

TABLE TENNIS

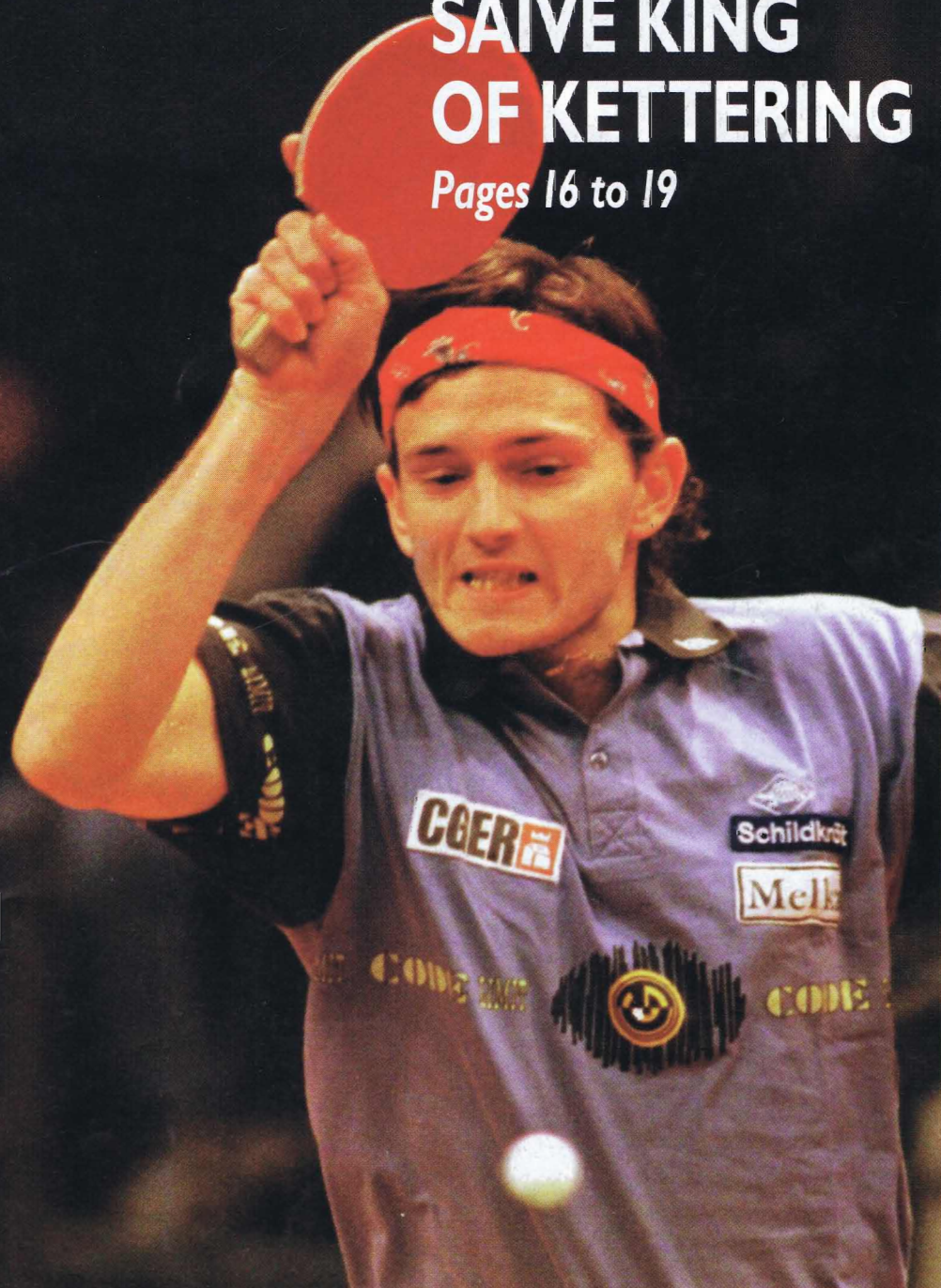
NEWS

SAIVE KING
OF KETTERING

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PREAN BEATS FETZNER

A gem of a victory by Carl Prean in Rio, had kept the Isle of Wight flag flying during the subsequent events and gave him a valued place at the finals of the ITTF Pro Tour 1996, where the world champion Kong Linghui won the day – coached by Chen Xinhua! writes John Woodford.

Carl left Lianjin, something like £2,450 richer after reaching the quarters by ditching 'Speedy' Steffan Fetzner 19, 13, 15. This was a win that must have hurt the German contingent, although they soon got revenge when Preano took Jorg Rosskopf to four games but lost -16, 15, 13, 17.

At a press conference after the finals Prean said "I have not had a very good season so far, but I was pleased to beat Fetzner and take a game from Rosskopf.

"The playing conditions in the main hall were good, so was the food and the hotel, but there was nearly a catastrophe for me in the training hall - pollution from the air outside - motor fumes mainly caused me major problems, as I have asthma. Things were not so good for me, but I managed to survive."

It seemed that in the French Open in Lyons there was no way Carl was going to play in China, due to what appeared to be a recurrence of his wrist injury, but all was well in the end; medical opinion happily confirmed that the problem in Lyons was only temporary.

Once again, Vladimir Samsonov makes his way forward. Although losing the Belarussian giant was only a couple of points away in the final from taking 'King Kong' to five games, losing at 18 in the fourth! Anyone care to take a wager on how long before Samsonov becomes champion of Europe?



SPORTS SCIENCE

To many, the words 'Sports Science and Sports Medicine' conjure a picture of white coated scientists with stethoscopes and thermometers, or of athletes running on a treadmill with wires and tubes everywhere. Well, for the Eastern Region Training Squad and Coaches the picture is becoming clearer as they get to grips with the exciting developments in this field to aid their game of Table Tennis, writes Regional Staff Coach Paul Tarrant.

With the help of ex-International and 'local hero' Paul Day, the Eastern Region recently held a Training Camp at the St. Neots Table Tennis Centre to put into play some examples of "good practice" in the field of Sports Science. Medical Support was forthcoming from Dr Tom Crisp our resident Sports Physician who, as well as looking at a few minor injury problems, advised players on the current situation regarding Dope Testing and what they might expect if they were chosen for a random test by the Doping Control Unit.... well, would you know what to do?

The Eastern Region is in the forefront when it comes to technological support too. The Sports Science and Medicine

Support Project, funded by the Eastern Region Sports Council, has enabled the squad to obtain equipment which can measure their heart rates and hence determine work load as well as monitor their progress during games or training. Working with Mark Bawden from the West Sussex Institute, sports specific tests and training methods both off and on table are currently being devised using this and other equipment to enable the squad to make progress in all areas of fitness specific to the sport of Table Tennis.

Pictured with Paul Day are the Eastern Region Squad and Coaches.

PENIEL RETURN TO BLUE PETER

Following an article in The Times in November, featuring 'Sporting Schools', Peniel Academy in Brentwood were featured with the England No. 1 Cadet, Hannah Yardy and England No. 1 Junior, BBC's Blue Peter immediately invited the girls along to demonstrate their skills on the show, with slow motion replays.

The presenter of Blue Peter was amazed by the skills of both girls, especially Tracy's serves and the continuous rallies by Hannah and Tracy.

WOODY'S WORLD

I am pleased to announce that Table Tennis News has returned home to be published by the English Table Tennis Association.

The new era of Table Tennis News commences with this edition and continues with recent popular features, such as The George Tyler column and 'Drop Shot' on page 26, and 'Table Tennis for Disabled People' on page 25.

Due to pressure on space for this issue certain articles, unfortunately, have had to be rested, but they will reappear in the March edition.

This month's issue does however include a spectacular report on the English Open tournament at Kettering, pages 16 to 19.

Please remember that Table Tennis News is your magazine and we need your continued support so that we can become a successful voice within table tennis.

A new coupon for subscriptions appears on page 33. So please renew your subscription now, or become a first time subscriber and support England's No.1 table tennis magazine.

John F. A. Wood
Editor

Exciting Year Ahead

1997 promises to be one of the most exciting and progressive years in the history of English table tennis with the staging of the 44th World Championships in Manchester in April and the introduction of National Lottery revenue funding which will give our National Team, Development and Coaching programmes an enormous boost.

The first highlight of the season was the English Open which was played at Kettering from 7-12 January. The tournament was classified by the ITTF as one of the top four events in their Pro Tour. The entry was again very strong with nearly all of Europe's top men players participating and the strong world-wide women's entry with 30 associations represented. The 1997 English Open saw the return of table tennis to the BBC television screen with some of Saturday's play being shown on Grandstand and the highlights of the finals on Sport on Friday a few days later. The Championship was also broadcast by Star TV who provided coverage for approximately 50 countries throughout Asia and the Middle East. Although there is still much to do in the establishment of the English Open as a really top sporting event, we have secured a firm position in the ITTF Pro tour, which is likely to guarantee both a strong entry and international television coverage in future years.

With less than 100 days to go the World Championships are also attracting enormous interest from all parts of the world and Manchester is likely to be the biggest World Championship ever. The event will be played on 44 tables all in the same hall at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester. The four show courts will be surrounded by 6,000 seats in a theatre in the round setting, ensuring that all spectators will enjoy an excellent view of the very best matches. The tickets have been on sale for only three weeks and already more than 3,000 seats have been sold. Manchester City Council, who are the main

sponsors of the event, are delighted with the initial interest. During the week prior to the World Championships, the Commonwealth Championships will be held in Glasgow and they also have already received a very encouraging entry of 18 countries.

1997 will also see the prospects of our National Team transformed. The Sports Council have announced details of their World Class Performance Programme which, subject to approval of our application, will provide us with the resources for the first time to be able to compete on at least equal terms with our competitors who have enjoyed much greater funding and opportunities for some time. The funding is expected to be in two parts, one to provide the Association with funding to employ more very good coaches and establish a full time National Training Centre to give our players the best support and advice and to implement a training and competition programme, and secondly to provide subsistence awards to assist England squad members who have been nominated by the ETTA. There is no doubt that these programmes will accelerate the improvement of our younger players and give them every opportunity to establish top European and World rankings in the future.

1997 is also likely to show the biggest improvement in our development programme. We have been promoting development programmes extensively for the last four years and there is no doubt that substantial progress has been made. In the coming year the seeds which have been planted will flourish. The Top Sport junior programme which takes table tennis into primary schools throughout the country is gathering pace. Already 15% of the primary schools have participated in Top Sport. This percentage will at least double next year. The Top Club programme will see support for many of our existing clubs as they plan new junior develop-

ment programmes, as well as providing us with the opportunity to establish a large number of new clubs. Overall it is our aim to establish 1650 new club programmes, 1000 within schools, 400 at participation level, 200 at advanced level and 50 at excellence level.

Like the World Class Performance programmes, the National Lottery revenue grants are likely to provide much of the funding to stimulate these programmes. Our designation by the Sports Council as one of the 23 priority sports will enable our applications for support to be favourably received and considered.

One of the key components in the success of these initiatives will be our Regional Development Officers. Up to now, the holders of these professional positions have been employed on fixed term contracts. It is our expectation that the new Sports Council policy of a corporate approach to governing body development, will give us the opportunity to consolidate these positions and establish them as a firm base for our development activities. Alongside these programmes, the Woolwich Junior Leagues should continue to expand and the opportunities for our clubs to develop their facilities either as new build or improvements to existing facilities. Currently there is approximately one new specialist centre opening every month. In the last quarter the Lawrence Sherriff School Club in Rugby, the Lynn Sport Centre in Kings Lynn and the Bishop Reindorp Centre in Guildford have all been completed.

One person who has made a tremendous contribution to the establishment of the development programmes referred to above is Cyril Villiers, the Regional Director of the Sports Council for the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, who retired at the end of last year. In addition to being very helpful to table tennis in Yorkshire, three years ago Cyril took on the role of Table Tennis Focus Sport Co-ordinator from within the Sports

Council. He worked very closely with our development team and helped to establish table tennis as a priority sport within the Sports Council and with his influence was able to open many doors throughout the region. No less than ten specialist table tennis centres in Yorkshire are either open, currently being built or about to go ahead and much of this can be attributed to the expertise and commitment that Cyril has provided. Cyril himself is a player in the Leeds League as well as being their Honorary President. We wish Cyril an enjoyable retirement and hope that the free time his retirement will bring will enable Cyril to take a more active role within the Association itself.

It has been good to see that the entries for junior, senior and veterans championships have been steadily rising throughout the season to date. It is clear that there is renewed enthusiasm for tournament play and I expect this to expand during 1997, although the policy of arranging non conflicting events in different parts of the country over the same weekend will need to be rigorously applied.

Finally, I would like to thank Brian Halliday and John Wood for their assistance in establishing a new version of Table Tennis News so promptly. Although we were aware of some difficulties with the previous publishers, Rainbow Press, we had expected them to publish the December/January issue and only learned of their final withdrawal after the printing trade had closed down for Christmas. No time has been lost in re-establishing Table Tennis News. John Wood is taking a larger share of the responsibility. What we do need to make the magazine viable is more subscriptions. A subscription form is included within this magazine. If you already subscribe, please pass the form on to a friend and encourage them to support your table tennis publication.

CONCERN

In my capacity as Chairman of the McDonald's Barnet League Table Tennis Club I wish to voice my club's and my personal concern over the future of British League Table Tennis as the Country's Premier Team Competition.

With the advent of a number of Yasaka Grand Prix tournaments this season and the inclusion of even more next season the weekends available to play British League Table Tennis are fast diminishing.

I have had ample opportunity over the last few months to speak with players, administrators and officials of British League Table Tennis Clubs and, almost with dissent, all have agreed that they fear for the future of the Competition unless changes are made.

I am sure that you also are aware of the pressure on playing time at weekends during the season and are working towards a better future for British League. To this end it is our intention to table a proposal to the British League Annual Conference next year with a view to a change in format for the Competition in Divisions 1 to 3 that would bring them into line with the very successful Woolwich Junior, Ladies and Veterans British League competitions in that these are played at central venues with several matches played each weekend.

We appreciate that with a full league of eight teams you would require more than two weekends, but keeping the same format you could play four matches over each of three weekends and the remaining two on a single day.

It would not be cost effective to use one venue for all or most leagues at once, there are several options of alternative venues around the Country that could host weekends for one Division using four tables - the fees charged assisting Table Tennis Clubs and Centres.

When you take into consideration the present venue costs, travelling, expenses and meal costs, I am sure that the players would welcome an opportunity to play eight singles in a weekend, whereas they may at present have to travel in excess of a 200 mile round trip for two games only!

These weekends could be

costed as per County Weekends where expenses are pooled and shared out equally amongst all teams with each team supplying and paying for an umpire to officiate their nominated home games.

I appreciate that this letter is a little simplistic but I am sure that with a bit of fine tuning the British League will go from strength to strength and using this format could also improve the social side of the competition making it even more enjoyable than it is already.

I would welcome your comments on these thoughts prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Chris Budden
Chairman, McDonalds Barnet League TTC
13, Causeway Close, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5HW.

DEUCE?

Several times after umpiring a match I have been rebuked by a well known international umpire for using the term "Deuce". She is adamant that this is not a table tennis score.

I was surprised to see that George Tyler used this score in his article. Is DEUCE now an accepted term or should I call 20 all?

B. Chapman
Bristol

Comment: Yes, you should score the game at 20-20. The term 'Deuce' is still used affectionately, because it is difficult to describe a game going beyond the score of 20-20, without saying 'Deuce Game'. - Editor

SERVICE LAW INFRINGEMENTS

In a recent league match, my opponent (a friend of many years) blatantly infringed the service law by clipping the ball off his hand at speed or chopping down while dropping his hand away. There was no attempt to project the ball upwards from the hand. The umpire took no action. At the end of the game I pointed out what I considered as illegal services, and the umpire agreed that some 75% of the services were no legal. The attitude of the player was:-
(a) I've played like this for years;
(b) No one has mentioned it before.

It seems to me that not many players in local leagues take action when umpiring, and so, week in and week out, there are probably hundreds of players completely ignoring a basic law of the game. In my experience the greater majority of offenders are Seniors.

I am convinced that the service law appertaining to projecting the ball up some 6" (approx), is almost unenforceable unless umpires have incredible eyes capable of focusing on the free hand, and in a fraction of a second, re-focusing on the net. However, lets assume that umpires have such eyesight, and question whether there are supposed to be different interpretations of the law in County Competitions compared with ordinary league play?

I, and numerous other players are enthusiastic coaches in the Stowmarket League, and we work hard with Cadets and Juniors to ensure that they have legal services. Are we wasting our time? Regularly our youngsters are faced by Senior opponents who should know better, but take advantage of illegal serving. The youngsters complain to the coaches - and rightly so. Some youngsters are very disillusioned about the sports apparent inability to put its own house in order. My experience in other leagues is that the problem is a national one, and I am concerned that there is a tendency to turn a blind eye to the problem. What is the point in trying to outlaw unfair advantage if numerous players take no notice, and umpires take no action? I've heard it said that strict interpretation of the rules will cause many players to give up the game, and sociable competition is more important than regulations.

So are there one set of rules for the serious players and one for the fun players?

Am I the only one that cares? It would be interesting to see TTN reader responses AND an official comment from the ETTA.

Colin Westney
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk

INFAMOUS

On behalf of the Hull & District Table Tennis Association I must respond to our popular top coach Peter Garvey being described as infamous.

Readers will now actually believe the remark although far from the truth.

Assuming the remark to be a sick joke I feel McEnroe would say "YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS".

George Greensill
Hull & District Coaching Secretary

Comment: I suppose the use of the word 'infamous' was a bit strong. But no insult was intended. I suppose the word 'controversial' would be nearer the truth. Incidentally, Peter Garvey and I remain good friends! - Editor

RESPONSE

I am writing this letter to you with a view of getting some action response through your magazine from the ETTA committee.

We met in Grantham on Sat/Sun 15/16 June at the same hotel. I am the acting team secretary 1996 for BMTTC Huddersfield.

Over these last five months my club has been trying to get hold of the National Clubs Ormsby Cup which Brook Motors won 5 Sets to 2 on that day. The ETTA committee so far has responded in our view in poor sporting fashion over these last few months, in fact we did offer to send a sales BM rep down to Hastings to collect this trophy in a recent contact. However, the ETTA responded by sending a letter back saying it is being discussed at a future meeting.

