

TABLE TENNIS

NEWS



ISSUE No. 257
DEC 1998

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RAINTON**

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WINNER OF
THE STAMCO
SUSSEX**

Page 16

**TERRY YOUNG
WINS STAMCO
SUSSEX AND
KINGS LYNN
GRAND PRIX's**

Pages 16 to 19

*CHRISTMAS & NEW
YEAR GREETINGS
To all our readers*



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Contents

TABLE TALK

Kate Goodhall Gets Married

2

FROM THE CHAIR

A New Lottery Programme 'Awards for All'

3

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

Grove Boys & Girls Lead Premier Divisions

10

JOOLA MENS' EUROPEAN LEAGUE

England's Kings Lynn Hungarian Rhapsody

12

STAMCO SUSSEX GRAND PRIX

Sensational win for Rosemary Rainton

16

3rd EASTERN OPEN GRAND PRIX

Young the King of Kings Lynn

18

FACE TO FACE

Brian Halliday interviews Marty Reisman - Part 2

20

THE LONG PIMPLE DEBATE

The case against Combination Bats

22

ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

Top of the Table

32

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KATE GOODHALL GETS MARRIED

THE former England Junior international player, who as been missing from the tournament circuit, recently, has met her perfect match in Stuart Maxwell, a hotel manager from Leeds.

Kate and Stuart (pictured left), were married at the Meanwood Parish Church in Leeds last August.

Table Tennis News wishes Kate and Stuart every success for the future

LOST WATCH

At the recent Stamco Sussex Open Grand Prix, held in Hastings, a watch was left adjacent to one of the tables. To date it has not been claimed.

Anyone who lost a watch at the tournament should contact Ron Spencer, telephone 01424 425540.

COMMERCIAL UNION WORLD WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The Commercial Union World wheelchair games took place in Stoke Mandeville in September.



WOODY'S World

AS 1998 comes to an end we can reflect on a highly successful year for table tennis in England, and we can look forward to an even more exciting year ahead in 1999, with the forthcoming English Open at Potters Leisure Resort and the World Championships.

This edition is arriving a little late on your doorstep. The reason is a change of plan for publishing dates for December issue from 15th November to the first week in December, and the January/February edition now being published during the 15th January, instead of the 15th December.

Greetings of the season.

John Wood

organisers benefited from this decision.

OBITUARY

JOHN DOBELL

MANY players, officials and supporters attended the funeral service at Eastbourne on October 27 to commemorate the life of John Dobell, aged only 60 when he died on October 19.

Although never chosen for Sussex, he was a major force in East Sussex during the sixties mainly representing Eastbourne in inter-town matches. He won the Eastbourne mens singles title twice in 1960 and 1963 and lifted fifteen Eastbourne titles in all. He was an outstanding hard-bat player, never comfortable with the modern bat surfaces.

He was one of the best snooker players in Eastbourne. And won many prizes at national level for exhibiting chrysanthemums.

He was most proud however, of his unofficial title - King of the Bass Fisherman off the Sussex Coast. He fished from a boat frequently between Hastings and Chichester and won most, if not all the prizes for catching more bass than anyone else.

He leaves his wife Olive and daughters Carol and Linda.

His Fairlands Hotel in Eastbourne has often been the venue for meetings of the Sussex County Table Tennis Association.

John Woodford

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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Great Britain entered a fairly strong team, on home ground, in what was primarily a developmental tournament.

The tournament was dominated by Frenchman Emeric Martin who won the men's open and class four events as well as winning the class 3/4 team event with fellow compatriot Pascal Verger.

The GB Tetra team of Jim Munkley and Paul Davies won the Tetra team event, with the Irish team of Robert Kenny and Ronan Rooney second. The Korean team was placed third. Chinese Taipei in the class 5 final beat Brits, Scott Roberston and Mark Palmer.

Jim Munkley beat Rooney of Ireland in the class 2 final, Mark Palmer reached the class 4 final, while Scott Roberston reached the class 5 final only to be beaten by Schurgott of Austria.

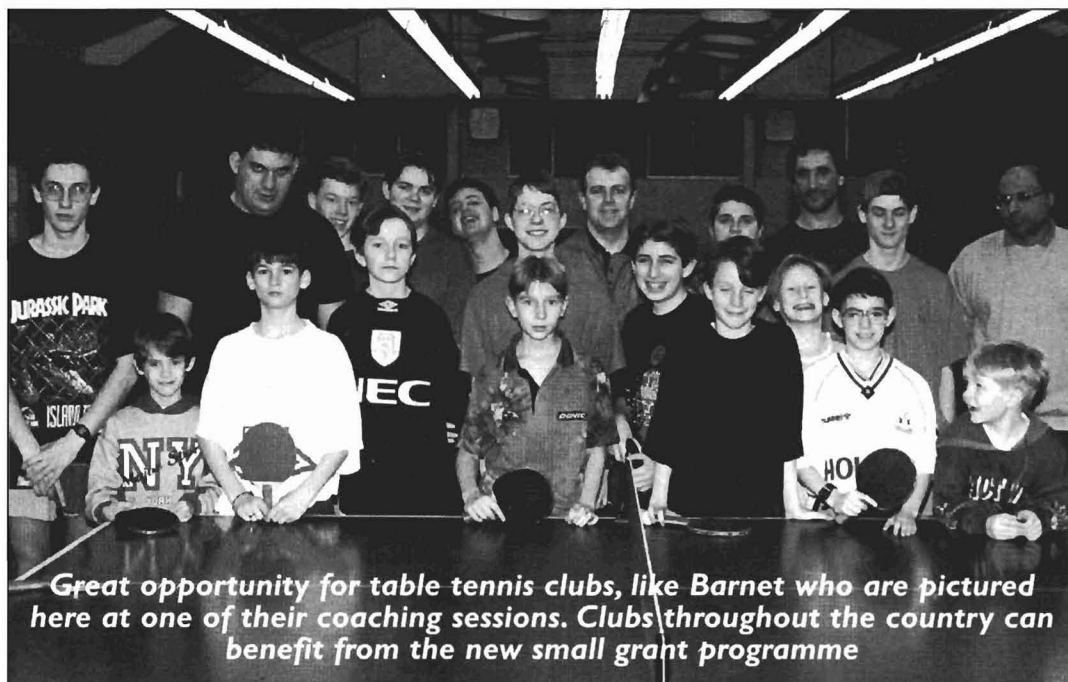
Cathy Mitton was second in the class 3 singles, beaten to first by Kathleen Reynolds of Ireland. Jim and Paul repeated their team event victory in the doubles, clinching the gold against Ireland.

Despite the tournament being developmental, it was given World-ranking status to improve the entrant numbers. This has proved to be a controversial decision, it will be interesting to see if the

A NEW LOTTERY PROGRAMME 'AWARDS FOR ALL'



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the English
Table Tennis Association



Great opportunity for table tennis clubs, like Barnet who are pictured here at one of their coaching sessions. Clubs throughout the country can benefit from the new small grant programme

THE ENGLISH SPORTS COUNCIL have announced a new Lottery programme, 'Awards for All' which will give table tennis clubs throughout the country the opportunity of applying for a maximum of £5,000 to support development programmes to assist with start-up costs for new sports activities aimed specifically at Juniors, Women, older people or ethnic groups. Eligible for inclusion are the buying in of coaching and leadership skills, hire of transport, purchase of start-up equipment and training costs.

The Awards for All programme was announced at the English Sports Council's Regional Conferences entitled 'More People, More Places, More Medals' which have been held at 10 venues throughout England over the months of October and November. In addition to the above, the programme is aimed at providing funding for training costs for

coaches, leaders and administrators, hire of facilities and minor capital adaptations for disabled access. The maximum of a £5,000 award does not need any partner funding in cash and therefore is effectively 100% and it can be for capital programmes or revenue.

