

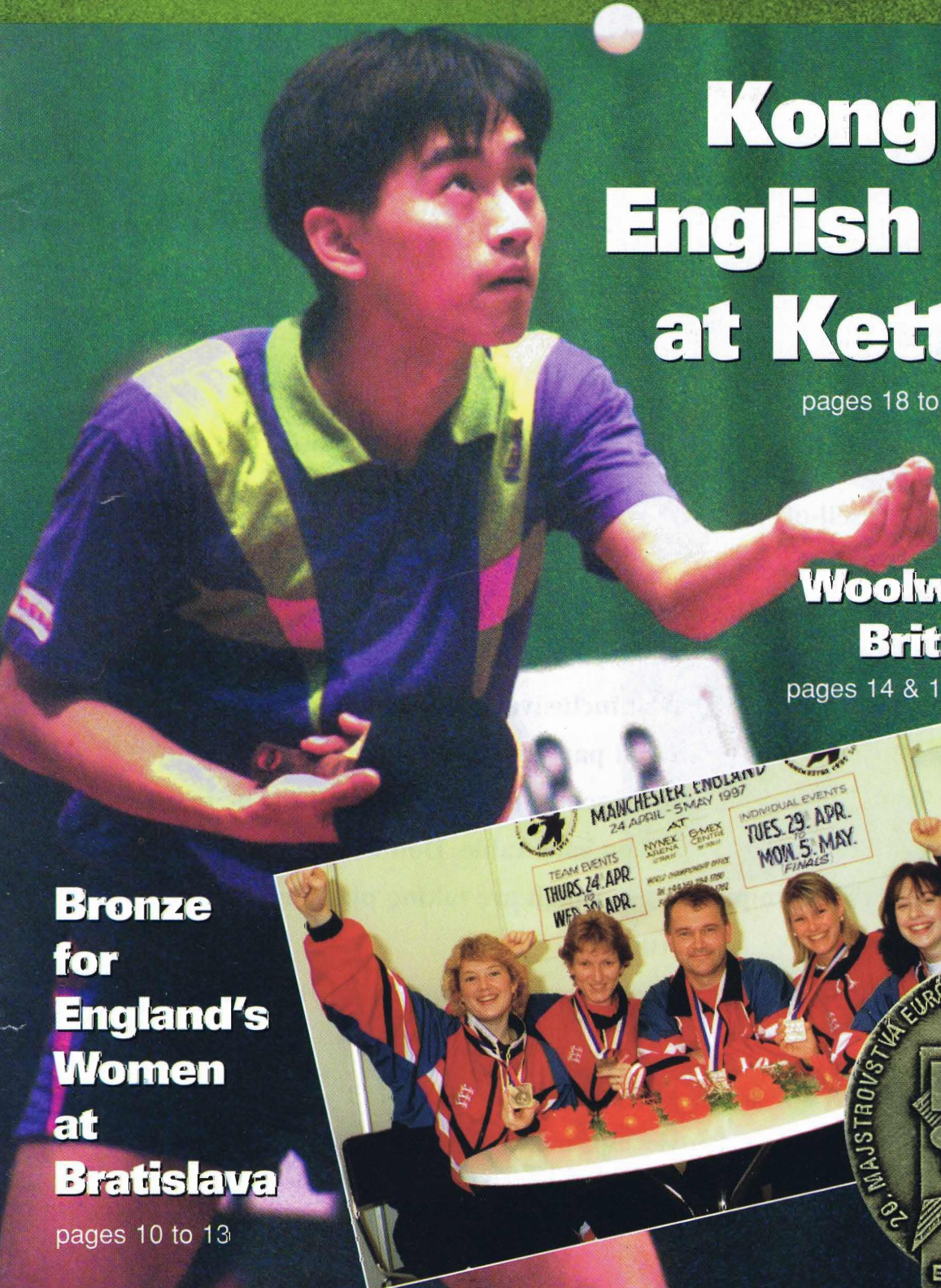
TABLE TENNIS

NEWS



ISSUE 239
JUNE 1996

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Kong Wins English Open at Kettering

pages 18 to 21

Woolwich Junior British League

pages 14 & 15

Bronze for England's Women at Bratislava

pages 10 to 13



STOP PRESS-Exciting new partnership See pages 4, 24 & 25

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English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House
Havelock Road
Hastings TN34 1HF
Tel: 01424 722525
Fax: 01424 422103

Editor
John FA Wood
Editorial Office
5 The Brackens
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP2 5JA
Tel/Fax: 01442 244547
Mobile: 0385 348458

Advertisement Offices
Jim Beckley
Sports PR, PO Box 8
Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle, Cheshire
SK8 7RG
Tel: 0161 439 6001
Fax: 0161 439 0223

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Rainbow Press Limited
24 - 26 Oakwood Hill
Industrial Estate
Loughton, Essex
IG10 3TZ
Tel: 0181 502 4202
Fax: 0181 502 2919

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

CREATION The partnership is on the table	4
FROM THE CHAIR Table Tennis selected as a Core Sport	5
CHATTERBOX Honeymoon in Atlanta	7
EVENTS DIARY New Regional Open Tournaments	8
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Swedish and German Bonanza	10
WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE Edison Hornsey win Premier	14
ENGLISH OPEN First of the new ITTF Pro-Tour Events	18
CREATION Commencing soon in next season's TTN	24
MAILBOX All your views	29

CAPTAIN'S LOG

What a bumper issue this is!
Firstly there is a four page report on the
fabulous English Open at Kettering. See
pages 18 to 21.

Then there is another four pages of
table tennis extravaganza featuring the
European Championships in Bratislava,
where England's Women won Bronze in
the team event. See pages 10 to 13.

Personally I really enjoyed being
present at both of these table tennis
fiestas. But I also was pleased to be
present at the British League match
between Yellow Brick Progress and
Pillinger Air in North London which
resulted in a 5-3 victory to Progress,
which saw the London team promoted to
the 1st Division.

Earlier on I visited Newton Aycliffe
where the final weekend of the
Woolwich Junior British League took
place. See pages 14 and 15.

Finally, there is the exciting news that
'Creation' will be publishing Table Tennis
News on behalf of the ETTA next
season. See pages 4, and 24 and 25
Have a good summer.

John Wood, Editor

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

- OLYMPIC GAMES at ATLANTA
 - NATIONAL U15/U18/U21 CHAMPIONSHIPS
- COPY DATE SEPT ISSUE - 1st AUGUST 1996*

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





THE PARTNERSHIP ON THE TABLE

Jennie Coleman
Former Junior Girl's No5
and Creation's TTN
Administration Officer

John Holland
Ranked England Men's No11, Creation's
Associate Director and Ad Manager

I am pleased to announce details of an agreement between Rainbow Press, the current printers of Table Tennis News and the ETTA which will give fresh impetus to the content and marketing of our official magazine.

From the first issue of next season, a division of Rainbow Press, Creation, will become the publishers of Table Tennis News in partnership with the ETTA. All sales and marketing will be handled by Creation, who intend to boost both the content and circulation of our magazine. John Wood will remain editor and an editorial board consisting of representatives from Creation, representatives of the ETTA and the editor will be responsible for the publication.

Vice chairman, Public Relations, Brian Halliday, Chief Executive, Richard Yule will be the Association's representatives. Peniel British League player John Holland is an Associate Director of Rainbow Press and will be providing important input. As part of the agreement, Creation, have agreed to sponsor the ETTA Junior Regional and National Ranking trials next season to give the magazine fresh publicity and visibility throughout the country.

I hope that you will all support this important new initiative.

Alan Ransome,
ETTA Chairman

Hello reader,

I would like to introduce our company to you - **Creation**.

As from now Creation, **in partnership** with the ETTA, will be publishing Table Tennis News.

Each month we will be bringing you the most up-to-date news from around the Country, Europe and the World.

It is Creation's intention to raise the profile of the sport to new levels. Some of the current articles will be retained but there will be more individual profiles, international results and special features and comprehensive advertising - the result will be a much better magazine.

Your suggestions are always welcome and your comment may well forge the direction of

the magazine in future editions.

Table Tennis News will be seen extensively at tournaments throughout the Country and Creation will be sponsoring Competitions within the seasons ahead.

Do take advantage of the special readers offers available when subscribing to TTN.



Peter Ruck with young players.

Subscribers will look forward to new faster delivery from September 96, mailed direct from the printer.

On a final note, when out playing or spectating at National Tournaments, look out for John Wood, our intrepid editor and his special "TTN Woody Wagon". Wherever you see it you will always

be able to purchase the current issue of Table Tennis News.

Yours in Sport,

Peter Ruck
Managing Director, Creation.

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Creation House, 24-26 Oakwood Hill Ind Est
Loughton Essex IG10 3TZ
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BY ALAN RANSOME

SELECTED

as a

Core Sport

LAST YEAR THE MINISTER OF SPORT ANNOUNCED THAT THE POLICY OF THE SPORTS COUNCIL WOULD BE TO CONCENTRATE ITS RESOURCES ON TWO OR THREE DOZEN SPORTS. WE WERE DELIGHTED TO LEARN AT THE SPORTS COUNCIL SEMINAR IN LONDON ON 8TH MAY THAT TABLE TENNIS IS ONE OF ONLY 22 SPORTS TO RECEIVE THIS SPECIAL STATUS.

The sports are divided into three categories. Category A which, in the opinion of the Sports Council, identifies those sports which are able currently to deliver both a young persons and excellence programme, Category B1, in which table tennis is included, for sports which can deliver a young persons programme but need assistance with excellence, and Category B2 for sports that have a good excellence record but need assistance with the delivery of their sport into the young peoples community. One of the criteria for selection was that the governing body was able to effectively deliver the sport to young people throughout the country and therefore, our selection is particularly a credit to our Development and Coaching Departments and all the people throughout the country who have been involved in our Focus Sport programme over the last four years. The Sports Council have been impressed particularly with our corporate approach to Development Officers and the fact that we have a coherent and effective Development Plan which delivers the sport into the community.

However, this status does not necessarily mean that we will enjoy substantial additional funding directly from the Sports Council. The funding package for the next four years will be decided by the Sports Council after consideration of our next Four Year Development Plan early next year. What it does mean is that table tennis will be given an upgrade service from the Sports Council which will improve our access to Lottery and other funding which is earmarked for development and excellence programmes and could include the proposed National Academy of Sport. Like all of these initiatives, the Sports Council will simply provide the opportunity and unlock doors - it is the responsibility of the sport to take full advantage of the openings. We have already proved that we can successfully do this through the Focus Sport programme and there is no doubt that we will be enthusiastically grasping the new opportunities given to us. In addition, the National Lottery is likely to include additional funding support for increasing the effectiveness of the new Top Sport programme which introduces table tennis to almost all children aged between 7 - 11 in junior schools, the link with the Top Club programme which gives the chance to enhance and improve our club system

at four levels, from basic participation in schools right through to top excellence clubs where we are targeting the establishment of fifty clubs throughout the country.

My only concern about this excellent opportunity is that currently the Sports Council have not addressed the problem that the managing of these programmes requires an enormous amount of effort and resources from the governing body. The amount of commitment that

we have given to the Focus Sport programme over four years has been enormous and if we are really going to be able to properly manage the delivery of the Young Persons and Excellence programmes that may well be made available to us over the next couple of years, that we will only be able to do that if we can secure extra resources to fund that management.

SUCCESSFUL 61ST OPEN

The two major events that have been held recently have been the English Open at Kettering and the European Championships in Bratislava. The English Open was the very first in the ITTF's Pro Tour. The tour links together eight of the leading international open championships held world wide between April and December. The

players are able to earn Grand Prix points from the tournaments and those who have sufficient points will be invited to the Pro Tour Finals in China in December. The English Open itself is covered extensively elsewhere in this magazine. I would like to thank Kettering

Borough Council for supporting the event. The Arena really is a very good venue for this type of event with its flexible seating and wooden floor. Also to thank the ITTF for giving us the opportunity of participating in the Pro Tour, the next Pro Tour will be in 1997. The conditions will be more

stringent, but we hope that we will be included once more. There is no doubt that the ITTF Pro Tour is an excellent concept which will enhance the profile and importance of international open championships. This could, in due course, give the English Open the opportunity to return to the Wimbledon type status which it enjoyed in the period after the Second World War.

The standard of play in the English Open was the best for some years and in particular the Chinese Association entered both World Champion, Kong Linghui the winner and Wan Tao. From Europe Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium and Jorg Roskopf of Germany were the top contenders. Although the very best Chinese women did not participate, the standard of women's table tennis in Asia was such that Asian players were able to

dominate their events.

BRONZE IN BRATISLAVA

The highlight of the European Championships from an England point of view was the performance of the Women's team, Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Broe and Nicola Deaton and Captain Donald Parker. With a little help from some of our friends, we won a Bronze medal which was really a terrific achievement when you consider the strength of the opposition, particularly Germany who now have, in my opinion, the strongest team that Europe has seen on the women's side for many years.

The men's events were dominated by Sweden. The trend over the last four or five years has been to see Sweden's grasp on the European titles slip, but in Bratislava the reverse was the case and there was no doubt that the Swedish team, and in particular Jan Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson and Peter Karlsson were exceptional. They deserved both the team championship and the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the singles.

A great disappointment at the European Championships was the relegation of the England Men's team from the first category. Without both Chen Xinhua and Carl Prean this was always a danger. In some respects the team did well to win two matches but this was not sufficient to miss the drop, a defeat by the Netherlands being the most critical. I have been concerned for sometime about the lack of success at the junior level and the shortage of players coming through to replace some of our aging stars. I know that our junior Selection Committee and our coaches are doing their best. The biggest problem is that the resources that we are able to employ to assist our players currently is miniscule compared with the vast sums that are available in other countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, etc. It is therefore very important that we become involved in the National Academy of Sport programme at the earliest possible time to help to redress this balance but the gap is such that even with an Academy a return to winning European medals will take some time.

As is customary at the European Championships, the ETTU Congress was



Alan Ransome, Chairman ETTA



held and with it all the various elections and constitutional changes for the European Union. Nils Bergstrom was re-elected President and Stefano Bosi of Italy was elected to the new position of Deputy President. Following the death of the ETTU Treasurer, Henk van Diltz, the person who took over the work, Camille Gonderinger of Luxembourg was elected as the new Treasurer. There were four Vice Presidents elected to the Executive Committee, Eberhard Scholer, Germany, Pierre Albertini, France, Yuri Posevin of Russia and myself from England. I was also elected for a further two year term on the ITTF Council up to 1999. At committee level Stuart Sherlock entered the ETTU Technical Committee, Tony Chatwin was selected to Umpires and Referees Don Parker to teaching and training and Mike Watts to Veterans. Overall this gives us a very strong representation and influence in ETTU affairs.

WORLD VETERAN'S TEAM EVENTS

An important decision that was taken in Bratislava was that the Swaythling Club endorsed the inclusion of club team events in three age categories, over 40, 50 and 60, in the three or four days prior to the World Veterans Championships which will be played in Manchester in June 1998. The Swaythling Club also decided to award to Vancouver, Canada, the opportunity to stage the World Veterans Championships in the year 2000.

MANCHESTER PROMOTED

Bratislava gave us the opportunity of heavily promoting the 44th World Championships in Manchester in April 1997. Johnny Leach, Stuart Sherlock, Matthew Henderson, Mike Watts and I made a presentation on the Championships to all of the delegates representing the European associations and Mike Watts, assisted by Jose, manned a stand in the exhibition hall for the duration of the event and received considerable interest and a large number of inquiries from people wanting to come to Manchester.

The organisation of the 44th World Championships is proceeding at a pace. The composition of the Executive has been finalised as myself as Chairman, Howard Bernstein, Manchester, Secretary, Tony Chatwin and Richard Habgood, Colin Clemett, Matthew

Henderson, Mike Watts and Maria Carvath and representing the ITTF, Ian Marshall. Most of the main directors have now been appointed and are: Administration Aubrey Drapkin, Coaching courses Gail McCulloch, Ceremonies & Presentations Louis Gomes, Civic Liaison and Social Maria Carvath, Development Mike Lewis, Finance KPMG, ITTF Services Mike Holt, Marketing and Sponsorship Matthew Henderson, Medical Luke Smith, Personnel Karen Tomge, Referee Stuart Sherlock, Hospitality Harvey Webb, Venue Richard Scruton, VIP's Tony Chatwin.

WORLD TEAM EVENTS

The ITTF Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, May 15-18 was attended by Colin Clemett and myself. At this meeting a new system for the team event in the World Championships, which has been carefully developed by Colin Clemett, Stuart Sherlock and myself together with the Chairman of the ITTF Technical Committee, Yao Zhenxu of China. We believe that this new system is a considerable improvement of the team event programme from all previous World Championships. Some of the benefits are that each team will have a maximum of two matches per day, all the key matches for the titles can be played on the show courts to suit spectators, TV and media requirements, increasing the number of teams in the top section to 24 and having initial groups of six rather than eight will increase the importance of the opening rounds, no team is automatically relegated, but four teams in the second category will have a chance to challenge for the title and be promoted to the top 24 for the next championship, and the lower teams in the competition will have an attractive programme of 11 matches over five and a half days, finishing with their world ranking based more on their performance in the championships. None of the matches will be scheduled to start early in the morning and late finishes, if any, will be few and far between. This improved schedule has only been made possible because Manchester will provide 44 tables, larger number than at previous World Championship. Other proposed changes include all players except the top world ranked players will start in the first round rather than having to play three rounds of qualification, so enjoying best of five rather than best of three games, with the better players



New ETTU Executive Committee (left to right) Jenny Dom-secretary, Eberhard Scholer, Stefano Bosi, Alan Ransome, Nils Bergstrom, Yuri Posevin, Camille Gonderinger, & Pierre Albertini.

entering at round 4 or 5. There will also be for the first time a second tournament for ITTF ranking points for those eliminated before round four of the individual event. This will take place over two days towards the end of the championship so that the players from the weaker countries will enjoy an extended team event, better participation in the individual events and a third tournament for ranking points, whilst the top players will have more meaningful team matches and a schedule for the individual events that meets all of the requests of the ITTF and the players organisation, CTTF. All of this should produce a better competition for players, media and spectators and all proposed changes have been welcomed by the ITTF.

ITTF INCREASING THE BALL SIZE

One of the main points of discussion in Kuala Lumpur concerned the fact that the game itself is less interesting now than it was 30 or 40 years ago. This is the view of the new ITTF President, Xu Yinsheng of China and it is a view that has been stated by other in the past few years. It was felt that the ITTF needs to consider some changes to make the game more interesting for spectators and TV. The ITTF Equipment Committee Chairman, Rufford Harrison, is proposing some experiments with larger balls which, according to computer simulations carried out in Germany, will slow the game down and increase the length of the rallies.

BUSY SUMMER AHEAD

The Summer of 1996 is one of the busiest in the history of the sport. The World Veterans Championships will be played in June in Lillehammer in Norway, the European Youth

Championships will be held in Frydek Mistek in the Czech Republic in July, and of course table tennis is included in the Olympic Games in Atlanta in the second half of July. Our participants in Atlanta will be Chen Xinhua, who will probably be playing his last event at senior international level, Carl Prean and Lisa Lomas in the singles and Andrea Holt in the women's doubles.

The Paralympics take place in Atlanta between 15 - 17th August and Great Britain has again been able to qualify a strong squad. The selected players are: Men - Jim Monkley, Cardiff and Dave Russell, Bucks, Class 2, Neil Robinson, Bridgend and Jamie Rawson, Nottinghamshire Class 3, Arnie Chan, Mansfield and Martin Evans, Neath, Class 4/5, Dave Hope, Yorkshire, Class 7, Women - Lynn Riding, Preston, Class 10 and Melanie Davies, Bromley, Class 10. The British Team Manager will be Dave Hewitt and the coaches Jane Barella and Mark Mitchell. We wish all in the Olympics and Paralympics success.

Another important event in the ETTA calendar is the Annual General Meeting which is to be held at Milton Keynes on 29 June. The AGM was to be held in Manchester but the clash with the Euro '96 football matches has meant a delay until 1997.

The 1995/96 season has been one of considerable achievement in several areas of the ETTA's work. There have been some disappointments, but I believe that the seeds that have been laid will bear in the near future and I would like to thank all of the players, volunteers, officials, coaches and ETTA staff for their enormous contribution to our activities during what has been undoubtedly a very busy year.

Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman.

HONEYMOON *in Atlanta*

Former England star Jackie Bellinger is going to spend her honeymoon in Atlanta watching her sister Lisa Lomas hopefully win a medal in the Olympic Games.

Jackie is to marry Stuart Worrell, who plays table tennis in the British League Premier side RM Lincoln, at the Totternhoe Church in Bedfordshire on 29th June 1996.

Sister Lisa is to be one of four bridesmaids.

Originally Jackie and Stuart were to spend their honeymoon in Bali, but when Lisa qualified for the Olympics, they changed their destination to Atlanta.

The loving couple met at a blind date when Lisa and husband Andy, who plays in goal for Rushden and Diamonds, invited both Jackie and Stuart to a dinner party at their home eighteen months ago.



Atlanta Bound- Stuart Worrell, Lisa Lomas, & Jackie Bellinger

OLYMPIC TRAINING

Following on from the European Championships in Bratislava, the Great Britain table tennis squad will commence its Olympic preparation by competing in the China Open

tournament on 24th to 26th May, where Chen Xinhua and Matthew Syed will be amongst its players.

The Japanese Open Kitaku Shu on 6th to 9th June should see Chen, Syed and Carl Prean playing under the Olympic banner, whilst the Brazil Open on 12th to 15th of June will see Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt and Carl Prean in action.

FLEXING ITS MUSCLES

The Professional Players Union (CTTP) is now pushing for their players to be free to enter international opens without prior permission from their national associations.

It is thought that professionals applying to human rights courts on the grounds that they are being prevented from earning a living when they fall out with their associations - example Thierry Cabrera - will have strong backing, especially if they engage star lawyers to press the charge of restrictive practice.

BRATISLAVAN DELIGHT!

Journalists and photographers were well looked after in the Media Centre, at the European

Championships in Bratislava with free beer and coffee.

Highlight for the media was a 3-hour trip on the Danube with unlimited high quality food, drink, live music and dancing, a sunset on the Danube trip to be savoured and remembered for a long time.

In contrast, the players and officials were whipped up and down the Danube in a hydrofoil without refreshments!