Stuart Sykes
BMTTC Secretary
Huddersfield

Comment: Don't despair Stuart, action is a hand. Following a Management Committee meeting it was decided to purchase another trophy, and the ETTA General Secretary Robert Sinclair will be giving it his attention as quickly as possible. - Editor

ENGLISH SENIOR NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

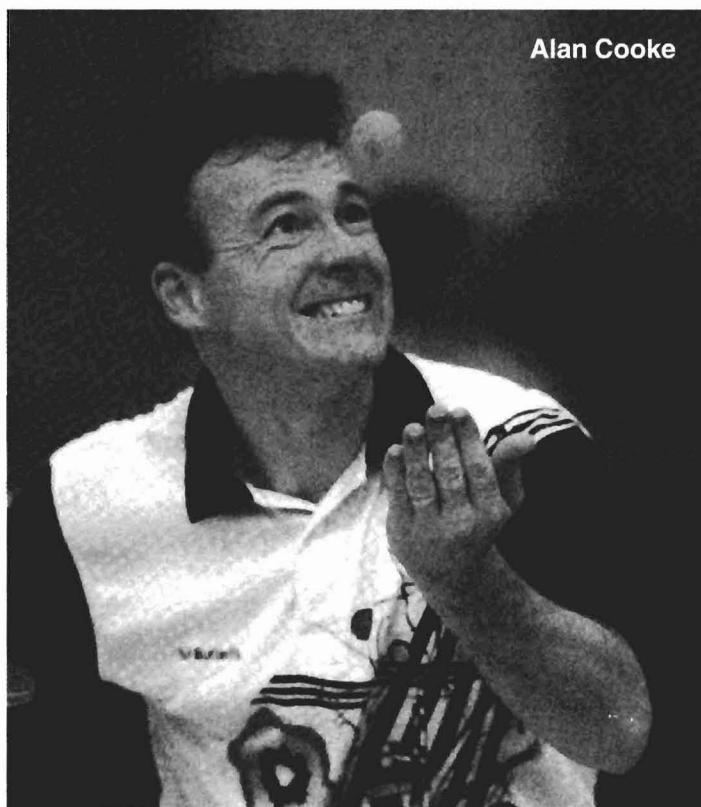
Following the successful move down to Brighton last season, this years National Senior Championships will again be staged at the prestigious BRIGHTON CENTRE.

For the last few years the championships have been played on the Saturday/Sunday only, but last years bumper entry meant that all events had to be played on a knockout basis. A move that was not popular with the majority of players.

This year play will start around midday on Friday 17th and finish on the evening of Sunday 16th March. Both Mens and Womens Singles will be played on the Group System, where possible in Groups of 4.

Alan Cooke (Derbyshire) who played so well to win the Mens Singles last season, is expected to try to defend his title but it is unlikely that Carl Prean (Isle of White) will play, as his Bundestiga team have a match scheduled for that weekend. Hopefully, England No. 1, Matthew Syed (Berkshire) will have recovered from injury to make a serious attempt to become Champion of England.

The womens singles title will change hands. Last years winner Alison Broe (Berkshire) will be unable to defend her title having recently given birth to her first child, a daughter, Lauren (Congratulations Alison and John). Favourites will be Lisa Lomas (Beds) and Andrea Holt (Lancs) with Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) and



Alan Cooke

Helen Lower (Sheffield) pushing the top two hard. The finals are scheduled for 5 pm on Sunday 16th March. Butterfly tables and Schildkrot balls will be used. The ETTA are indebted to the Brighton Centre and the Brighton and Hove Hotellier Association for their help in staging this event.

YASAKA GRAND PRIX

Current Grand Prix Leaders in each Section as Follows:

Mens Singles:

M Syed 194 pts, N Maston 144, G Herbert 116, A Cooke 97.

Womens Singles:

H Lower 194 pts, L Buson 161, K Owolabi 160, L Radford 146

Mens Band 1:

J Sugrue 166pts, M James 156, A Wilkinson 129, M Rogers 109

Womens Band 1:

S Collier 193 pts, R Rainton 133, E hurling 124, A Heijen 121

Mens Band 2:

A Corbin 168, R Smith 146, E Roofe 136, C Beckley 98.

Womens Band 2:

E Smith 193, B Lee 117, N Smith 71, S Smith 48.

Mixed Band 3:

C Millwood 148, D Smith 114, J Holland Snr 104, D Richards 100.

Mixed Band 4:

M Marden 168, T Adams 109, R Stockham 95, M Francis 94.

U21 Mens:

G Herbert 205, M James 153, B Johnson 143, D Blake 133.

U21 Womens:

L Poulson 221, R Sparkes 119, S Ruocco 96, G Ashison 91.

Junior Boys:

G Herbert 194, S Friday 176, C Thompson 171, P Marshall 167.

Junior Girls:

T Davies 194, L Thornton 144, E Smith 125, V Grey 111.

Veteran Men:

N Eckersley 192, T Guymer 158, B Allison 141, M Short 123.

Veteran Womens:

P Perry 124, J Thomas 124, S Rider 97, H Shields 92.

With 2 more qualifying events left at Stratford on Avon and Sunderland the top 16 in each event will be invited to play in the finals at Bath on May 10th.

YASAKA UNDER 21 SCHOLARSHIP

Leaders with 2 events to go are:

Gareth Herbert 515 pts, Emma Smith 440, Christian Thompson 419, Scott Friday 416, Lisbeth Poulson 392, Michael James 389, Tracy Davies 334.

The winner will receive an invitation to a training camp in Sweden, courtesy of Yasaka.

JOOLA WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION

The audience at this first full international to be played at the newly built Cippenham Table Tennis Centre in Slough, witnessed a super show of strength by a mighty German team that crushed the English women's team 4-0, in less than two hours, completing an 8-1 aggregate victory, on Tuesday night, 21st January 1997. Writes John Wood.

Unfortunately both nations were minus their top players, Lisa Lomas for England and Nicole Struse for Germany, Lomas with an injured back and Struse was suffering from flu, although the German girl did manage to play in the doubles.

Andrea Holt was outgunned by Germany's No. 5 player Elke Schall 15 and 9, in the opening game. Whilst Gemma Schwartz, who stepped in replacing injured Lomas, was sadly completely outplayed by Germany's ace chopper Jie Schopp, 6 and 6, who enthralled the audience with an outstanding display of heavy backspin defence interspersed with scintillating forehand topspin drives.

On the evening England's only minor success came courtesy of Derbyshire youngster, Nicola Deaton, who won the opening game 21-19, pulling back from 16-18 down, against Germany's Cornelia B'ttcher who was a losing semi-finalist at the English Open in teh Under 21 Womens Singles, the previous weekend.

But unfortunately Deaton could not sustain the level of dominance that she achieved in the first leg, as the German girl grew in confidence as the game progressed, powering her way to victory 14 and 10.

Holt paired up with Deaton in the doubles, where they faced the might of flu victim Struse and Schall, and to the delight of the spectators stayed neck and neck with the German girls just narrowly losing 21-23 in the opening leg.

But the Germans stepped up a gear in the second leg, as Struse

treated the audience to a dynamic display of powerful forehand and backhand loops as Germany charged into a 15-0 lead, before going on to seal a 4-0 match victory, by winning 21-5.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE, Division 1, Semi-finals, first leg....

ENGLAND CRUSHED BY THE YOUNG CZECHS AT BATH.....

As I left Bath on the 0727 train from Bath Spa by courtesy of Intercity, I was trying to work out just how England men's team are going to extract themselves from Division 1 and win their way back to the Super Division. Arriving at Paddington and then to the south coast, I could not find an answer.

Meanwhile, charged with the responsibility of reporting the 4-1 defeat for England, I had several thoughts. One was, that I do not necessarily agree with chair Alan Ransome when he said after the match that the Czech Republic and England were the two strongest teams in Division 1.

I fear that there are others in the Division who could stop England going up next season, perhaps assuming that the Czechs are promoted, as they seem to deserve.

England's assets seem to be most importantly a world-class captain and coach in Soren Ahlen; we have certainly one world-class back-spinner one Matthew Syed, who for the next five years (if he can maintain reasonable fitness) will beat a number of highly-ranked men as he did at Bath in a magnificent victory 21, -17, 11 against the English Open finalist of the previous day Peter Korbel.

We have in the wings Alex Perry, who performed incredibly well for England at St. Austell in September and has been doing well in Sweden but could not find his best shots at Kettering.

I believe that all the England players agree that Soren Ahlen is a class coach, but even he could not at Bath get either Carl Prean or Alan Cooke looking as if they

were a threat to players like Josef Plachy and Richard Vyborny, let alone Korbel himself. Korbel's record is excellent - after reaching the quarter-finals in Atlanta, five or six weeks ago he held third position in the averages in the Bundesliga!

A quick run through that match that took three and half hours, despite the 7 pm start.

We needed a good start with Prean facing Plachy. Prean managed to get his attack under way but the famous Prean backhand "shove", a deadly shot often, began to be returned with venomous counter-hitting, so Plachy triumphed (under new captain, no less a name than Milan Orlovski) leaving the Czechs ahead. 17, 15 against our man from the Isle of Wight.

The 300 crowd then got their money's worth when they saw the mighty Korbel defeated 18, -23, 11 by our ace "skinhead" from Richmond, Surrey, Matthew Syed. Matthew had a match point at the end of the second, so he could have won two-straight.

It amazes me and others, how Matt can wear people down - in the last game Korbel was completely baffled and almost humiliated.

Regrettably, Alan Cooke's top-spin approach was just not enough to worry Richard Vyborny who progressed the Czechs 13, 17 and into a 2-1 lead.

England's doubles pairing of Prean and Alex Perry seemed to be in business after winning the first 21, but with Korbel and Plachy rallying, the Czechs only just held the edge to win the other two games 17, 15.

With England 3-1 down it only needed Korbel to overcome Prean and that was that, 15, 16. It could be argued that Carl did well to get 31 points from Korbel, but of course, as we know to our cost, if the winner gets 42 and the loser chalks up 38 or less, that's the end of the road.

Summing up: Barring miracles, England have no chance of escaping from Division 1 this season, so what can be done to build up for next season? Soren Ahlen may have the answer.

RESULTS: ENGLAND 1, CZECH REPUBLIC 4

C. Prean 1 J. Plachy -17, -15
M. Syed b P. Korbel 18, -23, 11
A. Cooke 1 R. Vyborny 13, 17
Prean and A. Perry 1 Korbel and Plachy 21, -17, -15.
Prean 1 Korbel -15, -16.

KORBEL RESTED BUT ENGLAND STILL FAIL IN PRAGUE

How nice it must be to be like the Czech Republic - to be able to drop your No. 1 player - Peter Korbel - and still overcome England in a second leg tie 4-2. However, according to England captain Soren Ahlen, at least the Czechs had to fight hard against England who dropped Alan Cooke from the singles and put in Alex Perry.

Perry started off by losing -14, -9 to Richard Vyborny. Chances galore then came England's way when Carl Prean lost the first to Josef Plachy, won the second 14 and led 18-14 in the third! At that point it looked as though England might upset the Czech apple-cart, but somehow the mistakes were squeezed out of our Isle of Wight professional and he lost -24.

Matthew Syed then struck another blow when he up-ended the Czech reserve David Stepenek 13, 16.

And, surprise, surprise, we won the doubles 13, 16 - Prean and Alan Cooke against Stepenek and Vyborny, making it 2-2 the Czechs only needed 2 games to win on aggregate.

The last two games were really "dead rubbers" as Prean won the first against Vyborny and led 20-18 in the second before losing -20 and 18 in the third.

With the Czechs leading 3-2, Perry lost -12, 12, -13 to Stepenek and that was that - the Czechs won 8-3 on aggregate.

CZECH REPUBLIC 4, ENGLAND 2

R. Vyborny b A. Perry 14, 9.
J. Plachy b C. Prean -17, 14, 24.
D. Stepenek 1 M. Syed -13, -16.
Stepenek and Vyborny 1 Prean and A. Cooke, 17, -15.
Vyborny b Prean -15, 20, 18.
Stepenek b Perry 12, -12, 13

EDISON ON TOP

Champions Edison Hornsey picked up where they left off when this seasons Woolwich Junior British League got under way at the Kettering Arena over the week end of 23/24th November. Only one set escaped the grasp of Gareth Herbert, Christian Thompson and Scott Friday, that in which Friday lost out 21-13; 21-14 to Fellows Cranleigh Peter Marshall, as they raced to the leadership of the boys Premier division. A draw was the fair result when joint second spot Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh and Grove met but this only enhanced Edison's lead. Grove's Adam Robertson whose dummy ranking puts him behind both Jason Sugrue and Peter Marshall overcame them both, a contribution to his receiving the Woolwich Player Award. Writes Brian Lamerton.

The Girls Premier division promises to be a very close run affair with the ever popular visitors from the Emerald Isle defeating both of their nearest rivals Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh and Grove but dropping points from drawn matches with Peniel and Dumfries. Noelle Lennon, the Irish Number 3 shares top individual billing with Peniel's Tracy Davies, both having dropped but one set, Lennon to Dumfries' Tamara Powell, 23-21; 18-21; 21-15. And Davies to Lindsey Thornton (Grove) 21-12; 21-19. It was this win by the number 2 ranked Thornton over No. 1 Davies which clinched Grove's 4 sets to 2 victory. The drawn match between Irish Girls and Dumfries took on the appearance of a full Ireland v Scotland international, Dumfries coming back from 3-1 down with Powell's win over Lennon followed by Linda Brown's 21-19 third game win against Suzanne Monnelly. Irish Girls whose team was completed by Brioni Lane were presented with the Woolwich Special Team award.

Graham Worth (8 from 10) and Stuart Collins & Robert Abbotts (7 each) took Jewson Launceston to the top of Boys division 1; their one dropped point being to Light Freight Generation for whom Danny Burns beat both Worth and Abbotts. Eoin Byrne of Irish Boys was ever present and defeated all-comers to retain an 100% average.

Feature of Girls Division 1 was that it contained 6 drawn matches, City of Leeds being involved in 4 of them including matches against both teams who finished above them. Hannah Thompson of Rhodesia, winner of the girls Woolwich Player Award, leads this divisions

individual averages, losing only to Siwan Davies of Genethod Cymru who together with team mates Catherine Davies and Charlotte Cooksley occupy positions 2, 3 & 4 in the individual list. Charlotte Spink, with 7 from 10, was draw specialists Leeds leading player.

Progress are aptly named as they played way above their expectations to lead boys Division 2A; Robert Belli, Luis Dominquez, Fesum Fesehatsion and Michael Dominquez moulding together to form a very useful team. Ellenborough were forced to concede 4 matches in this division with James & Oliver Wakelam, running temperatures in excess of 100, returning home after their first match.

After losing out in their first match, 4-2 to Eastmids A, Malden Granville went on to win their next 4 to lead boys division 2B. Scott Ferris, who lost to Eastmids John Taylor and Adam Brewer who lost to Paul Bowser also wen undefeated thereafter.

Peniel B with Anna Cheeseman and Helen Lincoln unbeaten and Amy Linnecar dropping only 2 appear impregnable at the head of girls Division 2.

Uxbridge Burton with Martyn Long and Robin Pearce both winning 8 from 10 have the edge in boys Division 3A but stronger support for Dudley's Alexander Hill who beat both Long & Pearce in a drawn match may yet see a change of fortunes here.

Kingston, with Scott Taylor unbeaten and well supported by James Marshall and Michael Howard received the boys Woolwich Special team award as they sped to the top of Division 3B.

A wander through the results has failed to find a closer set than that in which Andrew Park (Darlington C) beat Carl Dunn (Humberside) 26-24; 25-27; 21-19, although Oliver Stevens (Edmonton) win against Leigh Iles (Bristol) 21-19; 21-23; 22-20, ran it close. Longest matches were Spicer Girls v Humberside and Keyworth Angels v Lillington Free Church when despite 5 of the 6 sets going to a third game the former teams won by 5 sets to 1 on each occasion.

The League was graced by the presence of the Mayor of the Borough of Kettering Councillor Bryn Morgan and the Mayoress for the opening ceremony. So impressed were they by all that they saw that I am sure that they will be back with us all in February - see you there!

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

Division Report - Boys Premier - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Edison Hornsey	5	5	0	0	29	1	10
Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Grove	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Guildford A	5	2	0	3	11	19	4
Darlington A	5	0	1	4	7	23	1
Asti Seasideers	5	0	1	4	6	24	1

Division Report - Boys Division 1 - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Jewson Launceston	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Peniel A	5	3	1	1	21	9	7
Light Freight Generation	5	2	2	1	18	12	6
Irish Boys	5	2	1	2	17	13	5
Clippenham	5	1	1	3	7	23	3
Constable Britannia	5	0	0	5	5	25	0

Division Report - Boys Division 2A - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Progress	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Lillington Free Church	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Guildford B	5	3	0	2	16	14	6
Peniel B	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Greenleys	5	1	2	2	12	18	4
Ellenborough	5	0	0	5	10	20	0

Division Report - Boys Division 2B - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Malden Granville	5	4	0	1	20	10	8
Bristol	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Edmonton	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Briar Kingfisher	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
East Mids A	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Darlington B	5	1	1	3	12	18	3

Division Report - Boys Division 3A - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Uxbridge Burton	5	4	1	0	24	6	9
Dudley	5	2	3	0	19	11	7
Byng Hall	5	3	1	1	21	9	7
Eastmids B	5	2	0	3	17	13	4
Adeyfield Relaxion	5	1	1	3	8	22	3
Sheffield Sonics	5	0	0	5	1	29	0

Division Report - Boys Division 3B - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Kingston	5	5	0	0	24	6	10
Peterborough	5	4	0	1	20	10	8
Rejects	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Humberside	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Our Lady of Peace	5	0	2	3	11	19	2
Darlington C	5	0	2	3	10	20	2

Division Report - Girls Premier - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Irish Girls	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Stiga Fellowes Cranleigh	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Grove A	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Dumfries	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Peniel A	5	1	2	2	16	14	4
Constable Britannia	5	0	0	5	3	27	0

Division Report - Girls Division 1 - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Genethod Cymru	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Rhodesia	5	3	1	1	22	8	7
City of Leeds	5	1	4	0	17	13	6
Malden Granville	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Asti Seasideers	5	0	3	2	11	19	3
Grove B	5	0	1	4	4	26	1

Division Report - Girls Division 2 - End of First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	M/F	M/A	Pts
Peniel B	5	5	0	0	28	2	10
Progress Girls	5	2	2	1	15	15	6
Keyworth Angels	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Spicer Girls	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Humberside	5	1	1	3	10	20	3
Lillington Free Church	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

COOKE & LOWER CLEAN-UP IN BATH



Kubrat Owolabi winner at Andover

Alan Cooke and Helen Lower steamed through the field to take the honours at the Yasaka Grand Prix Western Open in Bath last month, winning their respective singles finals.

Cooke won a truly fantastic battle against old England rival Nicky Mason winning in three.

The opening game was really close with the power of Mason being matched by the counter-hitting of Cooke, which saw the Derbyshire man edge home 21-19.

Mason seemed to roll back the years in the second leg after going 8-12 down and looking dead and buried, he raised his game and fought his way back into the final, by being the man that won the important points as he powered his way to victory 21-17.

This set the scene for a really fantastic deciding third game, which saw Cooke take an early lead of 9-3, by really going for it and getting in first with his attacks.

Cookey went from strength to strength as he saw off the late challenge of Mason, winning a truly great final 21-11.

In the semi-finals Cooke beat Gareth Herbert 11 and 11, whilst

Mason toppled Steve Ward from Wales -9,16,14.

Staffordshire's Helen Lower won her second consecutive Womens Singles Grand Prix Final when she comfortably beat Denmark's Lisbeth Poulson 10 and 11.