Personal equipment and purchasing transport are not eligible.

To be eligible to apply the organisation must have a constitution and a set of accounts. Priority will be given to small voluntary organisations with an income of under £15,000 per annum and schools programmes are eligible. The programme will be launched in the East Midlands region this December and application forms will be available for the rest of the country in June of next year. Application forms will be available from the Sports Council. The Sports Council are promising a decision within 12 weeks and

decisions will be taken at Regional level. Priorities will be given to projects linking schools and clubs although they must be extra curricular, to Sports Reach Programmes which assist existing clubs and extend support to non-sporting organisations.

This Lottery programme will be of benefit to clubs and in particular those affiliated through the ETТА Top Club Programme. In addition I see a very active role for County Associations who will be able to apply for funding to help their members for a series of ETТА training courses covering Table Tennis Development Officers, Coaches, Umpires and Referees and Tournament Organisers.

Further information on this programme will be highlighted at the ETТА Regional Conference entitled 'Opportunities in Table Tennis' which are to be held in 10 regions between November and February. All ETТА Regional

Development Officers have full information regarding this opportunity.

LONG PIMPLES

The ETТА are to campaign for a delay in the implementation of the long pimples legislation that is due to be introduced by the ITTF in July of next year. At it's Council Meeting in Durban in May the ITTF decided to revise the aspect ratio of the pimples from 1.3 to 1.1 so reducing the length of the pimple from 1.8mm to 1.5mm. This will reduce the effect of the long pimples. The view of the National Council is that this introduction should be delayed until after the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000 so as to avoid the situation whereby a player will qualify for the Olympics using one type of equipment and then have to change to another to play in the Games themselves.

The National Council were also of the opinion that the ITTF should undertake work to try to produce a level playing field between defensive and attacking players. The Council questioned whether a 50% majority was sufficient at ITTF Council level to change International Regulations which have such a dramatic effect on the game whilst alterations to the laws of the game which are for all play require 75% at a general meeting. Further investigations are proceeding with respect to this.

ENGLAND MEN EXCEL

England's men have excelled in the First Division of the Joola European League in winning their opening group. England had already beaten Denmark by 4-2. Slovakia by 4-1 in the final match of the group in Kings Lynn and England won by 4 sets to 1 with 2 victories from Carl Prean and a doubles victory for Prean and Alex Perry plus 1 from Matthew Syed. This takes England through to the

semi-final which will be played at Maidenhead on 15 December 1998. England's opponents will be the Czech Republic, who lost to Yugoslavia 1-4. A surprising result, but they didn't have the services of their No.1 player Petr Korbel. Who I'm sure will, if not injured, play out us at Maidenhead

Despite some excellent performances by Andrea Holt and Nicola Deaton, England's women had to be content with third place in their 1st Division Group of the Joola European Women's League. England were defeated by 4-3 by the Czech Republic and 4-1 by Slovakia whose team included Valentina Popova. England beat Poland 4-2.

Andrea Holt won 4 singles and lost 1 whilst Nicola Deaton won 4 and lost 2. England's biggest problem was the doubles where our team were defeated on all 3 occasions.

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

The ETTA are pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Hirst as the Director of Coaching. Peter previously held the position of ETTA National Coach for a period of 15 years in the 70's and early 80's. He emigrated to New Zealand as their Director of Table Tennis Coaching and was then employed as the equivalent of the Director of the New Zealand National Coaching Foundation.

Amongst Peter's early priorities, will be to increase both the quality and quantity of coaching education in this country and re-storing table tennis programmes into the FEFC Sports Education courses.

ENGLISH OPEN

Arrangements for the staging of the 1999 England Open Championships at the Potters Leisure resort in Great Yarmouth are proceeding well. The dates of the Championships 10 - 14 March 1999 give the Championships the opportunity of attracting many of the world's best players as there is no clash with any other international event or the Bundesliga over that particular period.

With a total of US\$60,000 prize money at stake this will be the most attractive event to be held in this country since the 1997 World Championship Top players from over 30 countries are expected. One of the tournament sponsors, Potters Leisure, are offering accommodation

packages for spectators that include the use of leisure facilities and entertainment during the five days of the Championships.

In addition to the English Open a series of other events are being played at Potters including the Women's British League on 29 & 30 January 1999, the Woolwich Junior League on 6 & 7 February 1999, the ETTA East Anglian Grand Prix on 13 & 14 February 1999, the Veterans British League on 20 & 21 February 1999 and then the Open from the 9 - 14 March.

TABLE TENNIS on TV

The ITTF have secured further Pro Tour coverage with Sky TV.

The latest schedules are published below.

I have now received details of the German Bundesliga matches which are to be televised on the German satellite sports channel DSF which can be received by Astra Satellite in this country. DSF is like Eurosport a free channel.

No subscription or card is required. The matches for December and January are also printed below.

All DSF Bundesliga match highlights are scheduled between 5pm and 6pm on Saturday afternoons German time which is between 4pm and 5pm UK time.

A GOOD YEAR

As we move towards the year end we can reflect on a very busy 12 months. The high points of which being the establishment of the National Squad Training Centre in Nottingham which will have a tremendous impact on the standard of our national teams in years to come and the staging of the World Veterans Championships in Manchester. Although this year has been a good one from an ETTA perspective the next two or three years are likely to be the most important. We have in prospect the

opportunity to revitalise play at local level throughout the country with the development programmes that are now in place. How we deliver these programmes will be key to the future prospects and status of table tennis as a sport in the country.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking and members of staff for their contribution to the sport over the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

"OPPORTUNITIES TABLE TENNIS"

DATE	REGION	VENUE
Saturday 12th December	Northern (Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland)	University of Durham (Caedman Hall, Durham)
Sunday 13th December	West Midlands (Herefordshire, Salop, Staffs, Warks, Worcs)	Hayden Hill L.C. (Sandwell, W.Midlands)
Sunday 9th January	Southern (Berks, Bucks, Hants, Isle of Wight)	Cippenham TTC (Westgate School, Slough)
Sunday 10th January	South West (Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucs, Somerset,Wilts)	Arossa Hotel (Weston-super-Mare, Somerset)
Saturday 31st January	London (33 London Boroughs)	Britannia Conference Centre, (Kings Cross)
Sunday 21st February	Yorkshire (Yorkshire, South Yorkshire)	To be confirmed
Sunday 28th February	North West (Cheshire, Lancashire)	Autoquest Stadium (Halton, Cheshire)

TABLE TENNIS on TV

ITTF PRO TOUR COVERAGE WITH SKY TV

Event	Transmission Date	Time	Channel
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	7 December 1998	01.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	7 December 1998	23.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	8 December 1998	12.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Yugoslav Open (Belgrade)	8 December 1998	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Swedish Open	14 December 1998	22.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	15 December 1998	10.30	Sky Sports 1 Digital
Swedish Open	16 December 1998	12.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Swedish Open	17 December 1998	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Pro Tour Grand Finals	25 January 1999	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital
Pro Tour Grand Finals	25 January 1999	19.00	Sky Sports 1 Digital
Pro Tour Grand Finals	25 January 1999	22.45	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Pro Tour Grand Finals	26 January 1999	11.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA MATCHES ON DSF.ASTRA SATELLITE

Match	Date of Match	Date of TV Coverage	Time (UK)
Gonnern - Frickenhausen	4 December 1998	5 December 1998	16.00
Ochsenhausen - Grenzau	11 December 1998	12 December 1998	16.00

POT BOILING

WHAT a pleasure it was to see that John Prean has taken his old typewriter out of the cellar to get the pot boiling again. As usual he sees things from son Carl's point of view but continues to make a lot of sense. Who wants to watch a stream of serve and smash or serve under the arm and the point is won? Not very many if you judge by attendances at top events. Both he and Ken Muhr make the point that the game should be a pleasure to play and watch, and this enjoyment is rapidly disappearing.

