens had beaten Barclays Bank 5-3 to draw level with them on points at the foot of the table.

A gap has at last opened up at the

top of Division Two North where Leicester Lions now lead Drumchapel Glasgow by two points. The Lions beat Grove Thirds 6-2 whilst Glasgow won 5-3 at Derwent to set up an exciting meeting of the two clubs in the next match. Glasgow had won at Leicester earlier in the season and were

favourites to do the doubles but the Lions had different ideas and ran out 7-1 winners. Derwent bounced back with a 5-3 success at Abbeydale and are now in third place.

In Division Two South East, Yellow Brick Progress continued their winning ways with a 5-3 home win over Crusaders Lincoln followed by a home victory over Linda Farrow. Invicta Lanterns lost ground a little when they were held to a four-all draw by Linda Farrow Seconds but in their next match crushed Norwich 7-1.

DML Launceston Seconds, clear leaders of Division Two South West had an easy 8-0 victory away to ATH

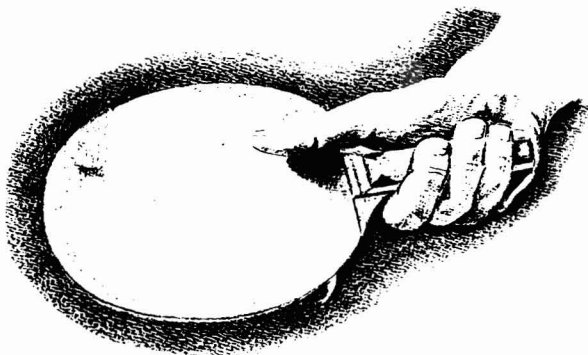
### BRITISH LEAGUE RESULTS ANALYSIS 10-3-96

<b>PREMIER DIVISION</b>		<b>DIVISION TWO SOUTH WEST</b>	
Drumchapel Glas I	9 5 RMSC Lincoln	Shelfield I	1 7 <b>Leckie</b>
St. Neots	2 12 <b>Team Peniel I</b>	Gridfine St Neots	4 4 ATH Cardiff
Darlington I	8 6 Horsham Angels I	DML WH Launc'n II	4 4 Jolliffe Poole
Linda Farrow I	3 11 <b>BFL Grove I</b>	Horsham Angels III	3 5 <b>Kingshurst Bribar</b>
<b>DIVISION ONE NORTH</b>		<b>DIVISION THREE EAST</b>	
Vymura I	2 6 <b>Olton &amp; West Warwicks</b>	<b>Greenleys M'Keynes</b> 5	3 Fellows Cranleigh
<b>BFL Grove II</b>	8 0 City of Leeds I	Ashford (Middlesex)	3 5 <b>Rejects Colts</b>
Darlington II	4 4 Uxbridge (Burton) I	Team Peniel II	3 5 <b>Byng Hall II</b>
<b>Humberside I</b>	5 3 City of Milton Keynes	<b>MacD's Barnets LI</b> 3	5 Chelmsford League
<b>DIVISION ONE SOUTH</b>		<b>DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS AND WEST</b>	
BSG Brentwood	1 7 <b>Colley Motor Group</b>	Shelfield II	0 8 <b>Team JUIC Nott's Lge</b>
Cheltenham	2 6 <b>Edison</b>	<b>DML WH Launc'n III</b> 5	3 Wiltshire TTA
<b>DML WH Launc'n I</b>	8 0 OLOP I	<b>Uxbridge (Burton) II</b> 8	0 BFL Grove Colts II
Horsham Angels II	2 6 <b>Barclays Bank</b>	<b>DIVISION THREE NORTH</b>	
<b>DIVISION TWO NORTH</b>		CWS Manchester	2 6 <b>City of Leeds II</b>
<b>Vymura II</b>	5 3 Drumchapel Glasgow II	Darlington IV	2 6 <b>AALCO Leeds</b>
<b>Leicester Lions</b>	7 1 Abbeydale	<b>Humberside II</b>	8 0 BFL Grove Colts I
<b>Darlington III</b>	7 1 Derwent	<b>DIVISION THREE SOUTH</b>	
<b>Burnside Seaside</b>	8 0 BFL Grove III	Generation 2 Fareham	4 4 Graham Spicer
<b>DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST</b>		<b>JAGS S C</b>	8 0 Progress WHS
BSG Barking	2 6 <b>Invicta Lanterns</b>	Rejects I	3 5 <b>MacD's Barnets LI</b>
Norwich Todd Foxw'd	1 7 <b>Yellow Brick Progress</b>	<b>OLOP II</b>	8 0 Adeyfield
Crusaders Lincoln	3 5 <b>Linda Farrow II</b>		
<b>Byng Hall I</b>	6 2 Pillinger Air (LLTC)		

**BRITISH LEAGUE - PLACINGS AT 25/2/96**

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*By Ron Crayden*

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Building Contractors Cardiff but then received a shock when they went to Horsham to play the Angels third string. Two sets from Tony Morrell backed up by one each from Simon Cox, Mayur Majithia and Wesley Bush-Harris gave Horsham a most unexpected 5-3 win. The two points put the Angels in second place but they are still three points behind Launceston. Jolliffe Poole played Leckie for the second time in two weeks and having won 6-2 in the Midlands repeated this performance when the two teams met at the Wessex Centre. Poole then did extremely well to get a four-all draw away to ATH Building Contractors and have now moved out of the relegation zone. Gridfine St. Neots had a good month with a 6-2 home win over Kingshurst Bribar when Jimmy Walsh was outstanding followed by a 5-3 win away at Leckie.

Fellows Cranleigh slipped up in Division Three East when they could only manage a four-all draw away to Byng Hall. Their cause was not helped when Mark Wicker had to

retire in the third end of his second match against Andrew Houghton due to illness. The Chelmsford League took full advantage by winning 7-1 away at Ashford.

They then beat Greenleys of Milton Keynes 6-2 whilst Linda Farrow were winning by the same score against Ashford to leave the Chelmsford League now one point ahead of their rivals. Rejects Colts have showed a distinct improvement with victories over Team Peniel seconds and Byng Hall seconds, both with 5-3 scorelines.

DML White Hart Launceston thirds lost their one hundred per cent record in Division Three Midlands and West. After a 5-3 win at Bromsgrove they then went down by the same score to Uxbridge seconds. Ryan Keats was outstanding for Uxbridge but Launceston still appear to be favourites to win this Division, having a three point lead over the Nottingham League, who were held to a four-all draw by Wiltshire Table Tennis Association.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	PTS
<b>Premier Division</b>									
BFL Grove	9	9	-	-	111	15	227	46	18
Team Peniel	10	7	-	3	87	53	199	127	14
Darlington	10	5	1	4	66	74	158	175	11
Linda Farrow	10	4	2	4	66	74	166	165	10
Drumchapel Glasgow	9	4	1	4	62	64	143	164	9
Horsham Angels	10	3	1	6	52	88	131	196	7
St. Neots	10	2	2	6	50	90	118	200	6
R.M.Lincoln	10	1	1	8	52	88	132	201	3
<b>Division 1 North</b>									
Vymura	10	10	-	-	56	24	122	75	20
Oton & West Warwicks	10	7	1	2	51	29	115	75	15
BFL Grove II	9	5	2	2	43	29	86	61	12
Darlington II	10	5	1	4	46	34	97	71	11
Uxbridge (Burton)	10	5	1	4	43	37	101	91	11
City of Leeds	10	1	2	7	27	53	72	115	4
City of Milton Keynes	9	1	1	7	22	50	59	110	3
Humberside	10	-	2	8	24	56	67	121	2
<b>Division 1 South</b>									
DML Launceston	10	8	2	-	58	22	127	65	18
Colley Motor Group	10	7	1	2	53	27	116	71	15
Edison	10	4	4	2	44	36	107	86	12
BSG Brentwood	10	4	2	4	39	41	94	95	10
OLOP	10	2	4	4	37	43	94	92	8
Horsham Angels II	10	3	1	6	33	47	79	110	7
Barclays Bank	10	2	1	7	29	51	71	117	5
Cheltenham Saracens	10	2	1	7	27	53	66	118	5
<b>Division 2 North</b>									
Leicester Lions	10	7	1	2	52	28	116	74	15
Drumchapel Glasgow II	10	6	1	3	47	33	107	82	13
Derwent	10	5	1	4	45	35	102	82	11
Vymura II	9	5	1	3	40	32	91	80	11
Darlington III	10	3	4	3	42	38	99	88	10
Abbeylea	10	3	2	5	36	44	88	101	8
BFL Grove III	9	2	2	5	26	46	65	105	6
Burnside Seaside	10	1	2	7	24	56	66	122	4
<b>Division 2 South East</b>									
Yellow Brick Progress	10	7	3	-	58	22	125	72	17
Invicta Lanterns	10	6	3	1	50	30	113	77	15
BSG Barking	10	6	2	2	46	34	101	90	14
Byng Hall	10	4	3	3	48	32	113	80	11
Pillinger Air (LLTC)	10	4	2	4	45	35	110	87	10
Linda Farrow II	10	1	6	3	34	46	91	107	8
Crusaders Lincoln	10	1	1	8	21	59	69	123	3
Norwich Todd Foxwood	10	-	2	8	18	62	53	139	2
<b>Division 2 South West</b>									
DML Launceston II	10	8	1	1	60	20	134	57	17
Horsham Angels III	10	6	2	2	49	31	107	80	14
Gridfine St Neots	10	6	1	3	47	33	103	87	13
Kingshurst Bribar	10	6	1	3	46	34	101	80	13
ATH Cardiff	10	4	4	2	46	34	104	81	12
Jolliffe Poole	10	3	1	6	31	49	80	105	7
Leckie TTC	10	1	2	7	30	50	79	112	4
Shelfield	10	-	-	10	11	69	40	146	-
<b>Division 3 East</b>									
Chelmsford League	10	8	2	-	59	21	133	63	18
Fellows Cranleigh	10	8	1	1	64	16	137	49	17
MacDonalds Barnets II	10	6	-	4	45	35	104	79	12
Greenleys of M.K.	10	4	2	4	43	37	99	85	10
Byng Hall II	10	2	4	4	35	45	85	109	8
Rejects Colts	10	3	1	6	26	54	67	117	7
Team Peniel II	10	2	1	7	27	53	65	122	5
Ashford (Middlesex)	10	-	3	7	21	59	62	128	3
<b>Division 3 Midlands and West</b>									
DML Launceston III	9	8	-	1	54	18	116	54	16
Team JUIC Nottingham Lge	8	6	1	1	46	18	100	52	13
Wiltshire TTA	9	4	2	3	37	35	91	84	10
Uxbridge Burton II	8	3	2	3	30	34	69	74	8
BFL Grove Colts II	7	2	1	4	23	33	55	76	5
Shelfield II	8	2	1	5	25	39	59	86	5
Bromsgrove	9	-	1	8	17	55	52	116	1
<b>Division 3 North</b>									
City of Leeds II	9	7	2	-	51	21	112	54	16
CWS Manchester	9	7	-	2	46	26	99	65	14
AALCO Leeds	9	4	1	4	35	37	82	79	9
Humberside II	8	4	-	4	37	27	83	68	8
Darlington IV	8	3	1	4	30	34	73	78	7
Drumchapel Glasgow III	9	3	-	6	32	40	73	90	6
BFL Grove Colts I	8	-	-	8	9	55	27	115	-
<b>Division 3 South</b>									
JAGS S C	10	8	2	-	60	20	131	56	18
McDonalds Barnets	10	6	3	1	53	27	119	74	15
Generation 2 Fareham	10	5	1	4	45	35	109	90	11
Progress WHS	10	4	2	4	40	40	90	99	10
Graham Spicer	10	4	2	4	37	43	92	98	10
Rejects	10	2	3	5	32	48	80	107	7
OLOP II	10	3	-	7	29	51	74	113	6
Adeyfield	10	-	3	7	24	56	66	124	3

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# 25 YEARS

**THE BARNET TABLE TENNIS CENTRE WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS SILVER JUBILEE ON SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 1996, FROM 7 PM AT THE CENTRE.**

That this is taking place at all is primarily due to two men. The first is the unknown Caretaker who used to turn off the playing hall lights promptly at 10pm, even when there was a game in progress. The second is Doug Underwood, sadly no longer

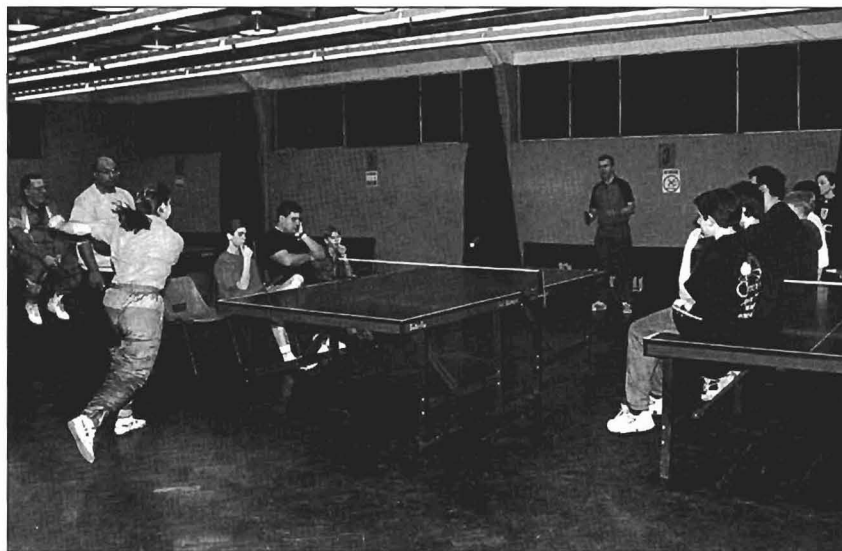
with us, who dreamed of the day when his club would own its own premises and not be subject to such treatment. Although this was in 1962 there was a lot of work and fund raising to be done until the final opening in 1970. It was during this time that a committee member thought it was just a 'Pipe Dream' and would never be built. The story and the progress of the building was reported in the ETTA News of November 1969. A Souvenir Brochure was produced at the time of the opening, both are on show at the Centre.

The evening will be a 'Get-Together' which is by Ticket only, but these will be issued free to all

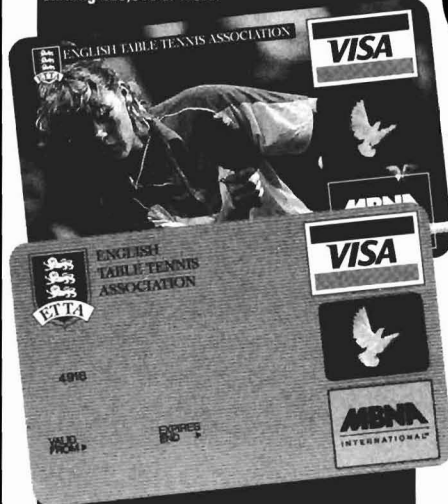
who have been a member which will entitle the holder to his first two drinks 'On The House'. Ex members should contact either Brian Gale on 0181 440 1721 or Ron Boucher on 0181 440 5594.

I am sure that as the evening wears on the talk will turn to wild

stories of heroic deeds and fantastic fund raising efforts that took place in the early days. Hopefully the plans for a total refurbishment (with help from the National Lottery) will be available which if successful should ensure a further 25 years of a Table Tennis Centre in Barnet.



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Certain restrictions apply to the above benefits. Insurances are provided by underwriters at Lloyd's of London. Payment Protection Insurance is provided by member companies of Consolidated Insurance Group Ltd. The ETTA Visa card is issued by MBNA International Bank Ltd, Stanfield House, Chester Business Park, Chester, CH4 9JZ and is available only to ETTA members and certain connected parties. MBNA Visa card interest rates are 17.9%APR (variable) for purchases, 13.9%APR for balance transfers and cash advances, fixed for six months from the date your account is opened. The 13.9%APR is calculated by applying the monthly rate of 1.09% throughout the period of credit. After the six month period it reverts to the same variable interest rate which applies to purchases at that time (currently 1.58% per month, 17.9%APR). Both APRs are calculated on a fee exclusive basis, in view of the two year annual fee waiver and assume a credit limit of £1,000 for a standard card and £3,000 for a gold card. The minimum monthly payment is just 3% of the outstanding balance (minimum £5). The annual fee (£10 for a standard card, £35 for a gold card (both variable)) will be waived for your first two years. There will be no handling charge for cash advances until after your account has been open six months. After that date a handling charge of 1% (variable) / min £1, max £25) will apply. Credit is available subject to status, only to persons aged 18 or over. Written quotations available on request.