This final was a bit of an anticlimax following on so close to a tremendous battle that Poulsen encountered against Holland's Anja Heijen.

Poulsen took the first leg 21-18, but a very positive Heijen bounced back to take the second 21-16.

This set up a classic battle to ready the final, with both girls desperate to succeed, going point for point, until Poulsen managed to power her way home 21-19.

Lower, who because of her consistent form at these Grand Prix tournaments was chosen to represent England against Croatia, won her semi-final comfortably against Devon's Carol Giles 10 and 7.

Star in the making Gareth Herbert saw off allcomers in the Mens Under 21 Singles, beating Yorkshire's Michael James 10 and 10 in the final.

'Jarvis Sports Young Player of the Tournament' Lisbeth Poulsen bounced back after her Womens Singles defeat to take the Womens Under 21 Singles crown by beating Cheshire's Claire Newns 9 and 11.

Tracy Davies made it two in a row when she won the Junior Girls Singles title by outplaying her rival Lindsey Thornton from Lancashire 17 and 19, adding to her victory in Kings Lynn where Davies also beat Thornton.

The Junior Boys Singles final didn't happen because an exhausted Christian Thompson had to concede the title to Yorkshire's Peter Marshall, without a ball being hit.

Thompson also withdrew from the Mens Singles 3rd round and the Mens Under 21 quarter-final.

The Womens Band 1 Singles final was also a walkover when Holland's Anja Heijman walked off in the third leg of the match, conceding to Berkshire's Sue Collier.

When asked for her reasons for conceding Anja replied, "I like this Grand Prix tournament, the principal is great, but in the final of the Womens band 1 it would have been better to have a volunteer umpire than a conscript. And, when he made yet another mistake in the score it was the last straw, so I walked off. I am not the McEnroe of table tennis, it was my first protest in my life."

Anja bounced back the next day by reaching the semi-finals of the Womens Singles.

Triumphant winners of the Veterans Singles titles were Brian Johns who had a close battle with Devon's Mike Short, whilst in the Womens Penny Perry out pushed Eileen Shaler from Leicestershire, 10 and 13.

YASAKA WESTERN OPEN - FINAL RESULTS

Mens Singles

Alan Cooke (Derbys) beat Nick Mason (Sx) 21-19, 17-21, 21-11

Womens Singles

Helen Lower (Staffs) beat Lisbeth Poulson (Denmark) 21-10, 21-11

Mens Doubles

Cooke/Mason beat Ritchie Venner/Adrian Moore (Sx) 17-21, 21-9, 21-12

Womens Doubles

Anja Heijnen (Hol)/Kubrat Owolabi (Ni) beat Penny Perry (Dv)/Sue Collier (Berks) 21-23, 21-11, 21-15

Band 1 Mens

Andrew Wilkinson (Nd) beat Jason Sugrue (Mi) 18-21, 21-8, 21-16

Band 1 Womens

Sue Collier (Berks) beat Anja Heijnen (Hol) W/O

Band 2 Mens

Anthony Corbin (He) beat Mark Smith (Y) 14-21, 21-13, 21-17

Band 2 Womens

Brenda Lee (Wi) beat Emma Smith (Y) 21-18, 21-10

Band 3 Mixed

Mark Donoghue (Li) beat Tim O'Mahoney (Wi) 21-19, 21-17

Band 4 Mixed

Tom Adams (K) beat Michael Marsden (Dv) 21-10, 21-15

Veterans Mens

Brian Johns (Ch) beat Mike Short (Dv) 21-17, 19-21, 21-10

Veterans Womens

Penny Perry (Dv) beat Eileen Shaler (Le) 21-10, 21-13

U21 Mens

Gareth Herbert (Berks) beat Michael James (Y) 21-10, 21-10

U21 Womens

Lisbeth Poulson (Denmark) beat Claire Newns (Ch) 21-9, 21-11

Junior Boys

Peter Marshall (Y) beat Christian Thompson (K) W/O

Junior Girls

Tracy Davies (E) beat Lindsey Thornton (La) 21-17, 21-19



SYED & OWOLABI DOMINATE AT ANDOVER

Matthew Syed and Kubrat Owolabi won their respective singles events in style at the Andover Leisure Centre, in the third Yasaka Grand Prix event to be staged by the ETTA this season.

Syed put on a super show to beat fellow England team-mate Andrew Eden, in an action packed Men's Open Singles final.

The opening leg was an excellent display of defence by Syed and attack by Eden, which saw the England chopper take the opener 21-14.

Undaunted Eden bounced back in the second, bristling with confidence he took the game to Syed, gyrating around the table he attacking with power, forehand looping and backhand short pimple punching his way to victory in the second 21-19.

The third and deciding leg saw a rapidly tiring Eden swallow diving around the court in a vain effort to reach the ball, as a revitalised Syed put on a super show of classic defence and razor sharp forehand drives, winning the title 21-8.

In the semi-finals Syed chopped down the challenge of Scotland's Euan Walker, whilst Eden beat Welsh rising star Ryan Jenkins. Welsh sensation Jenkins

confirmed his new No. 1 senior Welsh ranking position by beating countryman Stephen Ward, whom he replaced at the top of the Welsh list, in the quarter-finals 14 and 19.

Owolabi from Middlesex overpowered No. 1 seed Linda Radford in the Womens Open Singles final, -12, 17, 20, following an unbelievably close battle.

England hopeful Radford took the first comfortably 21-12, with Owolabi bouncing back to take the second 21-17.

This set-up the final for an exciting finish, and that is just what happened with both girls going for glory.

Essex girl Radford had got her nose in front twice, at 13-10 and at 18-15 she looked home and dry, but Owolabi wouldn't lie down, fighting back as only she knows how. Winning four consecutive points to take a 19-18 lead before she attacked her way to victory, and glory 22-20.

Owolabi beat Dutch girl Lisbeth Poulsen in the semi-final, whilst Radford fought another close battle in reaching the finals when she narrowly outplayed Hertfordshire's Emma Hurling, -23, 24, 16.

Welsh golden boy Jenkins

followed on from his successes in the Mens Open Singles, by beating the cream of English Juniors Gareth Herbert, 12 and 17 in the final of the Mens under 21 Singles.

The Womens under 21 crown went to Denmark's Lisbeth Poulsen who beat Glenda Ashison 23 and 15 following a scintillating final, which saw Poulsen just scrape the first 25-23, but the Danish girl went onto take the second 21-15 after leading from start to finish.

Both junior titles remained in England with Herbert winning the Boys final when he beat his old rival Scott Friday from Kent 21 and 13, whilst the Girls crown went to Peniel's Hannah Yardy who comfortably won against Suffolk's Victoria Gray, 14 and 5.

Nigel Eckersley won the Veteran Mens Singles title when he beat Ian (Benny) Robertson two straight 19 and 19. But it was a separately close encounter with the first leg standing at 19-19, before the super-fit evergreen Eckersley forced his way home.

Then once again in the second Eckersley won when all was lost, pulling back from a 16-19 deficit to take the title 21-19.

The Womens Veteran final saw a tremendous battle between two

very determined ladies, Carol Hewitt from Sussex and Helen Shields from Yorkshire, a battle that was very narrowly won by the girl from Sussex, with Hewitt taking the honours 19, -19, 17.

One surprise name on the winners rostrum was that of Malcolm Francis, the former England international who has not played competitive table tennis for a very long time.

Francis obviously could not resist the magnetic attraction of these Yasaka Open tournaments, which saw him go on to win the Mixed Band 4 event beating Hertfordshire's Derek Rogers in the final, 18, -20, 11.

ETTA's very own girl from Hastings office, Sheila King, also could not resist the Yasaka allure, as she won the Womens Band 2 event.

YASAKA SOUTHERN OPEN RESULTS

MENS BAND 1:

Jason Sugrue b Christian Thompson 12, -11, 18.

WOMENS BAND 1:

Glenda Ashison b Emma Hurling -18, 17, 14.

MIXED BAND 3:

Kevin Doyle b Mike Levene 17, 14.

MIXED BAND 4:

Malcolm Francis b Derek Rogers 18, -20, 11.

MENS BAND 2:

Eddie Rooffe b Chris Beckley 15, w/o.

WOMENS BAND 2:

Sheila King b Tina Russ -13, 20, 19.

JUNIOR BOYS:

Gareth Herbert b Scott Friday 21, 13.

JUNIOR GIRLS:

Hannah Yaroy b Vicki Gray 14, 5.

U21 MEN:

Ryan Jenkins b Gareth Herbert 12, 17.

U21 WOMEN:

Lisbeth Poulsen b Glenda Ashison 23, 15.

VETERAN MEN:

Nigel Eckersley b Benny (Ian) Robertson 19, 19.

VETERAN WOMEN:

Carol Hewitt b Helen Shields 19, -19, 17.

MENS OPEN SINGLES:

Matthew Syed b Andrew Eden 14, -19, 8.

WOMENS OPEN SINGLES:

Kubrat Owolabi b Linda Radford -12, 17, 20.

PREMIERSHIP CHALLENGE

At the end of 1996 four teams are still challenging for the Premiership title. Only set difference separates the top three and it is so close that Darlington having gone to the top with a 9-5 victory over Cracknell Cars St. Neots then beat Glasgow 10-4 but slipped to second place as DML White Hart Launceston won 13-1 at home to Linda Farrow Joola to vastly improve their set difference. Horsham beat St Neots 10-4 to stay level on points with the top two whilst Vymura's 9-5 win at Linda Farrow leaves them only two points behind.

Launceston have a game in hand over Darlington and Horsham, and that is against bottom team St. Neots, which must make them favourites but Darlington have strengthened their squad by signing Kevin Satchell. The battle between the top two teams in division one North saw Woodfield win 7-1 away to Ruston Marconi Lincoln to leap frog above them into first place. Both teams then consolidated their positions with 6-2 victories, Woodfield beating Grove and Lincoln winning at Hull. Leicester Lions moved off the bottom of the table by coming back from 1-4 down to share the points with Darlington seconds. Phil Smith, Maurice Newman and Martin Pickles won the last three sets for the Lions.

The Welsh Club, Colley Hyundai, finished 1996 in pole position in division 1 South after beating OLOP 6-2 and Launceston 5-3. Vladimir Bril played his last match for Colley before returning to Russia and kept his 100% record intact with a fine win over OLOP's John Souter winning 19-21, 21-14, 21-12. This was Souter's first defeat of the season. Yellowbrick Progress lost more ground on the leaders when they found Brentwood's Steven Rand in top form. His victories over Errol Skeete and Andy Cunningham gave Brentwood a 5-3 victory. Yellowbrick defeated Barclays Bank 5-3 in their next match but ended the year four points behind Colley.

In division 2 North, Leckie TTC lost for the first time this season when Glasgow won 5-3 in Walsall. The Midland outfit are, however, by no means out of the title race as they bounced back to inflict the first defeat of the season on Vymura seconds. At the same time the Drumchapel side beat Derwent 7-1 to take over the leadership of the division.

JAGS now have a four point lead at the top of the division 2 South after

beating their nearest rivals Pillingier Air 6-2, Farat Rasal and Abdul Wuraola both being unbeaten, and then winning away to MacDonalds Barnets League by the same score. Pillingier got back to winning ways with a 6-2 home success against Horsham and Linda Farrow, having slumped to a 2-6 defeat at the hands of Byng Hall Farningham Print, returned to form to beat Wilcon Mossford 8-0.

DML White Hart Launceston thirds dropped their first point of the season when they were held to a 4-4 draw by Shelfield. Malcolm Green was in dynamic form for the Midlands club beating both Tony Sweet and Steve Giles. Launceston then beat Team Powerhouse Cardiff 7-1 and stayed four points clear at the top. Bribar Kingshurst have moved into second place with victories over Crusaders Lincoln and Limberlost Pine Poole.

Division 3 East continues to be dominated by Norwich Todd Foxwood who were never really extended by Yellowbrick thirds and ran out 8-0 winners. Grantham Kontak stayed in touch by winning 7-1 against the Inckless Yellowbrick side. In the Midlands and West, Syntegra City of Worcester had Dave Harvey in fine form as they crushed Bulldog Security 7-1 and they followed this up with a similar scoreline against Shelfield seconds. Heritage Wiltshire, however, kept up the pressure on the leaders by beating Rushy Mead 5-3 and Dimension 8 Newport 6-2.

Drumchapel Glasgow thirds kept their unbeaten record intact in division three North when they won 8-0 at Grove and then beat Derwent 5-3. Burnside Seaside's seconds were also in great form with 8-0 and 7-1 victories over City of Leeds and CWS respectively.

KCD Stiga provided a major upset when they met top of the table Generation Fareham in a local derby in division 3 South. Two sets each for Clive Payne, Paul Beck, and Justin Mead together with one from Steve Joel gave KCD a tremendous 7-1 win that takes them off the bottom of the table. A 4-4 draw with Yellowbrick seconds followed whilst Generation got back to winning ways by beating MacDonalds Barnets seconds 7-1.

BRITISH LEAGUE PLACINGS 29/12/96

Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DML Launceston	6	5	-	1	54	30	10
Darlington	7	5	-	2	59	39	10
Horsham	7	5	-	2	57	41	10
Vymura	6	4	-	2	46	38	8
Linda Farrow Joola	7	2	-	5	40	58	4
Drumchapel Glasgow	6	1	-	5	30	54	2
Cracknell Cars St Neots	5	-	-	5	22	48	-

Division 1 North

Woodfield	8	7	-	1	46	18	14
RMSC Lincoln	8	6	1	1	41	23	13
Darlington II	8	4	2	2	38	26	10
Uxbridge (Burton)	7	3	2	2	25	31	8
City of Leeds	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
Grove	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
Leicester Lions	7	-	4	3	23	33	4
Hull CRSD	8	1	1	6	25	39	3

Division 1 South

Colley Hyundai	8	8	-	-	48	16	16
Yellowbrick Progress	8	6	-	2	42	22	12
T.I. Brentwood	7	4	1	2	31	33	9
OLOP	7	4	-	3	28	28	8
City of Milton K.	8	3	1	4	27	37	7
DML Launceston II	8	2	2	4	21	33	6
Barclays Bank	8	-	2	6	20	44	2
Horsham II	8	-	2	6	19	45	2

Division 2 North

Drumchapel Glasgow II	8	6	1	1	44	20	13
Vymura II	8	5	2	1	42	22	12
Leckie	8	4	3	1	37	27	11
Burnside Seaside's	8	4	1	3	32	32	9
Darlington III	8	2	4	2	32	32	8
City of Leeds II	8	2	1	5	23	41	5
Abbedale	8	1	1	6	26	38	3
Derwent	8	1	1	6	20	44	3

Division 2 Midlands and West

DML Launceston III	7	6	1	-	37	19	13
Kingshurst Bribar	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Limberlost Pine Poole	8	3	3	2	34	30	9
Team JIUC Nottingham	8	3	2	3	34	30	8
Gridfine St. Neots	7	3	1	3	33	23	7
Crusaders Lincoln	8	2	3	3	31	33	7
Shelfield	8	1	3	4	24	40	5
Team Powerhouse Cardiff	7	1	-	6	15	41	2

Division 2 South

JAGS	8	7	1	-	46	18	15
Pillingier Air	8	4	3	1	39	25	11
Linda Farrow	8	4	2	2	41	23	10
Byng Hall F.P.	8	3	2	3	31	33	8
MacDonalds Barnet Lge	8	2	3	3	30	34	7
Wilson Mossford	8	2	2	4	26	38	6
Chelmsford League	8	3	-	5	26	38	6
Horsham III	8	-	1	7	17	47	1

Division 3 East

Norwich Todd Foxwood	5	5	-	-	35	5	10
Grantham Kontak	6	4	1	1	31	17	9
MacDonalds Barnets III	5	3	1	1	27	13	7
Byng Hall F.P. II	6	2	-	4	15	33	4
Adeyfield Enkompass	6	1	-	5	16	32	2
Yellowbrick Progress III	6	1	-	5	12	36	2

Division 3 Midlands & West

Syntegra City of Worcester	7	6	1	-	46	10	13
Heritage Wiltshire	7	6	-	1	36	20	12
Rushy Mead	7	3	1	2	26	30	7
Bulldog Security	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
Shelfield II	7	3	-	4	25	31	6
DML Launceston IV	6	1	2	3	22	26	4
Dimension 8 Newport	7	-	-	7	10	46	-

Division 3 North

Drumchapel Glasgow III	7	6	1	-	42	14	13
Burnside Seaside's II	7	5	1	1	41	15	11
Derwent II	7	4	-	3	33	23	8
CWS Manchester	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
Darlington IV	7	2	-	5	17	39	4
City of Leeds III	7	1	1	5	17	39	3
Grove II	6	1	-	5	13	35	2

Division 3 South

Generation Fareham	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
Fellows Cranleigh	7	4	-	3	30	26	8
Greenleys of M.K.	6	3	1	2	25	23	7
OLOP II	7	3	1	3	27	29	7
KCD Stiga	7	2	1	4	27	29	5
Yellowbrick Progress II	7	1	3	3	26	30	5
MacDonalds II	7	1	3	3	21	35	5

RESULTS 26/1/97

Premier Division

DML White Hart Launceston	11	3	Drumchapel Glasgow
Linda Farrow Joola	8	6	Darlington I
Cracknell Cars St Neots	7	7	Drumchapel Glasgow I
Horsham I	9	5	Vymura I

Division One North			
Grove	6	2	Hull CRSD
RMSC Lincoln	1	7	Darlington II
Leicester Lions	4	4	City of Leeds I
Uxbridge (Burton)	4	4	Woodfield (Wolverhampton)

Division One South

Tenaville Insurance Brentwood	4	4	DML White Hart Launceston II
Colley Hyundai (Pontypool)	3	5	City of Milton Keynes
Barclays Bank (London)	8	0	Horsham II
Yellowbrick Progress (London)	5	3	OLOP (Reading)

Division Two North

Leckie (Walsall)	2	6	Seaside's (Blackpool) I
Abbedale (Sheffield)	5	3	Darlington II
Derwent I (Selby)	5	3	City of Leeds II
Drumchapel Glasgow II	6	2	Vymura II

Division Two South

Wilson Mossford (Ilford)			
Byng Hall (Tunbridge Wells)	2	6	Chelmsford League
JAGS S.C. (Dulwich)	8	0	Billingier Air (Surrey)
MacDonalds Barnets League I	5	3	Horsham III
			Linda Farrow (London)

Division Two Midlands and West

Kingshurst Bribar (Birmingham)	3	5	DML White Hart Launceston III
Cardiff I	2	6	Team JIUC Nottingham League
Gridfine St Neots	6	2	Shelfield (Walsall)
Limberlost Pine Poole	6	2	Crusaders Lincoln

Division Three East

Adeyfield (Hemel Hempstead)	2	6	Norwich Todd Foxwood
MacDonalds Barnets III	5	3	Byng Hall II (Tunbridge Wells)

Division Three Midlands and West

Heritage Wiltshire	6	2	DML White Hart Launceston IV
Bulldog Security (Nottingham)	6	2	Shelfield II (Walsall)
Rushy Mead Club (Leicester)	8	0	Dimension 8 Newport

Division Three North

Grove II	1	7	Seaside's (Blackpool) II
CWS Manchester	7	1	Darlington IV
Derwent II (Selby)	5	3	City of Leeds II

Division Three South

Greenleys of Milton Keynes	4	4	Fellows Cranleigh (Ilford)
OLOP II	4	4	KCD Stiga (Fareham)
Generation Fareham	5	3	Yellowbrick II (London)

LARKHALL SPICER

Top guns Larkhall Spicer and Dagenham Ladies are leading the rest in their respective Premier Divisions, following the first weekend held at Bletchley last month.