The rubbers controversy will affect comparatively few players but the comment from Ken Muhr that 40 mm balls will be introduced after the Sydney Olympics in year 2000 will affect everyone. When will these balls be available for practice? When will they become mandatory in competitions? Imagine the player who is playing badly with the new ball, watch him slip the ball into his pocket to dry it and substitute a 38mm ball. Pity the poor old umpire!. The new balls will need to be bright green or blue. How many table tennis robots operate with these 40mm balls? There's a lot of modifications to be made and a lot of money to be spent.

The October magazine was a good read. Keep it up!

Frank Draycott,
Kiora TT Club

SPORTING PROBLEMS

TABLE TENNIS is not the only sport to have problems. Internationally the hugely richer and media attended sport of tennis (although it is much smaller than table tennis worldwide) is suffering declining player numbers and declining sponsorship.

Increasingly tedious to watch, in the male power game at least, tennis, too is considering equipment and rule changes to make it more attractive.

In the 1970's British participation numbers for tennis and table tennis were roughly the same whereas now more than twice as many people here play tennis regularly as play table tennis. This looks (and is) bad for table tennis - but consider, the Lawn Tennis Association is awash with money. It's income from Wimbledon

POSTBAG

alone was £31 million, it was able to commit £1 million to its 'Play Tennis 98 Week' to attract people to tennis and millions of matching money for numerous Lottery funded facilities, it employs county development officers, coaches and mentor coaches and it has started to get its act together with less socially disadvantaged people through community and training schemes such as the Rover Junior Tennis Initiative. Tennis attracts big sponsors and pays big prize money. Parents anticipate that their children will meet and mix with the right kind of people in the game. With its huge advantages of high profile, social status, money and development programmes (and let it be said, being basically a good, easy to understand and follow game), one might ask why tennis is not many times bigger than table tennis in England. And why apart from Rusedski and Henman, do they have so few (and until recently, no) world class players?

Tennis still misses out on streetwise athletes with grit and hunger for success. Without taking too long to develop a thesis, I think that (however unfairly) many talented sporting youngsters from ordinary backgrounds do not identify with tennis, which may still appear a little snooty and boring, or with English tennis stars. Greg (seen as basically an outsider, with great serving power but no panache) and Tim (smooth, rich kid made good). No street cred! Of course they mostly do not identify with table tennis either but I think they could. If all things were equal, table tennis would do better than tennis and many other sports in attracting talented youngsters. Given the right opportunities youngsters love it. But we must better present and organise our sport. Make participation a fun, exciting, challenging and fulfilling experience.

Finally, to clarify a measure to make table tennis more attractive, Colin Clemett has advised me that several propositions to change the service

law were indeed submitted to the ITTF 1998 BGM, including one from the 'Rules Committee' to the effect that the service must be visible to both the umpire and the assistant umpire and not, as at present just to one of them.' A working party was then tasked with making a single recommendation to the 1999 BGM. I won't attempt to explain what happened next but apparently the original Rules Committee proposition will be re-submitted to the 1999 BGM (at Belgrade or elsewhere?) and Colin is hopeful of it attaining the necessary 3/4 majority!

Ken Muhr
Ferryhill, Co Durham

TIME FOR CHANGE?

NEVER before has so much money been pumped into our sport at the top level. And never before have expectations been so high.

Yet this is not the long awaited Messiah, come to the rescue of an ailing sport; it is not the answer to our problems. In truth the problems are just beginning.

With little money and poor resources, it was easy to justify our under-achievements and to revel in our occasional successes. The reality was such, that considering what we had to work on and with, we did do well-in comparison to other European nations.

However, now is the time to move forward. Now we have no reason to be complacent. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. So what is the difficulty? The money is there, the coaches will be in place and the British Institute of Sport is ready to welcome us and everybody is excited about the future of table tennis.

Well, the problem is simple. The structure of table tennis in England is weak. Instant money may bring us short term success, but players and coaches come and go. For long term success, the structure must be sound and in my opinion, hollow echoes rebound all around.

So the solutions:-

For a sport to move into the millennium and beyond, it must be professional. The players must be professional in the way they behave and train (rights bring responsibilities) and the coaches must also rid themselves of ad-hoc methodology and widen their education to meet the demands that are required of professional sportspeople. Individual limitations must be admitted and we must recognise peoples strengths whilst developing their weaknesses.

Most importantly, the Association should be administered by professionals. How much longer can a National Sport survive, when it is managed by a small group of (albeit possibly capable) amateurs (ie: management committee) who in turn have to get every decision verified by an even larger group of amateurs (ie: National Council)?

Do you know who your National Councillor is? When did you last discuss table tennis with him/her and more importantly, when did you last have a discussion about issues on which he/she voted on your behalf?

I ask the questions, not as a means of damning national councillors per se, since they are all volunteers with good intentions and a love of table tennis on whom the game depends, but as a way of highlighting the problem that is holding our sport back. National Council is the Will Carling equivalent of the "57 Old Farts". A very expensive and inefficient body. It may have been a fine establishment which acted as a safeguard over zealous individuals in the past, but the past is where it should be. It is time to move on.

The Management Committee - again a group of willing and able amateurs - should not be given the responsibility for the Associations affairs. In my own department, the Director of Coaching, should not have to ask me as vice-chairman (coaching) to rubber stamp all his decisions. He should stand or fall according to his ability to do the job.

In short, the Association should be

continued on page 34

IMPORTANT HOME EVENT for JUNIORS & CADETS



Mike
Johns,
ETTA
Events
Manager

English National Junior & Cadet Championships 28th - 29th November 1998

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON will, for the 3rd year running, play host to the most important home event on the Junior and Cadet calendar.

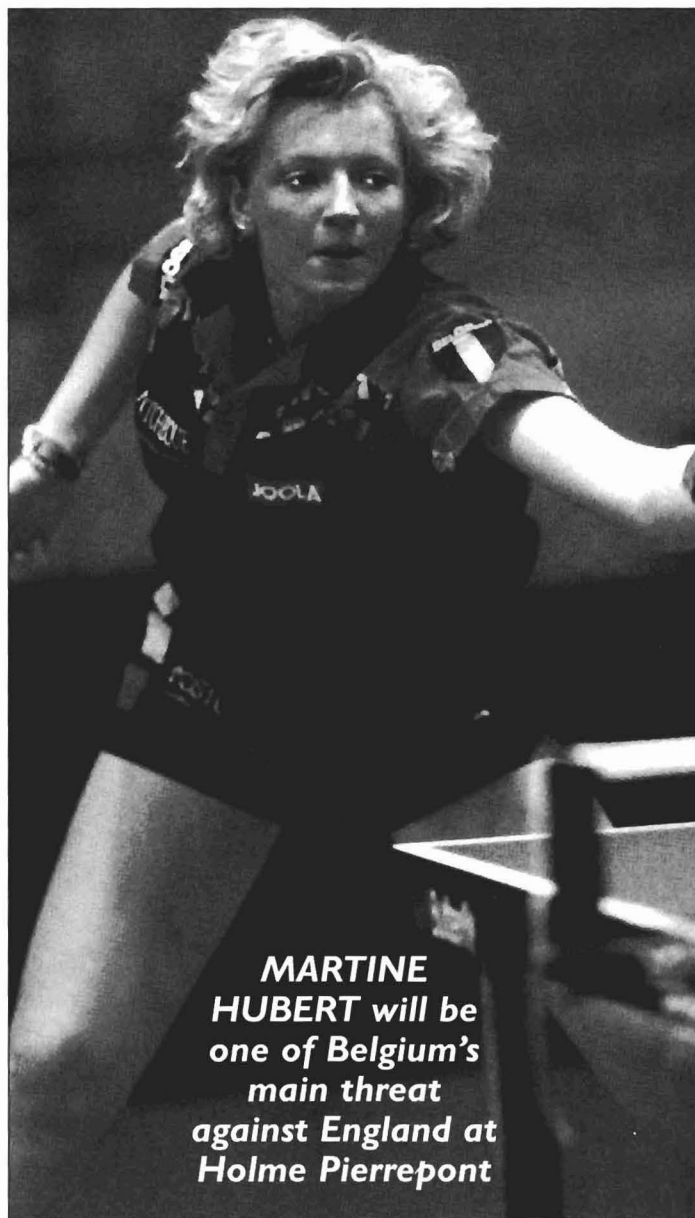
Supported by the Stratford-upon-Avon District Council and held at the Stratford Visitors and Leisure Centre, England's top Junior and Cadet players will not only be playing to become 'Champion of England' but also to catch the eye of National Performance Director Michel Gadai, who will be attending the Championship for the first time.

