

TABLE TENNIS

NEWS



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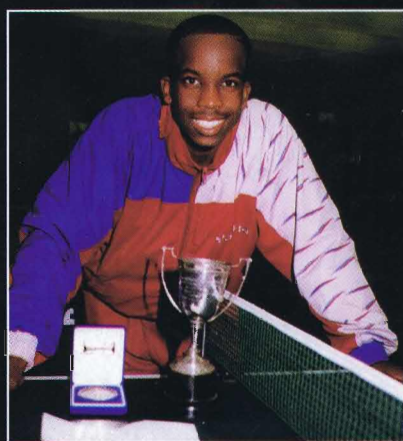
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- **English Junior Nationals** pages 16 and 17
- **Euro Olympic Qualifiers** page 10 and 11
- **Woolwich Junior British League** page 18

**JUNIOR
NATIONALS**

Haynes on a High

**HERBERT
TRIUMPHS**



**HAPPY
XMAS!**

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CAPTAIN'S LOG

This issue of Table Tennis News is the last edition in 1995, so I would like to wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

We in table tennis have lots to look forward to in the new year, especially the Olympic Qualifiers in Manchester from the 10th to 14th January 1996. See Jim Beckley's preview on pages 10 and 11.

Seeing out the old year was the English Junior National Championships' spectacular in Canterbury, Kent, over the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd December 1995. Read report on page 16.

The Woolwich Junior British League first weekend at the Bletchley Leisure Centre and Kingston Table Tennis Centre, in Milton Keynes, over the weekend of 25 and 26 November 1995 was a pleasure just to be there. With an increased number of teams all exuding enthusiasm and skill that gave me a warm feeling that the future of table tennis in England is in good hands. See Brian Lamerton's report on page 18.

Before you sit down to warm yourself in front of the log fire after your Christmas dinner, don't forget to order your tickets for the European Olympic Qualifiers see order form on page 11.

John F. A. Wood.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

- OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS IN MANCHESTER
- MENS AND WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES AGAINST RIVALS GERMANY

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



Table Tennis Snippets

LISA'S BOOTY!

England's No 1 lady Lisa Lomas has just received a 3 year contract from Dr. Martens, yes of walking boots fame.

Lisa has informed Table Tennis News that she is not required to wear the boots whilst playing matches!

Lisa's husband Andy plays in goal for Rushden and Diamonds, in the

Beazer Homes Premier Division and they are owned by Dr. Martens who have built a £10 million stadium, with indoor facilities, where Lisa is hoping to hold an exhibition or World Record attempt with her sister Jackie Bellinger.

Hopefully Doc Martens and table tennis will prove to be a good partnership.



Brighton and Hove Hotels Association, particularly the following hotels who will offer excellent rates for players and spectators attending the Championships.

☛ *Ainsley House,*
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Phone 01273 605310 Fax 01273 688604

☛ *Allendale Hotel,*
3 New Steine, Brighton
Phone 01273 675436 Fax 01273 602603

☛ *Ambassador Hotel,*
22 New Steine, Brighton, BN2 1PD
Phone 01273 676869 Fax 01273 689988

☛ *Amblescliffe Hotel,*
35 Upper Rock Gdns., Brighton,
BN2 1QF
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☛ *Arlanda Hotel,*
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BN2 1AG
Phone 01273 601203 Fax 01273 621973

☛ *Royal Albion Hotel,*
35 Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NT
Phone 01273 329202 Fax 01273 323972

GOOD IDEA FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Sandra Collins, Eastern Regional Development Officer, organised a pilot scheme for coaches, a first aid course run by the St Johns Ambulance writes Bill Webster.

The course was held in Hemel Hempstead at the St Johns Ambulance Centre. Sandra asked them if they could extend their standard course to include emergency aid and resuscitation of children. As most coaches deal with children, this part of the course was

coach Paul Tarrant flat on his back and was able to put him in the recovery position (you would think after all these years he would know the recovery position at the table).

I found the day most rewarding. I am sure the coaches who attended went away with more confidence to be able to handle emergency first aid. I consider that a course such as this is a must for all coaches.

HELP FOR MATCH SECRETARIES

As a direct result of the feedback received from Match Secretaries around the country, a new version of the Table Tennis Manager has recently been released by Reverb Software. Like the earlier versions it offers easy input of weekly match results and instant league table reports - now including doubles partnerships. A Fixtures generator readily produces the complete seasons fixtures list, and includes a popular individual Team Fixtures report - which avoids the need for the weekly player's ring round. The Table Tennis Manager can be adapted to suit the way your league plays; you can select 2,3 or 4 Players per team, the number of doubles played and how many points you wish to allocate for the various scores.

The product is very user friendly, using either mouse or keyboard you can be up and running in five minutes.

We will be doing an editorial next month on how computer assistance can help not only Match Secretaries but also generate more local interest in Table Tennis. In the meantime if

you want more information or a Free demo disk you can contact Reverb Software on 01285 653374

MIKE JOHNS JOINS ETTA

Mike Johns was appointed as the new Events manager of the ETTA, on 1st December 1995.

Many readers will know Mike as a regular veteran player but not many will recall that he was once the Pontefract Open Junior Champion way back in 1964.

Table Tennis News wishes Mike every success in his new appointment.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO BRIGHTON

Brighton, the scene of many English Opens during the 1960's and 70's will be the hosts of the 1996 English Senior National Championships on the weekend of 16th/17th March. In staging this event in Brighton, we are receiving assistance from the

STOP PRESS

OLYMPIC TEAM

Great Britain's team for the Olympics in Atlanta, USA, is Matthew Syed, Chen Xinhua, Carl Prean, Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt and Alison Broe. Chen and Prean automatically qualify whilst the rest have to do battle in Manchester in January 1996.

SNIPPETS

ENGAGED

British League player Stuart Worrell, who plays for Ruston Marconi Lincoln in the Premier Division, has recently announced his engagement to be married to Jackie Bellinger on the 29th June 1996.

Jackie's sister Lisa is quite happy about the engagement, as she now has a new partner to practise with in the Totterhoe Village Hall.

considered vital.

I was a bit apprehensive when I looked around at the other coaches, with the thought that I would have to give a demonstration of mouth to mouth resuscitation. I was much relieved as I am sure were the other coaches, when they brought out a couple of resuscitation dummies to practise on!

At one time I even had the regional

the OLYMPIC 6



nominated

DONALD PARKER, THE BRITISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S SOLE SELECTOR, HAS NOMINATED THE SIX SINGLES PLAYERS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES. CHEN XINHUA AND CARL PREAN ARE NOMINATED DIRECTLY TO THE ITTF FOR INCLUSION IN THE SUMMER GAMES IN ATLANTA NEXT JULY. MATTHEW SYED IS NOMINATED AS THE THIRD MAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EUROPEAN OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT WHICH IS TO BE STAGED AT THE MAGNIFICENT NYNEX ARENA IN MANCHESTER FROM 10-14 JANUARY 1996

WRITES ALAN RANSOME.

All of Britain's nominations in the Women's event need to pre-qualify and, therefore, Andrea Holt, Lisa Lomas and Alison Broe are nominated for Manchester. Alan Cooke is the Men's reserve and Nicola Deaton the Women's.

Entries have now closed for the Olympic Qualification Tournament and a total of 78 men and 71 women from 38 countries will play in Manchester. Confirmed entries have now been received from the former World Champion, Jorgen Persson of Sweden, the former World Doubles Champion, Steffen Fetzner of Germany, the English Open Champion, Damien Eloi of France, the aggressive, talented Greek, Calin Creanga, Andrei Mazunov of Russia, Thierry Cabrera, Belgium and the fast rising Pole, Lucjan Blaszczyk. On the women's side, Olga Nemes will represent Germany, Mirjam Hooman the Netherlands, Elena Timina and Galina Melnik of Russia, Alessia Arisi, Italy and Valentina Popova Slovakia.

The Championship starts at lunchtime on Wednesday, 10 January. The opening groups will be to a maximum of six players, with two qualifying to the second stage, plus the best of the third placed players. The vital second stage from

which eight of the ten qualifiers will emerge starts on Friday afternoon in groups of four. Each player will play one match on Friday and two during Saturday. The group winners will qualify and will play for the Olympic Qualification title on Sunday. The players who finish second of the four in each group will play three rounds on Sunday to decide positions 9-16, with numbers 9 and 10 definitely qualifying and places 11-16 being the official reserves.

The competition for the British quartet will undoubtedly be very severe, but home advantage may well play a part and the support that our players receive could make the difference between qualifying for Atlanta or not. Manchester are

giving the event a great deal of publicity to the Championship and have pitched the ticket prices at a level aimed at attracting as many spectators as possible. There is a special 'Quid per Kid' charge for youngsters and the maximum charge for any day for Adults is £5.00.

NEW SELECTION COMMITTEE

Whilst Don Parker is still playing a valuable part in both the British and English selection affairs, he is naturally unable to give the



Chairman of the ETTA, Alan Ransome

BY ALAN RANSOME

attention to this section of the Association's work that he did when he was full-time. It is the intention of the ETТА to appoint a new Technical Director who will be effectively the England team manager in due course, but for the rest of this season at least, a new Selection Committee has been appointed to run the England team affairs. This brings together a number of very experienced international players and coaches. The Chairman of the Selection Committee is the ETТА Vice Chairman Selection, Richard Habgood with the members named as Nicky Jarvis, Desmond Douglas, Carole Moore, Jia Yi Lui, Colin Wilson and Donald Parker. For the time being the Men's captaincy will be undertaken by Nicky Jarvis with assistance from Desmond Douglas, whilst Donald Parker will continue as Women's captain.

The most immediate task for the Selection Committee and the Men's team will be to retain their position in the Joola European League Super Division. There are four teams in contention - England play Germany and Poland play Hungary. The two losers will meet in a relegation play-off in February/March. On the other hand, England Women also play Germany in the two leg European League semi-final for a place in the final.

ACADEMY FOR SPORT

The Sports Council, supported by the Government and the National Lottery, are pressing ahead with plans to create a major Academy for Sport. Academics have already proved successful in Australia, particularly for cricket, and several European countries including France, Germany, Denmark and Italy have been following successful Academy programmes for table tennis for some time now. The exact form that the Academy will take is likely to be decided after a period of consultation. In February or March, bids will be invited from organisations to run the Academy. The British Olympic Association, Donald Parker's new employers, have already decided to bid for the contract and it is likely that there

will be several other contenders. The Government is prepared to set aside at least one hundred million pounds out of lottery money to establish the Academy.

The ETТА are doing everything possible to ensure that table tennis is one of the few sports that will be included in this programme and there is no doubt that our selection for this prestigious initiative would have an important beneficial long term effect on the standard of our national teams, particularly when linked with the second initiative named in John Major's Raising the Game project, 'Top Sport' and 'Top Club'. Table tennis is already included in this programme and as a result our sport will be introduced to hundreds of thousands of young children who would not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience table tennis.

Our Regional Development Officers will be working hard to identify and assist clubs to set up opportunities for youngsters introduced to our sport at schools to play regularly in clubs, initially with basic coaching and the Woolwich Junior League programmes. Links must be established so that every youngster who wants to make table tennis their sport has a club to join and the more talented can receive quality coaching and competition opportunities to raise the overall standard. This would ensure that the quality of youngsters being nominated for the Academy, in due course, are both very committed and talented.

MIKE JOHNS RETURNS

The ETТА Marketing Department has been strengthened by the appointment of former English International, Mike Johns, as the new ETТА Events Manager. Mike played for England many times in the 1960/70's before emigrating to Australia where he has spent most of the last twenty years. Mike has been heavily involved in Australian table tennis and was one of the directors of the successful World Veterans Championships which was played in Melbourne last year. Mike took up his post in Hastings on 1st December and will undoubtedly

combine well with Chief Executive, Richard Yule, in a renewed ETТА marketing drive.

1995 has been an extremely busy year from an ETТА point of view. Our Development and Coaching Departments in particular have expanded the Association's activities considerably and it has been very encouraging to see so many facility initiatives coming to fruition.

As we come to the end of 1995 -

where did the time go since Euro'94! - I would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers throughout the country who have helped the progress of table tennis and all our professional staff, both Hastings-based and out in the field, for their dedicated contribution to the success of the sport. I wish all our readers and members a very happy Christmas and successful 1996.

Alan Ransome Chairman ETТА.

A TRIBUTE TO LOLLO HAMMARLUND

by Johnny Leach MBE

Lollo Hammarlund, the wise and much loved President of the ITTF dies, aged 63, on Sunday 15 October 1995.

He died peacefully at his home in Stockholm after a long fight against the rigours of cancer, the same malignant disease that caused the death of Ichiro Ogimura, Lollo's close friend and predecessor.

Both these men were giants of our sport in their own way. A modest man, Lollo was not the great champion player he would dearly have wished to be, unlike his Japanese friend, but for many years, for a much too short spell as President, he won universal respect as a skillful and understanding leader. A brilliant administrator he had a brilliant knack of distracting wrath with a friendly smile and the neat solution to a problem no one else had thought of.

I was proud to call Lollo a dear friend. He was certainly a tremendous worker for table tennis. I first met him in 1955 in Sweden in his father's Table Tennis Hall in Stockholm. It was through his father's keenness for our sport that table tennis became Lollo's first love, though fame as a player was denied him. However, because of his leadership qualities, his knowledge of the sport and his popularity with all players, the Swedish Association appointed Lollo as National Team Captain in 1958, a position he continued to hold until 1967.

During Lollo's nine year reign as team captain Ichiro Ogimura, Japan's world singles champion on two occasions, was appointed Sweden's team coach. Lollo and Ichiro soon became close friends and together played a big part in transforming Sweden from a steady first division country into world champions.

In 1970 Lollo transferred his talents and energy to administration and served on the Management Committee of the ETТА. In 1984 he was appointed their Deputy President. Three years later, when Ichiro Ogimura became President of the ITTF, Lollo became deputy President of the World's ruling body, and on Ogimura's death in December 1994 he was first made Acting President and then, at the World Championships in China last May, Congress unanimously voted him in as President.

Lollo was born and died in TROLLBÄCKEN near Stockholm. He did not specialise in any particular high education subject because he was always expected to run, and eventually take over the family Market gardening business, which he did with considerable financial success. Sweden's market gardening season from April to September fitted in ideally with his table tennis activities.

With two lovely holiday homes - one in SMIDGEN on the west coast and the other on a small island near TROSA, close to Stockholm, he could be regarded as wealthy, though extremely generous. His good friend Bjorne Mellstrom, five times Swedish champion, said "Lollo was so good natured he would give his last penny to help a friend".

He was a family man, devoted to his wife Siv and his two single daughters Ewa, a law student and Lena, a budding journalist. Lollo was a long serving member and keen supporter of the Swaythling Club International.

Kjell Johansson, who won the European singles title at the age of 17, told me "Lollo was a great captain. He always gave sound tactical advice and motivated our team both on and off the table. Without his guidance I doubt that I would have become a champion at such a young age".

Echoing Kjell's sentiments Jan-Ove Waldner, twice the world's singles champion and reigning Olympic title holder added "Lollo was one for the players. He always gave me encouragement".

Players and officials from all parts of the world attended his funeral and mourned his loss in Stockholm on Thursday, 2 November 1995. He will be remembered fondly and greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues and was, without doubt one of the international 'greats' of table tennis.

To his dear wife and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

the EURO express

Gallantly driven in a hired minibus by Colin Wilson, the party consisting of Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Jonathan Taylor, Andrew Eden, Bradley Billington and Alex Perry set off to Gyor in Hungary for the Hungarian Open, then across to Linz for the Austrian Open and finally to Lyon for the French Open.

The England party was joined by several senior players in Austria and France.

EDEN IN PARADISE

Andrew Eden was the first to create some havoc at Gyor when he crashed his way through three qualifying rounds with that forceful backhand strike to knock out Fadesv (Russia), Sternberg (Sweden) and Isvan Margi (Hungary).

SYED BEATS MA WENGE

Matthew Syed lifted himself to his best win of the season when he brought down the former world No 2 Ma Wenge (China) 12, 19, 12 to reach the semi-final where he capsized Werner Schlager 3-2 before losing in the men's final to Yang Min from Italy.

With Lisa Lomas making only a brief appearance on the tour at Linz where she lost in the groups, it was Syed who took most of the honours. His dazzling defensive efforts are leading him to lucrative invitations to various events in Europe and the USA.

AUSTRIA BLUES

In Austria, Alex Perry went down to Steffan Fetzner, Alison Broe succumbed to the Paris-based Wang and Andrea Holt fell again to Vivien Ello (Hungary) who unlike many women players is not unduly inconvenienced by the changes of

IN A GENEROUS MOVE THE ETTA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE GAVE AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY DURING NOVEMBER FOR A GROUP OF THE YOUNGER PLAYERS TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE IN THE BATTLEFIELD OF EUROPEAN TOURNAMENTS.

pace from backspin to topspin from the Lancashire-based England champion.

Eden and Taylor had an excellent doubles win against the Czech pair Korbek and Placey.

The second biggest scalp of the tour came for Syed, now based in Chesterfield when he swatted Calin Creanga 18, -17, 12, 21 in Round 3, but in the Linz quarters Matthew went down to the brilliant Vladimir Samsonov from Belarus, the best tip for a future European senior champion.

HARD PASSAGE

The minibus then moved towards France via the Swiss national training camp. Before they reached Switzerland they were involved in a frightening situation through the snow in the Alps and the mountain passes, but they eventually made it through the skill of Colin Wilson at the wheel.

MENS SINGLES GOLDS

HUNGARY:
Yang Min (Italy)
AUSTRIA:
Primorac (Croatia)
FRANCE:
Ma Wenge (China)

possibly the best win of his career - a victory over the French No 5 Nicolas Chatelain 15, 19, -16, 19; three England players reached the last sixteen - Eden, Cooke, Holt; The Ramsbottom star knocked out

Plaisant (France) and Xu Jing the Chinese girl from Taiwan 12, -12, 15, 13 before losing to the winner Li Ju of China.

