

# TABLE TENNIS

# NEWS



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# No 1



**ALAN  
COOKE  
IS OUR  
NEW No 1**

● **Woolwich Press  
Officer Award** page 24

● **Euro Youth &  
Veterans  
Championships**  
pages 10 & 17

● **TTN Play Preview**  
page 18

**NEW SEASON  
NEW LOOK!**

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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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## CAPTAIN'S LOG

Welcome back to table tennis following a long hot summer, that had record days of sunshine. Let us hope that this coming season will be a record-breaking year for English table tennis, bringing a little sunshine into the national and local game.

We kick off the season with the British League on Sunday 3rd September, followed by a Joola Men's European match between England and Hungary, on Tuesday 5th September at Leeds Town Hall.

September's issue opens the season for Table Tennis News with reports and features on summer tournaments both home and abroad, including the European Youth Championships in The Hague, the European Veteran Championships in Vienna and the Cadet Six Nations in England.

This opening issue also features the production of a new play about table tennis at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London, by writer Simon Block, entitled 'Not a Game for Boys', which is reviewed on pages 18 and 19.

I trust all our readers have a successful as well as a happy season.

*John Wood*

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

- JOOLA MEN'S EUROPEAN LEAGUE: ENGLAND V. HUNGARY
- PENIEL JUNIOR 2 STAR: COMPETITION REPORT

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



Table Tennis Snippets

**INDIAN TAKEAWAY**

A Summer evening telephone conversation and Ken Muhr from his Durham office signs off by telling Nick Jarvis, Guildford, that he is about to order an Indian takeaway. "Go to Shildon", advises the former Ormesby Club star, "it's one of the best in the North East". Later, still in Durham, and Ken has crossed the road for a swift half while he is awaiting his meal. A local strikes up a conversation which leads to a discussion on the relative merits of various Indian restaurants, during which Ken repeats his 'Southern' friend's advice. "And what brings you to the North East?" asks Ken's drinking companion, and Ken explains that he is now Northern Regional Development Officer for Table Tennis. "When I was teaching in Guisborough", says the other, "one of my pupils was very keen on table tennis. His name was ....Nick Jarvis!

**THE CARL PREAN CENTRE**

A new purpose-built table tennis centre has been opened on the Isle of Wight, which has been named 'The Carl Preat Table Tennis Centre'. This purpose-built facility was built by Spithead Estates of Sandown, and was ready for occupation in August.

**KEITH WATTS RETIRES**

The National Council's first year of existence was 1964/5, and Keith was one of the four Councillors elected to the Management Committee under the original



system. That same season he became a member of Rules Committee.

After 4 years' service he was made Chairman of Rules

Committee (in succession to Tom Blunn) and served in that capacity from 1968/9 to 1976/7 inclusive.

In 1977/8, for reasons which I do not remember, Keith did not continue as National Councillor for Sussex and was therefore not

eligible to stand for re-election to Management Committee, but remained a member. George White took over the chair.

1978/9 was the first year of the 'new style' Management Committee

accept appointment as Chairman of Rules Committee once again, and he has held the post from 1979/80 to date.

Keith Watts retired at the July National Council meeting in

1920/29, won the title three times in succession. The first Ladies Singles winner was Mill D. L. Emdin. Over the years, the Men's Singles title has changed hands many times with Harry Verner and Chester Barnes



**Robert Sinclair (left) as General Secretary is pictured receiving the ITTF honour on behalf of the ETTA for the Rt. Hon. Ivor Montagu, former Life Vice-President of the ETTA. The President Johnny Leach MBE (centre) and the Chairman of the ETTA Alan Ransome (right) were part of the presentation at the ETTA AGM.**

consisting of Heads of Departments. George White was Vice-Chairman (Administration) and after continuing to chair Rules Committee for that season decided that it would be preferable to have a Rules Committee Chairman who was not

Birmingham, after many years loyal service to the ETTA.

**(STAMCO) SUSSEX OPEN TWO STAR 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

The first tournament was held in 1927/28 and, apart from two years, has always been run by this Association. There has always been a Sussex Open held every year since that date, apart from 1928/29 and the war years. Fond memories are still held by these players who played when the tournament was held at the White Rook Pavilion but, due to its refurbishment and new regulations as to height of lights etc, it was necessary to move to his current venue, Hastings Sports Centre and this year marks the 12th year at the Centre. The first winner of the Men's Singles was C. H. Bull and, allowing for the no contest in

heading the list winning four times in all. Nicky Mason is the only player to win three successive titles since Mr Bull back in the old days. On the Ladies front, the Rowe twins dominated each winning the Singles title three times in succession as well as being involved in 10 doubles successes. Ann Haydon had her successes before turning to Lawn Tennis. The late 60s and 70s were dominated by Mary Shannon (Wright) (4 singles wins), Kazensa Mathews (4 wins), Jill Hammersley (3 wins), Karen Witt (4 wins) and not to forget the achievement of Alison Gordon (now Broe) with 9 singles wins including 7 in succession, plus being involved in 11 doubles successes. It is hoped that continued support of the tournament by players and supporters will ensure that the tournament will run for many years to come.

**STOP PRESS**

**DISLOCATED**

Peniel's Sean Gibson will be out of action for a few months, following a swimming incident, when he dislocated his shoulder whilst swimming the crawl, - cooling off after a training session with colleague John Holland.

also Vice-Chairman (Administration). Whatever had caused Keith to reduce his commitments had now changed sufficiently to allow him to

**STOP PRESS**

**TIN HAT**

England's Chen Xinhua will probably need to wear a tin hat and bullet-proof vest when he plays this coming season, as he has signed on to play for a club in Zagreb, Croatia.

**YEARBOOK**

"The Table Tennis Yearbook of the ETTU and AIPS has again been published. There are results, addresses, ranking lists, international calendar for the whole year. This yearbook can be ordered on the following address, in a letter or by fax:

Kozák Mihály  
1027 Budapest  
Margit körút 20  
Hungary  
fax: 36-1-1369203

The 100-page yearbook has a price of 5 US dollars, which should be paid upon receipt of the book."

**60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday 8th April, 1995 proved to be a very special day for the West Wilts Table Tennis League when it saw the culmination of many months of hard work and planning for the celebration of its 60th Anniversary.

Players, both past and present, with their partners, attended to renew old friendships and acquaintances, and to make new ones. A number had travelled some distance to attend, but perhaps the most extreme example was the League President's son, and former league and county player, Jon Chandler, who flew over from the USA. An attendance of about 200 must show that the spirit of friendship still lives on healthily - at least in West Wills.

During the course of the evening commemorative medals to mark the occasion were presented to the President, Vice-Presidents, Life-Members, Chairman, Secretary and all the League's officers, as well as to players who had played continuously in the League for 60, 50

and 40 years.

The evening also saw the launch of a book on the history of the League since its formation on 8th April, 1935, which had been researched and written by the League Chairman, John Ford. Copies are available for purchase at £5.00 each if anyone would like one.

In his speech, the President, Chick Chandler, who is a founder member of the League and still playing 60 years on, expressed his great pleasure to see so many present, especially former players. He also paid tribute to John Ford (Chairman) and Malcolm Phillips (Secretary) for all their hard work and effort in bringing together, for the first time, so many former players and for organising such a magnificent and enjoyable evening. He believed that those present would undoubtedly remember this unique evening for many years to come.

The photograph shows the President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Vice-Presidents and Life Members of the League Celebrate 75 years next?

**WELSH RABBIT**

Everyone in North Wales is eagerly looking forward to the new season, which promises to promote more competitions for players in the area. Top junior players are committed to



many events during the season at International and County level and with a heavy tournament programme we are in danger of the remainder being left out in the cold. The N.W.C.T.T.A. are to organise a number of events including coaching sessions for these players. Coaches are asked to encourage their players to enter tournaments to improve their game and interest.

Clwyd again have three county teams, Senior, Junior and Veteran and hope to do better than last season. Many of the top players will not represent the County and this seems to be a negative attitude. To play for your County is an honour, so think again.

The Welsh League (North) for the



**GET WELL SOON**

*Best wishes to Clive Carthy who is recovering after an unexpected operation in August. We hope that he makes a full and speedy recovery and is able to compete in the 95/96 season before much time has elapsed.*

last few seasons has failed to get off the ground, so this season a full programme for men, ladies, veterans and juniors is being planned. These matches will be played at a central venue. The Leagues we hope who will take part are East Flint, Llandudno, Rhyl and Wrexham.

Three new community clubs are set to take off in January, 1996. They are at Holyhead, Rhyl and Llandudno. These are the first clubs in North Wales, with already twenty community clubs already formed in South Wales. The potential of new players is enormous to combat the declining number of players in the leagues.

**NEW PRODUCTS**

SIMON FRASER SPORTS are now the sole agents in the UK for the well-known BANDA brand of equipment. There is a new range of blades, rubbers, clothing and accessories including three

**BANDA**

new blades made in Sweden. The "ALLROUND LIGHT" 80g blades have three grips giving optimal comfort in the hand with balanced elasticity and high ball control. The "CARRERA" is a spin offensive blade, ideal for the controlled, spin offensive player. Then there is the "CARRERA RS" producing turbo power from its 7 ply, perfect for the vari offensive player.

There are four new rubbers for the dynamic spin enthusiast which give more feeling for the ball and increased playing pleasure. "TVIST S" and "TVIST K" have identical sponge but different playing surfaces. "S" = SPIN ELASTICITY. "K" = KLEBRIG (grippy). "ROSSA" and "ROSSA-SOFT" have an identical playing surface, but different sponges to suit different styles of play.

New for season 1995/96 is the ANDRO "CLUB COLLECTION". This includes an allround blade "DESTINY C.C." for the allround and spin offensive player who requires speed in reserve and good ball control. This blade is compatible with "DESTINY L.L." rubber "L.L." = LONG LIFE for the vari and spin offensive player. There is the "CLUB COLLECTION" of high quality clothing in subtle, co-ordinating colours with matching accessories. Also new in the "ANDRO" range are the "KEVLAR" and "COSMOS CARBON" blades. The "KEVLAR" is made from a ply similar to Hinoki for the dynamic attacking enthusiast. The "COSMOS CARBON" is a carbon blade at an affordable price.

SCHOLER & MICKLE have produced a "CARBON DEFENDER" blade with a slightly smaller playing surface, which gives speed and an enlarged sweet spot for control.

**SUPER GRASS**

Simon Fraser Sports' first customer for a sheet of the new Tibhar product 'Grass Super' was a policeman!

**OCTOBER ISSUE OF TTN**

Next issue will hopefully include details of other details of other new products as they arrive!

**STOP PRESS**

**DOWN UNDER**

Last season's England's Men's team manager Denis Neale, has emigrated to Australia, where he will be the new state coach in Queensland. He flew out to his life on Tuesday 29th August.

# NEW SEASON

## *New Hopes*



THE FOCUS SPORTS PROGRAMME INTRODUCED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPORTS COUNCIL HAS PRODUCED TREMENDOUS BENEFITS FOR TABLE TENNIS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS OR SO. ONE OF THESE BENEFITS HAS BEEN THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN THE SPORT FROM ONE WITH A DECLINING GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP TO ONE SHOWING A MODEST INCREASE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN 15 YEARS WRITES **ALAN RANSOME**.

On the 14th July, the Prime Minister, John Major launched the programme entitled "Sport Raising the Game" which was fully explained in a document prepared by the Department of Heritage. If we take full advantage of the opportunities it offers it may be of an even greater benefit to table tennis than the Focus Sport's programme has proved to be.

The fact that we have the Focus Sports Programme in place has given us the qualified and experienced people and the infrastructure to be able to undertake the work involved to implement this new initiative and to be able to reap the benefits from it. From a table tennis point of view there are 3 main advantages.

### 1. TOP SPORT

This is a scheme previously launched by the Youth Sports Trust and the Sports Council whereby the teaching of selected sports in schools is encouraged by the Government. Table tennis is one of the first sports to be included in this programme. Pilot projects are being tested by the English Schools Table Tennis Association and the ETTA, at the moment the project launch date is April 1st 1996.

The ETTA will be heavily involved in the training of the teachers. The success of the programme will be largely dependant on the involvement and commitment of the teachers in the selected schools and

therefore the uptake may vary throughout the country.

Table tennis has not been able to make a major impact on school sport. The programme provides us with a unique opportunity to do just that.

### 2. TOP CLUB

The Government have recognised that youngsters who play sport in school do not automatically join a

participating in the Top Sports programme to local clubs and encourage pupils who like the sport to join clubs before leaving school so considerably increasing the likelihood of continuing playing after leaving school. The ETTA have a major role to play in this programme. The Regional Development Officers are already locating and encouraging local clubs who have the facilities and are willing and able to accept

members into our clubs from youngsters who have already gained the enthusiasm for table tennis from playing at school.

The Top Club programme could have 3 stages, stage one is detailed above, the second stage would be for a club to provide advance coaching and local league play for the youngsters who have progressed through the first stage. The third stage would be excellence coaching and local league top division play plus higher level match play including British League, County programmes and tournaments. Opportunities should also be provided for youngsters to be introduced to and encouraged to take up coaching, umpiring and administration. The Top Club programme should swell the numbers of players joining table tennis clubs and should in turn increase the numbers participating in our sport in both local leagues and casual players within our club structure.

### 3. TABLE TENNIS ACADEMY

One of the main points of the Prime Minister's statement and the one that gained the most headlines in the national press was the establishment of a sports academy for the country's sporting top prospects. The exact form that this will take is not decided and consultations will take place in the next month or two with all



**Alan Ransome,**  
**Chairman ETTA.**

club to play outside school hours or continue playing that sport after they have left school. Therefore the Youth Sports Trust and the Sports Council have established the Top Club programme with the objective of linking schools particularly ones

new young members to enrol for this programme. It is envisaged that clubs would offer junior coaching and Woolwich Junior Match League play weekly for the new members. This programme in itself would ensure the continuous flow of new

## BY ALAN RANSOME

interested parties. On the Continent several table tennis associations including the French, German and Danish have already established Academies where their top young players live, are educated and play table tennis in a residential centre throughout the year. The results of the players who attend these academies have been very impressive. The ETTA have recognised the need for such an academy for some time and are ready to take full advantage of the establishment of such a centre for table tennis excellence at the earliest possible date.

### NEW CENTRES

The benefit of the Focus Sport programme and the grants received from the Sports Council, the Foundation for Sports and the Arts, National Lottery and local authorities are now coming into full effect. On July 15th it was my pleasure to open the new Cirencester Table Tennis Centre in Gloucestershire. The Cirencester Centre has been built as a result of a partnership between the Deer Park School and the Cirencester Table Tennis Association. The Centre has been purpose built to accommodate 10 tables and has a specialist lighting and flooring. The facility will be used during the normal school day by the Deer Park School then used in the evenings and the weekends by the Table Tennis Association who have developed a full programme of competitions, and league play, coaching and practise to make full use of time available. The centre cost to build in excess of £300,000 with contributions for the Deer Park School, Sports Council - South West region, Foundation for Sports and the Arts via the ETTA, National Lottery and Cotswold District Council and Cirencester League. I congratulate Development Officer, Bob Davis and his colleagues on their success. This centre will be a major boost for table tennis not just in Cirencester but in Gloucestershire and throughout the South West. Several other official openings are likely to take place in the near future including the Barrow Centre in Cumbria on 22nd September and the



**The presentation of the Foundation for Sport and the Arts Plaque at Cirencester Deer Park School**

Hyndburn Centre in Lancashire on 23rd September. The Carl Prean Centre in the Isle of Wight is due to open in October and the Sedgfield Centre in County Durham shortly after.

Our National Development team consisting of the National Development committee, our national development staff, the regional chairman and our regional development officers are all continuing to work hard to promote local schemes. The priorities for the 1995/6 season have been set as the establishment of new and improved facilities in all areas and the expansion of the existing and the establishment of new Woolwich Junior Leagues throughout the country.

### IAN MARSHALL ITTF ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

The ITTF have appointed the Grove Team Manager, Ian Marshall as their professional Administrative Director from 25 September 1995. This is a full time position based in the ITTF Head Office in Hastings. His principle task will be to understudy Albert Shipley, the current Secretary-General, who is due to retire at the end of 1995. However, Mr Shipley will retain the title of Secretary-General until the end of the 1996 Olympics as he will be continuing to work for the ITTF on a part-time basis during that period.

I wish Ian every success in his new position. I am sure that his enormous enthusiasm for the sport and the experience that he has gained developing the highly

successful Grove Club he will be a great asset to the ITTF. Ian's move is however certain to have a detrimental effect on the success of the Grove Club itself which is unlikely to be a dominating force in the future that it has been in recent years without his constant efforts.

On the international front the European Youth Championships played in the Netherlands in July produced the expected modest results from an England view point. More needs to be done to give our leading juniors the coaching, experience and encouragement that they need to reach the standards to win honours at international level. The Management Committee via the Vice Chairman Selection, Richard Habgood has established a new junior selection committee who will take the responsibility of developing best talent. The chairman of the new committee will be former national champion, Carole Moore with Donald Parker, Ken Muhr, Jill Harris and Jai Yi Lui appointed as members so far. It will be the committee's intention to increase both the quality and quantity of training for juniors, cadets and under 12's as well as increasing the number of opportunities for international play.

The senior England programme commences with the Joola European Men's league matches against Hungary in Leeds Town Hall on September 5th sponsored by Leeds City Council. From an England point of view three important competitions this season will be the European League Super Division men's and women's and the European Championships in Bratislava in April. However, this

year will have the special significance of being an Olympic year when the selected British players will participate in the European Olympic Qualification tournament which is to be held in Manchester from 10th - 14th January to decide the extra European players who will qualify over and above those who qualify automatically from their World ranking for the Olympic summer games in Atlanta in July 1996. These championships and the World Championship 1997 are being supported by Manchester City Council and jointly organised by Manchester and the ETTA. Mike Watts, the ETTA Events Manager has been appointed a Tournament Director and will relocate his office base to Manchester with immediate effect. We have a very busy season ahead of us and I wish all members a successful and happy one.

*Alan Ransome, Chairman*

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

A vacancy has arisen for a full-time

### NATIONAL EVENTS MANAGER

Circa £16,000pa and Car.  
BASED AT THE ETTA'S  
OFFICES IN HASTINGS FOR A  
3 YEAR FIXED TERM  
CONTRACT

The main functions include:

- Venue negotiations for internationals and championships
- Organisation and Marketing of events

- Events budgeting

The successful candidate must possess the following:

- Knowledge of table tennis
- Ability to work under pressure
- Keen attention to detail
- The ability to work to budget
- Full driving licence

Job description and application form available from:

**Richard Yule, Chief Executive,  
English Table Tennis  
Association,**

**Queensbury House, Havelock  
Road, Hastings, East Sussex,  
TN34 1HF**

**Tel: 01424 722525**

**Fax: 01424 422103**

**Closing date: 15th September 1995**

## JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE

ENGLAND'S MEN AND WOMEN AGAIN COMPETE IN SUPER DIVISION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LEAGUES THIS SEASON.