Howard Quartey (SY), the surprise winner of last seasons boys singles title is no longer a junior. Strong favourite will be Buckinghamshire's Andrew Baggaley, following his success in the Senior Home Countries Internationals played recently. Challenges are expected from Marco Essomba (SY), Michael Chan (SY) and Andrew Rushton (LA).

Lindsey Thornton (LA) is also too old to defend the Junior Girls title. Cheshire's Karen Lockwood will be seeded 1, followed by Louise Durrant (NG), Trudie Bloor (SP) and Katy Parker (LA).

In the Cadet Boys singles, Dale Barham (CA) is seeded 1 with defender Michael Gomersall (CU) at 2. Katy Parker is seeded 1 in the Cadet Girls with Natalie Bawden (E) number 2.

Play will commence both days at



**MARTINE
HUBERT will be
one of Belgium's
main threat
against England at
Holme Pierrepont**

9am and entry is free.

Mens Joola European League

Following England's three wins to top group B in the first division of the Joola European League, they will now play the team finishing 2nd in group A in the two-legged

crossover stage.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, our opponents are unknown. The match between Yugoslavia and the Czech Republic was postponed due to the political situation in Yugoslavia. England will play the losers of this tie.

The home leg will be held at the Magnet Leisure Centre,

Maidenhead, Berks on Tuesday 15th December, commencing 7pm. The winner of this stage will go forward to the final play-off for a place in next year's Super Division.

Womens Joola European League

England's women face Belgium in their crossover matches. The home leg will be held at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham on Thursday 17th December. England need to win this stage if they are not to be involved in the relegation battle.

SPECTATOR TICKETS

Special 'Early Bird' discounts

Want to see some of the World's best players in action? Want a special discount on ticket prices? Then don't delay - book straight away.

The ETTA are offering attractive discounts for tickets purchased before 15th December. Large crowds are expected throughout the Championships, especially on the final two days, so to guarantee your seat, contact the ETTA Events Unit now.

THE 63rd ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENGLISH OPEN

ENGLISH OPEN PROVISIONAL PLAYING SCHEDULE

Tuesday 9th March

Pre-Qualifying Competition. Mens Singles, Womens Singles, Mens Doubles, Womens Doubles.

Wednesday 10th March

Qualifying Rounds - Mens Singles, Womens Singles.

Thursday 11th March

Qualifying Rounds - Mens Singles, Womens Singles, Mens Doubles, Womens Doubles.

Qualifying Rounds - Under 21 Mens Singles, Under 21 Womens Singles.

Friday 12th March

Rounds 1 & 2 Mens Singles, Mens Doubles.

Round 1 Womens Singles, Womens Doubles, Under 21 Mens & Womens Singles.

Saturday 13th March

Round 3, Quarter-Finals, Mens Singles, Mens Doubles. Round 2, Quarter Finals, Womens Singles, Womens Doubles. Semi-Finals Mens Doubles, Womens Doubles.

Under 21 Men's & Womens Singles.

Sunday 14th March

Semi-Finals - Mens Singles, Womens Singles. Finals - Mens Singles, Women's Singles, Mens Doubles, Women's Doubles.

ENGLISH OPEN TICKET PRICES

	Adult	Child	Family 2 Adults+2 Children
Tuesday 9th March			
Normal Price	£3.00	£1.50	£6.00
Discount Price	£2.00	£1.00	£4.00
Wednesday 10th March			
Normal Price	£5.00	£2.50	£11.00
Discount Price	£4.00	£2.00	£8.00
Thursday 11th March			
Normal Price	£7.00	£3.50	£16.00
Discount Price	£5.50	£3.00	£12.00
Friday 12th March			
Normal Price	£8.00	£4.00	£17.00
Discount Price	£6.00	£3.00	£13.00
Saturday 13th March			
Normal Price	£12.00	£6.00	£26.00
Discount Price	£9.50	£4.50	£21.00
Sunday 14th March			
Normal Price	£12.00	£6.00	£26.00
Discount Price	£9.50	£4.50	£21.00
Season Tickets			
Normal Price	£40.00	£18.00	£65.00
Discount Price	£32.00	£14.00	£58.00

To qualify for discounts, tickets must be booked and paid for through the ETTA Events Unit by 15th DECEMBER 1998

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

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Certain restrictions apply to the above benefits. Insurances are provided by underwriters at Lloyd's of London. Payment Protection Insurance is provided by member companies of Consolidated Insurance Group Ltd. The ETTA Visa card is issued by MBNA International Bank Ltd, Stanfield House, Chester Business Park, Chester, CH4 9YZ and is available only to ETTA members and certain connected parties. MBNA Visa card interest rates are 17.9%APR (variable) for purchases, 13.9%APR for balance transfers and cash advances, fixed for six months from the date your account is opened. The 13.9%APR is calculated by applying the monthly rate of 1.09% throughout the period of credit. After the six month period it reverts to the same variable interest rate which applies to purchases at that time (currently 1.38% per month, 17.9%APR). Both APRs are calculated on a fee exclusive basis, in view of the two year annual fee waiver and assume a credit limit of £1,000 for a standard card and £3,000 for a gold card. The minimum monthly payment is just 3% of the outstanding balance (minimum £5). The annual fee (£10 for a standard card, £35 for a gold card (both variable)) will be waived for your first two years. There will be no handling charge for cash advances until after your account has been open six months. After that date a handling charge of 1% (variable) (min £1, max £25) will apply. Credit is available subject to status, only to persons aged 18 or over. Written questions available on request.

OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN A FAMOUS WORLD EVENT

CHANCE FOR ALL

A UNIQUE FEATURE of the English Open in comparison with other PRO TOUR events is the Pre-Qualifying competition.

Open to all licensed players in England, it allows keen players the opportunity to participate in one of the most famous events in world table tennis with the possibility of qualifying to play against the worlds best.

Everyone has a chance. At the last English Open in 1997, 66 year old Surrey Veteran Gordon Chapman surprised and delighted both spectators and the press when he won his group and went through to face some of Europe's top players. The Pre-Qualifying events for both singles and doubles will be held on Tuesday 9th March with the Qualifying event starting at 9 a.m. on the Wednesday.

Both Mens and Womens singles are played on a group basis. Entry forms will be distributed before the end of November and a special accommodation package has been arranged for those of you who wish to stay at Potters Leisure Resort.

TOP REFEREE APPOINTED

One of England's top International Referees, Yorkshire's Richard Scruton has been appointed to take charge of the 63rd English Open. This will be the 3rd consecutive English Open that Richard has refereed, and his previous handling of Pro-Tour events has given him a well deserved reputation as one of the World's best.

England's Phil Gower (I.R.) and Denmark's Aksel Beckmann have been appointed as Deputy Referees.