Both teams are three points clear of their nearest rivals, Darlington I in the Mens and Worcester Ladies in the Womens Premier.

But the real talking point of this weekend was the amount of expedites that Ron Langheim of Dynamix Men played, in Division 3. Ron started the day off as he intended to carry on, by taking 48 minutes and expedite to overcome the challenge of a weary Barclays Bank's Tony Taylor -13, 15 and 15.

In his very next match against Jimmy Scope of Thompson Insurance Langheim once again played a 48 minute battle, but this time he lost 19 and 16 in expedite!

In the womens section, Dorothy Macfarlane had a surprise victory over Connie Moran of Castlefields Pacemakers in the Womens

Division One, 19, -14, 15. Though it must be mentioned that Connie is still on the road to recovery following a long illness. Welcome back Connie!

The real battle of the weekend in the Womens Premier was between rivals Helen Shields of Dagenham Ladies and Sandra Rider of Bramley, with Sandra taking the first 21-11 and Helen the second 21-16.

This set up a truly exciting 3rd leg, with Sandra taking the early honours leading 18-9, but Helen's true Yorkshire grit surfaced as she staged a remarkable fightback, winning 23-21.

'Players of the weekend' were Carol Hewitt of Dagenham Ladies and Matt Sheader of British Gas, whilst the 'Teams of the Weekend' were 'Quick as a Flash' Worcester Ladies and Graham Spicer.

The thrilling climax of the Veterans British League takes place in Lancaster on the weekend of 5th/6th April 1997.

CONNIE'S AWARD



Connie Moran is the 1996 North East Lincs Sports Association Personality of the Year.

"I'm just flabbergasted, I never expected it would be me, I'm just so embarrassed," remarked Connie at

the renamed South Humberside Sports Advisory Council Awards ceremony last night at Grimsby Town Hall.

And Connie, who has devoted more than 40 years to table tennis in

the Grimsby area, admitted she had almost not gone along to the event: "I've had a bad dose of the 'flu and I've been in bed so I was in two minds about coming along.

"But I'm speechless, I think it's ludicrous to give it to me", laughed the doyenne of table tennis who regained no less than the Grimsby Closed Women Championship this year which she last held in 1991 despite battling with a serious illness.

Connie was also the winner of the Veteran and Ladies Doubles titles at the tournament and helped her team CMCA to gain promotion to Grimsby Table Tennis Association's first division.

She is now number three ranked over 60s player in the country. Apart from her playing ability she has been a valued committee member for more than 20 years and also holds a prominent position as an umpire.

VETERANS' BRITISH LEAGUE

Division Report - Premier Division (Men) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Larkhall Spicer	5	5	0	0	22	8	10
Darlington I	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
British Gas	5	2	1	2	16	14	5
Bournemouth	5	1	2	2	15	15	4
Police Athletic Assoc.	5	1	2	2	15	15	4
OLOP	5	0	0	5	2	28	0

100% Averages: Nigel Eckersley of British Gas, Tony Clayton of Bournemouth and Mike Johns of Larkall Spicer

Division Report - Division 1(Men) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Swinton	5	5	0	0	27	3	10
Fullerians	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Merrow	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Seasiders Blackpool I	5	2	0	3	15	15	4
Shamrocks	5	1	0	4	7	23	2
Racquetsports	5	0	0	5	5	25	0

100% averages: Nicky Davies of Swinton and Brian Hill of Swinton

Division Report - Division 2(Men) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Graham Spicer	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Lillington Free Church	5	3	0	2	17	13	6
Aldborough	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Darlington II	5	1	3	1	14	16	5
Plymouth Extremes	5	1	2	2	15	15	4
Reading YMCA	5	1	1	3	12	18	3

Division Report - Division 3(Men) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Barclays Bank	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Bribar Kingfisher	5	4	0	1	21	9	8
Thompsons Insurance	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
Newbury Park	5	2	0	3	12	18	4
Dynamix Men	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	5	0	0	5	5	25	0

100% Averages: Karl Bushell of Barclays Bank and Paulo Beck of Bribar Kingfisher.

Division Report - Premier Division (Women) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Dagenham Ladies	5	5	0	0	23	7	10
Worcester Ladies	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Colebridge BC	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Bramley Ladies	5	2	0	3	14	16	4
The Bombers	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Robert Claire	5	0	1	4	6	24	1

100% Average: Carol Hewitt of Dagenham Ladies

Division Report - Division 1(Women) - After Round 5, First Weekend

Team	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	S/F	S/A	Pts
Hammond Suddards	5	5	0	0	28	2	10
Colleens	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Combined Counties	5	2	1	2	12	18	5
Castlefields Pacemakers	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Dynamix Ladies	5	0	3	2	12	18	3
Billwood	5	0	1	4	7	23	1

100% Averages: Linda Simpson and Margaret Maltby of Hammond Suddards

AGGRESSIVE SAIVE & TONG VICTORIOUS

by John Woodford – Table Tennis Correspondent, *The Daily Telegraph*

Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) and Tong Feiming (Taipei), both 27, lifted the singles titles in the Kettering Arena at the 62nd English Open, an event which doubled as the first tournament in the 1997 ITTF Professional Tour.

Saive, for ten years an outstanding athletic figure, twice Belgium's Sports Personality of the Year and ace purveyor of deadly top-spin surged as the top seed, through his five opponents ending in a brilliantly crafted victory in the final over the Czech surprise packet Peter Korbel.

A year ago, Jean-Michel was at the very top of the world list at No. 1. Now he's at No. 7. After this victory, his first at the English Open, another move, this time upwards seems likely on the world list.

Saive's victims were Kadiri Kayode (Sweden) who I thought was reasonably impressive, Matthew Syed, Werner Schlager (Austria), Christophe Legout (France) and then in the final against Korbel (Czech Republic) who wins my vote as the most improved player of 1996 - the other contender is of course, Vladimir Samsonov, who is now No. 3 on the world list! Saive scorched home against Korbel 10, 15, 19.

Korbel's list of victories is rapidly increasing - he reached the semi-finals in Atlanta and a matter of weeks ago, he was in third position in the Bundesliga averages.

The mens singles final was not a classic. Saive was not overawed by Korbel's recent gained awesome reputation - the Belgium ace just kept plugging away to the backhand court to win a 2-0 lead and to 18-18 in the final game.

An injection of courage was needed at that juncture. Saive threw in a colossal



Jubilant Jean-Michel Saive, English Open Men's Singles Winner

forehand drive straight down the centre line. Korbel was shocked and quickly lost the last few points.

Who would have forecast that Tong Feiming on a late entry would be seeded No.6 and would lift the womens singles crown? She is still battling with officials, whether they are tennis table people or immigration officers.

Her victims, Pernilla Pettersson (Sweden), Qiao Yunping (China), Ni Xia Lian (Luxembourg) finishing with top seed Chai Po Wa (Hong Kong) in the final.

What an impressive list of losers brought about by her astonishing change of tactics - instead of relying on her awesome backhand attack she engaged an even more dangerous forehand, winning the title without an on-court coach.

THE BRITS

How did we do at Kettering? Not so well, is the clear answer.

Darren Blake the England No. 57 from Croydon, Surrey but now playing professionally full-time in Sweden enjoyed himself - he capsized six victims before winning through to the main competition where he went down 18, 15, -18, 14 to the vastly experienced Francis Prudel from Canada.

There were some strange happenings early on. Gordon Chapman aged 67 won his group but could not play again on the next day due to work commitments - that won some national publicity.

Alex Perry, now enjoying what seems to be a reasonably permanent spot as No. 4 in the England elite squad, seemed set for great run in the Under-21 singles. He did manage a great win by knocking

out Thomas Schroeder (Germany) who was the third seed 16, -19, 14 but then lost -18, 15, 13 to Daniel Torres from Spain.

Bradley Billington finished third in his group. Jonathan Taylor finished fourth having lost 3 -1 to Wales' hot property Ryan Jenkins who is not quite as fast as Ryan Giggs, but moving in that direction.

Andrew Eden looked set to win his qualifying group but then flopped in the fifth game to the Japanese Tomohiko Tokimura.

Nigel Eckersley, in the absence of a veterans event, cut down a whole crop of opponents, before some of the younger players stopped his progress.

Helen Lower and Linda Radford both finished third in their qualifying groups. Nicola Deaton came second in her group losing to Pernilla Pettersson of Sweden, but the Derbyshire attacker managed a smart late victory 13 in the fifth against Luxembourg's Peggy Regenwetter.

There were very few British successes in the doubles. One outstanding win came in the womens doubles when Lisa Lomas and Andres Holt knocked out Jie Schopo and Katrin Mayerhoffer but wen under in the semi-finals to Chair Po Wa and Qiao Yumping, the eventual winners.

Hopes were high in the English camp that our two women players exempted to the professional third stage Lisa Lomas and Andrea would at least reach the quarters.

But it was not to be - our Manchester lady ace knocked out the young German player Tanja Riss -17, 12, 16 but the short run was quickly halted by the European Top 12 holder from Luxembourg Ni Xia Lian, although she met her match after beating the holder Gerdie Keen, losing to

Tong Feiming.

If we were rich like Japan we could afford to send huge teams abroad. From the large Japanese contingent came one Michiyo Sasamori who is unranked on the world list - she defeated in Round 1 Lisa Lomas 19, -17, 23, 19. How can our No. 1 player, No. 55 on the world rankings lose to a player unlisted? Easy, said a cynical voice.

The venue: Kettering Arena staged its second English Open and it has attracted a number of other ETTA events. The Arena itself is excellent in most respects and the staff are helpful. Unlike resort towns - Bath and Brighton are two examples - Kettering suffers extra problems with transport to and from the hotels - 80 rooms had to be used at a hotel in Northampton, some 15 miles from the venue, too far for comfort.

ENGLISH OPEN RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Quarter Finals:

J.M. Saive (BEL) b W. Schlager 13, 15, -19, 17; C. Legout (FRA) b P. Franz (GER) 12, 15, 15; P. Korbel (CZE) b. P. Chila (FRA) 19, 13, -31, -15, 15; J. Roskopf (GER) b K. Kalinokos (GRE) 19, -17, 20, 14.

Semi-finals: Saive b.

Legout -9, 18, 13, 17; Korbel b Roskopf 17, -12, -19, 15, 16.

Final: Saive b Korbel 10, 15, 19.

WOMENS SINGLES

Quarter Finals:

Chai P.W. (HKG) b S. Bakhtina (RUS) 6, 9, 7; J. Schopp (GER) b M. Hooman (NED) 7, 12, 6; Tong F. (TPE) b Qiao Y. 13, 12, -17, 17; Ni X. L. b G. Keen 12, 10, 9.

Semi-finals: Chai b Schopp 18, 12, 5; Tong b Ni 11, 18, 14.

Final: Tong b Chai 10, 21, 10.



MENS DOUBLES

Semi-finals:

T. Keen/D. Heister (NED) b W Schlager/K Jindrak (AUT) 15, -16, 15; P. Chila/C.

Legout (FRA) b P.

Karlsson/T. Von Sheele (SWE) 19, -13, 10.

Final: Chila/Legout b Keen/Heister 10, 13.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Semi-finals: N. Struse/E.

Schall (GER) b A.

Svensson/P. Pettersson (SWE) 14, -19, 11; Chai P.W. (HKG)/Qiao .Y. (CHN) b L. Lomas/A. Holt (ENG) 19, 13.

Final: Chai/Qiao b Struse/Schall 16, -12, 15.

UNDER 21

MENS SINGLES

Quarter Finals:

S. Cailleau (FRA) b Z. Fejer-Konnerth (GER) 13, -10, 12; D. Torres (ESP) b A. Perry

(ENG) -18, 15, 13; M. Monrad (DEN) b T. Boll (GER) 20, 13; T. Keinath (GER) b F. Hakansson (SWE) 19, -14, 13.

Semi-finals: Cailleau b Torres 19, 20; Monrad b Keinath 17, 18.

Final: Monrad b Cailleau - 19, 12, 19.

UNDER 21

WOMENS SINGLES

Quarter Finals:

S. Bakhtina (RUS) b M. Hubert (BEL) 21, 19; A.S. Gourin (FRA) b R. Strbikova (CZE) -12, 14, 18; C.

Bottcher (GER) b S. Morel (FRA) 17, 13; F. Kawano (JPN) b T. Riss (GER) 9, 15.

Semi-finals: Gourin b Bakhtina -14, 14, 11;

Kawano b Bottcher 17, 9.

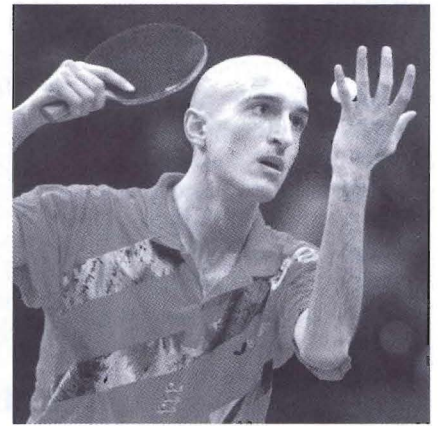
Final: Kawano b Gourin 19, 17.

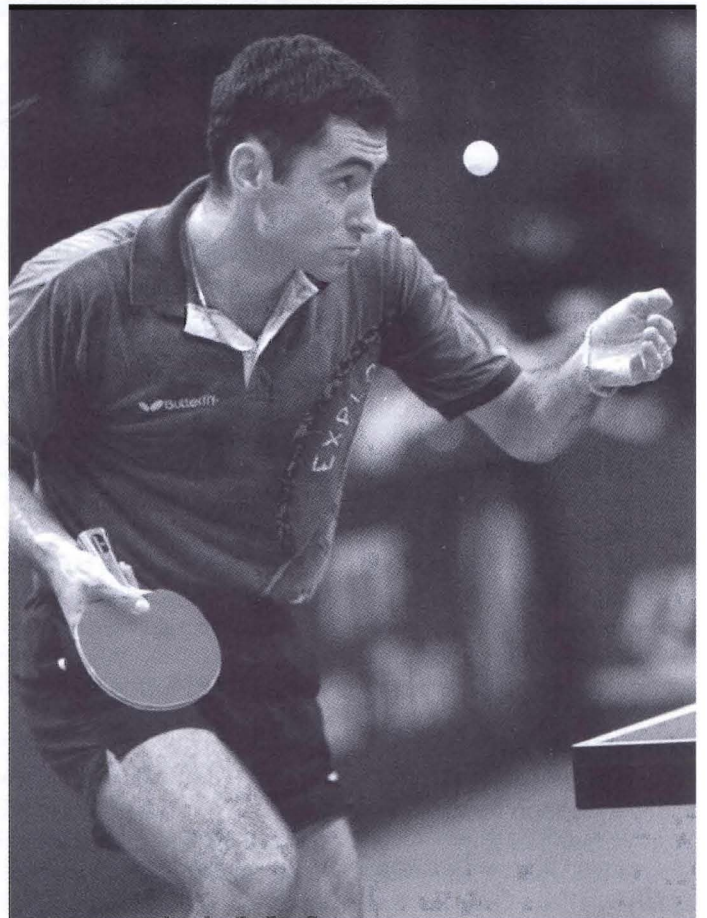
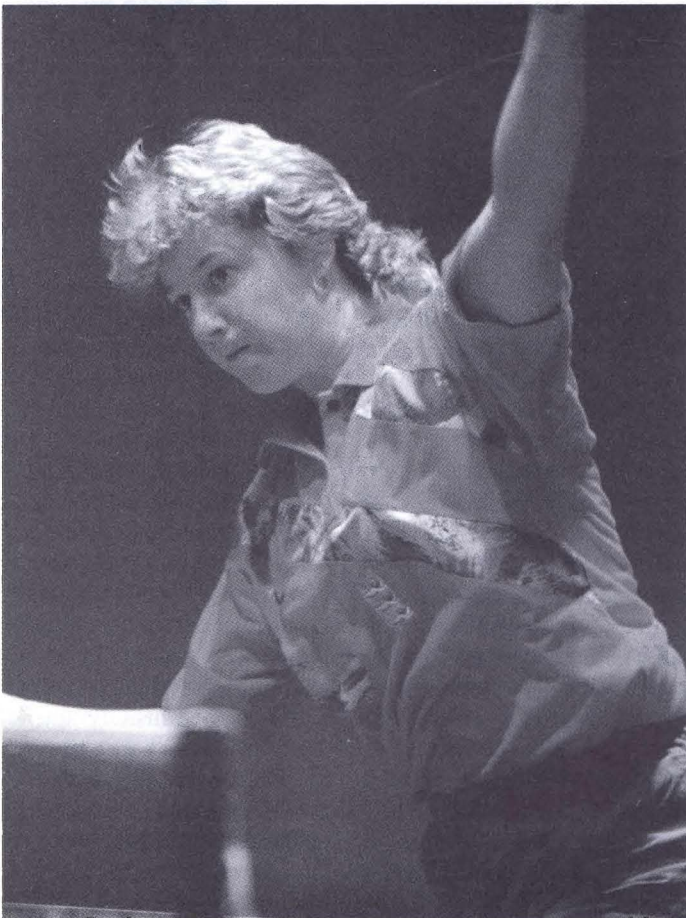


Pictured left are the victorious Men's Doubles Champions, Christophe Legout and Patrick Chila of France, whilst below are the Women's Doubles Champions celebrate their victory, Chai Po Wa of Hong Kong and Qiao Yunping of China.

Pictured right are the Men's and Women's Singles Champions, Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium and Tong Feiming of Taipei.

Pictured bottom right are England's' Andrea Holt and Czech Republic's losing finalist Petr Korbek, and this page below England's Matthew Syed.





COACHING

GUILTY

The ETTA's policy document 'Enhanced Provision for Players with a Disability' was written 3 years ago. Unfortunately, as was pointed out at the National Coaching Committee meeting by Dave Hewitt, very little of this policy has been implemented, writes Gail McCulloch.

The NCC hope to rectify this situation by increasing their awareness and giving more coaching opportunities to players with disabilities. So to all Regional Coaching Chairmen, I ask - Do you know who your Regional BTTAD contact is? Have you spoken to them about coaching in your region? To all coaches, I ask - Do you have anyone with disabilities in your coaching group? If so is the BTTAD representative aware of this? Remember, that the BTTAD offers opportunities for players with learning disabilities as well as for physically disabled players.