In the first stage of the league programme England's Men take on newly promoted Hungary on the 5th September at Leeds Town Hall; then travel to Belgium for their 3rd October 1995 fixture against the reigning champions, before returning to Leeds Town Hall on Tuesday 31st October 1995 for the vital match against Austria. (Full details in next month's issue).

England's women start their campaign away to the Netherlands on the 26th of this month, continue with another away fixture against Hungary on the 10th October and then play Belgium at home in early November. (Full details in next month's issue).

It is the results from these first stage matches that determines who plays who, and where for the second stage of the league competition.

### EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

ENGLAND'S BFL GROVE TTC AGAIN FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN THE DRAW FOR THIS SEASON'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CUP COMPETITION.

BFL Grove play STK Postar Tuzla (BIH) in the first round of the men's cup and are scheduled to meet Borussia Dusseldorf (GER) in the quarter-final. In the women's cup BFL Grove have a bye in the first round and then play the winners of the Borey St. Petersburg - NTK i.M. Ljubljana fixture.

In both the Men's and Women's

**Tong Feiming, BFL Grove's No1 lady.**



Competitions last seasons finalists are again seeded in the top two position. Levallois UTT (Fra) and Royal Charleroi (Bel) look very strong in the men's cup as do Statistika Metalloglobus Budapest and TSG Dulmen in the women's event, but TSG Dulmen will not relish another meeting with BFL Grove if last seasons semi-final is repeated. BFL Grove ladies will look to go one better this season.

### ETTU NANCY EVAN'S CUP COMPETITION

IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE MEN'S COMPETITION READING'S KINGFISHER TTC AND GLASGOW'S DRUMCHAPEL TTC TAKE ON VIENNA'S POLIZEI S.V. AND ROTTERDAM'S FVT VISSER RESPECTIVELY.

Kingfisher are at home (29.09.95) and if successful travel to the Czech Republic to take on T.J.Nova Hut Ostrava in the second round. On the other hand, Drumchapel Glasgow will be at home against Croatia's STK Podravka Koprivnica if they get through.

DML White Hart Launceston have a first round bye and in the second round take on S.A.G. Cestas (Fra) in yet another away fixture. France's A.L.Eysines provide a second round away fixture for Grantham's South Kesteven Sovereigns (Women's competition) who also received a bye in the first round.

### APPROVED GLUES

Posno Spin-Speed Glue has been added to the ITTF list of approved glues.

A full updated list will appear in next month's issue.

### 1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BRATISLAVA)

The dates have been changed to the 27th April until the 7th May 1996 at the request of the Slovak Table Tennis Association.

## RANKING LISTS

### ENGLISH

AUGUST 1995

MEN	Pts	WR	ER
1. (1) Alan Cooke (Dy)	3828	52	31
2. (3) Chen Xinhua (Y)	3756	18	9
3. (2) Carl Preen (IoW)	3789	32	19
4. (5) Matthew Syed (Bk)	3735	56	35
5. (4) Desmond Douglas (Wal)	3718	70	44
6. (7) Bradley Billington (Dy)	3364	203	126
7. (6) Andrew Eder (La)	3364	172	105
8. (8) Chris Oldfield (Y)	3213	130	80
9. (9) Jonathan Taylor (La)	3188	196	121
10. (10) Nicky Mason (Sx)	3157		
<b>WOMEN</b>			
1. (1) Andrea Holt (La)	3297	60	28
2. (2) Lisa Lomas (Bd)	3285	56	25
3. (3) Alison Broe (Bk)	3075	79	39
4. (6) Nicola Deaton (Dy)	2932	186	111
5. (4) Sally Marling (Y)	2888	216	132
6. (5) Linda Radford (E)	2852		
7. (7) Kate Goodall (Y)	2772		
8. (9) Helen Lower (St)	2720	199	118
9. (8) Gemma Schwartz	2717		
10. (10) Jill Harris (St)	2647		

### ETTU EUROPEAN

JUNE 1995

MEN		
1. Jan-Ove Waldner (Swe)		1661
2. Jean-Michel Saive (Bel)		1631
3. Jorg Roskopf (Ger)		1583
4. Jean-Philippe Gatien (Fra)		1570
5. Zoran Primorac (Cro)		1562
6. Peter Karlsson (Swe)		1540
7. Jorgen Persson (Swe)		1517
8. Vladimir Samsonov (Blr)		1462
9. Chen Xinhua (Eng)		1427
10. Andrzej Grubba (Pol)		1422
<b>WOMEN</b>		
1. Jie Schapp (Ger)		1526
2. Nicole Strusec (Ger)		1504
3. Otilia Badesca (Rom)		1502
4. Emilia Ciosu (Rom)		1481
5. Csilla Batorfi (Hun)		1475

### EPSON ITTF WORLD

JUNE 1995

MEN		
1. (3) Jan-Ove Waldner (Swe)		1661
2. (2) Wang Tao (Chn)		1633
3. (1) Jean-Michel Saive (Bel)		1631
4. (10) Kong Linghui (Chn)		1605
5. (5) Kim Taek-soo (Kor)		1596
6. (11) Liu Guoliang (Chn)		1585
7. (8) Jorg Roskopf (Ger)		1583
8. (4) Jean-Philippe Gatien (Fra)		1570
9. (6) Zoran Primorac (Cro)		1562
10. (7) Ma Wenge (Chn)		1546
<b>WOMEN</b>		
1. (1) Deng Yaping (Chn)		1868
2. (2) Qiao Hong (Chn)		1742
3. (3) Chai Po Wa (Hkg)		1615
4. (8) Liu Wei (Chn)		1602
5. (5) Gao Jun (Chn)		1582

John Woodford at The Hague

**O**n the opening day in the 33-table hall, England's brightest hope Terry Young pulled off two great wins against Hungary that included the top Hungarian Robert Gardos, who was later seeded in the boys singles.

All four England teams were victorious on the first day, but the euphoria was short-lived. From that point, defeats were regular for all the teams until they found themselves amongst the lesser teams on the last two days. Terry Young, only 16, is finding the mantle of England's No 1 junior an uncomfortable garment to wear. It could be that he feels so much is expected of him. At 16 perhaps, we all had attitude problems.

Although battling on to the best of his ability, with his two team-mates Steve Meddings and Vince Avery behaving impeccably on court, the Berkshire player on this occasion fell into the irritating trap for spectators of frequently looking back to the bench for sympathy from Jai Lei and his team when he lost points.

Terry Young is now England's

# EUPHORIA

## *short lived*

VAST QUANTITIES OF WATER HAVE PASSED ALONG THE DUTCH CANALS SINCE CARL PREAN CLINCHED GOLD MEDALS IN THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1983 (CADETS) AND IN 1985 WHEN HE LIFTED THE JUNIOR BOYS CROWN.

IN THE LAST DECADE, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE FOR ENGLISH PLAYERS, COACHES AND SUPPORTERS TO CELEBRATE - THE 1995 HAGUE TEAM EVENTS WERE NO EXCEPTION WRITES **JOHN WOODFORD**

*England's Andrew Baggaley - an impressive talent that looks good for the future.*

youngest full-time professional. Before he makes money or gets a foreign contract the rough edges seen at The Hague will need smoothing out; it will not be easy, because at 16 he does not have the experience needed at this time.

So how did England's rivals from the continent do so well? Before I attempt to suggest the reasons these were the finishing spots for England in Holland:

**JUNIOR BOYS**

22nd position, one up on 1994.

**JUNIOR GIRLS**

23, ten down on 1994.

**CADET BOYS**

15, six up on 1994.

**CADET GIRLS**

18, six down on 1994.

"Scholarship Table Tennis Schools" are becoming commonplace on the continent and Scandinavia. The first one started years back at Falkenburg where scholars continued their education as residents but were coached for many years for many hours a day. The French are said to

**RESULTS ANALYSIS**

JUNIOR BOYS:  
Germany 4, Spain 1.  
JUNIOR GIRLS:  
Russia 3, Croatia 0.  
CADET BOYS:  
Germany 3, Denmark 0.  
CADET GIRLS:  
Czech Republic 1, Russia 3.

have eight of these schools. Germany it seems, has the most successful one at Heidelberg. Here 24 resident youngsters, (10-16 age groups) continue their normal studies but are coached intensively by the German staff coaches from the DTTE.

The fact that the Germans won both the junior boys and cadet events in Holland seems to prove that after years of trying, the Germans are getting it right and will soon be producing not only the odd world star like Jorg Roskopf, but a large batch of star players. What we saw in Holland was Germany threatening to dominate Europe - but not quite on the scale they attempted from 1939 to 1945!

Spain's boys exceeded all expectations. It appears that their Chinese coach is producing winners, but who could have forecast that on the way to the final at The Hague they would capsize both Sweden and Hungary.

How some of the Eastern bloc "new" countries do so well without much sponsorship and scholarship schools is a mystery. How can they afford to send teams of between 14 and 18 players when England the poor relation, has only eleven?

One reason for the England Junior doldrums was exposed at the Birmingham AGM - local leagues and counties voted against the ETTA using half the returned VAT money (£35,000) on junior development and then some would say selfishly deciding to have their modest sums of money returned.

However, a brief look at the Cadets at the Hague - Andrew Baggaley impressed me most. He seems a talented boy, very young, who gets on with his game manfully, instead of staring at his coach when he loses points. I am told he did well at the Six Nations tournament at



# TASTE *of* SUCCESS

**GLENDASHISON AND SCOTT FRIDAY HAD A TASTE OF SUCCESS IN THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, BY BECOMING THE ONLY ENGLISH PLAYERS TO REACH THE THIRD ROUND OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SINGLES WRITES BARRY GRANGER.**

Soham when he beat Jesper Dahl of Denmark, a great victory.

At The Hague, he forged a brilliant 19-15 lead in the third in the Italian match, but lost 20-22. He left the court with head held high, a mark of a future winner.

From the team of five England girls at The Hague including the two cadets Lyndsey Thornton and Emma Smith, it was Miss Thornton who seemed to be the most promising, but only just, all five fought hard with very little reward.

With our two senior players Lisa Lomas and Alison Gordon (Broe) nearing retirement, England needs to have excellent juniors coming along to put pressure on the young seniors in waiting - Nicola Deaton, Sally Marling, Linda Radford, Gemma Schwartz and others. The female England quartet at The Hague seem to have a lot of work ahead.

The Dutch can almost take full marks for their organisation. The schedules seemed reasonable. Trying to cope with 700 players is no mean task. The seating in the halls was inadequate - nearly 1,500 watched the team finals, mainly on benches without backrests and the Dutch decided to charge spectators on some of the days at the end of the team event and the individual event. I am sure that did not go down well with the parents. As far as I know, admission has always in the past been free.

## DEATH IN BOSNIA

In Bosnia and in all parts of the former Yugoslavia, there is more to worry about - in May, Elvis Alacio the Bosnian No. 4 was killed by a Serbian rocket. His name was amongst the fourteen players named for The Hague tournament.

In the Junior Girls singles, Glenda easily disposed of E. Vali (Estonia) 10,9 and M. Clement (Lux) 14,16 but then met last year's winner Svetlana Ganina (Rus) the defender. Although Glenda initially caused her problems, Ganina's combination bat defence saw her coast home 21-10, 21-11.

The Cadet Boy's singles saw Scott Friday win against G. Ayaz (Tor) - 13,8,9 before meeting a 10-year old from Wales - A. Robertson. Scott won the first 21-16 but was pipped 19-21 in the second. A good start saw him lead 17-13 in the third only to lose concentration and let Robertson in to an 18-17 lead. The inevitable deuce followed with Scott finally winning 23-21. Scott then played the French boy Jean Boisard who was to reach the final and give the German T. Boll, a good game. Boisard's speed around the table was too great in the first and Scott lost 21-16, but he gradually got to grips with the game and was ahead in the second, fell behind but came back to deuce. Boisard's relentless attacking play, however, finally saw him through 23-21.

In the Cadet Girls, Lyndsey Thornton lost to a Lithuanian, L. Stankute -19,-14 and Emma Smith to M. Xiang (Ger) -19,14,15. The Junior Girls saw Shelley Ruocco beat M. Rieder (Aut) 10,16 before losing to E. Shvets (Ukr) -9,-10 and Tracey Davies also lost in two close games in her first round match. The Junior Boys didn't fare well either; after winning his qualifying match, Vince

Avery lost -16,16 to Z. Fejer-Konnerth (Ger) and Terry Young was beaten at the same stage by the Ukranian no. 2 J. Matvejchuk - 17,15,-18. Steven Meddings won his first round against Q. Douberg (Ukr) -

Lyndsey Thornton/Emma Smith did well to beat C. Hof/L. Kooij (Neth) 14,10 and K. Rahotini (Slovakia)/F. Louviaux (Bel) 13,-20,11 before falling to top seeds N. Lapteva/I. Kotikhina (Rus) -14,-13. The Cadet



**England's Lindsay Thornton whose success at the Cadet 6 Nations was not improved upon in The Hague**

12,17,14, but fell to S. Rabinovich (Isr) -12,-10 in the second round.

The Boys Doubles saw defeats for Young/Meddings in the first round as well as V. Avery with his Hungarian partner. Ashison/Ruocco lost at the same stage in the Girls, although Tracey Davies, playing with A. Shashkin (Isr), won against Marchett/Bentley (Sco). This was then followed by a -13,-11 defeat by R. Strbikove (Cze)/E. Odorova (Slovakia).

Boys doubles saw Friday/Herbert beat P. Pastor/D. Suarez (Sp) - 19,19,15, but lose to the eventual winners B. Baum/J. Lilienthal (Ger) - 15,-17.

Mixed doubles saw only three pairings reach the second round. Herbert/Thornton lost to P. Pastor/J. Hernandez (Sp) -11,-9, Friday/Smith lost to A. Liventsove (Rus)/J. Sincina (Ukr) -17,-14 and Young/Ruocco lost to B. Vozicki/R. Strbikova (Cze) 10,9,18.

# DIXON *defeats* KERNS

ANOTHER TOURNAMENT FROM SEASIDERS T T C. THE NORTH WEST 2 STAR OPEN TOOK OFF, AFTER SOME EARLY CONFUSION ON THE SATURDAY MORNING. THE TOURNAMENT WAS RUN ON A BANDED BASIS WITH SINGLES EVENTS ONLY WRITES **TONY MEREDITH**

There were senior, junior and veteran events, all played in groups, and plate events took place on the Sunday. The sports centre, Carr Hill School was the venue. With only ten tables in the use, the entry of around 120 was just about maximum. Adrian Dixon, the Staffordshire player, now based in Reading, took the men's singles band 1 title with a comfortable 18,17 victory over Stephen Kerns of Essex. Dixon's only

hurdle was his semi-final match with French National League player Phillippe Juniver who he edged out 17,-14,17. Main shock in the top event was the elimination of England No. 4 junior Michael James in the qualifying group by Mick Dore from Bury (Andrea Holt country). Joanna Roberts (Leeds) was just too good for Lindsey Thornton (Bury) in the Ladies singles band 1. Joanna winning 16,16. Phillippe Juniver

pocketed the winner's cheque for the men's band 2, defeating Michael James (Bridlington) 7,-12,12. Debbie Toole from Yorkshire has suddenly appeared back on the scene after a considerable interlude from the game. The former top ranked junior and senior was very convincing when she overcame Lindsey Thornton 20,17 in the Ladies band 2 final.

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# Opposition **TOO STRONG**

THIS TOURNAMENT HAS NOW BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1981 AND IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE **SIX NATIONS** THAT ORIGINALLY JOINED HAVE **NOT CHANGED** IN THE FOURTEEN YEARS IT HAS OPERATED WRITES **MIKE WATTS.**

England hosted the second event in 1982 at Shotley near Ipswich and in 1988 repeated the exercise at Bletchley in Buckinghamshire. This year the event took place in Soham Cambridgeshire and was a great success. Following an Opening Ceremony involving all competitors play got under way on Friday afternoon with the Team Events with the Boys in one hall and the Girls in a second hall alongside. Countries taking part were: Denmark, England, France, Germany,

Netherlands and Sweden.

England soon found that the opposition was strong losing 9-1 to Sweden in the Boys and 10-0 to Sweden in the Girls.

A second round of matches followed in the evening and here England fared little better losing 9-1 and 8-2 to Germany.

Session three commenced Saturday morning with England beginning to put together some good results against Denmark although again the final results were 7-3 and 6-4 defeats.

The fourth session Saturday afternoon provided two more defeats 9-1 and 10-0 to the French before finally England girls finished with a 6-4 win over the Netherlands whilst the boys again lost 8-2 to the same country.

Germany came out top in both the Boys and Girls events and although England could only finish 6th in the Boy and 5th in the Girls there were good performances from Gareth

## RESULTS ANALYSIS

### BOYS TEAM EVENTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1. Germany	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
2. Denmark	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
3. Sweden	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
4. France	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
5. Netherlands	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
6. ENGLAND	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

(Sweden beat France)

### GIRLS TEAM EVENTS

1. Germany	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
2. Sweden	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
3. France	5	3	0	2	34	16	6
4. Denmark	5	2	0	3	19	31	4
5. ENGLAND	5	1	0	4	12	38	2
6. Netherlands	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

### INDIVIDUALS

#### CADET BOYS

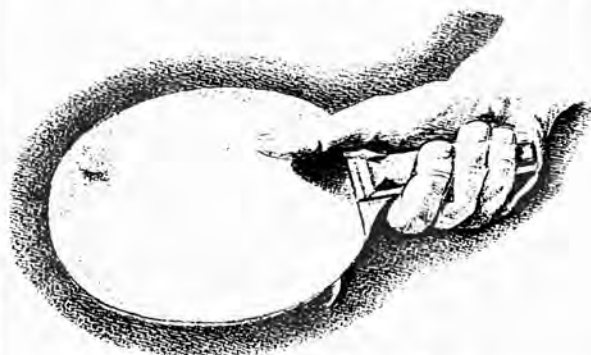
Quarter Finals: J Lilienthal (GER) beat J Boisard (FRA) 8,14, N Stehle (GER) beat H Pettersson (SWE) 10,21,14; S Guimont (FRA) beat D Sliepen (NED) 7,17, J Dahl (DEN) beat B Baum (GER) 17,15.  
Semi Finals: J Lilienthal (GER) beat N Stehle (GER) 20,24, J Dahl (DEN) beat S Guimont (DEN) 17,11  
Final: J Lilienthal (GER) beat J Dahl (DEN) 18,21

#### CADET GIRLS

Quarter Finals: V Augustsson (SWE) beat K Ogon (FRA) 13,17, M Sjogren (SWE) beat L Thornton (ENG) 20,16,15; N Bollmeier (GER) beat A Gourin (FRA) 13, 12,21, M Xiang (GER) beat L Nordangerg (SWE) 15,17  
Semi Finals: V Augustsson (SWE) beat M Sjogren (SWE) 18,15,17, M Xiang (GER) beat N Bollmeier (GER) 15,15  
Final: V Augustsson (SWE) beat M Xiang (GER) 15,14,14

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*By Ron Crayden*

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Herbert and Scott Friday in the boys and Lindsey Thornton in the Girls, and most of the other players were not far behind their counterparts.