HOSPITALITY BOXES - NEXT TO THE ACTION

The ETTA are offering a limited number of Hospitality Boxes at the

English Open. The boxes which are located courtside in the main arena will seat 6 people. The price includes entry to the championships for 6 people each day, 6 programmes and updates each day, use of the VIP lounge, waitress service to the boxes. Company name and logo on the front of the box if required, and of course possibly the best seats in town.

For further information please contact Mike Johns on 01424 722525.

UNDER 21s EVENTS

The ETTA have once again been given permission by the ITTF to run Under 21 Mens and Womens singles in conjunction with the 4 Pro-Tour events. Depending on the total entry, play is expected to start on Thursday 11th March.

GALA DINNER

For those resident at the resort, Potters are hosting a farewell Gala Dinner on Sunday 14th March. The 5 course dinner will have a strong British theme with some unusual entertainment. This will be followed by a farewell variety show featuring Mark Brewer and his team in the Atlas theatre.

For those of you wishing to wishing to party on after midnight, there will be a Disco and Kareoke until 3 in the morning.

WORLD WIDE COVERAGE

Although the ETTA have yet to finalise U.K. coverage the 63rd English Open will be beamed to over 100 countries worldwide, thanks to Global agreements secured by the ITTF for Pro-Tour events.

Pro-Tour events, other than the English Open are televised in the U.K. on the Sky Sports channels.

Will the English Open be one of Germany's JIE SCHOPP's last major tournaments, playing with her beloved long pimples, before the ban comes into force on the 1st July 1999



GROVE BOYS AND GIRLS LEAD THE PREMIER DIVISIONS

TEAM OF THE WEEKEND - NORTH MUNDON, Gareth McGovern, Neil Brown, and Ben Marley, had their trophies presented by Don Parker.



KETTERING ARENA, Sunday 11th. October, 3 p.m. - 26 matches completed, one match remaining, still a long way to go - Girls Premier division GROVE 'A' versus C.M.C. GIRLS (Chesterfield Motorcycle Centre). It was a coincidence - or was it? - that all six players on view are members of the Academy - Trudie Bloor, Jade Kendall, Natalie Bawden for Grove and Louise Durrant, Katy Parker and Georgina Walker for C.M.C. 1st set Bloor beat Parker 21-18 in the third, second set Durrant defeated Kendall 21-15 in the third (1 set all); third set Bawden beat Walker 21-19 in the third, next Durrant overcame Bloor 2 straight (2 sets all), then Parker got the better of Bawden, again in the third and C.M.C. led for the first time in the match but finally Kendall took Walker out 2 straight and the final score of an outstanding match - 3 sets all.

The sets lost by Parker and Bawden in this match were the only ones lost throughout the week end - they lead the individual averages and both are

still cadets! C.M.C. lie only third in the division however having lost to Irish Girls 4-2 (Noelle Lennon 2).

The Sunday afternoon clash between the Boys Premier division

giants, the holders Challoner Hall (Guildford) and Grove did not produce the expected close encounter as Michael Chan's 23-21, 21-18 defeat of Michael Gomershall was Challoners only success as they

TEAM OF THE WEEKEND - GROVE
Trudie Bloor, Natalie Bawden, Jade Kendall and Hannah Yardy



went down 5-1. Also playing for Grove were Andrew Rushton, another member of the Academy and unbeaten throughout the week end and Welshman Adam Robertson (8 times a winner but beaten by Chris Jamieson of Peniel and Irish Boys' Eoin Byrne)

Uxbridge lead Boys division one, with Craig Gascoyne unbeaten from 8 sets, despite losing by 5 sets to 1 to Darlington (Daniel Welsh and Zeke Dixon 2 each).

Emily Dearing (Humberside Girls) leads Girls division one averages having administered the only defeat for player of the week end Kate Hughes (Grove IYBY!) but it was Hughes' brace against Cippenham that kept her team in touch with the leaders in a 3 sets all draw.

Newcomers Halton played a strict 3 from 5 selection policy in Boys division 2A, remaining unbeaten, but careful selection next time out could show improvement on 3 draws; John Coysh with 5 from 6 losing only to Louis Rosenthal (Berryman's Lacey Mawer - ex Blackpool Seaside). Rosenthal producing a perfect 10 from 10 result.

Perth lead Brentwood in Boys division 2B as the result of winning 258 points to 251 in their drawn match with each other - Ben Warner winning two for Brentwood which kept him on course for an eventual maximum after being ever present.

The LFC's (Lillington Free Church) are clear at the top of Girls division 2 largely as the result of a maximum by Kay Nason whose pair against second placed Club Mid-Cheshire

saw them home 4-2. Samantha Meredith and Gilly Mathews were also ever present for the LFC1s winning 7 and 6 respectively.

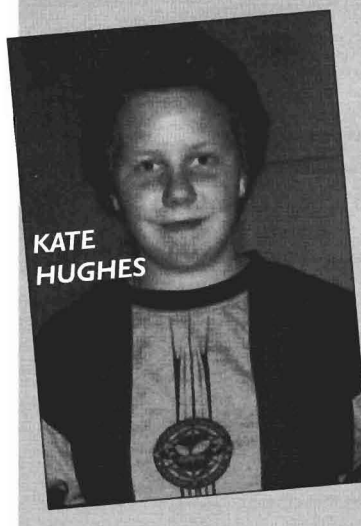
Kacper Brzezniak's 100% record for Humberside "B" helped keep his team just ahead of second team Dunstable Pioneers following their Boys division 3A drawn match on the final afternoon. Dunstable's Blake Taylor's 8 wins from 10 puts him into third place in the averages table, separated from the top spot by Simon Nutch who took 8 from 9 playing for Darlington "B".

A welcome return for a familiar name sees Ormesby leaders of Boys division 3B; Nicky Chapman winning 10 and Steven Bailey 8 were ever present whilst the third spot was shared by Martyn Clarke, Paul Costello and Bryn Drinkhall.

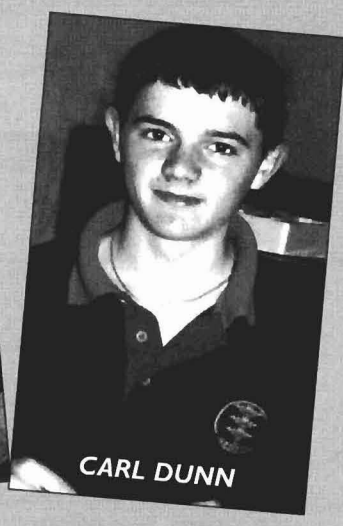
With a counter attraction on the South Coast it was not easy to attract 27 umpires; there were a number of new faces, I hope that they enjoyed the experience - I am sure that they did.

The Mayor & Mayoress of the Borough of Kettering, Councillor & Mrs David Whyte, opened proceedings on Saturday morning and Donald Parker who needs no introduction but is now Performance Director for the English Commonwealth Games presented Woolwich player and team of the week end pennants to Kate Hughes (Grove "B"), Carl Dunn (Humberside "B"), Grove "A" (Girls) and North Mundham (Boys).