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**APPROVED GLUES -**

The ITTF have now approved PyungHwa Peace, Kienzle Victoria, and Banda Effect.

**QATAR OPEN -**

An International Open Championship was held at Doha from 26-29 February. There was a total prize fund of \$100,000 and the event received TV coverage on BBC 2. Results will be in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

**COLLECTOR'S CLUB -**

Do you collect balls, pins, memorabilia, books, stamps, cards, art or are you interested in the history of table tennis? The Collectors' Club will be holding their first swap-meet at the Schiedam, Holland on 18 May 1996. Members from across Europe are expected. Contact - Hans Krescher, Nieuwe Buurt 23, 311 KJ Schiedam, Holland Tel 00 31 10 4736544. There is a club magazine which is published three times a year and this is obtainable from Gerald Gurney, Guildhall, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex CO7 7TU Tel 01206 230330. The subscription is £10.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS -**

European Championships 27 April - 7 May in Bratislava. Information from Zdenko Kriz, President Slovak TTA, Junacka Street 6, 832 80 Bratislava.

■ Beijing International Veteran Tournament - 6-11 June 1996. Information from International Sports Exchange Centre, South Building, Beijing Workers Gymnasium, 100027 Beijing, China - Tel 00 86 10 5085559.

■ World Veterans Championships - 24-29 June 1996 in Lillehammer, Norway.

■ English Open Championships - 4-8 April at Kettering Arena, Kettering Leisure Village, Kettering, Northampton.

**RESULTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD****ASIAN WOMEN ALL STARS**

(Hong Kong)  
SF Chen Jing (Tpe) bt Chan Tan Lui (Hkg) 17, 18, 19  
Liu Wei (China) bt Chai Po Wa (Hkg) -11, -15, 15, 16, 19

F Chen Jing bt Liu Wei 15, 14, 12

■ ASIAN WOMEN ALL STARS (China)  
SF Deng Yaping (China) bt Jing Junhong (Sing) 17, 17, 11  
Liu Wei (China) bt Qiao Hong (China)

-19, 20, 18, -13, 18

Deng Yaping bt Liu Wei 24, 26, 19

**AUSTRIAN OPEN (Linz)**

MS Z Primorac (Cro) bt Ma Wenge (China) 19, -14, -14, 11, 16

WS Chen Zing (Tpe) bt Yang Ying (China) 12, 21, 21

MD P Chila/C Legout (France) bt Li

Jing/Qin Zhijian (China) -16, 18, 19

WD Yang Ying/Wang Nan (China) bt

Li Ju/Qiao Yunping (China) 16, 10

**FRENCH OPEN (Villerbanne)**

MS Ma Wenge (China) bt Jean-

Michel Saive (Bel) -16, 17, 13, 14

WS Li Ju (China) bt Wang Nan

(China) 21, -18, -19, 16, 19

MD J-P Gatien/D Eloi (France) bt S

Fetzner/T Wosik (Germany) 10, 17

WD Li Ju/Qiao Yunping (China) bt

Yang Ying/Wang Nan (China) -16,

12, 20

**SWEDISH OPEN (Stockholm)**

MS SF V Samsanov (Belarus) bt J

Roskopf (Ger) -16, 7, 20, 11

J-O Waldner (Swe) bt T Keen (Ned)

17, 18, -21, -14, 19

F V Samsanov bt J-O Waldner 17,

21, -16, 18

WS SF Chen Jing (Tpe) bt Yang Ying (China) 15, 18, 17

Chire Koyama (Japan) bt Wang Nan

(China) -20, 15, -20, 12, 19

F Chen Jing bt Chire Koyama

15, 11, 11

**FINNISH OPEN (Tampere)**

MS J-O Waldner (Swe) bt T Von

Scheele (Swe) -19, -20, 19, 15, 12

WS Wang Hui (China) bt Li Hong

(China) 7, 15, 9

MD T Von Scheele/M Stenberg

(Swe) bt Wang Liging/Yan Sen

(China) 19, 10

WD Wang Hui/Li Hong (China) bt

Jian Fang Lay/Shirley Zhou (Aus) 16, -9, 18

**KOREA NATIONAL (Seoul)**

MS Kim Taek Soo bt Yoo Nam Kyu

16, -12, 12, 19

WS Ryu Ji Hae bt Lee Un Sil 16, 8, -

16, 20

MD Yoo Nam Kyu/Kim Bong Chul bt

Park San Jun/Lee San Jun 2-0

WD Park Hae Jung/Ryu Ji Hae bt

Kim Bun Sik/Lee Un Sil 2-0

**USA NATIONAL (Las Vegas)**

MS D Zhuang bt K Nguyen -11, 11,

15, 16

WS Amy Feng bt Lily Yip 18, 12, 12

MD K Nguyen/D Rop bt D

Seemiller/D Zhuang 15, 17

WD A Feng/A Zakhayan bt Wei

Wang/Lily Yip 9, 15

■ NEW ZEALAND OPEN (Auckland)  
MS H Bower (NZ) bt P Jackson (NZ) -

18, 16, 17, -16, 19

WS Li Chunli (NZ) bt Li Jinli (NZ) 12,

11, 16

MD Jackson/Laugeson (NZ) bt

Bower and Hubbard (NZ) 2-1

WD Li Chunli/Li Junli (NZ) bt

Ito/Rong (Japan) 2-0

*The ETTA acknowledge the help of the ITTF in the compilation of this report.*

**EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE****RESULTS OF EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION (return cross-matches)****ROMANIA 4 - HUNGARY 2**

Simion	Molnar	19, 9
Encea	Toth	15, 14, -14
Gojocaru	Fazekas	-18, 16, 16
Simion/Encea	Batorfi/Toth	14, 19
Simion	Toth	-16, 19, -17
Cojocaru	Molnar	-12, 15, 16

**GERMANY 4 - ENGLAND 0**

Schopp	Schwartz	10, 9
Fischer	Holt	20, -20, 18
Schall	Deaton	-16, 10, 16
Schopp/Fischer	Holt/Deaton	16, 13

**ITALY 4 - NETHERLANDS 2**

Abbate-Bulatova	Bakker	11, 14
Negrisoni	Keen	-18, -20
Arisi	Noor	11, -13, -8
Abbate-Bulatova/Arisi	Bakker/Noor	11, -10, 19
Abbate-Bulatova	Keen	17, 14
Arisi	Bakker	14, 11

**SWEDEN 4 - BELGIUM 1**

Svensson A	Reginster	8, 8
Jonsson	Ozer	-23, -12
Peterson	Hubert	15, 13
Svensson A/Petersson	Ozer/Hubert	9, -19, 12
Svensson A	Ozer	11, 18

**EUROPEAN MEN'S LEAGUE****JOOLA EUROPEAN MEN'S LEAGUE: SUPER DIVISION**

ENGLAND V GERMANY (Away)

DATE: 20th February 1996 TIME: 1900hrs

VENUE: Zentrallchalle, HAMM

LOCATION: (By Road) 1 hr from Dusseldorf

ENGLAND TEAM: Chen Xinhua; Alan Cooke; Andrew Eden

GERMAN TEAM: Jorg Roskopf; Peter Franz; Steffan Fetzner

**GERMANY 4 - ENGLAND 1**

Roskopf v Eden	20, 26	1-0
Fetzner v Chen	-13, -17	1-1
Franz v Cooke	-13, 16, 13	2-1
Roskopf/Fetzner v Eden/Cooke	21, 15	3-1
Roskopf v Chen	20, 16	4-1

# AUTUMN SUNSHINE *for* COOKE & BROE

Those two have shown unswerving loyalty to England. They have played through injuries when the need to go on court was urgent. They deserved to win at Brighton event though they are in the later stages of their careers for England. Most importantly for the England selectors, captains and administrators they have, not without difficulty, kept away as much as possible from the "politics" of the sport.

Earlier this season, both Alan, 29, and Alison, 33, indicated to the England corridors of power that they would like to remain in the sport, perhaps in coaching or captaincy roles in the future.

England are set to build a powerful team after the senior players retire and give way to the young players like Alex Perry and Nicola Deaton.

## SPECIAL TRAINING

Playing from the No 2 seeded position after two months intensive training the Derbyshire top-spinner saw the draw and noted that he would not, at least have to cope before the final, with either the injured Matthew Syed or the Isle of Wight professional Carl Preat, as they were in the top half.

Cooke dealt confidently with the challenges from Nigel Eckersley and Jonathan Taylor before defeating in the semi-finals the most improved player of the campaign, Alex Perry, the young man from Devon who spends most of his time playing in Sweden, a policy that is paying handsome dividends.

At the end of the day, after he had taken out Perry 9, -19, 9, -19, 13, Cooke said "He has improved greatly in the past few months".

The 700 spectators had watched with great interest during the day the progress to the final of Carl Preat. Chief announcer Colin Wilson (who did an excellent job on the public address system) described

ALAN COOKE AND ALISON BROE, THE MOST DEDICATED PLAYERS IN THE ENGLAND SQUADS FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, REAPED THEIR REWARDS AT THE PLUSH BRIGHTON CENTRE ON MARCH 17 WHEN THEY LIFTED THE SINGLES TITLES, ALAN FOR THE THIRD TIME AND ALISON FOR THE FOURTH OCCASION WRITES **JOHN WOODFORD**, TABLE TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Preat just before one appearance on court as "the magnificent Carl Preat" At times, most of the time, Carl looks a true pro, a man capable of stretching the world's top players but also capable of losing to players thrusting their way forward like Bradley Billington did in Cardiff at the Welsh Open.

I was in Cardiff and I recall thinking that Billington would after that result, have more trouble with Preat at their next meeting. That proved to be the case - Preat went ahead 6, 18 in the semi-finals, slipped back a shade to lose the next two -20, -18 but came through 17 in the final game.

The men's singles final looked a mouth-watering prospect. Cooke, getting sharper all the time, determined to show that he as well as Preat should have an Atlanta

ticket. Cooke's so familiar top-spin attack was beefed up time and time again by backhand and forehand smashes without the top-spin but awesome power from a man with nothing to lose.

Preat tried hard to stem the flow of winners. This required counter-hitting of world-class, but the Derbyshire man triumphed 19, 16, 18 and winning all three titles - the first to do so for 16 years says master-referee Richard Scruton.

Cooke easily won the men's doubles with Desmond Douglas (who was a Perry Men's Singles victim) and the previous night the Mixed Doubles with his coaching pupil Nicky Deaton.

Like the Men's Singles (Syed absent with hamstring problems) the Women's Singles lacked the presence of Lisa Lomas, whose

Champions Alison Broe and Alan Cooke with their joint Coach Derek Marples



career is now threatened by her shoulder muscle problems, the result of many years of physical stress. This left what seemed to be an opportunity for Nicola Deaton to reach the final if she could overturn the winner Alison Broe. After disposing of the promising junior from Devon Joanna Barraclough, 9, 8, 14 the Welsh Open Champion found Mrs Broe in her most determined mood, prepared to hit everything to force attackers onto

## ON THE VENUE:

The Brighton Centre is in most respects, a first-class hall to stage events like the English Open and the English Nationals. I doubt if playing conditions could be better; there is plenty of room, unlike some of the sports centres where coaches and parents can often walk-in free of charge. The other racket sports have this problem. It has been discussed by various sporting bodies at national level. The general view is that these people, coaches and parents should pay, especially when superb venues like the Brighton Centre are hired at considerable cost to the organising bodies.

the back foot. Broe won 13, 12, 17. Deaton, a future England champion for sure, must wait, but that will I feel be not a long gap before she reaches the final and then takes the title.

Andrea Holt was looking for her fourth title. When she forged a three-point lead against Broe in the fifth game of the final it looked as though she would manage it, but he dour "never-say-die" mode from Broe was evident as the Lancashire lady failed after a huge and tense five-game battle, 17 in the fifth game.

Andrea's game of mixing defence with attack is these days almost unique, but some of those that study

the technical side of her game, say that her chop is not severe enough and is taken too early. Although her unbeaten approach will confuse many, compare her defence with Syed - he is often scraping the floor, returning the ball with much greater back-spin that can cause world-class players lots of grief.

Doubles events these days in the eyes of the media at least, are really consolation events - all the kudos and hype surrounds the singles events. But both Alison Broe and Nicola Deaton will be pleased with their women's doubles final victory - 17, 16, 8 against Andrea Holt and Sue Collier, who has I am told, won the Maidenhead singles title so often the organisers have lost count.

A few words on Terry Young. Since his trip to China, (which cost his parents £6,000), his approach to the sport on court has improved considerably. I highlighted his attitude and immature reactions at the European Junior Championships in Holland last July. Some people thought my comments were "over the top", but he is showing, despite losing to Carl Preat at Brighton, a reformed and more mature approach that has seem him delighting in a recent trip to Sweden and now, wait for it, now coming up a huge new personal sponsorship!

## BRIGHTON SUMMARY

Magnificent and rewarding victories for two great players - Alan Cooke and Alison Broe. We have a most promising new batch of youngsters coming through - Alex Perry, Brad Billington, Andrew Eden, Terry Young, Jonathan Taylor, Nicky Deaton, Linda Radford, Gemma Schwartz and others.

The Daily Telegraph carried this quote from Alison as she came under the most intense pressure from Andrea Holt near the end of the women's final: "I am too old for this." "No you're not" said a voice

Veteran Men's Singles winner Brian Johns is presented with his trophy by ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule



from the crowd - the unknown voice was proved so right.

## IMPRESSIVE JOHNS IS VETERAN KING

Brian Johns, the youngest member of the Johns clan, added another trophy to this year's impressive collection of silverware, when he powered his way to victory in the Veteran Mens Singles final, beating former champion Dave Harvey 16, 18 writes **John Wood**.



Veteran Women's Singles winner Diane Pearce is pictured receiving her trophy from ETTA Events Manager Mike Johns

Johns collected another prize when in partnership with Nigel Eckersley, they stormed to victory in the Veteran Mens Doubles final, overpowering Dave Harding and Derek Holman 16 and 6.

It was a day of triumph for cadet Veteran Johns, having earlier taken

the scalps of John Hilton in the quarter-finals 15, 11, and Dave Welsman in the semis -10, 13, 14.

The Brighton sunshine shone on Kent's Diane Pearce when she won a thrilling Veteran Womens Singles final against Sussex girl Pauline Steel, 17, -20, 15.

Pearce had another tough battle in the semi-finals beating Helen Shields -11, 15, 18, whilst Steel beat Marjorie Dawson 20, 18.

It was nearly an all Sussex affair in

## RESULTS ANALYSIS

### MENS SINGLES:

Quarter-finals: Bradley Billington b Chris Oldfield 3-1; Carl Preat b John Holland 3-0; Alex Perry b Andrew Eden 3-0; Alan Cooke b Jonathan Taylor 3-0. Semi-finals: Preat b Billington 6, 18, -20, -18, 17; Cooke b Perry 9, -19, 9, -15, 13. Final: **Cooke** b Preat 19, 16, 18.

### WOMENS SINGLES:

Quarter-finals: Nicola Deaton b Joanna Barraclough 3-0; Alison Broe b Sandra Roden 3-0; Linda Radford b Helen Lower 3-2; Andrea Holt b Gemma Schwartz 3-0. Semi-finals: Broe b Deaton 13, 12, 17; Holt b Radford 12, -18, 18, 18; Final: **Broe** b Holt -15, 11, 14, -17, 17.

### VETERAN MENS SINGLES:

Semi-finals: Brian Johns b Dave Welsman -10, 13, 14; Dave Harvey b Ian 'Benny' Robertson 18, 11; Final: **Johns** b Harvey 16, 18.

### VETERAN WOMENS SINGLES:

Semi-finals: Diane Pearce b Helen Shields -11, 15, 18; Pauline Steel b Marjorie Dawson 20, 18. Final: **Pearce** b Steel 17, -20, 15.

### MIXED DOUBLES:

Final: Alan Cooke/Nicola Deaton b Paul and Carol Giles 13, 11.

### WOMENS DOUBLES:

Final: **Alison Broe/Nicola Deaton** b Sue Collier/Andrea Holt -17, 16, 8.

### MENS DOUBLES:

Final: **Alan Cooke/Desmond Douglas** b Bradley Billington/Jonathan Taylor 14, 9.

### VETERAN MENS DOUBLES:

Final: **Nigel Eckersley/Brian Johns** b Dave Harding/Derek Holman 16, 6.