Sunday saw the beginning of the Individuals with six players one from each Country in each group. Some groups contained seven where Countries had brought extra players.

Andrew Baggaley from Buckinghamshire provided the highlight for England beating Jesper Dahl from Denmark the European No. 3 Cadet Boy even though Dahl eventually won the group and reached the Final.

The tournament was sponsored by the Soham and District Sports

Association and great credit should be given to Carol Brannan the Centre Manager and her staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the competitors comforts. John Jermyn from Hertfordshire was the Referee and again full credit should go to him for the professional way he conducted the whole event. There were some Umpiring problems initially but with help from foreign Umpires from the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany backing up the teams of English Umpires and some local helpers this in the end was satisfactory.

Paul Day (Vice Chairman(Selection)) presented the Trophies on the final day.

LISA LOMAS PLAYED 8 WON 8; ALISON GORDON 8 - 8; NICOLA DEATON 8 - 8; AND TONG FEIMING 6 - 6; THUS BFL GROVE 1 LEFT THE CRYSTAL CENTRE AT STOURBRIDGE ON SUNDAY 11TH JUNE CLUTCHING THE PREMIER DIVISION WINNER'S "BUTTERFLY BOWL" FOR THE SIXTH SUCCESSIVE SEASON AND WITH IT BEST WISHES FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN FROM THE REMAINING ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN PLAYERS WHO HAD ALL IN THEIR WAY CONTRIBUTED TO ANOTHER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SEASON (THE SEVENTH) OF THE WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE, **WRITES BRIAN LAMMERTON.**

**W**hilst there was never any doubt at the top and with Sally Marling and Gemma Schwartz (Hull Sandhill 1) and Jill Harris (South Kesteven Sovereigns 1) who each recorded 7 wins from 10 sets played comfortably keeping their respective teams in the top half and Graham Spicer always struggling at the bottom, interest largely fell on the battle to avoid the second relegation spot. BFL Grove 2 started the week end in this position and were still there on Saturday night but with a last set 21-19 in the third win for Jose Bongers over Teresa Bennett (Graham Spicer) providing a 3 sets all draw on Sunday morning, a win over Horsham in the afternoon would see these two swap places. At 2-all Tong Mingdi defeated Sally Weston; 3 - 2 to Grove and then again the dependable Bongers 21-17,21-11 against Claire Moore and Grove 2 were home 4 - 2, despite two great wins by Horsham's Emma Hurling who defeated both Tong Mingdi and Claire Marshall. Grove 2's Claire Marshall whilst winning but 3 of her 10 sets caused the one surprise in this division when she defeated Sally Marling, 9 places higher on the ranking list, 21-16, 21-18. Welsh Ladies, led by Natasha Williams, (7 from 8, losing only to

Olivetti's Joanna Roberts 17-21;24-22;21-18) and Bethan Daunton (8 from 10) comfortably regained their Premier division place despite being held to draws by both Bristol and Irish Ladies. In the Wales - Bristol clash the first five sets all went to a third game making umpire George Tyler late for his lunch! The Irish

who had defeated Olivetti 4 - 2 first time round surprisingly conceded second spot to their rivals when losing the reverse encounter 0 - 6, Cathryn Johnson and Ruth Ferrie together with Roberts representing the victors. Despite recording two wins and two draws from their 5 matches, a Sarah Hurry (8 from 10)-

inspired Scottish Ladies could not make up the large deficit incurred at Lancaster and drop down together with South Kesteven Sovereigns 2, Pavilion Ladies and Gonerby both pulled off promotion for the second successive season as together they move out of division 2 with Pavilion the winners after their 5 - 1 demolition of their rivals in the crunch match, both finishing equal on match points and sets won. Both teams played unchanged throughout the weekend with 7 wins apiece for Pavilion's Joanna Bush-Harris and Rosemary Rainton giving them the edge. The ever-present Doreen Schofield (Hull Sandhill 2) losing only to Fullerton's Lesley Keast was the outstanding individual in this division.

As with divisions 1 and 2, division 3 also went to the wire - inspired scheduling by referee Karen Tonge - and at the commencement of the last set between Sedgefield and Blackpool Seaside's, the computer was poised for a points count-back but Sedgefield's Karen Newby thought differently and her 21-15, 21-16 defeat of Sylvia Graham ensured that the winners trophies went North East rather than North West. Caron Guthrie, the only ever present player to go through the week end unbeaten, and Nicola Parks were Newby's teammates in this match whilst Joanne Donnelly was their other squad player. Blackpool had the consolation of the "Team of the Weekend Award" and owed much to Tamar Connolly who battled on despite a first day injury. Brenda Buoy (8 from 10) was the

# BFL GROVE

## *retain Butterfly Rosebowl*

### WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE RESULTS

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
<b>PREMIER DIVISION</b>							
BFL Grove I	10	10	0	0	58	2	20
Hull Sandhill I	10	7	1	2	41	19	15
S.Kesteven Sovereigns I	10	5	1	4	34	26	11
BFL Grove II	10	2	2	6	21	39	6
Horsham TTC	10	2	1	7	15	45	5
Graham Spicer	10	1	1	8	11	49	3
<b>FIRST DIVISION</b>							
Welsh Ladies	10	7	3	0	43	17	17
Olivetti Bribar	10	4	4	2	36	24	12
Irish Ladies	10	5	1	4	29	31	11
Bristol	10	3	4	3	34	26	10
Scottish Ladies	10	3	2	5	24	36	8
S.Kesteven Sovereigns II	10	1	0	9	14	46	2
<b>SECOND DIVISION</b>							
Pavilion Ladies	10	6	3	1	40	20	15
Gonerby	10	7	1	2	40	20	15
Hull Sandhill II	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Fullerians	10	2	5	3	29	31	9
Robert Claire I	10	3	3	4	26	34	9
The Oaks	10	0	0	10	12	48	0
<b>THIRD DIVISION - GROUP 1</b>							
Sedgefield	3	3	0	0	14	4	6
Blackpool Seaside's	3	2	0	1	14	4	4
Team Juic	3	0	1	2	4	14	1
Robert Claire II	3	0	1	2	4	14	1
<b>THIRD DIVISION - GROUP 2</b>							
Norton Ladies	3	3	0	0	14	4	6
Dumfries	3	2	0	1	10	8	4
Worcester Ladies	3	0	1	2	6	12	1
BFL Grove III	3	0	1	2	6	12	1

third player in this team without reserves. Norton Ladies who narrowly missed out when the dividing line came down after the initial all-play all 8 team round robin comfortably won their 3 group 2 matches with Alison Taylor unbeaten. Division 3 also produced the "Woman of the Weekend" in Janet Hunt of Worcester Ladies, a supporter of the event since its inception.

The Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, Councillor William Cody, opened proceedings on the first morning and together with the Deputy Mayoress assisted ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome with the following days prize giving. Thanks again are due to the helpful and friendly staff at Crystal Centre; they together with the Borough appear happy for us to keep returning - we are happy to go!



*The victorious BFL Grove team that won the Butterfly Rosebowl, (left to right) Tong Feiming, Nicola Deaton, Lisa Lomas and Alison Gordon*

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BC06

THE NEW SEASON STARTS ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 1995, WITH A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN CLUBS. WE HAVE SAID GOODBYE TO PETERBOROUGH (TWO TEAMS), BRENT JUNIORS, BRITANNIA IPSWICH, ELLENBOROUGH, MOORLAND SEASIDERS SECOND TEAM, LINDA FARROW THIRD TEAM AND FELLOWS CRANLEIGH SECOND TEAM. THE DIVISIONS ARE, HOWEVER, FULL WITH AN INFLUX OF TEAMS INTO THE THIRD DIVISIONS WRITES **AUBREY DRAPKIN.**

**J**AGS, Ashford (Middlesex) and Chelmsford League return to the fold whilst newcomers are Greenleys of Milton Keynes and Hoskyns FM Devizes, together with additional teams from McDonalds Barnets League, Sheffield, Humberstone, Drumchapel Glasgow and Progress.

**NAME CHANGES**

Several teams have changed their names with Colley Toyota Hyundai becoming Colley Motor Group, Moorland Seaside becoming Burnside Seaside, BSG Brentwood II changing to BSG Barking, Hawbush now known as Sheffield, whilst the Welsh club Parkside Dragons Newport are now ATH Building Constructors Cardiff. BFL Grove start their defence of the championship with a visit to the South Coast to play Horsham Angels. The Market Drayton side no longer have the services of Desmond Douglas but will still be a tremendous force in the League and will once again start as favourites for the championship. Last year's runners-up Team Peniel, begin the new season with a home match against Ruston Marconi Lincoln who will be making their debut in the Premier Division, having been promoted from division one North. The other new boys, Linda Farrow, have, on paper, an easier baptism in the top flight with a visit to St. Neots.

# STARTING *afresh*

**QUICK RETURN**

In the first division, Vymura and DML White Hart Launceston will be all out to ensure a quick return to the Premier division. Vymura start their campaign with a home fixture

against Sedgefield seconds whilst Launceston begin away from home with a visit to BSG Brentwood. The newly promoted teams to division one South both have to travel for their opening matches, Colley Motor Group being away to

Edison and Barclays Bank away to O.L.O.P. In the North, City of Leeds start with a home match against Olton and West Warwicks. Seven clubs have been promoted to the second divisions. Abbeydale and Drumchapel Glasgow are in Two North and they actually play each at Abbeydale on the opening day. In the South East, Yellow Brick Progress, Norwich Todd Foxwood and Crusaders Lincoln will be all out to retain their places in the higher division this year. Lackie TTC have returned to the second division, playing in Two South West and Horsham Angels thirds are also now in that division.

**NATIONAL U10/11/12 CHAMPIONSHIPS**



# KATY PARKER *nearly* TAKES 3

**KATY PARKER, THE DAUGHTER OF DON AND JILL, NEARLY CREATED AN ALL-TIME RECORD OF WINNING THE NATIONAL GIRLS UNDER 10, 11 AND 12 SINGLES TITLES IN ONE WEEKEND, WRITES JOHN WOOD.**

**F**ollowing her success in beating Joanna Lambert 17,10 in the Under 10 Girls Singles, and then winning the Under 11 by overpowering Stacy Collins from

Nottingham -18,13,12, at the Bletchley Leisure Centre, in June. She then faced Hannah Yardy from Essex, in the under 12 Girl's Singles Final and actually took the first 21-18, before a nervous Yardy rallied to take the second 21-17 and the third narrowly at 21-19. This season's Boys Under 12 Champion is Andrew Baggaley from Buckinghamshire, who beat Stuart Collins 12 and 13 in the final. Gary Bloomfield from Surrey won the Boys Under 11, beating Oliver

Stevens from Kent 14 and 18. The Under 10 boys final was won by Michael Gomersall from Cumbria when he beat Dale Barham 20 and 14. The Boys Doubles was won by Andrew Baggaley and Richard Mann who beat Chris Jamieson and Tim Yardy 18 and 13. Amy Linnecar and Hannah Yardy won the Girls Doubles, beating Binita Joshi and Haley Swierkowski, 11 and 9.

# ENGLISH Gold

ENGLAND'S PAM BUTCHER WALTZED THROUGH TO TAKE THE GOLD MEDAL IN VIENNA IN THE WOMEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES, WHILST IRELAND'S BERT LEVINGE WON GOLD IN THE MEN'S OVER 70 SINGLES, AND ENGLAND'S DEREK SCHOFIELD AND MATT SHEADER TOOK THE MEN'S OVER 60 DOUBLES GOLD WRITES **MIKE WATTS**.



**Pam Butcher with prizes destined for (a), The trophy cabinet and (b), A vase.**

England provided 75 players and numerous wives, husbands, boy and girl friends when the very first European Veterans Championships took place in Vienna from the 2nd to the 9th July 1995. Germany were the biggest Nation in attendance with 500 entries and the Championships proved to be a huge success.

The event got underway on Sunday 2nd July 1995 in three halls with various singles groups and on Tuesday doubles groups were played. Each group consisted of four players (or pairs) with the top two going forward to the Competition proper and the bottom two contesting Consolation events.

A large majority of England's competitors were able to reach the Rounds proper and England's final haul of medals totalled (14) with the main winners being:-

<b>Over 60 Women's Singles</b>	
Pam Butcher (K)	GOLD
<b>Over 60 Men's Doubles</b>	
Derek Schofield (Ch)/ Matt Sheader (Li)	GOLD
<b>Over 70 Men's Singles</b>	
Bert Levinge (Ir)	GOLD

Although Bert now resides back in Ireland he is a member of the VETTS English Table Tennis Society and acts as the VETTS Doctor at events so is claimed by England. The magnificent trophy - The Richard Bergmann Trophy given to Bert on his achievement was presented to him by the ETTA Events Manager Mike Watts acting as a member of

the European Table Tennis Union Veterans Committee.

<b>Over 50 Women's Singles</b>	
Jean White (Li)	BRONZE
<b>Over 60 Men's Singles</b>	
Derek Schofield (Ch)	BRONZE
<b>Over 50 Men's Doubles</b>	
Keith Powell (Y)	
Vic Smith (Y)	BRONZE
<b>Over 40 Women's Doubles</b>	
Carol Hewitt (Sx)	
Penny Perry (Dv)	BRONZE
<b>Over 70 Men's Doubles</b>	
H Levinge (Ir)	
R Etheridge (K)	BRONZE
<b>Over 80 Men's Doubles</b>	
T Jenkins (Bu)	
D Clare (Sx)	BRONZE

**Derek Schofield (left) and Matt Sheader enjoying the view from the highest part of the podium**



The Finals Night party was held on the Thursday evening and approximately 1100 guests enjoyed an excellent meal at the Rathaus, the England party excelling in their usual enthusiastic manner.

Old friends enjoyed meeting up again and many new friendships were formed in what is now an established manner of "The Friendly Games".

And now to Lillehammer and the 9th World Veterans Table Tennis Tournament which takes place from the 24th/29th June 1996 and an expected attendance in excess of 1750.

Veteran Table Tennis is currently booming and soon there will be a need for the ETTU to establish a Calendar for the many events that are springing up all over Europe.

So congratulations to Rudolf Sporrer and his many teams of

volunteers who did such a marvellous job in Vienna and here's to the second European Championships 1997 in Prague.

John Wood previews a new play in the West End

Playwright Simon Block

# NOT *a* GAME *for* BOYS

The team facing relegation, Eric (Christopher Fairbanks), Oscar (Peter Wight) and star of the team, Tony (Neil Stuke).



'NOT A GAME FOR BOYS' IS A NEW PLAY ABOUT A TABLE TENNIS TEAM, WRITTEN BY SIMON BLOCK, AND BEING PERFORMED AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE, SLOANE SQUARE, LONDON, WRITES **JOHN WOOD.**

This play that whisks you to the heart of all the trials and tribulations of a needle league match runs from the 24th August to 23rd September.

The team consists of three London taxi drivers who are fighting for their lives against relegation and the untold horrors of playing in a lower division. Only a water-tight game-plan can ensure victory, but as the evening progresses team spirit

begins to give way to chaos.

The writer Simon Block, who plays table tennis himself in the Barnet League in North London, actually used to be a Bus Driver of a No. 19 bus whose route went past the theatre in Sloane Square.

The set of the play is based upon the clubhouse at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Simon started writing 'Not a Game for Boys' last summer when his pen was kick-started by the falling standard of his game. So he decided to write about the game he loves instead of playing fulltime.

He said, "Not a Game for Boys' is a comedy that gets progressively darker as the play progresses".

"After I had written the play I met a theatre director Richard

Georgeson, who sent the play to the National Theatre, who liked it. And a rough staging of the play was then performed at the National Theatre Studio. Various people were invited and one was the Literary Manager of the Royal Court Theatre, Graham Wyebrown, who liked what he saw."

"The team's captain 'Eric' who is played by actor Christopher Fairbanks, is a monomaniac, he has to win the match but the evening falls down around him, because 'Oscar', played by Peter Wight, wants to throw his games because he wants the team relegated so he can have an easier life in a lower division. 'Oscar's' action is influenced by the fact that a friend had died the previous week whilst playing a table tennis match, a

death that he witnessed. 'Tony', played by Neil Stuke, who is a mini cab driver, is a younger player who is caught in a watershed, he has to decide which road to go down either Eric's or Oscar's way of life."

Simon Block who is 29 years old is now a full-time writer, with a comedy appearing on Channel 4 next spring, entitled 'After Birth'.

Special rates are available and a chance to win a custom made bat from The Bat Workshop when you book a ticket for 'Not a Game for Boys' when you ring the Box Office on 0171 730 1745 at the Royal Court Theatre. Please quote 'Table Tennis Offer'

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH. THE 200 TEAM BARRIER HAS BEEN BROKEN! A RECORD NUMBER OF 205 TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE 1995/6 SEASON WRITES **DOUG MOSS**.

It is very pleasing to report the total entry of Junior teams has increased by 4 to a total of 60.

There are in fact 6 new teams, namely: Cambridgshire, Durham, Glamorgan 3rds, Notts 2nds, Northants 2nds and Northumberland. Devon 3rd and Norfolk 3rd teams have not entered for the 1995/6 season.

The number of teams in the Senior Section remains at 61. There are 3 new teams - Berks 2nds (who withdrew last season), Gloucs. 2nds and Devon 4th team. 3 teams from last season who have not entered for the 1995/6 competition are:-

Herts 3rds, Oxfords and Lincs 2nds. The ever expanding Veteran Section increases by 5 teams to a total of 84 teams. Just 1 team - Wilts 4th - is not continuing next season. 6 new teams are - Cambs 2nds, Durham, Herts 6th, Middx 3rd, Oxford 3rd and Suffolk 2nds. The first matches will be played on 23 September. There were some outstanding

# 200 teams barrier BROKEN

performances by players in the Championships last season. Bradley Billington (Derby), who played in only the second series, again came out on top of the men in the Senior

Premier Division - with 88% wins. Stephen Slater (Staffs) and Terry Young (Berks) did well to win 80%. Linda Radford was a star performer. She played in all the matches for

Essex and won 100%. In the Junior Premier Division there was another Essex player with 100% wins. Shelley Ruocco won all her 14 matches. Ryan Jenkins (Glamorgan) lost only once and topped the boys averages with 93% wins.