WOOLWICH PLAYERS OF THE WEEKEND



KATE HUGHES



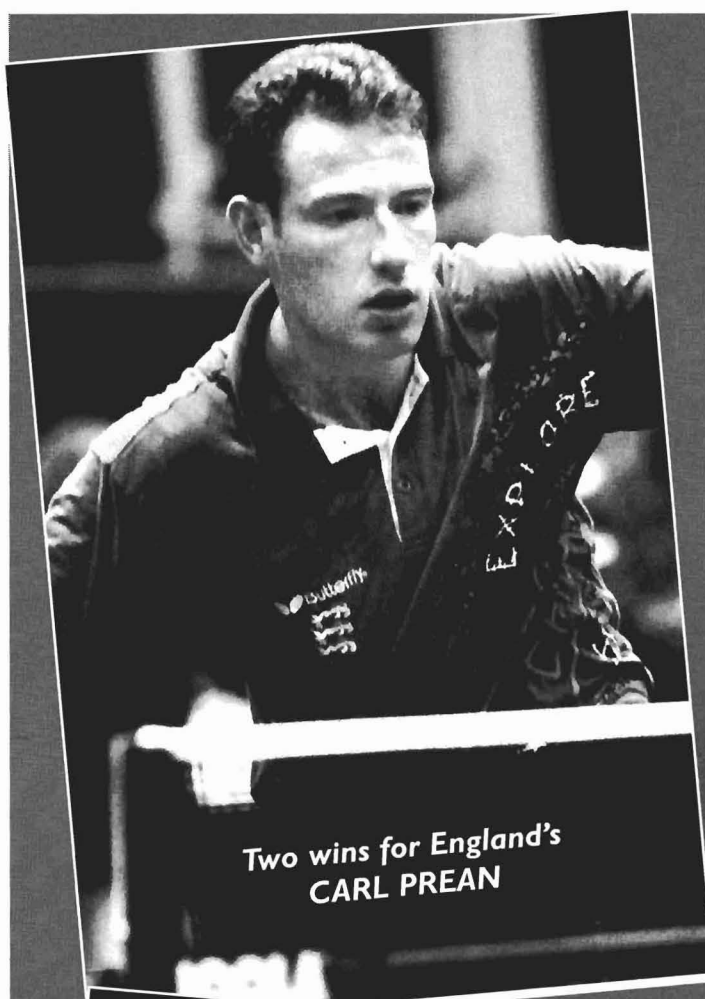
CARL DUNN

LEAGUE TABLES

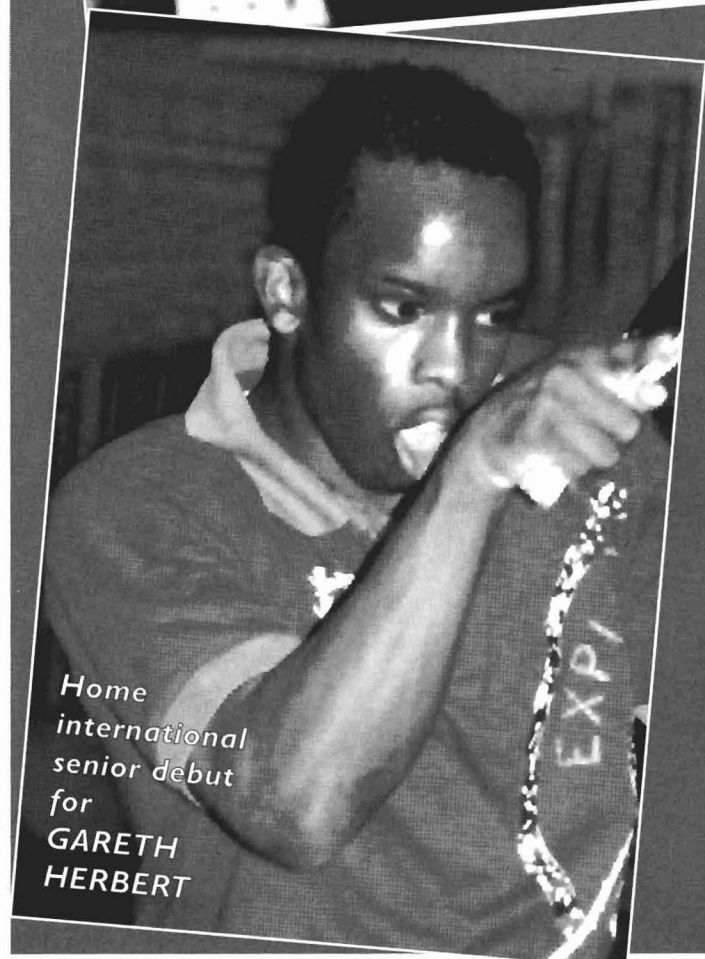
Boys Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove	5	5	0	0	27	3	10
Challoner Hall 'A'	5	4	0	1	18	12	8
Team Peniel 'A'	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Cippenham Boys 'A'	5	0	3	2	11	19	3
Edmonton 'A'	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Irish Boys	5	0	2	3	10	20	2
Boys Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uxbridge 'A'	5	4	0	1	19	11	8
Progress	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
Bristol	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Darlington 'A'	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Humberside 'A'	5	2	0	3	11	19	4
Sats Starlets	5	0	1	4	10	20	1
Boys Division 2A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cippenham 'B'	5	4	1	0	23	7	9
Berryman's Lacey Mawer	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Halton	5	2	3	0	19	11	7
Oak Bank	5	2	0	3	12	18	4
Spicer Boys	5	1	0	4	11	19	2
Challoner Hall 'B'	5	0	1	4	6	24	1
Boys Division 2B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Brentwood	5	3	2	0	19	11	8
Burton Bridge (Granville)	5	1	3	1	15	15	5
Byng Hall	5	2	1	2	19	11	5
Edmonton 'B'	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Uxbridge 'B'	5	0	1	4	7	23	1
Boys Division 3A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Humberside 'B'	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Dunstable Pioneers	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Team Peniel 'C'	5	2	1	2	16	14	5
Eastpoint 'A'	5	1	2	2	16	14	4
Darlington 'B'	5	1	1	3	13	17	3
Rejects	5	0	0	5	3	27	0
Boys Division 3B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby	5	5	0	0	27	3	10
B.A.T.T.S.	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Team Peniel 'B'	5	3	0	2	16	14	6
North Mundham	5	2	1	2	16	14	5
Greenleys	5	1	0	4	9	21	2
Lucan Boys	5	0	0	5	4	26	0
Girls Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove 'A'	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Irish Girls	5	4	0	1	19	11	8
C.M.C. Girls	5	3	1	1	21	9	7
Darlington	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Blairstown	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Progress Girls	5	0	1	4	7	23	1
Girls Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cippenham Girls	5	4	1	0	20	10	9
Grove B	5	3	2	0	21	9	8
Humberside Girls 'A'	5	2	2	1	17	13	6
B.A.T.T.S.	5	2	0	3	12	18	4
Dumfries	5	1	0	4	11	19	2
Spicer Girls	5	0	1	4	9	21	1
Girls Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The LFC's	5	5	0	0	23	7	10
Club Mid-Cheshire	5	4	0	1	22	8	8
Berryman's Lacey Mawer	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Team Peniel 'A'	5	1	2	2	15	15	4
Team Peniel 'B'	5	0	2	3	8	22	2
Hollingsbury	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

FIRST WEEKEND

ENGLAND'S KINGS LYNN HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY



Two wins for England's
CARL PREAN



Home
international
senior debut
for
GARETH
HERBERT

ENGLAND'S MEN gained a place in the promotion semi-finals, by handsomely beating Hungary 4-1, at Lynnsport & Leisure Park, Kings Lynn, at the end of October, in the 1st Division of the Joola European League, writes John Wood.

The star for England was Carl Prean who won both his singles, and the doubles in partnership with Alex Perry.

Although England's margin of victory was huge, in reality all four singles matches went to three.

In fact the evening started in favour of the Hungarians, with Zoltan Batorfi taking the first leg in style, pulling back from 13-17 down to Carl Prean, to win 21-17.

But Carl bounced back for England, playing some of his best table tennis this season, going on to destroy Batorfi's confidence, winning the next two 9 and 10.