THE LYON SHARE

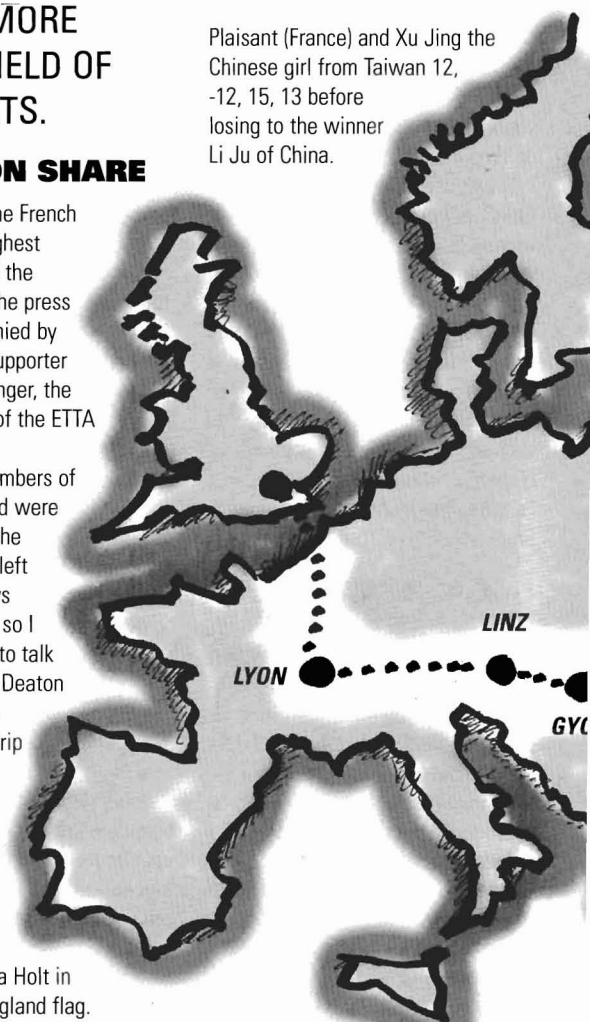
At Lyon where the French Open is of the highest standard, I joined the spectators from the press gallery, accompanied by England's No 1 supporter abroad Barry Granger, the newest member of the ETTA National Council.

The younger members of the England squad were mowed down in the early rounds and left for home two days before the finish, so I had little chance to talk with them. Nicky Deaton reported that she had enjoyed the trip although it had been tiring. That left (Syed having flown the Atlantic once again to play in Detroit) Alan Cooke and Andrea Holt in Lyon to fly the England flag.

Throughout the tour and also at the Swedish Open, England players had to coach themselves on court, whilst almost all the other players had the benefit of national professional coaches, a breed that England seem to be woefully short of at this time.

Eden, however, came up with

Alan Cooke bowed out from Lyon, but only after coming within three points of beating Dimitri Mazunov who (staggeringly) went on to beat Gatien before losing to Qian Qianli.



a *host* of **STARS**

FOR FOUR DAYS IN JANUARY (10-14TH) THE MOST IMPORTANT TABLE TENNIS EVENT IN EUROPE WILL GET UNDER WAY IN MANCHESTER. PLAYERS LIKE FORMER WORLD CHAMPION JORGEN PERSSON, STEFAN FETZNER AND EX-EUROPEAN CHAMPION VALENTINA POPOVA WILL BE AMONG A HOST OF STARS AIMING TO WIN A PLACE IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN ATLANTA WRITES **JIM BECKLEY**



It's the second major event to be held in this country in less than 12 months. Then it was the European Championships staged in Birmingham. And next year (1997) we host the sport's biggest event: the World Championships again in Manchester.

Besides a lot being at stake for the players it is also the case for officials who once this event has finished will move straight into

preparing for the World Championships.

That event will be so big that even the largest indoor arena in Europe will not be big enough to accommodate them. So Manchester's other main exhibition centre G-Mex will be used as well. Make no mistake about it, the world's eyes and ears will be well and truly focused on what happens.

The marketing machine has been

in full swing making sure that everyone knows what is going on and takes time off to take in the breathtaking spectacle on offer.

Ticket prices (see elsewhere) have been pitched at a level considered impossible to refuse with children (2-15), full time students, senior citizens and those with registered special needs able to take a seat for only £1.

Even the large Chinese community

have been targeted, with the event taking a full page editorial in the national Chinese newspaper. With players like Quianli Qian now playing for Austria and Sung Chen now part of the Netherlands team, the Chinese could play a major part in these championships.

The Nynex Arena is the biggest indoor arena in Europe. It has 16,500 permanent seats and can be expanded to provide 3000 more if

required.

It's in the city centre and was built at a cost of £54m. It covers an area of 14 acres and is located next to Victoria Station. Indeed the station is set to play an important role in the Arena's future with the impressive Metrolink system taking people in and out of the complex.

The Arena is phase one of a multi-million pound plan to change the face of that part of Manchester. The next step is to build a City Room, a spacious public area on two levels which will form a link between the arena and the rest of the complex. Also being built is a multiplex cinema, 500,000 sq feet of office space and a 320 bed hotel.

The arena includes a permanent ice floor and it is on this that the table tennis will be played. Weeks of work on building a suitable covering have taken place and our top players have tested it to their complete satisfaction.

See Europe's Best at Europe's Biggest

It only happens every four years...your chance to see Europe's top stars compete for treasured Olympic places...at Europe's largest indoor arena.

0-95mph in less than a second - that's the power of a world class table tennis shot. Test your reactions by tracking the lightning pace of Europe's best players...or watch in disbelief as the slow hovering back spinners drop dead over the net.

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Tournament Ticket Prices

January 1996	Adult all day & evening	Evening only	Children all times
Wednesday 10th	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
Thursday 11th	£2.00	£2.00	£1.00
Friday 12th	£3.00	£2.00	£1.00
Saturday 13th	£4.00	£2.00	£1.00
Sunday 14th	£5.00	N/A	£1.00

Special ticket offer - £1.00 concessions* for all days

*Children 2-15 years, full time students, UB40 holders, OAPs and registered special needs
WEEKEND TICKETS (Saturday & Sunday) £7.50 adult, £2.00 children
SEASON TICKETS (all five days) £12.00 adult, £4.00 children
 School parties - one free ticket with every 10 for accompanying adult.
 10-19 tickets purchased for the same day attract a discount of 10%. 20+ tickets purchased for the same day attract a discount of 20%. Evening sessions, applicable only to the day, no advance sales.
 Evening tickets available from 17.30 hrs subject to availability.

24 HOUR TICKET HOTLINE
0161 930 8000
 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE BOX OFFICE, NYNEX ARENA MANCHESTER, VICTORIA STATION, HUNTS BANK, MANCHESTER

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England **CRASH** to **EXPLOSIVE**

Austria's Ding Yi

Austria



I HAVE PERSONALLY WATCHED ENGLAND AND AUSTRIA CLASH PERHAPS THIRTY TIMES OVER THE YEARS, BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN AUSTRIA PLAY WITH SO MUCH POWER AS THEY DID ON NOVEMBER 1ST AT LEEDS TOWN HALL. FOUR DAYS BEFORE GUY FAWKES NIGHT, IT WAS THE MEN FROM VIENNA WHO, APART FROM ANOTHER OUTSTANDING SHOW BY MATTHEW SYED, COMPLETELY EXPLODED ENGLAND, 4-0. WRITES **JOHN WOODFORD** IN LEEDS.

It was not just power, it was accuracy. I can recall a night at Ipswich some five or so years ago when Werner Schlager, then 18, shocked us all by stopping Carl Prean. Schlager is now 23 and I am not surprised to hear that he has a win over Jean-Michel Saive to his credit.

He used both top-spin and pure explosive flat-hitting to bring down Chen Xinhua 13, 18. Towards the end Chen began to squeeze errors from his opponent, but Schlager continued the onslaught, even killing some of Chen's most deadly services.

Disaster No 2 followed rapidly - Ding Yi, so old but so quick, he made short work of Alan Cooke 10, 11. But hearing in mind Ding has been an Olympic quarter-finalist - when playing well he really is capable of beating people way up the world list.

The 500 plus crowd were beginning to wonder if they were going to get their money's worth with England slumping 0-2 down. But happily, their patience was rewarded with a classic battle between Matthew Syed and Qian Qianli.

Matthew, now a full-time professional and playing daily at Chesterfield, was 20-16 up in the first game with brilliant retrieving, but Qian, calm and experienced, surprised even himself by taking the last six points.

Syed battled back to win the second 22. In the third however the Chinese player, decided, like Schlager earlier, that attack is the best form of defence. He went for his big shots on both wings forcing the Syed returns that inch or two higher that invited the big smashes that mostly found their target enough to win 14 to put England 3-0 down.

Don Parker, guiding England for the last time before moving onto the British Olympic stage then decided to give experience to Bradley Billington and Andrew Eden by playing them in the doubles.

The two young men battled bravely against Schlager and Karl Jindrak, but it was Austria's night as they triumphed 9, 20 to reach the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, England men now have to face two matches to try and avoid the drop. One of their opponents will be Poland, who we

should overcome, but the other opposing team is Germany who will be much tougher opposition.

At the reception after the match, one hour earlier than usual, ETTA chairman Alan Ransome paid tribute to Don Parker's twelve years at the top of the coaching tree for England and also he agreed with me, he had never seen such an impressive display from Austria.

Footnote: Austria have a new coach Ferenc Karsai, a former international player from Hungary. He seems to have worked early wonders with the same team.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

England 0, Austria 4
Chen Xinhua I **W. Schlager**
-13, -18.
A. Cook I **Ding Yi**
-10, -11.
M. Syed I **Qian Qianli**
-20, 22, -14.
B. Billington and A. Eden I
Schlager and K. Jindrak
-9, -20.

ENGLAND'S *women* *dominate* BELGIUM

ENGLAND'S WOMEN RESTORED
OUR NATIONAL PRIDE WHEN THEY
BEAT BELGIUM 4-0, IN THE
SUPER DIVISION OF THE
WOMEN'S EUROPEAN
LEAGUE, AT
STANTONBURY
CAMPUS LEISURE
CENTRE, MILTON
KEYNES, ON THE
7TH NOVEMBER
1995,
WRITES
**JOHN
WOOD.**



Following on from the Men's mauling from Austria, this was most pleasing to see England's Women dominate the opposition.

The match opened with Andrea Holt taking the first leg comfortably 21-15 against Belgium's Cecile Ozer.

But the Belgian girl bounced back in the second, giving the visitors brief hope, winning 21-16.

Holt, now under pressure, showed her true Lancashire grit, taking the decider 21-11, with a superb display of high class backspin defence, interspersed with whiplash forehand drives.

Second on the table was Lisa Lomas, who had just regained her No 1 spot from Andrea Holt, where her greater experience was too much for the young Belgian Martine Hubert, winning 11 and 16 to put England two up.

England's No 3 Alison Gordon/Broe, who married Scotland's John Broe in the summer, warmed up the audience at Stantonbury with an all action attacking game with Belgium's Severine Thone which saw Broe win 11 and 14.

The England pairing of Lomas and Holt won the doubles comfortably enough in the end 19 and 10, against Belgium's Hubert and Thone, but they had to pull back from a 15-17 deficit in the first leg.

This was a good victory for England, because it has put the Women into the semi-final play-offs. But this 4-0 win has to be put into perspective, because the Belgium team's average age was twenty, with Hubert and Thone playing their first season in the senior ranks.

TOUGH *to* BEAT in GLASGOW

Peniel kept up their winning sequence with victories over Policy Plus St. Neots and Drumchapel Glasgow. They were, however, given a tough time by the Glaswegians who only went down 5-9 even though they were without Euan Walker and Ian Stokes.

Jonathan Cowan became the first player this season to beat Andrew Eden in the league when he triumphed 12-21, 21-19, 21-13 and he then went on to defeat Grant Solder. But John Holland kept his 100% record for Peniel to ensure that they got both points.

Grove continued to run up big scores with a 12-2 success over Linda Farrow followed by a 13-1 win at Sedgefield. Whilst Alan Cooke and Steve Ward retained their unbeaten records, Chris Oldfield was beaten for the first time when he succumbed to Linda Farrow's Nicky Mason. He then lost at Sedgefield to his former team mate, Michael O'Driscoll. Drumchapel Glasgow, despite their defeat by Team Peniel retain third spot but had a shock in their previous match when they were held to a 7-7 draw by bottom of the table, Ruston Marconi Lincoln. Lincoln's Dave Gannon was unbeaten, recording victories over Jonathan Cowan, Ian Stokes and Glasgow's surprise choice Richard Yule. Richard, the English Chief Executive, turned out for the Scots in the absence of Walker and his win over Stuart Worrell coupled with a successful partnership with Gordon Clancey in the doubles enabled Glasgow to salvage a point.

Policy Plus St. Neots moved up the table with a 9-5 success over Horsham Angels who have now plunged into the relegation zone with Linda Farrow getting the better of Lincoln in a close fought match

BFL GROVE AND TEAM PENIEL HAVE NOW OPENED UP A GAP AT THE TOP OF THE BRITISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION AND IT IS NOW HIGHLY LIKELY THAT BOTH TEAMS WILL KEEP THEIR 100% RECORDS INTACT UNTIL THEY MEET EACH OTHER IN MARKET DRAYTON IN DECEMBER, WRITES AUBREY DRAPKIN.

which the Londoners won 8-6.

After a hat-trick of wins by Eddie Smith had helped Sedgefield to a 10-4 victory away to Horsham the defeat at the hands of BFL Grove put the North Eastern outfit back into the lower half of the table.

Vymura are now the only team in the first division to keep a 100% record. Intent on a swift return to the Premier Division they are sitting pretty on top of Division One North. Stephen Horsfield won a very important point for them when he beat West Warwickshire's Barry Johnson 22-20 in the third in the last set of the day to give the Cheshire side a 5-3 victory over their main promotion rivals. Vymura then went on to beat City of Leeds 6-2 with Horsfield once again their star player. West Warwickshire bounced back with an 8-0 win away to Bribar Humberside to climb back into third spot. Sandwiched between Vymura and West Warwickshire are the BFL Grove second string who have dropped only one point. Lisa Lomas was outstanding in their 7-1 win at Leeds and another English lady international, Nicola Deaton took the eye when they beat Uxbridge 6-2 at Market Drayton.

Bribar Humberside and City of Leeds look likely candidates for relegation at this stage, both teams have failed to record a single point to date.

Division One South is developing into a three way tussle between

Colley Motor Group, DML White Hart Launceston and Edison TTC although every team in the division appears to be capable of getting results against them. Colley lead the division on set difference from Launceston with Edison one point behind. The Welshmen seem to be the 'in form' team having beaten BSG Brentwood 7-1 and Horsham Angels seconds 6-2 in their last two outings. Ben Johnson has been their star player this season with ten wins from ten sets played and receiving the Player of the Match Award on three occasions.

Launceston dropped a point when they were held to a 4-4 draw by OLOP for whom John Santer was outstanding but came back to form with a 6-2 home victory over Barclays Bank despite being unable to stop John Kitchener.

Colin Wilson's two sets helped Edison to beat Cheltenham Saracens 5-3 but the Haringey side were then held to a 4-4 draw by a back to form Brentwood. Fortunately Simon Rockall and Gareth Herbert were in form for Edison winning all of their matches and Herbert claiming the Player of the Match award. Steven Rand got two for Brentwood.

There was a major shock in the second division North when bottom of the table Burnside Seaside's Blackpool defeated the leaders, Drumchapel Glasgow II, 5-3.

The Scots were weakened by the absence of their top two players

who were required by their first team but nonetheless it was a great performance by the Seaside's who had the Player of the Match in Bill Russell.

The defeat for Glasgow makes life very interesting at the top of the table with Leicester Lions and Vymura II now level on points with the Scots. The Lions beat Abbeydale of Sheffield 6-2 but failed to take full advantage of Glasgow's defeat when they were surprisingly held to a 4-4 draw by the Selby club, Derwent. Indeed there was nearly another shock result as the Yorkshiremen led 4-2 at one stage. Vymura recovered from a 6-2 defeat in Glasgow to beat Abbeydale 5-3. This was another case of coming from behind because the Sheffield side led 3-1 before Vymura got into their stride.

Division Two South East is being dominated by Yellow Brick Progress who are still 100% and have a three point lead at the top of the table. A 7-1 win over Norwich Todd Foxwood in which Jogenes Senorin took the Player of the Match in his debut despite losing to Mick Broughton was followed by a 6-2 win at BSG Barking who were, at the time, in second place.

A change of name seems to have worked wonders for the old Ashford (Kent) team. Now playing as Invicta Lanterns they trounced Barking 7-1 with Joey Kennedy in sparkling form and then won 5-3 away to Byng Hall to move into second spot in the table.

In Division Two South West the early leaders, Kingshurst Bribar had Pete Waite on form as they defeated Horsham 5-3 but lost their place at the top of the table in their next match when they went down by the same score at Launceston. Greg

Bridgett and Tony Sweet did the damage by winning all of their sets to lift Launceston to the top.

Gridfine St. Neots are also well in contention although they dropped a point to the rapidly improving ATH Cardiff. St. Neots went on to beat struggling Jolliffe Poole 7-1 and Cardiff won by a similar score away to Sheffield.

Fellows Cranleigh continue to set a hot pace in Division Three East. With Gary Tendler in great form they beat Greenley's of Milton Keynes 7-1, never looking back after losing the first set of the day. This victory was followed by a 6-2 win away to the MacDonalds Barnets League to make it five on the trot. The Chelmsford League are still unbeaten and move in to second place following wins over the Barnets League 5-3 and Team Peniel II 7-1. In the match against Barnet they let a 4-1 lead slip to a 4-3 but Steve Kerns won the last set of the day to secure points. Rik James was unbeaten and shared the Player of the Match award with Tom Carr who won both of his matches for Barnet.

DML Launceston III and Team JUIC Nottingham both preserved their 100% records in Division Three Midlands and West. The Cornish side had an easy 8-0 victory away to Wiltshire and then won 6-2 at home to BFL Grove Colts II.

Nottingham beat Sheffield II 6-2 and then won with the same scoreline at Uxbridge. Garry Knights and Paul Wood were both unbeaten in the match against Sheffield but the Player of the Match award went to Sheffield's Trevor Kerry and Adrian Bolton.

CWS Manchester lost the leadership of Division Three North to City of Leeds II when they went down 6-2 in Leeds. Paul Bryant and Andrew White got one set each but Richard Lightowler and Simon Pugh were both unbeaten for Leeds. Leeds position at the top was, however, short lived as CWS reclaimed top spot in the next set of matches when Leeds had no game. Bryant was unbeaten for CWS in a 5-3 home win over AALCO Leeds. Sedgfield IV gained their first victory of the season by beating BFL Grove Colts 7-1 although Grove's

Debbie Pestka took the Player of the Match award.