I suspect that most coaches will admit to being guilty of having little knowledge of disabled players within their locality. However, most coaches give of their time and expertise because of a need within their clubs and few actually go out and actively search for youngsters to coach. So to all BTTAD members I would say, please come to the coaching sessions, you will be welcome and we will do our best to help you become better players. In addition, we would be delighted to run a Coach Education Course for any aspiring coaches.

COACHES:

Have you got your application form for the World Championship Coaching Course? This will be led by Glenn Osth and is

an excellent opportunity to increase your coaching knowledge and watch the worlds best players and coaches in action.

SPORTS SCIENTISTS:

The 5th Table Tennis Sports Science Congress is being run in conjunction with the 2nd World Racket Sports Conference prior to the World Championships at Lilleshall. This will be of particular interest to those with a scientific background. Most excellence squads are now working with sports scientists within their regions and it is these scientists and coaches that will find the Congress useful. A practical workshop led by Glenn Osth, will be included each day.

NATIONAL TRIALISTS:

Have you replied to your invitation to the National Trials? If you do not reply, your place will be reallocated.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

THE ART OF WINNING GAMES

The following piece was published in the Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer on 8 March 1902, the first but short-lived, table tennis magazine (running to only nine issues). It is an early example of 'Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating' as developed by Stephen Potter 40 years later, but has a remarkably modern ring to it. Writes Gerald Gurney.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

How to Win at Table Tennis;
by A. Flitchie Barker,
Champion

Choose the best end of the table, and stay there - if you can.

Serve when it suits yourself. When your opponent is picking up a ball, or adjusting his neck tie is a good time. Remember you play to win.

To cultivate a brilliant service - stand close to the table and hold your hand high, should your opponent object, be very surprised and suggest this is his first tournament. Should he return a ball occasionally it will be a simple lob, easy to kill'.

Object to your opponents serve - it will make him nervous, or cross, and he cannot play in either case.

Don't argue about a doubtful point: firmly claim it every time. You will often gain most unexpectedly, and you have nothing to lose.

Some umpires trust their memory as being easier than using a pencil. You can often assist them - and yourself- by suggesting the score. If it doesn't come off simply say sorry'.

Talk to your opponent in the middle of a rally. This requires some practice, but is very effective. Say, That was lucky!' or What a long rally!'

Some players pause before they serve, as if they are working out some shots in their mind first. A very useful reply to this is to catch the ball in the left hand and say you were not ready. There is no rule against not being ready, and a cod in the head must be attended to. Your vis à vis will then watch you instead of the ball if he is at all polite. He feels so small serving before you are ready, don't you know?

A supercilious bad temper will work wonders against a person not used to public play. He will worry himself thinking what he has done wrong, and will wish he had bought this week's edition of the rules and had not relied on a copy a week old. (We are afraid this is wrote

sarcastic.' - ED.)

If you are a lady, we recommend a chalk colour blouse to match the ball. We hear Kate Greenaway' overall what's-his-names' are coming in again; if made white, these will serve two purposes - a high waist (not that this is necessary, rules are only made for men), and a larger show of white behind the ball. Cricketers are very fidgety about their sight screen so they, at least, will be sure to appreciate this item when wielding the ping pong bat.

At a public tournament do not leave the balls about for the committee to squabble over - take them home to practice serving with.

Finally, should you lose a game now and then, it is essential that you have your excuse ready, or people will think you have met a better player.

FRENCH OPEN

WORLD PROFESSIONAL CIRCUIT - ITTF PRO TOUR THE WALDNER MAGIC

John Woodford in Lyons

Jan-Ove Waldner is back! That was the best news from Lyons. Few would now dispute that he is the world's most talented performer although he cannot always produce the magic. In the final at Lyons he destroyed Ma Wenge 11, 20, 17 with a vintage display of backhand attacking and counter-hitting that frequently left the Chinese ace standing.

After losing his Olympic title in Atlanta there were those, some from Sweden, who were saying that is the end of Jan-Ove, but they have already been proved wrong.

BIG SHOCKS

There were three major shocks in the Mens Singles - Wang Tao, who is rated No. 2 in the world was taken out by Vasile Florea of Romania - Wang, -19 in the fifth, served into the net.

There were two more incredible crashes - in Round 3 Kalin Creanga knocked out Jorg Roszkopf (Germany) 23, -20, 21, 19 and then Patrick Chila (the most improved man on parade) whipped out Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) 19, 1, -16, 17.

The problem is that Europe desperately needs players capable of beating Asian men. Saive and Roszkopf come into that category, but then they lose to Europeans.

The Asian women dominated the female events; Csilla Batorfi and Nicole Struse managed to keep the EEC flags flying for some time before Deng Yaping, who has totally dominated the sport for over five years, defeated her compatriot Yang Yin in the final -13, 13, 12, 12. At 4ft 10ins she is not much bigger than the trophy!

A TEARFUL TALE FOR ENGLAND

By the time I arrived in Lyons, three of England's squad had failed in the qualifying rounds. Alex Perry overpowered Christian Paler (Luxembourg) 12, 15 but lost to the Japanese player Hidefumi Masuda -17, 11 -12 and also lost to the Polish No. 3 Tomasz Krzeszewski -15, 16.

Nicola Deaton had a rough draw losing both games in her group to Sylvia Plaisant (France) and Xie Jing (China); Helen Lower fared a little better, lifting herself to a smart victory over the Canadian No. 2 Petra Cada -18, 18, 10 but losing to the top French junior Anne-Sophie Gourin -14, -17.

The England squad, less Matthew Syed who was once again unable to appear due to leg muscle problems, were captained by the top West of England coach Kevin Satchell, who seemed to enjoy his task, even if the invite was a trifle late in coming his way.

Carl Prean, minutes before he was due to play his Round 3 match against Zoltan Batorfi, found trouble in his right wrist, similar to that he suffered in 1993 when he had an operation that kept him off the tables for six months.

Despite the fact he had never lost to Batorfi, he wisely decided to pull out and rest before seeking advice from the British Olympic Sports Injuries Unit at North Harrow.

So, for the last two days, we Brits sat and watched some absorbing battles, before the 18-strong Chinese party took off for the Swedish Open.

I was on the same coach as the Chinese party leaving at 0530. I asked Deng Yaping for a quick interview but she was clearly too tired to make any quotable remarks except that she had acute pains in her back after the four days play. She is still only 23, proving that the physical strain that most players endure should not be underestimated when players are accused of ducking and diving'.

OTHER RESULTS:

MD: Final:
Wang Sen and Wang Lequin (China) b P. Chila and C. Legout (France) 17, -15, 19.

WD: Final:
Deng Yaping and Yang Ying b Park Hae Jung and Ryu Ji Hye (Korea) 7, -21, 9.

GOOD HEALTH IN TABLE TENNIS

CONFUSION OVER NASAL STRIPS 3M HEALTH CARE CLEARS CONFUSION OVER NASAL STRIPS

Recent press reports questioning the value of nasal strips as a sporting aid are based on incomplete and misleading information leading to confusion about how the strips work, says 3M Health Care which markets 3M Breathe Right nasal strips. The publicity follows a statement issued last month by Prof. Tom Reilly, a leading sports physiologist at Liverpool's John Moores University, in which he called for evidence to support the supposed beneficial effect of wearing the strips. Reports quoted a study at the University of Alabama which suggested no apparent link between wearing a nasal strip and enhanced athletic performance, although this trial has since been followed by a more comprehensive study using athletes. Says Andy Anderson, Vice President of Regulatory & Clinical Affairs at CNS, US manufacturers of Breathe Right nasal strips, "The sponsored research being conducted by Doctor John Griffin at the University of Alabama has not been completed, but the latest update on the results of the research were positive."

Says Dr Bruce Cawdron, Medical Advisor for 3M Health Care, "Confusion seems to have arisen about Prof. Reilly's understanding of our claims about how nasal strips work during exercise. Trials have demonstrated that Breathe Right nasal strips can influence recovery time and heart rate as well as shifting the anaerobic threshold. The

explanation is that during intensive exercise, 10% of energy is used to breath therefore any reduction in airflow resistance will decrease the energy requirement for breathing and provide greater energy for muscular activity for the sport in question. In general, athletes are taught to nose breath and because the nose itself accounts for nearly 50% of total airway resistance, any reduction in nasal airflow resistance is significant."

"Prof. Reilly is interested in the amount of oxygen inhaled and how that is utilised within the muscles during exercise. This is a completely different issue and one which we have not researched. At present all we can say is that wearing a nasal strip may help athletes to get the oxygen they need more easily (i.e. with less energy expenditure) - they don't necessarily take in more oxygen. We are, however, interested in this concept and trials will shortly be initiated across Europe which will explore this, including a trial which will begin soon at Leeds Metropolitan University."

Breathe Right nasal strips work by gently dilating nasal valves to reduce nasal airflow resistance and were developed as a nasal dilator. They are clinically proven to reduce or eliminate snoring and also to reduce nasal airflow resistance by an average of 31 percent.

In the US, where the product was launched in 1993, they attracted the interest of sports people as a method of enhancing nasal breathing and more effectively utilising their aerobic pathways. In the US last year 160 million strips were sold. Launched in the UK in Spring of this year by 3M Health Care, the majority of sales are for those suffering from snoring or nasal congestion.

GREAT COMPETITION AT SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

The first rounds of Premier Division matches were played at King Edward Leisure Centre, Lichfield.

Matches were very competitive, half of them finished with a 6-4 scoreline and there was one draw. The other 5 matches ended with 7-3 results.

The team that came out on top was Middlesex, being the only team to get full points after defeats of Essex, Kent and Staffs. All of the Middlesex players performed well. Yuki Greswell (Mi) deserves a special mention. In her first appearance at this level Yuki won 5 of her 6 singles matches. This included a 2 straight defeat of Shelley Ruocco (E) ranked No. 17! Yuki is ranked No. 108 but, on current form, should make advances on that list! Yuki Greswell played in the Junior Premier Division last season with 100% success.

Berkshire and Devon, the champions and runners-up from last season, met and the result was a draw. Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz (Bk) were unbeaten whereas it was more of a team effort by Devon with Paul Giles, Paul Whiting, Greg Bridgett, Carol Giles and Helen Lambert each getting 1 win. Berks and Devon won their other 2 matches. One of these provided a big surprise when Devon got a 6-4 win over Yorkshire. Paul Giles (Dv) was the architect with his 2 singles wins, including the defeat of Michael O'Driscoll 20, -16, 17! With the match score Devon 5 Yorks 4 Mike Short (Dv) met Tim Dyson. There was a terrific atmosphere and an exuberant Mike Short won 16, -21, 20 to give Devon the 2 points. For Yorkshire Debbie Toole played very well to win her 2 events but Joanna Roberts (Y) lost to both Carol Giles and Helen Lambert.

There were so many other hard matches. Two of these were between Sussex/Essex and Middx/Staffs. In the first of these the match score alternated to reach 4-4.

Shelley Ruocco (E) then had a 19 and 5 win over Sally Weston (Sx) and, in the final event, Clive Carthy (E) beat Scott Greenbrook -14, 18, 19. Clive had earlier in the match beaten Ritchie Venner -17, 19, 24! The Middx/Staffs match had 3 events decided at 19 in 3rd game and one at 21 in a deciding game. Staffs were 1-6 down but fighting back. Steve Slater (ST) beat John Souter (Mi) -15, 14, 19. In the final match Neil Charles (Mi) beat David Morris (St) at 21 in deciding game to give Middx a 7-3 win. Neil had earlier had a 19 in 3rd win.

The only players to win all their matches were Ben Johnson and Gemma Schwartz (Bk) and Debbie Toole (Y). Six other players lost only once, namely - Paul Giles (Dv), Chris Sladden and Shelley Ruocco (E), Yuki Greswell (Mi), Steve Slater (ST) and Scott Greenbrook (Sx). There should be some very good competition in the final Round at the China Fleet Country Club, Saltash, Devon over weekend 15/16 February. At this stage it is difficult to forecast which County will win the championship this season.

RESULTS

Y	6	SX	4	DV	6	Y	4
BK	5	DV	5	SX	4	E	6
MI	7	ST	3	Y	6	ST	4
E	4	K	6	BK	7	K	3
ST	3	BK	7	MI	7	E	3
K	4	MI	6	SX	3	DV	7

As the Magazine was not able to be produced for December/January the present contribution covers matches played during November and December. The notes have had to be reduced to deal with over 200 matches. It is hoped this is accepted as the best way to endeavour to get up-to-date rather than omit matches in November.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Middx	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Berks	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Devon	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Yorks	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Kent	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Essex	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Sussex	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Staffs	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

SENR DIV 1A: CA 7 ND 3. SK 7 HE 3. DY 7 CV3. LA 4 LE 6. LE 5 DY 5. HE 6 ND 4. CV 0 CA 10. HE 6 LA 4. LA 6 CA 4. LE 9 CV 1. ND 6 SK 4. SK 5 DY 5. 12 matches were played at St. Neots TT Centre. Leics came out on top with 5 points from wins over Lancs and Cambs and a draw with Derbys. In that match John Holland and Stepen Shaw (Dy) won their 4 events. Both players had a 2 straight win over Chris Rogers! Karen Smith (LE) had 2 easy wins for Leics. There were other hard fought matches. In their match versus Lancs the Leics. Team won 2 events at 19 in 3rd games. Joanne Heath (LE) beat Karen Richardson (LA) -20, 12, 20! Suffolk had some tough matches. Against N'berland 7 events went to a decider with Stuart Palmer, John Kitchener and Janet Scoulding (Sk) winning events at 16, 17 and 18 in deciding games. But this was to no avail as Andrew Wilkinson, Dave Godbold and Caren Guthrie (Nd) also won events 16, 18 and 19 in deciders. This gave Northumberland their only win of the weekend - but what a battle!

SENR DIV 1B: BU 6 SY 4. E2 5 Sy 5. BU 8 MI.2.2. E2 6 MI.2.4. HA1 5 DV2. 5. SX 5 CO 5. CO 2 HA 8. SX2. 6 HA 4. DV2. 5 SX2. 5. 4 matches were played at Graham Spicer Institute, New Malden. Bucks did well to get wins over Surrey and Middx 2nds. Against Surrey Bucks went 2 - nil down but when Ian Musk (Bu) beat Selwyn Campbell at 22 in 3rd game the match levelled at 2-2. The Bucks No. 1's - Ian Musk and Sue Collier WON ALL of their events which helped Bucks to a 6-4 win. Bucks had an easier win (8-2) against Middx 2nds. In this match Jacquie Lovell (Bu) joined Ian Musk and Sue Collier in

winning all their matches. Essex 2nds got a 6-4 win against Middx 2nds. 2 events were won at 19 and 20 in deciding games and Nicky McCoy beat Clive Carthy -21, 15, 22! 5 matches were played at Redbridge School, Southampton. 3 of these ended in a draw. Hants 1st team led Devon 2nds 5-4 but Gary Lambert (DV) beat Ramesh Bhalla 10 and 14 for a draw. Devon 2nds also involved in a draw against Sussex 2nds. In the final event Tony Sweet (Dv) beat Mayur Majithiam at 8 in 3rd game to secure another point for Devon. Sussex 2nds v Cornwall was the third drawn match. Sussex actually led 5-2 after Pauline Steele beat Sharon McKenna at 19 in 3rd game. Cornwall fought back very well. Gary Wilson (Co) beat Peter Bartram -19, 23, 20. Esmé Stevenson won -11, 18, 16 and finally Jeremy Williams (Co) beat Tony Murrell 18, -18, 20 to get a hard earned point for Cornwall.

SENR DIV 2A: LE 2 2 ST2 8. CH5 CW 5. Y2 7 ST2 3. NG 7 LA2. 3. Y2 10 CU 0. CH 4 NG 6. CU 5 LE2 5. CW 1 NG 9. LA2 6 CH 4. ST3. 1 LA2. 9. CW 1 LE2. 9. ST2. 9 LA2. 1. LE2. 7 ST 3. NG 5 Y2. 5. CU 4 CW 6. C 2 NG 8. Y2. 9 ST3. 1. 17 matches were played at Northwich over a weekend. The most successful teams were Notts and Yorks 2nds. Notts played 5 matches, one more than the other teams. They won 4 of these but were held to a draw by Yorks 2nds, who won their other 3 matches. At this stage Notts head the League Table. In the Notts/Yorks 2nds match Notts led 4-2 but Yorks made a good recovery when Zoe Fisher (Y) beat Tina Russ 16 and 20 and Mark Stephenson (Y) beat Mark Green 17 and 17. With the score 4-4 Sarah Smith got a 2 straight win over Nicola Silburn (Y) and then Richard Smith (Y) squared the match by getting an 18 and 18 win over Tim Sheppard (Ng).

There were a number of other closely contested matches. Notts did not get their wins easily. Against Cheshire Notts led 5-1 but Cheshire took the next 3 events. This included a win by Clare News (Ch) over Sarah Smith (Ng) at 19 in a deciding game. Paul Wood (Ng) won the final event to get the win for Notts.

SENR DIV 2B: GS 3 DV4 7. GS 6 DV3. 4. AV 6 SO 4. WO2. 6 HA.2 4. CO.2 5 WO.1 5 GS 4 HA.2 6 DV4. 1 WO.1 9. CO.2 5 WO.1 5. CO.2 5 SO 5. AV 3 WO.2 7 DV3. 7 CO.2. 3. DV4. 2 CO.2 8. DV3 8 AV 2. DV4. 2 AV 8. WO.1 8 WO.2 1. 9 matches were played at Bodmin. Worcs 2nds came out on top with 2 wins. Against Hants 2nds the match score went to 4-4 when Joanne Hill (Wo2) beat Barbara Savage at 15 in deciding game and Craig Ward (Wo2) also won in a decider against Tony Reynolds. Against Avon the Worcs 2nds won 7-3 with Adrian Tottey, Lewis Siket and Craig Ward winning their 6 events, Worcs 1st team earned 3 points with a comprehensive 9-1 win over Devon 4th team. Against Cornwall 2nds Worcs 1sts were down 4-0. However they fought back well to be 4-5 down and then Mark Brooks (Wo) beat Keving Worth -19, 16 and 21 for a draw. The Worcs teams met in the next Round of matches with the 1st team getting an 8-2 win which took Worcs 1st team to the top of the Table and the 2nds into 3rd place. Devon 3rd team did well to get wins over Avon (8-2) and Cornwall 2nds (7-3). Shaun Gaylard won all his matches. Cornwall 2nds and Avon each got an 8-2 win over Devon 4th team. Cornwall 2nds had 2 wins at deuce in 3rd games against Devon 4th team.