UNIVERSITY OF TEESIDE

HIGH PERFORMANCE TABLE TENNIS WEEK 5-9 AUGUST 1996

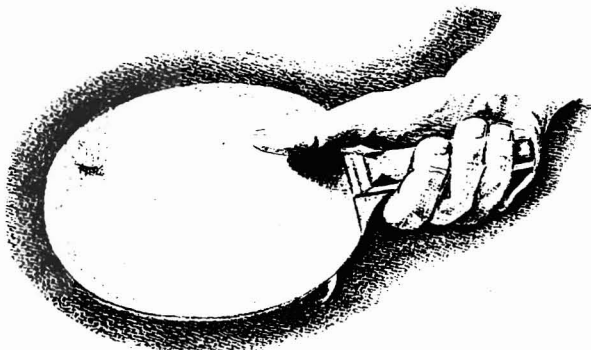
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Preview of five new tournaments by Mike Johns, ETTA Events Manager

REGIONAL OPEN TOURNAMENTS 1996-97

LOOKING AT A TOURNAMENT CALENDAR FOR THE 1996/7 SEASON YOU WOULD BE EXCUSED FOR THINKING THAT TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS WERE ONLY FOR JUNIOR AND VETERAN PLAYERS. SENIOR TOURNAMENTS HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED.

In the 60's and 70's there was at least one senior tournament every weekend, from September to May.

With only two or three junior tournaments per season keen junior players played in senior tournaments (which included junior events) and learned from a very early age how to play against all styles of play, all types of rubber. In fact in my last year as a junior five of the top ten went on to represent England at senior level.

This also had the effect of making the transition from junior to senior far easier and resulted in fewer 18 and 19 year olds leaving the game through lack of success. Many

senior coaches agree with this assessment and to try and alleviate the shortage, the ETTA will be running up to five Senior Open tournaments next season. These will be called Regional Open tournaments and will include Open, Banded, Veterans, Under 21 and junior events, catering for everybody. It is also hoped to include these tournaments in a Grand Prix, offering good money prizes for those who qualify for the finals.

The few senior opens that have been held this season have

generally been over subscribed, indicating that the interest is there, and I hope that you will all support as many of these tournaments as possible.

THE FIRST TOURNAMENT

The first tournament will be the EASTERN REGION OPEN on September 28th and 29th at the Lynnsport Centre in Kings Lynn. Entry forms will be available towards the end of July from the events department of the ETTA.

Anyone over 18 can apply for the standard card, featuring a picture of English champion Lisa Lomas. But there's the prestigious Visa Gold Card for those earning £20,000 or more.



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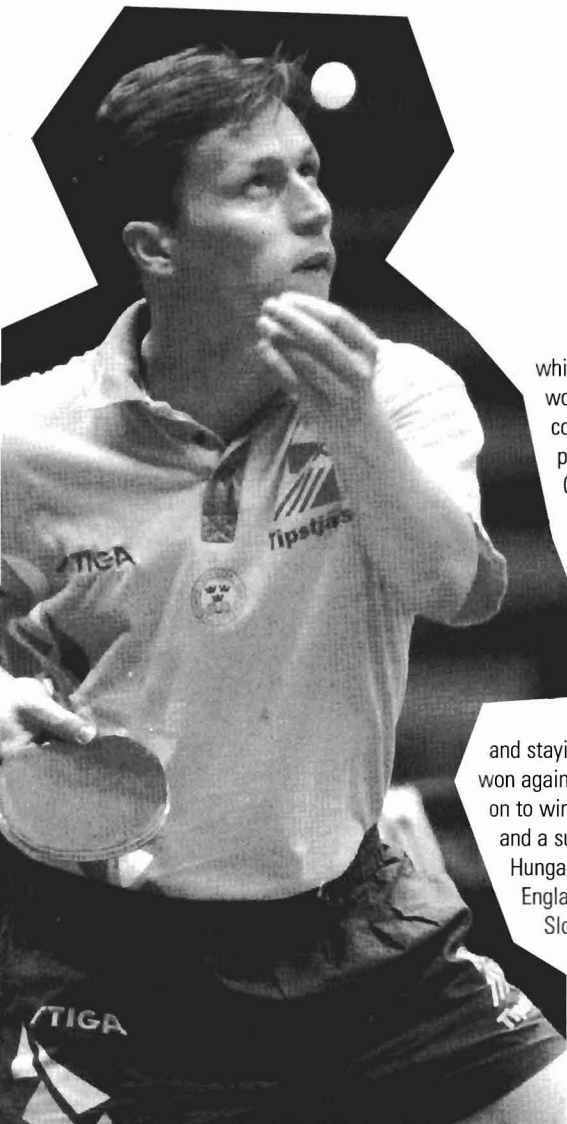
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BC06

SWEDISH &

THE STEADINESS OF LISA LOMAS, PLUS THE LUCK OF THE DEVIL IN THE LAST ROUND OF GROUP MATCHES, HELPED GAIN ENGLAND THE EUROPEAN BRONZE MEDAL THEY HAD HOPED FOR BUT APPEARED TO HAVE LOST.



which denied the hard working and courageous performance by Alan Cooke a victory over the brilliant (and occasionally illegal?) serving Zoltan Varga, was almost certainly the difference between going down and staying up, England had won against Poland, who went on to win a bronze medal, and a subsequent win over Hungary would have given England a play-off against Slovenia - whom they would probably have beaten - instead of The Netherlands, who dumped them 4-1. England's women won three times,

although it should have been four. Their victories over Italy, Sweden and Croatia revealed that even with a shoulder which Lomas had been advised to rest until after the European Championships, she was

still a resourceful and resolute competitor. She won six times.

The defeat to the Czech Republic, however, should never have happened, and never would have done but for two extraordinary losses by Andrea Holt, who seemed only half there. Andrea's two victories later against Italy and one against Germany (the former European Top 12 champion Olga Nemes) showed what high standards she was capable of.

It seemed for a while that the Czech victory had opened the door to a first ever medal for Italy - until the Czechs were involved in closing it again. An amazing 4-2 win by a weakened Swedish team against the Czechs let England through and turned Italian cheers into groans.

The Swede who did the damage that led to England getting their medals was a roly-poly blonde Jeny Jonsson. She scored two shock wins that resulted in a tie for second place. England came out winners as they had previously defeated Italy. The Italians were not pleased, blatantly suggesting that the Czech team had not made maximum efforts - ironically the Swedes were relegated after almost gifting the medals to England. There was a rumour that Jeny Jonsson had been offered a honorary life-membership of the ETTA!

Donald Parker commented "After some bad luck against the Czechs we were due for a lucky break."

TRIPLE GOLD FOR SWEDEN

These performances by Holt, and one or two from Mathew Syed, suggested something may not have been entirely right with their build-up to the tournament. Syed was clearly England's best player, but

disappointed himself by claiming "only" six wins.

He reached the third round of the men's singles where his four-game defeat to Patrick Chila never looked like becoming a victory. Lomas and Holt were also beaten in the third round without appearing able to make further progress.

WORDS BY:
RICHARD EATON
THE TIMES
AND
JOHN WOODFORD
DAILY TELEGRAPH

WORDS AND
PICTURES BY
JOHN WOOD
TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Their leading German women, Nicole Struse, then went on to become the first German to win the European women's singles title for 34 years, and the leading Swede, Jan-Ove Waldner, conjured a men's singles success which provided him with the only major title in the sport to have eluded him.

The Olympic champions good warm up win over his compatriot Jorgen Persson in the final was also a good warm-up for his attempt in Atlanta to defend his title, especially as his semi-final progress was a repeat of his Barcelona final success against Jean-Philippe Gatiem.

Waldner displayed uncharacteristic joy at his triumph, although his humour was capped by that of Persson. "He can have that, provided I can have the Olympic title. That's the only major title I haven't won. So if we can come to some arrangement."

SHAKY SAIVE

Jean-Michel Saive who was the

This success by women was a cheering contrast the to the men's sequence of defeats and their tantalisingly unfortunate relegation from the top group in Bratislava. Tantalising, because the two points



GERMAN Bonanza



reigning champion until Jan-Ove Waldner took over from him in the last minutes of the 12-day tournament, never looked at ease, any more than he did at Kettering when he was crushed 13, 13, 12 by Wang Tao.

The Belgian star was sprayed with a pain-killer on his back regularly during games-the Belgian journalists said it was nothing serious but later when he lost to Peter Karlsson they admitted he did have a problem.

Poland's men are the most improved team in Europe. The fact that they relegated England from the European League, did not seem so alarming in Bratislava when we saw

Jubilant German womens team celebrate their victory in winning the gold medal.



SINGLES FINALS RESULTS

Mens Singles
JAN OVE WALDNER
 (Sweden)
 beat
JORGEN PERSSON
 (Sweden)
 16-21, 21-15, 22-20, 21-15

Womens Singles
NICOLE STRUSE
 (Germany)
 beat
Krisztina Toth
 (Hungary)
 21-6, 21-18, 21-13

them qualify for the semi-finals. Blaszczyk, Skierski and Krzeszewski are now a potent force in Europe and deserve to stay up. The Poles have done in about three years what England have to do - bring in, train and encourage the young men and women.

Alex Perry, Bradley Billington and Andrew Eden all fought like tigers for England. Perry will remember his

fabulous win 19-21, 21-13, 21-18 against Waldner until his dying day. Waldner, renowned for not always giving 100 per cent was on this occasion, trying hard.

Perry's tremendous win over Waldner ended in a third-game climax. He was 17-18 down to the Olympic champion, forced an error to level at 18-18 and then brought down the legendary Swede with three huge attacking shots to win 21-18. Perry said during the celebrations on court "The key was returning his services. When I found I could control his services, I decided to attack and it paid off."

Predictably, Sweden beat England 4-1 going on to eventually win the final 4-1 against France, who up to that point, seemed impregnable.

The French have a champagne duo in Gatién and Chila, who is underrated on the world list at No. 21 - he must be better than Grubba on 16, but Bratislava finalist Jorgen Persson is down that list also on 16 - so he must be on his way back to top form looking at hot and steamy

Atlanta.

There were two players in the women's events who really impressed! Krisztina Toth from Budapest who reached the final but could make no progress against Nicole Struse, but earlier the Hungarian top-spinner had taken out Emilia Ciosu and Jie Schopp, 8 in the fifth game.

The second young star was Mihaela Steff of Romania who fell to Toth but her earlier victims included Valentina Popova and Bettine Vriesekoop, the Netherland Playboy Covergirl.

Elena Timina had a nightmare fortnight, mainly it appeared because conditions were too fast for her. When the red matting arrived, conditions were better for defenders, but the former BFL Grove defender lost to Elke Schell (Germany), possibly one of the biggest shocks of the whole tournament -13, -18, 13, 20, 18.

It would certainly have been disturbing for European table tennis if the Chinese players living in

Europe had taken any of the major singles titles. Toth managed to stop Schopp and Struse having suffered six successive defeats by the Luxembourg Chinese Ni Xia Lian, finally floored her 16, -20, 17, -9, 18. Nicole fell to the floor in exultation after the last point.

England had a tiny band of supporters in Bratislava. Apart from the national press writers and John Wood, Geoff Taylor the Croydon-based coach was writing for his native New Zealand magazines. Trying to cover matches in two halls 200 yards apart was impossible without extra pairs of eyes - supplied on this occasion by Geoff Taylor and Barry Granger the Essex administrator, player, umpire soon to make his debut on ETTA Management Committee.

So, the England Fans were delighted to see three England players, Lomas, Holt and Syed fighting to make the last sixteen. They all went down fighting - Matthew to Chila, Lisa to Ni Xia Lian and Andrea to Krisztina Toth.

Reports and pictures from Bratislava

England's women win Bronze



Victors (left to right) Andrea Holt, Alison Broe, Don Parker, Lisa Lomas & Nicola Deaton.

Andrea almost took her to a fourth game, but the high quality top-spin from Toth was confirmed when she reached the final.

Yang Min (Italy) was the Chinese danger in the men's event, but Jorgen Persson capsized him 15, 13, 17.

The other Chinese who caused some problems was Chen Sung,

playing for Holland. He defeated Alan Cooke in the team event and was promptly labelled by the English pressmen as "the elderly Chinese gentlemen". The nickname was actually "filed" twice but as far as we know, did not appear in print.

This Chen is only 31, but being large and ungainly on court, he could pass for 41. He is in fact a

very useful player with an awkward style. But fortunately, Alan had an opportunity to get his revenge in the singles - and took it!

The players union the CTPP made a threat to strike (in writing) to the ETTU President Nils Bergstrom when the playing schedule required players to play up to seven times in one day. Nicole Struse actually played seven games in one day.

There was a very swift response from the organisers. Ace English referee Stuart Sherlock had to spend many hours guiding his colleagues (mainly Czechs) into a more acceptable schedule. The lesson learned here is that local officials should not be allowed to construct and publish schedules without checking with experienced officials like Mr Sherlock.

However, the strike was averted, but at least the CTPP appeared to be stronger now than ever before and are opening their doors to coaches and women professionals.

Bratislava was a great comeback for Waldner and Persson - they were in the middle of their preparations for Atlanta. Waldner could win another gold at the Olympics. Bear in mind they are both 30. But Jorgen said at the press conference

that, "Jan-Ove could have this title, but he wanted to win in Atlanta." And was not joking.

It is very rare that the Chinese top men play at the peak of their form outside Asia, especially in tropical heat - Kong and Wang Tao flopped in Qatar. The Swedes top-ranks played so well in Slovakia, that there is a distinct possibility of reporting victory for Europe in Atlanta.

OVERALL TEAM POSITIONS

MEN	WOMEN
1. Sweden	1. Germany
2. France	2. Hungary
3. Poland	3. Romania
4. Belgium	4. England
5. Germany	5. Russia
6. Russia	6. Italy
7. Czech Republic	7. Ukraine
8. Italy	8. Czech Republic
9. Hungary	9. France
10. Netherlands	10. Croatia
11. England	11. Sweden
12. Slovenia	12. Belgium
13. Yugoslavia	13. Netherlands
14. Austria	14. Slovakia
15. Belarus	15. Yugoslavia
16. Slovakia	16. Armenia
17. Greece	17. Greece
18. Denmark	18. Slovenia
19. Spain	19. Lithuania
20. Romania	20. Bulgaria
21. Turkey	21. Poland
22. Croatia	22. Israel
23. Finland	23. Finland
24. Bulgaria	24. Austria
25. Ireland	25. Spain
26. Ukraine	26. Belarus
27. Norway	27. Portugal
28. Israel	28. Luxembourg
29. Portugal	29. Latvia
30. Luxembourg	30. Turkey
31. Switzerland	31. Denmark
32. Bosnia-Herzegovina	32. Switzerland
33. Armenia	33. Wales
34. Estonia	34. Scotland
35. Lithuania	35. Bosnia-Herzegovina
36. Wales	36. Estonia
37. Scotland	37. Iceland
38. Latvia	38. Ireland
39. Iceland	39. Malta
40. Cyprus	
41. Malta	



Beaming Mixed Doubles Champions Hungary's Kriszitna Toth & Belarus' Vladimir Samsonov.

MEN'S DOUBLES GOLD FOR SWEDEN

Sweden added a third gold medal to their Bratislavan collection when Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson stylishly defeated Poland's Andreij Grubba and Lucjan Blaszczyk, in the final. The opening game saw the Swedish pair storm to a 7-0 lead, with consummate ease, before Poland replied, as they went on to win 21-15.

This new right handed pair have been a revelation for Sweden at these championships, and they reached new heights as they took the second by an even wider margin, winning 21-11.

Legendary Swedish Coach Glen Osth said after Waldner and Persson's victory, " Five years ago we didn't think two right handers could play together and be successful; at the top. So we are so very pleased at how very well they have played together."

In the semi-finals Waldner and Persson beat Kalinikos Kreanga of Greece and Zoran Kalinic of Yugoslavia 17 and 10.

Grubba and Blaszczyk won the other semi-final against Germany's Jorg Roskopf and Steffan Fetzner, 21-16, 21-17.

STRUSE & SCHALL WIN WOMEN'S DOUBLES GOLD

Nicole Struse won her third gold medal when she partnered Elke Scholl to take the Women's Doubles gold medal at the Pasiensky Sports Hall, when they won a spectacular Women's Doubles final against Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop and Emily Noor, -21, 15, 16.

With the third leg standing at 15-15, Struse and Schall seemed to find an extra energy, as they surged forward to take a 19-16 lead before going onto win 21-16.

In the semi-finals Struse and Schall beat Romania's Otilia Badescu and Emilia Ciosu -18, 12, 18, in a close fought battle, whilst Vriesekoop and Noor overpowered Lithuania's Ruta Garkauskaite and Jolanta Prusiene, 15, -13, 16.

MIXED GOLD FOR TOTH AND SAMSONOV

Hungary's Krisztina Toth and Vladimir Samsanov of Belarus were the toast of Bratislava following their tremendous Mixed Doubles victory in the final, when they defeated Romania's Otilia Badescu and Greece's Kalinikos Kreanga -19,

9, 11.

The first leg was won with power and aggression by Kreanga and Badescu, 21-19. But Toth and Samsanov bounced back playing like a dream team taking the second 21-9.

This set up the decider to be a close battle, but it wasn't to be, as the power of Samsanov and the graceful play of Toth saw this young partnership blossom and mature as it brought the crowd to its feet, winning 21-11.

After this famous victory Hungary's

Toth said:

"I'm very happy to win and to be partnered by Vladimir. I thought I started to play well in the second game. Vladimir was very nice, he said I could keep the cup for the first year."

Immediately after being interviewed Toth, ran clutching her trophy 200 yards to the second hall, where she defeated Tatiana Logatskaia of Belarus 11, 17, 19 in round two of the Women's Singles.

Bronze Medal for the Editor !



Extra long pimples operator John Wood, editor of this magazine landed a bronze medal at the Bratislava Journalists tournament that attracted 60 players, writes **John Woodford**.

He claimed four victims before going down -16 and -12 to the losing finalist Peter Tihanyi, a former Hungarian No. 10. The winner was Jonah Kahn (Holland), a former Ormesby British League player, who borrowed a bat and played in jeans and sweatshirt!

There is no truth to the rumour that John has been asked to be seeded at the Worlds Press Tournament in Manchester.

The other two English players competing were Barry Granger who is shortly to take his seat on the ETTA Management Committee as vice-chairman (Administration) who had the misfortune to meet the Hungarian finalist in the first round and myself - I bowed out in Round 3.

Footnote: In a play-off for third place John Wood lost to the sole Lithuanian journalist Paplauskas Maris who later in the day celebrated lavishly on the Press Cruise down the Danube and needed assistance to stagger ashore at the end of the trip!



20th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES:

Gold - J O Waldner (Swe), Silver - J Persson (SWE), Bronze J P Gatien (Fra) and P Karlsson (Swe).

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

Gold - N Struse (Ger), Silver - K Toth (Hun), Bronze - E Schall (Ger) and J Schopp (Ger).

MEN'S DOUBLES:

Gold - J O Waldner/J Persson (Swe), Silver - A Grubba/L Blaszczyk (Pol), Bronze K Kreanga(Gre)/Z Kalinic (Yug) and J Roskopf/S Fetzner (Ger).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

Gold - N Struse/E Schall (Ger), Silver - B Vriesekoop/E Noor (Ned), Bronze - E Garkauskait/J Prusiene (Ltu) and O Badescu/E Ciosu (Rom).

MIXED DOUBLES:

Gold - V Samsonov (Blr)/K Toth (Hun), Silver - K Kreanga (Gre)/O Badescu (Rom), Bronze - L Blaszczyk (Pol)/E Ciosu (Rom) and M Shmyrev/G Melnik (Rus).

MEN'S TEAM EVENT:

Gold - Sweden, Silver - France, Bronze - Poland and Belgium.

WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT:

Gold - Germany, Silver - Hungary, Bronze - Romania and England.

The final weekend at Newton Aycliffe



Edison Hornsey (above) winners of the Boys Premier Division (Front Row) Christian Thompson, Gerald Ashison, Scott Friday & Gareth Herbert, and watching over their boys Simon & Chris Rockall.



**Players of the weekend
Michael Marsben & Kibibi Moseley.**

Girls Premier winning team BFL Grove (pictured below, left to right) Trudy Bloor, Lindsey Thornton & Kibibi Moseley.



EDISON WOOLWICH

EDISON HORNSEY NOT ONLY BECAME THE THIRD WINNERS OF THE BOYS PREMIER DIVISION WHEN THIS SEASONS WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE WAS COMPLETED AT NEWTON AYCLIFFE (COUNTY DURHAM) OVER THE WEEK END 30/31 ST MARCH BUT THEY ALSO TOOK THE "WOOLWICH SPECIAL TEAM AWARD"
WRITES BRIAN LAMERTON.

With first class administration giving them a let start their all round enthusiasm coupled with amazing support some 250 miles from their Harringey base provided almost a cup final atmosphere around their showpiece court on the last day. A surprise team selection by their Sunday morning opponents Derwent helped Edison's cause as after Christian Thompson had given them the lead with a 16 and 10 win over Michael James, Peter Marshall (100% throughout the weekend and overall average leader) levelled things defeating Gareth Herbert 21 and 13. David Smith, Derwent's No4 nominated player then went down narrowly 17 and 23 to Scott Friday and later took Thompson to three. Edison went on to take this match 4-2 and in the afternoon after losing the opening set to Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh as Reagan Nettleingham beat Herbert 23 and 17 took the rest to win 5-1. Completing the champions squad was Gerald Ashison whilst Darren Ashall won four out of four for runners up Derwent.

It has taken BFL Grove 3 years to win a Woolwich Premier title but this season Kibibi Moseley, Lindsey Thornton and Trudi Bloor playing unchanged throughout the second week end made no mistake defeating all comers by an identical

5 sets to 1 scoreline. Kibibi, whose defeat of Ireland's Brioni Lane emphatically 21-9 in the third, revenged one of her only two first week end defeats (the other was to Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh's Michelle Haynes who missed the return through injury) won all of her 10 sets and was also presented with the girls "Woolwich Player Award" Linda Farrow who withdrew and first season winners Kingfisher drop out of the boys Premier to be replaced by Irish Boys and BFL Grove "A" (last seasons relegated pair), with the Irish as Division One winners after leap frogging their rivals with a last match 4 sets to 2 victory, Alan Monks their hero in a team completed by Damien Lynch and Eoin Byrne. The real damage to Groves all Welsh team of Adam Robertson, Danny Harris and Stephen Jenkins was done when dropping a point in a drawn match with Peniel. Lynch topped the divisions averages for the season whilst sharing the honours at Newton Aycliffe (7 from 8) with Robertson who went down to Byrne 14-21; 21-16; 21-15.