In division three South, JAGS are now the clear leaders following wins over Progress (6-2) and MacDonalds Barnets League 5-3. Selwyn Campbell and Abdul Wuraola were both unbeaten against progress with Wuraola getting the Player of the Match award. The two victories give JAGS a three point lead over MacDonalds Barnets League, Generation 2 Fareham and Graham Spicer.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

PREMIER DIVISION			
Horsham Angels I	4	10	Drumchapel Glasgow I
St. Neots	7	7	Sedgfield District I
Team Peniel I	5	9	Linda Farrow I
RMSC Lincoln	2	12	BFL Grove I
DIVISION ONE NORTH			
Uxbridge (Burton) I	3	5	Vymura
BFL Grove II	5	3	Sedgfield District II
City of Leeds I	4	4	Humberside I
Olton & W Warwicks	7	1	City Milton Keynes
DIVISION ONE SOUTH			
OLOP I	6	2	BSG Brentwood
Cheltenham	2	6	DML White Hart Launceston I
Edison	6	2	Horsham Angels II
Colley Motor Group	7	1	Barclays Bank
DIVISION TWO NORTH			
Derwent	7	1	Vymura II
Leicester Lions	3	5	Sedgfield District II
Abbeydale	3	5	Burnside Seaside (Blackpool)
Drumchapel Glasgow II	2	6	BFL Grove III
DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST			
Linda Farrow II	4	4	BSG Barking
Norwich Todd Foxwood	2	6	Crusaders Lincoln
Yellow Brick Progress	4	4	Byng Hall I
Invicta Lanterns	5	3	Pillinger Air (LLTC)
DIVISION TWO SOUTH WEST			
Jolliffe Poole	6	2	Sheffield I (Walsall)
Gridfine St. Neots	1	7	DML White Hart Launceston II
ATH Cardiff	4	4	Horsham Angels III
Leckie (Walsall)	4	4	Kingshurst Bribar
DIVISION THREE EAST			
Byng Hall II	4	4	Greenleys of Milton Keynes
Ashford (Middlesex)	4	4	Team Peniel II
Rejects II	3	5	Macdonalds Barnets League II
Fellows Cranleigh	3	5	Chelmsford League
DIVISION THREE MIDLANDS AND WEST			
Wiltshire TTA	5	3	Sheffield II
Bromsgrove	4	4	Uxbridge (Burton) II
Team JUIC	7	1	BFL Grove Colts II
DIVISION THREE NORTH			
CWS Manchester	7	1	Sedgfield District IV
City of Leeds II	6	2	Humberside II
Drumchapel Glasgow III	8	0	BFL Grove Colts I
DIVISION THREE SOUTH			
Macdonalds Barnets League I	4	4	Generation Fareham
JAGS S C	4	4	Rejects I
Progress WHS	8	0	OLOP II
Graham Spicer	7	1	Adeyfield

BRITISH LEAGUE - PLACINGS AT 29/10/95

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Team Peniel	5	5	-	-	55	15	10	
BFL Grove	4	4	-	-	50	6	8	
D. Glasgow	4	2	1	1	30	26	5	
St. Neots	5	2	1	2	29	41	5	
Sedgfield	5	2	-	3	28	42	4	
Linda Farrow	5	1	1	3	28	42	3	
Horsham A.	5	1	-	4	22	48	2	
R M Lincoln	5	-	1	4	24	46	1	
Division 1 South	Colley Motors	5	4	-	1	29	11	8
DML Launceston	5	3	2	-	26	14	8	
Edison	5	2	3	-	23	17	7	
BSG Brentwood	5	1	2	2	18	22	4	
Barclays Bank	5	2	-	3	17	23	4	
OLOP	5	-	3	2	16	24	3	
Horsham II	5	1	1	3	16	24	3	
Cheltenham	5	1	1	3	15	25	3	
Division 1 North	Vymura	5	5	-	-	27	13	10
BFL Grove II	5	4	1	-	29	11	9	
Olton and W.W.	5	3	1	1	26	14	7	
Sedgfield II	5	3	-	2	25	15	6	
Uxbridge (Burton)	5	2	1	2	22	18	5	
Milton Keynes	5	1	1	3	15	25	3	
Humberside	5	-	-	5	9	31	-	
City of Leeds	5	-	-	5	7	33	-	
Division 2 North	D. Glasgow II	5	3	1	1	27	13	7
Leicester Lions	5	3	1	1	25	15	7	
Vymura II	5	3	1	1	25	15	7	
Sedgfield III	5	1	3	1	21	19	5	
BFL Grove III	5	1	2	2	16	24	4	
Burnside Seaside	5	1	2	2	14	26	4	
Abbeydale	5	1	1	3	17	23	3	
Derwent	5	1	1	3	15	25	3	
Division 2 S East	Y.B. Progress	5	5	-	-	34	6	10
Invicta Lan.	5	3	1	1	23	17	7	
BSG Barking	5	3	-	2	21	19	6	
Pillinger Air	5	2	1	2	22	18	5	
Byng Hall	5	2	1	2	22	18	5	
Linda Farrow II	5	1	3	1	19	21	5	
Norwich T.F.	5	-	2	3	12	28	2	
Crusaders Lincoln	5	-	-	5	7	33	-	
Division 2 South West	DML Launceston II	5	4	1	-	29	11	9
Kingshurst	5	4	-	1	25	15	8	
Gridfine St. N.	5	3	1	1	25	15	7	
ATH Cardiff	5	2	2	1	25	15	6	
Horsham III	5	2	1	2	23	17	5	
Leckie TTC	4	1	1	2	15	17	3	
Jolliffe Poole	4	-	-	4	5	27	-	
Sheffield	5	-	-	5	5	35	-	
Division 3 East	Fellows Cranleigh	5	5	-	-	35	5	10
Chelmsford Lge	5	3	2	-	27	13	8	
Greenleys	5	2	1	2	22	18	5	
MacDonalds Barnet II	5	2	-	3	17	23	4	
Team Peniel II	5	2	-	3	17	23	4	
Byng Hall II	5	1	2	2	17	23	4	
Rejects Colts	5	1	1	3	13	27	3	
Ashford (Midd)	5	-	2	3	12	28	2	
Division 3 North	CWS Manchester	5	4	-	1	25	15	8
City of Leeds II	4	2	2	-	20	12	6	
AALCO Leeds	5	2	1	2	20	20	5	
D. Glasgow III	4	2	-	2	17	15	4	
Humberside II	4	2	-	2	16	16	4	
Sedgfield IV	4	1	1	2	17	15	3	
BFL Grove Colts	4	-	-	4	5	27	-	
Division 3 South	JAGS	5	4	1	-	29	11	9
MacDonalds Barnet	5	2	2	1	24	16	6	
Generation Fareham	5	3	-	2	23	17	6	
Graham Spicer	5	2	2	1	19	21	6	
OLOP II	5	2	-	3	19	21	4	
Rejects	5	1	2	2	16	24	4	
Adeyfield	5	-	3	2	16	24	3	
Progress Wtts	5	-	2	3	14	26	2	

the Hi-FLYERS

HERBERT AND HAYNES NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

The English National Junior Table Tennis Championships, sponsored jointly by Kent County Council Sports Development Unit and the University of Kent attracted 265 competitors to the county to compete for the coveted title of National Champions.

Saturday's events were for the Junior (U17) Singles and Doubles and in all events Kent players excelled. Medway's Christian Thompson in partnership with Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) (seeded two) won the Junior Boys Doubles Championship beating another Kent player Scott Friday and Darren Ashall (Yorkshire) in the final. Friday and Ashall had earlier beaten David Smith (Yorkshire)/Reagan Nettlingham (Essex) in the quarter final 18-21, 21-16, 21-17 and the No 1 seeds Gareth Herbert (Berks)/Stephen Meddings (Warwickshire) 9-21, 21-19, 21-19 in the semi-final.

Berkshire's Gareth Herbert took revenge in the Junior Singles when he saved a match point to beat Thompson 21-15, 17-21, 23-21 in an

GARETH HERBERT AND MICHELLE HAYNES ARE THE NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS, WINNING THEIR TITLES AT THE ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT UNIVERSITY OF KENT ON 2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER 1995. WHILST THE CADET BOYS TITLE WAS WON BY KENT'S VERY OWN SCOTT FRIDAY AND THE GIRL'S WENT TO KAREN LOCKWOOD WRITES ADRIAN HALL.

before drawing to a conclusion. In the third leg Thompson held a 10-7 lead only for Herbert to take a 19-17 advantage. Thompson then held a 20-19 match point and saved a Herbert match point that caught the net with some splendid retrieving, but in the end to no avail with the Championship going to Berkshire. Thompson seeded six had a tough draw having to beat Gerald Ashison (Surrey) in the first round, Peter Marshall (Yorkshire) 21-13, 21-15 in the second round and then the greatest challenge of all No 1 seed Steven Meddings (Warwickshire) 21-16, 21-17 in the quarter final. Thompson's next victim was 4th seed Jason Sugrue (Middlesex), who was also beaten, two straight 21-18, 23-21. In the other half of the draw Herbert and Norfolk's Leeroy Pye were also cruising to the semi-finals where Herbert won a tense

Barracough (Devon) fought their way from the preliminary round to the final of the Junior Girls Doubles with a little good fortune and some excellent play and only just fell at the last hurdle to No 1 seeds Michelle Haynes (Derbyshire) / Debbie Pestka (Nottingham) 21-23, 21-16, 18-21. The good fortune came in being initially draw in the bottom quarter of the draw where the

Doubles in partnership with Yorkshire's Emma Smith and with a 17-8 third leg lead they contrived to lose 19-21 to the eventual winners. Then in the Junior Mixed Doubles with Kent's Christian Thompson the second seeds were a game and 20-13 up in semi-final clash with the Berkshire pair Gareth Herbert/Kay Leslie only to lose that leg 20-22 and then with Kay Leslie playing in inspired mood lost the third leg 14-21. Herbert/Leslie has earlier beaten 4th seeds Scott Friday (Kent)/Joanna Barracough (Devon) and went on to win the final beating top seeds Steven Meddings (Warwickshire)/Michelle Haynes (Derbyshire) 21-19, 21-19.

Third seed Michelle Haynes

Scott Friday adds the National Cadet Boys Singles title to the English Junior Open that he won earlier this season.



entertaining final that swung both ways

Cadet Girls Champion Karen Lockwood

match 21-12, 19-21, 21-13.

Seventh seed Peter Thomas (Devon) became yet another scalp on the belt of the fast improving Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) 20-22, 21-14, 17-21. Maidstone's Alison Smith and Joanna

second seeds withdrew due to illness, from there they made their own luck and beat 4th seeds Karen Lockwood/Kathryn Woodward (Cheshire) in the semi-final 21-7, 11-21, 21-15.

Lancashire's Lyndsey Thornton had the sort of Championships she will want to forget, at one game all in the semi-final of the Junior Girl's

(Derbyshire) made her third final appearance of the day in the Junior Girls Singles and out-hit the favourite Lyndsey Thornton (Lancashire) 14-21, 21-18, 21-12. Thornton must have thought she had done enough to win the Championships when she beat the defensive skills of the dangerous Kathryn Woodward (Cheshire) 21-19,



Junior Singles Champions, Gareth Herbert and Michelle Haynes.

21-14 and then beat 4th seed Debbie Pestka (Nottingham) 21-14, 22-24, 21-14. 3rd seed Haynes who also benefitted from the absence of the ill Tracy Davies beat Essex's Verity Cleminson in the semi-final 21-14, 23-21 and then claimed her second title out of three with the win over Thornton.

Kent's Scott Friday overcame the challenge of Buckinghamshire's Andrew Baggaley to round off a spectacularly successful weekend for Kent players.

Sunday's events were for the Cadet (U14) Singles and Doubles and all the pressure was on Kent's Scott Friday to put the recent defeats by Andrew Baggaley behind him and add the U14 National Title to the U10, U11 and U12 titles he has held in the past. Both players cruised to the final as expected, for this was truly a two horse race, with Friday beating Surrey's Michael Chan in one semifinal 21-12, 21-9 and Baggaley beating Adam Quartey 21-13, 21-16 in the other. Fourth seed Chris Dunne (Cheshire) was beaten in the round of the last sixteen by the defensive skills of Suffolk's Gary Bloomfield 16-21, 21-15, 16-21. Bloomfield then found Chan's attack too strong losing 13-21, 16-21. With Friday always struggling to find an opening against the continual returning of the ball into his backhand by Baggaley, the final was always going to be a tense affair rather than a display of power

hitting that we had seen in the U17 boys final. And so it turned out to be with Friday taking the first leg 21-17 to the great delight of the patriotic Kent fans. Baggaley then took total control of the second leg forcing a string of errors from the Friday bat, to win 21-14. In the third leg Friday took control of the rallies with his forehand to win the championship 21-15 with some splendid play from both players. Surely there will be nobody to stop Baggaley next year. Friday and partner Adam Quartey (Surrey) never looked in danger of

losing the U14 Doubles beating the second seeds Andrew Baggaley (Bucks)/Chris Dunne (Cheshire) in the final 21-15, 21-17. Surrey's Michael Chan had another good event when in partnership with Kent's Oliver Stevens they beat the third seeds Andrew Rushton (Lancs)/Stuart Collins (Notts) 24-26, 21-19, 21-16 but then lost in the semis to Baggaley/Dunne 15-21, 17-21. The Cadet Girls Doubles went to plan with the No 1 seeds Karen Lockwood (Cheshire)/Katy Hart (Surrey) beating second seeds

Vice Chairman of Selection, Richard Habgood is pictured presenting the Boys Under 17 Doubles Trophy to Christian Thompson (left) and Jason Sugrue.



ROLL OF HONOUR

JUNIOR BOYS

Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) beat Christian Thompson (Kent) 21-15, 17-21, 23-21

NATIONAL JUNIOR GIRLS

Michelle Haynes (Derbyshire) beat Lyndsey Thornton (Lancashire) 14-21, 21-18, 21-12

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Christian Thompson (Kent) / **Jason Sugrue** (Middlesex) beat Scott Friday (Kent) / Darren Ashall (Yorkshire) 21-18, 21-19

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Michelle Haynes (Derbyshire) / **Debbie Pestka** (Nottingham) beat Alison Smith (Kent) / Joanna Barraclough (Devon) 23-21, 16-21, 21-18

JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES

Gareth Herbert / **Kay Leslie** (Berkshire) beat Steven Meddings (Warwickshire) / Michelle Haynes (Derbyshire) 21-19, 21-19

CADET BOYS

Scott Friday (Kent) beat Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) 21-17, 14-21, 21-15

NATIONAL CADET GIRLS

Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) beat Trudi Bloor (Shropshire) 21-5, 21-16

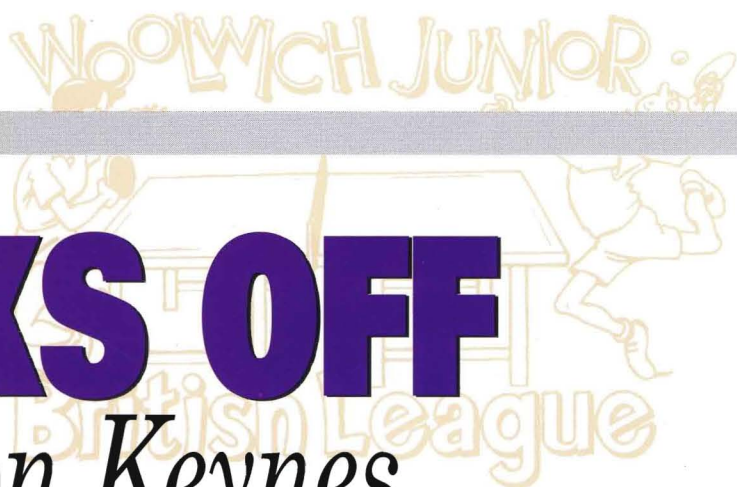
CADET BOYS DOUBLES

Scott Friday (Kent) / **Adam Quartey** (Surrey) beat Andrew Baggaley (Bucks) / Chris Dunne (Cheshire) 21-15, 21-17

CADET GIRLS DOUBLES

Karen Lockwood (Cheshire) / **Katy Hart** (Surrey) beat Sarah Nutch / Janine Donnelly (Yorkshire) 21-19, 23-21

Sarah Nutch/Janine Donnelly (Yorkshire) 21-19, 23-21 in the final. Karen Lockwood's combination bat has all the girls mesmerised at the moment as she cruised to the U14 National Girls Singles Title with a semi-final 21-15, 21-16 win over Sarah Nutch (Yorkshire) and a Championship win over a nervous Trudie Bloor (Shropshire) 21-5, 21-16. Bloor had beaten 2nd seed Katy Hart (Surrey) in the other semi-final 21-15, 21-18.



Report from Bletchley and Kingston

Woolwich

KICKS OFF *at Milton Keynes*

The scene was set right at the beginning with Derwent's Peter Marshall defeating Gareth Herbert (Edison Hornsey) 23-21; 19-21; 21-19, the first of Marshall's three wins against higher ranked players. Five of this match's 6 sets went to a third game as Marshall together with Michael James and Darren Ashall won 5-1. Edison Hornsey ended day 1 with an even longer match when before defeating last season's champions Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh 4-2 all six sets went the distance. Spare a thought for umpire Francis Jarvis!

EXTENDED TO 44 TEAMS FOR 95/96, COMPETITION WAS KEEN WHEN THE THIRD SEASON OF THIS POPULAR EVENT KICKED OFF AT MILTON KEYNES OVER THE WEEK END 25/26TH NOVEMBER; A GLANCE AT THE LEAGUE TABLES WILL SHOW THAT WHEN WE TRAVEL TO COUNTY DURHAM IN MARCH FOR THE CONCLUDING WEEK END THERE WILL BE NO FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS. THE VAST FACILITIES OF THE BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE WERE INSUFFICIENT ON THIS OCCASION AND TO ACCOMMODATE 24 TABLES KINGSTON TABLE TENNIS CENTRE WAS ALSO BROUGHT INTO PLAY
WRITES BRIAN LAMERTON.

Cranleigh; Fellowes' Michelle Haynes was the individual star as she overcame Lindsey Thornton 22-

face promotion shorn of their No's 1 & 2 from last season's promotees struggled manfully, in particular

opening match with Grove B, when another Welshman, Geraint Williams won twice. Williams also provided Seasiders Christopher Dunne with his only defeat 11 and 14.