### VETERAN WOMENS DOUBLES:

Final: **Carol Hewett/Penny Perry** b Sheila King/Pauline Steel 18, 9.

# BERKSHIRE *take the* PREMIER

16 matches in the final series were played at Saltash. From the first series Berks and Essex finished level on points. But congratulations go to Berkshire who won all 4 of their matches in this final series. This included the 6-4 defeat of Essex. David Barr (Bk) played an important part by winning both his singles matches. Gemma Schwartz (Bk) was in brilliant form beating Julie Askem 18 and 21 and then followed that with an 8 and 8 win over Shelley Ruocco. Gemma did not drop a single game in the final series and, throughout the Senior Premier season, got 100% wins.

Devon played very well to win their four matches over the weekend and, having won 4 points in the first series, clinched the runners-up spot. Middlesex, who are always very good competitors at this level, won 3 of their 4 matches and, from starting with only 1 point from the first series, came back to take 3rd place. The performance of Essex dipped and they only won one match, which took them to 4th place. They are followed by Sussex, who had wins over Staffs and Cambs. Staffs finished on the same points as Sussex but won one less event over the season. Leics played very well in the first series and were in 3rd place. But they only gained one point, from a draw with Staffs, and with a total of 5 points are surprisingly for demotion. Chris Rogers (Le) was unbeaten in the first series but lost 4 matches on this latter occasion. Cambs, who failed to win a point is the other team for relegation. The only Senior Premier player to get 100% wins throughout the season was Gemma Schwartz (Bk). Of the men the best performers, who each lost only 2 matches, were Ben Johnson (Bk) and John Souter (Mi). Both Carol Giles (Dv) and Karen Smith (Le) also lost only 2 matches.

**SENR DIV 1B**

AV	7	GS	3	HE	3	K	7
MI2	6	AV	4	HA	2	SY	8
GS	1	DV2	9	MI2	0	SY	10
K	8	GS	2	HA	7	AV	3
DV2	4	HA	6	SY	8	HE	2
K	9	MI2	1	SY	7	K	3
DV2	5	MI2	5	HE	7	AV	3
DV2	2	HE	8				

15 matches were played at Graham Spicer Institute, New Malden to complete the fixtures for the Division.

Surrey proved to be the best team of the weekend by winning their 4 matches. But, having dropped 3 points at the end of October, they miss out on promotion to Premier Division

by 1 point! Euan Walker and Mike Hammond each got 100% wins in this final series. Kent topped the table although they lost 3-7 to Surrey they won their other 6 matches and top the table to earn promotion to Premier Div! Glos failed to win a point and are for relegation. They will be joined by Avon, who with Devon 2nds were on 5 points, but their sets average was 2 down on the Devon team.

**SENR DIV 2A**

(10 Feb)

NG	10	LA2	0	CW	4	CU	6
ST3	4	LE2	6	WA2	5	NG	5
CH	5	CV	5	LA2	5	CV	5

Of the 5 matches in early February 3 resulted

**RESULTS ANALYSIS**

E	6	SX	4	CA1	MI	9	
LE	3	BK	7	E	4	MI	6
ST	2	DV	8	LE	4	DV	6
MI	8	LE	2	CA3	ST	7	
DV7	CA	3	ST	5	LE	5	
SX	6	ST	4	SX	7	CA	3
BK	6	E	4	MI	4	BK	6
BK	8	SX	2	DV	6	E	4

**LEAGUE TABLE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BK	7	6	1	0	48	22	13
DV	7	5	2	0	44	26	12
MI	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
E	7	3	1	3	39	31	7
SX	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
ST	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
LE	7	2	1	4	33	37	5
CA	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

in a draw. Warwicks 2nds fought well from 0-3 down to get a draw against Notts. Simon Upson and Susie Allen (Wa) won their 4 events. In the Ches./Cleveland drawn match the Ches. ladies - Doreen Schofield and Claire News - won their 4 events. Lancs 2nds v Cleveland was the other drawn match and again Cleveland lost the 4 ladies events - to Lindsey Thornton and Paula French (La). It provided something of a surprise that the Notts team beat Lancs 2nd to the tune of 10-0. Cumbria got their first win of the season with the 6-4 defeat of Clwyd. Stephen Dixon had 2 wins for Cumbria.

24 Feb -

CV	7	ST3	3	NG	7	CH	3
CU	6	WA2	4	LE2	8	CW	2

Cleveland won the championship after their 7-3 win over Staffs 3rds. They dropped just 2 points from the drawn matches with Cheshire and Lancs 2nds. Steve Cooper (CV) was unbeaten throughout the season. Notts 7-3 win over Cheshire gave them the runners-up spot. Cumbria did well to win their last two matches. Clwyd failed to win a point.

**SENR DIV 2B**

(10 Feb)

W01	8	W12	2	W02	5	W11	5
W01	4	W11	6	W02	6	W12	4

The Wilts 1st and 2nd teams visited Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester and met the Worcs 1st and 2nd teams. Worcs 1st team beat Wilts 2nds 8-2 but lost 4-6 to Wilts 1st team. In the latter match Eddie Roope and Tim O'Mahoney (Wi), who was a very successful junior player last season, won their 4 events. Sandra Roden was unbeaten for Worcs 1sts. Worcs 2nds got a 6-4 over Wilts 2nds. They put up a great performance against Wilts 1st team to earn a draw and, in this match Kevin Satchell played for Wilts 1sts. A great deal of credit must go to another of last season's juniors, Stephanie Price who won all 4 of her singles events including a -13, 16, 19 win over Brenda Lee (Wi1).

24 Feb

DV3	7	SO	3	DV4	5	SO	5
W01	7	CO2	3	W02	5	CO1	5
W11	9	GS2	1	W12	10	GS2	0

Devon ended on a good note. With the 7-3 win over Somerset they finished on 15 points but Cornwall 1st take the title on same points but a slightly better sets average. Newcomers Glos 2nds had a hard time and got the "wooden spoon".

**SENR DIV 2C**

LI	8	NP	2	NK	6	SK2	4
E2	7	K3	3	HE2	5	BD	5
K3	3	LI	7	SK2	2	NP	8
BD	6	NK	4	NP	2	BD	8
NK	9	HU	1	KE	7	SK2	3
E2	7	LI	3	HU	4	HE2	6

12 matches were played at Batts TTC, Harlow to complete the fixtures for this Division. Essex 2nds went through the season unbeaten earned 16 points, and are the Division champions. The Lincs team played very well, lost only to Essex 2nds and take the runners-up spot. Essex 2nds and Lincs were well ahead of the opposition. The next teams in the final league table are Beds, Herts 2nds and Northants, who each got 9 points. Suffok 2nds took the "wooden spoon" with only 1 point.

The top performers were Steve Rand (E), who got a maximum 16 wins. Nicki Kennard (E) was top lady. She played in all matches and lost only once. Pauline Leak played well for Hunts with 13 wins in 15 matches, and Andy Wignall gave a similar performance for Lincs.

**JUNR DIV 1B**

KS	5	BK	5	BU	7	SX2	3
GN2	5	HA	5				

2 of the 3 matches played in early February resulted in draws. But the results had no effect on the destiny of the championship. Devon 1st team had already completed their fixtures and dropped only 1 point (to Surrey 2nds). The Devon team cannot be caught and are already champions and will be in the Premier Division next season. Hants were a girl player short on their visit to Glamorgan and the match resulted in a draw. Daniel Burns and Chris Butt (Ha) won their 4 singles matches.

24 Feb:

BK1	1	SY2	9	K2	6	SX2	4
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Surrey 2nds finished well with the 9-1 win over Berks 1sts. Thomas Wilkins (SY) had an excellent season with 100% wins. There is one match due in March when Hants play Bucks. A win for Hants will give them runners-up spot.

**JUNR DIV 2C**

(10 Feb)

WO	4	GN3	6	SO	7	HR	3
AV	7	CO	3	AV	10	DV2	0
WI	4	GS	6				

Avon had 2 good wins - against Cornwall and Devon 2nds - and dropped only 3 games. And with Glam. 3rds getting a 6-4 win at Worcester it meant Avon and Glam. were level on points and meet in the Final Round. In the Glam/Worcs match David McRae and David Cumpstone (GN) won their 4 singles. Kate Hughes was unbeaten for Worcs. Wilts received Glos and lost 4-6. But a shining light was Hannah Thompson (Wi) who beat Ann Humble and Mel Garlick! Herefords visited Somerset and lost 3-7 but Hereford No 1 - Chris Jones - continued his good form winning his 2 events.

24 Feb:

GN3	5	AV	5	CO	5	WI	5
GS	4	SO	5	DV2	7	WI	3
HR	1	WO	9				

There was an exciting finish to this Division. Glam. led 5-4 against Avon when Brian Smith (AV) beat David Cumpstone (GN) at 14 in the deciding game. The result was a draw. Avon and Glam. were equal on points and the championship was decided on sets for and

against - Avon 57/23, Glamorgan 3rds 56/24! So by winning one more set throughout the season Avon are the champions. This was a very competitive Division with 17 matches ending in a draw!

### JUNR DIV 2D

BK2 5 K3 5 HA2 3 MI2 7  
DO 7 SY3 3 SX3 4 BU2 6

No team has dominated this Division. Surrey 3rds looked to have a good chance of topping the table but, because of illness, went to Dorset with 2 players short and lost 3-7. With Middx. 2nds beating Hants 2nds 7-3 they are now favourites for the title. Berks 2nds got their second point of the season from a draw with Kent 3rds. Each member of the Berks team got 1 win. Bucks 2nds did well to win 6-4 on their visit to Sussex.

24 Feb

MI2 7 O 3 SY3 7 BK2 3  
K3 4 SX3 6 BU2 6 H2 4

After their 7-3 win over Dorset Middx. 2nds won the championship of this Division and will be promoted to Div 1. Throughout the season 10 players represented Middx. at this level. With a 7-3 win over Berks 2nds, Surrey 3rds took the runners-up spot. Bucks 2nds finished the season well with 2 wins and Sussex 3rds got their 2nd win of the season against Kent 3rds.

### VETS DIV 1B

(10 Feb)

HA 6 DV 3 BU 4 E2 5  
K2 5 SY2 4

Hants were on equal points with Devon and would have been pleased with a 6-3 win. Chris Wilshere (Ha) won both singles and the doubles with Chris Shetler. Essex 2nds got their first points with a 5-4 win over Bucks. Marilyn Bawden (E) was involved in 2 wins. Kent 2/Surrey 2 were on equal points but Kent forged ahead with a 5-4 win. Paul Beck and Pam Butcher (K) were involved in 4 of the wins.

24 Feb:

SX1 9 HA1 0 E2 5 SX2 4  
SY2 3 BU1 6 DV1 7 K2 2

Sussex 1st team kept their unbeaten record after the 9-0 defeat of Hants 1st team. They win the championship and will be promoted to the Premier Division. Devon's 7-2 win over Kent 2nds gave them the runners-up spot. Mike Short (DV) went through the season unbeaten. Sussex 2nds with 2 points and Essex, who had 4 points from winning their last two matches, are for relegation.

### VETS DIV 2A

(10 Feb)

CH2 8 ST 1 Y2 6 NG 3  
NP2 1 LA2 8

Ches. 2nds after another convincing win look well set to win the championship. Yorks 2nds beat Notts 6-3 but have already lost to

Cheshire. Lancs 2nds had a very good 8-1 win on their visit to Northants but they also lost to Cheshire.

24 Feb:

ST 5 NP2 4 NG 3 WA3 6  
WA2 1 CH2 8

Staffs. got their first win of the season with the 5-4 defeat of Northants 2nds. Warwick 3rds got their second win with a 6-3 win on their visit to Notts. Cheshire 2nds finished the season unbeaten after their 8-1 win over Warwick 2nds. Cheshire 2nds take the championship and promotion.

### VETS DIV 2B

(Feb 10):

HE2 6 OX 3 E4 7 BK3 2  
BK 6 CA 3

Herts 2nds had a tough match against Oxon before winning 6-3. The Herts team have completed their fixtures with 100% wins. All the Herts team - Dave Seaholme, Dave Svenson, Chris Budden and Sylvia Tyler - made very good contributions. And Simon Proffit joined the team for the final match with 2 wins. Essex 4th team, with Mike Watts as No1, and winning his 3 events, had a comfortable 7-2 win over Berks 3rds. Ian Svenson (BK3) won his 3 events with the 6-3 defeat of Cambs.

Feb 24:

OX 8 HU 1 BK3 4 BD2 5  
CA 7 E4 2

Herts 2nds had already won the championship of this Division. Oxon 1st finished with a 8-1 win over Hunts to get the runners-up spot. With Beds 1st and 2nd match declared void, there are five teams with 4 points, and by a narrow margin Beds 2nds will be relegated.

### VETS DIV 2C:

Feb 10

BK1 7 OX2 2 K4 4 MI2 5  
SY3 8 BK2 1 MI1 6 K3 3

Berks 1st team are still unbeaten after the 7-2 win over Oxon 2nds. Sid Montgomery and Gill Knightley each have 100% wins. Middx 1st team had a good 6-3 win over Kent 3rds. John Holland (Mi) lost only his second match of the season to Keith Clark. Middx. 2nds got two useful points with their win over Kent 4th team. Surrey 3rds back to winning ways with the 8-1 defeat of Berks 2nds. Ron Langheim and Mike Fisher (SY) were involved in 5 of the wins.

Feb 24:

K3 5 BK1 4 BK2 3 MI1 6  
OX2 4 K4 5 MI2 4 SY3 5

Berks 1st team suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of Kent 3rd team. But Berks still won the championship and will be promoted to Div 1. Oxon 2nds won just one match and are for relegation.

### VETS DIV 2D:

(Feb 10)

GS 3 AV 6 GS2 3 DO2 6

W11 2 HA2 7 SO 8 HA3 1

Avon seems invincible this season! The latest is a 6-3 win over Glos at the new Cirencester TT Centre. Gary Baldwin is still unbeaten but Bob Murray (AV) lost his first match to John Fannin (GS). Dorset 2nds got their first win of the season against Glos 2nds. Dave Sharples and Jean Smith (DO) were involved in 5 of the wins. Hants 2nds did very well on their visit to Wilts to beat their 1st team 7-2.

Feb 24:

AV 5 SO 4 DO2 5 GS1 4  
HA2 6 GS2 3 HA3 7 W11 2

Avon had their hardest match of the season against Somerset. The match score was at 4-4 when Bob Murray (AV) beat John Crabtree 12 and 12 for a 5-4 win. Gary Baldwin (AV) lost his first match of the season to Brian Reeves (SO) 19 and 16. At this stage Avon have one match outstanding but have already won the championship of the Division. Glos 2nds will be the team for relegation.

VETS DIV 3A:

Feb 10

NP3 1 CH3 8 HE4 5 DV 4

Ches 3rd team had an emphatic 8-1 win on their visit to Northants. Clem Little got the one win for Northants 3rds. It was a hard fought match between Herts 4 and Durham. At 4-4 Keith Hartridge (HE) beat Dave Swayne at 19 in the third game to get a 5-4 win.

Feb 24:

DU 7 CW 2 CH3 6 HE4 3

Durham ended the season with a 7-2 win over Clywd. Durham No 1 (J Crawford) got 100% wins over the season. Ches 3rds went into a 4-0 lead against Herts 4th team and finally won 6-3. Norfolk 2nds were unbeaten throughout the season, won the championship and earned promotion.

### VETS DIV 3B

(Feb 10)

OX3 5 CA2 4 MI3 3 SK1 6  
SK2 1 HE3 8

The battle of the Universities towns was hard fought. Five events went to a third game and Oxon won 5-4. Chris Lansley (OX) was involved in 3 of the wins. Suffolk 1st team remain unbeaten after the 6-3 win over Middx. 3rds. Rob Hellaby and Fred Dove (SK) got four singles wins. Suffolk 2/Herts 3 was a hard fought match despite the final 8-1 win by Herts. Herts won 3 events at 18, 19, 20 in third game and there were also a number of deuce games.

Feb 24:

SK1 9 OX3 0 CA2 3 SK2 6  
BU2 7 MI3 2

Suffolk 1sts ended the season with a 9-0 win over Oxon 3rds. Suffolk 1sts did not lose a match and win the championship and promotion. Cambs 2nds failed to get a point. Their best effort was the 5-4 loss to Oxon 3rds.