As with the boys the girls division 1 trophy also went out of the country, North to Dumfries (truly a BRITISH league) who dropped but a single point in a drawn match with Spicer Girls for whom Anna McNamara, the divisions most improved player from

win the PREMIER

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

Boys Premier	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Edison Hornsey	10	8	1	1	41	19	17
Derwent	10	7	1	2	44	16	15
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	10	7	0	3	42	18	14
Jewson Launceston	10	4	2	4	28	32	10
Kingfisher A	10	1	1	8	17	43	3
Linda Farrow	10	0	1	9	8	52	1

Boys Division 1	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Irish Boys	10	9	0	1	46	14	18
B.F.L. Grove	10	8	1	1	46	14	17
Peniel A	10	3	4	3	35	25	10
Edmonton	10	3	3	4	32	28	9
Lennox House	10	1	2	7	14	46	4
Bristol	10	1	0	9	7	53	2

Boys Division 2A	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Ellenborough	10	8	1	1	42	18	17
Seasiders	10	6	3	1	37	23	15
Rejects	10	3	4	3	29	31	10
Kingfisher B	10	3	2	5	25	35	8
Folkstone	10	1	4	5	24	36	6
B.F.L. Grove B	10	1	2	7	23	37	4

Boys Division 2B	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Light Freight Generat. 2	10	10	0	0	47	13	20
Guilford League Club	10	5	3	2	37	23	13
Sedgefield	10	2	5	3	31	29	9
Constable Britannia	10	2	4	4	27	33	8
Progress	10	3	1	6	27	33	7
Milton Keynes	10	1	1	8	11	49	3

Boys Division 3	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Clayton Heights	14	11	3	0	66	18	25
Greenleys	14	8	5	1	52	32	21
Lillington Free Church	14	8	5	1	58	26	21
Peniel B	14	6	5	3	53	31	17
Cippenham	14	5	5	4	45	39	15
Dudley	14	4	1	9	34	50	9
Uxbridge Burton	14	0	2	12	13	71	2
Our Lady of Peace	14	0	2	12	15	69	2

Girls Premier	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
B.F.L. Grove A	10	9	1	0	48	12	19
Peniel	10	6	0	4	31	29	12
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	10	4	4	2	35	25	12
Irish Girls	10	3	3	4	29	31	9
Maidstone Working Mens C1	10	1	3	6	20	40	5
Constable Britannia	10	0	3	7	17	43	3

Girls Division 1	P	W	D	L	M/F	M/A	PTS
Team							
Dumfries	10	9	1	0	47	13	19
City of Leeds	10	8	0	2	43	17	16
Spicer Girls	10	4	3	3	35	25	11
Seasiders	10	3	1	6	22	38	7
Genethid Cymru	10	2	1	7	16	44	5
B.F.L. Grove B	10	0	2	8	17	43	2

the first week end, won a brace. Spicers Heidi Sims who was unbeated from 6 starts leads the individual averages closely followed by the complete Dumfries team of Linda Brown, Tamara Powell and Nicola Bentley with City of Leeds Nicola Silburn separating the last two.

Ellenborough and Light Freight Generation 2 held their mid season top spots in the second divisions, LFG2 comfortably, returning the only perfect set of scores throughout the whole league, but Ellenborough losing once, 4-2, to their nearest rivals, Seasiders from Blackpool. Christopher Dunne, 100% at Newton Aycliffe and overall top of averages in 2A, won twice in this match for Seasiders who suprisingly were only able to draw 3 of their remaining 4 matches. Ellenborough's ever present team were James & Oliver Wakelam and Ian Michell. LFG's winning combination were Chris Butt, Danny Burns and Steven Wilshere. Nine of the second divisions 25 matches were drawn; local team Sedgefield and Rejects being others to draw 3 times. Sedgefields Michael Marsden shared the top individual spot in 2B with Chris Butt (who won the clash of the giants 27-25 in the third) and also took the boys "Woolwich Player Award"

In division 3 Clayton Heights from Bradford whose only dropped point of the week end was to Lillington Free Church held on to the divisions top spot. Heights were represented by Sean O'Connor (top of the individual divisional averages with

25 from 28), Michael Mior and the much improved Simon Baldus. As in the first half Greenleys and LFH had identical records but the Greenleys trio of Justin Dodd, Anthony Lickfold and Oliver Ahmet in defeating their rivals represented by Stuart Kurle, David Matthews and Mark Williams by 4 sets to 2 moved into second position to take the last of the cash prizes.

A successful first visit then to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 24 tables under one roof and room to spare, albeit in 3 separate halls. We were priviledged to have the company of the Vice Chairman of Sedgefield District Council, Councillor Kester Noble, with us for both opening and closing ceremonies. Councillor Noble shared the presentation duties with Jane Adams, Advertising Services Controller for the Woolwich and ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome for whom this was almost a home fixture.

Next season commences November 23/24th at another new venue, the magnificent Kettering Leisure Village, scene of the recent English "Open". There is room for a few additional teams; those interested should, in the first instance, contact Mike Lewis at 31, Comb Paddock, Bristol, BS9 4UG. (tel; 0117 9620877)

Finally a reminder that there is a prize for the best collection of press cuttings; please send them either to Hastings or to myself, Brian Lamerton, at 92, Granada Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 4AQ.



OPENING CEREMONY -
Richard Johnson (centre) of Sedgefield, meets the Woolwich Advertising Services Controller Jane Adams (left) & Councillor Kester Noble, Vice Chairman of Sedgefield District Council.

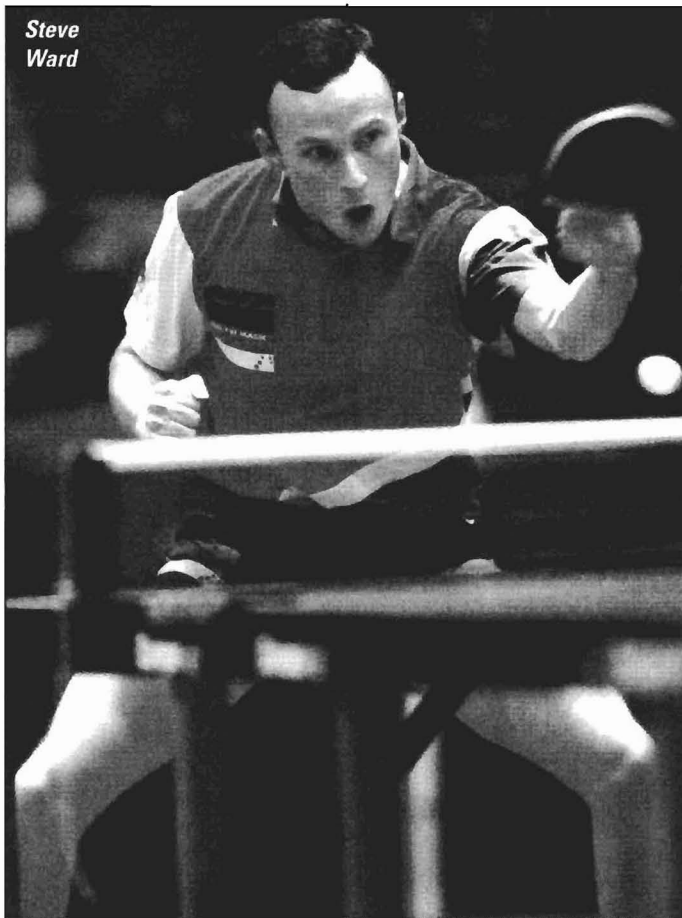
WARD LOSES 100% as BFL Grove Win

BFL GROVE HAVE WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE FIFTH YEAR RUNNING. A 10-4 VICTORY OVER DARLINGTON FINALLY CLINCHED THE TITLE WITH ALAN COOKE ONCE AGAIN TURNING IN A FAULTLESS PERFORMANCE. DISAPPOINTMENT, HOWEVER, FOR STEVE WARD WHOSE 100% RECORD WENT WHEN HE LOST TO JOHN HILTON AND MICHAEL O'DRISCOLL WRITES AUBREY DRAPKIN.

Team Peniel's Andrew Eden was in fine form against Drumchapel Glasgow when a 10-4 victory for Peniel ensured that they would once again finish as runners-up.

With BFL Grove already crowned as champions of the British League, all of the interest at the end of the season in the Premier Division centred on the relegation issue. R M Lincoln had failed to make their mark, unlike Linda Farrow, in their relegation before the final two matches. This left Horsham Angels and St Neots to fight it out to beat the drop. Horsham entertained Linda Farrow but were badly beaten but it was then confirmed that Linda Farrow had played out of ranking order. Fortunately for St Neots who had been beaten at home by Glasgow the amendment to the Horsham result still left the Angels with an 8-6 defeat and only one point ahead of St Neots with only one match to play.

On the final day the Angels had to travel to Glasgow who were severely weakened by European



Steve Ward

calls on their Scottish internationals and the Angels ran out 10-4 winners. Controversy over whether the Scottish side should have asked for a rearrangement of the fixture, which they were entitled by regulation to do, was avoided when St. Neots were soundly beaten by Darlington to condemn them to the first division next season.

Both clubs that lost their Premier status last year have made a swift return by winning the North and South First Divisions respectively. In

the North, Vymura finished three points ahead of Olton and West Warwicks (now known as Woodfield) whilst DML White Hart Launceston ended up with a similar margin of victory over the Welsh side Colley Motor Group in the South. This was the first time for a few years that the winners of the first divisions came from clubs other than BFL Grove.

After a close fought battle at the foot of the first division North, Leeds escaped relegation with a draw at

Humberside on the final day of the season leaving their opponents bottom of the pile as Milton Keynes got both points from a weakened Olton and West Warwicks side. Humberside, along with Cheltenham Saracens who finished bottom of the first division South will go down to the second division with Milton Keynes who had a worse record than Barclays Bank, who were second bottom in the South, the most likely team to join them.

Leicester Lions, Yellow Brick Progress and DML White Hart Launceston II all won their respective second divisions to ensure first division table tennis next time round. In the North Darlington III pinched second place from

Vymura II on the very last day with a 5-3 home success over BFL Grove II whilst Vymura were losing by the same score to Derwent.

Invicta Lanterns were always going to finish second in the South East but the runners up in the South West would come from the match between Horsham Angels III and ATH Building Contractors Cardiff. A draw would have been enough for the Welsh side but for some reason they did not field their full strength side and the Angels won 7-1.

BFL Grove III, Norwich Todd Foxwood and Shelfield all lost their

second division places.

In the third division there were clear cut winners in each area with the Chelmsford League, Team JUIC Nottinghamshire League, City of Leeds II and JAGS all gaining promotion to the second division.

BRITISH LEAGUE PLACINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	PTS
Premier Division									
BFL Grove	14	14	-	-	164	32	338	89	28
Team Peniel	14	9	-	5	116	80	264	190	18
Darlington	14	8	1	5	99	97	233	234	17
Linda Farrow	14	7	2	5	99	97	239	215	16
Drumchapel Glasgow	14	6	1	7	89	107	209	256	13
Horsham Angels	14	4	2	8	81	115	198	261	10
St. Neots	14	2	3	9	67	129	164	289	7
R.M.Lincoln	14	1	1	12	69	127	175	286	3
Division 1 North									
Vymura	14	12	-	2	68	44	156	121	24
Olton & West Warwicks	14	10	1	3	71	41	159	107	21
BFL Grove II	14	8	2	4	70	42	147	93	18
Uxbridge (Burton)	14	7	2	5	64	48	147	124	16
Darlington II	14	6	3	5	61	51	134	112	15
City of Leeds	14	2	3	9	39	73	103	159	7
City of Milton Keynes	14	2	2	10	38	74	96	162	6
Humberside	14	1	3	10	37	75	99	163	5
Division 1 South									
DML Launceston	14	11	3	-	84	28	182	82	25
Colley Motor Group	14	10	2	2	76	36	163	97	22
Edison	14	7	5	2	65	47	156	120	19
BSG Brentwood	14	5	3	6	54	58	130	135	13
OLOP	14	3	6	5	50	62	125	134	12
Horsham Angels II	14	3	2	9	44	68	108	157	8
Barclays Bank	14	3	1	10	40	72	100	159	7
Cheltenham Saracens	14	2	2	10	35	77	90	170	6
Division 2 North									
Leicester Lions	14	10	2	2	74	38	163	102	22
Darlington III	14	6	5	3	65	47	147	111	17
Vymura II	14	8	1	5	61	51	143	129	17
Drumchapel Glasgow II	14	7	2	5	62	50	143	124	16
Derwent	14	6	1	7	55	57	130	135	13
Abbeylea	14	4	2	8	49	63	123	142	10
Burnside Seaside	14	4	2	8	48	64	122	144	10
BFL Grove III	14	2	3	9	34	78	89	173	7
Division 2 South East									
Yellow Brick Progress	14	11	3	-	82	30	175	97	25
Invicta Lanterns	14	9	4	1	74	38	165	105	22
BSG Barking	14	7	3	4	60	52	140	134	17
Byng Hall	14	5	5	4	64	48	153	118	15
Linda Farrow II	14	3	8	3	52	60	134	142	14
Pillinger Air (LLTC)	14	5	2	7	57	55	141	134	12
Crusaders Lincoln	14	2	1	11	34	78	106	164	5
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	-	2	12	25	87	74	194	2
Division 2 South West									
DML Launceston II	14	9	4	1	79	33	177	93	22
Horsham Angels II	14	8	3	3	68	44	151	111	19
ATH Cardiff	14	6	5	3	66	46	147	115	17
Gridfine St Neots	14	7	3	4	65	47	145	120	17
Kingshurst Bribar	14	7	1	6	55	57	133	129	15
Jolliffe Poole	14	5	3	6	50	62	122	137	13
Leckie TTC	14	3	3	8	50	62	123	145	9
Shelfield	14	-	-	14	15	97	56	204	-
Division 3 East									
Chelmsford League	14	12	2	-	82	30	183	89	26
Fellows Cranleigh	14	9	2	3	81	31	176	84	20
Greenleys of M.K.	14	7	2	5	64	48	144	113	16
MacDonalds Barnets II	14	7	1	6	58	54	137	119	15
Byng Hall II	14	3	6	5	48	64	118	151	12
Rejects Colts	14	5	1	8	41	71	104	156	11
Team Peniel II	14	3	2	9	44	68	101	156	8
Ashford (Middlesex)	14	-	4	10	30	82	84	179	4
Division 3 Midlands and West									
Team JUIC Nottingham Lge	12	10	1	1	71	25	155	77	21
DML Launceston III	12	9	-	3	65	31	144	84	18
Wiltshire TTA	12	6	2	4	54	42	127	102	14
BFL Grove Colts II	12	4	3	5	44	52	102	120	11
Uxbridge Burton II	12	4	3	5	42	54	98	120	11
Shelfield II	12	2	1	9	32	64	85	138	5
Bromsgrove	12	1	2	9	28	68	77	147	4
Division 3 North									
City of Leeds II	12	9	2	1	67	29	148	72	20
Humberside II	12	8	-	4	62	34	136	92	16
CWS Manchester	12	8	-	4	58	38	128	93	16
AALCO Leeds	12	6	1	5	49	47	118	104	13
Darlington IV	12	4	1	7	43	53	103	122	9
Drumchapel Glasgow III	12	4	-	8	39	57	92	127	8
BFL Grove Colts I	12	1	-	11	18	78	47	162	2
Division 3 South									
JAGS S C	14	12	2	-	85	27	183	76	26
McDonalds Barnets	14	9	3	2	73	39	163	105	21
Graham Spicer	14	7	3	4	57	55	135	126	17
Progress WHS	14	7	2	5	58	54	132	134	16
Generation 2 Fareham	14	5	2	7	54	58	135	139	12
Rejects	14	3	3	8	47	65	114	146	9
OLOP II	14	4	-	10	43	69	109	153	8
Adeyfield	14	-	3	11	31	81	85	177	3

England star Andrew Eden, who fought like a tiger in Bratislava, will be leaving Peniel next season to play in the Belgium National League.

Richard Eaton & John Woodford report from Kettering

The **BEST & MOST** *English*

IT WAS THE FIRST TOURNAMENT IN THE SPORT'S FIRST PRO-TOUR CIRCUIT. IT WAS ARGUABLY THE BEST AND MOST IMPORTANT ENGLISH OPEN IN ITS 61-YEAR HISTORY. AND IT WAS PACKED WITH SO MANY SURPRISES THAT YOU WONDERED WHICH TOP PLAYER WOULD NEXT BITE THE DUST.

Out went the second-seeded former world number one Geng Lijuan, beaten by a dynamic 17 year-old Wang Hui, another in the seemingly endless conveyor belt of Chinese stars. And out went the Seoul Olympic gold medallist Chen Jing, beaten in the final 21-14, 11-21, 21-16, 21-18 by Yang Ying, an 18 year-old Chinese high riser.

Note this name of philosophical opposites - she creates a fusion of attacking skills, a hypnotic high toss serve and a killing quick flat follow-up, which should carry her to even bigger titles than this.

Then out went the world number one Jean-Michel Saive, completely outplayed in his first tournament since regaining the top spot. The muscularly aggressive Belgian was shrugged aside 21-13, 21-13, 21-12 by Wang Tao, the left-hander built like a Mackeson barrel.

Saive, often strangely subdued had nearly lost the day before to Lu Lin, the man with whom Wang Tao won the men's doubles gold medal in the Barcelona Olympics. It hardly seemed possible that these two should then lose the men's doubles final to the Austrians, Werner Schlager and Karl Jindrak.

Schlager however is a greatly

**China's
Kong Linghui.
Mens Singles
winner.**



**China's
Yang Ying.
Womens
Singles winner.**



improved player and Jindrak supported him well in a 21-17, 22-20 triumph that overwhelmed the underdogs with delight. It provided Europe with its only success.

After this it looked for a while as though the women's doubles, in which Yang Ying gained her second title, in partnership with Wang Hui, would provide the only top seed to win an English Open title. They won it by beating their Chinese compatriots Li Ju and Wu Na, but had to save a match point to do it

**WORDS BY:
RICHARD EATON
THE TIMES
AND
JOHN WOODFORD
DAILY TELEGRAPH**

**WORDS AND
PICTURES BY
JOHN WOOD
TABLE TENNIS NEWS**



Executive Vice President of the ITTF George Segun from Nigeria (centre), presents Bronze medals for the under 21 Singles to England's Nicola Deaton (left) & Alex Perry.

before squeezing through 16-21, 22-20, 24-22.

The exit door was very nearly shown to the world men's singles champion Kong Linghui as well. King Kong, who had been such a star in China's tour of England the previous winter, twice found himself two games down on his return to this country.

First he recovered to beat the hard-hitting Petr Korbel or the Czech Republic 15-21, 18-21, 21-17, 21-12, 21-13 in the quarter-finals, and then in the final against Wang Tao he looked uncommitted and ineffectual as a big deficit again piled up.

But the world number three inexplicably went off the boil, missing with his ambitious hits when previously he had been forcing Kong back, and slipping fatalistically

IMPORTANT Open

away to a 12-21, 14-21, 21-14, 21-14, 21-14 defeat.

It was appropriate that the young world champion should win the inaugural tournament of the new world circuit. But it was not a convincing win, any more than the match provided convincing entertainment for the spectators. Both the all-Chinese singles were disappointing fare to serve up when there should have been a feast of great table tennis on such a momentous occasion.

SECURE FORTRESS

Combining the 1996 English Open with the opening round of the ITTF Professional Tour is a massive move forward and will surely make the ITTF a more secure fortress.

Credit is due to the ETTA management and the professional staff for putting the tournament together at the Kettering Arena in a record eight weeks.

I doubt if anyone in the sport has been busier in the sport than the Events Manager Mike Johns; not forgetting the other professionals at Hastings led by chief executive Richard Yule.