Next on for England was young Gareth Herbert, making his home senior international debut for England, against Hungary's Ferenc Pazsy. It looked like Gareth was undaunted by the occasion, as he took the opening game in flamboyant style winning 21-17. And

he looked home and dry and en route to taking his first senior European League win for England, as he went 14-7 up in the second. But Pazsy proved that he was made of sterner stuff, as he battled his way back into the match by winning 21-19. The third leg saw Herbert's confidence totally shattered going 8-17 behind, before he rallied and made a fantastic fight back, but sadly to no avail losing in the end 18-21.

It was left to majestic Matthew Syed to restore England's lead in this European battle, when after a tremendous battle with hard hitting and hard working Zoltan Varga, he triumphed 17, -12, 15.

Carl Prean then comfortably won the Doubles winning 10 and 19, against Pazsy and Varga.

The stage was then set for Carl to clinch victory and a place in the semi-final play-offs. And Carl didn't let England down as he once again played tremendous table tennis, punching with his backhand pimples and looping with his forehand he saw off the considerable challenge of Hungary's Pazsy, 14, -19, 18.



THE HUNGARIAN TEAM (left to right) Coach Istvan Asztalos, Zoltan Batorfi, Ferenc Pazsy and Zoltan Varga

"OPPORTUNITIES TABLE TENNIS"

JOHN WOODFORD reports from East Grinstead, Sussex on the opening one-day conference on the opportunities now opening up in our sport - the first of ten - be there!

LOCAL LEAGUE and county officers and all Sports Development Officers employed by local authorities should not miss out on this opportunity to listen to, meet in person and question the people involved at the sharp end of development.

Personal contact is what it is all about, I am fortunate that attending many events nationwide and worldwide I have frequent opportunities to meet the people in the corridors of power at the ETTA. But most people do not have those chances to talk personally with chairman Alan Ransome, Performance Director Michael Gadal, the new Director of Coaching Peter Hirst, Chief Executive Richard Yule and others.

This is the chance for anybody to talk to the top ranks and to listen to the various schemes and grant-aid possibilities that now exist. The schemes are waiting to here from local table tennis leaders, but of course, leagues must have ready detailed schemes for improvements in their facilities and business plans on how to run improved facilities once they are up and running. The Regional Development Officers are the professionals there to give advice and to oil the wheels of applications.

For some years the National Sports Council seems to have had a soft spot for table tennis. One reason is that table tennis has for years had an organisation better than many of its rival smaller sports, even allowing for the fact that many regard the National Council as an unnecessary drain on ETTA finances and that the county structure is also totally out-dated.

However the Sports Council still



MICHEL GADAL
ETTA Performance Director

holds us in high esteem as Chris McGrath one of their Development Officers told the 40 delegates from Sussex, Kent and Surrey.

Listening to Alan Ransome on the progress being made in all areas from the ETTA World Class Performance Programme down to the Academy at Nottingham for the youngsters, made me think that his knowledge of the sport is superior to most. I believe that if he was multi-lingual speaking Mandarin and four or five other European languages he would be occupying an ITTF post as high as the present Deputy President Adham Shehara.

Michel Gadal - what a catch for the ETTA! He has a vision of England winning World and European medals that if it comes off will fully justify his substantial salary. He got a

huge round of applause at East Grinstead for his speech which was superb considering he was not talking in his native tongue. The speed of his words was a little too fast for my tape-recorder!

Another bonus was the introduction of the newly-appointed Peter Hirst, the new Director of Coaching, returning from a decade in New Zealand. Peter was an England coach for fifteen years before he went Down Under. I am sure he will prove another asset for the ETTA's programme.

Diccon Gray is the possessor of a warm personality that comes over so well at this sort of gathering. His role of Director Development for the ETTA is a near-perfect appointment. I hope he will be

present at the remaining nine sessions.

And so to the local speakers - Carol Beames, national councillor for Sussex, was the host speaker. She specialises in development in Sussex and has made considerable progress both in the Brighton area and throughout the county. She even travels to other leagues to their development meetings.

Dave Berriman, the Regional Development Officer for the south-east completed the speakers team, he comes over as a man who gets things done.

Two final points on these conferences: Questions were too sparse until the last session. The Brighton press officer Doug Matthews and myself filled some of the pregnant pauses, but that can be put right by organising in advance a couple of questions to get the ball rolling. Last point, when the ETTA go to a lot of trouble over these events it is essential that prominent and wise critics take part like Reg Thompson (Kent Chair) who was present, and when the Road Show touches the Isle of Wight area territory on February 20 that John Prean is there to put the cat amongst the pigeons!

FOOTNOTE: The day after East Grinstead the roadshow moved to their 2nd presentation at the Forest Heath District Council Offices in Mildenhall, Suffolk. Again, over 40 delegates enjoyed the day.

**FOR A DETAILED
LIST OF DATES
AND VENUES SEE
ALAN RANSOME'S
'FROM THE
CHAIR'
PAGE 4**

DISASTROUS DAY FOR DARLINGTON

THE DARLINGTON CLUB had a disastrous day when they visited the current league leaders, Horsham. They were in trouble early on when Bradley Billington injured his foot whilst playing Cris Sladden. He could not continue and ended up going to hospital for treatment. That meant the loss of all of his sets and team manager Keith Wilson had to play in the doubles which did not help either. As a result Horsham had a resounding 10-4 victory with Sladden and Ritchie Venner remaining unbeaten, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

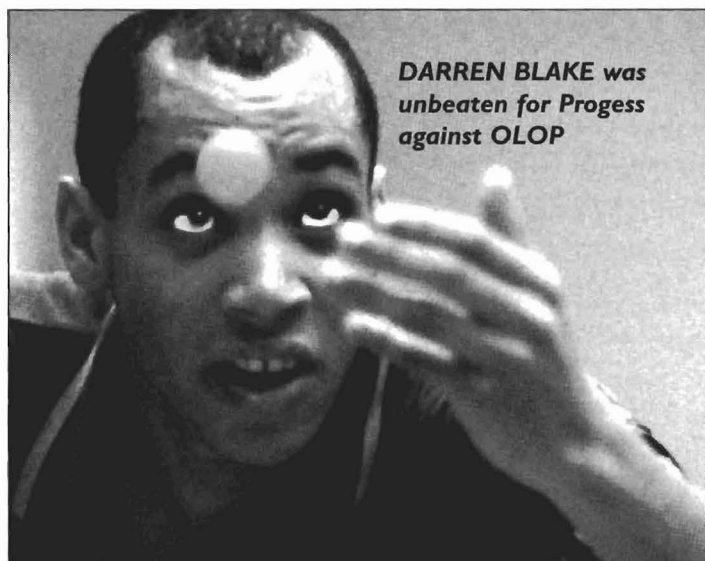
Brent Sports Progress kept up the pressure on Horsham by winning, also by 10-4, at OLOP. Darren Blake was unbeaten for Progress but Neil Charles produced the shocks of the day by beating both Gareth Herbert



CRIS SLADDEN

and Marco Essomba.

Grove's young team were on song again when they defeated JAGS 12-2. Adam Robertson turned in another



DARREN BLAKE was unbeaten for Progress against OLOP



Cris Sladden won all three in Horsham's resounding 10-4 win against Darlington

fine unbeaten performance and Andrew Rushton also won all of his sets.

DML White Hart Launceston got off the foot of the table with an 8-6 victory over St Neots, at Tregorrick

DML White Hart Launceston (above) got off the foot of the table, beating St. Neots 8-6

Park Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell.

In division 1 North, Darlington seconds dropped their first point of the season when they were held to a draw by Seaside Blackpool. Steve Turner won both of his sets for the Seaside whilst Keith Rodger did likewise for Darlington.

Derwent, for whom Mark Short was undefeated, moved to within a point of the leaders by winning 5-3 at Lincoln whilst Syntegra City did likewise with a 7-1 victory at Uxbridge. Dave Harvey, Darren Griffin and William Dawe were all

unbeaten for Syntegra.