### VETS DIV 3C:

(Feb 10

HA4 5 WI2 4 DV3 7 HE6 2

It was another hard fought match between Hants 4 the team and Wilts 2nds. Three events were decided at 18, 19 and 21 in the third game. Hants won 5-4 with Nigel Lodder (HA) winning both his singles matches, which included a 21 in the third event against Mike Oxley. All events decided in two straight in the Devon/Herts match with Devon 3rds winning 7-2. Sussex 3rd team lead the Division and have one more match to play.

Feb 24: SX3 9DV3 0BK4 4 WI2  
5 HE6 1 HA4 8

Sussex 3rd team ended the season with another 9-0 win. They were unbeaten, win the championship and promotion. Barbara Bayford had 100% wins in singles, and mixed doubles. Wilts 2/Berks 4 match score stood at 4-4 when Mike Oxley (WI) beat Colin Wilkes 18 and 21 to get their second win of the season. Herts 6th team, with 2 points, finished bottom of the Table.

### VETS DIV 3D:

(10 Feb)

DO3 9 SO2 0 HE5 4 DV2 5

Herts 5th team's 4-5 loss against Devon 2 was their first defeat of the season. With Dorset 3rds getting a maximum 9-0 win against Somerset they should now win this Division.

Feb 24:

DV2 6 WI3 3 HR 2 HE5 7  
SO2 8 DV4 1

Dorset 3rds were winners of this Division being on equal points with Devon 2nds but a better sets ratios. Somersets 2nds got their first win in style with the 8-1 defeat of Devon 4ths. This just put them ahead of Herefords and avoid the bottom spot.

At 2nd March the following matches were outstanding:

Senr Div 1A	12 matches
Senr Div 2B	GS2 b Wo2 (arr 23 March)
Senr Div 2D	10 matches
Junr 1B	Hants v Bucks (arr 16 March)
Junr 2A	10 matches (arr 16 March)
Vets Div 2A	Lancs2 b Yorks2
Vets Div 2D	Avon v Dorset2 (arr 30 March)
Vets Div 3A	Clywd b Beds 3, Beds 3 v
Norfolk 2	

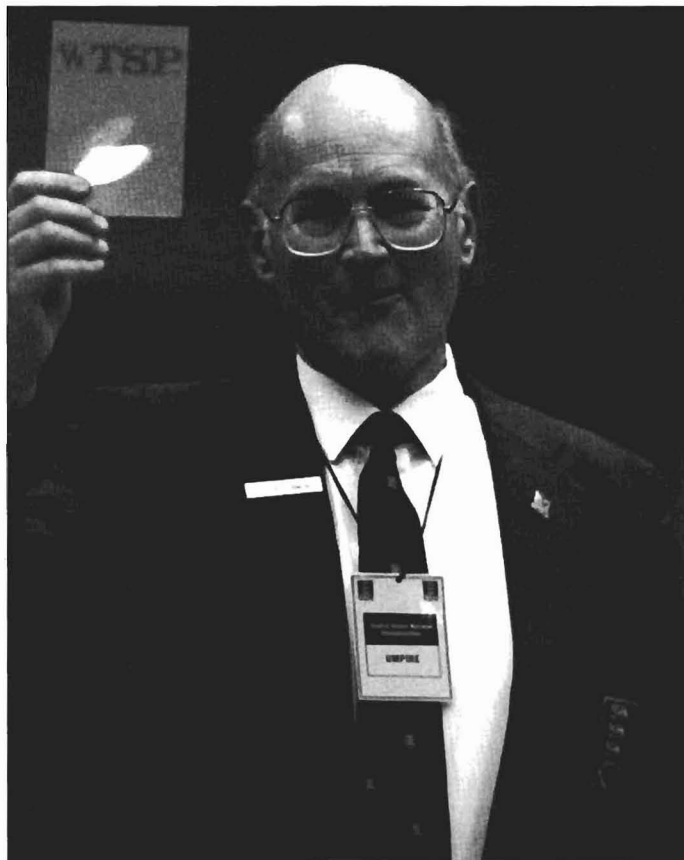
# RESPONSIBILITY *of* UMPIRES

BEHAVIOUR ON COURT DURING A MATCH IS AN AREA OF CONCERN FOR ALL OFFICIALS AND IF NOT HANDLED CORRECTLY CAN REFLECT BADLY ON BOTH PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS WRITES **GEORGE TYLER**

In the first instance, any incident of bad behaviour on court is the responsibility of the umpire, who may first 'gently chide', then officially warn, subsequently penalise and then finally involve the referee who has the ultimate sanction of disqualification. The Rules of Table Tennis state: "Players and coaches shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or may bring the sport into disrepute, including deliberate damage to equipment, such as breaking the ball or hitting the table with a racket, bad language or excessive shouting, deliberately hitting the ball out of the playing area, disrespect of match officials and persistent disregard of the regulations involving advice during play."

Why do players behave badly in front of officials, sponsors and spectators? Is it another facet of the general behaviour of society? Can it be immaturity as young players are often involved? Is it caused by the pressure of competition and the desire to win - or not to lose? Or is it the possibility of winning or losing valuable ranking points? Probably no one cause is responsible, rather a combination of all.

What can be done to eliminate incidents of bad behaviour? It is doubtful if they can ever be completely eliminated, however, there are some measures which could be tried. One option could be



the encouragement of self-discipline by counselling, to be included in all training programmes. Self-discipline by means of harsher penalties for consistent offenders may well be another option. The playing down of the Computer Points Ranking System could also be looked at.

What of the penalty system already in place? After a quiet

warning to the player (or pair) any subsequent offence would result in a formal warning with a yellow card being shown. Further offences would result in the awarding of one point to the opponent(s), then two points, at which point the referee would be called. Whenever a yellow card is shown it has to be reported to the referee, who in turn would

include all such reports in his report of the event. When juniors are involved the incidents are reported to the Coaching Committee.

But at this stage the incidents appear to be lost, and no further action appears to be taken. At one major European Championships one player was shown the yellow card in every team event, yet nothing further happened, so the incidents continued. Players who never offend cannot understand this. Perhaps as in football, an accumulation of yellow cards should result in further action. Should the offender appear at a disciplinary hearing? Should the offender receive a short suspension? Should the offender lose ranking points? Whatever happens persistent offenders should be made aware that their behaviour is unacceptable, and bad news for table tennis.

Most officials are players themselves and understand the frustration of losing a vital point to an edge ball, of losing a vital match to a net ball, of losing valuable ranking points in a close match, but bad behaviour on court is unacceptable, it is not good for the image of the game and it does not win points. It offends the umpire, it encourages the opponent and it shows up a bad loser.

If you have any comments, observations or suggestions please write to: Drop Shot, c/o the Editor.

Are you having a good season?

# BETWEEN RALLIES-

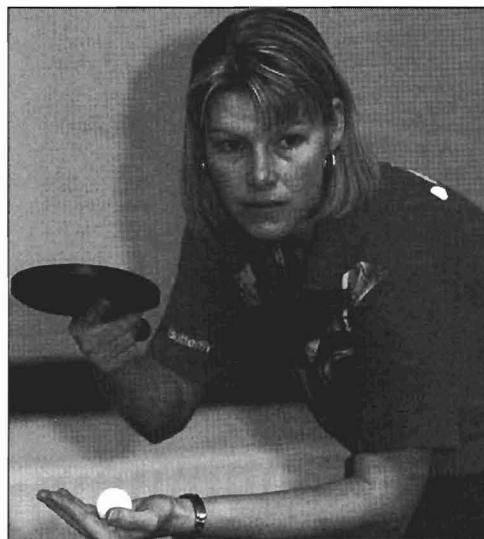
## *Getting into a good routine?*

MOST PLAYERS AND COACHES WILL SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME DURING PRACTICE WORKING ON THE TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL ASPECTS OF TABLE TENNIS IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR COMPETITIVE PLAY. IT WILL PROBABLY BE A SURPRISE THAT DURING AN AVERAGE COMPETITIVE GAME FOR EVERY 5 MINUTES OF TIME ON THE TABLE ONLY 1 MINUTE IS SPENT ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN RALLIES. THE REST OF THE TIME (80%) COULD BE SEEN AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLE RATHER THAN A TECHNICAL OR TACTICAL ONE. SOME MAY EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE GAME IS WON OR LOST ON THE PLAYERS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THIS 80% PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN POINTS WRITES **TIM HOLDER**.

What is more definite is that it is important to control the thoughts during the time between points and for the player to use this period to help themselves use the techniques and tactics that they have worked so hard on in practice.

Unfortunately a good level of control is rarely the reality and the period in-between points is often where players can:

- lose concentration (or focus) on the job at hand
- become highly emotional (e.g. angry, frustrated, overjoyed) due to the result of the last point
- get distracted by what is happening around them (e.g. other games, comments or reactions from



the side of the court)

When players get into such a state they are very rarely in control of their thoughts by the time they come to serve or receive. This is easiest to spot by looking at the speed at which they are playing compared to their normal pace. Often players who are out of control in-between points will play faster than usual and may even rush so much that they end up serving off.

Watching world class table tennis players such as Saive, Gatién, Primorac etc. it is obvious that they attempt to control the period of time in-between points by using a routine, or sequence of actions, before they serve or receive. Along with these actions they will be attempting to use specific thoughts or psychological skills to help them to do what they want to in the next point. It is important that the thoughts and actions that you do just before you serve help you to do the best you can and do not in any way stop you from performing well.

Right is an example of a pre service routine for players to use to

gain some control over the times in-between rallies. The routine has four stages (see below) A routine such as this should, with practice take about five seconds to go through and should help players to feel in control, positive and confident as they are going to serve. As a result of this they are more likely to be able to serve

as they want to, more likely to control the rally that follows and as a result more likely to be successful in their play during that point.

Such a routine is easy to convert into a receiving routine where the thoughts are related to the best return a player could make and what the key aspect might be (e.g. playing a positive return).

Please send for a brochure on the above subject to:

*Tim Holder ETTA Sport Psychologist, Chichester Institute of Higher Education, Bishop Otter Campus, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 4PE.*

**Before you throw the ball up the following steps can be used:-**

WHAT TO DO?	SPECIFIC EXAMPLE
1) Think about the serve that you want to do (i.e. direction, length and spin)	<i>Short to the forehand side and backspin.</i>
2) Imagine in your mind doing the serve successfully. (Play the service through in your mind trying to see what would happen, hear the sounds you would hear, feel the movements that you would feel).	<i>Imagine the feel of the movement that creates the correct service, hear the contact of the ball on the bat, see the ball bounce on your side of the table, pass just over the net into the opponent's forehand side and spin on its first bounce on the receiver's side. Also imagine where you want the ball to be returned to.</i>
3) Relaxing breath	<i>Breathe in deeply and as you let the breath feel your shoulders, playing arm and wrist relax.</i>
4) Use a key word or phrase that reminds you of the most important feature to remember for that particular service (e.g. wrist, spin, length, relax, hit it, smooth, recover etc).	<i>"smooth wrists"</i>

# Data CONNECTION *in* BARNET

For a number of years Data Connection of Enfield have sponsored Barnet Juniors and Cadet teams in Hertfordshire, in both Interleague and National competitions.

Barnet have had much success in the Inter League but are still trying to improve our results in both the Carter Cup (Juniors) and Johnny Leach Cup (Cadets).

Barnet would like to take this opportunity of thanking Data Connection for their continued support.

The Coaching Course which is regularly running at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Saturday mornings is proving very popular. At the end of each 10 week session there is a small tournament and Mr Suddique

of McDonalds Barnet provides trophies for the winners. He also presents a £5.00 Voucher to the player selected as being the most promising of that season.

Mark Dare is our official Coach and is very popular with both the Seniors and Juniors alike. Let's hope our Juniors and Cadets go from strength to strength.

**Regular Members  
and Coaches at the  
Barnet Table Tennis  
Centre**



## VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY *launches* BT TOP SPORT

Table Tennis makes a great breakthrough this month (April) when BT Top Sport Table Tennis becomes part of the Primary National Curriculum.

Officially launched in London on February 29th by Virginia Bottomley JP MP Secretary of State, Department of National Heritage and a host of sporting celebrities including Sue Barker, Duncan Goodhew and our own Lisa Lomas - BT Top Sport Table Tennis is part of the National Junior Sport Programme.

The aim is to take the scheme into every school in the Country (approximately 22,000). Table Tennis is one of only seven sports included, in the first instance. The ETTA and ESTTA have worked very closely with the Sports Council and Youth Sport Trust who, between them, have already raised huge sums of money to make the scheme work. Financial contributions include the Lottery Sports Fund £7.7M (Community Element), Sports Council £2.3M, British Telecommunications £750,000 and substantial trust money. The Youth Sports Trust is a prime mover in this scheme and is backed by businessman John Beckwith of Pacific Investments.

Table Tennis equipment (bats, balls and revolutionary plastic nets) and activity cards are available free to teachers who sign up for quality training to deliver the scheme. A more comprehensive account of this unprecedented opportunity for table tennis, including Top Club, will appear in next month's issue.

## SOUTH WEST REGIONAL NEWS

In the West Cornwall TTL, "The Lark Construction Player of the month" and probably the oldest player in thirteen years of the player of the month award, was Jenny Jones of Peoples Palace "H", Jenny was the successful recipient for December 1995 - and at 78 years of age, Jenny had two wins against Cambourne F and two more against Penryn RFC in Division 3, quite a remarkable achievement and quite a remarkable lady I'd say.

### COUNTY CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Bodmin Indoor Centre 16th and  
17th March 1996

This season's County Closed Championships - at Bodmin Indoor Tennis Centre is once again being held on the above dates. The Junior events will be held on the Saturday and the Seniors on the Sunday. There are events for all age groups so please make every effort to attend if you possible can as the County Committee are anxious to

attract a large entry.

### LEAGUE BARBECUE

Saturday 29th June 1996

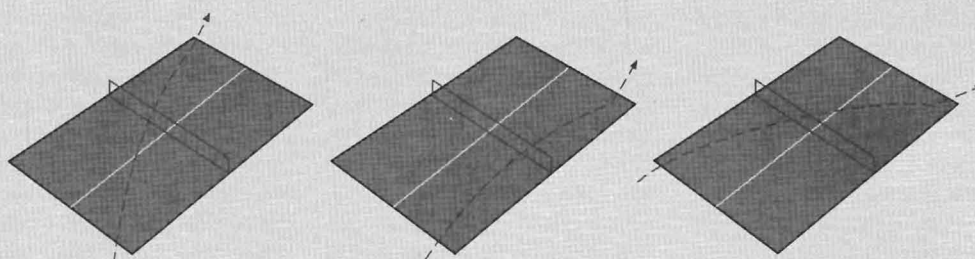
Mona Dawe from the now flourishing Roskear Club has very kindly offered to run a barbecue on the above date on behalf of league funds. This event will be held at "Neyona", Roekindale Close, Illogan Highway, Redruth and it is hoped that as many members as possible will make the effort to attend. Well done 'Mona-great effort'.

### NEW TABLE TENNIS CENTRE

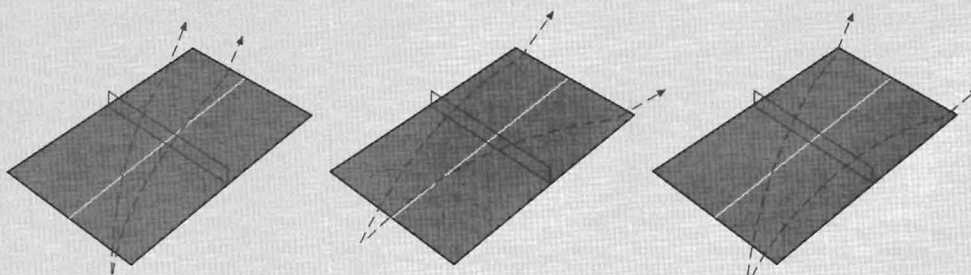
The proposed purpose-built TT Centre at St Austell Rugby Club took a step closer to reality recently with the approval of a £50,000 grant from the Foundation for Sport and Arts. Now of course eagerly awaited is the response from the National Lottery Fund and if favourable then construction work could commence very shortly.