SENR DIV 2C: NP 2 WA.1. 8. LI 7 NK 3. WA.2. 4 HU 6. BD1. 4 SK2. 6. NK 5 NP 5. HU 1 LI 9. SK2 1 K3. 9. WA.1 8 BD 2. BD1. 5 NK 5. K3 7 WA.1 3. NP 8 HU 2. LI 9 WA.2 1. HU 4 BD 6. WA.2 3 NP 7. SK2. 1 WA.1 9. NK 1 HE. 3.9. NK 6 SK2. 4. BD1. 5 WA.2 5. K3 9 HU 1. NP 4 LI 6. SK2. 4 HU 6. WA.1 9 NK 1. WA.2 0 K3. 10. LI 6 BD 4. 24 matches were played at Grantham TT Centre. Kent 3rd team came out on top by winning their 5 matches - and they dropped 6 events! Lincs team was also unbeaten in 5 matches but lost 13 games. Kent team was well served by Phil Saxby and Chris Knight who won all of their events.

Lincs had one "close shave". With the match score 4-4 Jane Strawson (Li) beat Sarah Creasey (Np) -14, 17, 19. Mark Donoghue (Li) followed up with a 2 straight win over Richard Elliot (Np) to give Lincs a 6-4 win. Kent 3rd team had no such problems - their tightest match was against Warwick's 1st team which Kent won 7-3. There were in fact many hard fought matches with 10 being decided at 6-4 or as a draw. One of these was the Norfolk/Suffolk 2 match. It started with R. Hutchinson (Sk) beating Marcus Thompson (Nk) at 20 in 3rd game. The last 2 events were decided at 19 and 18 in 3rd games. Kim Chambers (Nk) beat Vicky Gray (Sk) -21, 16, 19 to give Norfolk 2 points for a win.

SENR DIV 2D: K2. 5 E3. 5. BK2. 6 SY2. 4. WL1 9 WL.2 1. SX3. 5 BD2. 5. It was a hard fought match between Sussex 3rds and Berks 2nds. 6 events went to a decider. There was a great fight back by Berks 2nds. They were losing 2-5 when the respective No. 1s met. Martin Adams (Bk) beat Paul Barry at 19 in a deciding game. Isobel Walker and Tony Duffield (Bk) responded by winning their events in 3rd games to gain a draw and a hard earned point for Berks. Essex 3rd team went into a

3-1 lead against Kent 2nds who pulled back to 4-4. SO Mann (E) then beat Carly Riggs and Mark Henderson (K) levelled the match score (5-5) when he beat Colin Carslake. Berks 2nds got off to a great 4-nil lead when they received Surrey 2nds at Reading. Anna McNamara (Sy) halted the slide with an 8 and 17 win over Denise Rolfe.

Anna later got a 19 in 3rd win over Isabel Wilde. Farhar Rasul and Karen Wilde (Sy) chipped in with both of them getting a win. But Berks 2nds held on for a 6-4 win. Martin Adams and Tony Duffield (Bk) won their 4 events.

JUNIOR DIV 1A: SK 6 NG 4. HE 3 NG 7. HE 6 E 4. E 5 NG 5. E1 2 SK 8. Suffolk got 2 good wins at "Batts", Harlow. In their 6-4 win over Notts Vicky Gray and Gary Broomfield were again unbeaten as was Tim Avis (Sk). Herts got their first win of the season when they beat Essex 6-4. Richard Murrell and Sharon Gillett (He) made a good contribution with 4 wins. Notts also got their first win with the 7-3 defeat of Herts. John Taylor and Craig Gascoyne were the architects with 4 two straight wins. Essex 1st team won 2 - nil down against Notts but fought back for a draw. Essex had a much harder match against Suffolk 1st team. Suffolk won 8-2 with Tim Avis, Richard Mann, Gary Broomfield and Vicky Gray having 100% success.

JUNR DIV 1B: K2. 3 MI.2 7. AV 0 GN1. 10. SY2. 4 HA. 1 6. GN2 4 BU 6. HA.1 6 K2. 4. BU 2 GN1. 8. MI.2 6 AV 4. Glam. 1st team had a convincing 8-2 win over Bucks. Glam. Continue unbeaten after 5 matches. Stephen Jenkins has won his 10 events and 0. Clutterbuck and Catherine Davies have lost only once. Hants 1st team got a 6-4 win over Kent 2nds. They are unbeaten after 4 matches and have Carly Scaddan with 100% wins. Middx 2nds kept ahead of Avon and achieved a 6-4 win. Luis Domingue and E. Magnussen were unbeaten. The match score in the Surrey/Hants 1st team match proceeded to 4 - 4. At this stage Hants took over - Carly Scaddan (HA) beat Camille Blake and Chris Butt got the winner with the defeat of Chris Lemmon -18, 20, 11. Middx 2nds played well to beat Kent 2nds. Towards the end of the match the Middx girls - Amanda Bateman and Hannah Frariery had wins at 20 and 21 in deciding games. This was a big influence in Middx's 7-3 win.

JUNIOR DIV 2C: GS 8 DV2 2. GS 5 CO 5. HR 5 GN4 5. HR 1 GN3. 9. WO 5 DO 5. W1 7 SO 3. W1.1 WO 9. DO 3 GS 7. CO 6 DV2. 4. Glos got 3 points from 2 matches at Deer Park School, Cirencester. They beat Devon 2nds 8-2 and drew with Cornwall. Ann Humble and Suzy Robinson (GS) won their 4 events in these matches. Hereford got their first point when they drew with Glam 4. Hereford led 5-3 but Charlotte Very (Gn) then beat Leanne Neads (Hr) put up a great fight before losing to Louise Islip (Gn) 21, -20, -21! Worcs dropped their first point of the season against Dorset. Dorset started well with a 2-nil lead. The teams drew level at 4-4 when Laura Vaughan (Wo) beat Nicolette Broome 14 and 20 and Dean Haskett (DO) beat Philip Nicholls 11 and 12 for a draw. Wilts played well to get a 7-3 win over Somerset. Michael Ong (So) was unbeaten. Worcs forged ahead in the Div. With a 9-1 win over Wilts. Alex Hill was introduced to the team and played well to win his 2 matches. The 1 win for Wilts was when Tim Goodship beat Ian Wood. Kate Hughes and Laura Vaughan, who have

each lost only once this season, won their 4 events. Glos got a good 7-3 win over Dorset. Ann Humble (Gs) continued unbeaten but Suzy Robinson lost her 1st match to Nicolette Broome 13, -12, -10.

JUNIOR DIV 2D: BK2 7 SX3 3. BK2 5 SX2 5. BK1 6 SX2 4. BK1 9 SX 3 1. HA2 5 SY3 5 E2 4 K3 6. BK1 7 E2. 3. BK2 1 E2. 9. K3 7 HA2. 3. SX2 4 OX 6. SX3 5 OX 5. 4 matches were played at Kingfisher Club, Reading. Berks 1st team had good wins over Sussex 2nds 6-4 and 9-1 over Sussex 3rd team. The Berks 1st team girls - Susan Johnston and Sarah Maher - won all their matches. Berks 2nds made a draw with Sussex 2nds and got a 7-3 win over Sussex 3rds. Against Sussex 2nds the Berks 2nd team was down 3 - 5 but Clare Maher and Andrew Parker won their 2 matches 2 straight to earn a draw. Kent 3rd team got a 6-4 win over Essex 2nds. Christian Hany and Ryan Hughes (K) won their 4 events and, in the final game Oliver O'Brien (K) beat Paul Woodcock (E2) 20 and 21 to get a 6-4 win. Berks 1st team got a good 7-3 win over Essex 2nds. It was a hard fight with 7 events going to a decider. Berks 2nd team also met Essex 2nds but went down 9-1. Kent 3rd team had a 7-3 win over Hants 2bds. There was something of a surprise when Sarah Fan (HA2) lost 15 and 12 to Nikki Taylor Kent No. 2 and later beat Emma Etheridge (Kent No. 1) 16 and 8. Oxfords team met the Sussex 2nd and 3rd teams. Oxfords team was a player short but did well to beat Sussex 2nds 6-4. But Oxford could only get a draw against Sussex 3rds. Nicola Pavitt (Ox) was unbeaten in these matches.

VETS 1B DIV: HA 7 SY 2. WO.1 4 DV 5. K2 5 BK1 4. AV 5 BU 4. AV 5 DV 4. SY2 5 WO 4. BU 3 K2 6. BK1. 6 HA.1 3 The Avon v Devon match was a vital match affecting the championship of the Div. Avon won 5-4. Gary Balwin inflicted on Mike Short (Dv) his first defeat of the season with scores 21, -14, 18. Avon now look well set to win promotion to Premier Div. Berks got away against Hants and inflicted a 6-3 win. 7 events needed a 3rd game. Gill Knightly won her singles and the mixed doubles with Syd Montgomery. Kent 2nds visited the Crippenham T.T. Centre and achieved a 6-3 win over Bucks. Kent won the vital 2 doubles events. The Surrey 2nds/Worcs match was between 2 pointless teams. Surrey got away to a 3-nil lead. Worcs fought back well to bring the match score to 4-4. The final event was "touch and go". Surrey finally got the win after Ron Langheim (Sy) beat Mervyn Wood, -10, 20, 19! After some closely contested matches, 2 ending at 19 in 3rd games, Hants got a 7-2 win. Wins alternated in the Worcs/Devon clash. The match score proceeded to 4-4 when Dennis Gibbs (Dv) beat Eric Hardman (Wo) 17 and 17 to register a 5-4 win. Ken Walton, Roy Norton and Eric hardman each won a singles for Worcs and Walton/Hardman won the mens doubles 15 and 17. In the Kent 2nd/Berks 1st match the Kent team was 3-4 down but fought back to take the last 2 events for a 5-4 win. Avon continued their success with a 5-4 win over Bucks. Gary Baldwin (Av) won his 2 singles and the doubles with Bob Murray. Gary Baldwin's 16 and 13 win over Ken Phillipson to secure the win for Avon.

VETS DIV 2A: NG 4 WA.2 5. NP1 2 Y2 7. ND 3 LA2 6. WA3 5 ST 4. Y2 5 WA.2 4. NP1 5 ND 4. ST 4 NG 5. +A2 7 WA.2. Yorks 2nds went into a 3-0 lead and kept well on top against Northants to win 7-2. So often it is seen how doubles results

differ so much from singles results. This match was an example Northants winning the 2 doubles and Yorks taking all 7 singles. Mike Howell and Margaret Dignum (Wa2) won their 3 singles events and combined to take the mixed doubles against Notts which influenced a 5-4 win for Warwick. Lancs 2nds played N'berland at North Shields YMCA. The home team kept level up to 2-2 then Lancs got away to achieve a 6-3 win. Yorks 2nds, an unbeaten team, took on Warwick 2nds and just got a 5-4 win, which included 2 events and 21 and 19 in deciding games. Northants were victors in the 5-4 match against N'berland. Staffs and Notts met with both teams without points. Notts with winning 2 events at 19 in 3rd games, did well to get a 5-4 win. Lancs 2nds won the first 3 events against Warwick 3rd and went on to win 7-2. Warwick's 2 wins came from Ann Lloyd/Graham Hoskin winning the mixed doubles and Ann Lloyd beating Mabel Neary at 14 in 3rd game.

VETS DIV 2B: SK 8 HU 1. CA 9 BK3 0. E4 7 BD1. 2. NK2 3 E3 6. CA 5 HU 4. E3 7 E4 2. HU 7 BK3 2. BD1. 1 CA 8. SK 8 NK2 1. There were some convincing wins in this Div. None more than the Cambs 9 nil over Berks 3rds. Just 1 event went to a decider. Suffolk have been successful and proceeded with an 8-1 win over Hunts. Hunts got the 1 event when M. Kidd (Hu) beat Ian Brown (Sk) 20, -21, 19. Essex 3rds got a 6-3 win over Norfolk 2nds. Ray Murray (E) won his 2 matches at 20 and 23 in deciding games. Essex 4th team got a good 7-2 win over Bedford's 1st team. Cambs are undefeated after 5 matches. Recent success was the 5-4 defeat of Hunts when Brian Hagger won both his singles matches. Cambs had an easier time at Bedford - Cambs won 8-1. John Turner was the most successful player this time. He won his 2 singles and the doubles with Malcolm Stennett. Essex 3rds 7-2 win over their 4th team leaves them unbeaten after 4 matches. Suffolk got a good 8-1 win over Norfolk 2nds. Norfolk's win came Mick Musson/Hilary Howlett who won the mens doubles -14, 17, 20.

VETS DIV 2C: K4 5 BK2 4. MI.1 5 SX2 4. SY3 6 K3. 3. HE.3 4 MI.2 5. MI.1 8 SY3 1. MI.2 1 MI.1 8. K3 7 K4 2. BK2 8 HE. 3 1. SX2 8 MI.2 1. Three of the 4 matches played in November ended with 5-4 results. In the Kent 4th/Berks 2nd match Graham French got a 20 in 3rd win over Wally Allanson to give Kent the win. Middx 1st team was 3-4 down against Sussex 2nds. Norman Swift (Mi) then beat Andy Meads (Sx) at 15 in 3rd and Tony Taylor secured points for Middx with a win over Barry Gilbert. Middx 2nds, not to be outdone also got a 5-4 win over herts 3rds. Walter Mascaranus (Mi) secured the win for Middx by beating Alan lamprell 19 and 20. Middx 1st team was well on top and achieved an 8-1 over their 2nd team and they followed up with an 8-1 over Surrey 3rds. Another clash of teams from the same County featured Kent 3rd and 4th teams. The 3rd team won 7-2 but 2 of the wins were at 19 in 3rd game. The Berks 2/Herts 3 match was between teams without points. The Berks team got a big 8-1 win. The 1 event for Herts was won by Geoff Bax who beat Walter Allanson 26 and 19! The Sussex 2nds match against Middx 2nds started with Maurice Isaac beating Barry Gilbert at 10 in deciding game but there was no further success and Sussex won 8-1.

VETS DIV 2D: DO.2 5 SX3 4. GS 5 HA.2 4. SO 6 HA2 3. HA.3 1 HA.2 8. W1.1 OX1. 8. HA3. 5 DO2. 4. HA.2 6 GS 3. OX1. 7 SX3. 2. W1.1 3 SO 6. Sussex 3rd team started well with a 2-nil lead. But Dorset fought back to 4-4. Dave Sharples then clinched a win for Dorset with a 13 and 14 win over Keith Jackson (Sx). Glos got a 5-4 win against Hants 3rds at Cirencester T.T. Centre. A decisive factor was Glos winning 2 successive matches at 22 and 21 in 3rd games. Hants 2nds visited Somerset and held the match score at 2-2. Somerset then won the next 4 events and gained a 6-3 win. Brian Reeves (So) won his 3 events in straight games. Hants 3rd team met their 2nd team - and what a match! Hants 2nds won 8 - 1 but they won 5 events at scores between 17 and 21 in deciding games. Oxford 1st team got a great 8 - 1 win when they visited Wilts 1st team. For Wilts it was Terry Parking and Basil Thompson who got the 1 win in the mens doubles. Hants 3rds got their first win after beating Dorset 2nds 5-4. This was despite Dorset No. 1 Dave Sharples winning his 2 singles and the doubles with Howard Davies. With the match score 4-4 Ray Lush (Ha) beat Howard Davies -22, 13, 14. Hants 2nds were also successful with a 6-3 win over Glos. Maurice Shave (Ha) won his 2 singles. Against Alan Giles he was 3 - 10 down in 3rd but came back to win 21 -17. Oxfords 1st team continue unbeaten, after a 7 - 2 win over Sussex 3rds. Somerset is another unbeaten team. Their recent success was the 6 - 3 defeat of Wilts. John Crabtree (SO) suffered the 3 losses

VETS DIV 3A: BD3 6 NP2. 3. NP3. 2 DU 7. HE4. 7 CW 2. HE4. 5 NP3. 4. CW 3 NP2. 6. DU 7 Y3. 2. CH3. 5 BD2. 4. Northants 2nds started well with a 2-nil lead on their visit to Beds. 3rds. There was no further success until the final event when Alan Ashberry (Np) beat John Simms 24 and 14. However, Beds had got on top to win 6-3. Durham visited Glamis Hall, Wellingborough to play Northants 3rd team. Gerald Finney won his 2 singles for Northants but there was no other success. At Barnet TTC the Herts 4th team won the first 7 events against Clwyd. Clwyd got the last 2 events when Ian Wooley and John Spence had singles wins at 17 and 15 in 3rd games - which would no doubt have improved the long journey home! Durham continues to dominate this Div with 4 successive wins. The most recent win was the defeat of Yorks 3rds 7-2. Herts 4th team got a 5-4 win over Northants 3rds with Dave Wilson winning both his singles and the doubles with Keith Hartridge. Northants 3rds have been unfortunate to lose 3 matches at 4-5. Northants 2nds were well in control against Clwyd and got a 6-3 win. Ches. 3rd team got a 5-4 win over Beds 2nds. Phil Luxon (CH) won both his singles events.

VETS DIV 3B: CA2 0 NK3. 9. MI.3 8 OX3 1. SK2. 6 SK3. 3. BD3. 7 HE.5 2. MI.3 7 BD3 2. HE.5 5 SK 4. OX.3 4 NK3. 5. SK.3 7 CA.2 2. Norfolk 3rds visited St. Neots T.T.C. and got a maximum win against Cambs 2nds. Just 3 events went to a decider. Middx 3rds beat Oxfords 3rds 8-1. The 1 event for Oxfords was hard earned with Colin Lansley (Ox No. 1) beating Ian Mablins (Mi) 19, -21, 20. Herts 5 went into a 2-nil lead against Bedford's 3, but that was the extent of their success. Beds. Won the next 7 events. Suffolk 2nds met their 3rd team and won 6-3. Ray Stone (SK.3) won the first singles event of the match and, partnered by Stuart Sharman, won the mens doubles at 19 in 3rd game. Middx 3rds are

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES by Les Smith

unbeaten after a 7-2 win over Beds 3rds. Ian Mablin (MI) led the way both 2 singles wins and taking the mens doubles with Jeff Ailward. The Herts 5/Suffolk 2 match was hard fought. The match score went to 4-4. Herts then got the win when George Tyler beat Howard Osborne -16, 16, 19. Norfolk 3rds kept their unbeaten record with a 5-4 win over Oxford 3rds, although it was left to the last event before the result was decided. Cambs 2nds were a player short against Suffolk 3rds who got a 7-2 win.

VETS DIV 3C: DV3 4 WL2.5. HA.4.5 BU.2.4. BK4 6 SX4 3. OX2. 8 HE6 1. MI.3 7 BD3 2. HE5 5 SK 4. OX3. 4 NK3. 5. SK3. 7 CA2. 2.
In the Devon/Wilts 2 match successes went alternately with the match score proceeding to 4-4. Mike Oxley (Wi) then beat Phil Kelly (Dv) at 19 in 3rd game to give Wilts 2 points for a win. Hants 4th team met Bucks 2nds in another close encounter! Bucks led 4-3 but Hants came back to take the next 2 events for a win. Oxford 2nds had an excellent 8-1 win over Herts 6th team. George Pullen got the one event for Herts. Oxford 2nds lost their unbeaten record to Wilts 2nds who had a 5-4 win. Wilts 2nds led 5-2 and Oxford won the last two events. There was another 5-4 result when Sussex 4 beat Herts 6. Sussex actually led 5-1 and the Herts team won the final three events. Hants 4th team lost their first match at Kingfisher TTC when they met Berks 4. Berks led the way and went into a 6-1 lead, Hants won the last two events. The No. 1's met and Norman Stag (Ha) beat Dave Wise -18, 15, 21. Bucks were well on top against Devon 3 and went on to win 8-1. Liz Newman (Dv) got the one event with a 12, -14, 18 win over Jan Curtis.