In the veteran Premier Division Tony Clayton (Dorset) again shared top place. This time it was with Nigel Eckersley (Lancs) who matched Tony Clayton's performance of 13 wins and just 1 loss. Doreen Schofield (Ches.) got 100% wins for the second consecutive season! In addition Doreen got 100% wins for the Cheshire Senior team! Carol Hewett (Sussex), who played in only the Veterans Premier second series, also had 100% wins. Other players who went through the complete programme of matches and got 100% wins were:

Helen Newbound (CA) - Senior 1A, Ritchie Venner (SX) - Senior 1B, Juliet Houghton (K) - do, Glenda Ashison (SY) - do, Debbie Pestka (HG) - Junior 1A, Harry McCarney (SX) - Junior 1B (second consecutive season), Joanna Bush-Harris (SX) - Junior 1B, Ryan Stockham (WA) - Junior 2A, Nicola Massingham (LI) - do, Tim O'Mahoney (WI) - Junior 2C, Sarah Lane (SY) - Junior 2D, Anna McNamara (SY) - do., Brian Hill (LI) - Vets. 1A, Brian Clements (LA) - Vets 2A, Margaret Maltby (NP) - do., Chris Brewer (NK) - Vets 2B, Marilyn Garlinge (K) - Vets 2C, Charlie Childs (HA) - Vets 2D, Penny Perry (DV) - do. (third consecutive season), Steve Kosmowsky (Y) - Vets 3A, Linda Simpson (Y) - do., Janes Faircs (SK) - do., Sylvia Bruton (BK) - Vets 3C.

## CORRECTIONS TO PLAYERS' AVERAGES

Vets Div 3A	W	L	Av%
ADD Keith Powell (Y2)	10	2	83
Delete Phil Cawser (Y2)			
ADD Martin Pickles (St)	11	3	79
Delete John Taylor (St)			

## WIN A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION!



### CAPTION COMPETITION

*A rare photo of our man with the camera John Wood, a familiar face at many a competition. We are offering the prize of one year's free subscription of Table Tennis News for the most humorous caption sent in. The best three entries will be published in a later edition of TTN.*

*Send caption to: Caption Competition, 5 The Brackens, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 5JA.*

*Don't forget to include your name, age and address!*

**VERA THOMAS**  
FOND RECOLLECTION OF A  
TALENTED SPORTSWOMAN

# obituaries

I was deeply shocked to hear of the death of Vera Thomas (nee Dace) who died suddenly in the early summer, just prior to the start of the 1995 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships in which she had so often been a featured player.

Vera was a child of the twenties with a middle-class upbringing and a bright intelligence. She was blessed with a natural talent for ball games and had a personality that seemed to radiate a joy for life. Her parents devoted their lives to her well-being

championships and became a star on the tennis courts. In many respects there was a similarity between her achievements and those of Ann (Haydon) Jones, another great two-sports champion, although Vera never quite reached Ann's eminence at Lawn Tennis. However, the devotion of her parents over the years was rewarded by her outstanding achievements.

its collateral Table tennis. I can vividly remember her winning the singles title of the Beckenham Open Lawn Tennis Championships in 1946, when, in the final, she beat Betty Nuthall, a famous name in Tennis circles. The Beckenham tournament is one of England's prestigious 'grass tournaments' that take place just before Wimbledon. Its honours list is studded with the names of tennis greats such as John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova.

It would appear that Beckenham had a magic appeal for Vera, as in August 1947, she married A.H. Thomas, a local cricketer of some renown. That year she also reached the semi-final of the World Table Tennis Championships in Paris and helped England win the Corbillon Cup. Married life must have had a stimulating effect on her for in 1948, she reached the singles final of the World TT Championships, won the Women's Doubles title in partnership with Peggy Franks and gained another gold medal in the Corbillon Cup team competition. For good measure she then received automatic selection for the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships.

The next big occasion in Vera's life came with the birth of her daughter, after which her commitment to table tennis seemed to fade. For those who saw her play in her heyday, she will be remembered for her searing left-handed forehand drive executed with a balance and a follow through straight out of the text book. Coupled with her attacking skills she had a fine chop defence and a sound temperament.

She continued to play Lawn tennis, mainly for pleasure, at the All England Tennis Club - Wimbledon and the only consolation that can be drawn from her sudden death is that she did not suffer the afflictions and indignities of old age.

*By Ron Crayden*

## KEN EDWARDS

The sudden death of Ken Edwards at the age of 73, a few weeks after he had been playing in league matches, has shocked the local table tennis community. Forty-one years earlier, Ken had won the Norwich and District Table Tennis League's singles championship, and at that time was already a member of the league's committee. Ken contributed table tennis notes to the sports pages of the Easter Daily Press and

Easter Evening News for many years. He was a keen amateur footballer and cricketer until comparatively late in life.

Following upon the many years of good service provided by the late Harold Betts, and by Lennie Miller, Ken took over the honorary secretaryship of the Norwich and District League in 1983. In view of the demands made upon him by his work in the roofing industry, he made it clear that he would accept the secretary's job only on a temporary basis. In the event, he carried on until the last, assisted by his good friends Dennis and Margaret Calver (chairman and treasurer) and by other stalwarts.

Whilst Ken was secretary, one of the greatest achievements of the league, the building of the Miller Hall (instigated by Lennie, after whom it was named) was completed in 1985. It now provides accommodation for about 20 matches a week during the season and for cup matches, friendly matches and, of course, British League matches. Needless to say a great deal of coaching, the most important element of all, goes on in the Miller Hall also. During Ken's tour of duty, five international matches were allocated to the city by the ETTA. Ken invariably attended local meetings, county meetings and table tennis tournaments large and small. He rarely missed any festive occasion, whether run by the ETTA or locally, that was associated with the game he was so fond of. More importantly, though, he knew everyone associated with his league, liked 95% of them, was tolerant of the rest, and had an insatiable appetite for getting things done. As well as doing his administrative work, Ken Edwards was, until almost the end of his days, delivering magazines, lugging tables on and off lorries and doing other menial jobs that had to be done. Assisted by his dedicated fellow-workers, Ken has brought pleasure to thousands. He was a kind, generous and convivial man, whose death will sadden not only his family but the whole table tennis fraternity and many others.

## D.S PURR

It is with much sadness to announce the death of D.S. Purr who was a Vice President of the ETTA for a number of years.

D.S. Purr died peacefully at home on 28th July 1995, after a relatively short period of illness, five months short of his 95th birthday. His involvement in Table Tennis was Sales Manager with A.G. Spalding Brothers.

Should any person wish to contact his son, please contact me at the ETTA Office.

*R. H. Sinclair General Secretary*



and strove to give her advantages that would bring success and a high quality of life. At an early age she took elocution lessons and then had private tuition at the piano. Actually Vera became quite an accomplished pianist and I remember her playing Beethoven's 'Moonlight' Sonata with deftness of touch and feeling. I have no idea how she first became involved with ball games, as she was a star in her own right when I first met her. I would surmise, however, that she was influenced by her father who kept a tight reign on her activities.

It is quite remarkable for a teenage girl to reach the top rung in two sports but Vera took it all in her stride and in the 1939/40 season she won the English Open TT Championship. The War must have had a detrimental effect on her progress as she lost at least five years of competitive play. After the War, Vera won three gold medals in World table tennis

I first met Vera in the late thirties when I joined the Denmark Hill Lawn Tennis Club and as teenagers we became close friends. In addition to ball games we shared several interests and together went to music recitals and the London Theatre. At this period of her life I was always aware of the influences her father had on her young life and how he directed his own energies to make her a champion. He would spend hours trying to improve her tennis strokes even to the extent of throwing balls across the net to make her stretch and play difficult angled shots. He was her chaperone, guide, coach and mentor.

In 1940 I joined the Royal Air Force and except for the occasional exchange of letters we lost touch. How Vera kept up her high standards of play in wartime London I do not know, but keep them up she did. When the War ended and major tournaments started again, she won titles at both Lawn tennis and

# Clear VISION

*Coaches are best when people barely know they exist - Not so good when people obey and acclaim them - Worst when they despise them - Fail to know people - They fail to honour you - But of good coaches who talk little - When their work is done, their aim fulfilled - Their charges will say "We did this ourselves"*

(Adapted from Loo-Tsu, 'Tae Te Ching', 6th century BC)



AS THE NEW SEASON BEGINS, I THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE COACH AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ONE FACTOR THAT EVERY GOOD COACH SHOULD HAVE UPPERMOST IN THEIR MINDS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR - AND THAT IS PROGRAMME PLANNING WRITES **GAIL MCCULLOCK.**

No matter at what level the coach is working and regardless of the ability or potential of the players, the coach

must have a clear vision of what is to be the aim for the season. (With better players, the plan may be more long term - 3-5 years)

The plan must be realistic and therefore different for most players. Individual plans need to be negotiated between player and coach (and maybe agreed by parents). The ambitions and attitudes of the individuals will influence the targets that can be set. Training programmes cannot be planned until agreement of the targets has been reached.

Hans Soova, the coach at the Leeds Centre for Excellence, sent me a leaflet which highlights 4 important areas that both coach and

player would do well to consider at the start of a new season.

As Hans says, in his quest to get players to commit to excellence: "It takes more than potential to reach for the peak of sporting achievements. It takes dedication, discipline and determination and almost unnatural single-mindedness."

Hopefully, you, the coach can help your players with constructive programme planning, to achieve their full potential.

Preliminary Regional Trials are imminent (Oct 21/22), Final Regional Trials are scheduled for Dec 16/17 with National Trials and The Masters in February (3/4 and 24/25 respectively). Coaches please ensure

that your players understand that these competitions are all stages of the same Event ie The Trials. A commitment is required to play throughout the event and not just in part of it. If for some good reason a player is unable to fulfil his commitment at any stage of the event, they must have the good manners to notify the organiser so that replacements can be found if appropriate.

It is one of the duties of the coach to teach players that withdrawal without notification is not acceptable in any ETTA event.

## COACHING

### ETTA COACH EDUCATION COURSES WEST MIDLANDS REGION

DATE OF COURSE:	30 Sept/ 1 Oct 1995
VENUE:	Hereford Sixth Form College, Folly Lane, Hereford
TUTOR:	Jill Harris/ Sandra Roden?
LEVEL OF COURSE:	<b>Level 2</b>
CONTACT PERSON:	Simon Hall - Coaching 1 Youth Sport Development Officer, Hereford City Council, Environment Department, Garmck House, Widemarsh Street, Hereford, HR4 9EJ Tel: 01432 364653
DATE OF COURSE:	20/21 January 1996
VENUE:	Cheadle High School, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent
TUTOR:	Jill Harris
LEVEL OF COURSE:	<b>Level 2</b>
CONTACT PERSON:	Kate Kibble - Sports Development Officer, Planning and Estates Department, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffs, ST13 6HQ Tel: 01538 399181 X 232

ON SUNDAY 2ND JULY, SOME TIME IN THE AFTERNOON IN A SCHOOL IN DOUGLAS, A BLACK DAWN FELL OVER THE ENGLAND UNDER 16 BOYS TEAM, IN THE 1995 SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL, AS THEY WERE DISGRACED AND HUMILIATED. TO BE FAIR THOUGH, THIS WAS ENGLAND'S 2ND TEAM, THE 1ST WERE PLAYING IN ISRAEL AT THE TIME WRITES **JAKE YEATES**.

Michael Isherwood, after having ruined the draw in the Under 16 singles event by failing to comply to seeding (losing to Scotland's Craig Brown in his group), entered the top half where he played two English players. In the first round he dispatched Ben Linnekar, a group winner, before knocking out Robert Abbotts after dropping the first leg. Natural progression led him to the semi-finals. Here he met Ryan Jenkins (Welsh number 1). Michael felt lucky. After all why shouldn't he? He had taken a leg off his adversary in the team event and was confident - a state of mind induced further by a tight first leg (lost at 18) and a dazzling loop off the bounce in a huge rally to start the second game. Things deteriorated somewhat from thereon in, and Jenkins steamed to a 21-13 victory before going on to beat Scotland's Lewis Wilson in the final. The Under 16 girls fared slightly better. Unseeded Nicola Silburn had an excellent win over Tamara Powell the 4th seed (14 in the 3rd) and reached the semis before losing to the eventual winner, Bethan Daunton (Wales). Michelle Haynes lost in the other semi to Ireland's Michelle McGreevey. English dominance was retained, however, in the other age groups. Karen Lockwood, seeded 2, could only finish second in her group, but then her form picked up as she beat the number 1 seed (Sarah Simmons, Wales) before beating Jade Kendall in the semis. She then played Anna McNamara, who had earlier beaten Trudie Bloor in a nail-biting 'deuce in the third' encounter. James Wakelam was beaten by

Andrew Baggaley and Robert Pountney met Andrew in the semi after beating the Welsh number 1, Stephen Jenkins. The English lads had a classic match which Andrew won 18,-21,20. In the other half, Scott Friday was beaten by unseeded Dominic McGreevey who then beat his Irish counterpart and top seed Alan Monks in the semi before winning the final against Baggaley. England monopolised the Under 15 events with all 4 semi-finalists in both girls and boys events. In the girls, Jo Bush-Harris beat the top 2 seeds to reach the semi, but couldn't get past the eventual winner Claire

#### DOUBLES RESULTS

##### U14

Lockwood/McNamara bt  
Folan/Monelly (Ireland)  
Baggaley/Friday bt  
O'Keefe/Monks (Ireland)

##### U16

Daunton/Ferguson (Wales) bt  
Glover/McGreevey (Ireland)  
Jenkins/Archer (Wales) bt  
Lynch/O'Toole (Ireland)

##### U18

Davison/Lowe bt Bush-  
Harris/Fisher  
Avery/Smith bt Eaton/Neal

Lowe. Sarah Davison was the other finalist after beating Sara Coggon in the semi. In the boys event, all 5 English boys progressed through the groups before Peter Thomas beat Phil Neal before losing to Mark Smith in the semi, and Ian Eaton met an on form Vince Avery who went on to lift the title with a close 18 in the 3rd victory over Smith.

# BLACK DAWN *falls over* ENGLAND

The day before, the team events had been played and again it was largely the England teams that prevailed, winning all but one event: the boys Under 16. This was won by a strong Scotland team, but as the English players only teeter on the brink of the top 20 juniors, this was no great surprise. The obvious tactical error which triggered our demise was, it was unanimously agreed, the omission from the side of an injured yours truly for this game (or not Dennis!) Despite our defeat to Scotland, we won all our other games to finish second. Modest self-effacing Michael Isherwood would like it to be noted that I won 6 out of 6 and that he did not. The boys U14 team event was a close affair with England needing a draw in their final match against Ireland to win the title. At 4-4 Chris Butt secured the victory by saving 3 match points against Paul Heaphy, winning 22 in the third. Pountney then turned on the style to beat McGreevey in two games. Apart from these particular events, the air of English dominance was clear. No English girls reached the U16 final, but a strong team event ensured their overall team victory. The U18 teams were a class above

the opposition which they somewhat decimated. The U14 girls completed the predicted rout with a resounding win. A great weekend was had by all, both on and off the table. Although the revered 'kickin' night life' of the Isle of Man may not have kicked too much and the incidence of drunk twenty something blokes may have been a bad night, nothing was seriously amiss. Apart from, perhaps the inexplicably high jellyfish quota in the Irish Sea. Our many thanks are extended to the adults who looked after us throughout the weekend: Gail McCulloch, Paul Birch, Dennis Worrell, Andy Creed, Bob Wood and Teresa Bennett. Dawn Barnett's thanks are extended to us for looking after her amongst the creepy drunkards of Douglas on Saturday night.

# PRESS OFFICER of the year

THE VALUE OF PRESS AND PUBLICITY IS WELL KNOWN, HOWEVER SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED AS AN EXCELLENT TOOL TO RAISE BOTH THE AWARENESS OF THE SPORT AND ALSO BRAND AWARENESS OF THE SPONSOR.

The Woolwich Building Society has agreed to work with table tennis partly because of the excellent press coverage the sport attracts in local papers. Press Officers have a vital role to play in the development of our sport. Why not try to recruit a mature and capable young player to assist in this area?

## SOUTHERN REGION

Brian Lamerton

Stephen Joel, our Regional Development Officer left us in mid May to take up a post with the National Coaching Foundation. Our best wishes go with him in this move and also our very considerable and sincere thanks for the tremendous amount of hard work in the 20 months which will remain including "persuading" many players that they had hidden depths in the fields of coaching and administrations.

We now welcome Samantha Marling as our new Development



**Samantha Marling**



**Milton Keynes' David Seymour (right) is pictured accepting the Woolwich press Officer of the Year Award 1994/1995 from Ian Walters (left), Woolwich's District Manager, Bletchley.**

Officer and thanks to the Sports Council agreeing to extend the overall period we look forward to Samantha being with us for a full 2 year period.

Samantha, who was due to take up her post on August 21st is well known in playing circles and has recently graduated from Loughborough University with a sports related degree.

Whilst I am sure that other pages will cover both items, we must offer our congratulations to the Isle of Wight; firstly for their outstanding success in the Island Games played in Gibraltar returning with 4 Gold, one Silver and one Bronze medal from the 6 events (11 of the total of 18 islands represented in Gibraltar competed in the Table Tennis) and secondly, but not necessarily in order, September, following an awful lot of hard work by their committee together with a large input from ETTA Officers, Paul Baker in particular, will see the opening of

their 6-table "Carl Prean Table Tennis Centre" in Ryde.

At the time of writing an increased entry is expected for this season's Regional Leagues and hopefully an increase from 77 to 83 in teams registered for my own local league (Southampton) is going to be repeated throughout the region.

## GREATER LONDON

Sue Adamson

Sue Adamson has joined the ETTA Development Team as Projects Officer for Greater London Region. She replaces Colin Wilson who leaves the London Office after three busy years as development officer.

Focus Sport has come to the end of its three year funding in London but the new full-time post of Project Officer is recognition by the Sports Council and the ETTA (who together fund the post) of the excellent development work that has been happening in London and the need

for this to continue and expand.

Sue brings a wealth of experience to the post having been involved in table tennis from a young Butlins Girls of the Week to an ageing VETT having played for Surrey in the County Championships and for Scotland in the Commonwealth Championships along the way.