# *the* FOREHAND DRIVE

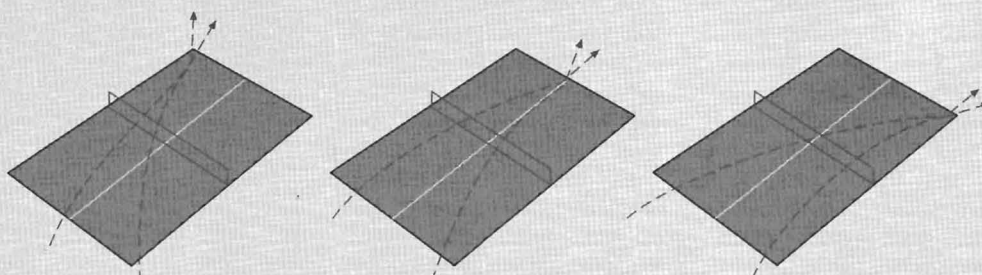
## CONSISTENCY



## HITTING TO DIFFERENT TARGETS



## HITTING FROM DIFFERENT TARGETS



PLAYERS SHOULD BE COACHED TO HIT THE FOREHAND DRIVE WITH TOPSPIN. THIS MEANS THAT FROM AN EARLY STAGE, THE ARM ACTION SHOULD BE A 'SALUTING' ACTION. FROM THIS ACTION IT IS RELATIVELY EASY TO PROGRESS TOWARDS A LOOP SHOT (WHEREAS FLAT HITTERS OFTEN FIND THE PROGRESSION DIFFICULT).

WHEN LEARNING THE FOREHAND DRIVE, PLAYERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT GOOD TECHNIQUE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH; GOOD FOOTWORK IS ALSO ESSENTIAL, WRITES **GAIL MCCULLOCH.**

Forehand drive exercises should have various aims

- eg. 1 - consistency
- 2 - hitting to different targets
- 3 - hitting from different targets

The ITTF is compiling a Coaches Register of those coaches who wish to be involved in Olympic Solidarity courses throughout the world. Any Senior ETTA Coaches who wish to be considered for inclusion on this list, should contact me for an application form.

A fourth and final tutor training day will be held at Lilleshall on April 13th. Further details are available from Jill Parker. Any tutor who has failed to update, will no longer be able to deliver ETTA Coaching Courses.

**LOST TROPHIES**

*Mrs L Steers, Kent*

I am writing to ask for your help to assist in locating several Trophies from the Kleinwort Greiveson Tunbridge Wells Junior Open Championships.

This Tournament was last held in 1989 at the Angel Centre, Tunbridge, Kent. This Tournament no longer takes place but the Tunbridge Wells League would like any persons with trophies to contact Mrs L Steers -01892 532048 (Phone).



**OVERSUBSCRIBED?**

*L J Greswell, Middlesex*

The recent Kent 2 Star 'Select' Table Tennis Championships did indeed live up to its title. Several ranked English Junior Girls had their entries turned down on the grounds of the tournament being over subscribed. The players were apparently chosen on the earliest entries taking preference. This arbitrary unaccountable method of selection was made even more incredulous by the actual entry. A low girls number of 48 (96 for boys) was discriminatory enough but of these, 24 were nominated international team members and another 17 places split by two countries. I assume that foreign/National places were already assured. So how many entry forms were mailed merely to create disappointments? Surely the only fair manner of selection of such a 'high standard' tournament should be on National Ranking. Otherwise rename the event as an invitation only tournament which will give it a greater status and stop making youngsters cynical and wary. All this might sound wonderful news - junior tournaments full. Players anxious to enter and keen to play. In reality English Table Tennis is at its lowest ebb for fifty years and in its present state of elitest parochial mentality will only get worse. Twenty-five years ago I wrote an article about players (of all levels) being the real blood guts and stars of the game: soon we won't have any.

**TREVOR TAYLOR AND...**

*Ken Muhr, Durham*

Thirty years ago I played in the junior events of many senior open tournaments. I recall the ignominy of being drubbed around 1 and 5 by Trevor Taylor in a junior boys singles quarter final of the Woolwich Senior Open, despite playing quite well - those who remember Trevor will know how difficult it was to win points against him then! Paul Judd (or was it Paul Harmer?) gave me a similar thrashing in the junior event of the Midland (Birmingham) Open. At the Middlesex Open, in Hanwell Community Centre, (where in the juniors I beat Dave Welsman before he was any good!), I witnessed a major upset when fellow junior, the slick Keith Lawrence, knocked out top senior player Connie Warren. And so on. But the main point is that I got into the habit of entering and enjoying senior events.

There seemed to be far more senior tournaments then, and most had junior events. Attracted initially by those junior events, I had not only the opportunity and experience of playing seniors, but also watching and being inspired by the male stars of the day such as Chester Barnes, Denis Neale, Ian Harrison, Brian Wright, Les Haslam, Stuart Gibbs, Ralph Gunnion and Connie.

The top juniors of my time, like Chester Barnes, Stuart Gibbs, Alan Hydes and Trevor Taylor, and Jill (Parker) Shirley, Karenze (Matthews) Smith, Pauline (Piddock) Hemmings and Maureen (Robson) Heppell were able to crack the top 10 of the senior ranking list, which is a rare event now, particularly for boys.

Nowadays, the gap, in standard and style, between juniors and seniors is too wide. Indeed many leading juniors don't make the transition and frequently give up. In recent editions of the magazine, I have made several suggestions to keep youngsters in the game and thriving/purposeful in it. However, much also could be done regarding the tournament circuit such as (in my private view):-

1. Running more senior open tournaments. I know that Mike

Johns (himself a former top junior-senior), the new ETTA Events Officer, is planning a new series of Regional Opens.

2. Having more graded events in senior tournaments, like at the Cleveland Open, to attract the lesser players, including juniors/recent juniors. Mike John is also working at this.

3. Encouraging senior tournaments to run junior and perhaps under 21 events to attract juniors/recent juniors to them, and hopefully getting them into the habit of entering (and the senior events in them).

4. Running Under 21 Opens, (including an Under 21 Masters) perhaps also with under 19, 18 or 17 events, for juniors and recent juniors as an intermediate level or bridge to senior play. This would also allow players to maintain contact with their social and competitive peer groups. I used to run the Milton Keynes Under 21 Tournament to cater for this age range. The National Under 15/18/21 Championships, though commendable, are on their own not enough.

5. Running Under 21 or Under 19 events (as well as banded singles) at Junior Opens. This

would also allow players to continue with their peer groups. However, junior table tennis is probably the

least poorly catered for area in competitive terms and having older age categories at junior tournaments will perhaps give insufficient inducement to 'move on'. Therefore I do not think this is the priority.

Of course, providing such open tournament competitive opportunities is still not enough. For example, scrapping the deduction of ranking points for losses would remove a major psychological block to entering them. And, in my opinion, our national squads are still appallingly under resourced for training and foreign competition (a British Academy may help). But there is no doubt that a better tournament structure would be a major step forward.



**IMAGE CONSULTANT**

*LJ Bridges, Somerset*

I would like to congratulate the organisers of the recent Bristol 2 Star Junior Open. Firstly they sent me a batch of entry forms, so I was able to supply young U12 players who would not have otherwise obtained forms. Secondly, although the tournament catered for U12, U14 and U17 age groups all on one day. Every player in his or her group of three went through, either to the 1st round or into a plate competition.

The only negative factor was that one or two of our 'novice' parents, used to Badminton, Tennis and Squash were surprised to see people knocking up in their street clothes! I didn't explain that this is very common at table tennis Opens! Referees - please note that 'Image' is desperately important!



**ASEA, FRENCH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION IN BRITANNY**

seeks partner UK club of between 10 and 15 youngsters aged between 10 and 15 years (plus coach) for exchange tournament - first of which ideally between 22nd - 26th April 1996 (further dates open to discussion).

For more info., call Mr Leborgne on **0181 944 6345**

# COUNTY Notes

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.

## Avon

BY BOB MURRAY

### COUNTY SCENE

In an eventful month for our county sides I think I ought to get the bad news out of the way first.

Despite an excellent 7 wins from 8 by Michele Cohen and good support from Sian Evans our Seniors were only able to secure one win from the 4 matches played at New Malden and have therefore been relegated from Division 1B. The weekend started well enough with a 7-3 win over Gloucestershire on Saturday morning. However defeats against Middlesex II and Hampshire later on the Saturday and against Herts on the Sunday gave us an inferior set difference to Devon II and consequently we will be playing our neighbouring counties in Division 2 next season.

Following comfortable wins against Cornwall and Devon II in early February at Failand the Juniors travelled to Glamorgan III knowing that a draw would be sufficient to give them the Division 2C title. In a tense match we led 2-0 and 4-2 but were 4-5 down going into the final set. Brian Smith however was able to win a nail-biting three setter to give us the draw we needed. Man of the match must go to David Porter who was 0-16 down in the first game of one of his sets but came to snatch a three set win and he went on to gain a vital brace. Leigh Iles and Jessica Orlik chipped in with one each and although not successful on this occasion Katie Hardidge has made steady improvement throughout the season and is a valued member of the team. This has been an excellent season for this very young side and with a string of cadets coming through as well the future looks good.

At the other end of the age scale, four wins from four matches and only four sets dropped saw the Veterans sitting pretty at the top of the table as February arrived. A hard-earned 6-3 away at Gloucestershire in early February (two from Gary Baldwin, one each from Linda Porter, Clive Ellison and Bob Murray and a crucial doubles by Gary and Bob) then meant that one win from the remaining two matches would give us the championship and with it promotion to Division 1. It was with this incentive we entertained Somerset at Failand TTC. In the first four sets played we lost three of them very close in the third game and were 1-3 down when the fightback started. A win by Gary over John Crabtree was followed by another vital doubles win by Gary and Bob

and further singles wins by Bob and Clive. Despite Gary losing to Brian Reeves in the final singles the title had been secured and with a match in hand.

### BRISTOL LEAGUE

Five points dropped from five drawn matches leaves current champions Almondsbury with plenty to do if they are to retain their title. Current leaders Nailsea have only dropped two points and with Phil Paine in excellent form it is difficult to see anyone catching them now.

### BATH LEAGUE

It was the Cohens, Michele and Maurice, who took the family honours at this year's Bath Championships. Michele retained her Ladies Singles title and partnered Janice Mitchell to win the Ladies Doubles; Maurice won the Iron Man (sorry Super Vets) event and teamed up with Michele for a Mixed Doubles success (their first together I understand). You would have got pretty short odds a Bath University winner of this year's Men's Singles and so it turned out but not entirely as expected. Top seed, Lee Piercy, was a first round casualty at the hands of Mervyn George and so it was left to Isle of Wight's Nick Hutchings to ensure an academic victory and he duly obliged by beating Terry Parkins in the final.

### RESULTS IN FULL

Men's Singles Nick Hutchings bt Terry Parkins  
Ladies Singles Michele Cohen bt Linda Porter  
Boy's Singles Chris Filer bt Chris Gibbs  
Girl's Singles Emma Whipp bt Tracy Filer  
Veteran's Singles John Higgs bt Terry Parkins  
Super Vet's Singles Maurice Cohen bt Ivor Mead  
Handicap Singles Peter Whipp bt Fred Naylor  
Men's Doubles Lee Piercy/Nick Hutchings bt Andy Harrington/Andy Rumary  
Ladies Doubles Michele Cohen/Janice Mitchell bt Linda Porter/Judy Higgs  
Junior Doubles Chris Filer/Gavin Wainwright bt Peter Whipp/Mark Burge  
Veteran's Doubles

Terry Parkins/Paddy O'Connor bt Ray Corderey/Roy Cary  
Mixed Doubles Michele Cohen/Maurice Cohen bt Linda Porter/John Higgs

## Berkshire

BY JOHN CUNNINGHAM

### DOUBLE SUCCESS FOR BAXTER

Danny Baxter had to draw on all his considerable talent to successfully defend his men's singles title at the Donald Reid Maidenhead Closed Championships at Altwood School over the weekend, as he lifted the Advertiser Anniversary Trophy for the second successive year.

And the top seed from the Tylers Green club certainly did it the hard way as his final win over local hope Mark Banks proved a fitting climax to a tremendous weekend of table tennis which saw almost 400 matches played at another top class championships.

### COLLIER WINS AGAIN

The Susan Collier road show continued at the Maidenhead Closed Championships on Sunday as she came back to town and



Susan Collier

walked away with her 14th women's singles title.

The only difference this year was Collier's final opponent, Isabel Walker from the

Phoenix club.

The young third seed had a superb semi-final win over second seed Lisa Crick, so often pitched against Collier in the final. In a fine attacking match Walker won 21-23, 21-14, 21-15 to book her first final spot against Collier who beat fourth seed Gill Knightley in the other semi-final.

But Collier was in no mood for any shocks in the final and she swept Walker aside with a barrage of stunning attacks to win 21-14, 21-7.

Earlier Collier had made it title number 40 at the championships over the last 17 years in the mixed doubles.

However, the women's doubles title again eluded Collier and partner Lorna Firth as they lost out 21-7 in the third set against top seeds and defending champions Crick and Walker.

### REEVES STILL OUT IN FRONT

The ideal playing conditions in the sports hall at Greenham Park were fully appreciated by participants in the Newbury Closed Table Tennis Championships.

There were several varied events for both seniors and juniors but main focus of interest was on the Men's Singles where David Reeves once again showed he was in a class of his own, overcoming Tony Brown in the final.

But Brown had ample compensation when he not only carried off the Men's Doubles with Niall McGrane, but both the Vets and Super Vets' Singles titles as well. Janet Parker retained the Ladies' Singles title with clubmate Jackie Godwin runner-up.

### HARI BEATS BROTHER

Hari Gehlot won the Reading Closed men's title by defeating his brother, Ramesh.

It enabled him to complete a double as earlier in the season Hari won the Reading Handicap tournament.

Both brothers cruised through to the final, staged at the Kingfisher club in Woodley.

Hari beat Roger Woolven-Allen 21-15, 21-12 in the quarter-final and David Wise 21-13, 21-15 in his semi.

Ramesh beat Geoff Davis 21-18, 21-10 and then Colin Dyke 21-19, 21-11.

But it was not all one way for OLOP British League player Hari in the final.

Ramesh took the first game 21-17 but Hari recovered to take the second 21-19 before going on to win the decider 21-17.

Hari also won the mixed doubles with Mary Allen, beating previous champions Ian Schwartz and Isabel Walker 19-21, 21-15, 21-

17.

But there was no luck for the Gehlots in the men's doubles. The defending champions, they lost 19-21, 21-10, 17-21 to Ian Schwartz and Dave Wise.

Isabel Walker had better luck in the ladies singles, retaining two titles.

In the singles, she beat Mary Allen 17-21, 21-15, 21-18 after pulling away from 18-18 in the decider.

Walker teamed up with Springfield teammate Sandra Pike to beat Karen Slatford and Wendy Porter in the doubles.

The Reading and District Association thank Lewis DMR Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the new surrounds which were used for the first time at the closed championships.

**Cambridgeshire**

BY ANDY HOBBLE

**COMMITMENT?**

At local league level it would seem that interest is declining and it is of great concern that even at County level, the commitment also seems to be waning.

It is difficult to comment on the state of our colleagues at Ely as they have failed to send a representative to the last two county meetings. Cambridge would seem to be the most stable of the four leagues, however the catchment area gives them an advantage over the other two members March and Wisbech. March's commitment must be admired, with only one division the enthusiasm of certain individuals seems to be the backbone of their survival. At Wisbech we are seeing numbers declining and this season there have been more cancelled fixtures that I can remember in several years.

At representative level our senior team have completed another weekend of fixtures in the Premier league and unfortunately have found themselves outclassed with defeats against Middlesex (1-9) and Devonshire (3-7) on Saturday 10th February and Staffordshire (3-7) and Sussex (3-7) on Sunday 11th February. Helen Newbound 5, Keith Richardson 2, Andy Withers 2 and Yvette Hooks 1 were Cams scorers over the weekend.

Our Veterans 2 side were also in action against Bucks 2 but fared little better than the senior side with a 7-2 defeat. Gwen Stennett was the successful lady and she teamed up with Phil Sinclair to take the Mixed Doubles.

The Annual County Championships take place on March 3rd and this will be reported on in the next issue.

**Clwyd**

BY ROY WILLIAMS

**COUNTY HOPE**

With the County Championship programme almost complete our unbeaten junior team will make a bid for the Division 2A Junior title at the South Kesteven TTC Grantham when they play Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and near neighbours Lancashire 2nd in the final session when they hope to retain their unbeaten record.

Our senior team have completed their season losing all eight matches but in their campaign Joanna Bastin has won nine of her sixteen sets. Chris Robson won five sets with the veteran Don Hobbo winning three times before his visit to hospital for an operation.

The Veteran team won one match which was an improvement on last season and if their outstanding match with Bedfordshire can be re-arranged perhaps we have a chance of more glory. The Veteran team enjoy the challenge of County matches and most of their games have been close affairs.