Although China dominated the last world championships in Tianjin, they are still not so secure (apart from women) when playing away. This is mainly because happily, three men in Europe have the capability of mounting high-octane performances to beat them - Jean-Michel Saive, Jan-Ove Waldner and Jean-Philippe Gatien. Other players are making progress towards beating the Asians - Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus), Petr Korbel (Czech Republic) and Werner Schlager (Austria). All are capable of beating the top Chinese during this

ITTF PRO-TOUR POINTS 1996

MEN'S SINGLES		44 ERLANDSEN G A NOR		10 42 BUSIN Sandra ENG		10 13 BROE Alison/DEATON N ENG		40			
Player Name	Ass	Points	45 NAKATA Norihide JPN	10 43 TAKAKUSA Yuki JPN	10 14 TU Yong/BUSIN Sandra SUI	40	15 MUTLU N/TEMIZKALP B TUR	40	16 HANGSTMAN E/MULLER M NED	40	
1 KONG Linghui	CHN	220	46 VISVERBERG Ronald NED	10 44 ANDERSSON Kajsa SWE	10 15 MUTLU N/TEMIZKALP B TUR	40	16 HANGSTMAN E/MULLER M NED	40	17 OZER C/HUBERT M BEL	20	
2 WANG Tao	CHN	180	WOMEN'S SINGLES		45 RADFORD Linda ENG	10 16 HANGSTMAN E/MULLER M NED	40	17 OZER C/HUBERT M BEL	20	18 DOTI M/KOSAKA L BRA	20
3 Saive Jean-Michel	BEL	110	1 YANG Ying CHN	220 MEN'S DOUBLES	17 OZER C/HUBERT M BEL	20	18 DOTI M/KOSAKA L BRA	20	19 DELLE N/WOLF N GER	20	
4 ROSSKOPF Jorg	GER	110	2 CHEN Jing TPE	160 1 SCHLAGER Werner/	18 DOTI M/KOSAKA L BRA	20	20 SAKATA Ai/TAKAKUSA Yuki JPN	20	21 GAJIC J/AUGUSTSSON V SWE	20	
5 MA Wenge	CHN	70	3 CHAI Po Wa HKG	110 2 WANG Tao/LU Lin CHN	160 20 SAKATA Ai/TAKAKUSA Yuki JPN	20	21 GAJIC J/AUGUSTSSON V SWE	20	22 WEIKERT S/HOFMANN T GER	20	
6 LU Lin	CHN	70	4 TIMINA Elena RUS	110 3 KONG L /MA Wenge CHN	110 21 GAJIC J/AUGUSTSSON V SWE	20	22 WEIKERT S/HOFMANN T GER	20	23 NORDENBERG Linda/ANDERSSON Kajsa	20	
7 SCHLAGER Werner	AUT	70	5 LI Ju CHN	70 4 SAIVE J M / SAIVE P BEL	110 22 WEIKERT S/HOFMANN T GER	20	23 NORDENBERG Linda/ANDERSSON Kajsa	20	ITTF PRO-TOUR FINALS		
8 KORBEL Petr	CZE	70	6 VRIESKOOP Bettine NED	70 5 ROSSKOPF J /FETZNER S GER	70 23 NORDENBERG Linda/ANDERSSON Kajsa	20	Qualification and Point System				
9 YANG Min	ITA	40	7 WU Na CHN	70 6 KORBEL P /PLACHY J CZE	70	The top 16 men and 16 women who have					
10 SAIVE Philippe	BEL	40	8 WANG Hui CHN	70 7 YANG M/PIACENTINE V ITA	70	accumulated the largest number of points in ITTF					
11 PREAN Carl	ENG	40	9 GENG Lijuan CAN	40 8 NOSKOV S/FADEEV E RUS	70	Pro-Tour events qualify for the ITTF Pro-Tour					
12 DING Yi	AUT	40	10 JING Jun Hong SIN	40 9 DING Yi/QIAN Qianli AUT	40	Finals, included must be a player from the host association.					
13 FETZNER Steffen	GER	40	11 NI Xia Lian LUX	40 10 TASAKI T / YUZAWA R JPN	40	The top 8 men's pairs and 8 women's pairs who					
14 CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE	40	12 TU Yong SUI	40 11 SMREKAR R/LENGEROV KSLQ/AUT	40	have accumulated the largest number of points in					
15 TASAKI Toshio	JPN	40	13 XU Ling TPE	40 12 BENTSEN A / MONRAD M DEN	40	ITTF Pro-Tour events qualify for the ITTF Pro-Tour					
16 HOYAMA Hugo	BRA	40	14 PALINA Irina RUS	40 13 STENBERG M /MOLIN M SWE	40	Finals, included must be a pair from the host association.					
17 QIAN Qianli	AUT	20	15 ARISI Alessia ITA	40 14 ERLANDSEN G/WINTHER S NOR	40	The position of players with the same number of					
18 COOKE Alan	ENG	20	16 BACHTINA Svetlana RUS	40 15 HE Zhi Wen/CASARES R ESP	40	points is determined by their place on the Epson					
19 KADIRI Kayode	SWE	20	17 MELNIK Galina RUS	20 16 FEJER-KONNERTH Z/BOLL T GER	40	World Ranking List current at the time.					
20 BENTSEN Allan	DEN	20	18 HOLT Andrea ENG	20 17 KADIRI K/HAKANSSON F SWE	20	Players will accumulate points according to the					
21 PLACHY Josef	CZE	20	19 NOOR Emily NED	20 18 COOKE Alan/EDEN Andrew ENG	20	following table.					
22 HAKANSSON Fredrik	SWE	20	20 OKAZAKI Keiko JPN	20 19 MONDELLO M/NANNONI L ITA	20	The points gained by each player or pair will be					
23 SHYMREV Maxim	RUS	20	21 MATSUOKA Rika JPN	20 20 YALDIZ Gurhan/ERAN Ilhan TUR	20	increased according to the number of Continents					
24 SMREKAR Robert	SLO	20	22 CHEN Chiu-Tan TPE	20 21 CAENARO S/LUNDQVIST J LUX/SWE	20	in which they have participated as follows:					
25 LENGEROV Kostadin	AUT	20	23 PRUSIENE Jolanta LTU	20 22 OLDFIELD Chris/PERRY Alex ENG	20	Prize Fund Distribution					
26 YUZAWA Ryo	JPN	20	24 CHIU Barbara CAN	20 23 VAN VANLUCKENROYE Davy/OE BRUIN	20	Pro-Tour Finals					
27 MILLER Thierry	SUI	20	25 GARKAUSKAITE Ruta LTU	20 24 TACHIFUJI S/MINAGAWA K JPN	20	Women's Singles					
28 STENBERG Mattias	SWE	20	26 SAKATA Ai JPN	20 25 Meryn BEL/NED	20	1 \$34,000 \$24,000					
29 MASSART Sebastien	BEL	20	27 WOLF Nina GER	20 26 YANG Ying/WANG Hui CHN	220	2 \$17,000 \$12,000					
30 PERRY Alex	ENG	20	28 DEATON Nicola ENG	20 27 LI Ju/WU Na CHN	160	3-4 \$8,000 each (2) \$6,000 each (2)					
31 HE Zhi Wen	ESP	20	29 LOWER Helen ENG	20 28 CHEN Jing/CHEN Chiu-Tan TPE	110	5-8 \$4,000 each (4) \$3,000 each (4)					
32 BOLL Timo	GER	20	30 AUGUSTSSON V SWE	20 29 OKAZAKI K/MATSUOKA R JPN	110	9-16 \$2,000 each (8) \$1,500 each (8)					
33 YALDIZ Gurhan	TUR	10	31 MULLER Melisa NED	20 30 JING Jun Hong/XU Jing SIN/TPE	70	Men's Doubles					
34 MONDELLO M	ITA	10	32 BROE Alison ENG	10 31 TIMINA Elena/PALINA Irina RUS	70	Women's					
35 EDEN Andrew	ENG	10	33 OZER Cecile BEL	10 32 BACHTINA S/MELNIK G RUS	70	Doubles					
36 SCHROEDER Thomas	GER	10	34 DOTI Monica BRA	10 33 NI Xia Lian/REGENWETTER PLUX	70	1 \$8,000 per pair \$6,000 per pair					
37 JINDRAK Karl	AUT	10	35 HUBERT Martine BEL	10 34 VRIESEKOOP B/NOOR E NED	40	2 \$4,000 per pair \$3,000 per pair					
38 TORRES Daniel	ESP	10	36 KOSAKA Lymanne BRA	10 35 GENG Lijuan/CHIU Barbara CAN	40	3-4 \$2,000 each pair (2) \$1,500 each pair					
39 KEINATH Thomas	GER	10	37 EDEL Ekaterina RUS	10 36 GENG Lijuan/CHIU Barbara CAN	40						
40 BILLINGTON Bradley	ENG	10	38 REGENWETTER Peggy LUX	10 37 ARISI Alessia/HOLT Andrea ITA/ENG	40						
41 GONZALES Raymond	NOR	10	39 DELLE Nicole GER	10 38 PRUSIENE Jolanta/GARKAUSKAITE	2						
42 WARD Stephen	WAL	10	40 GAJIC Jelena SWE	10 39 RUTA Ruta LTU	40						
43 PIACENTINI Valentino	ITA	10	41 HOEMANN Tanja GER	10							



England's Penny Perry receives the veteran women's singles trophy from ITTF Executive Vice President George Segun.



Runa Nishikawa from Butterfly Japan meets Tees Sport's John Miller.

tour and even more important to England, helping to stop any Chinese stronghold in Manchester next April - they have the monopoly of the Chinese take-aways in Manchester, but we do not want them making off with ITTF World Trophies!

Schlager's scorching cross-court drives especially helped the Austrians win the Kettering men's doubles. His victims (with Karl Jindrak) included the former world champions Roskopf and Fetzner 18, 21, Kong/Ma Wenge -19, 15, 19 in the semi-finals and in the final 17, 20 against Wang Tao and Lu Lin - without doubt an almost incredible show in which much credit must go to Jindrak as he took amazing half-share in three victories over possibly, the best three men's doubles pairs on earth.

Leaving aside a few "withdrawals" around 270 players appeared at Kettering - 160 in the 30 national teams and over a hundred English Association players.

Sweden, Germany and England are three European nations who have the same major problem - ageing

star players. Sweden sent eight young or youngish men and four young women to Kettering - none advanced beyond the second round of the singles.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

The Chinese did not of course, send their two top world rankers Deng Yaping and Quio Hong. Instead, we saw Yang Ying (no 7), Li Ju (no 8), Wu Na (20) and Wang Hui (22). Three of them reached the quarter finals - Wu, Li and Wang. But also prominent at that point were top seed Chen Jing (Taipei), Chai Po Wa (HongKong), the evergreen Bettine Vreisekoop (of Playboy fame) from Holland and Elena Timina formerly with the Grove club. Elena, newly signed for a French club next season (money up front) had a great tournament that included a classic 80-minute duel with Andrea Holt played mainly under expedite rules, 17, -21, -12, 11, 15.

Andrea has a good record against Elena - fans who ventured to Thornaby fifteen months ago at the

last English Open will recall that our Lancashire all-rounder was the victor there over Timina going on to the final.

DISAPPOINTING INJURIES

The absence through injury of both of England's top defenders Matthew Syed and Lisa Lomas was most disappointing for English fans and might have caused some to stay away.

Lisa Lomas's shoulder injuries have been caused by years of toil. The best we can hope for is that she will be fit enough to put up a world-class show both in Bratislava and Atlanta.

Nicola Deaton and Linda Radford both seem to be making progress toward regular places in the England squad.

For the first time, Linda Radford's name appeared in a Daily Telegraph headline as she and Nicola reached the third stage. Peter Radford's comment was "About time".

Inevitably in such elite company, both girls fell by the wayside - Nicky to Wu Na 14, 17, 11 and Linda to Germany's Nina Wolf but, only after a titanic battle that nearly reached five games - Wolf went through -14, 18, 18, 20.

The shocks at Kettering included the defeat of the world no 1 Jean-Michel Saive who incredibly seemed to run out of ideas losing by an astonishing -13, -13, -12 to the 29-years cube-shaped Wang Tao in the quarter.

I cannot recall Jean-Michel losing so comprehensively by those sort of scores.

Europe's other hope Jorg

Roskopf seemed to be on a winning roll as he upset Ma Wenge 16, 20. In the semi-finals however, the German ace found the world champion Kong too silky, going under 15, 16, 11.

MAGIC?

One of the outstanding features of the tournament as I saw it, was the uncanny ability of Kong Linghui to recover from the most threatening deficits - does this man possess a magic ingredient? In the quarters Kong was not only two games down when playing Petr Korbel but also 8-1 down in the third, before recovering to win 13. The final against Wang Tao saw Kong, playing mainly conventional top-spin backhand but again losing the first games -12, -14. And then almost to his coach's order bouncing back to win 14, 14, 14. Dope controllers whipped the champion away immediately after the final leaving journalists trying hard to get a quote from the loser who said "Playing against your team-mate in a big final is very hard, because you know each other's game so well. But he is nine years younger than me - I feel I am playing fairly well at the age of 29"

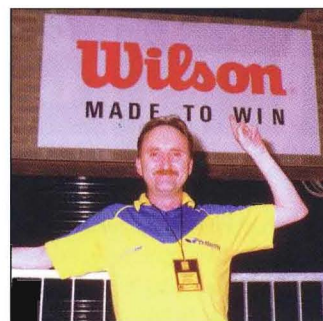
THE 1997 VENUE?

The odds are 6-4 on that the 1997 English Open which will be in January, will be staged again at the Kettering Arena? The hall is excellent, Kettering is central and the centre staff were very helpful.

Given more time the hotel situation could be improved with better transport between the hotels and the venue.



Belgium's Martine Hubert.



Keith Wilson always a winner as the Venue Director.

U21 BRONZE FOR PERRY AND DEATON

Two English stars of the future, Alex Perry and Nicola Deaton, stirred the hearts of the English supporters when they both won a bronze medal each in the Under 21 competition.

In the Men's Under 21 Singles semi-finals Perry lost to Sweden's Fredrik Hakansson, in a tight match, 21, -13, -16, whilst Deaton went down to Ruta Garkauskaite from Lithuania 7, 13.

Perry had a very good win over Sweden's Jens Lundqvist in the Quarter-finals, 15, 21 and Deaton

also had an impressive win beating Japan's Yuki Takakusa 5, 19.

The Men's Under 21 Singles final was an exciting affair, with Japan's Ryo Yuazawa taking the opening game comfortably 14. But with sheer speed and talent Sweden's Hakansson fought back magnificently to take the second 13, and led 10-7 in the decider, before Yuzawa clawed his way back into the match and as his confidence grew he attacked his way to victory, winning 21-15.

The Women's Under 21 Singles final was won by Japan's Keiko Okazaki, when she beat Garkauskaite in two. But the girl from Lithuania did make a fight of it in the first leg, before losing 19-21, then she drifted out of the battle before losing the second 12-21.

VETERAN GOLD FOR HILTON & PERRY

John Hilton and Penny Perry made history by winning the very first English Open Veteran Gold Medals at the first ITTF Pro Tour Event.

Hilton won a noisy, bad tempered final against his old rival Nigel Eckersley.

Hilton won the first 22-20 then Eckersley bounced back to take the second 21-12. The third and deciding leg degenerated into verbal abuse, which resulted in Eckersley conceding the English Open title to Hilton.

The bad behaviour in this Men's Veterans final did a disservice to the good name of the English Open.

Thankfully, the Veteran Women's final was a much more gentele affair, which saw Devon's Penny Perry win a marathon pushing battle against Cheshire's Doreen Schofield 17, -10, 22.

The real drama came in the third leg where Perry took what looked like a winning 20-15 lead, but Schofield was far from finished as she dug in and pushed her way back to deuce.

It then swung each way until 23-22 in favour of Perry, then with both women too scared to attack they patiently pushed the ball back to one another for what seemed like an eternity, something like ten minutes, before Perry won Gold 24-22. And

immediately Doreen shook Penny's hand with a big smile on her face.

The most interesting Veteran's match was in the Men's Veteran Singles, between Switzerland's Herbert Neubauer and Derek Wood from Essex, which saw the Swiss man win in two 11 and 18 with his combination bat, Yung long pimples OX and Toni Hold antispin, which confused the man from Essex. But Lancashire's Phil Bowen stopped Neubauer's march to the final by narrowly beating him in a quarter-final marathon -19, 15, 19.



England's John Hilton Veteran Men's Singles winner.

61st ENGLISH OPEN RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES
Final: KONG Linghui (CHN) bt WANG Tao (CHN) -12, -14, 14, 14, 14
Semi Final: Kong bt Roskopf (GER) 15, 16, 11; Wang bt Saive JM (BEL) 13, 13, 12

WOMEN'S SINGLES
Final: YANG Ying (CHN) bt CHEN Jing (TPE) 14, -11, 16, 18
Semi Final: Yang bt Chai (HKG) 19, 12, -19, 19; Chen bt Timina (RUS) 18, 15, 19

MEN'S DOUBLES
Final: SCHLAGER Werner/JINDRAK (AUT) bt WANG Tao/LU Lin (CHN) 17, 20
Semi Final: Schlager/Jindrak bt Kong/Ma (CHN) -19, 15, 19; Wang/Lu bt Saive JM/Saive P (BEL) 16, 12

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
Final: YANG Ying/ANG Hui (CHN) bt LI Ju/WU Na (CHN) -16, 20, 22
Semi-Final: Yang/Wang bt Okazaki/Matsuoka (JPN) 9, 12; Li/Wu bt Chen J/Chen C T (TPE) 11, 12

MEN'S U21 SINGLES
Final: YUZAWA RYO (JPN) bt HAKANSSON (SWE) 14, -13, 15
Semi Final: Yuzawa bt Monrad (DEN) -18, 17, 13; Hakansson bt Perry (ENG) -21, 13, 16

WOMEN'S U21 SINGLES
Final: OKAZAKI Keiko (JPN) bt GARKAUSKITE Ruta (LTU) 19, 12
Semi Final: Okazaki bt Augustsson (SWE) 3, 16; Garkauskite bt Deaton (ENG) 7, 13

MEN'S VETERAN SINGLES
Final: HILTON John (ENG) bt ECKERSLEY Nigel (ENG) 20, -12 conceded
Semi Final: Hilton bt Welsman (ENG) -18, 15, 19; Eckersley bt Bowen (ENG) 15, 12

WOMEN'S VETERAN SINGLES
Final: PERRY Penelope (ENG) bt Doreen Schofield (ENG) 17, -10, 22
Semi Final: Perry bt Maltby (ENG) 12, -17, 19; Schofield bt Thomas (ENG) 8, 20



Austria's Karl Jindrak & Werner Schlager.

CHANCE *of a* LIFETIME

The TOP Programmes are a major part of the NJSP and are being lead and managed by a new registered charity the Youth Sport Trust. This body has been set up to work with the Sports Council, National Governing Bodies of sport (ie. ETTA) and other partners to introduce quality sports programme into schools and the community. These will provide a progression (pathway) for every child from learning core skills and fun sport at four years old in schools through to supporting elite performers in a club environment. The objective is to enable every young person to go as far as he/she wants to or is capable of being on the sporting ladder.

Sports personality Duncan Goodhew is involved in the development of the Youth Sport Trust and believes that by creating a link pathway the chance element of a young person reaching their sporting potential can be significantly reduced or eliminated. Goodhew maintains that he became Olympic Champion more by accident than design. Appropriate access to regular practice and training facilities, coaching, sports science/medicine, financial support etc. were not always readily available to him.

THE TOP PROGRAMMES TOP PLAY

- Core skills (not sports specific) and fun sport for 4-9 year olds
- BT TOP Sport (launched in April 1996)
- Introducing sport and games to 7-11 year olds (Table Tennis one of only seven initial sports) through provision of equipment, activity cards and training.
 - Champion coaching
- Improving the performance of 11-14 year olds
- TOP Club - helping clubs build a future in sport for children of all ages

A SPORTS COUNCIL INITIATIVE, THE NJSP IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP SPORT IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE. YOUNG PEOPLE IS ONE OF THREE SPORTS COUNCIL PRIORITIES (DEVELOPMENT OF EXCELLENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL LOTTERY ARE THE OTHER TWO) WHICH FITS IN PERFECTLY WITH WORK TABLE TENNIS HAS BEEN DOING WITH WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUES



BT TOP Sport will initially be delivered by specially trained teachers in primary schools during curriculum time. ETTA trained tutors will play a vital part in supporting the continued delivery. The scheme complements elements of the national curriculum and is co-ordinated by the local education authority. To ensure a corporated approach the ETTA RDO's/RPO's have been designated the Table Tennis contacts and all queries relating to the scheme should be addressed to them. They have been trained and briefed to include young people as priority areas of their work programme.

BT TOP SPORT EQUIPMENT BAG CONTENTS

- 30 bats
- 48 practise balls
- 7 moulded nets
- 15 jumbo balls and resource material

The Table Tennis element was thought through very carefully to

maximise the impact of BT TOP Sport and close consultation between the ETTA and ESTTA has resulted in a fantastic programme utilising the stand alone moulded net idea (developed from an idea used by ESTTA President John Arnold) suitable for small plastic top tables and PE benches that a majority of primary schools have.

TOP CLUB

TOP Club Table Tennis will aim to help develop a strong club structure in England. BT TOP SPORT will introduce thousands of young people to Table Tennis - that is the easy bit

- What happens next? How will Table Tennis take advantage of new young people wanting to play? Clubs willing and able to take on new players need to be in place - Clubs that can offer an exciting range of activities, a warm welcome and generally a positive Table Tennis experience. If that happens young people will be attracted into the sport - some for a lifetime. If we cannot provide places to play Rugby will or Tennis will... we cannot sit back. The ETTA recognises this is a tall order but are fully committed to putting energy and resources into making it happen - are you?

Clubs interested in getting involved should contact their RDO or the ETTA at Hastings to register their interest (additionally more TOP Club details will be featured in following issues).

Maybe this is Table Tennis's big chance to transform the sport.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Due to resignation of present incumbent, the ETTA seeks a



SOUTHERN



Regional Table Tennis Development Officer

(Full time 18 months approx. fixed term contract)

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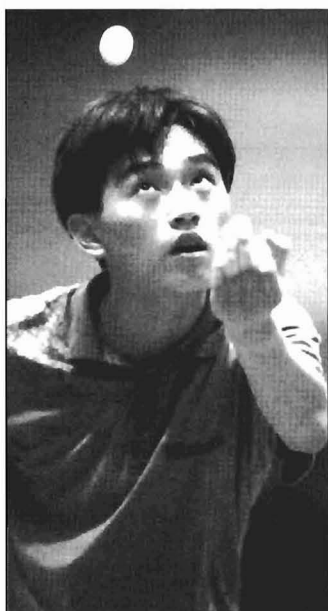
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CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS June 17th 1996

Job description and application form available from:
Doreen Nightingale
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF
Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103

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



WORLD *Champion Returns to* TOP SPOT

WORLD CHAMPION RETURNS TO TOP SPOT

KONG LINGHUI RETURNED TO THE NUMBER ONE POSITION IN THE EPSON MEN'S WORLD RANKING LIST FOLLOWING HIS FINAL VICTORY OVER CHINESE COLLEAGUE WANG TAO IN THE FINAL OF THE MEN'S SINGLES AT THE ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT KETTERING FROM 4-8 APRIL 1996.

RACKET COVERINGS

The ITTF has reinstated the racket covering produced by BANDA named WALDI and WALDI CLIC. The covers are authorised until July 1996.

TABLE TENNIS CAMP

To be held in Davos, Switzerland from 8-13 July 1996. For further information contact - IM HIRSHALM 49, CH - 4125 RIEHEN, SWITZERLAND, Tel 41 61 6017487 or Fax 41 61 6011334.

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The ITTF receives request for suitable coaches to organise sessions, coaches courses, etc from member Associations. Experienced coaches who are prepared to provide high level coaching, take coaches courses, or hold seminars for these Associations, are invited to enrol on the Register. Contact the ITTF at 53 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. Tel 01424 721414 for further details.

NEW USA MAGAZINE

The well established "Table Tennis Today" has a new Editor - Tricia Downing. Cost reasons are given for the removal of former Editor, Larry

Hodges. Larry has now produced his own magazine, "Table Tennis World". Both publications provide an excellent read with full coverage of US and international events. For the official journal write to USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, USA, and for the brand new Table Tennis World write to Larry Hodges, 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rochville, MD 20852, USA. Subscription Rates: Table Tennis Today \$19 for one year. Table Tennis World \$20 for one year or \$35 for two years. Both magazines issue six issues a year. Highly recommended.