She is a table tennis and badminton coach and has been working in the sports industry for the past eight years coaching and coordinating sports programmes in colleges. She recently gained a first class honours in Sport Studies and Leisure Management from Brunel University College.

The projects identified by London Region for Sue to concentrate on are the Facilities Programme and Junior Development Programmes such as the Woolwich Junior Leagues, the



**Sue Adamson**

London Junior Ranking Scheme and Top Sport.

Sue looks forward to assisting London players, clubs, leagues, county associations and the thirty three Boroughs to work together to maximise the opportunities available through the National Lottery, the foundation for Sport and the Arts and other agencies to make their projects become a reality.

Sue can be contacted at the Castle Club, Daisy Lane, Fulham SW6 3DP or by phone on 0171 610 6605.

Report from north of the border

# SURREY

## *juniors visit*

# SCOTLAND



ON MONDAY 31 JULY, A GROUP OF SURREY JUNIORS TRAVELLED TO SCOTLAND TO PRACTISE AND PLAY AGAINST SOME OF THE SCOTTISH PLAYERS FROM DIFFERENT AREAS OF SCOTLAND WRITES **ADAM LAWS.**

It was meant to be a group of 8 but Claire Lane had to pull out of the trip. The remaining 7 were Robert Pountney, Paul Pountney, Adam Laws, Matthew Stilwell, Anna McNamara, Sarah Lane and Vicky Lampkin. Gail McCullough and Bernard Rowley who was 'Chauffeur' for most of the trip went also. They firstly travelled to Edinburgh. The first hour involved training with some of their players, while the next few hours involved friendly matches vs. Senior A team. Their team included Scottish Senior no. 1 Sarah Hurry and another of their nationally ranked players, Hilary Dorman. They also had Colin Robertson and Peter Logsdon - another 2 nationally ranked players. Surrey were only just beaten (10-0), although there were some very close 3 set matches with Adam Laws losing to Peter Logsdon 21-10 in the third, Sarah Lane losing to Hilary Dorman 21-18 in the third, Adam/Robert losing to Colin/Peter 21-16 in the third, but best of all, Anna McNamara managing to take a game off Sarah Hurry. Scotland's senior number 1. The B team did slightly better, beating Edinburgh's B team 9-1, writes Adam Laws. The next day was in Galashiels. Their players were fairly weak, so most of the time was just involved in practising and giving them better experience. A 'Handicap Pairs' tournament was played, although it was easily won by Paul Pountney and Matthew Stilwell. After that they travelled to Hawick (pronounced 'Hoik') for a barbecue.

A day later was a bit of a mix up. They had already made the 150 mile trip to Perth, and having got there, Gail had found out that they were in the wrong place. Sometimes it wouldn't be too bad, but when 'wrong place' meant 'wrong city', it meant another 100 miles to Glasgow to play against Drumchapel. The first 2 hours involved playing and practising with the Junior players and then a round of 'Top Table' but the next hour involved practice with top Scottish players John Broe, Ian Stokes, Gordon Clancy, George Innes and Diane Walker. They had got it right on the next day! They reached Perth and had a practice session with the juniors from Perth for 2 hours until they played a series of matches. It was a 'Surrey vs Perth' match, with everybody from one side playing everybody else from the other. The juniors from Surrey won, although it was a closely fought affair which could have gone either way. The next two days they were meant to be practising and playing with the juniors from Dumfries, although most of them were quite weary after the trip back from the European Championships on the previous day, so they arrived on the second day to play 2 friendly matches against Dumfries. The boys team boasted Stuart Wilson and Adriano Marchetti (nos 3 & 4 juniors in Scotland) and also Gordon Reid and Jordan Kirk (nos 2 & 3 cadets in Scotland). Sensationally they drew 8-8 with great wins for Matthew and Paul over Jordan Kirk and a

great win for Robert in the last set of the match against Adriano Marchetti. As there were only 3 Surrey girls, the system had to be changed so 12 sets were played with Surrey, even more sensationally coming out on top 10-2, with Sarah Lane unbeaten against the European championships trio of Nicola Bentley, Tamara Powell and Morena Marchetti, with Anna beating Powell and Vicky scoring a great win over Nicola Bentley, which sealed the match, and making it an excellent end to the week.

set beating Derby's Helen Rainford in the final whilst at Under 13 level, the rapidly improving Claire Goldstraw defeated Claire Shannon of Cambridge at the final hurdle to emerge victorious. Victory was to escape the clutches of BFL Grove's Danny Harris on two occasions and each at the hands of Maidstone's Antony Lickfold who was to overcome the BFL Grove player at the final hurdle of both the Under 17 and Under 16s Boys' Singles. A hard fought tournament with an excellent entry saw Stephen Davies of Grantham emerge as Under 12 winner with Slough's Jesper Hougaard the runner up whilst Huddersfield's Shaun Ellis won the Under 15 Boys' Singles beating Slough's Nicholas Wilson in the final. There were to be further successes for Grantham in the Under 15 Girls' Singles with Dawn Charlton accounting for Slough's Jane Dickens and the East of England clinched more success as Cambridgeshire's Claire Shannon won the Cadet Girls' Singles beating Berkshire's Jo Rolfe in the final. The ever-present Adam Buxton gained just rewards for his efforts by winning the Cadet Boys' Singles with Nicholas Wilson the final victim whilst the latter struck a blow of success for the Slough contingent with victory in the Under 13 Boys' Singles beating clubmate Philip Rogers in the final.

### **JAIPUR RESTAURANT** *Two Star* **JUNIOR OPEN**

SIXTEEN YEAR OLD KIBIBI MOSELEY AND TWELVE YEAR OLD CLAIRE GOLDSTRAW PROVED TO BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PLAYERS FROM BFL GROVE TABLE TENNIS CLUB AT THE JAIPUR RESTAURANT TWO STAR JUNIOR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST WEEKEND WRITES **IAN MARSHALL.**

Miss Moseley underlined her tremendous ability by winning the Junior Girl's Singles title without the loss of a

**FACT OR FANTASY**

*Jacky Foong*

The World Championship has come and gone. China has resurrected again as the power of the cellulite ball game taking all 7 titles at stake. Who would doubt their ability to be a force into the next century.

For both the team events, if China were given the honour of entering a second team in the next world championships, do you think we would be watching an all-china final?

Fact or fantasy? Has anyone ever thought what lies behind their success? Long-term strategy!

Sweden has ruled the world stage for the past 6 years because they have exceptional talents in Waldner, Appelgren and Persson. But where is the continuity? In football, Liverpool FC had proven in the early 80s they were successful because they had continuity in the team. The team was ageing under manager Kenny Dalglish just like China was ageing under Li Fu Rong. Does that apply to Sweden now? What about England? Fact or Fantasy?

It is a shame for England to drop a placing (12th to 13th) in the world standing and coming out second best in the Commonwealth when there are so many talented young stars waiting to fly the flag with blood, sweat and tears. Bringing in Chen was a knock on the Englishman's ego. Making himself not available for certain games is inexcusable when others would pay to represent their motherland. But making Chen the scapegoat would be wrong too. The administrators in the ETTA should know that Chen comes from an Asian culture where he is brought up never to play against his countrymen (for another team?). In other words, a person never bites the hand that feeds them. Chen would have developed our game to new heights with this knowledge and experience. Who can pass on the knowledge and experience of being in a world championship winning team besides Chen? A theoretical coach? I do not doubt the ability of qualified coaches but can they pass on the much-needed experience never having played at the very top level?

Running a post-mortem on the England team performance from an "outsider's" point of view, we need a long-term plan. Even at the expense of going backwards now in order to move forward in the future. We need:

a) more "practical" coaches than "theoretical" ones

- b) specialists in rubbers and glues
  - c) several coaches - each specialising in their own field ie. long pimples, short pimples, rough pimples, pimples inward, antispin, tacky rubbers etc.
  - d) "odd" and awkward players
  - e) tactician ie. good reader of the game
  - f) marketing personnel to sell the game
- a) If a coach is unable to return a spinshot, how can they explain the characteristics of a slow loop against a fast spin practically? This is where players like Chen, Douglas, Preat and Cooke can turn into good "practical" coaches.

- b) One can see from the British National League that most players love to play the fast attacking game. But can any player in the top 20 ranking explain the characteristics of a shot being hit from various types of rubbers as listed in c)? Only a minority! China has always sprung surprises at every world championship: High toss, tacky rubbers, magic bat, antispin, hidden services, etc. Are we behind in this area?
- d) Has anyone ever thought why China produces a left-handed player (Wang Tao), right-handed (Ma Wenge), defensive (Ding Song) and pen-grip (Lin Guoliang) in the top 20 ranking in the world? Can any player say they have over 50% chance.

**TABLE TENNIS FROM THE SEYCHELLES**

*Julian Rickman*

My wife and I, both keen league players in the Southampton and Bournemouth areas, recently took a vacation on Mahe', the principal island of the Seychelles, to visit our relatives. Naturally we took our bats and playing gear as one should on all occasions just in case an opportunity to play should arise. To begin with we pestered local hotels

to see whether we might be able to use their facilities to practise, but for various reasons we met with little success.

Fortunately, my wife persevered and discovered that there were facilities at the Roche Caiman Centre which is an extensive sports complex built quite recently to host the Indian Ocean games. We were told that we could have use of their tables for 10 rupees an hour (about £1.40), but when we arrived we were treated like visiting dignitaries, allowed to select our table and with all halogen lights burning we commenced practising in their International Table Tennis arena complete with all the quality accessories.

On our second and subsequent visits, the Seychelles team was there practising and to

our amazement and delight, we were invited to participate in their practise and friendly games. They seemed as pleased for us to join in with them as we were. We soon learnt that they had limited opportunities to compete against other players outside their own group, except in officially organised events and this was evident as at any one time there is only a handful of players on the island. By English standards their best players are about Division One, possibly lower Premier, but many were also youngsters still learning their skills.

If any table tennis buffs are going to the Seychelles on holiday, our advice is take your gear because you will be sure of an exceedingly warm welcome from their team and coaches and guaranteed a great time. We didn't come back with such a good tan as we would have liked but our forehand and backhand drives are like sun-creamed lightning! The Seychelles team are desperate to play against as many players as they can to improve their techniques, so whatever your skill level they will be delighted to see you. For more information either call Frances Remmy at the Roche Caiman Centre when you arrive on 323908 X 233 (8pm to 4pm) or the junior coach Mr Jimmy Vel 323755 (between 10pm and 11pm). But be warned, the temperature is around 30°C so take it easy and take a towel for the cold shower afterwards plus your own (cold) drinks as these are not always available at the centre, especially in the evenings. Have a nice one!

**TRUTHS**

*Ken Muhr*

There are certain self-evident 'truths' in coaching, but one, not explicitly stated in the Coaching Manual but with which no-one can really disagree, is that coaches should work together - co-operate - in the best interests of the pupils in order to try to ensure that players realize their potential. To restate this as an individual responsibility, a coach has an obligation (secondary to being concerned with pupils' overall well-being), to help pupils optimise their performance potential - provided the pupil themselves want this. Included in this responsibility must be to raise pupils' awareness of what their playing potential is and the opportunities available for fulfilling it, and to encourage pupils to follow these avenues, even if or when it means 'letting (them) go'. (There is a reciprocal obligation owed by more advanced level coaches to their basic level peers to work/liaise with them, and not to cut off new recruits from their coaching roots.) Underpinning this, however, it is essential that grass roots coaches have a conception,

vision or understanding of what the modern game, as played by highly skilled performers, is about, even if they cannot teach to that standard: a (player's) feel of the 'bite' as you 'launch' a 'loaded' loop or 'throw in' a 'fizzy' serve, (or of the delicate lightness of the ball as you 'touch' a 'tight' return), an ear for the sweet 'crack' of a flat kill or sharp flick, a hunter's or strategist's psyche in 'seeking out' that loose/right ball. In other words an image (if not experience) of what it is like to play at that level and therefore what a player has to do to get there. If they are coaching blind, how can coaches start their pupils in a way that facilitates progression? How can they recognise and advise a pupil that has it in him/her to go much further (than the local school/club/league)? How can they give that pupil a vision of what to aim for; of what he/she could do with his/her potential? Grass roots coaches perform a vital role in bringing in players to the game and holding them. But in order to make more than a chance contribution towards the raising of standards, they need a vision and understanding of top level play and a preparedness to pass appropriate pupils on to the next level of the path towards excellence. And having a wider view of their place and role in the overall coaching structure in co-operation with others will, I believe, encourage many motivated coaches to make their sessions more imaginative and demanding, thereby enhancing the interest and enthusiasm of their charges. Coaches, like pupils, are often capable of very much more than they imagine. In this letter I have been expressing a private view and I have not meant to imply that there are not very many coaches doing an excellent job. However, as well as training new coaches, I believe there is a national need for 'inservice' updating, so that playing standards can continue to rise from a current low. There are too few top local players aged 18-30 who can act as role models for a new generation (and of these, too few are becoming coaches). If youngsters cannot see from others what they have to aspire to to be good, they should at least be properly advised by coaches working collaboratively within the coaching scheme.



# Berkshire

BY JOHN CUNNINGHAM

## SAD LOSS TO TABLE TENNIS

With deep regret I have to report the loss of one of the real gentlemen of table tennis: Robert "Bob" Morley passed away last week at the age of 73. Bob a long time member of Crowthorne T.T.C. and more recently Our Lady of Peace in the Reading League was a credit to the game of table tennis, in particular and sport in general. Anyone who had played in inter town and local league competitions over the years will remember Bob both as a keen player and busy but helpful organiser. Often working behind the scenes, he was one of the main reasons that tournaments ran smoothly, and in many cases ran at all.

The help and encouragement that he gave players, in particular youngsters, over the years can not be measured. One of his great enjoyments in life was to watch good players in action, in particular many of our local Berkshire stars that he has seen rise from complete beginners to County and England standard. Until recent illness curtailed his activities he was a regular visitor at the Our Lady of Peace British League Matches, supporting current stars Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz.

Bob had a keen interest in most sports and enjoyed an active social life including dancing and music of all types.

Bob will be sadly missed by all, and in table tennis, not least by the many youngsters, most now adults, that he had helped, encouraged and supported over the years. Bob never made it himself as a champion, but he was a champion man.

# Derbyshire

BY COLIN DEATON

## NEVER FORGOTTEN

All table tennis followers of our game throughout Derbyshire were saddened by the loss of Mr Leonard Henry during the month of July.

Affectionately known as 'Chuck'. Shortly before he died made an Honorary Life Member of the English Schools Table Tennis Association where he was secretary for over a decade.

His dedication to our game in our area was second to none and for many years promoted

# COUNTY Notes

table tennis in the Dronfield area producing some real noticeable players. Almost up to the time of his death Chuck was personally conducting coaching sessions at his Dronfield Junior School where he was headmaster.

I was privileged to spend time with him just a couple of days before his death and his usual topic of conversation was table tennis.

I am sure I speak for everyone connected with our game in expressing our heart-felt condolences to his wife Jean, daughter Jane and son Andrew. He will be remembered and never forgotten.

Another former Chesterfield table tennis player and supporter of our local game, Mr Gordon Wilson, has also passed away. Gordon played and enjoyed his table tennis for a good number of years before leaving the area to live in Gloucester. He always kept in touch with table tennis in the Chesterfield and District League.

Gordon was a defensive style player, playing in the Chesterfield League's top division. Gordon bequeathed to the Chesterfield and District Table Tennis League the sum of £500. The Derbyshire Association held its AGM in June at the Council Offices, Matlock and the following officers were elected:

**Secretary and Treasurer** - Les Allwood (Eastwood) **Chairman** - Roy Harrison (Burton)

**Coaching Secretary** - Derrick Marples (Chesterfield) **Development** - Roy Bayliss (Derby)

**Women's Officer** - Pat Thorley (Matlock) **National Council**

**Representative** - Sue Cooke (Chesterfield)

**Press Officer** - Colin Deaton (Chesterfield)

**Umpires Secretary** - Mike Payne (Derby)

**County Juniors** - Neil T Houghton (Chesterfield)

**County Seniors** - Roy Bayliss (Derby). Both Roy Bayliss and Neil Houghton, our respective County Captains at Senior and Junior level, are hoping to get a successful squad together in the County sides. There can be no denying that a Senior County team involving Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton could be enough to win the division but that may not be possible.

It was interesting to observe that Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton have all

been selected for the Olympic Training Camp in Talahasee, USA in August. This may well be an indication that they could be in line for a place in the Olympic squad.

Finally, congratulations to Bradley Billington on being appointed as the National Players' Representative. His honesty and forthright views will be an asset to him in this national appointment.

# Devon

BY JOHN VINCENT

## CREDITABLE RESULT

In the Senior Premier County matches Devon did extremely well to stay up considering they played without number 1 Alex Perry, now a professional in Sweden and Carol Giles who became a proud mother of a little girl - Samantha. Also over the second weekend, Paul Giles was injured and unable to play. Cometh the hour cometh the man, with Gary Lambert having an impressive weekend adding to a great team performance with our County finishing in fifth place.

In Senior Division 1B our second team again did well to stay up with the best performance coming from sisters Helen Wright and Jane Swabey.

Our third team finished in 5th position in Division 2B despite one match being declared void. After a bad start to the season Adrian Vincent was brought in at number 1 and three good wins followed, the most significant being an 8-2 victory away to champions Gloucestershire. They beat Wiltshire 1 and Worcester and but for the void match could have finished in second place.

SENIOR RANKINGS AS AT 3 APRIL 1995

### MEN

1. Alex Perry
2. Paul Whitting
3. Paul Giles
4. Gary Lambert
5. Mike Short

### WOMEN

1. Carol Giles
2. Lynsey Heyward
3. Helen Wright
4. Jane Swabey
5. Penelope Perry

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 6. Adrian Vincent   | 6. Joanna Barraclough |
| 7. Gregory Bridgett | 7. Dana Kratochovilla |
| 8. Steve Giles      | 8. Nicola Potts       |
| 9. Tony Sweet       | 9. Sue Budell         |
| 10. Jonathan May    | 10. Debbie Whiting    |
| 11. Peter Thomas    | 11. Lucy Perry        |
| 12. Kevin Budell    | 12. Elizabeth May     |
| 13. Dennis Gibbs    |                       |
| 14. Martin Hussey   |                       |

# Dorset

BY MARTIN HUGHES

## DATE FOR DIARY

As the new season gets underway, here is a date to note in your diary. The Dorset Closed Championships will be held on Sunday 10 December 1995 at the Wessex Centre Poole.

Harvey Webb will be organising this event and he can be contacted on (01202) 311206 for an entry form.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the time of writing, Dorset are struggling to find anyone willing to run our one senior team this season. This is because of the difficulty involved in finding two lady players who are willing and able to play. There are always sufficient men available, but never enough women to represent the county.