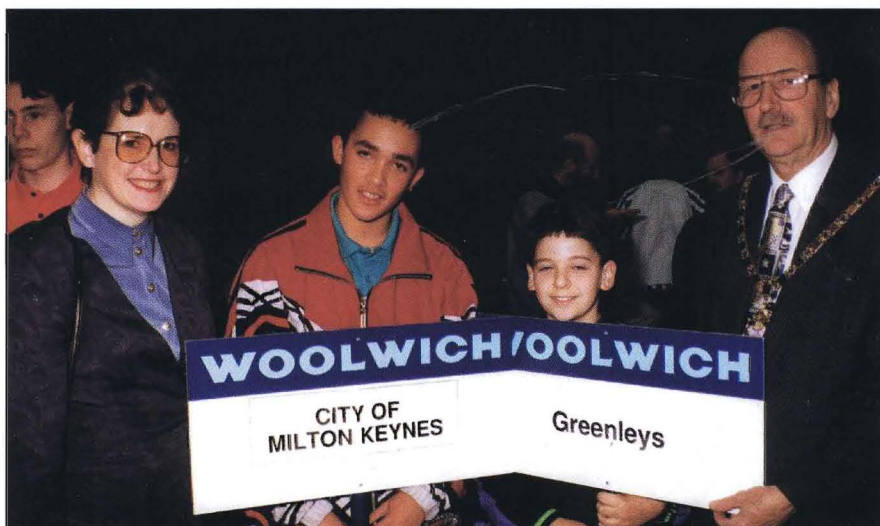
Light Freight Generation 2 (Chris Butt, Danny Burns, Mark and Stephen Wilshere) held too many guns for the rest of Div 2B, Butt losing only once, to Avir Mathur (Progress), a feat matched by Sedgefield's Michael Marsden who lost to Butt.

Over at Kingston Div 3's 28 matches produced 9 draws; leaders Clayton Heights were represented by Sean O'Connor, Michael Moir and Simon Baldus. Stuart Kurl (Lillington Free Church) shares second place in the averages with O'Connor (12 from 14)

The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Bruce Hardwick and Miss Jane Adams, Advertising Services Controller of the Woolwich Building Society were our distinguished guest for Saturday's opening ceremony; the Woolwich Special Team awards went to the boys of "Light Freight Generation 2" and the girls of "City of Leeds" (Nicola Smith, Nicola Silburn, Sarah Noutch and Charlotte Spink); the Woolwich Player awards to the diminutive 13 year old Christian Hany of Folkestone and Irish Girls' Brioni Lane. The third division playing at Kingston elected their own team and player of the week end, Greenleys and Nicholas Wilson (Cippenham).

Thanks to the staff of Bletchley and to the Officials of Kingston; they gave the impression that they were pleased to have us - we were pleased to be there.

League tables for the Woolwich Junior British League and more pictures are on Page 22.



*(Left to right)
Jane Adams of Woolwich,
Lawrence Fo of City of Milton Keynes,
Justin Dodd of the Greenleys Club and
Mayor of Milton Keynes Councillor Bruce Hardwick.*

Hornsey's Christian Thompson who won two in this match shared the premier division's individual honours (losing only to James) with one of his 9 victims, Peter Thomas of Launceston. There weren't many (if any) closer sets than that in which Thomas overcame Jason Sugrue (Fellowes Cranleigh), ranked 3 places above 20-22; 23-21; 28-26.

The crunch match in Girl's Premier was that which resulted in a draw between Grove and Fellowes

20 in the 3rd and Kibibi Moseley 17 in the 3rd. These 3 together with Kathryn Woodward (Fellowes Cranleigh) are joint top of the individual averages, all winning 8 from 10.

The Welsh (alias BFL Grove A) trio of Harris, Adams, Robertson and Stephen Jenkins defeated Irishmen Damiern Lynch (who lost only to Robertson 11 & 17 throughout), Eoin Byrne and Alan Monks to take the lead in Division 1. Bristol who had to

Leigh Iles who 3 times went very close in 3rd. games.

Dumfries top Girls Div 1 and their Tamara Powell, who lost only to Spicer Girls Sarah Lane, leads the individuals with 90%. Linda Brown and Nicola Bentley complete Dumfries team.

Ellenborough for whom Matthew Chitty, Oliver Wakelam, and James Wakelam played unchanged throughout to top Boys Div 2A dropped their one point in the

(Y) had 100% success. Yorks win over Warwicks was a vital one as Warwicks had convincing wins over Lance, Essex 2nds and Suffolk. Sue Allen (Wa) has played very well and after 4 matches is undefeated. Ches. did well to get a 6-4 win over Lancs and fought well to force a draw with Notts after being 3-5 down. Stacy Collins and Stuart Collins (Ch) had wins at 21 and 19 in deciding games. Norfolk received the Lance and Yorks teams at Northwich. Against Yorks just 1 event went to 3 games when Adam Brewer won the first game against Andrew Rushton at 30-28. Adam Brewer and Ashleigh McKellar each had a win against Lancs.

JUNR DIV 1B:

BK 2 HA 8 DV 8 BK 2
BU 5 SY2 5 HA 7 SX2 3
Berks have not fared well following the demotion from Premier Div. They were a player short against Hants and lost 2-8. There was also an 8-2 defeat on their visit to Plymouth TT Centre to meet Devon 1st team. Bucks made a good fight to recover from 1-5 down to earn a draw against Surrey 2nd team. Kirstie Jal and Adam Quartey (Bu) both had wins at 20 in 3rd games. Hants went 2 nil down against Sussex 2nds but turned things around well to win 7-3. Daniel Burns and the 2 Hants girls - Lorna Dutch and Tina Young - were unbeaten.

JUNR DIV 2A:

DU 6 NP2 4 NP 13 LI 7
WA2 3 LE 7 CW 9 ND 1
LA2 5 NG2 5 CW 10 DU 0
WA2 10 ND 0 NP2 2 NG2 8
LE 4 NP1 6 LA2 3 LI 7
CW 8 WA2 2 NG2 4 LE 6
DU 3 LA2 7 LI 10 ND 0
NP1 9 NP2 1
15 matches were played at Grantham TT Centre. Clwyd, demoted from Div 1, made an excellent start with 3 wins whilst losing only 3 events. Adam Robertson and Julie Furber played in all 3 matches with 100% success. Lincs had similar success but dropped more events. Northants 1st team lost only to Lincs. Leics also lost only one match but still have to meet Clwyd and Lincs. Newcomers Northumberland found it hard going

but they had to meet the top 2 teams.

JUNR DIV 2B:

HU 8 HE2 2 NK2 2 SX2 8
CA 2 E3 8 OX 3 BD 7
HU 7 CA 3 SK2 9 E3 1
OX 8 NK2 2 HE1 10 HE2 0
BD 6 HU 4 CA 2 SK2 8
NK2 1 HE1 9 HE2 2 E3 8
12 matches were played at St. Neots TTC. Oxfords, who had previously had 3 good wins, came unstuck when they were beaten 7-3 by Beds. The Bedford girls won 2 vital events - Nicola Leeder won at 19 in 3rd game and Martine Whittaker won 16,-24,26! Oxford recovered to beat Norfolk 2nds 8-2. Bedford went on to beat Hunts 6-4 when Nicola Leeder beat Louise Smith at 24 in a deciding game. Suffolk 2nds had 3 emphatic wins during October and so far have maximum points from their 5 matches.

JUNIOR DIV 2C:

GN3 8 GS 2 CO 5 DV2 5
DV2 1 GN3 9 CO 2 GN3 8
GS 4 DV2 6 GS 7 CO 3
CO 5 SO 5 GN3 5 SO 5
DV2 1 SO 9 HR 5 WI 5
GS 6 HR 4 WI 2 WO 8
SO 1 AV 9
Glamorgan 3rd team are the leaders in this Div. with 9 points from 5 matches. They dropped a point to Somerset, who have also been involved in draws with Cornwall and Worcs. In the Glamorgan match "penholder" Michael Ong (SO) won both his events - at 18 and 19 in deciding games and Claire Gibbs (SO) had 2 excellent wins. Cornwall also drew with Devon 2nds. Graham Worth (CO) has 100% wins and, with a national ranking of 22, is the top player in the Div. Glos beat Herefords 6-4 but Chris Jones (Hr) retained his 100% record and Leanne Needs had a very good win over Mel Garlick. Draw specialists Somerset got a surprising 9-1 trouncing from Avon. Claire Gibbs won the 1 event with a 21 and 20 win over Katie Hardidge. Worcs had a good 8-2 win over Wilts No.1's Paul Jackson and Hannah Thompson (a defensive players) - each got a win. Ian Wood, Stephen Jackson

and Laura Vaughan were unbeaten for Worcs.

JUNR DIV 2D:

HA2 6 DO 4 MI2 4 K3 6
SY3 9 SX3 1 BU2 10 BK2 0
SX3 6 SO 4 BK2 2 HA2 8
K3 5 BU2 5
Hants 2nds are going along well with 3 wins. 2 wins in October were 6-4 v Dorset and 8-2 v Berks 2nds. Carly Scaddan (Ha) has 100% wins. Surrey 3rds are also a good team as demonstrated by a 9-1 win over Sussex 3rds. William Reardon gave the Sussex team a win over Dorset when he beat Lee Dredge at 22 in 3rd game. Kent 3rds received Bucks 2nds at Tunbridge Wells. They fought well from 2-4 down to secure a point from a draw. Jane Dickens and David Rails won their 4 events for Bucks. Berks 2nds conceded their match against Bucks 2nds.

VETS DIV 1B:

SY2 4 SX2 5 SX1 7 BU1 2
DV1 6 E2 3 HA1 7 K2 2
BU1 4 HA1 5 E2 4 Sx1 5
SX2 1 K2 8
Hants and Sussex 1st teams have each had 3 wins. The Bucks/Hants clash was a tough match. Bucks had wins at 17, 19 and 20 in deciding games which left Hants 2-4 down. But Hants came back to win 5-4 with Chris Shelter and Graham Outrim winning their 4 singles. And Essex 2nds gave Sussex 1sts a good fight before going down 5-4. Fred Lockwood (E) had 2 good wins including the 17,-18,15 defeat of Robin Stace. But the closest finish to a match must be the Surrey2/Sussex 2 encounter. In the final event Gerry Batt-Rawden (Sx) beat Dave Solman at 24 in the 3rd game to gain a 5-4 victory. Nail biting stuff!

VETS DIV 2A:

A2 5 LA2 4 WA3 2 CH2 7
ST1 3 Y2 6 NG 8 HP2 1
Y2 3 CH2 6 ST1 0WA2 9
NP2 4 WA3 5
Ches. and Warwicks 2nd teams are setting the pace with each team having 3 wins. Ches. had a very good 6-3 win over Yorks 2nds. Phil Biggs and Dave Roberts (Ch) had 100% singles wins. And Warwicks did well to beat Lancs 2nds 5-4. It was a good team effort with the

Warwicks men - P Paine, M Howell and Alan Pierson - each winning a singles event and Margaret Dignum beating Mabel Neary and getting the mixed doubles in partnership with M Howell. The Ches. and Warwicks teams meet in the final Round. Northants 2nd/Warwicks 3rd match went to 4-4. It was a close finish with Graham Hoskin (Wa) beating Brian Dangerfield at 18 in a 3rd and decisive game.

VETS DIV 2B:

BK3 2 OX1 7 HE2 9 BD 0
BO2 5 CA 4 HU 0 E4 9
CA 4 HE2 5 E4 7 BD2 2
BD1 6 CA 3 BD1 3 HU 6
HU 5 BD2 4 CA 6 HU 3
BD@ 2 HE2 7 BD1 3 E4 6
HE2 6 E4 3 OX1 8 CA 1
BD 8 BK3 1
12 matches were played at Barnet TTC. Herts 2nds came out on top with 4 wins. This included the 6-3 defeat of nearest rivals Essex 4th team, who won their other 3 matches. The Cambs team put up some good performances. Their matches versus both Beds. 2nds and Herts 2nds went to a 4-4 but they went down 4-5. Cambs did get a 6-3 win over Hunts but lost to Beds. 1st team despite Clive Woollard winning both his singles events. Hunts had wins over the two Beds teams with Pauline Leak winning her singles and mixed doubles matches. Oxon have 3 impressive wins their latest being over Berks 3 (7-2) and Cambs (8-1). The Oxford team have 100% success in doubles events.

VETS DIV 2C:

4 4 SY3 5 MI2 1 K3 8
OX2 3 MI1 6 BK2 2 BK1 7
MI1 8 K4 1 BK2 6 MI2 3
K3 9 OX2 0 BK1 7 SY3 2
Kent 3rd team had impressive wins over Middx and Oxon 2nd teams. They have dropped just 2 events over their 3 matches. Surrey had a "close shave" against Kent 4th team with M Fisher (Sy) beating N LeMilliere -19,15,18 in the final event to secure a 5-4 win. Berks 1st team won their 3rd match when they beat Surrey 3rds 7-2. They got 2 vital events when Peter Bradley and Syd Montgomery both beat unlucky John Callcut with scores -19, 19,20 and -19, 20, 24 respectively.

Report by **Doug Moss**

VETS DIV 2D:

AV 9 HA2 0
 DO2 3 W1 6 GS1 6 SO1 3
 HA3 0 A 9 HA2 7 DO2 8
 W1 6 GS1 3 GS2 1 SO 8
 Avon, with Bob Murray at the helm, are sailing ahead with 3 wins! Their latest victims - the Hants 2nd and 3rd teams. Wilts 1sts are also a good team with wins over Dorset 2nds and Glos 1st team. In the Glos match Wilts had wins at 18,20 and 23 in deciding games! There was a good tussle between Dave Harvey (Gs) and Brian Reeves in the Glos/Somerset match with Dave winning 21,-16,15.

VETS DIV 3A:

H3 7 CW 2 NK2 7 NP3 2
 NE4 8 BD3 1 CW 6 NP3 3
 HE4 3 NK2 6 BD3 2 DU 7
 Norfolk 2nds got 2 more good wins- 6-3 over Herts 4 and 7-2 over Northants 3rds. David Henderson and Mick Musson had 4 singles wins apiece. 6 events went to a decider in a tough match between Clwyd and Northants 3rds. The homesters won 6-3 with John Spence winning 2 singles and the doubles with Ian Woolley. In a match with all events decided 2 straight Durham beat Beds. 3rd team 7-2. Di Jermin (Bd) won her singles and the mixed doubles with Bill Astbury.

VETS DIV 3B:

BU2 8 OX3 1 HE3 4 SK1 5
 CA2 1 MI3 8 BU2 4 He3 5
 SK1 9 CA2 0
 Suffolk have 3 wins and take the lead in this Div. It was a hard match against Herts 3rd team. Suffolk went 0-3 down, were losing 1-4 but came back to win 5-4! Janet Faiers (SK) beat Sue Felstead and with Rob Hellaby won the mixed doubles. The Herts team reversed the score when they met Bucks 2nds. In the final event Alan Lamprell (He) beat Brian Savage 13 and 20 to give the team a 5-4 win.

VETS DIV 3C:

W12 5 SX4 4 SX3 6 BK4 3
 DV3 2 HA4 7 SX4 7 HA4 2
 DB4 5 DV3 4 W12 4 HE6 5
 MI3 8 SK2 1
 It would be difficult to pick a winner in this Div. Sussex 3rds is the

only team to win 2 matches. They led Berks 4th team 6-1 but Brian Halliday and Colin Dyke (Bk) got wins in deciding games to improve the score to 6-3. There were three 5-4 results with each match going to the last event to find a winner. In Wilts 2nds win over Sussex 4th team the result of the ladies singles event was a big influence. Margaret Willson (Wi) beat Val Jackson -10, 16,26! Devon 3rds fought well at Kingfisher TTC and won 2 events at

19 in 3rd games - but they lost 4-5 to Berks 4th team. Middx 3rd team had a good 8-1 win over Suffolk 2nds at Ashford TTC.

VETS DIV 3D:

SO2 1 DV2 8 DO3 8 DV4 1
 HR 2 W13 7 HE5 5 DO3 4
 W13 6 DV4 3 HR 6 SO2 3
 Herts 5/Dorset 3 was a hard fought match. A big influence on the result was Pat Gale's (He) win over Mae Allen at 16 in the 3rd - after

expedite! Devon 2nds have had 2 good wins - their latest the 8-1 defeat of Somerset 2nds. Andy Seward (So) got the 1 win by beating Ian Walton 11 and 18. Celebrations for Herfords Vets with a 6-3 win over Somerset 2nds. Harry Jutle (Hr) won his 2 singles and the mens doubles with John Hunt. Neville Meredith had a win and took the mixed doubles with Carol Milnes.

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

The Boys and Girls 'Teams of the Weekend', Light Freight Generation 2 (below left) and City of Leeds, pictured with Jose Ransome



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BOYS PREMIER - END OF FIRST WEEKEND								BOYS DIVISION 3 - END OF FIRST WEEKEND							
Edison Hornsey	5	4	0	1	19	11	8	Clayton Heights	7	5	2	0	31	11	12
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	5	4	0	1	22	8	8	Lillington Free Church	7	3	4	0	29	13	10
Derwent	5	3	1	1	20	10	7	Greenleys	7	3	4	0	25	17	10
Launceston	5	2	1	2	15	15	5	Peniel B	7	3	3	1	29	13	9
Kingfisher A	5	0	1	4	6	24	1	Cippenham	7	3	3	1	26	16	9
Linda Farrow	5	0	1	4	8	22	1	Dudley	7	2	0	5	16	26	4
BOYS DIVISION 1 - END OF FIRST WEEKEND								GIRLS PREMIER - END OF FIRST WEEKEND							
B.F.L. Grove A	5	5	0	0	23	7	10	Our Lady of Peace	7	0	1	6	8	34	1
Irish Boys	5	4	0	1	21	9	8	Uxbridge Burton	7	0	1	6	4	38	1
Peniel A	5	1	2	2	16	14	4	GIRLS DIVISION 1 - END OF FIRST WEEKEND							
Lennox House	5	1	2	2	14	16	4	Dumfries	5	5	0	0	24	6	10
Edmonton	5	1	2	2	16	14	4	City of Leeds	5	4	0	1	23	7	8
Bristol	5	0	0	5	0	30	0	Spicer Girls	5	1	2	2	15	15	4
BOYS DIVISION 2A - END OF FIRST WEEKEND								GIRLS DIVISION 2 - END OF FIRST WEEKEND							
Ellenborough	5	4	1	0	23	7	9	Seasiders	5	1	1	3	10	20	3
Seasiders	5	4	0	1	19	11	8	Genethod Cymru	5	1	1	3	8	22	3
Rejects	5	2	1	2	14	16	5	B.F.L. Grove B	5	0	2	3	10	20	2
Kingfisher B	5	2	0	3	12	18	4								
B.F.L. Grove B	5	0	2	3	12	18	2								
Folkestone	5	0	2	3	10	20	2								
BOYS DIVISION 2B - END OF FIRST WEEKEND															
Light Freight Generat. 2	5	5	0	0	24	6	10								
Guildford League Club	5	3	1	1	19	11	7								
Sedgefield	5	1	2	2	14	16	4								
Progress	5	2	0	3	12	18	4								
Milton Keynes	5	1	1	3	11	19	3								
Constable Britannia	5	0	2	3	10	20	2								

FUNCTION *of Officials*

THIS MONTH 'DROP SHOT' LOOKS AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS. HOW AWARE ARE PLAYERS OF THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICIALS? HOW DO OFFICIALS REGARD PLAYERS? HOW DO PLAYERS REGARD OFFICIALS? OFFICIALS, WHO ARE OFTEN PLAYERS THEMSELVES, HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR THE SKILL OF PLAYERS AND OFTEN TRY TO EMULATE THIS SKILL IN THEIR OWN GAME. THEY ALSO HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR THE SPORTSMANSHIP AND BEHAVIOUR OF MOST PLAYERS AND REALISE THAT IT IS ONLY A VERY, VERY SMALL MINORITY WHO CAUSE PROBLEMS WRITES **GEORGE TYLER.**

Off the table the relationship between officials and players is a very good one and both are often seen chatting and mingling in their peer groups. It is on the table, in competition and match play that the occasional breakdown in relationships can occur. It is usually the umpire in control of the match who makes the decision to which the player objects. A doubtful service call, a dubious edge ball, a call of let when play is disturbed by a ball coming into court and, of course, the acceptability of equipment and clothing. These are the most common causes of friction which can lead to a breakdown in relationships. In these instances players must realise that the umpire is only carrying out the duties for which he/she is responsible.