WORLD RANKINGS

As well as those shown in the Mens and Womens Top 50, England's other players listed are Alan Cooke (66), Desmond Douglas (76), Andrew Eden (162), Jonathan Taylor (197), Bradley Billington (212), Alex Perry (254), Terry Young (403) - Andrea Holt (66), Alison Broe (84), Nicola Deaton (208) and Helen Lower (216).

TT News acknowledge the help of the ITTF in the preparation of this report.

EPSON WORLD RANKINGS

EPSON Men's World Ranking				EPSON Women's World Ranking			
1	2	1897	KONG Linghui CHN	1	1	1970	DENG Yingying CHN
2	1	1679	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL	2	2	1740	QIUQ Hong CHN
3	3	1675	WANG Tao CHN	3	4	1662	LIU Wei CHN
4	4	1645	WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE	4	3	1651	CHEN Jing TPE
5	5	1630	ROSSKOPF Jorg GER	5	7	1628	YANG Ying CHN
6	7	1617	LIU Gouliang CHN	6	9	1583	CHAI Po Wa HKG
7	6	1593	MA Wenqiang CHN	7	6	1578	GENG Lijuan CAN
8	8	1576	KIM Taek Soo KOR	7	5	1578	WANG Nan CHN
9	9	1575	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	9	8	1570	LI Ju CHN
10	11	1566	DING Song CHN	10	10	1568	KOYAMA Chie JPN
11	10	1557	GATIEN Jean-Phillippe FRA	11	11	1560	WANG Chen CHN
12	12	1549	PHIMORAC Zoran CRO	12	13	1551	QIUQ Yunting CHN
13	14	1490	KARLSSON Peter SWE	13	12	1527	CHEN Zhe CHN
14	13	1487	HUANG Johnny CAN	14	15	1510	STOSE Nicole GER
15	16	1474	YOO Nam Kyu KOR	15	14	1507	JING Jun Heng SIN
16	17	1469	GRUBBA Andrzej POL	16	16	1501	VBIESEKOPP Bettine NED
16	15	1469	PERSSON Jorgens SWE	17	17	1492	SCHOPF Jiri GER
18	19	1423	WANG Yongqiang CHN	18	18	1476	BATOHFI Csilla HUN
19	18	1416	YANG Mia ITA	19	19	1475	PARK Hae Jung KOR
20	20	1415	CHEN Xinquan ENG	20	20	1473	WU Na CHN
21	21	1404	CHILA Patrick FRA	21	21	1466	BAPESCU Oulha ROM
22	22	1400	LIU Lin CHN	22	22	1465	WANG Hua CHN
23	23	1390	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	23	24	1445	CHAN Yan Lin HKG
24	25	1378	ELDI Damien FRA	24	23	1441	W Xia Liang LUX
25	23	1375	LINDH Erik SWE	25	25	1440	TANG Fei Ming TPE
26	26	1369	KEEN Trinko NED	26	32	1436	RYU Ji Hye KOR
27	nr	1367	KIM Song Hui PRK	27	28	1431	COUSU Emilia ROM
27	27	1367	MAZLINOV Dmitriy RUS	28	38	1421	TJMINA Elena RUS
29	29	1361	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	29	27	1419	ABBATE-BILATONA Pihra ITA
30	28	1358	MAISUSHITA Koji JPN	30	29	1413	SVENSSON Asa SWE
31	33	1355	KORBEL Petr CZE	31	28	1407	TU Yung SUI
32	30	1347	SAIVE Philippe BEL	32	30	1405	PARK Kyung Ae KOR
33	30	1343	SHIBUTANI Hiroshi JPN	33	32	1396	ZHANG Ling CHN
34	32	1341	APPELGREN Mikael SWE	34	34	1392	KAZU Fumuyo JPN
35	36	1340	PREAN Carl ENG	35	36	1380	XU Jing TPE
36	34	1333	FRANZ Peter GER	36	36	1380	KIM Maq Kyu KOR
36	34	1333	LIN Zhigang CHN	37	30	1366	TODO Taeko JPN
38	37	1336	XIONG Ke CHN	38	37	1381	SVENSSON Marie SWE
39	36	1335	WANG Hao CHN	39	39	1370	PALINA Inna RUS
40	40	1325	SYED Matthew ENG	40	40	1365	TOTH Krisztina HUN
41	39	1324	LUPULESKU Ilija YUG	41	41	1363	HODMAN Mirjam NED
42	41	1322	FEN Zhe CHN	42	42	1361	NEVES Olga GER
43	42	1320	DING Yi AUT	43	43	1359	SATO Rika JPN
44	43	1319	CHENG Yinghua USA	44	47	1349	KIM Boon Sik KOR
45	44	1315	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL	44	45	1349	LI Hong CHN
46	46	1295	LEGOUT Christophe FRA	44	44	1349	WANG QIECHOU Xiaoming FRA
47	47	1285	FETZNER Steffen GER	47	46	1338	ARISI Alessia ITA
48	46	1285	YAM San CHN	48	48	1332	FENG Aily USA
49	49	1281	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE	49	49	1327	LAY Jian Fang AUS
50	61	1261	TASAKI Toshio JPN	50	49	1326	ZHU Fang CHN
				51	51	1319	LOMAS Lisa ENG

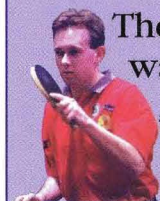
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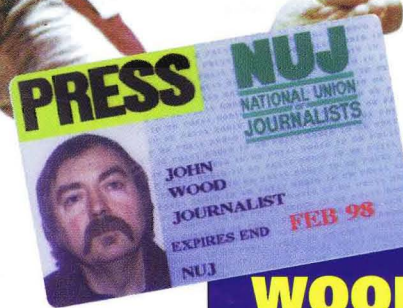
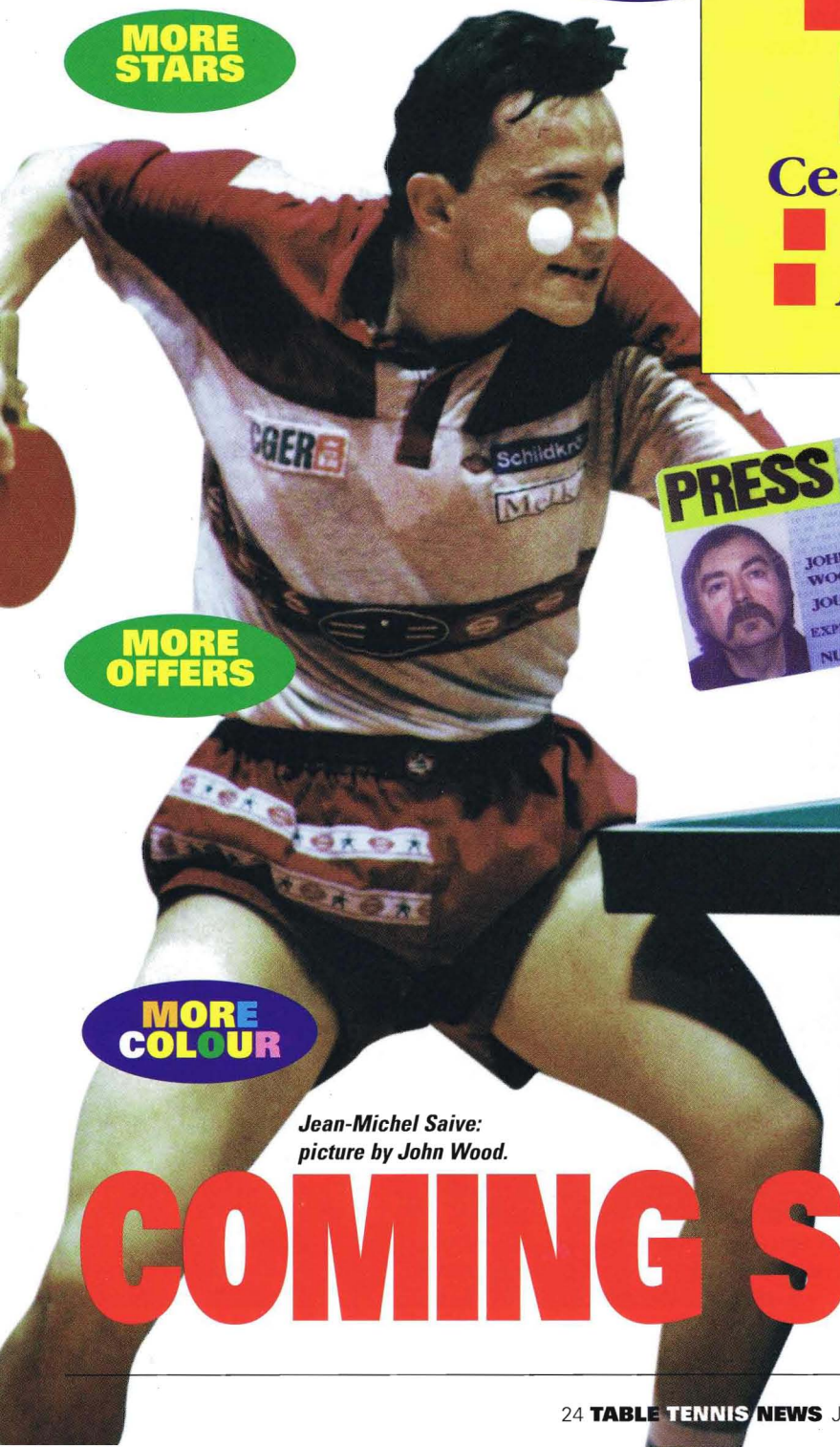
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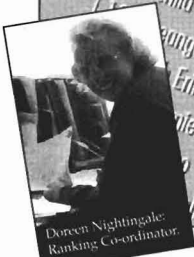
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EXT SEASON'S TTN

Report by Doug Moss

YORKSHIRE RETAIN Premier Junior Championship

YORKSHIRE RETAIN PREMIER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP THE FINAL SERIES OF JUNIOR PREMIER MATCHES WAS PLAYED AT ARMLEY, LEEDS. THE CURRENT CHAMPIONS YORKSHIRE HAD LOST TO MIDDLESEX IN THE FIRST SERIES OF MATCHES LAST OCTOBER.

But, on this occasion, on home ground they were invincible and with 3 good wins retained the Junior team title. Every member of the team Darren Ashall, Peter Marshall, David Smith, Nicola Smith, Nicola Silburn and Emma Smith - made an excellent contribution.

The Middlesex team played very well and earned the runner-up spot. They were the only team not to suffer a defeat. Middx had drawn matches against Surrey and Kent. Middx. finished level on points with Yorkshire but their sets won fell short of that achieved by Yorkshire. Yuki Gresswell (MI) was the only player to play in all matches and have 100% wins! Kent, who lost to Yorkshire and drew with Middx, took 3rd place in the final Table. They were followed by Surrey who in this final series, lost to Kent and Yorkshire but had wins over Essex and Sussex. Surrey also dropped points from drawn matches with Derby and Middx in the first series. Sussex came next with wins over Derby and Essex. The Derby team actually headed the Table after the first series but, without 3 of their leading players, lost the 4 matches in this final series but avoided relegation. Essex, rather surprisingly, failed to gain a point and will be relegated. There was the very unusual and

disappointing circumstance of a team withdrawing from the final series. This applied to Glamorgan who had lost all their matches in the first series.

The best individual performance came, as reported, from Yuki Gresswell (Mi) with 100% wins throughout the season. Emma Smith (Y) won 7 of her 8 events and Nicola Smith (Y) won the 4 events she played. The best performance of the boys came from Michael Isherwood (Dy) and Christian Thompson (K) who both won 10 of the 12 events they played.

RESULTS

DY 3	Y 7	SY 7	SX 3
K 6	SX 4	DY 2	K 8
SY 7	E 3	E 3	MI 7
MI 5	K 5	MI 7	DY 3
Y 9	SY 1	K 6	SY 4
SX 6	DY 4	Y 8	E 2

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Y	6	5	0	1	45	15	10
MI	6	4	2	0	36	24	10
K	6	4	1	1	34	26	9
SY	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
SX	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
DY	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
E	6	0	0	6	18	42	0
GN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

JUNR DIV 1:

HA1 8 BU1 2
This was the final match for the Division. Hants 8-2 win over Bucks gave them the runners-up spot. During the season Hants lost just once - to Devon 1st team, who have already been declared Divisional champions.

JUNR DIV 2A:

DU 5	LE 5	NG2 8	ND 2
NP2 0	LI 10	LA2 1	CW 9
NP1 6	WA2 4	LE 9	NP2 1

ND 5	DU 5	NP1 5	NG2 5
CW 9	LI 1	WA2 4	LA 6
LE 1	CW 9	NG2 5	DU 5
LI 7	WA2 3	ND 3	NP2 7
LA2 4	NP1 6		

15 matches were played at Grantham TT Centre to complete this Division. Clwyd was demoted from Div 1 last season but make a quick return after winning 9 matches whilst dropping only 7 events! They won their 3 matches in this series - each with a 9-1 margin. This included Lincs and Lancs 2nds who finish in 2nd and 3rd place. Clywd top 3 boys - Adam Robertson, Danny Harris and Geraint Williams - all had 100% success.

There were 4 drawn matches in this series - 3 of them involving Durham. Northants 2nds had a win against N'berland in their last match. This took them off the bottom of the Table and left N'berland in the last position with 1 point.

SENR DIV 1A:

WA2 2	DY 8	SK 2	ND 8
BU 5	WA 5	LA 2	Y 8
DY 8	ST2 2	DY 8	BU 2
ND 4	LA 6	Y 9	ST2 1
WA 7	SK 3	Y 9	SK 1
ST2 5	LA 5	ND 2	BU 8

The 12 matches to complete this Division were played at Shelfield School, Walsall. Yorkshire dominated the Div. with 7 wins whilst dropping just 8 events. It was obviously a very good team performance from Chris Oldfield, Michael O'Driscoll, Tim Dyson, Joanna Roberts and Debbie Toole. Debbie Toole followed up her splendid performance in the first series to win all her events, including 2 straight wins over Jill Harris and Maria Thornley. It will be good to see Yorkshire back on the

Premier scene next season.

There were some topsy-turvy results compared with the first series. Derby's obviously made a determined bid to get back to Premier status. Having collected just 1 point from the first series they won their 3 matches all with 8-2 scoreline. John Holland lost only once during the season and Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton had 100% success in the final series. But Derby had to be satisfied with 3rd place. The opposite was the case with Suffolk. Suffolk won their 4 matches in the first series and lost all 3 this time. But with 8 points Suffolk took the runners-up spot. Usually 3 matches are played in the first series and 4 in the final. The opposite applied in this case and obviously had an influence. An individual performance to mention came from Maria Thornley (LA) who played in all matches and only lost once.

SENR DIV 2B:

GS2 0	WO2 10	SO 3	WO1 7
-------	--------	------	-------

These two matches completed the fixtures for the Division. Worcs 2nds finished on a good note with a 10-0 win over Glos. 2nds. Worcs 1st team had a good 7-3 win on their visit to Somerset. This took the team to a final position of 3rd in the Table. Sandra Roden was again unbeaten and achieved 100% success throughout the season - the only player in the Division to do so.

SENR DIV 2D:

At the time of this report there is still one result to come - Berks 2nds v Bucks 2nds. Dorset played just one match throughout the season - the points from 6 matches were awarded to opponents.

The championship of the Division was won by Sussex 2nds who were unbeaten. Sussex 3rd team just



Triumphant Cheshire Veterans team pictured left to right, Mike Johns, Roger Hampson, Doreen Schofield, Dave Roberts & Brian Johns.

Pictured Below is Surrey's Dave Welsman who took top spot by winning all his 14 singles events.



edged out Kent to get the runners-up spot.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION CHESHIRE BACK ON TOP

The final series of the Veterans Premier Division matches was played at Ashford TTC. Cheshire had won their three matches in the first series and continued in great form with another four wins to take the championship (after a break of 2 seasons). This Division is very competitive and, certainly in the past few seasons, no team has gone through the programme unbeaten. Well done Cheshire!

Their hardest match was against Lancs which was won 5-4. Nigel Eckersley (La) won his two singles events. Cheshire's success was down to winning the two doubles events. Roger Hampson/Doreen Schofield beat David Newton/Sylvia Graham 17 and 19 and Mike and Brian Johns beat Nigel Eckersley and Phil Bowen 13 and 17! Doreen Schofield lost her singles to Sylvia Graham at 19 in the third game. Lancs won their other six matches and deservedly got the runners-up spot.

Surrey won five matches losing only to Cheshire and Lancs. It was a

close thing against Lancs. Phil Bowen (La) tipped the scales by winning his two singles including a win over Derek Holman at 24 in the third game! Dave Welsman did very well for Surrey winning his two singles, including a 13 and 17 win over Nigel Eckersley and, with Richard Yule, winning the doubles over Eckersley/Bowen 13 and 18.

Yorks finished 4th in the Table with four wins. They lost to the top three teams, Cheshire, Lancs and Surrey. Last season's champions, Dorset, dropped to 5th place. It is unusual to see Tony Clayton (Do) lost two singles in a match but this happened against Lancs with both Nigel Eckersley and Phil Bowen winning at 19 in the third games! Kent got wins against Essex and Herts to steer clear of relegation. Herts Div 1A champions last season, won one match and go back to Div 1 with Essex who failed to get a point. Essex were unlucky to lose four matches at 4-5

Looking at special performances, Dave Welsman (Sy) takes the top

spot winning all 14 singles events. Nigel Eckersley (La) lost only one and Phil Bowen (La) won 12 of 14. Helen Shields (Y) won the four singles she played. Mike and Brian Johns (Ch) were the tops in doubles being unbeaten throughout the whole programme. Nick Davies/Sandra Rider won their 5 mixed doubles matches. Roger Hampson/Doreen Schofield (Ch) won 5 of 6 mixed doubles and Tony Clayton/Brian Burn (Do) won 4 of 5 men's doubles events.

RESULTS

Y 3	SY 6	LA 5	SY 4
CH 5	LA 4	Y 5	DO 4

HE 3	DO 6	CH 6	K 34
E 4	K 5	HE 6	E 3
DO 1	CH 8	DO 3	LA 6
LA 6	Y 3	E 3	CH 6
K 8	HE 1	K 3	Y 6
SY 5	E 4	SY 5	E 4
SY 5	HE 4		

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
CH	7	7	0	45	18	14
LA	7	6	1	43	20	12
SY	7	5	2	36	27	10
Y	7	4	3	31	32	8
DO	7	3	4	28	35	6
K	7	2	5	25	38	4
HE	7	1	6	20	43	2
E	7	0	7	24	39	0

VETS DIV 2A:

LA2 4 Y2 5
This is a final result for the Division. It was a hard fought match with three events decided at 20 and 19 in the third games. Lancs profited from two of these wins but at match score 4-4 Steve Kosmonskey (Y) beat Derek Watmough (La) -17, 20, 16 to get the 5-4 win. Unbeaten Ches. 2nds had already been acclaimed as champions and Yorks 2nds finished as runners-up.

A look at the final tables with Leslie Smith

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 1995-6 compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS							Division 2D							Division 2C							Division 2B										
Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Sussex 2nd	8	8	0	0	64	16	16	Avon	8	6	2	0	57	23	14	Hertfordshire 2nd	7	7	0	0	48	15	14
Berkshire	7	6	1	0	48	22	13	Sussex 3rd	8	6	0	2	53	27	12	Glamorgan 3rd	8	6	2	0	56	24	14	Oxfordshire	7	6	1	0	48	15	12
Devonshire	7	5	2	0	44	26	12	Kent 2nd	8	6	0	2	53	27	12	Worcestershire	8	4	3	1	53	27	11	Essex 4th	7	4	3	0	35	28	8
Middlesex	7	3	1	3	39	31	7	Surrey 2nd	8	5	0	3	52	28	10	Somerset	8	3	4	1	44	36	10	Cambridgeshire	7	2	5	0	25	38	4
Essex	7	3	1	3	36	34	7	Hampshire 2nd	8	4	1	3	40	40	9	Gloucestershire	8	3	2	3	38	42	8	Bedfordshire 1st	7	2	5	0	25	38	4
Staffordshire	7	2	2	3	33	37	6	Berkshire 2nd	8	2	1	5	27	53	5	Devonshire 2nd	8	3	1	4	27	53	7	Berkshire 3rd	7	2	5	0	22	41	4
Sussex	7	3	0	4	32	38	6	Essex 3rd	8	1	1	6	34	46	3	Cornwall	8	1	3	4	34	46	5	Huntingdonshire	7	2	5	0	21	42	4
Leicestershire	7	2	1	4	33	37	5	Buckinghamshire 2nd	8	1	1	6	25	55	3	Wiltshire	8	0	2	6	28	52	2	Bedfordshire 2nd	7	2	5	0	19	44	4
Cambridgeshire	7	0	0	7	15	55	0	Dorset	8	1	0	7	12	68	2	Herefordshire	8	0	1	7	23	57	1								



CHILDISH

John Woodford
Eastbourne

The childish behaviour seen at Kettering in the veterans final from John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley must be terminated before the sport is dragged further into disrepute and potential sponsors look at other sports and discard table tennis completely. I understand that at one time John and Nigel were friends but in recent times their relationship has deteriorated to such an extent that the type of unsavoury circus we saw at the Kettering Arena is quite normal. Let us be constructive to help these gentlemen keep their differences of opinion out of sight. The people who pay to see table tennis do not expect to see balls being hit out of court instead of being returned to the server and a lot of verbal nonsense some of which can be heard by spectators some way away from the court. The English umpires do not seem to know what to do with these two players.

Because the feud has gone on for years, there should emerge a referee bold enough to report them and the ETTA Disciplinary Committee should then take action.

If that stage is reached, then the players might be wise enough to accept a severe reprimand on the lines that such behaviour will not in future be tolerated and that suspension might follow, bringing for John and Nigel perhaps a temporary end to these jolly vets tournament week-ends and other vets events, where they have become an embarrassment to officials, players and spectators.

When I watched John Hilton win the senior European Mens Singles title in Switzerland in 1980 I was full of admiration for his game as a whole.

Sixteen years on I can hardly believe that he needs to drag himself down to such juvenile behaviour that all administrators try to eliminate in the young players.