Several years ago we proposed a rule change to reduce the number of women to one per team, as per the Veteran's Divisions, but we were unable to gain sufficient support from other counties, despite general agreement with much of our reasoning.

It appears to be that if a county has sufficient women who wish to play for them they vote to retain the present system, whilst those counties like ourselves with insufficient women, vote for a change.

I would perhaps now suggest that a separate women's County Championship be run alongside the men's, and then counties can decide how many teams they can field without the men and/or ladies being disadvantaged.

## BRITISH LEAGUE

Joliffe Poole will be in the second division south west of the British League again this season with matches against Cheltenham, Horsham, Kingshurst, Sheffield, St Neots, Launceston and Leckie in prospect.

This will be Poole's 15th consecutive season in the British League and they are now one of the longest established teams in the league.

The team has always comprised of locally

based players only, preferring not to rely upon imported talent. Tony Clayton will once again lead the team with Brian Garraway, John Robinson, Barry Hill, Brian Burn, Dave Sharples and yours truly trying our best to back him up.

**POOLE PAIRS**

A new venue was established in Poole last year with the aid of a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and a new competition entitled Poole Pairs was initiated.

Teams of two were selected by the organisers based on playing strength, with the best players being paired with the weakest players, in order to even out the strength of the teams and thereby maintain an interest in the competition throughout the season. Matches consisted of four singles and one doubles, all being the best of five games.

The title was not wrapped up until the penultimate week of the season, although Barry Hill and John Loader were strong favourites for the title after only the first few weeks.

However, the runners-up prize was not decided until the final match of the season, when Brian Burn and Christian Carman narrowly pipped Brian Garraway and Danny Allen on games average.

Final Table 1994/5	W	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Hill/John Loader	13	3	50	30	50
Brian Burn/Chris Carman	11	5	44	36	44
Brian Garraway/Danny Allen	9	7	44	36	44
Tony Clayton/Clive Loader	10	6	42	38	42
Graham Toole/Trevor Smith	7	9	39	41	39
Mark Werner/Colin Bryson	8	8	39	41	39
Kevin Smith/Dennis Joyce	5	11	35	45	35
Dave Sharples/Taffy Davies	6	10	34	46	34
Martin Hughes/Eric Buckley	3	13	33	47	33

**Leading Averages**

	W	L	%
Tony Clayton	32	0	100
Mark Werner	22	6	79
Brian Garraway	25	7	78
Barry Hill	25	7	78
Martin Hughes	23	9	72
Graham Toole	10	4	71
Brian Burn	22	10	69

*Essex*

BY STEVE KERNS

**ESSEX CLOSED**

Suitable headlines from this year's Essex Closed tournament might have read "Four titles for Marilyn Bawden", "Clive Carthy takes the big one", "Julie Askem dominates

the Ladies' events" or "Three titles for Nikki Kennard". This year's Closed was held at BATTs Centre, Harlow on 6th/7th May 1995 attracting 127 entries in 30 different events. Clive Carthy was top seed in the Men's Singles and he fought off the challenge of the inform Reagan Nettleingham in an enthralling semi-final, and overcame Stuart Gibbs in the final. Stuart always plays well in this tournament and this year was no exception as he ousted Steve Rand in an equally thrilling semi-final.

It was honoured even between Steve Joslin and Reagan Nettleingham with Reagan taking the Junior boy's title on the Saturday after a spell-binding encounter and Steve returning on the Sunday to take the U21s event. Nikki Kennard ended her junior days with a well deserved treble adding the U21s singles to her hard-fought success over Karen Mason in the junior girl's final. Taking her first Essex title was Jeanine Roberts from Harlow who took the Ladies Restricted Singles - she may be better remembered as ex-Hertfordshire star after Jeanine Smith. Simon Woods took a well deserved Restricted Men's Singles title after overcoming stirring three-game encounters against Mick Smalldon, Steve Edmonds and Colin Carslake. Stars of the Cadet events were the Singles Champions Gary Brignall and Vicky Subbington, whilst the U12 winners Hannah Cook and Joe Benson also impressed.

Full results were as follows:

**Men's Singles** (Semi-finals): Clive Carthy bt Reagan Nettleingham 16,-18,16  
Stuart Gibbs bt Steve Rand 17,-11,18  
Men's Singles Final: Clive Carthy bt Stuart Gibbs 13,19 **Men's Doubles** Steve Rand/Mark Wicker bt Clive Carthy/Steve Joslin 12,-16,16 **Restricted Men's Singles** Simon Woods bt Colin Carslake -15,14,18  
**Ladies Singles** Julie Askem bt Shirley Carroll 16,-17,15 **Ladies Doubles** Marilyn Bawden/Julie Askem bt Sue Hickman/Joyce Bassett 12,16 **Restricted Women's Singles** Jeanine Roberts bt Sue Cook 12,14  
**Mixed Doubles** Simon Woods/Julie Askem bt Derek Wood/Marilyn Bawden 18,-11,18  
**Veteran's Singles** Stuart Gibbs bt Terry Guymer 16,-13,18 **Veteran's 050s Singles** Ray Murray bt Mike Watts 17,17 **Veteran Men's Doubles** Mike Watts/Stuart Gibbs bt Derek Wood/Chris Jacob -11,15,17 **Veteran Ladies Singles** Marilyn Bawden bt Marjorie Dawson 11,12 **Veteran Ladies Doubles** Marilyn Bawden/Shirley Carroll bt Sue Hickman/Joyce Bassett 17,10 **Veteran 050s Ladies Singles** (Round Robin): 1) Shirley Carroll 2) Ann Gillillham **Veteran's Mixed Doubles** Derek Wood/Marilyn Bawden bt Stuart Gibbs/Sue Hickman 11,18 **U21 Men's**

**Singles** Steve Joslin bt Reagan Nettleingham -12,19,16 **U21 Ladies Singles** Nikki Kennard bt Catherine Woodcock 8,15  
**Junior Boy's Singles** Reagan Nettleingham bt Steve Joslin -20,21,19 **Junior Boy's Doubles** Paul Lucas/Eddie Newall bt George and David Kao 15,15 **Junior Boy's Restricted Singles** Andrew Faiers bt Michael Piper 19,-17,23 **Junior Girl's Singles** Nikki Kennard bt Karen Mason -17,14,13 **Junior Girl's Doubles** Catherine Woodcock/Nikki Kennard bt Karen Mason/Kelly Bryant 11,11 **Junior Girl's Restricted Singles** Hannah Cook bt Amy Fraser -12,18,19 **Junior Mixed Doubles** Reagan Nettleingham/Karen Mason bt Paul Lucas/Nikki Kennard 15,12 **Cadet Boy's Singles** Gary Brignall bt Andrew Hurry 3,7  
**Cadet Boy's Doubles** Michael Piper/Andrew Hurry bt Gary Brignall/Paul Woodcock 17,-8,9  
**Cadet Girl's Singles** Vicki Subbington bt Natalie Bawden 13,11 **Cadet Girl's Doubles** Natalie Bawden/Amie Wright bt Nicola Todd/Hannah Cook 17,12 **U12 Boys Singles** Joe Benson bt Elliot Crudgington  
**U12 Girls Singles** Hannah Cook bt Natalie Bawden 22,17 **Team Event** BSG Brentwood (Martin Cole and Steve Rand) bt Glue City (Steve Joslin and Reagan Nettleingham) 3-0

**BROOMFIELD TROPHY**

The Chelmsford Junior Girls team ended their junior days in the best possible way - by taking their third National Team title in the last four years with a 5-0 victory over Carlisle, the team that beat them in last year's final. It was Karen Mason who excelled with a superb win over Carlisle's highly ranked Tamara Powell -12,22,8; she fought back from 6-13 down in the second with some superb attacking play and ran away with the third end. This put Chelmsford 2-0 ahead and with players of the calibre of Shelley Ruocco and Sarah Davison in the Chelmsford team there was no way back for Carlisle.

**CORTI-WOODCOCK AWARD**

This year's recipient of the County's top award for service to the game was Chelmsford League stalwart Arthur Clark - the driving force behind ECC, the current most successful and largest club in the Chelmsford League. Arthur who is one of the hardest workers in the game is a County Umpire, a member of many local committees, was the Assistant Referee at the Essex Closed, and is Team Manager of the Chelmsford Junior teams. It would be difficult to think of a more dedicated servant of the game. Bobby Stevens was on hand to present the award at

the County AGM with a typically warm and generous speech.

**NATIONAL U10S/U11S/U12S CHAMPIONSHIPS**

No honours for the Essex players but Dave Wright reports that good performances were achieved at Milton Keynes by Anna Siveyer, Katie Siveyer, Caroline Faiers, Amy Wright, Nicole Todd and Natalie Bawden. Top performance came from Natalie Bawden, a semi-finalist in the Girls U10s event. At ten years of age, Natalie is already in contention for a place in the county junior first team next season; definitely one to watch.

**ILFORD CLOSED**

Events were dominated by Jason Tendler who took three titles, whilst Elaine Sayer just took the Ladies Title with a thrilling three-end victory over Sabine Liebig.  
**Men's Singles** Jason Tendler bt Gary Tendler 12,13 **Men's Doubles** Gary & Jason Tendler bt Malcolm Stennett/Raymond Lam 21,11 **Ladies Singles** Elaine Sayer bt Sabine Liebig 17,-14,21 **Ladies Doubles** Sabine Liebig/Mary Winwood bt Elaine Sayer/F. Adelkye -17,15,20 **Mixed Doubles** Elaine Sayer/Gavin West bt Mary Winwood/John Monk 18,19 **Veteran's Singles** Jim Hobley bt John Tendler 20,11 **Veteran's Doubles** John Tendler/Stan Battrick bt Malcolm Stennett/Raymond Lam 18,-13,14  
**U21 Singles** S. Groves bt M. Cantale 17,-18,14 **U21 Doubles** S. Groves/M. Cantale bt G. King/D. Cantale 17,11 **Restricted Singles** C. Preville bt A. Ellis 15,15

*Gloucestershire*

BY ALF PEPPERD

**WIDE AWAKE**

This being the first County report of the new season and especially more so, being written in late July, one is usually hard pressed for relevant up to date news, but reader, not so, in this particular case - Gloucestershire have been far from asleep during the long hot summer months, and taking TT events as they come, here is what has taken place:- The highly successful Inter-League tournament took place at Cirencester's magnificent new venue Deer Park School on June 3rd, there was a good attendance and the Stroud & District League ran out as ultimate winners with 22 clear points, their team consisted of Alan Giles - Senior Man, John Fannin - Veteran, Elaine Bassett - Senior Lady,

A Look around the Country

Jonathan Bunn U17 No1 and the U17 No2 was John Simmonds - the Host team Cirencester claimed the R.U. position with 18 points and Cheltenham finished bottom with 14 points. Gloucester did not enter.

CIRENCESTER'S FINAL'S NIGHT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 15TH, RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

**Under 13's Final** M.Pogson bt B.Honey 17,14  
**Under 15's Final** K. Pogson bt A.Gilllott 18,18  
**Div 2 Singles** B.Brown bt S.Mackenzie 11,18  
**Div 3 Singles** T.Veuve bt R.Lewis 12,16  
**Mixed Doubles** M & E Johnson bt P.Bird/J.Muncer 15,11  
**Under 17 Final** C.McIntosh bt R.Hunter 20,20  
**Open Doubles** R.David/R.Wilsher bt M.Johnson/M.Greaves 9,16  
**Ladies Singles** Mrs E. Johnson bt Miss J. Muncer 19,12  
**Open Singles** M.Johnson bt R.Wilsher 11,-,19,7

**DEVELOPMENT**

Gloucestershire has been a major growth area during the season. Mandy Hymers (County Youth Sports Development Officer) and Steve Ward (South West Regional Development Officer), have been working closely with the County's Development Team and many initiatives have been set up as a result of this partnership.

Mandy outlined her 3-year plan to develop table tennis in the following areas:  
**Year 1.** (1994-5) Stroud and the South Cotswolds  
**Year 2.** (1995-6) Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and the North Cotswolds  
**Year 3.** (1996-7) Gloucester and the Forest of Dean. The County sent a letter to all Youth Clubs in the Stroud/South Cotswolds are introducing ourselves and offering "TASTER" sessions, as a direct result of these letters 12 Youth Clubs were visited and 170 potential players were discovered.

Four coaching clinics have been set up (Tetbury, Fairford, Wetton & Stonehouse) each lasting for 6 weeks, support has been somewhat disappointing but over 25 young people are now receiving coaching which was unavailable to them before, a similar approach will be adopted in Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and the North Cotswolds regions in the coming season.

In a concerted effort to promote T T in the area, a Gloucestershire Youth Development project has been set up in direct conjunction with the Gloucestershire's T T A and on Sunday 16th of July 1995 a Lucozade Sport and Fun Day was staged at Deer Park School Cirencester, all entries were virtual beginners and there were around 40 entries. Details of the K.O. stages:

**Girls U14** Semi-final: Lisa Granville bt Sarah Cogger 7,8. Victoria Cole bt Rebecca Wherrett

16,16 Play-Off 3/4: Wherrett bt Cogger 18,7  
 Final: Granville bt Cole 18,16

**Girls U14 Plate** Semi-Final: Sally Shuttleworth bt Rebecca Pleasance 14,11. Sherene Warrington bt Gemma Pope - 17,21,13  
 Final: Shuttleworth bt Warrington

**Boys U14** Quarter-Finals: Tom Stroud bt Stuart Dando 13,3. Luke Davis bt Tim Barnett 8,8. Matthew Wain bt Matthew Mould 10,-,11,11. Matthew Brooke-Smith bt Tom Fletcher 4,4. Semi-Final: Stroud bt Davis 11,21.

Play-Off 3/4: Wain bt Davis  
 Final: Brooke-Smith bt Stroud 12,15

**Boys U14 Plate** Quarter-Finals: Greg Hudson bt Ben Byford 20,-,21,19. Russell Clarke bt Richard Jones 8,11. Kim Chandler bt James Blackburn 14,19. Adam Sheppard bt Stuart Wherrett 11,15. Semi-final: Hudson bt Clarke -18,17,18. Chandler bt Sheppard 11,15  
 Final: Chandler bt Hudson 12,13

**Girls U17 group basis** 1) Marianne Willsher, 2) Josie Stroud, 3) Katie Shuttleworth

**Boys U17** Semi-Finals: Mike Scott bt Adam Goldsmith 12,8. Jon Broad bt Chris Lawson 4,6. Play-Off 3/4: Lawson bt Goldsmith 7,21.  
 Final: Broad bt Scott

**Boys U17 Plate** Semi-Finals: Christian Merrett bt Andy Thompson 14,17. Tompson bt Simon Booth -18,21,13. Final Merrett bt Thompson: 21,9.

Five County teams are planed to represent Gloucestershire for this forthcoming season, and will be grouped as follows:  
 Gloucestershire 1st in Division One  
 Gloucestershire 2nds in Division Two under the Non-playing captaincy of John Bunn Juniors in Division Two  
 Veterans 1&2 in Division Two  
 Cheltenham Saracens, our sole team in the British League will be playing in Division 2 of the South West Region.



**NEELD ARE CHAMPIONS**

The Neeld team from Barnet's League are this year's winners of the Aubrey Seaholme Trophy, when they won a Round-Robin competition at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, on 7 May 1995.

The three victorious players were John McCance, John Taylor and Glen Wilkes, who won the Aubrey Seaholme trophy for Barnets in the Hertfordshire champions Team competitions.

Winners of the Intermediate Event were

Leverstock of Hemel Hempstead, with St. Michaels 'B' of the SHAW League winning the Minor competition and Potters Bar of the Barnets League winners of the Mini-Minor event.

**HERTFORDSHIRE CHAMPION TEAM COMPETITION**

**AUBREY SEAHOLME TROPHY**  
 (3 entries)

**ROUND ROBIN**

The Neeld (BA) bt Radlett (SHAW) 5-0 (Glen Wilkes 3/3)

IVRI Maccabi (Ch) bt Radlett (SHAW) 5-4 (Perry Summers 3/3)

The Neeld (BA) bt IVRI Maccabi (Ch) 5-4 (John Taylor 3/3)

WINNERS **The Neeld (BA)** John McCance, John Taylor and Glen Wilkes

**INTERMEDIATE EVENT**

(2 entries)

**FINAL ONLY**

Leverstock (HH) bt Birchwood (SHAW) 5-4 (C. Bourget [Birchwood] 3/3)

WINNERS **Leverstock (HH)** Richard Cooper, Trevor Moorhead and Dave Windle

**MINOR EVENT**

(4 entries)

**2xSEMI-FINALS/FINAL**

St. Michaels 'B' (SHAW) bt

Potters Bar TTC 5-3 (John Barnett 3/3)

Hiretech 'C' (HH) bt Bullsmoor 'A' (Ch) 6-3 (Jimi Wheeler 3/3)

St. Michaels 'B' (SHAW) bt

Hiretech 'C' (HH) 7-2 (Peter Salisbury 3/3)

WINNERS **St. Michaels 'B' (SHAW)**

John Barnett, Peter Salisbury and Gerry Stephens

**MINI-MINOR EVENT**

(5 entries)

**1xQF/ 2xSEMI-FINALS/ FINAL**

Adeyfield 'G' (HH) bt BAT T T C (BA) 6-3 (Alan Harper 3/3)

H.M.O.T. 'A' (Ch) bt Northchurch 'B' (HH) 6-3 (Trevor Perkins 3/3)

Potters Bar C.C. (BA) bt Adeyfield 'G' (HH) 6-0 (\*Potters Bar unbeaten)

Potters Bar C.C. (BA) bt H.M.I.T. 'A' (Ch) 5-0 (\*Potters Bar unbeaten)

WINNERS **Potters Bar C.C. (BA)**

Reg Check, David Perkins and Peter Radwell



**KENNEDY AND HOUGHTON CHAMPIONS**

The Kent Reliance Kent Senior Closed Championships were held at the Sterling Centre, Rochester on Saturday 6 May 1995. Tonbridge's Juliet Houghton claimed her twelfth Ladies Singles Title as expected but the Men's Singles was not so clear cut with 1st and 2nd seeds Andy Cunningham (Medway) and Mark Brown (Bromley) losing in the semi-finals.