VETS DIV 3D: GS2 4 HR1 5. WO2 6 W13 3. DV4 2 DV2 7. HR2 0 SO2 9. WO2 6 DV4 3. HR1 7 HR2 2. W1 3 SO2 6.
Hereford 1st team, on their visit to Deer Park, Cirencester, had a good 5-4 win over Glos 2nds. Harry Jutle and Neville Meredith each won a singles and combined to win the mens doubles 20 and 16. Newcomers, Worcs 2nds, proceed with another good win (6-3) at the expense of Wilts 3rds. Willie Ahern (WO) won his two singles and Martin Clark and Lynda Reid each contributed a singles win. Devon 4th team met their County's 2nd team. Devon 2nds were in command and won 7-2. Somerset 2nds got a comprehensive 9-0 win over Hereford 2nds. The first event was the closest when Norman Merchant (Hr) lost to Kelvin Lum (SO) 20 and 24. Unbeaten Worcs 2nds continue their winning ways. The latest success was the 6-3 defeat of Devon 4th team. Willie Ahern (WO) was again unbeaten in singles and won the mixed doubles with Helen Pogmore, who also had two good ladies singles successes. The two Hereford teams met. The match score was 2-2 when the 1st team won the next five events for a 7-2 win. Harry Jutle (1st team) won both singles matches and the mens doubles with Neville Meredith. Somerset 2nds visited the Devizes Football Club and got a 6-3 win over Wilts 3rd team. Mike Bridgeman and Wendy Pryce were unbeaten for the Somerset team.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tables include all results received by 23rd January 1997 compiled by Leslie Smith

SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Berkshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Devonshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Kent	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Essex	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Sussex	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Staffordshire	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

DIVISION 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicestershire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Derbyshire	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Suffolk	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Lancashire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cleveland	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

DIVISION 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Buckingham	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Sussex 2nd	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Essex 2nd	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Hampshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Devonshire 2nd	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Surrey	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Middlesex 2nd	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Cornwall	2	0	1	1	7	13	1

DIVISION 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottinghamshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Leicester 2nd	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Stafford 2nd	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Lancashire 2nd	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Clwyd	4	1	1	2	13	27	3
Cheshire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Cumbria	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Stafford 3rd	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

DIVISION 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester 1st	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Hampshire 2nd	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Worcester 2nd	5	4	0	1	28	22	8
Devonshire 3rd	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Avon	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Somerset	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Cornwall 2nd	6	1	2	3	26	34	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Devonshire 4th	7	1	0	6	16	54	2

DIVISION 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kent 3rd	5	5	0	0	44	6	10
Lincolnshire	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Warwick 1st	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Northants	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Bedfordshire	6	1	2	3	26	34	4
Norfolk	6	1	2	3	21	39	4
Huntingdonshire	6	2	0	4	20	40	4
Suffolk 2nd	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Warwick 2nd	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

DIVISION 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire 2nd	6	4	1	1	34	26	9
Surrey 2nd	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Wiltshire 1st	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Hertford 2nd	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Essex 3rd	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Sussex 3rd	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Kent 2nd	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Wiltshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

NOTE: Hertfordshire 3rd have withdrawn, their record has been deleted.

JUNIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Sussex	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Kent	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Devonshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

DIVISION 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suffolk	7	5	0	2	37	33	10
Clwyd	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Yorkshire 2nd	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Cheshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Lancashire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Nottingham	7	1	2	4	30	40	4
Hertfordshire	7	1	0	6	20	50	2
Essex	7	0	1	6	23	47	1

DIVISION 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan 1st	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Hampshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Surrey 2nd	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Kent 2nd	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Glamorgan 2nd	6	1	1	4	19	41	3
Buckingham	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Avon	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

DIVISION 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincolnshire	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Warwick 2nd	6	4	1	1	43	17	9
Cleveland	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Lancashire 2nd	6	3	2	1	36	24	8
Leicestershire	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Durham	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Nottingham 2nd	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Northants 1st	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Northants 2nd	6	0	0	6	16	44	0
Northumberland	6	0	0	6	6	54	0

DIVISION 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huntingdon 1st	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
Suffolk 2nd	6	5	1	0	49	11	11
Norfolk 1st	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Norfolk 2nd	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Essex 3rd	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Bedfordshire	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Cambridgeshire	6	2	0	4	25	35	5
Hertford 2nd	6	1	1	4	21	39	3
Huntingdon 2nd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Norfolk 3rd	6	0	1	5	14	46	1

DIVISION 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcestershire	7	6	1	0	60	10	13
Gloucestershire	7	5	2	0	46	24	12
Cornwall	9	5	1	3	43	47	11
Dorset	6	3	2	1	40	20	8
Glamorgan 3rd	7	3	1	3	42	28	7
Somerset	8	3	1	4	33	47	7
Wiltshire	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Glamorgan 4th	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Devonshire 2nd	9	1	0	8	18	72	2
Herefordshire	6	0	1	5	17	43	1

DIVISION 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire 1st	6	5	1	0	43	17	11
Buckingham 2nd	7	4	3	0	40	30	11
Kent 3rd	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
Surrey 3rd	6	2	3	1	32	28	7
Essex 2nd	8	2	3	3	41	39	7
Sussex 2nd	7	2	2	3	37	33	6
Oxfordshire	6	2	2	2	30	30	6
Berkshire 2nd	6	1	2	3	20	40	4
Hampshire 2nd	4	0	3	1	18	22	3
Sussex 3rd	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	23	4	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	20	7	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	17	10	4
Dorset	3	2	1	16	11	4
Kent	3	1	2	11	16	2
Surrey	3	1	2	10	17	2
Sussex	3	0	3	7	20	0
Leicestershire	3	0	3	4	23	0

DIVISION 1A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 1st	7	6	1	45	18	12
Lincolnshire	7	6	1	44	19	12
Norfolk	7	6	1	42	21	12
Hertford 1st	7	3	4	36	27	6
Cheshire 2nd	7	3	4	23	40	6
Essex 2nd	7	2	5	24	39	4
Warwickshire	7	2	5	20	43	4
Hertford 2nd	7	0	7	18	45	0

DIVISION 1B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Avon	5	5	0	30	15	10
Devonshire	5	4	1	28	17	8
Hampshire	5	3	2	25	20	6
Kent 2nd	5	3	2	24	21	6
Berkshire	5	2	3	24	21	4
Buckingham	5	1	4	18	27	2
Worcestershire	5	1	4	17	28	2
Surrey 2nd	5	1	4	14	31	2

DIVISION 2A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire 2nd	5	5	0	33	12	10
Lancashire 2nd	5	4	1	30	15	8
Northants	5	3	2	22	23	6
Warwick 2nd	5	3	2	21	24	6
Northumberland	5	2	3	24	21	4
Warwick 3rd	5	2	3	15	30	2
Nottinghamshire	5	1	4	15	30	2
Staffordshire	5	0	5	20	25	0

DIVISION 2C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex 1st	6	6	0	43	11</	

BRITISH BLIND SPORTS 21 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CRYSTAL LEISURE CENTRE SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER '96

"To celebrate its 21st Anniversary, the British Blind Sports wished to resurrect their National Table Tennis Championships. Through our Regional Chairman (Malcolm Macfarlane), umpires were requested to help with this event and you can imagine my amazement when a message was left on my answerphone to this effect. How on earth can anyone play 'our' sport when they are sight impaired? Well, I was to get quite a shock when I arrived at the Crystal Leisure Centre (a well known venue of the ETTA, many of our premier events being held there). We are grateful to Dave Roden, our contact, who was able to support the event by securing umpires, and I (also a County umpire) said I would turn up for good measure.

When I arrived (a little early) I was met by white haired 'Snowy' - try pronouncing his name and you will see why, along with his white hair, he is called this! He's a wonderful person and everyone is grateful to him for his organising of this event. Snowy helps with other events too but was not able to say no when asked 'could you organise the table tennis championships for the BBS's 21 years' anniversary celebrations? On the day in question I literally bumped into Snowy when making my way to the Sports Hall. He greeted me and gave me the low down on what was happening - or going to happen! Radio 4 was there and as I was the first of the umpires to arrive I was given the honour of umpiring a match between Dave Lepoidevin (Snowy) and Tony Shearman from Radio 4 (both of whom are also partially sighted). This match was to be broadcast along with an interview on the 'In Touch' programme on Tuesday!!!! What on earth had I done wrong apart from turning up early!! Never before had I ever spoken in public, let alone on the radio! People who know me can imagine my disbelief and reservations as to whether I could do it at all! Pit you will have missed it by the time you read this! They came from all over the country - Leeds, Wakefield, Gloucestershire, Coventry and Wimbledon.

The action began at 1.25 pm and the first round was played in closely fought groups followed by the usual knock-out competition.

The semi-finals were between Chris Panter (Dursley in Gloucestershire) and Bal Khaira (Coventry), and Daniel Kirkland (Wimbledon) and Dave Anker (Leeds). Daniel (winner of his group) beat Dave (runner up in his group) in two straight games. I had the honour of umpiring the other semi which had a far closer result. Chris, who had won his group, took charge early on, winning the first at deuce. Bal (runner up in his group) then seemed to step up a pace to take the challenge, winning the 2nd end at 19 and completing the third at 17. The final - Bal Khaira and Daniel Kirkland - Daniel had beaten Bal, two straight in the groups, so on paper this should have been a rather quickly decided final. No way, Bal was not out of it yet. Again Bal found himself behind, but the challenge was there - he took the first game at deuce. It seemed to be all over when he kept up this pace to win the second at 10. Daniel was not going to be beaten - this was the best of 5 ends, he had won in the earlier round, and a closely fought third at 19 kept him in the match. The fourth game had us on the edge of our seats as hard fought rallies were won or lost by a smash. No pit patting about for these two. This was the final of the Nationals. Who won? Bal Khaira from Coventry, 22-20, 21-10, 19-21, 21-17 - he played magnificently against very good opposition. An excellent final and one which would do justice to most finals staged under the ETTA banner.

Trophies were presented to the winners and a Butterfly table tennis shirt was presented to the lady player, Deborah Downton (also from Coventry).

Thanks were extended to the Umpires and Dave Lepoidevin, and then everyone was on their way to places near and wide after promising to return for this hopefully annual event, which if Snowy has anything to do with it, it certainly will be. Any person who is registered Blind or Partially

Sighted who wishes to take part next year should please contact Dave Lepoidevin (Tel. 0117 9871527); your support will help to keep this event on the BBS's annual calendar.

Players from this event have been put into contact with local table tennis clubs - they are all very well prepared for league level and should be given every support to continue their interest in the sport at least at

that level. The standard was high and competitive, along with the usual enthusiasm and enjoyment. I do hope that if any of our members are contacted to help with special events such as this, they will willingly take part. Everyone should be involved in the development of our sport whether able bodied or disabled, young or old. Good Luck Snowy and the BBS."

WREXHAM OPEN

Over 60 competitors from 5 countries participated in the 1996 Wrexham Open Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled. Six players from Denmark, including Brian Neilson the Barcelona Olympic class 6 gold medallist, travelled to Wrexham and competed against some of the best players from England, Wales, N. Ireland and Ulster. The no.2 seed, Tim Heaps, had to withdraw from the tournament due to him having received notification that he had been included into the British squad for the Atlanta Paralympics. Instead, he had to travel to Stoke Mandeville for the final briefing of the British squad.

Barry Croke from Preston took the double winning both the open and the class 9/10 singles. Barry beat Tom Donnelly from N. Ireland in the final of the open standing singles. In the class 9/10 singles, Barry lost to P. Taylor in the group to finish second in the group but proceeded to the final via the other half of the draw. The match was again closely contested in three games but this time it was Barry who emerged the victor.

Lone Rasmussen from Denmark also did the double, beating Cathy

Mitton from Yorkshire in both the ladies wheelchair Open and the Class 1/3 Singles. Brian Neilson as expected took the mens class 6/7 singles but his match against Barry Croke in the quarter-final of the open singles produced table tennis of a very high standard. The result was in doubt up to the final point, with Barry narrowly winning 22-20 in the third.

Scott Robertson had a great victory over Eric Neilson from Denmark in the Open Wheelchair Singles final. The youngster from Shotton showing great maturity to win 19 in the third despite a determined effort by the experienced Danish player. Elaine Marshall from Gloucester met Judith Smith in the Ladies standing Open. Her record against Judith is not good with only one win on the last 5 occasions. In the class singles, it looked as if she would beat Judith but Judith fought back to take the third game 19 and yet again deny Elaine victory. Elaine continued to play well in the final of the Open Singles against Judith but this time did not allow her any opportunity to come back and took the match 2 straight.

WREXHAM RESULTS

Mens Standing Open	B Croke b T Donnelly 12, 13
Mens Wheelchair Open	S Robertson b E Neilson 15, -19, 19
Ladies Standing Open	E Marshall b J Smith 16, 15
Ladies Wheelchair Open	L Rasmussen b C Mitton 16, 15

Mens Class 9/10	B Croke b P Taylor -17, 11, 16
Mens Class 8	T Donnelly b P McEvoy 5, 11
Mens Class 6/7	B Neilson b C Motensen 15, 19
Mens Class 4/5	E Neilson b S Robertson 18, 14
Mens Class 1/3	T Olsen b J Navenby 20, 21
Ladies Class 6/10	J Smith b E Marshall 17, -13, 19
Ladies Class 4/5	S Gilroy b F Parkes 4, 5
Ladies Class 1/3	L Rasmussen b C Mitton 12, 18

IS YOUR SERVICE LEGAL?

The answer should be Yes! Indeed the quality of serving has improved greatly over the past few years especially with regard to junior players, and credit for this must be given to the coaches. Why is it then that umpires still warn and then fault service? Why is it that players are upset and even angry when this happens? Probably because they believe that the service is correct and the umpire is wrong. But Believing the service is correct doesn't always mean that it is.

Most players know the service requirements and believe that they are complying; some players may not know all of the service requirements and fail to comply; some players have served in the same way for many years and find it difficult to change when the rules change; and some players say that they have always served that way and have never been faulted. Very few players, if any, deliberately serve illegally to cheat.

What are the requirements of a good service? According to the current ITTF Book of Rules, service begins from the last moment at which the ball is stationary before being projected upwards. But before service begins the ball shall be stationary, resting freely on the flat, open palm (not fingers) of the server's free hand. The ball shall also be behind the end line (or extension thereof) and above the level of the playing surface. When service begins the server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cms after leaving the palm of the free hand. It shall then fall without touching anything before being struck. The ball and the racket shall be above the level of the playing surface from the last moment at which the ball is stationary before being projected until it is struck. When the ball is struck it shall be behind the server's end line but not farther back than the part of the server's body, other than his arm, head or leg, which is farthest from his end line.

Many players and officials believe that the service

requirements have become too complicated and would like them simplified, but this is difficult and until it happens players and officials have to live with it and both have to ensure that the present requirements are fulfilled. To ease matters umpires are encouraged to bear in mind the purpose of the various requirements and to try to ensure that they are applied in a way which meets their objectives.

Do you fulfil all of the service requirements? The ball should be on the palm of the hand (not the fingers). The ball should be above the level of the playing surface. The ball should be behind the end line (or extension thereof). The ball should be thrown up near vertical. The ball should be thrown up at least 16cms (approximate height of net). The ball should be struck as it falls. The ball should not be struck behind the server's body. The bat should be above the table from the beginning of service until the ball is struck.

There are a few other rules regarding service of which many players are not aware. It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire can see that the service is good; if the umpire can't see that the service is good he could call fault. If the umpire is doubtful of the legality of the service, on the first occasion he may (but doesn't have to) warn the player. The player may only receive one warning in a match. Whenever the service is clearly illegal no warning shall be given. Such a lot for a player to think about and do, just to put the ball into play, but even more for an umpire to look for in that brief instant before he has to decide whether or not the ball touched the net during service.

News from the N.U.R.C. about the new Tournament Umpire qualification for County Umpires who wish to become active on the tournament circuit. Those currently active on the circuit are invited to apply by 31 January 1997 for upgrading without examination. After that, qualification will be only by successful completion of a written test. Candidates would normally be expected to have at least 1 year's experience as a County Umpire and to have officiated at 6 or more open tournaments of at least 2 star status. Applications to Colin Clemett, Secretary NURC, 7 Brookmead Way, Havant, Hants. PO9 1RT

Hope your season gets better after Christmas!

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OXFORDSHIRE NOTES

NICOLA STILL UNBEATEN

Nicola Pavitt is still unbeaten in the junior county matches. The latest results being, Sussex 2nd 4 Oxon 6. Sussex 3rd 5 Oxon 5. In the first one Nicola Pavitt and David Symcox both won 2 singles with Ellis Bicknell & Benjit Dhesi winning 1 each.

In the second match Ellis Bicknell and Nicola Pavitt both won 2 singles with David Symcox winning 1 singles.

VETS RESULTS. OXON 1st TEAM KEEP WINNING

Oxon 1st team recorded their fourth win beating Sussex 3rd 7-2. Karl Bushell and Nat Richardson both winning 2 singles each and teaming up to win the mens doubles, Eddie Herrity won 1 singles and the mixed doubles with Janet Brown.

Oxon 2nd team lost 4-5 to Wiltshire 2nd. There were many close games, Alf Davies, David Harse and George Pullin all won 1 singles with Alf Davies teaming up with George Pullin to win the mens doubles. Oxon 3rd team lost 4-5 to Norfolk 3rd in a close match the result being decided in the last rubber.

Ann Borrowdale had a good singles win and also

County Notes

County Notes is for the publicity of county activities. The accuracy of what is published is the responsibility of the county associations as the editor cannot possibly know the 'facts' may be incorrect. Copy containing libellous or personally abusive matter or 'political' comment will not be published.

won the mixed doubles with Chris Lansley. Tony Wheeler and Chris Lansley also had a good singles win each.

VETS CITY RESULTS

In the Midland League Oxford beat Coventry (B) 6-4. At one stage they were 1-4 down but fought well to win.

Tony Wheeler, Ian Arnold and Nigel Taylor all recorded 2 good wins each.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

Rea Balmford

With only one series of matches completed in the Mens, Ladies and Junior Divisions of the Yorkshire League, all of which are played on a 'central venue' basis, interest focuses on the three Veteran Divisions.

Holdes Bradford lead Division 1 with a 100% record, Leeds II and

Halifax are both unbeaten in Division 2, where the title could well depend on the final match of the campaign when the two sides meet, while the fourth team to boast a clean sheet, Dewsbury, lead the way in Division 3.