**WREXHAM DOMINATE**

Teams from East Flint, Rhyl, Llandudno and Wrexham compete in the G S Radcliffe and C S Shone Cup competitions but as in previous season's Wrexham teams dominate the events with three teams in the semi-finals this season.

Nomads 'A' beat Wimpey Minerals in their semi-final of the Radcliffe Cup, the premier event, by six sets to three. John Spence, Adam and Barry Robertson proved to be just too strong for Philip Jones, Ian Woolley and Clive Roberts who all beat Robertson senior. In the second match Nomads 'B' with Justin Evans, Geriant Williams, Jonathan Allen and Natasha Williams in their squad easily beat Llandudno's Abergele RBL, who played Merion Williams, Dave Murphy, John Cartwright with Graham Heath as reserve.

Bethesda reached the final of the shone Cup at the expense of Ysgol John Bright 'B' with Reg John and Neil Robertson in outstanding form. Daniel Farrar and Kevin James did however win a set each against their first division opponents.

George Tomlinson won one set for Llandegla 'A' in their semi-final clash with Caergwrle BB 'B' beating Dave Galley in three sets. Sue Burgess and John Brenner with unbeaten performances made sure that Caergwrle reached the final.

**STILL CHAMP**

Justin Evans retained the A T Finney Cup and the North Wales Championship when he beat Jonathan Allen in the Men's Singles final at the Dyffryn Conwy Leisure Centre, Llanwrst on Sunday 10 March. Justin beat Danny Harris in his semi-final with Jonathan defeating Ron Weatherby. Delyth Davies beat Sue Burgess in the semi-final then Julie Furber in the Ladies Singles final to win the Royal Mail cup. Joanna Bastin was the second semi finalist.

Julie Furber and Jonathan Allen won the Ladies and Men's 23 & Under Singles.

**RESULTS**

*MS Justin Evans (W) bt Jonathan Allen (W)*

*LS Delyth Davies (W) bt Julie Furber (EF)*

*MS 23 & U Jonathan Allen bt*

*Danny Harris (W)*

*LS 23 & U Julie Furber (EF)*

*bt Joanna Bastin (LI)*

*VMS Harold Furber (EF) bt John Spence (EF)*

*VLS Christine Watkins (W) bt Pru Oakes (LI)*

*VS 60 Don Hobbs (LI) bt John Dancaster (LI)*

*JBS Danny Harris (W) bt Gareth Steen (LI)*

*JGS Julie Furber (EF) bt Delyth Davies (W)*

*CBS Geriant Williams (W) bt*

*Christopher Livings (R)*

*CGS Iona Davies (W) bt Joanne Adams (LI)*

*MD J Evans/G Williams (W) bt*

*J Allen/J Spence (W)*

*LD D Davies/J Furber (W) bt*

*S Burgess/G Whittaker (W)*

*XD R Weatherby/J Furber (W & EF)*

*bt D Harris/S Davies (W)*

*VMD J Spence/W Curtis (W & LI) bt*

*J Bishton/D Hobbs (W & LI)*

*VLD P Oakes/C Watkins (LI & W)*

*bt G Adams/G Owen (R & LI)*

*JBD D Harris/G Williams (W) bt*

*J Pryce/G Steen (R & LI)*

*JGD D Davies/J Furber (W & EF) bt*

*J Adams/S Davies (LI & W)*

*MD 23&U J Allen/G Williams (W) bt*

*D Harris/L Maher (W)*

*LD 23 & U J Bastin/G Roberts (LI) bt*

*D Davies/J Furber (W)*

*M S Plate Chris Robson (LI) bt*

*Emrys Coupe (LI)*

*L S Plate Chris Watkins (W) bt*

*Gillian Whittaker (W)*

*Key: EF - East Flint, R - Rhyl, LI - Llandudno,*

*W - Wrexham*

**Cumbria**

BY GORDON BROWN

**CONCEDED**

Warwickshire 2nd did Cumbria a good turn when they arrived at Whitbarrow Time Share

Village, Penrith, on Saturday February 24 with a player short.

The two sets they conceded ensured Cumbria of their second County Championship Division 2 victory of the season by six sets to four.

Penrith-based ladies Julie Stitch and Joanne Burgess and Stephen Dixon (Morecambe) led the way with former Yorkshire player Julie winning both her sets, in two straight games, 21-8, 21-12 and 21-16, 21-14.

Joanne beat the visiting number two lady 9-21, 22-20, 21-5, and put up a titanic struggle against the number one, only to go down -19 in the third after winning the first game 21-14, and losing the second 16-21.

Stephen defeated Warwick's number two Darren Smith 18-21, 21-17, 21-15. Smith beat Kendal's Peter Rushton 15 and 12, and Darren's teammate Simon Upson defeated Barrow's Jamie Harris 21-8, 21-16 and Dixon 9 and 16, using his pimple rubber to good attacking advantage.

This completed Cumbria's county programme with a record of won two, drawn one and lost five, 29 sets for and 52 against.

**Derbyshire**

BY COLIN DEATON

**PLAYER OF THE FUTURE**

Perhaps two most pleasing aspects to write about from a Derbyshire point of view is that both our County Senior and Junior teams will not be relegated from their respective divisions competing in the National County Championships.

Our Senior team in the final weekend play-offs were able to field a real strong side which included Bradley Billington, Nicola Deaton and Michelle Haynes.

Michelle Haynes recently transferred her registration from Nottingham and made her debut for Derbyshire and there can be no denying that she is going to be a real asset to her county. She is a most dedicated player and the success she has gained as a Junior player suggests to me that she really is going to be a player of the future.

Under the watchful eye of her Coach Phil Vickers from Derby, who plans all her training schedules, the English Junior Closed Champion would love to be a full-time table tennis professional.

She truly realises the huge gap there is between top junior play and the senior but I predict this girl is destined for some high honours in our senior game. We will watch

A Look around the Country

her progress with much interest.

Once again our Derby Junior Select proved very popular with 280 players from all over Great Britain coming to Moorways, Derby. Over 1,000 games were played on 23 tables in 22 hours.

Against such a wealth of national talent, local players had to fight hard to make an impact.

Chesterfield's Michael Isherwood, unseeded in the Junior Boys, won his group and beat the number four seed before being overwhelmed by the number one seed Jason Sugrue in the semi-final.

Paisley Spink the rising star from Burton did one better and reached the final of the Cadet Band One Singles with some very long games.

Of significant importance to Derby was the play of our Junior Girl player Helen Rainford already ranked 37 in the England Junior listing. She easily overcame Morena Marchett before meeting the number four seed Nicola Smith from Leeds.

Nicola ranked 20 places above Helen, brushed her aside 21-10 in the first. However, some parental coaching in the interval and vocal support from the crowd which included the City Mayor, brought Helen to victory 21-19 and 23-21. In the next round however, the eventual finalist Nicola Silburn also from Leeds and also ranked higher, out-hit Helen winning 21-14, 21-9.

Helen plays from Long Eaton in the Derby League and expects to move further up the national rankings after these two wins. She is passing on her experience to younger players and is booked on a Coaching for Coaches course in March at The Rolls Royce Club. Hannah Tuxford and Carol Bloor will join her on the course. They will spearhead the Derby Association's efforts to encourage more women into table tennis.

Finally, the Matlock and District League have staged their annual closed event which was held at the Cromford Community Centre on the 27 February.

The widely travelled Geoff Gill emerged as the Men's Singles Champion defeating Steve Porter in the final 21-17, 21-18.

In the semi-final, he had a real tussle with his colleague Jonathan Davies and after overcoming a match point against him, won 26-24 in the deciding game.

As always in Matlock, the finals were played in front of an enthusiastic audience. The full championships results were:-

*Handicap Singles: Tom Gregory* bt A Stott;  
*Under 17 Singles: S Tolley* bt A Knowles;  
*Under 14 Singles: D Lowndes* bt Tom Gregory;  
*Under 21 Singles: S Tolley* bt A Stot;  
*Mixed Doubles: J Davies/G Back* bt P

*Thorley/T Gregory; Div 2 Singles: G Mee* bt S Tolley;  
*Men's Singles 1st Semi Final: S Porter* bt A Burton;  
*Mens Singles 2nd Semi Final: G Gill* bt J Davies;  
*Veterans Doubles Final: T Gregory/S Morris* bt M Thorley/G Morson;  
*Veterans Singles: T Gregory* bt G Morson;  
*Men's Doubles: G Gill/M Thorley* bt S Porter/J Davies;  
*Men's Singles: G Gill* bt S Porter



**SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND NO2**

The second weekend was held at the China Fleet Club, Saltash, Nr Plymouth overlooking the river Tamar with excellent facilities and on the spot accommodation. Our thanks to the staff of the China Fleet Club and our sponsor DML for making this such a successful venture.

Devon responded in front of their supporters with four good wins which enabled them to finish runners up to Berkshire. Although number one Alex Perry was away playing in Sweden the team of Paul Whiting, Paul Giles, Gary Lambert, Mike Short, Carol Giles, Lyndsey Heyward and Helen Lambert rose to the occasion defeating Staffordshire 8-2, Cambridgeshire 7-3, Leicestershire 6-4 and Essex 6-4. Their final record of being Played 7 Won 5 Drawn 2 = 12 points.

**JUNIOR SCENE**

Peter Thomas (Bideford) has had an excellent season with invitations to England Training Camps, reaching the National Trials Finals and thereby obtaining a ticket to the Junior Masters. The Devon number 1 finished in 6th place at Grimsby in the Junior Masters after good wins over Gareth Herbert and Peter Marshall. His progress this season has been quite amazing when you consider that he is studying for 'A' levels and has to make a round trip of 100 miles to play for his Club Intercity in the Plymouth and District League and also to do his training in Plymouth.

Michelle Barrett (Plymouth) is a talented ten year old who has been playing table tennis for 18 months. Her progress has been rapid for recently she received a top award from Plymouth City Council during their sport and leisure week. She has been Devon Junior Closed under 11 girls champion for 2 years, Devon Schools under 11 girls champion twice and recently won the Exeter 1 star girls under 11 title.



**Michelle Barrett**

**DEVON SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 1995-96 Devon Schools Championships were held at the Plymouth and District League Headquarters. 72 Boys and Girls participated in some keenly contested matches.

Previous Schools Internationals Peter Thomas and Joanna Barraclough plus Kate Chidgey and Michelle Barrett retained their crowns and with the other winners will go forward to represent the county in the National Schools Individual Finals.

**RESULTS**

**BOYS**

*U19 Peter Thomas* (Bideford College) bt Rory Harris (Eggbuckland)  
*U16 Chris Gorvett* (Grenville College) bt James Whiteman (Tavistock CC)  
*U13 Stuart Gibbs* (Knowles Hill) Cameron Hinton (Bideford College)  
*U11 Arjuna Newman* (St. Johns, Sidmouth) bt Tim Watson (Tavistock CP)

**GIRLS**

*U19 Louise Gibson* (Coombe Dean) bt Catherine Allen (Coombe Dean)  
*U16 Joanna Barraclough* (Devonport High) bt Emma Gibson (Coombe Dean)  
*U13 Kate Chidgey* (St. Michaels, Barnstaple) Unopposed  
*U11 Michelle Barrett* (Montpelier CP) bt Kate Rowe (Morice Town CP)



**SENIOR DIV 2(C)**

The county senior second team took the title at BATTs, Harlow with excellent 7-3 wins against Kent III and Lincolnshire I. The scheduling went exactly to plan and the last game of the campaign between Essex and Lincs effectively became the championship decider. An in-form Steve Rand carried on where he had left off with wins against Andy Wignall and Stuart Worrell and this gave him an unblemished record (16 wins out of 16). Nikki Kennard also excelled with 14 wins out of 15 including an excellent success over

Nicola Massingham. Her win over Jayne Strawson was the one that really mattered giving Essex the vital fifth game in the hard-fought match against Lincolnshire. Clive Carthy getting back to his brilliant best was also unbeaten on the day and sharing in the success were Ian Attridge and Shirley Carroll who both played so well in the first weekend.

**CHELMSFORD CLOSED**

Eighteen year-old Steve Joslin retained his men's singles title with a thrilling win in the final against Rik James 15, -18, 18 and for a good measure he also took the U21s title with a 7, 16 final victory over Paul Davison. Played on a separate finals night in front of a good crowd, the Men's final had everything - long rallies, tension, a fascinating contrast in styles and a third-game fight-back before a fired-up Joslin finally took the crown. Shelley Ruocco who the day before had played so well at the Welsh Open in reaching the ladies singles final took her third successive ladies title beating Sarah Davison 10 and 19 in the final and she also tasted success with Rik in the mixed doubles and with Sarah in the ladies doubles. John Holland did the double taking both the veterans O40s and O50s crowns whilst Natalie Bowden set a record-of-sorts playing an incredible 22 games on the Saturday. A major plus-point was the number of juniors taking part, a reward for the hard work put in by county coaching officer Keith Woodcock. Full results were as follows:

**MEN'S SINGLES SEMI-FINALS:**

**Steve Joslin** bt David Cole -18, 16, 15  
**Rik James** bt Reagan Nettleingham 13, 18

**MEN'S DOUBLES:**

**Rik James/David Cole** bt Steve Joslin/Reagan Nettleingham 16, 18

**MIXED DOUBLES:**

**Rik James/Shelley Ruocco** bt David Cole/Sarah Davison 18, 17

**LADIES DOUBLES:**

**Sarah Davison/Shelley Ruocco** bt Natalie Bowden/Catherine Woodcock 14, 12

**VETERANS O40S:**

**John Holland** bt Derek Wood 15, 16  
**VETERANS O50S:**

**John Holland** bt Tom Elder 17, 17

**JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES:**

**Reagan Nettleingham** bt Paul Lucas 12, 14  
**JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES (round robin):**

1) **Catherine Woodcock**

2) Natalie Bowden

**U15S SINGLES:**

**Gary Brignall** bt Paul Woodcock -14, 16, 16  
**U13S SINGLES:**

**Natalie Bowden** bt Daniel Christy 10, 12  
**U17 DOUBLES:**

**Gary Brignall/Catherine Woodcock** bt

Chris Farmer/Kay Barham 10, 8



**SUCCESSFUL EVENING**

Cheltenham staged the first of the four Gloucestershire League's Finals Nights at St Benedicts School, in Arle road. It proved to be a highly successful evening's table tennis and commenced with the two semi-finals of the Open Singles in which Dave Harvey booked a place in the final by beating John Fannin 21-9, 21-15, meanwhile Graham Slack (the defending champion), defeated Mark Bilsborrow 21-13, 21-16, to ease into the final against Harvey, the County No 1. Harvey took the first game 21-19, Slack fought back well to take the second at 21-17, and in an exciting final game Slack appeared to have Harvey at his mercy, Slack was 10-4 up, when they changed ends, but the wily veteran player had other ideas and clawed his way back to 12 all, eventually Harvey piled on the pressure and ran out Singles winner by 21-14 in the third game, this is the 16th time that Dave Harvey has won the Cheltenham (closed) Singles.

The Ladies Singles featured age and experience in Veteran County Player Julie Taylor, against youth in the form of 15 year old Newent School Girl, Ann Humble who lives in Highnam. Taylor won the first game with comparative ease 21-12, but that brief success was all that she was allowed to have, Humble piled on the pressure winning the second game with good backhand and forehand passing shots 21-7. In the third and final game, Humble led all the way to take the Championship at 21-16, her very first season in the Cheltenham Association and what a prize "The Ladies Singles Winner".

In the Veterans Singles Final: Defending Champion Dave Harvey had little trouble in beating Colin Green 21-12, 21-9. Green however, despite the opposition put up a very spirited display against the former England No 1 Veteran.

The Intermediate Singles Under 21 Final was won by Jon Roberts who beat an off-form Aaron Mortimer 21-13, 21-7, a good victory for Roberts against the current County No 1 Junior.

The Open Doubles Final: this event was won by John Fannin and Dave Harvey who beat Graham Slack and Jon Bunn, 21-5, 19-21, 21-17.