The umpire has a primary responsibility of ensuring a fair result and this all umpires aim to do, but occasionally errors occur. After many hours in a large, noisy sports hall with variable lighting, it is easy to miss a ball barely clipping the net during service. It is not always possible to see a ball coming into court in time to call let with the rally undecided. The issue of service will be discussed in a later article, but deciding the legality of service is often a point of disagreement

between umpires and players. Most players realise that the umpire is in control of the match and his authority should be respected. Decisions may be queried but they should not be challenged. Errors can appear to occur, but unless agreed by all concerned, the umpire's decision should be accepted. Most people know the scenario when a player has disagreed with a decision made by the umpire and has made a great show of giving away the next point - although never at 19 all in the third! This action only denigrates the authority of the umpire, who believes he is right. Derek Tyler, often seen representing the ITTF at major events, has written to say that there is a move to state that players may not physically change the score indicators. This tends to happen more at major events, under the guise of 'fair play' generosity, when a player walks over to the score indicator and changes the score to give away the point. Such action usually earns cheap applause from spectators who rarely appreciate the situation, but weakens the authority of the official concerned. Fair play should be encouraged, but in such a way that the match officials are not made to appear ridiculous - respect must be maintained.

The Handbook for Match Officials states that players are entitled to expect consistency in the conduct of matches. It also states that the work of the match officials can be difficult and demanding; that they must be fair but not indulgent; firm but not officious and confident without being obtrusive. Surely, by accepting this as a mission statement, all relationships between officials and players on the table can be as

harmonious as they are off the table. If you have any comments, observations or suggestions to offer, please send them to Drop Shot, c/o the Editor. Have a good season.



NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
An 'all hours worked' post

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WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUES *the NEXT stage?*

TO:
THE BBC, PINEWOOD
STUDIOS, HOLLYWOOD
PRODUCERS OR ANY
LEAGUE TABLE TENNIS
ORGANISER.

A FILM SCRIPT-
SCREENPLAY BY COLIN
WILSON, GREATER
LONDON TABLE TENNIS
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

FILM TITLE:
**'INTERVIEW WITH
THE PUBLIC'**

SCENE 1: 1994/95 ENTER JO PUBLIC

J.P. 'Hello, 'Woolwich' Organiser, how are the Woolwich Junior Leagues (WJLs) going?'

W.O. 'Hello Jo Public there are 100 ETTA Leagues started or committed to a 'Woolwich' Junior League in 1994/95, with more to come'.

J.P. 'That's really good! But looking ahead, for those Leagues which have started, how can they build on their success so far, for the years ahead?'

W.O. 'Well, I suppose we keep the WJL going, so that young players can improve in a sociable, welcoming environment, and then join the League proper.'

J.P. 'That's fine, but having seen the success of my local WJL, I believe an opportunity exists for your League to transform its League membership, and achieve long-term growth.'

W.O. 'How's that, then?'

J.P. 'Well this year you started your WJL, right? Result: Increased League membership. Well done!'
W.O. (looks pleased - exit stage left)

SCENE 2: 1995/96

J.P. 'How about in Year 2 you expand to more divisions? Result: Increased League membership again. Even more well done!'
W.O. (looks very pleased)

J.P. 'But, there's something missing.'
W.O. 'What's that?'

J.P. 'The problem is: what about 16 and 17 year-olds who become too old for the WJL? They may not join

J.P. 'Solution: Start an Under 21s division in the WJL. Result: Consolidate on increased membership'

W.O. 'Yes, that will keep them in Table Tennis, and keep them as League members. And if there aren't so many over 17s, we can add the better juniors to make up a good division. Thanks!'

SCENE 3: 1996/97

J.P. 'How is the WJL Division1, Division 2 and Under 21's Division going?'

W.O. 'Really well. Our League membership has gone up 30% in two years, and it almost runs itself

bit worried. It's been going on for over 15 years now, and even all the effort of 'Focus Sport' and the full-timed Development Officers couldn't stop it. If things carry on like this we soon won't have enough Clubs and players to make a good League, never mind the organisers needed to run it.'

J.P. 'Well that's what I've been thinking about! The ETTA has 50,000 members, right?'
W.O. 'Right'

J.P. 'Yet in surveys there are 2 million adults in Britain who say they like to play Table Tennis sometimes?'
W.O. 'Go on'

THE WOOLWICH FORMAT OF MULTI TABLE VENUES, FIXED NIGHT OF THE WEEK, 2V2, TWO HOURS, TOO GOOD TO MISS! HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED FOR JUNIOR LEAGUES



WRITES DICCON GRAY. SOME SENIOR LEAGUES ALSO LIKE THE FORMAT AND OTHERS ARE EXPERIMENTING AND DISCUSSING ITS MERITS. THIS SCENARIO MAY HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE TABLE TENNIS AT THIS LEVEL AND I WOULD INVITE READERS TO OPEN THEIR MINDS TO THE FOLLOWING PUT FORWARD BY FORMER LONDON REGION TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COLIN WILSON.

adult League play because of:-
- insufficient standard
- Clubs can't take, or don't want new members, especially outside their social circle
- lack of transport to different venues
- late nights
- poor venues (cold, small, no social facilities) etc
W.O. 'Yes I suppose so. Go on'

now it's established. The Under 21's can act as helpers too! But I bet you're going to tell me we could do even better!'

J.P. 'Well, I was thinking. Junior League membership is all very well, but what about your adult membership?'
W.O. 'Yes, it's a shame. Our League Secretary says that adult League membership is still declining. I'm a

J.P. 'So you're missing out on the other 1,950,000?! That means the ETTA only has 2% of all Table Tennis players! Surely something's amiss. Why don't the other 98% play League Table Tennis?'
W.O. 'I'm not really sure. They wouldn't all be interested. But I suppose some must want to play more, if we make it easy for them. Why do you think they don't?'

J.P. 'Well, perhaps it's for the same reasons we talked about before:
- insufficient standard
- Clubs can't take, or don't want new members, especially outside their social circle
- lack of transport to different venues
- late nights
- poor venues (cold, small, no social facilities) etc'
W.O. 'Yes, it's the same as we said about attracting juniors into the WJL'

J.P. 'So how about...?'

W.O. 'Yes, I see! Overcome the same problem with the same solution!'

J.P. and W.O. together. 'Start a Woolwich Adult League for novice adults!'

W.O. The format can be exactly the same, can't it? 2v2, doubles all at one decent venue. they can each pay towards the cost, more so than juniors. And they can organise themselves better, and some may volunteer to help with League activities too! Wow! Perhaps I'd better go and write it down now.'

FINAL SCENE: 1997/98

W.O. 'Hi, Jo!'

J.P. 'Hi, W.O. How's the League?'

W.O. 'Healthy and fun, as you can imagine. We now have three WJL Divisions, an Under 21s Division, two Woolwich Adult divisions, and the traditional League has grown a division too, with all the interest. We even got some new people to do publicity and fundraising on the League Committee. Now we need a really good, large venue as a local Centre.'

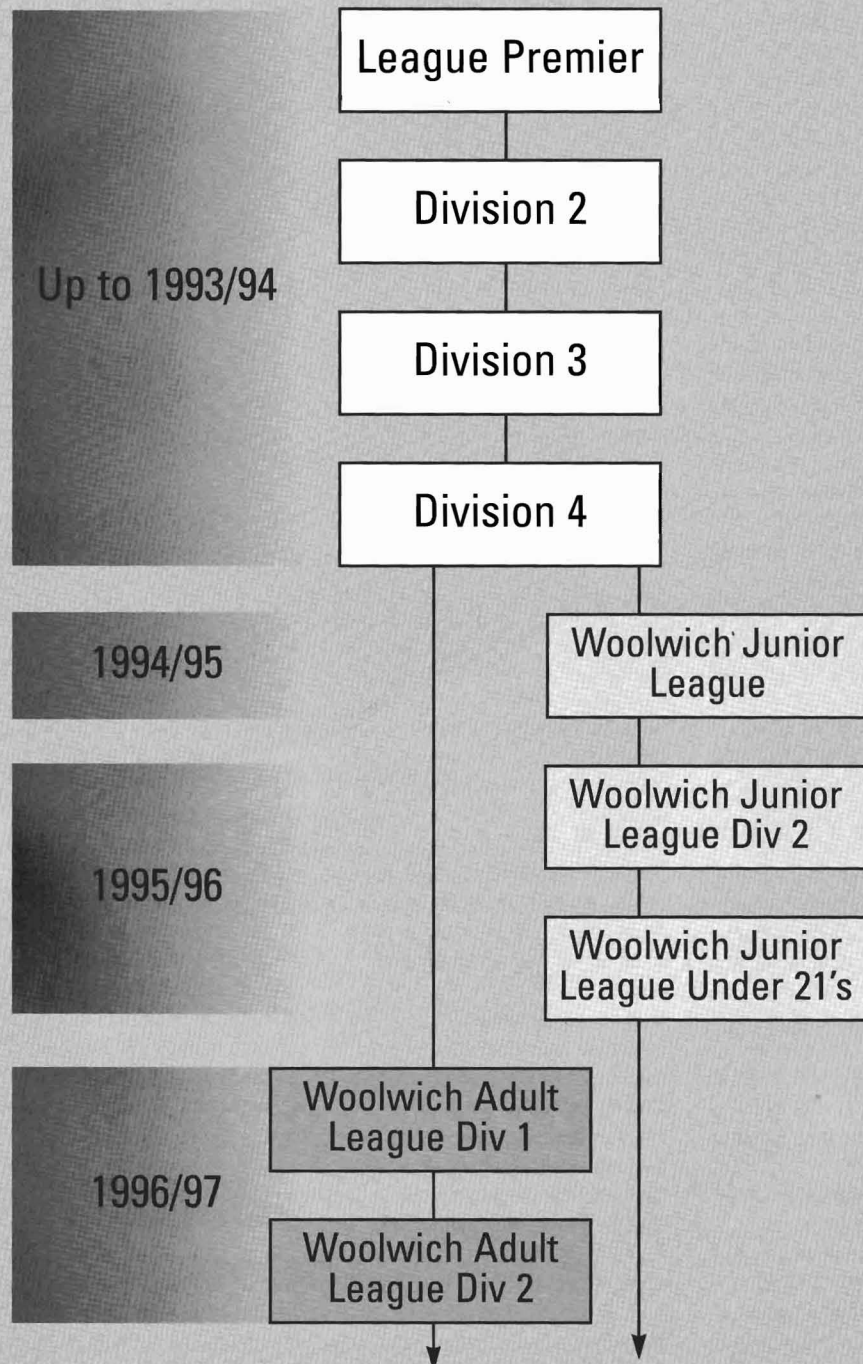
J.P. (Chuckles) 'Well, I was just thinking about the Lottery. What if everyone got together and.....'

THE END



WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUES *the NEXT stage?*

W.O.'s diagram, with help from Colin Wilson, February 1995.



the GOODbook

ROYAL NAVY ACTION PACK - TABLE TENNIS

This extremely useful booklet should now have a place in all secondary school PE departments. Will it just become one of the mountain of documents that arrive in schools and are immediately filed, often under B for Bin or simply left to gather dust on a book-shelf? It is to be hoped that this is not the case, but if the attitude from table tennis experts is "we've sent them the book, so now it's up to the schools" then an invaluable asset in the promotion of our sport will be wasted write P J Birch Vice Chairman ESTTA.

Before considering the contents in more detail, let us examine who should be promoting its use. GCSE PE is an expanding course throughout the country, being taken by 16 year olds in conjunction with their other GCSE subjects, as well as a 1 year subsidiary sixth form course for 17/18 year olds. Students have to study a number of sports, both in a theoretical and practical way and there is a wide range from which to chose. All junior players reading this article and taking GCSE PE should approach their teachers and encourage them to teach table tennis as part of the course. In this way a wider group of people will be able to appreciate the skills involved and hopefully want to offer this option to more students in the years to come!

The strength of the booklet is that it has been written, in part, by practising teachers who also have a very sound knowledge of table tennis. This means that information is presented in a way that is easy to use in the classroom, while the practical aspects are dealt with using visual aids, again showing that one picture is worth a thousand words! Thus a non-expert in table

tennis should quickly feel confident of the subject content and the techniques required can easily be put over.

Unit 1 - Schemes of Work:

This includes a number of "fun" games which encourage players to develop their playing skills and demonstrates that learning can be enjoyable.

Unit 2 -

Skills:

Both basis and advanced strokes are covered, obviously not quite in the detail of the ETTA coaching manual, but in a way that is easy to understand.

Unit 3 - Tactics:

The section should be compulsory reading for all players, how many times have you seen someone using the wrong tactical approach in a match?

Unit 4 - Assessment:

Objectives are clearly defined and should provide effective assessment.

Unit 5 - Laws & Equipment:

The way bats have developed may well intrigue younger players who have only known sponge bats!

Unit 6 - Physical Conditioning:

This is a very thorough explanation of the different types of fitness and training that are required, older players are advised to read this section sitting down!

Unit 7 - Mental Preparation:

A good focus on the major points

Units 8 - 11:

These give sound factual

information and give students a good overview of table tennis.

Unit 12 - Worksheets and Project Ideas:

All teachers will appreciate these, they are by no means exhaustive and can easily be extended or amended to suit individual

needs.

The book-list should

provide enough extra reading to satisfy the most avid book-worm.

As you read through the book, you realise that the efforts of the authors have produced a well-balanced and well-produced addition to table tennis literature and deserve our praise and thanks. What we, i.e. players, coaches, parents and administrators, now need to do is to ensure that its use is promoted in schools, so that both teachers and students are made more aware of the potential of table tennis as a valuable sport for the 21st century. Limited copies may be available - contact your ETTA RDO.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL REPORT

by Alf Peppard

The ETTA South West Regional Cadet League Team Competitions were held at Cirencester last October, here are a summary of Results.

1st Bristol Boys top the list having won 7 matches and lost none. 2nd Stroud, are runners up having played

7 matches, won 6 and lost 1. 3rd Bristol Girls, played 7 won 5 and lost 2. 4th West Wiltshire, played 7, won 4 and lost 3. 5th Sun Life, played 7, won 3 and lost 4. 6th Swindon 'A', played 7, won 2 and lost 5. 7th Holymead, played 7, won 1 and lost 6. 8th Swindon 'B', played 7 and lost 7.

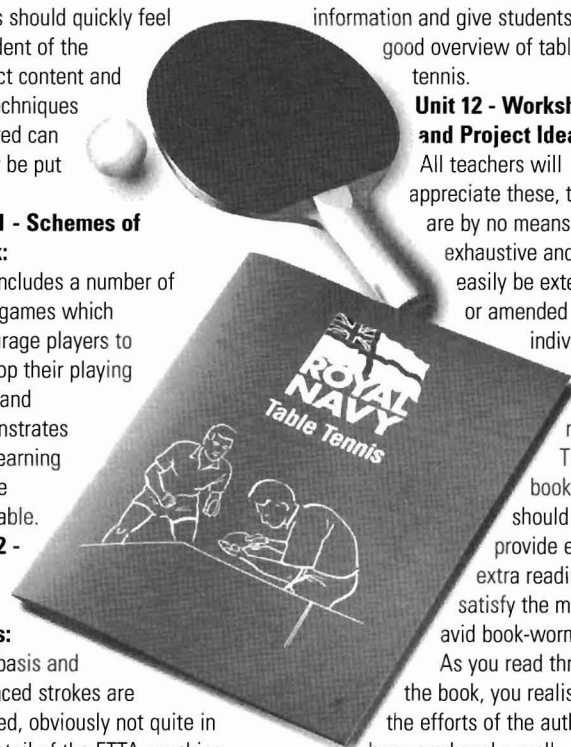
All the above events were refereed by Andy Seward, Chairman - South West Region.

On Sunday 22 October, 71 youngsters from the seven county South West region converged upon Deer Park School, Cirencester, in an attempt to sort out the region's quality players.

Play took place on 8 tables, the entire Tournament was organised by Mrs Valerie Clack, the South West Head Coaching Officer, and the Referee was Andy Seward from Wiltshire.

At around 5.30pm the following emerged, (County wise in alphabetical order), as qualifiers for the next and FINAL ROUND of preliminary trials at Cirencester on December 17th 1995.

CADET GIRLS: Laura Jones (Avon); Kate Chidgey, Michelle Barret (Devon); Nicolette Broom (Dorset); Claire Gibbs, Helen Round, Lizzie Frazer (Somerset); Hannah Thompson, Melonie Cobleby (Wiltshire). CADET BOYS: David Porter, Matthew Newport (Avon); Damien Lascells, Chris Gorvett (Cornwall); James Whiteman, Cameron Hinton (Devon); Daniel Nelmes (Gloucestershire); Roger Holloway (Somerset). JUNIOR GIRLS: Jessica Orlik, Gemma Loughran, Katie Hardidge (Avon); Anna Reed (Cornwall); Elizabeth May, Kate Holmyard (Devon); Nicolette Broom (Dorset); Ann Humble (Gloucestershire). JUNIOR BOYS: Brian Smith, Leigh Iles (Avon); Adrian Noot (Cornwall); Daniel Adams (Devon); Lee Dredge, Tony Forster (Dorset); Jon Roberts (Gloucestershire); Paul Jackson (Wiltshire).