APOLOGY

John Hilton
Stockport

Having been in the game for over thirty years, I have never made any

comments in that time to either the Table Tennis News or the V.E.T.T.S. newsletter.

On this occasion having just returned from the English Open Championships, being disappointed with my own behaviour, I feel the need to express my point of view.

The rivalry between Nigel Eckersley and myself has always been fierce, but particularly since we both arrived on the VETTS scene.

In years gone by having tried several ways to contain the situation by concentrating only on the tactical methods, and not retaliating verbally, I eventually realised that this was detrimental to my game, owing to the fact that the constant verbal comments had an undermining effect.

None more so than in the worlds VETTS championships in Dublin, not only in my match, but also in other matches, other English VETTS were disappointed with Nigel's behaviour.

The follow up to these championships was at the English Open where once again the same verbal tactics were used, and having lost to Nigel Eckersley in the final, his first reaction after the final point was to jump on the table without shaking my hand and shook his fist in the air.

Driving home that evening, I realised I had a choice to make: either retire from the VETTS game or in my terms fight fire with fire.

Hence, over the past few seasons my mental state when facing Nigel Eckersley has been to give better verbal response in retaliation.

Although this has been detrimental to the way the game should be played, it has been adventurous to the fact that I have won the game more frequently, having won on the last three occasions.

I wish to apologise to all officials, particularly umpires and tournament referees and organisers, I'm disappointed that these events occur.

I feel that the only way to prevent recurrence is for the umpire to state at the beginning of each match between Nigel Eckersley and myself, that there is to be no verbal remarks other than when there is a net or an edge, otherwise complete

silence must be adhered to at all times.

If a verbal comment is made a point will be awarded to the other player.

END OF AN ERA

Sandra Roden
(Rodders!!!)

As most people will know, regretfully, the post of West Midlands Region Table Tennis Development Officer came to an end on 31 March 1996. This was due to a combination of reasons which I will not go into, but it is extremely disappointing that the post will not continue at the present time - I feel we have come a long way since September 1992, much has been achieved, but the potential for further progress is fantastic and I sincerely hope that, despite the lack of a professional development officer, table tennis within the West Midlands continues to grow via the many partnerships that have been established between local authorities, leagues and clubs.

I have had a great time working as Regional Development Officer over the past three and a half years - I have met and worked with some incredibly enthusiastic and committed volunteers within the Region and I would like to sincerely thank you all for your dedication and support of West Midlands Table Tennis Development.

I would particularly wish to acknowledge the incredible contribution of Jill Harris - our Regional Coaching Chairman and Regional Staff Coach. Much of the credit for our progress in the fields of coaching, performance and excellence and coach education is due to Jill's commitment to her positions - thanks Jill for all your enthusiasm, help, advice, support, micky-taking and friendship!

On 5 April 1996, prior to a seminar on the Youth Sport Trust being held at the English Open at Kettering, a presentation was made to me by Malcolm McFarlane (West Midlands Regional Chairman) on behalf of the

West Midlands Region, of a beautiful gold watch - this was totally unexpected and for once in my life I was speechless! My sincere thanks to all the leagues who contributed towards this gift - it was a wonderful surprise!

For the future, I have been lucky enough to secure the post as County Development Officer for the Lawn Tennis Association in Staffordshire commencing on 1 May - this is a very new and exciting challenge. However, I know for sure that I will continue to be involved in the sport that I love. I hope to continue playing (injuries permitting!) and coaching, and look forward to meeting up again with the many friends I have made over the past three and a half years. In the meantime, good luck for the future and keep up the good work!

MISTAKES

Doris Rivett
Lowestoft, Suffolk

As Secretary of the Lowestoft & District TT League, I often receive communications from the ETTA stressing the need to improve the image of table tennis. This is to be applauded particularly if we are to at least slow down the departure of players from the game. However, I cannot see how any image can be improved when our publicity material is so badly produced. In this instance I am referring to the information leaflet and booking form relating to the ETTA 61st English Open TT Championships. The first ITTF Pro-Tour event!

The mistakes appearing in just two paragraphs of this leaflet are:

1) The omission of the word THE in one sentence. 2) The failure to start a new sentence with a capital letter. 3) FORM appearing instead of FROM 4) THEW instead of THE However the piece-de-resistance is 5) That the world's stars were competing for a PLAICE in the finals!

Living in a fishing town, where the industry is being destroyed by EEC quotas and recession has hit harder here than the national average, I am hoping that Lowestoft at least will benefit from increased trade in fish supplies!



Brian Lamerton reports on the final weekend at Burton

BFL GROVE wins 7th title

Alison Broe, who together with Andrea Holt and Nicola Deaton played unchanged and unbeaten throughout at Burton was also a member of the first winning team, Linda Farrow. - quite a record. Only Gemma Schwartz (Hull Sandhill) who won the middle game against Andrea Holt, 25-23 managed to take a leg off the champions. In the crunch match for second place Hull were heading for a whitewash over South Kesteven Sovereigns when injury forced Sally Marling (returning after first week end absence) to concede the final set. The 5 love scoreline at that stage did not however tell the full story as each of the first 4 sets had gone to a third game before Hull triumphed. Nevertheless Schwartz and Marling together with Linda Radord and Samantha Marling were worthy runners up; only Samantha, who had just made a career move from Table Tennis administration to Squash lost outside the Grove 1 match. Welsh Ladies, already doomed to return to Division 1, by drawing their last match with BFL Grove 2 condemned their opponents to join them and enabled Olivetti Bribar to stay up. Last seasons relegated pair, Horsham TTC and Graham Spicer - never far from each other and invariably the last match to finish in the session when they meet - quickly return, Horsham as Division 1 champions despite losing 4-2 to their rivals; Emma Hurling for Horsham and Spicers Nicola Meddings both winning a brace in this match, Hurling with 8 from 10 at Burton and an overall 75% average being the divisions leading player. Sally Weston and Claire Moore who both won 11 from 20 overall completed the Horsham team who played unchanged throughout both week ends. Irish Ladies who had led at the half way stage fell away badly second

THE WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE COMPLETED ITS EIGHTH SEASON WHERE IT ALL BEGAN IN 1988 - MEADOWSIDE CENTRE, BURTON UPON TRENT - AND FOR THE SEVENTH SECESSIVE SEASON BFL GROVE (TOGETHER WITH THEIR FORMER TITLES) ARE PREMIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS WRITES BRIAN LAMERTON.

time out winning but 1 of 5 matches, 4-2 against bottom team Shinewater EBC, with Andrea Glover winning twice. Excitement mounted in division 2's last match with Pinewood Fullerialans

Crick, and Caroline and Sarah Seaholme (they were also much helped by Lesley Keast's 9 wins in the first week end). Woman of the week end, Hull's Claire Newsn lost only to Smith in her 10 sets and

action and in particular to Oakwood Ladies who travelled from Kent expecting five matches and got three only. Oakwood did participate in the longest match, every one of their 6 sets against Fast Track Norwich going to the third game, Oakwood winning 5 of them with final game scores of 22-20; 21-19; 21-18 (twice) and 21-13 with Norwich's one success being at 23-21 in the third! Generation 2 Fareham, selecting from Elaine Sayer (unbeaten), Lorna Dutch, Sarah Turner and Carly Scadden completed a double over Ashford TTC to take the title and will be joined in division 2 next season by Norton Ladies whose squad of Tracey Spencer, Julie Bickerton (top of the divisions averages) and Alison Taylor were also nominated "Team of the week end". To add to Taylor's week end memories she won her set against Ashfords Claire Plumridge at 30-28 in the third having taken the second 23-21! Superb support form Meadowsid and all ther sections of East Staffordshire Borough Council, the Chairman of Leisure, Councillor George Callister opening Saturday's proceedings and the Mayor, Councillor Peter Haynes presenting the prizes. Also present were Colin Jeffery and Keith Smith whose company Honeywell Control Systems Ltd presented a £500 sponsorship cheque. The league committee are anxious to restore the competition to its most popular format, that of 5 divisions each of 6 teams; any prospective new entrants (minimum 3 players) should in the first instance contact the organiser, Christine Lewis (0117 9620877). Next seasons provisional dates are September 14th/15th and February 1st/2nd with both venues likely to be in the Midlands.

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE FINAL POSITIONS

Team	P	W	D	L	S/F	S/A	PTS
Premier Division							
BFL Grove	10	10	0	0	59	1	20
Hull Sandhill I	10	6	2	2	36	24	14
S. Kesteven Sovereigns I	10	5	2	3	31	29	12
Olivetti Bribar	10	2	2	6	18	42	6
BFL Grove II	10	1	4	5	23	37	6
Welsh Ladies	10	0	2	8	13	47	2
First Division							
Horsham TTC	10	6	3	1	37	23	15
Graham Spicer	10	4	5	1	33	27	13
Bristol Ladies	10	3	5	2	33	27	11
Irish Ladies	10	4	2	4	29	31	10
View Fr. Grantham Gonerby	10	2	4	4	27	33	8
Shinewater E.B.C	10	0	3	7	21	39	3
Second Division							
Pinewood Fullerialans	10	8	0	2	42	18	16
Hull Sandhill II	10	7	2	1	41	19	16
Scottish Ladies	10	5	3	2	34	26	13
Sedgefield District	10	3	2	5	28	32	8
Team Juic	10	1	2	7	17	43	4
S. Kesteven Sovereigns II	10	1	1	8	18	42	3
Third Division - End of Round Robin							
Generation 2 Fareham	6	5	1	0	26	10	11
Ashford TTC	6	4	1	1	28	8	9
Norton Ladies	6	4	1	1	26	10	9
The Oaks Club	6	2	1	3	15	21	5
BFL Grove III	6	2	1	3	16	20	5
Oakwood Ladies	6	1	1	4	10	26	3
Fast Track Norwich	6	0	0	6	5	31	0
Third Division, Grp 1 - Final Result Season 1995/6							
Generation 2 Fareham	3	3	0	0	13	5	6
Norton Ladies	3	2	0	1	12	5	4
Ashford TTC	3	1	0	2	7	11	2
The Oaks Club	3	0	0	3	3	15	0
Third Division, Grp 2 - Final Result Season 1995/6							
Oakwood Ladies	2	1	1	0	9	3	3
Fast Track Norwich	2	1	1	0	9	3	3
BFL Grove III	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

finally defeating Hull Sandhill II by 4 sets to 2, an exact reversal of the first half score and thus a countback situation occurred with Pinewood edging it by 15 games to 14. Angela Smith won twice in this match for a Pinewood team completed by Lisa

shared the divisions top billing with Sarah Hurry of Scottish Ladies. Division 3 already reduced to 8 teams was further decimated by the late withdrawal of Robert Claire; sympathy for all those teams who had to sit out a session due to this

Cambridgeshire
BY ANDY HUBBLE

GOOD PERFORMANCES

The Cambridgeshire Closed Championships took place on Sunday 6th at Soham Sports Centre and with the equipment hired for the day the event was a credit to the organisers. Thanks should also go to the sponsors whose financial assistance enabled the tournament to be staged. Many of the events went according to plan but a few good performances were evident on the day.

Keith Richardson won the Mens Singles with a 18, 14 straight set win over David Lee, Keith also joined up with Mick Harper to take the Mens Doubles in two straight sets against Lee and Martin Livermore. The Mixed Doubles was the only defeat for Richardson and his partner Yvette Hooks losing to Harper and Alison Edge 19 and 11. Yvette then took the Ladies Singles title from Alison Edge with a three set win -15, 14 and 15, and then teamed up with Alison to ensure the doubles 13 and 12 against C Shaw and Gwen Stennett. The Veterans Singles saw Malcolm Stennett in fine form as he defeated Mick Harper 18 and 8 in the final. The Restricted Singles saw Martin Livermore a worthy winner 21-12, 21-13 over M Gray. Richard Ambrose edged out T Lane 43-41 in the Handicaps.

The junior events went very much to form with James Walton beating Matthew Knott in the U17 Boys Singles and Helen Charlton beating Helen Morris over three ends. The doubles went to Alan Bennett and Matthew Knott with a win over James Walton and Kelly Chapman.

All present on the day I am sure would join me in thanking Martin, Roy and Geoff for the organisation and efficient running of the tournament.

Clwyd
BY ROY WILLIAMS

CHAMPIONS.

Championship with a clinical performance at the South Kesteven T.T.C. to popular venue our juniors beat Lancashire 2nd, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire to remain unbeaten in all nine matches. Adam Robertson (Age 12), Geriant Williams (Age 13) were both unbeaten and Danny Harris only lost one set

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.

from sixteen games. Harris Steen only played four sets but won one set from sixteen games. Gareth Steen only played four sets but won them all. Julie Furber lost only one set with Delyth Davies winning ten of her twelve games. Joanne Adams (Age 12) in her first season won three of six games played. Congratulations to the team and N.P.C. Barry Robertson. Our thanks also to our umpire Jackie Williams.

SUCCESS FOR WREXHAM

Wrexham dominated the senior section of the North Wales league at Ysgol John Bright, Llandudno on Saturday, 13th April. Thirty 2-a-side matches were played in five divisions of four teams. Wrexham won all three of the Men's Divisions with Llandudno teams proving to be second best on each occasion. Paul Robertson and Danny Harris won the first division from Keith Williams and Chris Robson who played well at this level. Peter Gabriel and Welsh wheelchair champion Scott Robertson won division two with the Llandudno pairing of Daniel Farrar and Kevin James playing well in their first competition. Ian Robinson and George Tomlinson made a clean sweep for Wrexham by winning the third division from Llandudno's David Strange and Kelvin Williams. Welsh junior internationals Delyth Davis and Julie Furber won the women's first division title for Wrexham with Llandudno's former Welsh junior Joanne Bastin and County player Glenda Roberts taking second place. Llandudno broke the deadlock in the second division of the women's league with sisters Karen Roberts and Kath Wilkinson. In second place Rhyl gave a gusty performance due to the efforts of Kath Banks and Gwyneth Adams.

We hope that next season teams from the East Flint league will take part. Wrexham Closed.

Justin Evans added the Wrexham men's singles to his North Wales crown at Castell

Alun, Hope on Sunday, 14th April with a hard fought final against Ron Weatherby. Suzanne Burgess won the ladies singles for the first time with a final win against Julie Furber. Ian Wolley won the veteran singles, Danny Harris the junior boys, Delyth Davies the junior girl's and Geriant Williams the Cadet single. The tournament was well supported.

North Wales Finals. Nomads 'A' meet Nomad's 'B' in the final of the North Wales G.S. Radcliffe Challenge Cup at Y Morfa Community Table Tennis Club, Kinnel Bay on Tuesday, 23rd April. At the same venue Bethesda play Caergwrle Boy's Brigade 'B' in the final of the C.S. Shone Cup. Y Morfa which opened in January hold their first tournament for North Wales players on Sunday, 2nd June. The Kinnel Bay Select will commence at 9 am at the centre.

RHOS CHAMPIONS

News of the leagues on the final run in for the titles is that Caergwrle and British Steel are the main contenders for honours in the first division fo the East Flint League. In the Rhyl Premier Division Prestatyn Nova, Denbigh Saron, Rhuddlan and Rhuddlan Aces are still in contention for the title. Rhos 'A' have already retained division one of the Llandudno League and their trio of Chris Robson, Joanne Bastin and Keith Williams are hot favourites to win the League Cup. Nomads 'A', Nomads 'B', Llay R.B.L. and Wimpey Minerals are the top four teams in the Wrexham Premier division with the competition most likely to be decided in the final matches of the season.

Cumbria
BY GORDON BROWN

BEST YOUNG PLAYERS

Cumbria has some of the best young players

in the country. We do not, however, run a junior team, and have not done so for several years now. We run a senior team and juniors introduced to it have given a fine account of themselves. Organising a junior team has proved difficult in the county in recent years.

There is a need for someone to transport the players to matches and help with the cost from a county relying on affiliation fees from only three affiliated leagues.

In some cases, good class juniors do not want to play for the county, but prefer to reserve their energies for individual tournaments. If the reasons could be beaten I am sure the county would do well against the best from other counties.

Just to mention a few rising stars, we have 13-year-old Jade Kendal, who has been in the England under-14 squad and has played for the county senior team and was last season runner-up in the ETTA under-14 ranking trial to Wiltshire's Hannah Thompson, whom she has beaten earlier in the competition, Michael Gomersall and the brother and sister partnership of Katherine and Tristran Swan. All are from Barrow, a hot bed of young talent, where the new Table Centre has helped to boost the sport tremendously. Michael is but 11 and is already training with the England Cadets squad (under-14) and the Swans are frequent names at the forefront and have played for the county seniors. Thanks to that wonderful inception, the Woolwich Building Society junior Leagues, stars are waiting to rise in Barrow, Kendal and that backwater of backwaters, Whitehaven, where there is not even a senior league nowadays.

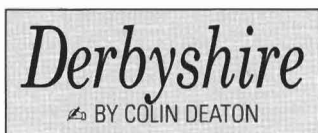
I have been privileged to organise the junior league in Whitehaven, where we have several good prospects, including John Graham, who has gone through the season unbeaten, Chris Douglas, John Mattinson, Steve Polkey, Anthony Crosby, (son of a former town champion) and Gary Park.

ETTA Northern Region Development officer Ken Muhr has been a great encouragement in Whitehaven, where he organised a whistle-stop exhibition match tour of local schools to create initial interest. Then, Copeland Council Sports Centre provided the venue, which was packed on the final night when the local Mayor handed out the prizes, among which were two small silver cups and a statuette donated by Ron Batty, an ETTA coach and former North of England Junior runner-up.

When Kendal and District League held their annual tournament, it was not surprising that Zeke Dixon won the under-13 singles, beating Peter Miles 21-10, 21-14 in the final. Zeke is

yet another up and coming player from the county who played in the England Schools Championships in Birmingham in May.

Open singles winner at Kendal was Paul Stebbing. In the final, he defeated Paddy Maher 22-20, 21-14. Other final results. Open doubles - Carl and Paul Stebbing beat Peter Bushton and Trevor Nicholson 21-15, 21-17. Mixed doubles - Jeanette Bannister and Phil Petts beat Sarah Langstaff and Peter Rudhton 21-13, 21-19. Veterans' singles - Carl Stebbing beat Colin Pratt 21-13, 21-15.



GOOD PROSPECT

After a disappointing start to the season, our County Senior first team managed to field a good strong side and avoid any threat of relegation that existed.

We can now approach next season with the prospect of fielding a team of Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington, John Holland, Nicola Deaton and Michelle Haynes. This being the team selection our county officials would like.

Meanwhile coaching events throughout the county continue to be featured. International star Matthew Syed who is still residing in the Chesterfield area attended a one day coaching course aimed at the better and improving players, organised in conjunction with the East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire Table Tennis Development. A good days table tennis was enjoyed with the youngsters benefiting.

Burton's Uxbridge club who have the only National League Team competing in Derbyshire continues diversify its interests. Their first team compete strongly in division One North.

Led by our county number one player Steven Shaw and this team, on a good day, are capable of beating anyone in the division. Steven, who is totally and utterly dedicated to our game, is displaying some good wins and recording some poor losses.

If he can get his act together, I am of the firm opinion that he can go further up the ranking list. He is and will be in the future a good asset to Derbyshire.

It is with real disappointment that Burton Uxbridge second team are to withdraw from the National League. They have been competing this season in the Division 3 Midlands and West.

Burton livewire and organiser of the entire Uxbridge set-up, Terry Gadsby, commented that he had been struggling all season to get the right quality of players. However, he went

on to say that they would continue to put a Junior team in the British Junior League.

There can be no denying that Burton are still progressing and working hard on their development. Their new set-up for the Burton area includes giving free coaching lessons to the area's Junior schools and hopefully, some of those youngsters will join the club.

Burton have without doubt put their town on the map in English Table Tennis. This includes staging international matches, providing the venues and acting as hosts to various National tournaments from women's to veteran events.

I hope it will not be long before they provide an international star of their own.

A recent talking point throughout our area has been the transfer of 12 year old Louise Durrant from Nottinghamshire.

The talented Louise has been given permission by Nottinghamshire to transfer to Derbyshire and the highly promising young girl will be a big asset to Derbyshire in the future. She is coached by Senior Coach Neil Houghton and has won numerous under 12 titles including three select events.

She hopes to make a career in Table Tennis and her coach Neil Houghton, who has 20 years experience in the game has been the main influence in the young girl's progress over the last three years.

Louise follows Michelle Haynes in transferring to Derbyshire from Nottinghamshire.



AVENT'S CLACTON CLOSED

(Sponsored by Paul Newbould Planning & Building Services).

Derek Wood was the tournament's undoubted star, taking four titles; (last achieved by Dennis Arr in 1964) and in the process claiming his seventh mens singles title. Dave Binns was an unexpected mens singles finalist and gave an excellent account of himself in an open and well-contested final.

The ladies final also produced a superb match with Jenny Higgins just beating Jenny Binns after the closest of third games.

Results were as follows:

- Mens Singles: Derek Wood beat Dave Binns 18, -14, 18,
- Ladies Singles: Jenny Higgins beat Jenny Binns -18, 17, 19,
- Veterans Singles: Derek Wood beat Fred Dove 15, 16,

Mens Doubles: Derek Wood/Dave Binns beat Colin Stallwood/Iain Vine 19, -15, 9,

Ladies Doubles: Jenny Binns/Jenny Higgins beat Sheila Howe/Angela Barrett 11, 12,

Mixed Doubles: Derek Wood/Tricia Salter beat Dave & Jenny Binns 14, 20,

Restricted Singles: Dave Higgins beat Claude Snell 10, -19, 16,

Division Two Singles: Peter Kates beat Gary Stallwood 15, 20,

Division Three Singles: Jim Gutteridge beat Tricia Salter -13, 18, 16,

Junior Boys Singles: Matthew Howes beat Hamish McNair-Wilson 10, 16,

Junior Doubles: Matthew Howes/Chris Harte beat Hamish McNair Wilson/Lee Partridge -20, 19, 15,

Consolation Singles: John Woen beat James Skilitter -16, 18, 10.