Results of events already played prior to

Final's Night  
**DIV. 4 HANDICAP SINGLES**  
**Dave Foulser** bt Dave Wilkinson  
**DIV. 3 HANDICAP SINGLES**  
**John Adcock** bt Geoffrey Foster  
**DIV. 2 HANDICAP SINGLES**  
**D Winn** bt Colin Green  
**DIV. 1 HANDICAP SINGLES**  
**Atul Patel** bt Chris White  
**DIV. 1-4 DOUBLES**  
**C White/A England** bt C Green/R Dowsett  
**DIV. 4 SINGLES**  
**Dave Foulser** bt Mike Dowsett  
**DIV. 3 SINGLES**  
**Mike Tyrell** bt Geoffrey Foster  
**DIV. 2 SINGLES**  
**Colin Green** bt Tony Iles  
**JUBILEE EVENT:**  
**D Harvey/C Bond** bt C Green/J Kirby  
**LADIES DOUBLES**  
**J Taylor/H Hartman** bt A Humble/J Kirby  
**MIXED DOUBLES**  
**G Slack/J Carver** bt J Fannin/J Taylor  
**MINOR DOUBLES**  
**C Green/M Pearce** bt M Green/D Wiltshire  
**OPEN HARD BAT SINGLES**  
**D Harvey** bt G Slack  
**MASTERS SINGLES**  
**J Fannin** bt D Oastler  
 The Hon Referee & Final's Night Secretary was Mrs Gillian Smith  
 Finals Night Umpires were Brian Karn and George Payne  
 At the end of the evening Mr Peter Cruwys Chairman of the Cheltenham Table Tennis Assoc. thanked Morgan & Co for their continued sponsorship of the Championships.

The Gloucestershire Senior Banded 1 Star Open Singles Tournament which was staged by the County TTA on Sunday 25th February at Deer Park TT Centre at Cirencester, proved not only to be a tremendous success, but attracted players from as far afield as Surrey and Buckinghamshire, local Regional players present came from Avon, Somerset, Wilts. and of course Gloucestershire was well represented.

Played on eight tables there were between 55-60 entries overall, the Tournament was organised by Ken Bridle from Cirencester, and refereed by Mrs Gill Smith (TR) from Cheltenham.

Originally, there were six events, but owing to the lack of entrants for the Ladies Open, this event was called off, leaving the following five championships, with the respective winners and runners-up duly reported:

**MENS OPEN SINGLES**  
**Dave Harvey**(Gs) bt Gary Baldwin(Av) 11, 12  
**MENS OPEN SINGLES BAND 1**

**Will Dawe**(Gs) bt Sylvester Callum(Gs) 17, 12  
**MENS OPEN SINGLES BAND 2**  
**John Fannin**(Gs) bt Andrew Rumary(So) 19, 11  
**WOMENS OPEN SINGLES BAND 1**  
**Brenda Lee**(Wi) bt Alison Cox(Gs) 10, 5  
**WOMENS OPEN SINGLES BAND 2**  
**Wendy Barlow**(Bu) bt Suzy Robinson(Gs) 7, 8  
 County Codes: Gs - Gloucestershire Av - Avon So - Somerset Wi - Wiltshire Bu - Buckinghamshire



**WHITEWASHED**

With only one junior match outstanding it looks as if all 8 of our County Championship teams will be staying put next season; lingering hopes of the premier "A" side for a quick return to the Premier being dashed by Sussex who whitewashed them!

The Isle of Wight have won the inter town Junior Div. 1 title with their squad of Danny Burns, James Ovnik, Lorna Dutch (playing as a boy) and Lucy Pointer whilst Southampton "B" represented by Richard Williams, Simon Geddes, Chris Taylor, Craig Longland and Anna Maskell have won Div. 2. Portsmouth "B" will also be promoted whilst their "A" team will be relegated.

Highlight of the month from the reports received was the winning of the Southampton senior title by Chris Wilshere, who triumphed for the first time after appearing in 5 successive finals. Chris who defeated Christos Hannides in the final becomes the third player in the 64 year history of the Southampton association to win junior, senior and veteran titles (Don Catridge and Chris Shetler being the others).

15 year old Chris Butt who later won the junior title took Wilshere all the way in the semis saving 3 match points before going down 22-20 in the third. Two newcomers to Southampton finals contested the Women's final in Julie Eldridge and Beverley Shears, the former getting home 21-19; 22-20.

As I appear short of news this month I will conclude with the remaining Southampton winners;

**Veterans Chris Shetler Men's Doubles**  
**Sikanda Bawa/Christos Hannides Women's Doubles**  
**Julie Eldridge/Beverley Shears Mixed Doubles**  
**Keir Donaldson/Julie Eldridge Division 1**  
**Keir Donaldson Division 2**  
**Mark Kimber**

Division 3 **Julian Rickman** Division 4 **Richard Scott** Division 5 **James Rose**.



**BARNETS ARE CHAMPIONS**

Once again Barnets Table Tennis League have triumphed in the Veterans Inter League competition, when they remained undefeated following the third Sunday battle at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The fabulous four who did the trick are John Taylor, Chris Budden, Dave Svenson and Dennis Robinson, who swept aside the challenge of the chasing pack, and nearest rivals Cheshunt.

On the last match of the day Barnets only needed to win 4-3 against No. 2 seeds Cheshunt.

Cheshunt needed to win 7-0 to take the title, but in the end they went down 5-2 to worthy champions Barnets.

Cheshunt's two games were won by Tony Teff who beat Barnets Dave Svenson 19, -13, 11 and Derek Balding who overpowered Barnets Chris Budden 13, -14, 17.

**CADETS INTER LEAGUE**

Barnets league also have their noses in front in the Cadet Inter-League competition, sharing top spot with local rivals Watford.

The Barnet trio of Adam Klein, Sarah Shepherd and Donna Greenberg were unbeaten after the first Sunday the 11th February, whilst the Watford threesome of Jon Price, Ben Starr and Paul Hawkins, were also undefeated, with identical games difference.

The second Sunday of the Cadets Inter-League has been changed from the 21st April to the 5th May 1996.

**WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE**

Hertfordshire women tasted success at the highest level when three ladies gained promotion with their respective teams at the Women's British League competition at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, at Burton in March.

Firstly, Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling lead her team Horsham back to the Premier Division by winning the First Division title, and Caroline and Sarah Seaholme from Watford helped their team Pinewood Fullers win promotion to the First Division

A Look around the Country



**Hertfordshire's Champions: Women's British League First Division winners, Horesham, pictured left to right are: Claire Moore, Sally Weston and Emma Hurling**

**Hertfordshire's Champions: Pinewood Fullerians, winners of the Women's British League Second Division, (left to right) Angela Smith, Sarah Seaholme, Lisa Crick and Caroline Seaholme**



by winning the Second Division trophy.

**SILVER JUBILEE**

On Saturday 27th April 1996, the Barnet Table Tennis Centre will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee, by holding a 'Get-Together', which will be a ticket only evening commencing at 7pm.

For further details telephone Brian Gale 0181 440 1712 or Ron Boucher 0181 440 5594.

Being one of the earliest purpose-built centres this is a special occasion for Barnet, so on behalf of the county I wish them every success on the evening and the future.



**SPONSORS A VITAL ELEMENT**

Playing in Europe is surely the only way that we can close the gap in playing standards with our European partners. The recent sponsorship of D B CONTRACTORS (Bob Lucy) and THAKE TRANSPORT (Tony Thake) and the facilities assistance of Gravesham Borough

Council, enabled Kent County TTA to bring together eight national teams for the Kent Junior Open and International Team event making it the biggest junior event in this country. Kent's invitations to foreign national associations have resulted in regular exchange visits into mainland Europe for training camps and international tournaments. The support of our sponsors and the guidance given to the county through the Kent County Council Sports Development Unit, Sans Frontier and Sports Match have made the funding possible, allowing the county to select on playing ability, and not the ability to pay. The support of our sponsors is rewarded by regular Newsletters, Press, Radio and TV coverage of all Kent organised events. Sponsors after all are looking for a return, its a business transaction, and must be treated as a business agreement, although, the sponsors also get the personal satisfaction from being involved with top level sport and watching local players improve and compete at international level.

In the past few months Kent have been fortunate enough to have the world's leading coach, Wang Da Yong, run a training camp for Kent's County Juniors and such was the significance of this visit from the world No 1's personal coach and coach to the Belgium

Senior National Team that Meridian TV spent 1.5 hours filming, and then put the story out three times including the prime time 10 o'clock news. Over the Christmas holidays four of our younger players attended a three day training camp near Calais, while our top two nationally ranked juniors trained with the French National squad at Wattignes. The French team stayed on an extra week after the Kent Junior Open to attend a Kent organised training camp at Sittingbourne, while the England Junior Squad practised on their own. Kent are fortunate in having all our closed tournaments and junior league sponsored, and the Counties thanks go to all those that help and support the Counties ambitious projects.

Events planned for the coming months include:-

1. A return visit by Wang Da Yong to run another Kent Junior Training Camp in May.
2. 12 players of U14 and U12 age groups plus 4 coaches will play in Generation Atlanta, in Namur, Belgium over the 6/7/8th April, in a mini French Speaking Olympics (Kent will be the only non-French speaking team).
3. An U12 and U10 squad have been invited to a training camp in Betune, France, for the weekend 20/21st April.
4. 8 players of all junior age groups and 2 Coaches have been invited to a training camp in Switzerland, also in April.
5. A Kent team of Three Boys and Three Girls in the age Groups U17, U14 and U12 have accepted an invitation from the Luxembourg Table Tennis Association to play in the prestigious 18 Nations Tournament in June.
6. An invitation has been accepted to send a junior party in Denmark in October for a training camp and tournament.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

Lancashire's England-ranked cadet Andrew Rushton is to be congratulated for finishing third in the recent National Junior Masters event held at Grimsby. Andrew qualified for the event from the National trials at King's Lynn. He is currently ranked No. 8 on the cadet list and improving all the time.

News now of the Lancashire Closed Championships which were last held at Chorley in 1993. The Preston League have temporarily relinquished the event and it will be staged at Shadsworth Sports Centre, Blackburn on Sunday 12th May. This year's competition is to be run by Seaisiders TTC of

Blackpool and entry forms are available from yours truly on 01253 397589. There will be eleven events including men's and women's bands, junior and veteran singles with group play in all singles competitions.

Whilst writing these notes I have just learned that our regional development officer Martin Ireland has been called up to represent the County in the division 1A weekend at Walsall. It will be Martin's first taste of County table tennis and a well-earned honour. He has always been a useful player waiting on the fringe. Some years ago he was a last minute choice but was unable to play due to work commitments. I know it is an honour that he has wanted for a long time. There's one thing for sure - he'll give 100% effort.

The prestigious Blackpool 3 Star Open tournament is taking shape. The event will be held over the weekend 25/26th May at the new Blackpool Sports Centre. I understand there will be seventeen tables in operation and extra lighting is to be installed. A prize fund has been set up of over £1,700 with a good portion of the money coming by way of the kind sponsorship of Royal Mail. Entry forms are available from the organiser Martin Ireland on 01253 302545.

In division one of the Lancashire and Cheshire League Bury beat Bolton 7-3 and then went down 9-1 to Stockport where Roger Hampson and Paul Collins were unbeaten. Division Two South leaders Burnley eliminated nearest rivals Ellesmere Port from the title chase (6-4). Howard Whewell's classy play did the damage. Preston 'A' romped home 9-1 at Warrington 'A' with sound performances from vets Dave Evans and Tony Rigley. Tameside did their title prospects some good in division three when they trounced Rochdale 'B' 10-nil. Preston got the verdict over Salford and Farnworth 6-4 in junior one but were well beaten 9-1 by a strong Wirral side, which boasted the skills of England cadet Chris Dunne. Graeme Foster and Lee Staggs recorded good stints in division two as Barrow 'A' triumphed over Southport 8-2 and Blackpool beat Preston 'A' 8-2 thanks to in-form Kim Roberts.

Clare Newns hit top form for Wirral in the 6-4 success over Manchester Ladies. Her 11 and 9 defeat of Doreen Schofield was particularly impressive. Liverpool edged home 6-4 at Oldham thanks to a good display from Justine Thomas.

In division two vets, Blackburn had no trouble in disposing of Oldham 'A' 9-1. Oldham's Peter Milojevic beat former county No 1. Phil Blake 14 and 10 and was very unlucky not to have won his other two contests with messers Ward and Jackson.

Mid-Cheshire maintained their 100% record with a 6-4 win at neighbours Halton. Brian Johns nosed them home in the final set of the match. In another close match Business Houses beat Oldham 6-4 with Ken Jackson supreme.

Divisions 1 and 2 and there is a vacancy in Division 3 with mostly local counties. Think about it and ring if interested. We have sponsorship and wish to provide County play for those interested.

Andrew Wilkinson as coach, and if successful another may be organised at North Shields YMCA. Hopefully these sessions will encourage youngsters to take up the sport at an early age and develop their enthusiasm and skills through suitable coaching in a table tennis environment.

junior competition as well as winning through to the Div2 singles.

Staying with tournament play, this time the Gloucestershire 1\* tournament in Cirencester and a commendable second place finish for Andrew Rummery who narrowly lost to John Fannin in the final of the band 2 singles. Robert Millard also did well to reach the later stages of the open event eventually going out to national rank 76 Dave Harvey after leading 12-6 in the third game.

**Norfolk**  
BY RAY HOGG

**A LITTLE MYSTERY**

I am able to report that we had sponsorship for our Championships (March 30/31) from six companies. the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk IBA Ltd; Kings Lynn WPS. Thetford-Two J's Sport, Loddon-Baker CAC, Great Yarmouth and Reepham Printing Services, Reepham. Also to add a little mystery we had an anonymous sponsor to the tune of £300.

We also have major sponsorship from a well known firm of Solicitors based in Opie Street, Norwich - COZENS-HARDY % JEWSON - we are exceedingly grateful for this, their first venture into sponsorship. We hope it will be of mutual benefit and ask players to support our sponsors.

Norwich closed on Jan 7th brought Phil Logsdon a further title despite having limited movement with his gammy leg. No one could get near him as his speed and consistency beat all comers. Joy Dixon recorded another victory over Mary Sawyer who sees Joy as her bogie player - we all have one. Kings Lynn closed without Chris Brewer saw yet another title for Gary Hewitt in my view the best player ever to come from Norfolk when he puts his mind to it. Ruth Acourt returning from maternity leave took back her singles title. I spent a couple of hours at these championships and was most impressed with the organisation. An analysis of the 8 Norfolk leagues shows all of them play 3-a-side except Norwich and all of them have a point a game scoring system or something similar. Norwich league are having a big discussion with all clubs aware of the situation that at the AGM changes will be offered and they should consider their position and vote accordingly.

With the County all teams have finished and all current team secretaries are able and willing to continue next season. It is just the question of how many teams as I have said before. May 15th is the deadline so it is not good asking after that date. We have to date 1 Senior, 2 Junior (with a possible 3rd if we can find the girls) and 2 Veterans (with a 3rd if I can get offers to play) - we have teams in

**Northumberland**  
BY PAULINE LONG

**STILL IN THE CUP**

February has been a quiet month on the county scene, with the veterans' team having completed their fixtures and the WENADE UK (Blyth) sponsored senior and junior team not due in action until March 2/3 and 16 respectively. Only the veterans' representative team was still in their Inter-League Cup competition and following their win against Sunderland they beat Darlington in the next round, "Benny" Robertson winning three and Jimmy Scope two.

In the National Power Northumbria League, Gateshead 'A' have at the time of writing recorded 18 successive victories in Division 1, losing only 17 sets in the process. They are 27 points clear of their nearest rivals St. Gabriel's and North Shields YMCA 'A' are in third place ten points behind with a game in hand. Division 2 appears to be a three-way contest between YMCA 'C', who are leading the Division by eight points from Tyne Dock, but Newton 'A' have played a game less and are only seven points behind.

Only five points separate the top three teams in Division 3 - Brinkburn CA, Newton 'B' and Lemington 'B' - but Newton have a game in hand over the others. YMCA 'J' are still Division 4 leaders but Scotswood SC are now in second place eleven points behind with a game in hand, and DSS 'C' have moved down to third.

The Handicap Knock-Out Cup Competition has now reached its semi-final stage with Newton 'A' (70) drawn against YMCA 'E' (90) in the top half, and Byker CC 'A' (70) due to meet the winners of the quarter-final between Scotswood SC (210) and Cramlington 'A' (150).

A date for the Closed Tournament had not been set at the time of writing, but it was hoped that it would be held in April or May.

On the junior front, Dave Scholfield had commenced organising a Woolwich junior League at Kenton School, and a junior coaching session was also being organised on the other side of the River Tyne at Ouston CC. An advanced training centre for promising juniors has already been set up at Kenton School, with former England Junior No 1

**Somerset**  
BY LOUIS JONES

**INCREDIBLE!**

Bruno beats Tyson in the first round - Unlikely  
Atherton leads England to work cup glory - Doubtful  
Bates takes Wimbledon by storm - Fantasy  
Somerset Vets 2 win final game of the season? - Incredible!