CALLING *all* TUTORS

THE NATIONAL JUNIOR SPORTS PROGRAMME IS ON ITS WAY. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR TABLE TENNIS COACHES? IT MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE YOUNGSTERS TO TABLE TENNIS. THIS INITIATIVE STANDS A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF BEING SUCCESSFUL SINCE THE PROGRAMME IS BEING INTRODUCED THROUGH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND SO WILL THEREFORE BE ACCESSIBLE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNGSTERS WRITES

GAIL MCCULLOCH.

The National Junior Sports Programme has 4 stages:-

- Top Play - for 5-7 year olds
- Top Sport - for 7-11 year olds
- Champion Coaching for promising players
- Top Club - to develop participation and excellence

The programme is the brain child of Sue Campbell (former head of the National Coaching Foundation) who now heads the Youth Sport Trust. The aim is to give young people an enjoyable and quality introduction to a number of sporting activities of which table tennis is one.

So, where do the ETTA coaches fit in? Many will be approached to take extra players into their

clubs/coaching sessions. Some will be involved with tutoring the courses for deliverers of the Top Sport activities and others may be involved with running the programme in schools. The launch of the initiative is planned for April '96.

Will we be able to meet the challenge? I hope so, and to this end the Coaching Department is working to increase the number of coaches and to increase the number of, and to update and improve the standard of our tutors. Only ETTA approved tutors will be able to run courses for deliverers of the Top Sport programme.

So, all current approved tutors plus any other qualified coaches who wish to become tutors, should make every effort to attend one of the

tutor education courses that are planned for January.

The courses will have the following format:-

SATURDAY

Introduction to tutoring (for new tutors) for Level 8, Teachers Sports Leader and the Introduction to Coaching Award courses.

SUNDAY

Update for current approved tutors (2 hours) plus an introduction to the National Junior Sports Programme with emphasis on the Top Sport programme (open to all).

These course will be led by Colin Wilson who has responsibility for the education of ETTA tutors with input from myself and Diccon Gray with regard to the National Junior Sports programme.

It is hoped that every tutor and would-be tutor will be able to attend one of the following courses:-

- January 6th and 7th (S/SW) Culverhay Sports Centre, Bath.
- 20th and 21st (E) Burnt Mill School, Harlow.
- 27th and 28th (Yorks) Armley Sports Centre, Leeds.

At the time of writing the venues are to be confirmed but are likely to be as indicated in brackets.

(Jan 14/15th has been avoided so that coaches are able to attend the Olympic qualifying event.)

Although there is a small charge for these courses, financial assistance is available from most regions. Attendance and further details of these courses can be confirmed with Jill Parker (01772 715216)

So if you want to be a part of this

new initiative which will introduce table tennis to many youngsters pick up the phone and book your place on one of the tutor training courses now. Jill is waiting to hear from you. We must be ready to meet the challenge, because if we don't, some other sport will.

NEWS EXTRA

WOODFIELD 1 STAR OPEN TOURNAMENT - SAT/SUN 4TH/5TH NOVEMBER 1995

This, the 55th year of the Woodfield 1 Star Open in Wolverhampton, saw an entry of 55 players for Junior and Cadet events writes Dave Roden.

Welsh players came close to a clean sweep of winners, only Warwickshire's Susie Allen, who secured a narrow 16 & 18 win in the Junior Girls Singles final over Wrexhams Siwan Davies, preventing it. Siwan had earlier beaten Susie 2-0 in a group match.

The Junior Boys Singles final saw Danny Harris avenge last year's final defeat by Alan Howitt (Wa), Harris winning 11 & 19.

The Cadet Boys Singles final resulted in a win for Stephen Jenkins over Lewis Cook (Wo) 9 & 12.

The Cadet Girls singles final was an all Welsh battle, the diminutive Charlotte Cooksley beating Iona Davies 17 & 16.

Junior Boys Doubles winners were Danny Harris and Stephen Jenkins over Worcestershire's Philip Nicholls and Ian Wood 15 & 14, and the Junior Girls Doubles final saw Susie Allen victorious again, paired with Delyth Davies they beat Siwan and Iona Davies 16 & 19.

The Senior event on the Sunday resulted in a very poor entry, partly due to Counties being allowed to re-arrange County Championship matches to group week-end play and clashing with one star tournaments. The Womens and Veterans events had to be cancelled due to insufficient entries - the Mens events just survived and were played with a much lower entry than normal.

Carl Morgan won the Mens Singles for a third consecutive year, beating Warwickshire's Peter Waite 13 & 15 in the final. He had earlier beaten evergreen Tony Isaac (St) 13 & 14 at the semi-final stage. The other semi-final saw Waite beat surprise packet Steve Horton (Wo) 12 & 14. Horton had earlier beaten Steve Meddings (Wa) and Peter Thomas (Dv).

The Mens Doubles final was probably the best match of the tournament, Morgan & Isaac narrowly beating Mick Browne & Waite 20, -19, & 18.

Bedfordshire

BY ALEX MURDOCH

INJURIES

What a start to the season - Never had so many injuries or unavailability for county matches since I became Beds county match secretary some 5 years ago. Not helped by certain players not willing to represent the County because of their ranking position - thanks to all those who have played in their places and are honoured to represent the County.

Since the start of the season our results have been as follows:-

	P	W	L	D
Senior	5	2	3	0
Junior	5	4	0	1
Vetts I	6	2	4	0
Vetts II	4	1	3	0
Vetts III	4	4	0	0

The Juniors are having an excellent season with a great chance of being winners of their division. The team of Martin Whittaker, Nicola Seeder, Graham Babcock, Adrian Hunt and Mark Badham have all played well and contributed to the team's success to date. All the best in the final matches early next year.

Good wins by Vetts I against Berks 3, VettsII against Cambs I, Senior against Kent and Suffolk at Grantham during a weekend there. In particular to Robery Dynes (in his first year as a senior), and to the three veterans dragged in to play for the seniors due to injuries namely Anita Copperwheat, Val Murdoch and yours truly all of whom contributed in both Senior victories.

I wish everyone a good Christmas and a successful, happy 1996

Berkshire

BY JOHN CUNNINGHAM

GOOD NEWS

Good news for local table tennis club SSV, thanks to the efforts of their chairman Allan Brutton they have achieved a double sponsorship. their Southern Region team who play in division one are to be sponsored by National Grid, a major break-through for such a small club.

The Southern Region squad, now known as SSV National Grid, consisting of Cliff Putterford, Allan Bruton, Jeff Huggins, Bob Davis and Geoff Davis, hope to gain promotion for the second successive year and

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.

gain a place in the Region's Premier Division. At local level the club fields three teams in the Bracknell Wokingham and District League. Currently they lead the Premier Division and are going strong in divisions two and four. These teams are sponsored by Environment Company Artel and for the third successive season will be known as Artel SSV.

FESTIVAL DAY

The English Table Tennis Association have set up an initiative to enhance the training for the stars of the future. As part of this initiative, the Southern Region Coaching Panel have started a new Player Development Programme via a Festival Day for Under 14s.

The Central Zone of the Southern Region held their Festival Day at Altwood School, Maidenhead. For this, the 8 leagues that form the Central Zone sent 18 girls and 14 boys to Altwood.

In introducing the day, Zone Coordinator Derek Langley said that the focus for the first day of the Programme was to find out the current playing standard of the nominated players. Later on the training would get more advanced and would be provided for selected players as they matured through the Under 17 category.

In addition, the players' coaches would be encouraged to attend so that they could expand their coaching skills. This would enable them to work on specific techniques with the players attending the Player Development Programme Training Days as well as with the other juniors that they coach.

The stated aim of the Programme is "to provide a progressive system which will enable all coaches and talented young players to develop their full potential".

The Director of the Player Development Programme, Colin Wilson said that ambitious but realistic targets have already been set for the Programme for the rest of this century. In the first year, the target was in terms of the number of players qualifying for Under 14 England rankings. In later years, the aim was to achieve a number of players in the higher rankings of each of the Cadet and Junior

categories.

For the Festival Day, ex-England senior international Colin Wilson acted as Head Coach, with John Burleton, Southern Region Staff Coach, as Assistant Head Coach. Six other ETTA coaches supervised the training activities.

Cambridgeshire

BY A HUBBLE

DEGREE OF SUCCESS

Since the last report all of our County sides have been in action, with a varying degree of success. The Senior team went to Warwick on the 4th and 5th of November for a triple header against Essex, Berkshire and Leicestershire. The squad consisted of Mick Harper, Keith Richardson, David Lee, Caroline Shaw and Yvette Hooks. Unfortunately they found life in the Premier very difficult, going down in all three matches 3-7, 1-9, 1-9 respectively. Against Essex each of the men scored a point and in the other matches Yvette prevented the whitewash with a single win in each. The next round of matches is in the New Year at Saltash, Devon.

The Veterans 1st team played four matches on the weekend of the 21/22 October 1995 at Barnett TTC. On Saturday we took on Bedford 2 and Herts 2 and were narrowly defeated by the odd game in both matches. Malcolm Stennett, Roger Fenton, Jean White and a men's doubles victory made up the four against Bedford and M Stennett (2) J White and John Turner were our winners against Herts.

On Sunday we lost 6-3 to Bedford (Clive Woollard (2) and R Fenson), but picked out first victory with a 6-3 win against Hunts (M Stennett (2), C Woollard, J White, R Fenson and Mens Doubles).

The following weekend saw the Vets 1 team in action against this time at Rutherford against Oxford. The home side proved too

strong inflicting a heavy 8-1 defeat with only Jean White able to contribute to Cambs tally.

The Veterans 2nd team opened their season at St Neots on the 14th October against Middlesex 3. Unfortunately the opposition proved too strong on the day, inflicting an 8-1 defeat. Chris Gays win over M Sharp was Cambs only point although three other matches went to 3 ends. The second weekend of Junior matches took place on the 28th October at St Neots against Essex 3, Hunts and Suffolk. James Walton was unavailable for selection and so Phillip Bass from March joined M Knott & A Bennett and Helen Morris was brought in to partner Helen Charlton. In all three matches the opposition proved too strong with 2-8, 3-7 and 2-8 respectively the results.

Matthew Knott provided Cambs best performance with two singles wins against Essex and one a piece against Hunts and Suffolk. Alan Bennett provided the other point against Suffolk and the girls both scored in the match with Hunts. The results leave Cambs 7th in the table with the final round of matches scheduled for January 20th 1996.

The entry forms for the closed tournament should be available by the time this article appears and so please return them as soon as possible and support this event.

Finally I would again appeal to all players and officials to contact me with any newsworthy items as the format for the County Notes is likely to change in the near future and I will need other news to report on other than matches!!

Cumbria

BY GORDON BROWN

ABSENCE

Greystoke-based Julie Stitch (formerly McLean) returned to Cumbria's team in style after a four-year absence for domestic reasons.

The former county champion won both her sets in a 6-4 home defeat that could easily have been a draw. The match hinged on the last set which saw Carlisle's Steve Temple lose to number two "chopper" expert Steve Cooper in two straight games.

Newcomer Paul Watson, who has set the Carlisle League alight this season and was pushed straight in to the number one berth, had no answer to Cooper's steady play, plunging in straights, 5 and 12.

Cleveland's number one also beat Watson along with Mark Temple, who like brother Steve, took a set against number three John

A Look around the Country

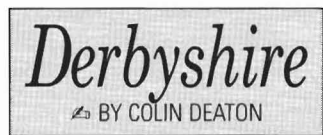
Bousfield.

Julie, however, was Cumbria's star. She beat number one Meinty Davies 21-14, 18-21, 21-13 and number two Nicola Parker 16 and 13.

The other home lady, Jade Kendall (Barrow), took Davies to three, dropping the last game 21-23 after winning the second 21-18 and going down in the first 16-21.

The well-ranked junior also emerged with credit against Parker, again losing the third narrowly, this time 20-22, after taking the first 21-14 and conceding the second 16-21.

Still searching for their first victory of the season, Cumbria now rest until the New Year when they entertain Nottingham at Whitbarrow Time Share Village, near Penrith, on January 20.



CENTRAL TRAINING

Negotiations failed in the ETTA attempt to secure the Speedwell Rooms in Staveley but the alternative venue, the Queens Park Sports Centre in Chesterfield appears to be ideal as a central training headquarters for the national squad.

Matthew Syed and Jonathan Taylor are already residing in the area. These top two senior stars alongside Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington, Chris Oldfield not forgetting the world ranked Chen.

On the women's side Nicola Deaton will benefit from such star studded training sessions and with Andrea Holt and Lisa Lomas not too far away there can be no denying that the Chesterfield area may well be seen as the hub of English Table Tennis.

England ranked junior player Michelle Haynes has transferred her playing registration to Derbyshire.

The member leagues throughout the country continue to hold their membership and be reasonable stable.

Burton have one division more than last year, Derby are just one team down whilst Chesterfield remains the same.

Sunday January 14 is the proposed date for the annual Derbyshire Championship which is to be featured at the Lea Green Sports Centre, Matlock.

An addition event this year is the inclusion of an Under-21 singles event. This new event was proposed and accepted at the recent Derbyshire Association committee meeting.

Two former Burton league players and officials have made donations to the

Derbyshire Association.

Brian Smith a president of Derbyshire has donated £250 and former Burton league pen hold style player Stan Beale has donated £50.

Coaching sessions throughout the county continues and nobody's contribution to our game is greater than County Junior captain Neil Houghton which includes organising the county junior top 12.

In addition to this he also holds the position of Derbyshire Schools coaching secretary and the East Midlands region publicity manager.

Derbyshire inclusion this season into the junior premier division is hoped will be a permanent one.

Finally congratulations to Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton on being selected for the Hungarian, Austrian and French Open. Alan "Cookie" Cooke was also selected for the French Open.



NEW COACHING INITIATIVE

Saturday November 11 sees the introduction of a new table tennis coaching programme in Poole.

Coaching will now be available for beginners and improvers, up to the age of seventeen, and will take place at the Kemp Welch Leisure Centre on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00.

The venture has been made possible by the joint efforts of Steve Ward (the ETTA South West Regional Development Officer); Mike Smith (Poole & District TTA Development Officer); and Michaela Hutchings (Sports Development Officer for Poole Borough Council); together with the staff of Kemp Welch Leisure Centre.

The cost will be £1.50 per session and further details are available from Mike Smith on (01202) 698149. Any boy or girl wishing to take part should contact Mike or turn up on any Saturday where bats will be available if required.

Local schools have been sent questionnaires by Steve Ward and positive responses are being received.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL TRIALS

A group of Dorset Juniors and Cadets travelled to Cirencester for the South West Regional Trials recently and all performed creditable.

Lee Dredge and Anthony Forster were

undefeated in the juniors and earn their places in the next round, whilst Dean Haskett and Nicolette Broome also qualified for the next stage after determined performances.

Matthew Andrews was unlucky not to progress further after some very close matches, only losing out on games average, despite beating the eventual winner of the group.

Ben Perry, who is still a few years, and inches, behind most of his opponents, was also just unable to progress further, but their time will come.

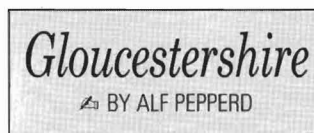
INTER LEAGUE COMPETITION

With Weymouth now rejoining the Dorset Association after an absence of twelve years, establishing an Inter League competition is the next item on the agenda for the Dorset Committee. If any members of the Blackmore Vale, Poole, Weymouth or Wimborne leagues have any views on this matter they should contact me or any committee member.

POOLE PAIRS

The prestigious Poole Pairs competition, will all the top players in Dorset taking part, is now well underway. Teams consist of two players, selected by the organisers from all entries received, and each match consists of four singles and one doubles, with all games being the best of five.

The early pacesetters are the Mariners (Brian Burn and Taffy Davies), and the Smugglers (Brian Garraway and Lee Dredge).



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

May I take this opportunity of wishing all readers - "A very Happy Christmas", and by golly, here we are at the middle of the season, Yes, it's a case of Tempus Fugit, as my old Latin master used to say.

Your Scribe, this month is in a rather abysmal mood - apart from the magnificent new playing facilities at Deer Park School, Cirencester, so far this season with the exception of our Senior Veteran team, all other County teams do appear to be losing more matches than they are winning - which perhaps signifies to me that either they are playing in too high a division OR that there is a considerable amount of missing talent, somewhere along the way.

A glance at Doug Moss' and Les Smith's county match team positions will tell it all,

well at least for this season so far.

Gloucestershire's 1 Star Junior Tournament at Cirencester, run by Ken Bridle, does not fit into this month's copy date for publicity, however I will report it in the next issue of TTN.

Both Senior and Junior (closed) Championships on the 3rd and 10th of December, will this year be run at Cirencester, with Mrs Gill Smith of Cheltenham the Hon Referee.

May I remind all Juniors and Cadets that the closing date for "The Cotswold Select Junior" Championships, CLOSE ON Thursday December 21st, three nights before you hang your stockings up for Santa?.

Gloucester City League players are saddened by the loss of two influential player/administrators of yester year - Harry Vickery, aged 82, the first General Secretary of the Gloucester League after the Second World War: and former County Umpire and Gloucester Coaching Officer John Cooper, aged 61, both sadly passed in last October.

Both of the above figures had a helping hand in building up the profile of table tennis within the County and making it the success it is today, they will be greatly missed.

And finally, I end these notes with happy news - David Dean of the Stroud and District League married Margaret Millerchip at the Stroud Congregational Church in Mid-October, after the reception, they flew off to Hawaii for a well earned honeymoon.

David is very well known in local TT circles, and needs little introduction, Margaret however is a keen member of the "Cotswold Gliding Club", at Aston Down, Minchinhampton. She qualified to fly solo in the Spring of 1994, and is at present serving on the Club's Committee.

She often flies at weekends when time permits, and I surmise that her marriage to David will not alter things all that much, the very best to both of you high flyers.



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Mark Werner (Bournemouth) put an end to the reign of Graham Toole (Gosport & Fareham) when they met in the final of this season's Hampshire Closed Table Tennis Championships at Southampton's Redbridge Sports Centre. Toole who had won the title a record 7 times went down by the narrowest of margins 22-20; 16-21; 19-21. In the semis

Werner had defeated Chris Wilshere (Southampton) 21-14; 25-23, whilst Toole overcame Chris Butt (Southampton) 21-13; 21-14. The day was however something of a triumph for 14 year old Butt, who having earlier in the week received a Hampshire Schools Sports Association award for "outstanding and consistent performance" not only reached the last 4 from an entry of 51 but also won the Intermediate (under 23) event in which his final opponent, beaten 25-23; 13-21; 21-19. was Portsmouth's John Demas.