COLCHESTER CLOSED:

A delighted league chairman John Andrews described the finals night "the best ever" and few who saw the mens singles final will disagree. Dave Cole won a truly epic match against team-mate Rik James, whilst Andy Wadling/Richard Hutchinson took the mens doubles title after an equally enthralling win against Derek Wood/Dave Cold. Derek Wood took his ninth successive veterans title and Sue Welham her thirteenth ladies singles title in fourteen years whilst Danish expatriate Claus Pedersen was a convincing winner of the restricted singles. Results were as follows:

Men Singles: David Cole beat Rik James -19, 16, 17,

Ladies Singles: Sue William beat Janet Faiers 18, 12,

Mens Doubles: Andy Wadling/Richard Hutchinson beat Derek Wood/David Cole -15, 17, 23,

Ladies Doubles: Sue Welham/Amanda Vardell beat Annette Thorpe/Hazel Hume 15, -18, 14,

Mixed Doubles: Janet Faiers/Derek Wood beat Amanda Vardell/John Andrews -20, 14, 11,

Veterans Singles: Derek Wood beat Fred Dove 15, -16, 17,

Junior Boys Singles: David Kao beat Andrew Faiers -16, 14, 11,

Junior Girls Singles: Caroline Faiers beat Holly Spanton 7, 10,

Cadets Singles: Caroline Faiers beat James Read 8, 15,

Veterans 50 + Singles: Mick Buckley beat Tom Elder 12, 13,

Veterans 60 + Singles: Mick Buckley beat Brian Thiel 15, 21,

Restricted Singles: Claus Pedersen beat

Roger Warrn 7, 9.

ROMFORD CLOSED:

Chris Herbert caused a major upset by taking the mens singles title - the stylish defender beat top seed Feizal Mauthoor in an excellent final and not surprisingly he also retained his restricted singles title. Results were as follows:

Mens Singles: Chris Herbert beat Feizal Mauthoor 16, 18,

Ladies Singles: Carol Nelson beat Sandra Aldborough 16, 19,

Mens Doubles: Feizal Mauthoor/Chris Herbert beat Tim Scott/ Steve Muth 9, 10,

Ladies Doubles: Carol Nelson/Janet Langford beat Sandra Aldborough/Jackie Fern 16, 14,

Mixed Doubles: John King/Carol Nelson beat Tony Bonnici/Sandra Aldborough 13, -21, 11,

Veterans Singles: John King beat Feizal Mauthoor 13, 12,

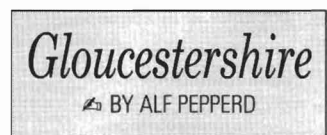
Restricted Singles: Chris Herbert beat Dave Page 13, 15,

U21s Singles: Oliver Beaumont beat James Nelson 17, 20,

Junior Boys Singles: Stephen Menon beat Oliver Beaumont 14, 11.

BRENTWOOD CLOSED:

Dave Cole took his second Brentwood mens singles crown after Steve Kerns had taken full advantage of the withdrawal of second seed Damian Holland to reach the final. Peter Barrett's run of success continued as he took the Brentwood restricted title to add to his earlier successes in the Chelmsford and Southend tournaments. John Holland won a very tight and cagey veterans final against the tactically astute Steve Willis.



DEEP REGRET

It is with deep regret that I start this County report by mentioning the recent tragic car accident in which Bob David, Cirencester's Development Officer lost his wife Sheila, his youngest daughter Helen and 18 month old grandson Josh - all three were killed simultaneously.

The County extend their deepest sympathy to Bob and his only remaining daughter, Caroline.

May I further offer the County's condolence to the family of the late David Griffiths who has recently died at the age of 57.

A look around the County

In his day David played Premier County Division with the likes of Bryan Merrett, Roy Morley and Ian Harrison. He was a Cheltenham person and a Chartered Accountant. He will be sorely missed.

In this season's final issue of Table Tennis News having attended all the respective League's Finals Nights, with the exception of Cheltenham, (reported in the April edition), here are the results from Cirencester - Gloucester City & the Stroud and District League.

Commencing with Cirencester's Championship Finals, which were played at Deer Park School at Cirencester, and resulted in the following results:

Under 13 Final: Alex Godfrey bt Chris Hill 8, 16

Under 15 Final: Mark Pogson bt Matthew Genever 22, 10

Div 2 Singles: John Wells bt Rob Howard 14, -12, 17

Div 3 Singles: Mark Pogson bt Jamie Phillips 14, 5

Vet's Singles: Rob Willsher bt Bob David 17, 17

Under 17 Final: Chris McIntosh bt John Simmonds 12, 14

M/X Doubles: M & E Johnson bt S & C Philip 18, 19

Open Doubles: R Davis/R Willsher bt R Hunter/C McIntosh 10, 17

Ladies Singles: Mrs E Johnson bt Mrs C Philip 19, 16

Men's Singles: R Willsher bt M Johnson (Holder) 12, -19, 18

Gloucester City's Final's Night Table Tennis Championships

The above end of season's championships were held at Nuclear Electric Hdq, at Barnwood.

The evening's play commenced with the S/F of the Open Singles in which Dave Harvey (Rudford) overcame Dennis Holland (Wanderers) 21-14, 21-12, for a place in the finals.

In the other S/F a razor sharp Darren Griffin (Wanderers) beat fellow team mate and holder of the title - Bill Dawe, 21-13, 21-13 to claim his place in the final.

In the final, Griffin produced the standard of play that we all know he possessed, accurate backhands and well controlled forehands to beat Harvey 25-23, 21-14, 21-16 and to reclaim the singles title for the 10th time.

In the Ladies Singles Final, the Holder Brenda Lee (Cirencester), beat Rudfords 15 year old County No1 Junior Ann Humble, 21-19, 21-8. Miss Lee is currently ranked 101 Senior Lady Player in England.

In the Veterans Singles (40 or over), Dave Harvey beat Dennis Holland 21-12, 20-22, 21-16. Holland from the Wanderers Club at Hempsted is the current County Veteran singles champion.

The Junior Boys Under 17 Final, we saw the more experienced 17 year old holder Aaron Mortimer (Rudford) retain his title, by beating 14 year old up and coming Daniel Nelmes of the Wanderers, 12-21, 21-11, 21-17.

The Mixed Doubles Final pairing of Bill Dawe and Heather Tyrer (the holders), for many seasons, finally gave way to the new champions - Dave Harvey and Ann Humble who beat the former 21-19, 21-14, to claim this title for the first time.

And finally, it was a night that Bill Dawe would probably like to forget, he appeared in three events during the evening, and lost in every one, the final one being the Open Doubles when in partnership with club mate Sylvester Callum, they lost to Darren Griffin and Dennis Holland 24-22, 21-15.



FINALLY FINISHED

We duly completed our season (County Championship wise) when our Junior 'A' team beat Bucks with surprising ease, 8 sets to 2, to finally finish in second place. Anything else was always going to be difficult after losing our opening match to league champions Devon, so well done to Danny Burns, Chris Butt, Mark Wilshere, Lorna Dutch (100%) and Tina Young, Lorna was also ever-present in the Senior second team obtaining a very creditable 79%.

Further congratulations to Burns and Butt who together with the younger Wilshere, Stephen, playing under the name of Light Freight Generation 2, returned home from the Woolwich Junior British League at Newton Aycliffe as champions of Division 2 and laden down with one of the magnificent Woolwich crystal trophies.

Portsmouth's David Riddle in continuing his travels won the cadet singles at both the Sussex Newman 1 star and the Elmbridge tournament at Walton on Thames beating boys way above him on the ranking list on both occasions - despite this a glance at the latest ranking list shows that David has moved backwards (Well, better brains than mine have tried to fathom the ranking list so I am not going to start!). Regrettably, from Hampshire's point of view, David is shortly moving with his family to the Bristol area; we

shall watch his further development with interest.

Hampshire schools TT continues to flourish, largely due to Gen. Sec. Harold Alberty and other HTTA colleagues and the following qualified to travel to the individual National finals: Under 11, Nick Anderson and Emma Dobson; Under 13, David Riddle and Sarah Fan; Under 16, Chris Butt and Anna Maskell; Under 19, Mark Wilshere and Carly Scadden. Basingstoke have won the inter town Mens Division 1 title selecting from a squad of Justin Mead, Sean Pickin, Tony Palaczky, Kevin Macken and Tony Reynolds and the Andover trio of the Wilson brothers, Ben & Jeremy, together with Paul Bojelian have won division 2.

This month's magazine tribute goes to the Aldershot & District TTL; an excellent 32 page production by Dave Brown. Interesting items include "Ten Years Ago" and "Fifteen Years Ago" - Well, I would be interested wouldn't I! I took my first umpire practical test in Aldershot - 35 years ago! Back to the present, the ageless Ramesh Bahalla heads Division 1 averages and it would appear that his team National Grid 'A' are destined to win the title. An 87% average in one of the lower divisions indicates that Mick Strode doesn't spend all his time, refereeing, umpiring or administrating; likewise moving up a few divisions the name Harry Spraggs appears with an average of 74%.

This year's AGM is provisionally booked for Wednesday June 19 at Winchester Conservative Club.



SINGLES BATTLE

There were many familiar names amongst the finalists at this year's county championships, but there were also some new ones.

As expected, the men's singles was a battle between reigning champion Mark Owen, and his old adversary Michael Owens. This was always going to be a close match, and this year the title went to Michael, 25-27, 21-18, 21-17, 21-19. It is now 20 years since anyone other than Mark and Michael have won this title. The same two players were also in opposition in the Men's doubles, when Mark and Paul Bunclark retained their title against Michael and his partner, the junior, Stephen Arrowsmith 18-21, 21-19, 21-6.

The Ladies singles was retained by Sally Dawson with a 21-14, 18-21, 21-17 victory

over her Hereford Terminators team-mate and nine times previous champion, Sharon Powell. However, Sharon had consolation with victory in the mixed doubles and the Ladies Doubles. The mixed doubles was the seventh time in a row that Sharon Powell and Andy Coutle were victorious, this time beating Linda and Mark Owen 21-18, 21-17.

John Thompson, a division 2 player with Bromyard Hawks had a tournament to remember. He reached three finals but unfortunately for him, failed to take a title. He lost in the Veterans singles to Harry Jutle 19-21, 21-14, 18-21, and in the restricted singles to Andreas Elia 19-21, 15-21. In the grade B singles for division 2 and 3 players John Jacom another newcomer beat John Thompson 21-12, 21-16.

The Junior events went very much to form. In the Junior Boy's Singles, County no.1 Chris Jones, beat No2 Stephen Arrowsmith 21-18, 21-19. No1 beat No2 in the Junior Girls also, as Leanne Neads beat Anita Jutle. In the Cadet Singles reigning champion Tom Peters beat team mate Neil Richards. Juniors triumphed over Cadets in the under 21 doubles as Chris Jones and Stephen Arrowsmith beat Tom Peters and Neil Richards 24-22, 21-11. Two more Juniors, this time from the Bromyard club contended the Audrey Lawrence Handicap Singles, won last year by another Bromyard Junior, Glyn Mutton, this time elder brother Kevin won, beating Russell Jones 45-42.

Other results were:- Veteran Doubles Harry Jutle and Norman Merchant beat John Hunt and Bob Marshall 21-15, 21-12. Junior Mixed Doubles, Stephen Arrowsmith and Anita Jutle beat Tom Peters and Leanne Neads. Handicap Doubles:- Tony Allen and Pete Stewart beat Mark Stubbs and Robin Putland 21-17, 21-14. Pairs Drawn Doubles:- Steve Watkin and Alex Aston beat Paul White and Mike Wheatley 21-16, 21-19. Grade C Singles:- Pete Stewart beat Terry Mason. Super Veterans:- Trevor Seymour beat Peter Hutcheson-France, 20-22, 21-8, 21-11.

On the county junior scene, we are now having to bid farewell to Chris Jones, our no.1 for the past two seasons. He has grown considerably in confidence over this time, and his combination bat is now being used to great effect. He has also been a great example to the other Juniors in the county side showing determination on the table, and encouragement of it. We must hope that some of the counties promising Cadets can make that step up in grade to Junior level.



FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

Harry Stevens

Former President of Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association, Harry Stevens, sadly died over the Easter weekend.

Harry's death is a sad loss to Hertfordshire table tennis, for he has served his country long and loyally.

Harry was also, until recently, the county's representative on the ETTA National Council.

A full obituary will appear in the September issue of Table Tennis News.

Hertfordshire lost another two table tennis people recently, Bill Dale and Doris Bridges of the Cheshunt League

On behalf of the Cheshunt League, its President, George Butcher writes the following two obituaries.

Bill Dale (1921-1996) former League Secretary

It is with regret that I advise you of the death of a Founder of the Cheshunt & District Table Tennis League, Bill Dale, who for a period of 15 years was "Mr Table Tennis" in the locality.

He became League Secretary/Treasurer in the 1950/1951 season taking over from George Butcher who, three seasons earlier had formed a Youth League, but was then called for National Service.

Bill's strenuous work for the League set it on a firm foundation for the future and saw him stage the first home International with Australia at Waltham Abbey Town Hall in 1955.

At the 1966 Annual Meeting, he declined re-election. He was appointed a Vice-President that season and elevated to the office of Life Vice-President in 1991.

A resident of Waltham Abbey, he died on Saturday 16 March aged 74 years leaving a widow Gwen, and two daughters, Christine and Kate.

Burial took place at Cheshunt Cemetery on Tuesday 26 March 1996 preceded by a short service in the Cemetery chapel

Doris Bridges

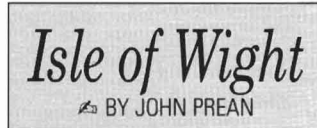
It is with regret that I advise you of the passing of a stalwart member of our League and the only Lady to hold the Office of President during a period of almost 50 years League history.

Doris Bridges' early interest in the sport

followed those of son Robert, who was later to become a League Officer. She started playing in the League during her mid fifties but as a helper she became famed for her assistance in providing excellent refreshments at League matches and during the period of League Tournaments. Such help to the League leading to her Appointment in 1969/70 season as a Vice-President. During the Seventies she added to her chain of help taking on the job of a Divisional result secretary. In the 1978/79 season the League conferred on Doris a Life Membership and this became Life Vice-President when the Office was created three seasons later. A season later George Neale did not seek re-election as President and Doris was elevated to the Office to become the first lady to hold the Office. During her period in Office until 1989 she took great interest in League affairs and after this she still made a few more appearances at the League Tournament Finals.

Doris died on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 March 1996 aged 85 years. She is survived by son Robert and daughter Janet.

Cremation took place at Enfield Crematorium on Friday 22 March at 2.00pm.



APOLOGIES

My apologies that these notes have been missing more than once this season. They were punctually and regularly delivered. What happened after that, your guess is as good as mine. My thanks to those who had noticed and particularly those who have written to me about this.

I had hoped to write by now that our team in the Southern Region League had won the title of the Premier League for the first time. Two wins of 6-3 against their rivals Cippenham and a 100% record in other matches seemed to point to a happy ending. However a 7-2 crash against Burnchal looks likely to have reversed the earlier scenario and with Cippenham collecting maximum points (three for a win of 7-2 or over) they are now favourites! Danny Burns won our two on an otherwise depressing day.

As Roger Hookey lost all three that day and Danny had beaten him in the league, the 16 year old Hampshire Junior Champion also seemed to be the favourite of most experts in our "Closed" Championships. Roger, however, had other ideas to win his 8th title, a record. Danny led most of the way in the first game,

lost that and was never in the hunt in the second. Roger's hardest match was against Matt Hobley in the semi-final, which he won 18 and 20, Matt having led 20-17 in the second. I thought there were five players on view with realistic chances, which means that it was never really a walkover for Roger, who now overtakes previous multiple champions, notably Eric Green and Jim Daly.

There was consolation for Danny, as he won both doubles - the Mixed with Lucy Pointer and the men's with Chris Angus. The latter ended a long reign by Hookey and Mike Turner, who lost in the final. Alex Rorke and his mother Pauline went close in the final of the Mixed.

Lucy at 11 (!) became triple champion as she won the ladies' singles and ladies' doubles (the latter with Jackie Urry, who was favourite in the singles, but struggled against the combination bat of her opponents and so did not make the final where Lucy met Barbara Farelly).

The entry in the Ladies was, to put it charitably, disappointing. One hopes that next time Lucy will defend against a larger field. Her next target must be the National Under 11.

Our Cadet team ended in second place in the Hampshire Inter-Town Cadet Championships. With Lucy under 11, Nathan Godolphin under 12 and Dean Whittington under 13, that was a fine performance for so young a team. Lucy playing generally against boys won 18 out of 21 and Nathan was not far behind. Two for the future.

Carl Prean, our representative in the English National Championships was beaten in the final by Alan Cooke. He will, no doubt, reflect on the leads that slipped away. He had led 19-16 in the first and 18-17 in the third game and was serving in both and then lost all 9 points on his own service! Sadly, the event was rather devalued by the absence of Matthew Syed and Chen Xinhua. The event may well follow all those Three Stars into the pages of history if "supported" in this way. I have just read an interesting paper by Brian Halliday, the new Vice-Chairman of PR which extols the virtues of contests between defenders and attackers, which I agree are the best to watch and therefore likely to please the spectators. However, if the defenders stay away...such entertainment cannot take place.



SENIOR 1ST'S WIN

PROMOTION TO PREMIER DIVISION

Kent Senior first team won division 1B of the County Championship and will take their place in the Premier Division next season. With the Kent Junior side winning promotion to the Junior Premier Division two seasons ago this is indeed a change in Kent's fortunes and a reflection of the hard work that has gone into the county organisation over the past few years. Kent Senior's went in to the second weekend unbeaten and met joint leaders Hertfordshire in the first match where a win was critical to keep in line for promotion.

HERTFORDSHIRE 3 - KENT 1 7
Good wins in this match for Joe Kennedy over John Taylor 21-19, 21-14 and for Kristina Brocklebank over Sarah Seaholme 21-18, 21-12. The Canterbury trio of Goodall, Garlick and Brocklebank all played well.

KENT: Joe Kennedy (2), Justin Goodall (2), Paul Rainford (1), Helen Garlick (1), Kristina Brocklebank (1)

HERTFORDSHIRE: Keith Samuels (0), John Taylor (1), Glen Wilkes (0), Emma Hurling (2), Sarah Seaholme (0)

KENT 1 8 - GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2
Apart from Gloucestershire's Dave Harvey winning his two games Kent never looked in any trouble. Justin Goodall only just lost to harvey 21-19, 18-21, 22-24 showing the confidence that was present in the side.

KENT: Joe Kennedy (1), Justin Goodall (1), Paul Rainford (2), Helen Garlick (2), Kristina Brocklebank (2)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Dave Harvey (2), Graham Slack (0), Nick Davidson (0), Alison Cox (0), Heidi Hartman (0)

KENT 1 9 - MIDDLESEX 1
This win clinched the championship, the first three games were very important with Justin Goodall beating Nickolas McKoy 23-21, 21-11, Paul Rainford beating the England No3 junior Jason Sugrue 22-20, 22-20 and Juliet Houghton beating Elizabeth Blanch 21-13, 22-20 to set up the win.

KENT: Joe Kennedy (2), Justin Goodall (1), Paul Rainford (2), Juliet Houghton (2), Helen Garlick (2)

MIDDLESEX: Nickolas McKoy (0), Antony Corbin (0), Jason Sugrue (1), Caroline O'Leary (0), Elizabeth Blanch (0)

SURREY 7 - KENT 1 3
With the title already decided Kent lost to very strong Surrey side although the whole side played well the notable performance was Rainfords win over Surrey's Darren Blake 21-12, 12-21, 21-14.

KENT: Joe Kennedy (0), Justin Goodall (0), Paul Rainford (1), Juliet Houghton (1), Helen Garlick (1)

A look around the County

SURREY: Euan Walker (2), Mike Hammond (2), Darren Blake, (1), Huang Shu (2), Sarah Lane (0)

TRACKSUITS FOR THE BRIBAR KENT JUNIOR LEAGUE WINNERS AS ANGIE BRISTOW AND KELLY GRANT BEAT THE BOYS

The final of the BRIBAR KENT JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE supported by SPORTS MATCH took place at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge, on Saturday 13th April 1996. Each of the twenty teams competing were winners of one of the four zone competitions played earlier in the season, and were presented with their Table Tennis Shirts and Shorts which were the prizes for reaching the finals. The winners of the finals division each received a tracksuit of their choice. Division One finalists were T.Wells A @ B, Gravesend A and Medway A. Justin Dodd was unbeaten and Alastair McTavish lost only one game to T.Wells Angie Bristow as Gravesend won the first division title beating Medway 'A' 5-0, T.Wells 'B' 4-1 and in the deciding match T.Wells 'A' 4-1.

Division Two finalists were Msidstone C, N.W. Kent A, Thanet A and T.Wells D. Maidstone 'C' side of Dominic Hall and Oliver O'Brien won the second division on count back against an unluck Thanet 'A' for whom Kelly Grant was unbeaten. Grant upstaged Kent's nationally ranked U 12's and U14's beating Wesley Cheeseman (T.Wells) 21-11, 21-10, Dominic Hall (Maidstone) 21-19, 17-21, 21-19 and team mate Oliver O'Brien 21-17, 18-21, 23-21

Division Three finalists were T.Wells H, T.Wells F, Folkestone E and Folkestone F. Simon Powell and Dominic Fountain (Folkestone 'E') beat Folkestone 'F' Raymond Jordon and Michael Hopper in to second place in division three. Folkestone 'F' had to await the outcome of a count back against T.Wells 'F' Oliver Paxton / Richard Stout before being sure of their second spot. Division Four finalists were Medway E, T.Wells I, Thanet B and Folkestone G. Winners Folkestone 'G' O Smith and M Cooke, runners up Thanet 'B', S Beerling and M Britton.

Division Five finalists were Sittingbourne F, Deal, Thanet C and Folkestone H. Winners Deal Gary Pearce and Chris Bailey, runners up Folkestone 'H' Ian Harris, Ian Kemp, Louis Bones and Samuel Stone.

The Kent Junior Development League now in its second season has been made possible by sponsors BRIBAR TABLE TENNIS who have pledged £12,000 over a three year period, which has been matched pound for pound by SPORTSMATCH.

SPORTSMATCH is a business sponsorship incentive scheme that is administered in

England by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship on behalf of the Department of National Heritage.



WORTH A MENTION

Lancashire Junior seconds met with mixed fortunes at Grantham on March 16. Clwyd proved to be far too strong - running out winners 9-1. Burnley's Andrea Harrison is worth a mention for her 18 in the third success over the highly-rated Delyth Davies. All the Lancashire players shared in the team's 6-4 victory over Warwickshire seconds. Northamptonshire ended any hopes of the runners-up spot with a narrow 6-4 verdict. Newcomer Hannah Roberts won her first match for the County with a straight games win over Gabrielle Evans - not a bad start for an eleven year old.