News has filtered through from the Bradford Closed Championships where rising Leeds man Richard Potter, who has made a Division 2 North British League place his own this season, took the Mens Singles title with a final win over Keith Bell.

Other major titles went to Helen Shields (Ladies), Alan Jones (Veteran) and Keith Bell (Handicap).

Information to hand this month from Scarborough and Wakefield, as well as from my own Association in Hull where, I am pleased to note, the new Table Tennis Centre, based at the Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre and managed jointly by the Hull Association and the Y.P.I. club, is already

proving popular.

No less than 23 teams operate from the Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and reaction has generally been favourable, although some visiting sides do find difficulty in adapting to 'tournament conditions', but the admittedly noisier, but certainly very much busier nature of the Centre adds an 'atmosphere' which was not there in the 'church hall' or 'works canteen' venues of days gone by.

Two of the 'Centre based' teams, Lynx - made up of players from the Lincolnshire side of the Humber - Grimsby, Louth and Lincoln itself - and Normans, an amalgam of players from 95/6 winners Wold Lions and 94/5 champions Normans, are battling it out at the top of the Premier Division with East Mount Anzacs, who include England No. 5 junior Peter Marshall in their ranks, in a race which could well not be won until the final week of the season

And the recent clash of Normans and Lynx, won 6-4 by the former, saw that 'atmosphere' really in evidence - it could be compared with a Hull F.C. - Hull K.R. rugby derby decided by a last minute try.

Up the coast at Scarborough the emphasis was again on the young player, with t.t. well represented in the awards presented annually by the Scarborough & District Sports Council.

The two winners in the Primary category were, on the girls side, Sophie Clayton, who claimed her award as a specialist player in our sport, while the counterpart boys' award went to Jamie Ramm, who excels in a number of sports, including t.t.

A tie in a Handicap Singles match is rare, but two on the same evening at the same venue is something different - possibly an indication of exceptional talents by the handicapper. But this is what happened when Throxenby Trinity and Leggs XI each scored 396 points, while Throxenby E and Ravens shared 912 points, with both Throxenby sides going through on a countback of games.

With the League coming up to the halfway stage, unbeaten Muston already look favourites for the Division 1 title, with Throxenby A in second place and, fielding sides challenging in Division 2, 3 and 5, Scarborough's biggest club look to be heading for another good season.

At Wakefield, too, the accent is on the youngsters, with Kettlethorpe High School's Under 13 Girls to be congratulated on qualifying to represent West Yorkshire in the E.S. T.T.A's Girls Under 13 Team Championships - a tight decision over Clayton Middle School, Bradford, with whom the Wakefield girls had shared a 5-5

draw. With 'games difference' equal at 9-9, the decision had to be made on points, the Wakefield side coming out on top by 24 points.

Zoe Cheesman was undefeated in six games, with sister Katie, Kathryn Slater and Vicky McCartney each winning four.

Bradford, however, had their revenge in the parallel Boys event, where Bradford Grammer School ran out 7-1 winners over Kettlethorpe in the final.

Teams from the prestigious Eastmoor club dominate the Clarks Brewery League with Eastmoor E, led by Mark Heptonstall, undefeated in three matches, topping the table, while Mark Land, ever present for Eastmoor B in their five outings heads the averages with 100%.

NORTHANTS NOTES

Dennis Millman

Kettering's celebratory Golden Jubilee Closed Tournament had more than its fair share of entertainment, highlighted by feats of endurance on the parts of players and officials alike.

However at the end of a day of unfinished business, it yet again ended in an Ian Hawes-Jane Johnston spectacular. Hawes quietly and efficiently set about the task of retaining his men's singles crown and his fourth successive title

eventually came at the expense of an uneasy Ryan Keates, who had despatched third seed Richard Elliott at the semi-final stage.

Hawes semi-final victim had been the determined Gordon Shaw, who took the lead on several occasions, only to be overhauled by the stylish attacking play of a genuine champion.

Hawes was also on target in the 30-39 years even in which he gained a 23-21, 21-18 verdict over the in form Steve Silk, while in the mixed doubles Hawes and Johnston made it three wins out of four, when they were convincing winners over the continental pairing of Heiko Krahn and Tanya Svetlova. But Hawes attempt to take a fifth men's doubles title was put on hold, after he and Steve West had reached the final only to be thwarted by the premature curtailment of play.

Mrs Johnston had no such anxieties, for in a round robin featuring remaining group winners Helen Watts and Viv Smiley, she came out on top to take the women's title for the third time in succession and the fifth in all.

She then turned her attention to an eighth doubles title, and her fourth with Cathy Fleming - targets achieved after a close call against Ruth Hoddle and Gabrielle Evans. However, her fourth event final foundered on Tring's

redoubtable Ron Bridges, who made sure of the First Division Handicap.

Appropriately enough on this significant occasion it was the innovative 'Hard Bat' singles that attracted most attention, for in these days of unremitting technology, few players persist with the kind of bat that the late Joe Collinson used to win the first title fifty years ago.

Nevertheless it soon became apparent that the best players rely more on skill than equipment and Hawes, Keates, Elliott and Steve West were soon making progress through the early rounds. Best game of the day was that between Hawes and regular hard bat specialist Allun Thomas, the classic attack against defence syndrome, and after a tremendous encounter, much appreciated by the spectators Thomas eased through in a game of three seventeens.

At the same stage Alan Ashberry got the better of Elliott and suddenly the traditional hard bat players were in the ascendancy, and after Thomas and Ashberry had eliminated Dennis Millman and Keigh McLaren at the semi-final stage, they were left to fight out a delayed final.

Ashberry had an excellent day, for in the veterans singles he ended Shaw's sequence of three victories to take his first singles crown, after going to expedite midway through the first end. Ashberry then teamed up

with Gerald Finney to take the corresponding doubles for the fourth time.

Finney also took the over 50 doubles in partnership with Geoff Atkinson, but was unable to complete a singles win at his first attempt when he went down to a superb performance from an injury stricken John Palmer.

Andy Thomas was another player to maintain his winning ways, taking the junior singles for a record fourth time, becoming the 22nd winner of the consolation singles in its 23rd year of competition and beating his former junior rival Daniel Vertigan in the final of the Under 23 singles. Finally he just missed out on the Premier Handicap to Steve Silk.

Other winners included Ivor Jones, Stewart Abraham, Greg Whiteman, Gabrielle Evans, Kenny Clarke, Michael Clarke and Mark Thompson, and while they can look forward to future triumphs, Tournament Organiser Phil Slade can look back on yet another successful day, and a job well done.

SUSSEX NOTES

John Woodford

OVERPOWERED

Scott Greenbrook, 24, again fought a brave rear guard action to retain the all Mens Singles crown at Hove's Newman School. Greenbrook, seeded no. 2 was not expected to

overpower his Crawley team-mate Sussex no.1 Ritchie Venner. Venner, 31 is no. 25 on the England ranking last, eleven places above Scott on no. 36.

Greenbrook's age advantage of seven years proved to be crucial. He managed to absorb the sting of the vicious Venner's services and followed up with overpowering drives to win 20-22, 21-19, 21-16.

Greenbrook, said after his victory service "in practice against Ritchie, I only win about one game in ten, but having lots of practice against him I have a game-plan that has now succeeded in two Sussex Finals".

Rose Rainton, 24 the Eastbourne and Hastings Champion from Bexhill lifted the Womens Singles title for the first time - 21-16, 21-23, 21-12 against the Hastings and England no. 17 veteran Sheila King.

The Womens event was marred by the absence of two top seeds - Brighton Champion Joanna Bush-Harris and Sally Weston (Hastings) - both 'flu victims'.

Miss Rainton piled on crunching top spin in the final to win the first game 21-16. King bounced back with her own brand of angled counter hits that won most of her games - she won the second game 23-21, but Rainton

bounced back by re-applying the top spin in the final game.

After winning all three titles the Mixed Doubles with John Davies (Eastbourne) and the Womens Doubles with Sheila King the Sussex selectors will surely be reconsidering their decision last November to leave Miss Rainton out of the Sussex County Championships first team.

The hard hitting Brighton Men Peter Bartram and Paul Elphick knocked out a batch of contenders to reach the last 8.

Bartram's bid was halted but only 21-19, 23-21 by Crawley's Mayur Majithiam, whilst Elphick's superb run was

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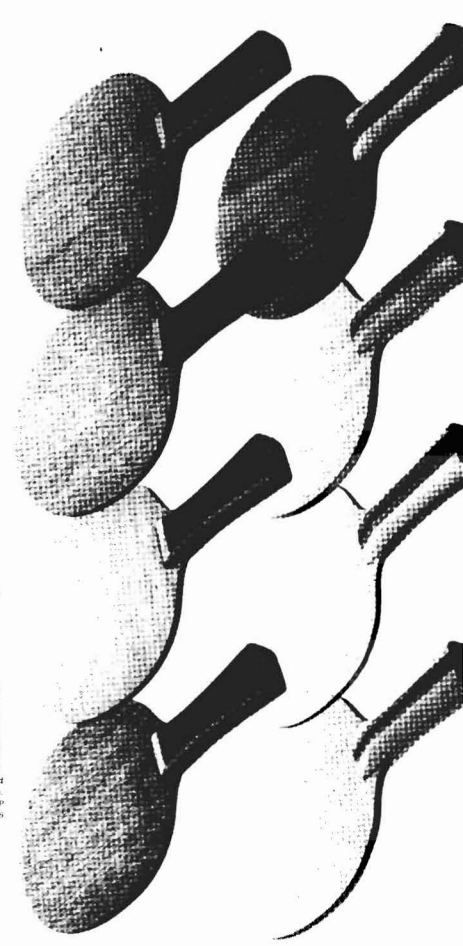
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ended 21-16 in the third game by Greenbrook.

Elphick's consolation came in the Mens Doubles final when with Greenbrook they defeated Venner and Majithiam 21-17, 15-21, 21-9.

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

SEASONAL GREETINGS

Happy New Year! My previous belated start to the season did include Happy Christmas but that script disappeared with the rest of the edition.

I will start with a shortened ranking list.

Senior Men

Senior Women

1. Mark Werner
2. Micki Sinanin
3. Graham Pointer
4. Ramesh Bhalla
5. Mark Butler
6. Christos Hannides
1. Fei ming Tong
2. Anja Heijnan
3. Sarah McMullen
4. Lorna Dutch
5. Barbara Savage
6. Gill Larking

Veteran Men

1. Chris Wilshere
2. Chris Shetler
3. Graham Outrim
4. Maurice Shave
5. Bob Cox
6. Charlie Childs

Veteran Women

1. Gill Larking
2. Norma Millward
3. Sandra Simpson
4. Mary Barron
5. Anne Longland
6. Theresa Watson

Junior Boys

1. Danny Burns
2. Chris Butt
3. Stephen Wilshere
4. James Wright
5. Richard Cooper
6. Alister Turner

Junior Girls

1. Carly Scadden
2. Lucy Pointer
3. Donna Granville
4. Anna Maskell
5. Sarah Fan
6. Emma Dobson

Mark Werner duly justified his No. 1 ranking when he retained his Hampshire senior title as the championships were played in Southampton during November; 7 times winner Graham Toole, now living out of the county, was runner up and beaten semi-finalists were Graham Pointer and Rod McMullan. Newly married Sarah McMullen (nee Turner) defeated Sandra Simpson for the ladies title, Richard Varga won the intermediate (under 23) event and Chris Shetler and Gill Larking the veteran titles.

As I write the junior "A" team are unbeaten from 4 matches and the senior "B" from 3, comfortably the best performances from our 8 county teams. The juniors have played as ranked with James Wright replacing Stephen Wilshere in the last match when it was a brace from Carly Scadden who won the day. Only two sets were lost when the Senior "B"s squad of Mark Butler, Christos Hannides, Tony Reynolds, Barbara

Savage, Rod & Sarah McMullen entertained Devon 3 & 4 and Cornwall 2. at Southampton. The Senior "A" team had mixed fortunes when they also hosted a round robin event at the same venue but here Dutch girl Anja Heijnan, now resident in Bournemouth, excelled with an outstanding 6 from 6 return.

It was disappointing to see only 2 Hampshire juniors at the Nationals in Stratford on Avon; they didn't set the houses on fire but full marks for effort to Pompey Cadets Nick Anderson who finished second in his group and James Monk who finished third. Chris Butt has come through two rounds of regional trials

and now faces the long trek to Kings Lynn for the National event in April.

Congratulations to Mick Strode who has been selected as one of the assistant referees at the "Worlds" and to Basingstoke's Mick Reynolds whose tour around the country, often at short notice, has been rewarded with his national umpire badge.

Finally, a note for the future; Southampton Football Club have now been given the go ahead to build a new community stadium to the North of the city with Table Tennis named within the "brief" as one of only a few "other" sports - Watch This Space.

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OBITUARIES

GEOFF JAMES - UMPIRE PAR EXCELLENCE 1923 - 1996

There are many people more qualified than myself to write a tribute to Geoff James, especially as I was only a player and he one of various officials without whom Table Tennis would never have succeeded. But I had known Geoff for a long time and to me no tournament would have been complete without him. This tall, dark, good-looking young man personified all that was best in umpiring - clear voiced, courteous, well-mannered and fair. And the top names of my era, such as Barna, Bergmann, Leach, Vera Dace-Thomas, the Rowe Twins, etc. put their faith in his ability.

Perhaps the following anecdote (which may have prompted him to become an umpire) aptly illustrated his character. Taken by his father to see the finals of the World Championships in 1938, he was watching the Ladies Doubles Final which was being umpired by another respected name in Table Tennis, to wit, George White. At 21 all there was a disputed point, culminating in the spectators'

annoyance at George's verdict and boos from the crowd. Actually Geoff felt like booing too, but desisted. Yet for a long time after he too had become an umpire he kept this to himself and it wasn't until 20 years later that he told George how he had felt!

Apart from his umpiring, Geoff held numerous top positions in Table Tennis, many of them in both the Central and Middlesex Leagues. Our favourite game was his first passion. His second love was Opera. This hobby frequently took him to the Continent but even then he seized the opportunity to visit foreign Table Tennis players whenever he could. He made his final trip to the Opera last November when he was attending the Wexford Festival in Southern Ireland. It was here that he suffered a heart attack from which he died.

To me, his complete dedication to Table Tennis was an example to us all.

Pinkie Barnes
(Mrs Sam Kydd)

BARBARA ANDREWS
(Nee Millbank)
6.1.97

Barbara was well known to many table tennis players. She was coached by the late Jack Carrington and played for England alongside the Rowe Twins and Anne Hayden.

Barbara had represented the Hertfordshire County on many occasions as a senior and veteran player until retirement from the game with emphysema from which she suffered for many years.

She was the Minute Secretary for the Watford League until last year (1994) and was made a Vice President.

Barbara had been living in a nursing home for the past 2 years and after 2 short spells in hospital sadly passed away.

She will be sorely missed by friends and players who knew her. The cremation took place on January 17th at Garston Crematorium. Attended by 50 players, ex players and friends.

Doug Tomsett
President HTTA

ABBOTTS & THOMPSON

STARS OF SURREY 3 STAR

Robert Abbotts and Hannah Thompson were the stars of the Surrey Junior 3 Star tournament held at Monks Hill Sports Centre, Croydon in November, by winning their respective Junior Singles titles, whilst Chris Jamieson and Louise Durrant won the Cadet Singles crowns. Writes Tony Laws.

In the semi-finals, the top half paired no. 1 seed Robert Abbotts from Sussex and 4th seed Danny Burns from the Isle of White. The former won although not as convincingly to start with as he would have liked, the score line being, 23-21, 21-14. Two home players contested the 2nd semi-final, 2nd seed Michael Chan eventually beat 3rd seed Adam Laws although again the first game was the key with Michael Chan managing to come through with 26-24, 19-21, 21-15.

The final was an extraordinary match of swings of fortune. Initially, Robert Abbotts appeared too strong for Michael Chan, but then Michael Chan gave a remarkably composed performance in the second leg to take it comfortably. The final game swung back with Robert Abbotts taking the title 21-8, 13-21, 21-12.

In the Junior Girls event, Hannah Thompson was the star. The Wiltshire 'chopper', was seeded 6th and her 'game' of discipline and applied contrition paid off delightfully on the day. She lulled her opponents into following her 'easy' rallies whence they would either tend to make the first mistake or be picked off by her timely smash. She first beat Trudie Bloor, 1st seed 21-12 in the third game, and then the third seed Sharon Gillett at 21-13 in the third game. Hannah Thompson's best was saved till last as she went on to beat 2nd seed Hannah Yardy in the final, with the very convincing score-line: 21-5, 21-7!

The Cadet events produced no particular shocks, and it was 3rd seed Tim Yardy that Cadet Boys

champion no. 1 seed Chris Jamieson beat in the final, the scores at 21-16, 21-15.

The Cadet girls no. 1 seed from India, Aparna Narendran was beaten by Worcesters no. 4 seed Kate Hughes 21-19, 21-16 in the semi-final, who, in turn lost to 3rd seed Louise Durrant in the final 21-14, 21-10.

The U12 boys singles went as expected, in the top half, Robert Wilson of Bucks met Jonathan Davidson of Berkshire. The former winning easily 21-11, 21-8. In the bottom half, 2nd seed Dominic Hall disposed of unseeded Warren Broody of Bucks with similar ease. The final between no. 2 seed Dominic Hall and no. 1 seed Robert Wilson was a humdinger with Dominic Hall putting up a terrific fight, before losing the first leg 28-26. Hall took the 2nd 21-16, before Robert Wilson managed to pull it off in the decider, winning it 21-15.

In the U12 girls event, 3rd seed Lucy Pointer of IoW beat top seed Hannah Cooke of Essex, 21-14 in the 3rd and then went on to meet Gemma Chapman of Berks in the final with Lucy Pointer taking the title, 21-15, 21-13.

RESULTS

Junior Boys singles
Robert Abbotts (Sx) bt Michael Chan (Sy) 21-8, 13-21, 21-12

Junior Girls singles
Hannah Thompson (Wi) bt Hannah Yardy (E) 21-5, 21-7

Junior Boys consolation
Dhiren Patel (Sy) bt Robert Belli (Mi) 18-21, 21-18, 21-18

Junior Girls consolation
Louise Durrant (Dy) bt Natalie Bawden (E) 21-8, 19-21, 21-16

Cadet Boys singles
Chris Jamieson (E) bt Tim Yardy (E) 21-16, 21-15

Cadet Girls singles
Louise Durrant (Dy) bt Kate Hughes (Wo) 21-14, 21-10

Cadet Boys consolation
Edward Qualtrough (Sy) bt Sean Singer (Ha) 14-21, 21-17, 21-19

Cadet Girls consolation
Daniella Hill (Mi) bt Johanna Lambert (Sy) 21-12, 21-19

Under 12 Boys singles
Robert Wilson (Bu) bt Dominic Hall (K) 28-26, 16-21, 21-15

Under 12 Girls singles
Lucy Pointer (Ha) bt Gemma Chapman (Bk) 21-15, 21-13.

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