Yes as incredible as it may sound Somerset Vets 2 beat their Devon counterparts 8 games to 1 in what was to be their first (and unfortunately last) win of the season on home ground in Wellington. After letting the first game slip to Devon, Somerset pulled out the stops to take the last eight and deservedly succeed in putting points in the last column of the league table to finish in some style.

Somerset juniors added to a successful season with a strong win over Herefordshire 7-3 and a solid 5-5 draw with Gloucestershire. Sam Reynolds gained an impressive start to his time with Somerset with two wins over Herefordshire with Claire Gibbs battling well to beat higher ranked Leanne Neads. Mike Ong and Chris Filer made the going tough for Gloucestershire winning all four of their games and Chris Sayers gained one last victory before bowing out of the Somerset team.

Chris Filer furthered his month's success by coming second in the Avon Schools tournament after dismissing the much fancied 2nd seed in the semi finals.

Somerset are looking to add to Chris' success in the forthcoming Somerset schools tournament to be held in Coventry on May 11th. Phil Tilotson, Kevin Beale, Mike Ong, Claire Gibbs and Helen Round will all be flying the proverbial flag for the county - Best of luck to the all. Both Roger Holloway (Somerset U14 number 1) and Craig Bryant (Somerset U11 number 1) are two Somerset players who's schools fall out side of Somerset's boundary. Although the Somerset schools tournament is out of their reach they showed exceptional form in the recent Taunton League tournament. Roger Holloway took the honours in their close run final of the

**DEVELOPMENT**

With the imminent return of Weston Super-Mare to Somerset table tennis the county is looking forward to the future in more ways than one. Following the recent success of the Sports Council's Champion Coaching Schemes set up in Taunton and Wellington and again in Bridgwater thanks to Caroline Preece and Nigel Roderick's efforts, a similar scheme has got off the ground again at Taunton. The "Shooting Stars" coaching scheme has plucked young hopefuls from primary schools in the area as an introductory 6 week course for beginners. It is hoped that the young players from this course can fuel the county in years to come increasing the county's achievements.

Finally with Easter approaching fast, moves are under way for the rebirth of the crucified table tennis clubhouse at Chard. Prompted by a fire in 1995, a meeting between Somerset Chairman Phil Jones, Southwest Development Officer Steve Ward and Chard's Club Chairman Mike Tuffin to look at ways of raising funds for the task. Lottery cash private investment and other resources are all being considered so watch this space. In the meantime go easy on the Chocolate eggs...happy batting.

**Sussex**  
BY JOHN WOODFORD

**CONTROLLED AGGRESSION**

Chris Hancock from Hastings and Heidy Sims from Haywards Heath are the new Sussex junior champions. After a long day at the Newman School, Hove where 250 matches were played, Hancock in the semis brought down the reigning champion Harry McCarney (Lewes) -15, 21, 8. Hancock triumphed through controlled aggression in the semi finals, going on to win the final against Mark Forder.

Miss Sims, still only 14, also had a tough battle in the final before she finally brought

A look around the Country

down the powerful Brighton girl Sara Cohn, who is coached by the former Sussex player Steve Downer. Cohn was beaten 19, 18.

Forder, from Worthing, is the Sussex player who has made most progress this season, whilst his greatest rival Robert Abbotts has been unable to play on several occasions due to injury and health problems, which it is hoped will soon be swiftly overcome.

RESULTS

BOYS UNDER 17 SINGLES

**Chris Hancock** *bt* Mark Forder

GIRLS UNDER 17 SINGLES

**Heidy Sims** *bt* Sara Cohn

BOYS UNDER 17 DOUBLES

**Mark Forder/Chris Hancock** *bt* Harry

McCarney/William Reardon

GIRLS UNDER 17 DOUBLES

**Sara Cohn/Heidy Sims** *bt*

Tracey Huntley/Sharron Roberts

MIXED UNDER 17 DOUBLES

**Sara Cohn/Harry McCarney** *bt* Heidi Sims/Mark Forder

Chris Baker (Brighton) and Pauline Steel of Worthing are the new Sussex veterans champions. In a disappointing entry of only 32 (after 300 entry forms had been despatched), play lasted ten hours and was "thoroughly enjoyed by all" according to county chairman Keith Jackson, who was a competitor.

Robin Stace appeared, but there was a disappointing turnout from the rest of the county players, almost a stand-off, possible caused by running the event on a Saturday, when many people have commitments they do not have on Sundays.

Meanwhile, Horsham Angels are putting on a tremendous battle to avoid relegation from the premier division of the British League. With Sussex champion Scott Greenbrook still suffering from a soccer ankle injury, they brought in the strongest reserve in the division - Nigel Tyler. His presence helped to steady the Angels as they defeated Team Peniel 8-6 at Brentwood to give them high hopes of survival.

East Sussex football, table tennis and stoolball fans are mourning the tragic death of Sid Myall aged 53 on February 26 when playing table tennis in the Eastbourn League at Willingdon. At 14-14 in the final game of the doubles when playing for Saffrons, he collapsed and died shortly afterwards in hospital.

Sid was one of those stalwarts of local sport - his son Stuart is currently playing in the back four for Brighton and Hove Albion. His second son Roger plays up front for Eastbourne Town in the Sussex County League, whilst side was secretary, treasurer, former player and even served the soccer fans their cups of tea at half-time.

His latest move was to play veterans soccer - perhaps that is another warning to players over 50 to take it easy - stress-related fatalities on court in the racquet sports, especially squash and table tennis are increasing. Soccer is a young man's game.



**AMAZING DEFEAT**

There's only one way that I could commence this report, and that is with the news of an amazing 21-0 defeat for one of our County First Team Players!!!

During the match against Wiltshire, Adrian Tottee was involved in a bizarre game against Tim O'Mahoney which started with Tim 'pinching' the first game 21-0, much to the startled dismay of all looking on!!

After the usual advice from Team Mater such as "that's the knock-up over, now for the real thing", and "this time Ade, take your bat out of the bat-case", he proceeded to take the second at 28-26, surge ahead 7-1 in the decider, before finally admitting defeat at 21-14!!

The team won 1 and lost 1 of its matches over the weekend, leaving them to try to beat Somerset for a promotion place later in the season. Watch this space for details.

Back in the relative calm of the Dudley Table Tennis League, Division 1 champions Bromley 'A' look set for another league and Cup double, whilst in Division 2 the title is between Thorns 'A', Hawbush and the Neil Powell inspired Wednesbury Tube sides, with the last matches of the season proving to be of vital importance. County league champions Dudley are on course for another title, after defeating Kidderminster 6-3 in their latest fixture. Steve Horton and Ken Walton were unbeaten for Dudley, whilst Alex Westwood played very well for Kiddy, despite being taken to three by Dennis Hill, who played well on his debut for the Title-holders. The match against Worcester will once again probably decide the title race, and was due to be played on March 7th.

Returning to the County scene, there has been much 'debate' about Team Selection, rankings and other matters, amongst players, officials and selectors alike, culminating in (or so I am reliably informed), the resignation of one of the Selectors from the Executive Committee. In view of the strong feelings expressed by all on the subject, it is clear that a defined policy in respect of the criteria used for selection (what counts, which results,

tournaments etc.) needs to be outlined to all prospective players, in time for the start of next season. Unless players know what counts and what doesn't, they will continue to feel aggrieved in things don't go their way).

Next month I will report on the Dudley Tournament taking place at Thorns Community College on Sunday March 3rd. Details of any other leagues championship, or finds can be reported also, if you let me know about them.



**BAND OF YOUNGSTERS**

Last month's notes highlighted the success of the County's ever-growing and ever-improving band of youngsters and, with our Juniors and Cadets still stealing the limelight, there is little option but to continue the theme this time round.

I suffer from the same problem as most correspondents to TTN - lack of information supplied to me - but these youngsters make their own news.

As I write I await information from across the Humber where our County have no less than eight players competing - twice as many as any other County, in the English Junior Cadet Masters at Grimsby. Yes, Yorkshire is England's biggest county, in acreage, if not population, but to provide eight of the 48 competitors is an achievement which reflects well on the youngsters and equally well on the hardworking coaches who have helped to bring them through.

Congratulations go to all these 'backroom' boys as well as to Mike James (Bridlington), Peter Marshall (Hull), David Smith (Huddersfield), Nicola Silburn (Leeds) and Nicola Smith (Leeds) - Juniors and Scott Taylor (Hull), Sarah Noutch (Leeds) and Rachael Codd (Hull) - Cadets, together with best wishes for a good tournament.

And a number of these players will be on County duty over the following weekend when the Junior Premier side will go all out to emulate the Junior Division 1 North team, who have already tied up their championship as noted in the last issue.

Marshall, Silburn and the two unrelated Smiths will be joined by Darren Ashall (Wakefield) and Emma Smith (Selby) - again unrelated - and, on home territory at the Armley Sports Centre in Leeds, they will be going all out to retain the title they won last season.

There was a disappointing entry - some two dozen or so enthusiasts - at the recent Graded Closed Championships held at Armley, but it was pleasing to see a good contingent from Sheffield, with French student Miki Vanthana taking the eye as he collected both Mens Grade 2 and Grade 3 titles.

Other winners were: Mens Grade 1 - Tim Dyson (Huddersfield); Ladies - Nicola Silburn (Leeds); Doubles - Mike and Simon James (Bridlington).

What a pity tournaments are falling by the wayside - the Graded Open and Junior Select have followed the 3 Star into oblivion due to sharply rising costs and equally sharply decreasing entries - apologies to all those who telephoned the tournament secretary to ask for entry forms.

As ever, news from across the Broad Acres is in short supply but the enthusiastic SCARBOROUGH League are keeping me in touch with affairs up on the North East Coast.

Immediately springing to notice was that Scarborough, like Hull, have all eight Divisions - repeat eight EIGHT Divisions, each of eight teams, except for the Woolwich Building Society Junior Division 8, which incorporates ten teams, sponsored.

And TT is obviously on the up as the League has increased by six teams from 61 to 66.

In the top section Rugby Club, led by the experienced Steve Tracey, with backing from Mark Marshall and top junior Solomon Snell, lead the table ahead of Muston, and with the leaders having already notched a narrow 6-4 win over the village side, they must be favourites.

Over at Hull the top two over the past two seasons - YPI Normans - Mike and Simon James, Dave Burnham - and Wold Lions - Sally Marling, Andy Sugarman, Richard Kilvington, the two first named in each side recognised stars in the local British League teams, have been joined by EMCRC Anzacs - Wayne Marsh, Peter Marshall and newcomer to the city Steve Green - three more British League men.

And Anzacs are coming up well on the rails with a recent 9-1 victory over Normans to their credit, and I understand that the local bookies are quickly shortening their odds!

Still in Hull, and it is pleasing to report that work has started on the new purpose-built T T Centre at the Hull YPI's Recreation Ground.

Owned by the YPI and administered jointly by the Table Tennis Club and the Hull & District Association, the Centre, due to open in late May, will bring a new dimension to the sport in the city.

## ENGLISH SCHOOL'S TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by Rea Balmford

**The Challenge! - to beat last season's five out of eight in the Finals of the National Schools' Team Championships to be held at the Grantham and Kesteven TT Centre at Grantham shortly before this edition of TTN is in your hands.**

The Challengers! - Peniel Academy, with six teams through to the National Finals.

The odds! - probably evens, or a little better.

And finally, your correspondent's hopes! - at the risk of upsetting some very good players and equally good coaches down in Essex, that at least two teams overturn the favourites, to add spice to the competition and indicate that the standards elsewhere are beginning to be brought up to those set at Peniel.

Already four times previous holders Bedford Modern have closed the door in the B19 event, dismissing the holders to take a place in the finals and bid to add the B19 honours to those won at the same level in 1986, 87, 90 and 92.

Bedford will meet the very much sport oriented Millfield School, looking for their first win at any level in the competition, and Barrow 6th Form College in the traditionally strong area of Cumbria which has provided such names as Parkview, this year competing again in the G16, where twelve months ago they finished in runners-up spot, and Yarlside Junior, winners of the G11 in 93, and not forgetting, of course, the halcyon days of Millom School under the leadership of John Reed in the seventies, when nine titles came to the fringe of the Lake District.

Other schools making the return journey after a twelve month absence are the Grove, Market Drayton, runners-up in the G19 in 95-5, who will take on not only Peniel, but local contestants Kesteven and Grantham, one of only two teams in this age group - the other being Goffs School, Cheshunt -

to pull off a hat-trick of wins in successive years.

The 16B challenge comes from Wheelers Lane, Birmingham, another school which has competed regularly in the event over the years and a new name in Tudhoe Grammar, Durham, while Highfields, Wolverhampton, will be seeking to revive the victory years of 76, 83 and 84, and Parkview, third placed twelve months ago to claim the only 13-16 age group title which has so far eluded them.

Apart from Chiltern Trinity, third in G13 last season, a number of new names will be on view in Bramhall (Manchester), Wollaston (Northants) - Boys - and Valley Comp. (Notts) - Girls.

Kings College School, Wimbledon, the only team - Peniel apart - to be defending a title, will face Nevill Road (Manchester) and regular finalists Holymead Junior from Bristol in the B11, while in the parallel Girls battle Redlands (Worksop), who in 95 took runners-up spot in the Boys event, this time bring their girls, while Holymead, second in 95, will be aiming for the top spot after losing out to Disley (Cheshire) last time out.

But, wherever each team finishes in the finals, nobody can deny them their major honour - they have come as CHAMPIONS, having worked their way through local, area and regional competitions.

And the big winner is always table tennis - very rarely do we see deviation from the high standards of sportsmanship that not only should, but do, characterise this major event in the ESTTA calendar over the years - and this can only be good for our sport.

Best of luck to you - if you do YOUR best you will make the return journey satisfied with a 'job well done'.

### Finals line up:

**B19:** Barrow 6th Form College, Cumbria; Millfield School, Somerset; Bedford Modern, Beds.

**G19:** Grantham & Kesteven, Lincs; Grove, Market Drayton; Peniel Academy, Brentwood, Essex.

**B16:** Tudhoe Grange School, Durham; Wheelers Lane Boys, West Mids; Peniel Academy.

**G16:** Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness; Highfield, Wolverhampton; Peniel Academy.

**B13:** Bramhall School, Manchester; Wollaston School, Northants; Peniel Academy.

**G13:** Valley Comp, Notts; Chiltern Trinity, Somerset; Peniel Academy.

**B11:** Nevill Road School, Manchester; Holymead Junior, Avon; Kings College School, Wimbledon.

**G11:** Redlands Primary, Worksop, Notts; Holymead Junior; Peniel Academy.

## SEASIDERS (BLACKPOOL) JUNIOR 1 STAR 3 MARCH '96

The third in a series of five took place at Blackpool Sports Centre with an entry of over fifty. The tournaments appear to be growing in popularity and juniors are coming from Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Cumbria, North Wales and as far away as Lincolnshire.

Results were as follows:- Junior Boys Singles Band 1: Andrew Rushton (Manchester) bt Alexi Atkinson (Rochdale) 9,12; Junior Girls Singles Band 1: Kim Roberts (Blackpool) bt Andrea Harrison (Burnley) 19, 22; Junior Boys Singles Band 2: Andrew Rushton bt Stephen Davies (Grantham); Junior Girls Singles Band 2: Kim Roberts bt Kirsten Williams (Blackpool) 19, 17, 18; Cadet Boys Singles Band 1: Andrew Rushton bt Michael Gomersall (Barrow) 19, 19; Cadet Girls Singles Band 1: Helen McCleary (Chester) bt Binita Joshi (Dukinfield); Cadet Boys Singles Band 2: Michael Gomersall bt Ian Heatley (Runcorn) 17, 15; Cadet Girls Singles Band 2: Helen McCleary bt Binita Joshi 12, 18; U12 Boys Singles: Michael Gomersall bt Stephen Davies; U12 Girls Singles: Katy Ingham (Runcorn) bt Hannah Roberts (Chorley); Junior Mixed Singles Plate: Kirsten Williams bt Andrea Flintoff (Preston) 19, 18;

Cadet Mixed Singles Plate: Binita Joshi bt Helen McCleary 17, 12; U12 Mixed Singles Plate: David White (Bingley) bt Paul Lindley (Manchester) 11, 14.

## DISABLED TOURNAMENT

The British Table Tennis Association for Disabled People, for the first time ever, is introducing a National tournament, to be held this year at Stoke Manderville, Aylesbury, on the 6th and 7th April 1996.

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