Two newcomers to Hampshire Table Tennis contested the Womens final; the world ranked Tong Fei Ming currently registered for a Portsmouth club and Portsmouth University student Caroline Goatley, the former winning 12 & 10.

The Veteran mens event was won by Ramesh Bhalla (Aldershot) who defeated the holder Chris Wilshere at 21-19 in the third game of an exciting final and Teresa Watson (Aldershot) emerged from a round-robin as womens Veteran Champion.

Doubles winner; Mens, Chris Shetler and Chris Wilshere (both Southampton). Womens, Sarah Turner (Southampton) & Lorna Dutch (Isle of Wight). Mixed, Ramesh Bhalla and Barbara Savage (Aldershot).

The junior teams hopes of promotion to the Premier Division was somewhat halted by an opening 6-4 defeat at the hands of Devon but having recovered well to comfortably beat both Berkshire and Sussex 2. Danny Burns, Chris Butt, Lucan Chan, Mark Wilshere, Lorna Dutch and Tina Young will still have a big say as to who heads the table at the end. Congratulations to David Riddle (Portsmouth) who after making a winning debut for the Junior 2nds took the band 2 boys title at the Gloster open.

The Veteran squad of Chris Wilshere, Chris Shetler, Graham Outrim and Gill Larking with 3 wins out of 3 look set for another taste of Premier division excitement next season.



STRANGE FLOWER

Every once in a while, there are events that when you hear about them you say "Did I get that right, surely that can't be true?" But, just like some strange flower that appears once every seven years, the Herefordshire Veterans side has won a match! So, many congratulations to Neville Meredith and his side for achieving a 6-3 win against Somerset

II. Star of the show was Harry Jutle, in only his second match, he won both his singles and teamed up with John Hunt to win the Men's doubles. John also won one of this singles. Captain Neville Meredith, who also played in 1988 when Herefordshire achieved their only other win, beat Kevin Lum and then teamed up with Carol Milner to win the mixed doubles.

The county Junior side are having some close games. Chris Jones, our no 1 has been very consistent, and been well supported by Steven Arrowsmith. Paul Stubbs has enjoyed the step up in competition that county matches offer, and will hopefully enjoy some success later in the season. Leanne Neach continues to perform well as the county's leading girl, but we could well do with a bit more competition in this section within the county.

On the league front, the season started with a reduction in the number of teams registered. The main casualty was last season's champions of Division 1, Moreton Mauks. This leaves the division wide open - a state of affairs best illustrated when early season leaders Bromyard Oilers lost 3-7 to the bottom team, Hereford Table Tennis Club Terminators. One of the encouraging aspects of the Herefordshire scene is the increasing number of juniors now playing in the five divisions. Chris Jones and Steven Arrowsmith, our leading two lads, are both playing in division one this year. At the other end of the scale, almost 50% of division 5 are juniors, and with the continuing prompting by coach Mark Stubbs, I'm sure it won't be long before some of their youngsters move through the divisions to join Chris and Steven. Who knows, by the time that happens, our veterans may have won another match!



IT'S BARNETS AGAIN!

Yes! Barnets League have once again won the Hertfordshire Junior Inter-League competition, held at the Barnet's Table Tennis Centre, on 12th November 1995, despite losing their opening match to the cadets of Hemel Hempstead 3-4.

The three heroes from Barnets 1st team, Michelle Budden, Sacha Wilson and Michael Miller, bounced back to win their other two matches both 5-2, against Watford and Barnets II...Second placed Watford finished on the same points as Barnets I, but with an

inferior games average.

Watford's three players were Liron Hirons, Tim Seaholme, and Stuart Jobson.

It was very sad indeed to have only three of the seven Leagues represented at the Junior Inter-League competitions. Surely, Cheshunt, Hertford, North Herts and SHAW Leagues have some junior players?

Originally, two Sundays were planned for the Juniors, but due to lack of teams the second Sunday, on 11th February 1996, will now be used by the Cadets. Hopefully we will have enough cadet teams to use both the 11th February and the 21st April 1996, for the younger enthusiasts! Come on you Leagues-let's have a bumper cadet entry.

HERTFORDSHIRE JUNIOR INTER-LEAGUE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
BARNETS I	3	2	1	13	8	4
WATFORD	3	2	1	12	9	4
BARNETS II	3	1	2	10	11	2
HEMEL	3	1	2	7	14	2

Dates of the Inter-League competitions are: Cadets 11th February 1996 and 21st April 1996. Juniors: 12th November 1995. Seniors: 26th November 1995 and 28th January 1996. Veterans: 3rd December 1995, 7th January 1996 and 4th February 1996.



MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION

Our team in the Southern Region League has won again, defeating the famous Kingfisher (Reading) Club 603. Last season we barely avoided relegation after returning to the Premier Division the previous season. It shows what a magical transformation has taken place following our team's successes in the Island games in Gibraltar, how this transformed our fortunes and attitudes. Roger Hookey, yet again, proved the strong man with a hat-trick. he is profiting from a more rigorous training programme and more practice. I am often told that he is a player who "does nothing", to which I usually reply "except win". no point is won against him without a struggle and that is the secret of his successes. Mike Turner won two in this match, a good return after injury and Danny Burns only one, losing the other two matches deuce in the third. With two wins from two outings can we win this event for the first time? It would be very exciting if we did. Danny went through the Southern Region

Junior Trials unbeaten with 5 wins, but should the preliminary event have taken place at all? To have to undertake a round trip of 300 miles plus a boat journey in order to reduce a field of 11 to 8 seems rather a waste of time. Now Danny will have to do it all again, so that the 8 are reduced to 4 and only then will he qualify for the National Trials.

Lucy Pointer was more fortunate. She did not have to travel as there were not enough girls in the Cadets. She was thrilled to have been invited to her first England Under 12 Training Camp, but less to have dropped from No. 4 to No. 7 in the Under 12 Girls ranking list. She played in only two Under 12 events and reached the finals in both. So two second places added up to dropping to 7th. She had waited a year to get on the list and then, after her worst tournament of the season, suddenly appeared at No. 4, all other GOOD performances having counted for nothing. It is a 'fine' way to motivate the young!

Our cadets won their first two matches in the Hampshire Inter-Town event. With a very young team Lucy (11) Nathan Godolphin (11) and Sam Rorke (12) that was a pleasing start. We are staging further trials in December as so many youngsters are knocking at the door of selection. Healthy as that part of our activities is, overall we managed to increase our numbers by only one team. A more detailed analysis indicates that we lost the equivalent of 4 teams to 'higher education' via universities, which means the players leave the Island. We lost a couple of teams to 'old age' and retirement. So we had to find 6 new teams just to stand still plus one more to progress a little.

Our new "Carl Preat" centre has been much admired and plenty is going on, including coaching sessions from John Rawlings and Regina Stevens. Our first tournament was a handicap event and was won by Martin Dove who defeated Peter Rorke. Thereby hangs a tale: Martin had played himself literally to exhaustion in the Final and had to be taken to hospital before the end, but his opponent sportingly offered him a replay match which Martin won. You won't see anything like it in the World Championships, but it was rather decent and nice.

Politics permitting, we shall again have an island boy in the Olympics for which Carl Preat has pre-qualified. There was what I saw as a rather sad attempt to deprive Carl of his Olympic place and what he had worked for. National Councillors rejected this by a huge majority. I am grateful to them for that and for taking the big rather than the petty view of the sport. I keep being asked when Carl will return to the England team,

A Look around the Country

particularly after that 4-0 defeat at home to Austria. I can only hope that it will be soon. If as a result of Carl's absence, things, which are wrong, are put right, we may yet see a happy ending and better results.

Kent
BY ADRIAN HALL

KENT JUNIORS END WEEKEND IN SECOND PLACE

Fresh from winning the English Open Cadet Championships and his recent win over Terry Young (English Junior No 1) Scott Friday was in a confident mood and finished the weekend unbeaten.

Kent Juniors made an excellent start in the Junior Premier County Championship on 22/22/10/95 with wins over Glamorgan and last season's runners up, Essex, but could not match last season's Champions Yorkshire going down 3-7. Kent go into the final four matches in later in the season in second place but will find newly promoted Derbyshire difficult to beat to retain that placing.

74 TEAMS ENTER BRIBAR KENT JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Kent Leagues have again well supported the initiative of Bribar Sports and Sports Match who have sponsored this excellent event for the second year. The leagues run in four divisions at four central venues in November and March with the winners of each division in each region receiving a playing kit and the winners of (each division) play off for in April for tracksuits.

TWINNING TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Representatives of 'Amical Laique Table Tennis Club', Rang du Fliers, crossed the channel for a sports and social weekend hosted by the Larkfield TT Club in conjunction with Ditton Parish Council. The visitors went away with a 19-21 win. Rang du Fliers is a village just south of Le Touquet with 20 senior and a slightly larger junior section yet boast a 12 table purpose built Table Tennis centre.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN

The Kent International Team Event and Kent Open sponsors are D. B. Construction, Kent Sports Development Unit, Thake Transport

and Gravesham Borough Council and as last year a strong International Entry is expected. The event will take place at Cobham Hall, Gravesend on 16-18th February 1996, so my advice is to get your entries returned as soon as possible after you receive them to avoid disappointment. Additional entry forms are available from Bill Lavis 01622 729750.

Lancashire
BY TONY MEREDITH

THE PASSING OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN

It is with great sadness that I have to commence this column with the death of Ken Benny who was a vice-president of the Blackpool League. Ken passed away on Saturday 28th October after a long battle against cancer, aged 72.

It was only last season, that ken came back after a period in hospital and played in the Blackpool first division, winning three in his first match. He was battler to the end even though he must have been in pain. He was a member of the Marton Institute Club, where he played both table tennis and lawn tennis for over 30 years.

It was my pleasure to have played in the same team as Ken on many occasions. The evenings spent in his company were always special. Whilst he was a highly competitive player he always played the game in true spirit. Win or lose, his face always had the same broad smile.

Ken ran a family business in Blackpool (Benny's Pies) which was famous throughout the area. Apart from his sporting activities he was a devoted family man. He leaves two married daughters.

His passing is a sad loss to the game and all who new him.

Leicestershire
BY DEREK BUTT

EXCELLENT FORM

Rushey Mead seconds are firmly at the top of Division One in the Leicester & District table tennis league. All players in their squad have been in excellent form this season. Especially Andy Le Butt, Dave Grundy, and Alan Hewitt. So far they are unbeaten.

One of their main contenders are Loughborough Kingfishers and they are in

second place.

The remaining leagues nine in all, are going along quite well and by the look of the charts, not a s many postponements. Perhaps the new rule is taking effect. That is 'that all match during the first half of the season must be completed before the second half commences'.

Most of the cup competitions have reached the quarter-final stages, mainly because the cup entries look a bit thin on the ground.

We are very happy to see at present, our British League team in Division Two North at the top of the table. In the four games played so far the team have been playing well. Keep it up.

For the first time Leicester entered a team in the Alec Brook Trophy for Veteran Men, and in their first match they came away with a 7-2 victory. Aply led by Steve (Chalkie) White with a maximum and two each from Bob Craven-Griffiths and Mike James against Matlock.

Probably for the first time a player from Division Five has been selected for a County team. The player in question is young Abraham Conteh who played for the County second team. I have noticed how well Abraham has performed so far this season, and that on a couple of occasions has played in Division One and won two on his debut. Well done.

In the Hinckley League (Calor Gas) Division One. Croft are the leaders and have in their team are Andy Le Butt and Dave Grundy. Yes you have heard the names before as they are in the Rushey Mead team who lead Leicester's Division One. Andy and Dave are having a really good season. And look to be champions of at least one. Could they do the double.

In second place in this division are Ridge Lane who are only three points behind them.

Leicester have twelve teams playing in the Woolwich Junior League on Saturday mornings at the Rushey Mead Centre.

Hinckley have eight teams represented in their area and apparently are going on very well. This is good news.

Middlesex
BY TONY TAYLOR

SUCCESS

I am pleased to report, albeit a little late, of a notable success from our County Junior No. 1 Jason Sugrue who won the Yorkshire Junior Tournament beating Scott Friday in the final who in turn had beaten Terry Young.

Our Senior Second Team have had a mixed

start to the season. Initially they lost to Hertfordshire 7-3 despite leading 2-0 and Neil Charles winning his two singles games. They recovered however when they subsequently beat both Gloucestershire 7-3 and Hampshire 6-4. Simon Rockall this time won all his games in both matches and David Baker performed well winning 3 of his 4 matches. Caroline O'Leary and Yuki Geswell our two young girls were given the opportunity in the absence of more Senior Ladies and also played well.

Our Junior Second Team is giving opportunities to several new players to impress in the initial matches and young David Clingbine took his opportunity against Kent 3rds beating a player 50 places above him in the Junior Rankings. David certainly has the potential to follow other Middlesex players of the past to reach the top of the Junior Rankings in the coming years. Despite this win we still lost 6-4 but our girls Sabrina Papini and Eliza Magnusen kept up their corner winning one singles each.

The Vets 1st Team are making a recovery from their disastrous start by winning their next two games 6-3 and 8-1 against Oxford 2nd and Kent 4th with John Holland and Anne Flowerday undefeated.

The Vets 2nd Team with team changes are struggling losing their next two games after beating the 1st team in the first match.

On the 27th October members of the Middlesex Committee attended the Award Dinner of the Federation of Middlesex Sports at Twickenham Rugby Ground accompanied by Nick McKoy and his wife and Lesley and Steven Keast representing our first County Team. The Federation gave an award to the Middlesex County Table Tennis Team for winning the County Championships.

Lesley and Steven Keast are going to New Zealand for 6 months on the 2nd November on a business venture and we wish them a very happy and successful trip. Unfortunately that means that Lesley will be missing from our team in the County Championships: we will miss her.

On the 30th October Doris Moors is moving to Dorchester. After 20 years on the Committee and with the vast amount of work she did on our behalf we are going to miss her sadly. But we do wish her well and hope that the move brings her all the happiness she deserves. For those of you who wish to keep in touch with her, her new address is 10 Middlemarsh Street, Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 3GD (Tel No. 01305 267756).

Norfolk

BY RAY HOGG

NO INFORMATION

How am I supposed to present an article based on happenings in this county when I cannot get information such as league handbooks despite asking for them weeks ago. I have up to now 4 out of the 8 and they show the continued decline in numbers - this despite continued efforts event to the extent of advertising in the local papers. It is all very well having Development Officers but if the interest is not there they cannot develop it. Three seasons ago Norfolk had 341 league teams - that is now down to approx. 310.

Another complaint from me is that no one seems to think of telling me the results of County matches played. For this article I was hoping to show the progress or otherwise of our various County teams as most were in action 28-29th Oct. Up to now (Nov 1st) not a work from anyone and I refuse to ring them. Also no results will appear in the local papers whereupon I will be asked why not.

I can rely on Mick Broughton, though, for news of both veterans 1st team and British League. Norwich veterans again beat King Lynn 5-2 to progress for a match with Peterborough again away and hope to reach the final stages as last season when only Dennis Neale stopped them.

British League team Norwich Todd Foxwood are suffering the absence of Phil Logsdon as instead if being up with the leaders and a good chance of promotion are down among the relegation contenders. Many players have been tried to find the right blend of youth and experience.

I hear that our Junior 1st team took about 7 hours each way travelling to Northwich in Cheshire. I wonder how they got on in the matches?

Northants

BY DENNIS MILLMAN

WINNING START

Since the Veteran Thirds match winning start against their Bedfordshire counterparts, it has been all doom and gloom in subsequent county championship fixtures, although there have been some excellent individual performances in narrow defeats for the Veteran Seconds against Warwickshire Thirds, and the Northants Thirds at the hands

of Clwyd.

Gordon Shaw won twice in straight games for the Seconds, and joined the other singles winner Brian Dangerfield to add the doubles, but narrow reverses for Brian D'Hooghe and then Dangerfield in the decisive ninth rubber made the home side unlucky losers, with Ann Lloyd the only Warwickshire player to avoid defeat.

David Huddle took the honours for the Thirds, with two hard fought singles, and a doubles shared with debutante Cath Walsh. Six rubbers went the distance, but there were no further successes as Northants went down 6-3.

Singles for Shaw and Clem Little, and a Phil Slade/Gerald Finney doubles were the only Northants wins, as the Seconds crashed 8-1 to Notts, and the Thirds fared only marginally better against the Norfolk second string.

The Junior Firsts and the newly established Seconds had mixed fortunes when they began their seasonal programme at Grantham Table Tennis Centre.

The Firsts began with a seven three defeat by Lincolnshire, but followed up with wins over Leicestershire and Northants Seconds, who also went down to Durham and Notts. Daniel Vertigan demonstrated his recent progress with five wins out of six, while Andy Thomas with four, Majid Soorty, Ruth Huddle and Gabrielle Evans all contributed, as did Louise Gallagher, Lorraine Hart and James Fitton for the Seconds.

Best junior performance at St. Neots has come from Northampton, with hat-tricks from brothers Majid and Imran Soorty paving the way for a 7-2 win over Kettering, who easily accounted for Hunts in an earlier match, with Andy Thomas, James Fitton and Nicky Spence all playing a part. Wellingborough Junior represented by Daniel Vertigan, Ruth Huddle and Grey Yarnall went down to Peterborough, but bounced back to get the better of St. Neots, with Vertigan again the leading scorer.

The local league campaigns are well under way, and Higham Band has already made it clear that the recapturing of the Kettering Premier Division is a main priority, when Higham met Oringbury Electric, who last year took the title under their former identity of Team Electric, Higham fielded their strongest trio of Andy Trott, Ryan Keates and Richard Elliott. This talented trio responded by taking nine of the ten available points to put Higham firmly in the driving seat.

At Wellingborough the situation is less clear cut. Thrapston are the early leaders, but they can expect sustained challenges from OG's, Glamis, Higham Band and Westfield and availability of leading players is likely to prove conclusive.

The Queensberry Scimitar County Closed Tournament, scheduled to take place at Kettering Leisure Village on Sunday 31 March, will this year provide an additional event. The large contingent of disabled players who have always given the tournament their enthusiastic support, will now have a BSAD singles in which to compete, and this will bring the total number of events to an impressive thirty one.