**Mens Singles:** Joe Kennedy bt Spencer Thompson 17,21  
**Mens Doubles:** Joe Kennedy/Phil Saxby bt Justin Goodall/Keith Clark 16,18  
**Ladies Singles:** Juliet Houghton bt Jackie Mersh 12,17  
**Ladies Doubles:** Juliet Houghton/Carly Riggs bt Kristina Brocklebank/Heidi Steers 16,15  
**Veteran Singles:** Henry Buist bt Paolo Beck 8,20

**U21 Mens Singles:** Christian Thompson bt Martin Hewett 19,13  
**U21 Ladies Singles:** Heidi Steers bt Crystal Hall -15,15,16

**Mixed Doubles:** Mark Brown/Juliet Houghton bt Joe Kennedy/Kristina Brocklebank 16,-,21,16  
**Man of Kent Singles:** Christian Thompson bt Scott Dawtry 19,-,12,12  
**Kentish Man's Singles:** Martin Hewett bt Mark Green 13,-,17,13  
**Class II Ladies Singles:** Kristina Brocklebank bt Carla Burgin 16,19

**FRIDAY BEATEN**

Scott Friday (Rainham Mark Grammar) was surprisingly beaten in the final of the U13 Boys' National Schools Championships at Coventry when he lost to Buckinghamshire's Andrew Baggaley. A rare defeat this for Friday who has been in the habit of collecting national titles.

Wesley Cheeseman, Boys U11, (St. Matthews, T.Wells) came runner up in his group and then beat Thomas Millwood (West Midlands) before losing in the quarter-finals to the eventual champion Steven Davies (Lincolnshire). Maidstone Grammar's Antony Lickfold (Boys U16) won out of his group and then lost to Derbyshire's Michael Isherwood in the quarter-finals.

Our Girls had mixed results, Gemma Alcorn (Northborough, Maidstone) U11 Girls, was second in her group and then lost to Camille Blake (Surrey) 12-21, 10-21. Hannah Frarey (Invicta Grammar, Maidstone) U13 Girls lost all her group matches which just goes to show the strength of the opposition at this level. Angie Bristow (Bennet Memorial, T.Wells) won her group but then disappointingly lost to Essex's Helen Lincoln some twelve places below her on the national ranking list. Alison Smith (Maidstone Girl's Grammar) came runner up in her group only losing to England's No 5 Claire Lowe (Suffolk), she then had a good win over Joanna Baraclough (Cornwall) before losing to

the eventual winner Claire News (Cheshire) 14-21, 15-21 in the quarter finals.

**OLIVER STEVENS SHOWS POTENTIAL**

Rotherhithe's Oliver Stevens continued his climb up the National Rankings with a splendid performance at the National U10, U11 and U12 Championships at Milton Keynes on 3/4 June 1995. In the U11 Boys Singles Stevens beat No1 seed Michael Chan (Surrey) 18,16 in the quarter-finals and then accounted for 4th seed Christopher Jamieson (Essex) -19,15,16 in the semi-final. In the final he lost to the star of the weekend, Suffolk's Gary Bloomfield -14,-18.

Bloomfield's combination of defence and sudden counter attacks had all the opposition baffled and it will be interesting to see if he can develop his game sufficiently to carry on winning as he enters the higher age groups - let's hope so.

Dominic Hall (Maidstone) won all his group matches in both the U10s and U11s before losing in the quarter-finals of the U10s to the eventual finalist Dale Barham (Huntingdon) 17,-12,-13, and in the U11s to Chris Dunne (Yorkshire) 18,-19,-15.

Disappointment, though, for Justin Dodd, Kents No 7 seed in the U12 Boys when the Gravesend youngster lost in the first round - 13,-10 to Martin Rule (Buckinghamshire).

**WANG DA YONG ATTRACTS MAJOR TV COVERAGE**

Kent were once again fortunate enough to have Mr Wang Da Yong visiting Kent to run a four-day training camp which was attended by 26 of our young players.

Mr Wang is considered by most experts within the sport of Table Tennis to be the world's premier coach and captain and is the personal coach to the world's No 1 ranked player and European Champion Jean-Michel Saive. Mr Wang has been the driving force behind the phenomenal resurgence of Belgium table tennis. Such was the interest within Kent that Meridian T V spent 1.1/2 hours filming the Monday session and then put the story out three times on the South East News including the prime time 10 o'clock news.

The event is supported by the Kent County Council Sports Development Unit as part of the Sans Frontier programme in conjunction with the County Association.

**HILLREED HOMES MAIDSTONE CLOSED**

**Men's Singles:** Mike Ling bt Martin Hewitt

**Men's Doubles:** Mike Ling/Bob Smith bt Martin Hewitt/Dennis McConkey **Ladies Singles:** Alison Pearson bt Carly Riggs **Ladies Doubles:** Alison Pearson/June Woolven bt Gloria Dowding/Carly Riggs **Veteran Men's Singles:** Mike Ling bt Gordon Harris **U17 Boy's Singles:** Terry Claperton bt Jon Cheng **U17 Girl's Singles:** Crystal Hall bt Rachel Woolven **Mixed Doubles:** Paul Woolven/Alison Pearson bt Martin Hewitt/Carly Riggs

**FOLKESTON CLOSED**

**Men's Singles:** Scott Dawtry bt Phil Saxby **Men's Doubles:** Mark Stanton/Scott Dawtry bt Phil Saxby/Robert Porter **Ladies Singles:** Sue Allsworth bt Kate Saxby **Ladies Doubles:** Sue Allsworth/Kate Saxby bt Jane Lovick/Jackie Crunden **Veteran Men's Singles:** John Davison bt Chris Hooper **Veteran Ladies Singles:** Margaret Maris bt Dawn Thomason **U17 Boys Singles:** Scott Dawtry bt Trevor Griffiths **Mixed Doubles:** Phil Saxby/Kate Saxby bt Mark Stanton/Carla Burgin

**GRAVESEND AND DISTRICT CLOSED**

**Men's Singles:** Wayne Youngs bt Alan Fitzgerald **Men's Doubles:** Wayne Youngs/David Lewis bt Dave Butler/Cliff Roberts **Ladies Singles:** Marilyn Dodd bt Gill Fitzgerald **Ladies Doubles:** Gill Fitzgerald/Lisa Pearce bt Marilyn Dodd/Janet Cross **Veteran Men's Singles:** Alan Fitzgerald bt Dave Butler **U17 Boy's Singles:** Justin Dodd bt Stephen Reeve **Mixed Doubles:** Steve Broad/Marilyn Dodd bt Alan and Gill Fitzgerald

**NORTH WEST KENT CLOSED**

**Men's Singles:** Lee Hewitt bt Dave Emery **Men's Doubles:** John Huckle/Dave Emery bt Peter Ives/Lee Hewitt **Ladies Singles:** Karen Perryman bt Julie Pilfold **Ladies Doubles:** Karen Perryman/Pam Butcher bt Jackie Mersh/Sandra Collins **Veteran Men's Singles:** Mike Ling bt Gordon Harris **U17 Boy's Singles:** Richard Farthing bt Justin Dodd **Mixed Doubles:** Dave Emery/Julie Pilfold bt Lee Hewitt/Karen Perryman

**LAMBETH BUILDING SOCIETY ASHFORD CLOSED**

**Men's Singles:** Matthew King bt Mick Jones **Men's Doubles:** Neil Brocklebank/Mick Jones bt Matthew King/Andy Chapman **Ladies Singles:** Carly Riggs bt Kristina Brocklebank **Ladies**

**Doubles:** Carly Riggs/Amanda Bateman bt Kristina Brocklebank/Jean Jones **Veteran Men's Singles:** Adrian Hall bt Clive Hollingsbee **U17 Boy's Singles:** Paul Smith bt Darren White **Mixed Doubles:** Matthew King/Amanda Bateman bt Malcolm Skates/Carly Riggs

**INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR KENT JUNIORS**

Justin Dodd (Gravesend) represented English Primary Schools in Scotland during April, helping to win the team event with 12 wins out of 12, but then in the singles event lost in the semi-final to the Welsh No 1 seed Adam Robertson. Scott Friday represented England Schools in the Isle of Man reaching the final of the U13s and was subsequently selected for England cadets in the prestigious Sex Nations Tournament held this year in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. Christian Thompson, Crystal Hall and Oliver Stevens were members of a Kent/England Select side that represented England at the 11th Luxembourg 18 Nations Tournament in June.



**NEW SCRIBE!**

May I first offer mine and everyone's thanks to Stan Clarke, the writer of this column for several years. Stan, unfortunately, has had to retire from the position due to pressure of work. As a newcomer, I can only hope to continue the good work done by Stan in the past.

On the County Championship scene, Lancashire met with mixed fortunes last season. As previously stated, it was very disappointing to find that the County's top players were unavailable for duty. The premier division side travelled to Warwick for the second weekend with a squad of all reserves. Needless to say, they lost all four matches and the team finished bottom of the table with just one point from the first weekend. I has to be said that the team of Graham Clarke, Kevin Dolder, Glen Payne, Tamar Connolly and Sylvia Graham put up a good show after being thrown in the deep end! Kevin Dolder was particularly impressive with two wins and one or two near misses which included two close games with Bradley Billington. It has been a tale of woe for the second team. With players having to fill the breach in the first team, the ranks were very

much depleted, and as a result the team finished 2nd from bottom on four points, just one point behind Buckinghamshire. The story remained the same with the Junior 1st team. For reasons unknown, the top juniors were unavailable and it was only the aid of two walkovers that kept the team in division 1A. Thankfully, there was much more enthusiasm shown in the Junior seconds. After dropping a point to Lincolnshire, they could still have won the division 2A with a win over Warwickshire in the final match of the first weekend. However, it wasn't to be, as Warwickshire romped home ten nil and in fairness, deserved their championship success. The young Lancashire players were delighted, I'm sure to receive runners-up trophies.

It has already been reported that the Veteran's first team finished runners-up to Dorset in the premier division (only on count-back and by one game). The Vet's second team were in the running for the division 2A championship right up until the last encounter with Northants. In a very closely fought contest, Northants took the honours and the title ahead of Lancashire.

County badges were awarded to juniors, Andy Day, Tony Jalinstone, Stuart Toole and Kim Roberts. The County Junior trials are due to take place at Hilton Leisure Centre, Horwich on Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd of September commencing at 9:00 am.

The County can only hope for better things after a somewhat indifferent season. Hopefully, our youngsters will turn the tide of fortune.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League continues to be popular with leagues within the region. Whilst the men's divisions have decreased, the Vet's have more than compensated for that fact. This, of course, is a general trend throughout the game. Preston clinched the division one men's title with a draw at Manchester after front runners Liverpool had gone down 7-3 at Bury. Wigan completed their season with a 8-2 success at Manchester 'A' and took the Division 2 north title with a four point margin over Mid-Cheshire. Wigan should do well in the top flight this coming season with players like Paul Hutchings and James Bartoli in their ranks. Bolton attained a clean sheet in their last two matches against Southport and Warrington 'A' in Division 2 south and as champions are promoted back into division one. It is really unthinkable that a league of Bolton's strength should be anywhere other than the top division. Rochdale 'A' were winners of Division 3 after drawing their final match with second-placed Trafford. The ladies Division 1 was won by Manchester who have

A Look around the Country

been strengthened by the inclusion of Doreen Schofield. Liverpool just pipped Wirral for runners-up spot on sets average. The second division was easily won by Southport with the Vets duo of Sylvia Graham and Mabel Neary proving too strong for the rest. Blackpool were worthy runners-up.

Junior division one champions were Wirral who narrowly defeated Barrow 6-4 and pushed them into second place. Barrow 'A' gained some consolation by winning division 2A on sets average from St.Helens. Strange result here in St.Helens final match - they beat Barrow 'A' 7-3. Salford and Farnworth triumphed in Division 2B with Manchester just behind them.

The vets grow stronger in numbers and it would appear in competitiveness. This was certainly the case at the top of Division 1 where Stockport edged out Manchester by just two sets. Well done Roger Hampson, Paul Collins and the little man in the boiler suit (I think he's called Snowfield or something). Preston can look forward to the top flight next season. With a resounding 10-nil victory over Wirral they clinched the title over runners-up Rochdale. Mid-Cheshire were champions of Division 3 with Oldham 'A' landing second slot with a slightly better sets average than Halton 'A'. Mid-Cheshire could be a force to be reckoned with if Brian Johns decides to join brother Ian in the team.

Preston 'A' did well to win division four ahead of the strong Liverpool 'A' side. I'm sure that both teams will hold their own in the higher division. Fifth division winners were Wigan 'A', with Tameside in second place, and the division six title went to Mid-Cheshire with Rochdale 'C' runners-up.

Good news for northern tournament goers. The Blackpool League have announced that they will run the Blackpool 3 Star Open at the new Blackpool Sports Centre over the weekend.26/26th May 1996. I understand that Martin Sreland will be organiser and Stuart Sherlock the referee.

Seasiders TTC ran a reasonably successful North-West Open last May (see separate report). They will be promoting the Lancashire Junior 2 Star at Kirkham over the weekend 30th September/1st October. For the up and coming juniors (or any others for that matter) a series of 1 star events will take place at Blackpool Sports Centre on the following dates:- Sunday 3rd December 1995, Sunday 7th January 1996, Sunday 3rd March 1996, Sunday 21st April 1996 and Sunday 19th May 1996. As well as the normal ETTA ranking points, a system will operate whereby players who reach the quarter-finals onwards will be awarded another set of points and the top boy and girl in each age group will receive a

trophy and replica at the end of the series. Entry forms obtainable by ringin 01253 - 397589. I have heard a whisper (I hasten to add that is only a whisper) that the prestigious Merseyside Open may be resurrected. I'm certain it would be welcomed by all as would some of the other missing events like the North of England Open and the Cheshire Junior.

On a development note, the date for the opening of the new Hyndburn Centre has been put back to 23rd September. The centre will have a six court facility and is an extension of the existing Hyndburn Sports Centre. It is hoped to stage junior and senior coaching, local league matches and a Woolwich Junior League. I'm sure we all wish Fred Holden and his team every success in the new venture.

Just before I sign off, may I congratulate the Seasider's Ladies Team who finished runners-up in Division 3 of the Women's British League. The team of Claire Newns, Tamar Connolly, Brenda Busey and Sylvia Graham were also named "team of the weekend" at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge.

**Leicestershire**  
BY DEREK BUTT

**FEWER TEAMS**

The Leicester and District League will have ten divisions again next season although there are fewer teams in each. Good news on the Woolwich League as, I hear, there could be an increase in the number of leagues participating.

Talking of the Woolwich reminds me that the Whitwick Hermitage Leisure Centre and the Woolwich building Society have joined forces to set up a coaching clinic for seven to fourteen year olds. Taking place on a Monday evening for two hours at a very moderate fee. Having had two internationals at this centre already and been very successful, lets hope they get the same results from this venture.

The division one title went to Rushey Mead last season as the previous leaders Knighton Park were fined for breaking the rules. Ten points were taken from them, which let Rushey in for the championship.

In Loughborough they are hoping to have at least three divisions operating this season coming and will be operating a two man team system, it will be interesting if they do and to hear comments raised on this format.

The Summer League competition the "Elbow Tankard" has had another successful season,

and has now reached the quarter final stage.

There were an entry of twenty teams, with four groups of five teams playing each other home and aways. The winners and runners up going into the quarter finals. It is played on a handicap basis so players can meet each other from divisions one to ten.

As I said it has now reached the last eight and the teams who have progressed to this stage are as follows.

Group 'A' was won by Shoe One (British Shoe) and the runners up were Job Lot (Loughborough Knights).

Group 'B' was won by the youngsters from Rushey Mead and are favourites to win the trophy for a second successive year. Runners up were Villagers One (Great Glen).

In Group 'C' there was a tremendous tussle between the top two, and both teams had seven wins from their eight matches. The winners were Newts (Wigston Magna) and also have a couple of good youngsters and can be counted as second favourites. Runners up were Casualties another good side from Syston with a mixture of experience and youth.

Group 'D' was won by Shoe Two (British Shoe), and the runners up were another works team Marconi.

The draw for the quarter final is as follows

- Shoe One v Marconi
- Rushey v Casualties
- Newts v Villagers One
- Shoe Two v Job Lot

Matches are to be played by August 19th with semi finals being played on the 22nd and 24th of August.

In the next issue of Table Tennis News I can report on the finals.

**Norfolk**  
BY RAY HOGG

**WINDY NIGHTS**

With the temperature I am writing this in at about 85F we can only imagine the cold and windy nights to come during the season. There were no important changes to our County Committee at the A G M which adds to the stability of the County. Ray Drew after many years as Vice Chairman stepped up to Chairman as Geoff Keer has to move over the border. Our main problem area is that of Secretary for the Junior 1st team. In spite of letters to the local papers and direct to all possible 1st team Juniors plus numerous phone calls so far there is absolutely no

response from anyone. I have threatened withdrawal of this team and then stand by and expect comments from the little darlings' parents who expect everything to be done without having to do anything themselves. Unfortunately my committee have ruled that this team must continue, so somehow us few will have to cope.

Both junior teams, our one senior team and one of the veteran's teams are being 'weekended' so we will not be seeing many of our players in action at home this season. A 3rd veteran's team was possible as there are many now available but once again no one was prepared to act.

Money-wise, our Treasurer has raised about £400 virtually by herself by arranging a jumble sale, charity stall in Norwich and a marathon. This on top of the donation from the leagues should see us through the season even if we have to cover the costs of the 49th Closed Championships as sponsorship is doubtful. These championships will again be at Lynnsport on Sat/Sun March 30/31 1996.

First reports from the local leagues show not much difference in numbers from last season - certainly no noticeable increase in numbers of players. Norwich, for instance, have lost yet another full division leaving only 8 from the 14 of not so many years ago.

Somewhere else in this issue should be an obituary for Ken Edwards, Norwich league secretary for the past 11 years who died suddenly just before the 60th anniversary of that league. What impressed me was the way everyone rallied round including people who had resigned from the committee over a problem. Dennis and Margaret Calver, Chairman and Treasurer nearly worked themselves into the ground trying (and succeeding) to organise both the finish of last season and the starting of the next.

**Northants**  
BY DENNIS MILLMAN

Superb individual performances from Keith Jones and Margaret Maltby, plus a vintage doubles from Michael Edwards and Ray Kingston, carved Northants Veteran Firsts a 5-4 victory over Lancashire Seconds and clinched the Division 2A title with a 100% record for the season.

Lancashire went two up before Jones opened the Northants scoring with an easy win over Barry Crook, and then he teamed up with Maltby to gain a third end mixed doubles success. Edwards and Kingston then gained a straight games win in the doubles, and after her game had gone to expedite at fifteen all

in the third, Mrs Maltby made it four in a row. Brian Clements pulled one back for the visitors, but Jones was not to be denied his moment of triumph and completed a memorable win with a 21-16, 21-10 success over Derek Watmough.