Lancashire and Cheshire league leaders Liverpool continue to press claims for the championship with wins over Wigan and Wirral (9-1 and 8-2 respectively). Wirral's Bernie Wentworth gained the scalp of the classy Keith Williams. Jim Chadwick notched up three in Bolton's 7-3 success over Preston. The match between Manchester and Stockport ended in a draw with the much improved John Hope taking the eye for Manchester. It's a strange fact that some players get better in the veteran stage. Could this apply to John? Wirral edged out Warrington 6-4 with that man Wentworth again in good form. Mid-Cheshire look set for promotion from 2 north with wins over Rochdale (9-1) and Barrow (10-nil). The Johns Bros. and Ian Eaton make up a strong squad in any league. Macclesfield overhauled Rochdale 8-2 with good performances from Keith Deaville and Graham Tomlinson. Burnley whitewashed St. Helens in 2 south and should be confirmed champions. Liverpool Business Houses beat Lytham St Annes 6-4 and sent them into division three for next season. Kenny Jackson was the thorn in their side. Chester should be promoted from division three after two solid displays (8-2 at Rochdale 'A' and 10 nil at home to Rochdale 'B'). Tameside could follow them into Division Two after their 7-3 result at Rochdale 'A' where Wayne Renton and Dave Sefton were unbeaten. Barrow made claim to the Junior 1 title with a 10 nil moulting of Burnley, and a 9-1 success over Manchester, but Wirral are thereabouts after seeing off Salford and Farnworth 8-2. John Fairbrother and Michael

Moir were the leading lights in Blackburn's 7-3 victory over Rochdale in Junior 2 and David Pilkington also featured in the team's 9-1 hammering of Southport. Barrow 'A' beat Preston 'A' and Rochdale by the same score(8-2) and whitewashed Halton 10 nil.

Liverpool lead the way in the Ladies division with wins over Southport, Preston and Manchester. Oldham defeated Manchester 8-2 and Southport 'A' 9-1. Mandy Winskill had been their star player.

Stockport look unstoppable in Vets 1. They cruised to a 10 nil success over Rochdale. Preston got an 8-2 over Macclesfield thanks to Barry Crook and Liverpool beat Rochdale 7-3. To prove their strength Mid-Cheshire got the maximum result at Blackpool in division two (and Blackpool are no mugs). Blackburn are the other strong side in the division. They completed a 10 nil victory over Trafford. Preston 'A' were 9-1 victors at Liverpool 'A' in Vets 3 thanks to the skills of Dave Evans and Mike Sibley. Two good wins for Tameside in Division four. They accounted for Rochdale 'A' 8-2 and Wigan 10 nil. Lytham St Annes appear to have won Vets 5 after successes over Mid-Cheshire 7-3, St Helens 7-3 and Barrow 'A' 6-4. Manchester 'A' have crept up the table after wins over Mid-Cheshire 'A' 6-4 and challengers Barrow 6-4. They also drew with Business Houses 'A'. Lancaster and Morecambe 'A' secured the Vets 6 title in their final match at Lytham 'A' with an 8-2 verdict. Lytham 'A' had to be content with runners-up spot.

My predictions for the Norman Cook final were justified when Chester beat Liverpool 5-2 and Mid-Cheshire accounted for Blackpool 5-3. The latter being a very close contest with several sets being won close in the third to Mid-Cheshire.

The final of the Jack Livingstone Trophy (Junior knock-out) was played at Farnworth on 29 March. A strong Wirral side defeated Preston 5-1. England No 3 cadet Chris Dunne was expected to win his games but credit must be given to the two girls Alice Howard and Rebecca Nolan. Rebecca played particularly well to beat Preston's Andy Clark and came close to success against Dean Walmsley - going down 14 in the third.

Seasiders (Blackpool) National League side had their first taste of success since before the Christmas break. They powered to an 8 nil victory over BFL Grove III but this was short lived as they lost our 5-3 away to Drumchapel Glasgow II in the following match. It is now touch and go to avoid relegation. The remaining matches are Derwent away and Abbeydale at home.



TEAM PERFORMANCE

Rushey Mead 2nds, as expected, completed the season unbeaten and took the Division One title of the Leicester and District Table Tennis League.

It was a good team performance from the Rushey team of Dave Grundy, Alan Hewitt, Matthew Hobday and Andy Le Butt. In Division Two Groby and Syston Conservatives are promoted to Division One. Neil Matthams was Groby's star and finished top of the individual averages. Syston were ably lead by Steve Adams who finished second in the averages.

Knighton Park third string took the third division and deserved their promotion.

In Division Ten there was a terrific battle all season for the title, and it went to the very last match played, and Camber won their match 8-2 over Police and duly won the title. Just one point separated the top four teams.

I'm afraid I still have no details of the cup competitions at present, so will have to release them in the next edition of Table Tennis News.

The Leicester Closed Championships were held in March, and a very enjoyable day was had by all. It was very well run, ably led by Steve Zanker and Tony Lapworth with good support from Bill Newbold, Joanne Heath, and Jane Rogers, and many others who ran around and did umpiring etc.

The Men's singles was won by Knighton Park's Ian Brown as he beat Rushey Meads Matthew Hobday in a very good hard-fought match 21-23, 21-16, 21-12.

The Ladies singles went to Joanne Heath when she beat young Laura Smith (daughter of our very able chairman Mike) 21-11, 21-19.

In the Veterans Alan Philpott beat the previous winner Steve White in two 21-10, 21-19.

There was a new event this season in the form of the Over 50s and the first ever event was won by our chairman Mr Mike Smith who beat Peter Walker 21-11, 17-21, 21-15.

A new face was present at the championships this season in the form of James Sprackling. He had a very good tournament, winning two events. James also lead the Leicester University to the championship of Division Four and was unbeaten in fifty four games in that championship run. Richard Arnold also had an unbeaten run for the Uni.

Other results in the championships were as follows:

- Intermediate final: James Sprackling bt Matthew Hobday 21-17, 21-17
- Boy's final: Daniel Marriott bt Alan Hewitt 21-19, 12-21, 21-19
- Girl's singles: Laura Smith bt Kathryn Freer 21-16, 21-17
- Cadet singles: Harris McQueen bt Owen Jones 18-21, 21-14, 21-19
- Men's doubles: Alan Hewitt/Matthew Hobday bt Dave Grundy/Andy Le Butt 19-21, 21-16, 21-18
- Ladies doubles: Joanne Heath/Sandra Hall bt Kathryn Freer/Laura Smith 21-15, 21-23, 21-15.
- Mixed doubles: Graham and Sandra Hall bt Steve White/Laura Smith 13-21, 21-18, 21-19
- Under 300: Dave Grundy bt Richard Arnold 24-26, 21-16, 22-20
- Under 250: James Sprackling bt Abraham Conteh 21-14, 21-17
- Under 200: Abraham Conteh bt James Lancaster 21-8, 17-21, 21-7
- Under 150: Leon Chung bt Trevor Hawkins 21-11, 19-21, 21-15
- Under 100: Kathryn Freer bt Robert Geary 21-19, 21-18

The Woolwich Junior Leagues have been a great success both in Leicester and Hinckley and our thanks go out to the organisers who have done a wonderful job. They are Dave Tanner in Leicester and Dave Blaney in Hinckley, well done to both of you.

In the Hinckley League (Calor Gas) Division One, the champions were Ridge Lane beaten just once by the runners up Croft. Ridge were represented by Ian Baxter who finished with a 100% record and Dave Woodward.

The top players in the Croft squad were Dave Grundy and Carl Slevin. Croft also were beaten just once this season, you've guessed it Ridge Lane.

East Midland's Electricity 'B' finished at the bottom of the table winning just three matches.

Next weekend sees the Intertowns tournament with one team from Hinckley and Loughborough with two from Leicester in the Senior event. And in the Juniors there will be two teams from Hinckley and Leicester. Lets hope its another success. It will be held at the Rushey Mead Centre.

- Juniors
- U12 boys: Sam Littleboy bt Steve Howlett (Jr)
- U12 girls: Kelly Sadd won round robin
- U14 boys: Matthew Howlett bt Robert Drake
- U14 girls: Michelle Sadd bt Julie Horstead
- U17 boys: Adam Brewer bt Daniel King
- U17 girls: Ashleigh Mackellar bt Michelle Sadd
- Restricted boys singles: Adam Smith bt Ian Howlett
- Restricted girls singles: Lucy Goodale bt Julie Horstead
- Boys doubles: Adam Brewer/Michael Kirwan bt Daniel King/Ian Howlett
- Girls doubles: Ashleigh Mackellar/Michells Sadd bt Julie Horstead/Natasha Bates
- Mixed doubles: Daniel King/Ashleigh Mackellar bt Adam Brewer/Michelle Sadd
- Seniors
- Men's singles: Steve Howlett bt Gary Hewitt
- Ladies singles: Wendy Durrant bt Mary Sawyer
- Men's veteran singles: Steve Howlett bt David Henderson
- Ladies veteran singles: Mary Sawyer bt Sue Allen
- Men's consolation singles: Paul Durrant bt Stewart Sharman
- Ladies consolation singles: Ashleigh Mackellar bt Ruth Hogg
- Men's Doubles: Steve Howlett/David Henderson bt Marcus Thompson/Sugio
- Ladies Doubles: Sue Allen/Kim Chambers bt Edna Fletcher/Mary Sawyer
- Mixed Doubles: Alan Nicholls/Anthea Rudd bt Marcus Thompson/Ruth Hogg

Apart from producing winners and losers these championships were used to note the performance of various players regarding their dress, attitude and reaction to losing if they did so. Our 3 junior selectors were there making notes and will be inviting selected players to coaching in the near future. Some juniors, however talented, must make an effort to improve the image currently given before they can be considered. A separate session for girls only is in hand as with most other counties that is the main problem.

These championships were again at Lynnsport - if anyone can find a better venue I would like to hear of it - but I very much doubt it. There was a late finish both for the players and don't forget the organisers who went home 45 miles on the Saturday night to put the clocks on and then prepare for the return visit next day. We are prepared to use 14 tables instead of 10 next year at least for the first 4 hours to hopefully aim for a finish nearer 6pm.

Northants

BY DENNIS MILLMAN

Kieron Dabbs retained his Mens Singles title in the Queensberry Scimitar County Close Tournament, after teetering on the brink of defeat in a second game in which Ryan Keates held several match points, all saved by Dabbs before he won through 25-23. Earlier Keates had taken control with his more accurate play but in the decider, Dabbs taking the ball very early was never troubled. Dabbs was also successful in the men's doubles, when he and Keates proved too decisive for Gary Webb and Richard Bashford, both of whom had difficulty with the dabbs specialist serve. Donna Furniss retained her women's crown against a determined Jenna Ashberry who was unseeded, while in the corresponding doubles, Towoester's Furniss, together with Maxine Shears, proved too accomplished for Viv Smiley and Clem Little, who again had to be satisfied with the runners up berth. However there was to be no hat-trick of titles despite Dabbs and Furniss reaching the final of the mixed doubles. For with Shears taking Dabbs' service on her backhand with rare ability, she became the dominant force, as she and Keates recorded a convincing victory. At veteran level, Michael Edwards regained the singles title with a comfortable win over David Huddle, but Edwards and Gordon Shaw, the No. 1 seeds couldn't add the doubles and went down on a third end deuce to last year's runners up Alan Ashberry and Gerald Finney. Clem Little made no mistake in the women's event, taking the title for a third successive time, while in the Over 50 singles, Greg Dobrowski, who had gained a hat-trick of successes between 1990 and 1992, made it four wins in total, when he accounted for his doubles partner Bill Fletcher. Despite this it was John Plamer and Dennis Millman who retained the Over 50 doubles, while Millman, on this occasion partnered by Fletcher, made it six Over 60 doubles in a row. This pair also met in the singles final, with Rugby's Fletcher winning narrowly at his first attempt. Joe Trippett became the fourth player to win the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy, while Northampton's Dave Smith became the first winner of the Gwil Evans Memorial Trophy for the Class One Singles, when having avenged last season's final reverse by Gerald Finney, at the penultimate stage, he went on to account for Daniel Vertigan in the final.

Vertigan was always on top in the Boys Under 17 event, and opponent Majid Soorty had to be content with the Under 17 doubles in tandem with his brother Imran, who also retained the under 14 event at the expense of Greg Yarnall.

Northumberland

BY PAULINE LONG

SUCCESS

At the second series of play-offs in Walsall during the weekend of March 2/3, the senior County team of Ian Robertson, Andrew Wilkinson, Dave Godbold, Caron Guthrie and Karen Newby did enough to ensure that they finished mid-table in Division 1A. "Benny", Andrew, Dave and Caron were all unbeaten in an 8-2 victory over Suffolk, but they narrowly lost to Lancashire 4-6, with Andrew winning two and Dave and Caron one each. The other result was a 2-8 loss to Buckinghamshire, when only Andrew and Dave had success. Andrew had a good weekend, winning five sets out of six but unfortunately "Benny" was hampered by injury and not on top form.

The junior team travelled to Grantham on March 16 for their final play-offs in Division 2A, but lost 2-8 to Nottinghamshire II and 3-7 to Northants II. They did, however get their first point with a 5-5 draw against Durham, but it was not enough to save them from relegation. Gareth Brown was again unbeaten over the weekend, and our girls Gillian Chapple (two against Durham) and Ellie de la Hunt (one against Durham and Northants II) put up a good show considering their inexperience, but Dave Gladwin and Peter Scatchard disappointed by failing to win any sets.

We are grateful to Wenade UK (Blyth) for sponsoring both these teams during the season, and hope they will feel able to continue their association with us in the future.

The Veterans League representative side of Jimmy Scope, Bob Dodds and Fred Woodhouse made their exit from the Brook Trophy competition, losing 1-5 to Bradford at the quarter-final stage. Jimmy won the only set.

The National Power Northumbria League season was due to end on April 26, but will probably be extended to allow for postponements over the Easter period. Gateshead 'A' are already Division 1 champions, while either North Shields YMCA 'C' or Newton 'A' should clinch the Division 2 title. Division 3 appears to be a two-horse race between Newton 'B' and Brinkburn CA

Norfolk

BY RAY HOGG

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

A look around the County

while YMCA 'J' look unlikely to be caught in Division 4. The Handicap Knock-Out Cup final will be between BYKER CC and Newton 'A' at a neutral venue. Our thanks go to National Power for their continued sponsorship and we hope our long association with them will continue.

Newcastle Royal Grammar School ended their season on a high not when their teams finished first and second in the City Schools' boys Under-13 league, with Gosforth Central Middle School third. Gosford, however, took the girls' title with La Sagesse as runners-up.

The Joynson Office Equipment Northumberland Closed Championships were to be held at Wallsend Sports Centre on Sunday May 19. Details of results will appear in the September issue.



SHOWBIZ

The Brighton League management deserve medals, along with the organisers for plucking up courage to put on a showbiz presentation for their league finals night.

The bills have not been totted up, so it is not possible to say at this stage if what happened during six hours on March 31 was a financial success or a disaster.

Organisers Mike Lance and John Clarke laid on a programme of entertainment which I thought broke new ground for a league finals.

The start featured Woolwich Junior League finals with intermediate showbiz spots from local showbiz personalities. Top of the bill was Carol Cleveland from the Monty Python show who also took part in a fun exhibition match partnered by the former England International Peter Shead.

Flashing lights and pop music enlivened the scene in between games - there was even a bouncy castle for the kids , plenty of food and drink and a licensed bar for the grown-ups.

During the early evening over a hundred spectators were present to see the men's doubles final won by Peter Bartram and Andy 17, -11, 18 against Paul Elphick and Chris Baker.

Later came the semi-finals when Bartram just managed to edge past the former Luxembourg junior David Atkinson and Elphick took out Andy Walker.

This left a grand finale between Bartram and Elphick. Full marks to Bartram. The 35 years old Lancing-based top spinner was proving a dour and dogged opponent.

Seconds from the end in the third game it was 18-18, anyone's trophy. But it was

Bartram, with the aid of two edge balls, that came through the late crisis to win 21-18. It was an epic encounter.

The showbiz side of the promotion was made possible by the local showbiz connections of Mike Lance who also runs a Brighton pub.

Theatre combined with table tennis, a brave effort held in a theatre at the Brighton Art College. Other leagues would like to follow suit I am sure, but I doubt if they have the showbiz connections and the nerves of steel required to meet the cost. How much profit was made? Watch this space?

SUSSEX NOTES: Pat Wales

Alan Cole from Crawley won the Seaman cup for the first time at Hove on April 27 with Rose Rainton (Hastings) retaining the Nicholls Cup for the top eight Sussex women.

The top 8 men and women were invited and in the first instance 3 men were forced to accept and in the last week both Ritchie Venner and Scott Greenbrook were forced to withdraw, Ritchie due to having broken his thumb. The reserves who came in were Simon Cox, Tony Murrell, Kevin Doyle and Wesley Bush-Harris, this left the tournament with a very open draw.

In the first round there were no surprise results, although Mayur Majithia and Kevin Doyle went the full 5 games, with Mayur as the winner, and a tough set with Paul Elphick and Simon Cox going the full 5 games with Paul Elphick finishing as the winner. In the semi-final Majithia played Alan Cole with Cole the winner over 4 games and Paul Elphick overcoming Peter Bartram also in 4 games. The final brought together Alan Cole and Paul Elphick. This produced a very good final with Alan Cole winning in the 5th game to win the Cup for the first time 21-10, 18-21, 16-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Paul managed to stay the course and produce a good final despite the problems of his knee injury.

In the Nicholls Cup there was no reply from Carol Hewitt and Sara Coggan was asked to replace her and again in the last week Caire Moore was forced to withdraw and Sue Hayes stepped in to fill the gap. However, there were 2 shock results in the first round when Joanna Bush-Harris beat Sally Weston in 3 games and Sara Coggan went one better and beat Teresa Bennett in 2 straight. In the semi-finals Joanna Bush-Harris played Sarah Stedman and won in 2 straight and Rosemary Rainton played Sara Coggan with Rosemary coming through with a comfortable win leaving the final between joanna Bush-Harris and Rosemary Rainton, who was palying to win the Cup for the second year running, which she did showing her superiority by 21-

10, 21-17.



STUPENDOUS

A number of Warwickshire players representing the West Midlands went to the National Trials at Kings Lynn in February. In the Juniors Stuart Kurle won three matches, David Matthews and Liz Haynes two and Mark Williams one. In the Cadets Mark Williams was more successful and won his group (which included beating Gary Bloomfield who was seeded no. 2). Having reached the last 16 Mark was then knocked out and so misses out on the Masters. Kabhri Mohammed won two of his matches and Gurdeep Singh who came in as a last minute replacement had a stupendous win over Tim

Yardy (ranked 15).

Warwickshire Schools TTA held their Championships recently to decide on the individual winner for the National Schools Tournament. For the under 11s, Kelly-Jayne Walden (Nuneaton) and James Taylor (Leamington) and for the under 13s Samantha Meredith (Harbury) and Kevin Rourke (Leamington). Stuart Kurle (Leamington) was successful at both under 16 and 19 levels and so David Matthews (Warwick) who was runner-up each time will take the under 19 place. David's sister Gilly Matthews (Warwick) won both the under 16 an 19 girls events although the under 19 place is likely to be taken by Liz Haynes.

Leamington have reached the quarter-finals of the Carter Cup for Junior boys. David Matthews, Stuart Kurle and Mark Williams defeated Leicester 5-3 to become zonal champions. To reach the semi finals the Spa trio have to overcome highly-rated Bradford.



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Striving for equal opportunities, this post is funded by the Sports Council, Leicestershire Table Tennis Association and Local authorities in Leicestershire.



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One advertisement, contained within a total area of 200sq. cm on the back of a shirt. (The size of this block)
One advertisement, contained within a total area of 40sq. cm on shorts or skirt.
There shall be no advertisements on players' clothing for tobacco goods, alcoholic drinks or harmful drugs.

ADVERTISEMENTS ON PLAYERS' CLOTHING (ESPECIALLY SHIRTS) HAVE BEEN AN ISSUE OF CONCERN FOR OFFICIALS, AND DURING THE PAST SEASON OR TWO HAS RESULTED IN SOME SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED CLUB SHIRTS BEING DECLARED ILLEGAL FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY.

With this in mind the National Umpires and Referees Committee ask that clubs who design shirts for tournament (and British League) play, bear in mind the ITTF Regulations set out here.

Advertising is now becoming an important facet of the game and brings in much needed money, but

advertisements on players' clothing are limited in size and number by ITTF Regulations, which should be followed if the clothing is to be worn for tournament play. Players can become quite upset when, having bought a designed club shirt, they are told it cannot be used because it does not comply with ITTF regulations.

When an umpire considers the garment to be illegal he should explain this to the player and ask the player to change. If the player does not accept this decision it should be referred to the referee who will make the decision as to the legality of the garment. The referee's decision is final, except a garment authorised by the ITTF and bearing the ITTF logo cannot be declared illegal (unless something has been added after authorisation). It would

solve a lot of problems if designers and manufacturers of players' clothing were aware of the ITTF regulations regarding the permitted size and number of advertisements on players' clothing.

Next year the World Table Tennis Championships will take place in England, when players from all over the world will compete for the No 1 position in table tennis. Thousands will head for Manchester some to play, many to watch and many to work at making the event an outstanding success. Amongst the latter will be officials who control play and ensure that every match conforms to the laws of Table Tennis. One hundred and fifty umpires are likely to be required, with over a hundred to come from England. To meet this need the NURC is promoting an enhanced

recruitment and qualification campaign. Ten National Umpires have already taken the International Umpire's examination and over the next few weeks twenty County Umpires will take the National Umpire's examination. The NURC is also looking for many existing County Umpires to qualify for a recently instituted Tournament Umpire grade. This is an accelerated qualification for County Umpires who wish to officiate on the tournament circuit. The emphasis will be on practical activity at tournaments, with an examination to follow. Anyone interested in qualifying as a Tournament Umpire should contact either their County Umpire Secretary or George Tyler, 41, Oakdene, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 9JA (Tel: 01992 638269) Did you have a good season?