Northumberland

BY PAULINE LONG

FIRST APPEARANCE

The Northumberland junior County team of David Gladwin, Peter Scatchard, Chris Worswick, Gillian Chapple and Ellie De La Hunt, all from North Shields YMCA, made their first appearance for three years at the first of the play-offs held at South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Grantham, on October 14.

The team were without top junior Gareth Brown and also first reserve Andrew Dinning through unavailability, and as all the players were making their debuts it was perhaps not surprising that they lost to Clwyd (11-9), Warwickshire II (0-10) and Lincolnshire (0-10). Gillian was the lone winner when she beat Clwyd's Joanne Adams in her singles match but a total of four other sets went to three games including two at deuce in the third. I understand that the team never gave up trying and fought hard throughout, so hopefully the experience will have proved beneficial for them.

In the National Power Northumbria League, the powerful Gateshead 'A' team, who can call on Dave Godbold, Eddie Smith, Mark Christie, Keith Patterson and Bob Dodds, have won their first seven matches in Division 1 and have conceded only seven sets in the process. North Shields YMCA 'A', however, have two games in hand and their team of Ian Robertson, Andrew Wilkinson and Steve Penman is also undefeated, which includes a narrow 6-4 victory over close rivals St. Gabriel's.

Tyne Dock are still leaders of Division 2, but North Shields YMCA 'C' are only two points behind after a stunning 6-4 victory over the South Shields side. Brinkburn CA, Lemington 'B' and Newton 'B' are all unbeaten in Division 3 with a draw apiece and only three points separate these three teams at present. In Division 4, North Shields YMCA 'J' still lead the table but DSS 'C' Newton 'B' are both unbeaten with one draw each, and

Blaydon 'C', are sandwiched between them with only one defeat - and all three teams have a game in hand.

Nottinghamshire

BY MIKE TUNNINGLEY

OFFICIALLY OPENED

On 30th September Sycamore Table Tennis Centre Nottingham was officially opened by Mr Andrew Hancock, Chairman of the Regional Council for Sport and Recreation. The centre has been used for table tennis for many years along with various other activities but now table tennis is available from 9am until 10pm. Following the opening in front of forty invited guests, two exhibition matches were played by John and Daniel Taylor and Junior Stoddart and Tim Sheppard. The proceedings ended with a splendid buffet. It is hoped that the centre will be well used by all interested table tennis parties to promote the game we all love.

North Border Comprehensive School dominated the recent Under 16 Boys event at the Nottinghamshire Schools Table Tennis Team Championships which were held at Wellow House School. James Dean and Steven Broadhurst were undefeated throughout the tournament as their team enjoyed wins over Minster School (8-0) and Fairham Community College (6-2).

The Under 13 Boys Final became an all Worksop League contest for the second year running. Valley Comprehensive had a relatively easy route to the final but their opponents in the final Wallow House School had to overcome Fairham College, who have been frequent winners of the event in previous years. Wellow's captain Gareth McGovern had won all his games at this stage. However in the final, Worksop's Craig Gascoyne and Jonathan McDonald gave Valley a splendid start and despite the efforts of Wellows Marcus Short and Daniel Hughes, Valley eventually ran out 6-2 winners. Many thanks to Mr Brian Jones of Wellow House School for once again organising the successful event.

The Worksop League celebrate their Diamond Anniversary season this year as their league was formed in October 1935 by F R Stansfield and Mr S V Hill. The league has had many ups and downs over the years but now finds itself at the forefront of table tennis in the county.

With the emphasis certainly being directed on the youth of today (hopefully the stars of tomorrow) the league has rarely been in such

A look around the Country

a strong position. Well backed financially by Mr David Hooton of DTH Engineering the league have acquired its own headquarters at Redlands School and with the excellent coaching techniques of Paul Clarke, Mick Bartrop, Dave Gascoyne, Neil Houghton, players such as Craig Gascoyne and Louise Durrant look to have a very good future in the sport.

Currently leading Division One are Priory Carpets 'A' who recently defeated title contenders Rockware 'A' 6-4 thanks to a maximum from Mick Bartrop who enjoyed a superb win over Worktop's number one Mark Short. Joint Division Two leaders are Sports Centre B and Rhodesia 'B' whose team includes Louise Durrent the current England number two Under 12 girl. Topping the youth Division Three league are newcomers Fire Station with Wellow House School a close second.



IT WORKED FOR ERIC

When Seagulls follow the trawler they do so for the fish, No, I don't know what it means either but if it worked for Eric it just might work for me. I'm the new Somerset scribe my name's Louis Jones and I've got significantly less facial hair than my predecessor.

A fair amount has happened within Somerset's borders since Andy's last entry to 'the news' most of which without the aid of a bat. As Somerset's new season get underway two changes have been made to the Somerset County committee. The first being the replacement of the scribe and the second, more important, the appointment of a new Chairman. Phil Jones is the man who has the tough job of replacing Brian Reeves who, after many years of service, for which both committee and county are extremely thankful, says goodbye to the 'lively' atmosphere of County Committee meetings.

Somerset's Juniors also suffer two losses this year as both Andrew Rummary (1) and David Corkett (3) are cut loose to the world of senior rankings leaving a catalogue of hopefuls waiting to fill their places.

The final change you may wish to note is that of Laura Folkes' surname, due to the fact that she married Somerset's number 1, Phil Payne on the 2nd of September.

Congratulations and Good Luck to you both.

Congratulations are also due to Bridgewater League who celebrated their 50th year as an

established league on the 20th of October. Amongst those playing as part of the celebrations was Veteran Ron Lee who first played in the League 48 years ago. 'A great time was had by all even the overworked umpires'.

More recently however the county's teams have failed to settle down a back to back 8-1 win and 1-8 loss for the Veterans 1 and Vets 2 to Devon 2 and Gloucestershire 2 respectively. This, coupled with a Vets 2 3-6 loss to Hereford left Somerset searching for some solid form. The senior side also struggled against Wiltshire and after losing to Wiltshire 2 4-6 miraculously drew 5-5 with Wiltshire 1 on the same night.

The Juniors followed suit throughout October. A five all draw with Cornwall started the proceedings in Plymouth on October 7th swiftly overshadowed by Devon 2's strong line-up and a 1-9 loss. Another draw with lamorgan 3 and a debut for new Somerset Junior Ben Rookes. All disappointing results however good performances from all the players make the Juniors look like a rapidly improving side. A second Debut for a Somerset player against Avon, this time Ed Brown although the match proved less heartwarming for the Somerset following as Mike Ongs absence in the top slot left everyone out of position and the final score Avon 9 Somerset 1.

Well I'm running out of column inches fast so I shall leave you to flick through the rest of the magazine at your leisure. I hop this first instalment from a fresh pen hasn't been too hard to swallow. Until next time...happy batting.



SURREY CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Surrey Closed Table Tennis Championships was played on 24th September 1995, as usual at the Sutton Youth Centre. It attracted a total of 58 entries, but the match play was exceptional. The men's singles was the highlight of the day, especially the top half of the draw, which proved to have unlimited surprises. The 1st round alone, accounted for 3 of the seeds, the most sensational of these, being Chris Beckley's win over no. 1 seed Abdul Wuraola. the other two were Steve Davis beating Terry Haley (the no. 8 seed) 21-19, 14-21, 21-14 and Howard Quartey beating Steve Holloway (no. 7 seed) 21-19 in the 3rd game. Quartey also

disposed of the no. 4 seed Farhat Rasual in the quarter finals to produce a 'Clash of the Giantkillers' semi-final between Quartey and Chris Beckley. It proved a real classic with Quartey hanging on, 21-18, 21-19. The bottom half of the draw went according to plan, with Selwyn Campbell beating Jerome Jonah in the semi final. Campbell duly finished off Howard Quartey's excellent run, by beating him 21-11, 21-11.

There were only 9 entries in the Women's singles, so this was played with 3 groups of 3, and the winners of each, playing in a final group of 3. The latter was contested by Anna McNamara, Carmen Vajdi and Karen Wilde. First on, were Karen and Anna, with Anna winning in a tight match 21-19 in the 3rd game. Carmen then beat Karen, to produce a showdown between Anna McNamara and Carmen Vajdi. Carmen then won her second women's singles title by beating Anna 21-15 in the 3rd game.

The restricted singles was also well contested. There was no clear favourite to start with, although Chris Beckley and Howard Quartey met yet again in the semi final although this was an anti-climax, with Beckley beating Quartey 21-15, 21-14. Beckley claimed the restricted with a tight win over D Hobbs 18-21, 21-18, 21-19.

David Harding, in his first year as a veteran was unchallenged in this competition, with the closest being the finalist, John Callcut, who took 27 points in total off him, losing 21-12, 21-15.

David Harding grabbed his second title when partnering Anna McNamara to take the mixed doubles over Karen Wilde and Steve Giles 21-16, 21-16 although they were stretched to the limit by Sarah Lane and Mark Burman, but they came through 21-19 in the 3rd game.

The mens Doubles also went according to plan with no. 1 seeds Abdul Wuraola and Selwyn Campbell beating no. 2 seeds Simon Phillipz and Jerome Jonah 21-15, 21-17 although the former pair were taken to 3 on 2 occasions.

Mens Singles: Selwyn Campbell bt Howard Quartey 21-11, 21-11

Womens Singles: Carmen Vajdi bt Anna McNamara 19-21, 21-8, 21-15

Veterans Singles: David Harding bt John Callcut 21-15, 21-12

Restricted Singles: Chris Beckley bt D Hobbs 18-21, 21-18, 21-19

Mixed Doubles: David Harding/Anna McNamara bt Steve Giles/Karen Wilde 21-16, 21-16

Mens Doubles: Selwyn Campbell/Abdul Wuraola bt Simon Phillipz/Jerome Jonah 21-15, 21-17

SOUTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR 2 STAR

Surrey held its annual tournament, the South of England 2* on the 4/5 November at Chessington. The home based players had immense success during that day, both in the Junior and Cadet ranks. Howard Quartey made up for losing in the first round of the Junior singles, by partnering Tim O'Mahoney to take the doubles, beating John O'Leary and Simon Jablon. Anna McNamara also won a title, partnering Rebecca Sparkes to victory over Yuki Gresswell and Kay Leslie. One of the players of the tournament was Michael Chan. He had played extremely well to get to the Junior Boys Band 1 final. losing to Kevin Powell of Kent 21-16, 21-18, while during the cadet boys singles he was 20-18 up in the first game against Scott Friday, but was unlucky to lose. Katy Hart beat Hannah Yardy in the Cadet Girls Final, and partnered Kirstie Jal to beat Yardy and Amy Linnecar.



MAGNIFICENT

A Magnificent 6-4 win over the champions Middlesex at Warwick on November 5 has given the Sussex first team a slim chance of avoiding relegation from the premier division of the county championships.

Ritchie Venner and Adrian Moore lifted their attacks for the occasion as Venner sunk Graham Sandley and Moore beat Richard Hyacinth. There were also excellent contributions from Teresa Bennett, Sally Weston and Claire Moore who appears for Maidstone in the J M Rose Bowl.

The Maidstone flag was however lowered when in Round 1 Hastings won 7-2, with Sheila King and Ross Rainton both stopping the defensive Mrs Moore.

Brighton ladies also had a scorching win, beating Central London 5-3 at Dulwich. The match ended in some disarray - Mrs Bennett's final drive was disputed by Central who provided no proper umpires - a possible rule contravention when the Chinese player Huang Shu was beaten 24-22 in the third game. The dispute lasted for 15 minutes before the last point was played again with the former Sussex champion winning and Brighton went through thanks to two supporting wins from Joanna Bush-Harris who has leaped six places on the England women's ranking list to No 35.

In the British League, Horsham Angels are threatened with relegation following injuries to Scott Greenbrook and Adrian Moore. Scott is out for a month with an ankle injury sustained at soccer - that has caused Angels to drop points when they should have picked them up.

The all-Sussex championships will be earlier this season - on Saturday, January 6 for the junior event and the following day for the all-Sussex senior competition, both at the Newman School, Hove. Happily the date is free of other major events - last May, I reported the Sussex championships by telephone and fax from China.

Mark Forder of Worthing is the Sussex junior showing his best form in recent weeks: At the South of England Junior Open at Chessington he reached one quarter-final and in a banded event, semi-final. Also prominent was the Crawley junior William Reardon.

Warwickshire

BY PETE WALDEN

SUPERB SEASON

Following their superb season last year much has been expected from our Junior A side in this year's County Championships despite losing the undoubted talents of Coventry's Ryan Stockham. These exceptions were partially fulfilled during the first Championships week-end at the end of October. Four matches were played with three victories recorded, 8-2 v. Essex, 9-1 v. Suffolk, and a tremendous 6-4 success over Lancashire. The only set-back was a reversal at the hands of Yorkshire 2.

Susie Allen was in sparkling form and remained unbeaten throughout the weekend. Liz Haynes supported her admirably with 6 wins from 8 starts.

For the boys, Nuneaton's Alan Hewitt led the way with six wins, losing out to Yorkshire's Darren Wight and Matthew Spiro from Essex. Stuart Kurle notched five good wins whilst David Matthews and Keith Riddell chipped in with two and one wins respectively.

The performance of our top juniors was no doubt enhanced by the excellent team spirit that manager Hugh Matthews has instilled into them. The willingness of both players and supporters to vocally support those on the table achieved the desired effect!

At the last County Committee meeting, members were informed of the resignation of Brian Williams due to ill health. Brian had run the Mackie Cup competition for a number of seasons. The Committee thanks Brian for his

time and efforts and wished him a speedy recovery.

The Warwickshire Closed has been booked for Sunday January 7th 1996 at the St Nicholas Leisure Centre. Entry forms will be available as soon as arrangements are finalised. Play will take place on 12 Butterfly Europa tables. It is hoped that better publicity this year will lead to a higher entry.



CROWDED OUT

I must open these notes with apologies to Scarborough for the non-appearance of some excellent copy which they sent me last month which, along with other County notes, got crowded out.

Yes, I will hold my hand up. I was probably among those who exceeded 500 words but, with 22 leagues and some 4,000 players, it seems unrealistic to set an identical limit for both small and large counties and Y for Yorkshire being the penultimate letter of the alphabet does not help.

The Wakefield League, again sponsored by Clark's Brewery, is likely to become more competitive following the decision of the powerful Eastmoor club to split their strength in the Premier Division.

Mark Land and Andy Ball remain in the A side, Guy Rothery and Darren Ashall join forces in the C team, while last season's B side bring in ever improving teenager Mark Heptonstall who, after showing up well in the early season tournaments, deserves his chance in the top flight.

Some good results, including the JBS title at the Yorkshire Junior Closed, have taken Mark into the top hundred, but his best result came in defeat - he took the opening game before going down in three to eventual winner Jason Sugrue in the East Yorkshire Junior Select.

Looking down the divisions, Wakefield have high hopes of two youngsters playing with Manygates C in Division 3 - 10 year old Andrew Milner and Zoe Cheesman, one year older and already in the National Under 12 rankings at no. 6.

The first round of matches in the Premier Division of the YORKSHIRE LEAGUE saw the 'big guns' come through unscathed with Huddersfield, the only team to play three matches, leading the field with six points, but there is a long way to go and Bradford and Sheffield are still very much in the frame with four points from their two outings.

Back to the youngsters, and the COUNTY

JUNIOR TRIALS were again 'sold out' with a capacity attendance in all four categories.

Qualifiers for the 'Regionals' were:
Cadet Boys: Ben Chalcraft (BD), Carl Dunn (HU), David Innes (HU), Philip Lowe (LS), Jamie Marshall (HU), Jacek Slezak (YK), Scott Taylor (HU), Matt Thompson (HX).

Cadet Girls: Louise Cate (DN), Zoe Cheesman (WF), Rachael Codd (HU), Emily Dearing (HU), Janine Donnelly (LS), Zoe Feather (SB), Jenny Hopkins (HU), Gemma Oaten (HU).

Junior Boys: Taylor, Martin Bowers (HX), Mark Brook (HD), David Charlton (RT), Shaun Ellis (ND), Mark Heptonstall (WF), Sean O'Connor (BD), Timothy Simpson (DN).

Junior Girls: Codd, Donnelly, Paula Broadhead (WF), Joanne Lister (KY), Sarah Nutch (LS), Angela Preston (WF), Laura Spencer (HU), Charlotte Spink (LS).

An excellent start for both Junior Premier and Junior Division 1 North teams in the COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS will be reported elsewhere and, with the Senior Premier weekend coming up, I am, as a long term believer in the County Championships, delighted to see Yorkshire name a strong side of Yorkshire born players.

Good luck Chris Oldfield, Mike O'Driscoll, Tim Dyson, Joanna Roberts and Debbie Toole.

And, as a Hull man, I was equally pleased to see the city's youngsters participating in no less than 8 of the 12 finals at the YORKSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED with 15 year old Scott Taylor picking up three titles - CBS, CBD and RJBS.

Results summary:

Under 12: BS - James Lister (KY), GS - Gemma Oaten (HU). Cadet: BS - Scott Taylor (HU), RBS - Philip Lowe (LS), GS - Sarah Nutch (LS), RSG - Rachael Codd (HU). Doubles - Taylor/David Innes (HU), Juniors: BS - Mark Heptonstall (WF), RBS - Taylor, GS - Emma Smith (SY), RGS - Charlotte Spink (LS), Doubles - Spink/Nicola Smith (LS).

EXCITING YEARS

After three and a half exciting years the post of Regional Development Officer for the County, funded by the Sports Council under the Focus Sport programme officially ceased to exist on November 1st.

But, such has been the success of the venture in opening up facilities, attracting grants, making coaching available to not only young players, but to all age and ability groups, to say nothing of generally putting TT before the public, that strenuous efforts are being made by the county to keep the post open until, at least, the World Championships in Manchester in April 1997.

A number of fund raising initiatives are being undertaken so that the development of our sport can continue - to quote Yorkshire

Chairman Bevan Walker "If development does not continue, our sport can only go back, not forward, and not only the YTTA but TT itself will die as a result".

Yorkshire want to go forward and are exploring every avenue to keep TT moving in the right direction, but the County needs support from all its players, all its Leagues, and all those with youngsters aspiring to make their way.

Let us hope that players and Leagues will, like the County, look ahead positively and back the initiative. Already two of our major Leagues, Leeds and Hull, have committed themselves to the programme - we all hope that others will follow suit and keep TT moving ahead.

And, in closing, a big thank you to the man who has been in post for 3 1/2 years - Ray Burch. He has taken us into the 20th century at every level of the sport by sheer enthusiasm and hard work - let us hope that he, or his successor, can lead us into the 21st.

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