In the first semi-final of the Ram Sports Challenge Trophy, Thrapston displayed its strength in depth, by providing both sides. The Rovers always held an apparent advantage, with David Hoddle's surprise win over Steve West almost emulated by Geoff Atkinson, but a three nil, and then a four three deficit, were finally overcome by the Hotspurs, with singles from West, Alan Ashberry, Gerald Finney and Viv Smiley being eventually supplemented by a West/Finney doubles.

Norhampton's Doddridge had a painless passage to the final, but at Glamin Hall they were soon trailing to West and Finney, and could have gone further behind if Gary Webb hadn't recovered to take Ashberry in the third, especially as Rob Davies had been somewhat fortunate to get a close decision over Mrs Smiley.

The fifth singles was crucial, and Webb completed the individual performance of the day to beat West 18 and 21, and though Finney remained defiant, Davies and Kris Asnong with scintillating attacking displays made sure of the Ram Sports Trophy for Doddridge.

Donna Furniss, Clem Little, Murial Cox and Viv Smiley had all won five of their six games, but to take the title they had to win a sixth, and to hold a win over the other player ending with six successes.

Earlier Clem Little had produced the shock of the day when she had beaten County singles champion Donna Furniss in straight fames, but then Little had gone down to Murial Cox - 21,18,16, leaving Mrs Cox in pole position, for the fourth contender Viv Smiley had already been well-beaten by Miss Furniss.

However, true to form in this enthralling event, Mrs Smiley hit through the tight defence of Mrs Cox to win comfortably, and the scene was set for an intriguing finish. With the final two rubbers played simultaneously, fortunes ebbed and flowed as Little played Smiley and Furniss encountered Cox - all four players aware that ultimate success not only depended on winning their own game, but also on the result on the adjoining table.

For most of the opening end, Smiley held an advantage over Little, while in the Furniss/Cox clash, the lead changed hands on numerous occasions, but late claw-backs saw Little and Furniss take one game advantages. A similar pattern recurred in the second, until

Smiley's attack wavered against Little's unerring accuracy and the Furniss power just got her home by the minimum margin against Mrs Cox.

Six wins each for Clem Little and Donna Furniss, but Little's earlier victory over Furniss became decisive, and it was Clem Little who took the Queensberry Scimitar Trophy for the first time.

At the other end of the scale, it was almost as close, with Kath Walsh having the mortification of beating Chris Howell, only to see Howell finish three places above her, while Ruth Hoddle's 19.-22.19 win over Garielle Evans also determined the final placings.

At the end of last season, Higham Band's Andy Trott, Chris Handshaw, Richard Elliott and Adrian Roper easily held on to Wellingborough's Premier Division, but as anticipated failed to complete the customary double, when the Kettering League's corresponding section went for the first time to Team Electric, whose Ian Hawes, Julian Marshall and Steve West, beat Higham twice in the final week of the season, to take the title.

**Final Placings:**

Wellingborough	P	W	L	D	Pts
Higham Band	22	20	2	0	198
Westfield A	22	18	4	0	173
D.G.'s A	22	17	1	4	160
Thrapston A	22	13	2	7	147

**Kettering**

Team Electric A	16	16	0	0	146
Higham Band	16	14	0	2	135
Thrapston A	16	10	1	5	102
Kettering Town A	16	10	2	4	100

Electric's sparkling form spilled over into the Kettering Tournament, where Hawes and West were again among the honours, with Hawes retaining his Men's Singles crown with a confident display against Richard Elliott, who playing in his first Kettering final, was attempting to life a hat-trick of local titles, having already won at Wellingborough and Northampton.

Hawes reached the final after a series of swift straight game successes, as did Elliott, until at the penultimate stage, he lost the middle end to colleague Chris Handshaw. This obstacle safely negotiated, Elliott made a valiant effort to end Hawes' winning run, but the champion had the edge in both power and resolve, and after Elliott had fought back to level at deuce in the second, Hawes kept his nerve and the title.

Hawes and West also held on to the Men's Doubles, after a close tussle with an inspired Geoff Atkinson and Ian Selater, who had earlier hit through top seeds Elliott and Handshaw to claim a place in the final.

It was quite a day for Atkinson who reached five finals and ended on top in three of them. He had been expected to win both the veteran doubles with Gordon Shaw and the Over 50s Singles at the first time of asking, but a mixed doubles victory partnered by a tenacious Jenna Ashberry after clear cut wins against both top seeds had to be seed to be believed.

Miss Ashberry also had good reason to be delighted with her day's work, for her dependability was not only the foil for Atkinson's flashing blade, but also for the accurate attacking play of Viv Smiley, as the unseeded pair gained an easy win in the Women's doubles.

For Mrs Smiley, it was so near and yet so far, going down -22 in a semi-final decider in the mixed, and then after featuring in a superb singles final, just failing to match an outstanding display from Jane Johnston, who took her third title after a gap of eight years. Gordon Shaw's day began badly when he lost in the singles to Alan Ashberry after taking the second round encounter to expedite, but it ended on a high note with Shaw retaining his Veteran Singles title, and the corresponding doubles event. He was also in winning vain in the Premier Division Handicap, when in one of the best matches of the day, he held on to his five point advantage to beat Ian Hawes (-3) on a third game deuce.

Normally such events would bring the season's reporting to an end, but on this occasion, the season, and a complete era, ended with the passing of Gwil Evans, Northants Development Officer. I had the privilege of taking the service at the Kettering Crematorium with County Chairman Ken Marshant paying a glowing tribute and Wellingborough's Development Officer David Marsh reading the psalm.

It was so pleasing to see so many representatives, not only from local table tennis, but from farther afield coming to pay their respects, and it was indicative of Gwil's enthusiastic involvement in the game, that coach John Burlston from Milton Keynes, and Regional Development Officer Harold Taylor were part of the congregation.

Northants Table Tennis will not be the same without Gwil Evans, and the long winter evenings will pass more slowly without his articulate phone calls stretching deep into the night. The deepest sympathy of all the county's players and officials goes to his wife and family.

*Northumberland*

BY PAULINE LONG

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

At the time of writing this report, it is a hot day in late July - more appropriate to outdoor activity than table tennis. But the deadline of 1st August is fast approaching for the September publication, so I shall give a breakdown of our activities during the summer season.

The National Power Summer League is currently into its tenth week with 32 teams contesting 4 divisions. St. Gabriels, who are still unbeaten, appear to be favourites for the Division 1 title, with North Shields YMCA 'A' the likely runners-up. Gateshead, the National Power Winter League champions, are still in their place despite many of their top players not competing in the Summer League this season. There is a fascinating battle in Division 2 between DSS 'A' and Silksworth, with the former team at present occupying top spot by just one point.

Seaburn Dene already appear to have the Division 3 championship sewn up, with North Shields YMCA 'D' looking the likely runners-up. Byker CC 'B' are current leaders of Division 4, and the second place is at present being disputed between North Shields YMCA 'F' and Whitehouse Lane.

The final of the Handicap Knock Out Cup was eventually played, with Gateshead (72) the winners against Newton (90).

Congratulations are in order for Ian Robertson who was selected for the England Veteran's team in Austria during July. Also to the Sedgefield team of Caron Guthrie, Karen Newby, Joanne Donnelly and Nicola Parks, who, after the second weekend of the Women's British League, emerged as Division 3 champions with Caron remaining unbeaten over the two weekends.

The National Power Northumbria Winter League will (provisionally) commence on 11th September. All our usual teams have been entered in the County Championships and Knock Out Trophy Competitions, but in addition, this season sees the return of our County junior team, to whom we wish the best of luck and good fortune in their forthcoming fixtures. Unfortunately, the senior team will be weakened by the absence of Eddie Smith, who has been suspended from County play for the whole of the season as a result of his behaviour at the second senior County play-offs weekend last February.

# Sussex

BY JOHN WOODFORD

## NATIONALS AT BRIGHTON

Nearly ten years have elapsed since a major ETTA tournament came to Sussex. Then it was the English Open at the Brighton Centre - next March it will be the English National Championships at the same venue.

If all goes well Brighton could hold onto the tournament for another two years. ETTA Events Manager Mike Watts is the man behind the deal, but there were some prime movers in Brighton - especially Karenza and Ken Matthews who are Brighton hoteliers. Karenza was the England women's champion in 1971 and 1972.

This move to Brighton will help to answer the growing number of complaints that almost all the table tennis events were being staged North of the Thames.

Keith Jackson retained his position as chairman of the Sussex TTA at a five-hour annual meeting on July 23. Keith has brought in several sponsorships for Sussex tournaments and has also started a very successful 200 Club that has helped the Sussex finances reach a very respectable level of £44833, a complete reversal of the trends that were being forecast last season - treasurer Laurie Holland is now a happy man.

All the other officers held their posts, except for two - Brian Keeley has pulled out of the veteran's secretary job and a vacancy still exists, whilst Dave Berriman takes over the coaching secretary's post from Peter Burdook who will still continue to provide facilities at the Newman School, Hove.

A new six or seven table venue has blossomed at Eastbourne - the Shinewater Club, where David Berriman and Jim West have already run several coaching courses. The centre will also house the Eastbourne Woolwich Junior League this season and in all probability be used for some tournaments.

Sussex will field the same ten teams in the county championships this campaign - three senior, three junior and four veterans. The fourth veterans team might have to fight for its existence in the 1996-1997 season however as costs are escalating, including long trips to Devon.

# Warwickshire

BY PETE WALDEN

## NEW SEASON

A new season approaches, and for those players who do not participate in their local Summer League, it's time to dig out your bat again and give those rubbers a good clean! This season the County again has high hopes for its Junior A side who go up into Division 1a having won all their seven matches in Division 2a last season conceding a mere 9 sets in the process. Congratulations to 100% man Ryan Stockham plus team-mates Alan Hewitt and Daniel Belcher. Expect to see this talented trio make further strides up the National Ranking lists over the coming months.

Our Junior B side could definitely improve on their fourth position of last season especially if Stuart Kurl, David Matthews and Keith Riddell maintain their current rate of progress. I find it most heartening to see all these young players - the lifeblood of our sport - making such positive strides.

The Annual General Meeting of the Works Association took place in Nuneaton on July 6th. Last season's committee were all re-elected to continue in their respective posts. Thalia Whitehead will certainly have her hands full as Secretary for Warwickshire and now also of the Birmingham and District League where she takes over from Veronica Jackson. Some excellent news as revealed at the A G M is that the county's finances are now once again in good shape after a few years in the doldrums. One factor that will no doubt help maintain this momentum is the future staging of the Warwickshire Closed Championships at a venue other than the National Indoor Arena. This, it is hoped, will reduce costs and encourage more participation.

This year's Works Cup - The Mackie Cup - has been won by Freewheels from the Birmingham League who beat Ajax Wolves from the Nuneaton League in a closely-fought final staged at Colebridge. Special mention must be made of their wheelchair-bound players Tim Phillips and Joe McGuire for their superb efforts in landing this trophy, backed up as ever by Dot Sheward. Time also picked up the Birmingham League's Player Of The Year award, a most deserving recipient.

# Worcestershire

BY KEN WALTON

"Welcome back to the fold..." or I think that is what was said when I agreed to once more take up writing these notes, after a break of some 3 years!! In offering many thanks to

John Barber, for not only producing this column last season, but also for his valued and continuing "backing" for all things Worcestershire, I can only reply with: "It's nice to be back..."

Attending the Executive Committee Meeting in Hot and Sticky July, I was able to pick up on some issues which I will now relate to you, so in no particular order, here goes.

Interested to hear and see, that the ETTA has produced and issued to all Local Leagues, a 'Handbook', which attempts to explain why we all pay our fees to them each year!! Should make for some interesting discussion at forthcoming Handbook nights. Further offerings from the ETTA to all Local Leagues, but this time in the shape of cash sums, which according to inside information will present the Leagues with early Christmas presents. Ideas on how to spend the "windfall" in Dudley, are available from Vera Royal!! Back on the local scene, County Junior Trials were scheduled for September 3rd at the Pensnett school, under the watchful eyes of Doug Moss and Roger Stephens.

Any player looking to represent the County at Senior and/or Veteran level, will not be asked to take part in Trials. Provisional dates for both Junior and Senior County Closed Championships have been made, (to be confirmed in forthcoming hotels in this column), and are as follows:

Juniors - 12th or 19th November, Christopher Whitehead School.

Seniors - 14th or 7th January 1996, at Droitwich Leisure Centre.

In both cases, the first dates mentioned, are favoured strongly. County Knock/Out, Scratch and Handicap Competition organiser Bernard Leach, from Bromsgrove, has proposed some changes to this year's format, following the results from a survey be carried out.

Both competitions will be run on 2 person Team basis, which should make entering easier, in terms of Time, finding a suitable night, venue, etc, so why not have a go folks? Ring Bernie for further details, c/o Bromsgrove League. Talking of ringing people, links me nicely into ringing me, with details/comments for inclusion in future 'Notes'. I'm available on 0121 520 2380, certainly most evenings around 6pm. British League and County news will be included in the next set of notes, so let me wish good luck to all involved, (maybe even me, who knows?), and indeed, to everyone competing at whatever standard, in whichever League. Good Luck for the new season.

FOOTNOTE: It would be amiss of me to forget to mention an important item that came to light at the County AGM. After more than 20

years service in the role of National Counsellor (to the ETTA), Doug Moss has handed over the reigns to Doug Young, current Chairman of the County Committee. Doug has given excellent service to Worcestershire in that and many other roles, and the best tribute I could pay in respect of National Council work, is to say to Doug, many thanks for all of your efforts, and you will be an extremely hard act to follow!!

# Yorkshire

BY REA BALMFORD

## PAST AND PRESENT

Although the first edition of the 95/96 series of TTN should be mainly concerned with looking ahead to future events and prospects, it is also an appropriate place to sum up the events of the season just past - particularly bearing in mind the early deadline dates necessary in a publication of this nature.

In the County's premier competition, the Yorkshire League, Bradford dominated the senior divisions as they took the Men's Division 1 title with an undefeated record in their ten matches, finishing four points clear of challengers Huddersfield and Barnsley, who shared second place, added the Veteran Division 1 honours ahead of Leeds and Hull, and completed the 'hat trick' with success in the newly revamped Ladies 2-a-side, in which Leeds took second place.

Let us hope that the Ladies Division expands in the season just ahead - four teams of two is a far cry from the days when the Ladies' game was played in two divisions of eight three-a-side teams.

The 'central venue' principle, in which the teams come together to play two matches on four occasions during the season appears to be generally popular, particularly taking into account the other T T commitments of the players - tournaments, British League, etc., with the juniors particularly enthusiastic, and thanks go to Yorkshire League secretary Rod Hullah - now elevated to the post of General Secretary - who has had to look after the interests of all parties.

A nice touch saw him schedule a series of Junior - Cadet matches in developing Scarborough, involving Hull and York as well as the host town, while the West Riding sides were battling it out amongst themselves on their own patch.

To complete the Yorkshire League summary, congratulations go to Merit Award winners as follows:

**Men:** Division 1: N.Halmshaw (Bradford)

Veteran, Division 1: Ken Burgess (Huddersfield)

Veteran, Division 2: Doug Bartle (York)

Veteran, Division 3: Dave Cammish (Bridlington) - a first for the resort.

**Ladies Division:** Caroline Bentley, Helen Shields (both Bradford)

**Junior Boys:** Premier Division: Andrew Sugarman (Hull)

Junior Boys, Division 1: Sean O'Connor (Bradford)

**Junior Girls:** Sarah Nouch - probably the youngest player in the competition - still a cadet this season.

**Cadet Boys:** Division 1: Matthew Glendenning (Doncaster)

Division 2: A Chiverton (Doncaster)

**Cadet Girls:** Lucy Clayton (Scarborough) - good to see developing Scarborough among the honours.

In the Club Championships 'Denis-Neale' inspired Harrogate Wanderers claimed both Men's and Veteran titles, with Denis and Nick Davies featuring in both events, the side being completed by Richard Whiteley (Mens) and Len Browning (Vets). Runners-up were Westfield, Doncaster (Mens) and Clayton Heights, Bradford (Vets), while in the Junior Championships Clayton Heights beat Bramley Ebenezer from Leeds.

Congratulations go to no less than six of County's rising stars who were named for the English Schools' side for the Home International on the Isle of Man. Mark Smith (Bradford) took two 'golds' in the B19 Team Event and the BD with Vince Avery (Essex), while also striking gold in the Team Events were Phil Neal (Hull) - B19, Zoe Fisher (Hull) - G19, Nicola Silburn (Leeds) - G16 and Emma Smith (Selby) - G16, with odd one out David Smith (Huddersfield) nevertheless contributing to his team's B16 runners-up spot behind Scotland.

At the opposite end of the scale Yorkshire's 'golden oldies' showed their paces against continental opposition in the European Veteran Championships held in Vienna as Keith Powell (Ossett) - Vic Smith (Ripon) took bronze medals in the 50+ MD after dismissing the second seeds in an earlier encounter, while Cleeve Judson, also from Ossett, and now semi-retired from our sport, dusted his bat off and played brilliantly to reach the last eight of the 50+ MS.

Preparations are already in hand for the coming season with, by the time these notes appear in print, entry forms in circulation for the Yorkshire Senior (October 22nd) and Junior (November 5th) tournaments to be held at the Halifax T T Centre - and is intended this season to offer the long service

T T men - and ladies - a tournament of their own - the Yorkshire Closed Veteran Championships - which should, by now, have been allocated a date in the County calendar. If you have not received a form and wish to enter the Senior or Junior, a phone call to our new tournament secretary, Miss Isla Balmford - yes, my daughter - (01482 821279) will bring one on a return journey by the first available pigeon.

It is not my available practice to publicise County officials in this column, but I cannot close these notes without saying, on behalf of all in Yorkshire T T, a big thank you to Keith Shepherd, who has served the County well since he took over the secretaryship from the late Frank Briggs, and to his wife Lesley who has, I know, shown infinite patience as she cheerfully - at least outwardly - held the fort and fielded the telephone calls in Keith's absence on T T duty.

Keith has worked tremendously hard for players throughout the County, no doubt upset some by his forthright attitude - he is, after all, a true Yorkshireman - but he has never failed to go out of his way to help both Leagues and individuals.


Good to see that Keith is remaining on the Committee as a member for the West Region. And finally, a quote from my annual report to the County A G M on pleas for information: Feedback re Yorkshire Notes has been - "Well, only League A and League B are covered".

But the answer lies within your own League. Any League wishing to publicize their activities have only to let me have the information by the deadlines, and I will do my best to use it. NB use names, preferably with christian names in addition, please. Deadline for copy is the 18th of each month.

A G M time is coming up - why not invest in six second class stamps and send me the T T cuttings from your local paper (dated, please) and ask one of your members to undertake this far from onerous task?

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