Harvey Barnet have opened up a three point gap at the top of division 1 South, their latest victory coming away to Byng Hall Farningham Print. Glen Wilkes was outstanding and was backed up by Keith Samuels, John Taylor and Nick McKoy as Barnet recovered from 1-3 down to win 5-3. Mark Brown, Paul Rainford and Phil Cox had earlier given the home side the lead.

Colley Hyundai, who have signed two Chinese players, Wang Rui and Yan Han, and should prove to be a formidable force in this division. Wang Rui played and won both of his sets against Hastings beating Nicky Mason and Mike Johns as the Welsh side won 5-3 to become the first team to beat Hastings this season.

Steve Rand was back to form for C & M Insurance Brentwood and helped his side to a 5-3 victory over Limberlost Pine Poole.

Drumchapel Glasgow picked up their first point of the season in division two North when they drew 4-4 at Grove, Andy Dunlop and Craig Christie won all of their sets. Trudie Bloor got both of hers for the home team.

Grantham Kontak took over the

leadership of the division on set difference from Darlington thirds when their team of Denis Neale, Dale Barham, Brian Hill, and Chris Brewer overpowered Abbeydale Park to the tune of 7-1. The first set of the day in which David Charlton beat Barham was all that the Sheffield side could muster.

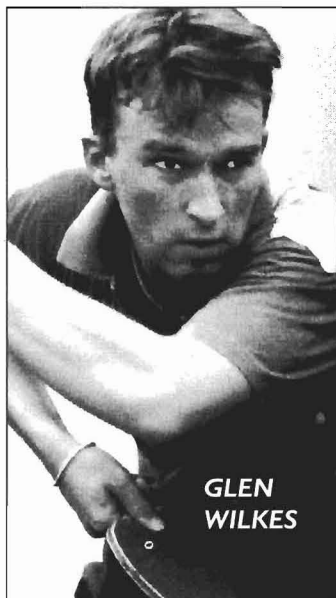
In division 2 South the leaders TAD-Ellenborough, albeit without Graham Sandley, suffered a shock 6-2 home defeat at the hands of Norwich Todd Foxwood. Derek Balding and Jimmy Walsh got one each whilst Ian McLean and Steve Howlett were both unbeaten for Norwich. Cippenham take over at the top after winning 7-1 at Launceston with Martin Adams, Clive Payne and Martin Rule all undefeated.

Catsoft Puma's Adeyfield won their third successive match by beating Harvey Barnet thirds 6-2 to stay on top of division 3 South and West. Guildford drew 4-4 with Brent Sports Progress whilst Moonrakers seconds and Cippenham seconds also shared the points.

Steve Dixon was in form for Seasiders seconds in the third division North and his two sets helped his team to a 5-3 victory over Darlington fourths for whom Ken Muhr made a rare appearance. Ken won one and narrowly lost 20-22 in the third end of his other.

Derwent thirds missed the opportunity to go top of the table when they were held to 4-4 by Ormesby seconds. Man of the match was Nicky Chapman who won twice.

Harvey Barnet seconds and De Vere Sudbury both had resounding 8-0 victories in Division three South over Byng Hall Farningham Print seconds and KCD Stiga seconds, respectively.



**GLEN
WILKES**

**Glen Wilkes was outstanding
for Harvey Barnet**

WTSP

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Horsham	4	4	-	-	42	14	8
Brent Sports Progress	4	3	-	-	39	17	7
Darlington	4	2	1	1	31	25	5
Grove	4	2	-	2	33	23	4
DML White Hart Launceston	4	1	1	2	21	35	3
JAGS	4	-	2	2	21	35	2
St Neots	4	1	-	3	19	37	2
OLOP AWCS Ltd	4	-	1	3	18	38	1

DIVISION 1 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Darlington II	4	3	1	-	24	8	7
Derwent	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
Syntegra Worcester City	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
RMSC Lincoln	4	2	-	2	17	15	4
Uxbridge (Burton)	4	2	-	2	12	20	4
Kingshurst Bribar	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Seasiders (Blackpool)	4	-	2	2	13	19	2
Bulldog Security	4	-	-	4	7	25	-

DIVISION 1 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Harvey Barnet	4	4	-	-	21	11	8
Hastings	4	2	1	1	21	11	5
Colley Hyundai	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Byng Hall Farningham Print	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
C & M Insurance Brentwood	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Moonrakers, Westbury	4	1	-	3	15	17	2
Limberlost Pine Poole	4	1	-	3	13	19	2
DML White H. Launceston II	4	-	-	-	2	30	-

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grantham Kontak	4	3	1	-	21	11	7
Darlington III	4	3	1	-	19	13	7
Ormesby	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Abbeydale Park	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Rushy Mead Club	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Derwent II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Grove II	4	-	2	2	14	18	2
Drumchapel Glasgow	4	-	1	3	11	21	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cippenham	4	3	1	-	21	11	7
Aylesbury League	4	3	-	1	22	10	6
TAD - Ellenborough	4	3	-	1	20	12	6
Horsham II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Fellows Cranleigh	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
KCD Stiga	4	1	1	2	12	20	3
Norwich Todd Foxwood	4	1	-	3	15	17	2
DML White H. Launceston III	4	-	-	4	5	27	-

DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield	3	3	-	-	21	3	6
Brent Sports Progress II	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Harvey Barnet III	3	2	-	1	15	9	4
OLOP AWCS Ltd II	3	2	-	1	11	13	4
Cippenham II	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Guildford	4	-	1	3	11	21	1
Moonrakers, Westbury II	3	-	1	2	7	17	1

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Jack Spratt - Wellow House	3	3	-	-	21	3	6
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	3	3	-	-	19	5	6
Derwent III	4	2	2	-	18	14	6
Darlington IV	3	1	1	1	14	10	3
Syntegra Worcester City II	4	1	-	3	10	22	2
Ormesby II	3	-	1	2	5	19	1
City of Leeds	4	-	-	4	9	23	-

DIVISION 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Harvey Barnet II	4	3	1	-	23	9	7
De Vere Sudbury	3	2	1	-	17	7	5
Horsham	3	2	-	1	14	10	4
Ashford	2	-	-	2	6	10	-
Byng Hall F. Print II	2	-	-	2	3	13	-
KCD Stiga II	2	-	-	2	1	15	-

PLACINGS AS AT THE 4TH OCTOBER 1998

SENSATIONAL WIN *for* ROSEMARY RAINTON...

HASTINGS CHAMPION, ROSEMARY RAINTON completely upset the form book when she sensationally took the Womens Singles title becoming the first local player to do so in the tournament's 63 year history. The form book was retained however in the Mens Singles with Terry Young taking his first Sussex Open title, writes Ron Spencer.

For the first time, the tournament joined the Grand Prix and enjoyed an increased entry on last year. The four Mens seeds were all ranked in the top14 as were the top Womens seeds.

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ROSEMARY RAINTON
*Sensational winner of the
Stamco Womens Singles*

Unfortunately, two of the womens seeds could not attend, both away on table tennis duty elsewhere. The only disappointment was the number of total scratchings from the 11 events, 69, which reduced a lot of groups to 2 players, or worse.

After a bad day in the banded events, Rosemary came through her group and met No.3 seed Shelley Ruocco in the quarter-final. This was the first shock with Rosemary, ranked 34, beating Shelley, ranked 9th, 13-15, 15. She then came face to face with local rival Sheila King who came through due to the absence of top seed Gemma Schwartz. Rosemary beat Sheila in straight sets to set up a final meeting with No.2 seed, Sue Collier, a previous winner and ranked 8th in England. In the best final of the evening, with both players producing some tremendous shots and rallies, Sue

took the first but Rosemary hit back to take the second. The 3rd set was tight all the way with Rosemary going a few points ahead, Sue pegging some of them back before Rosemary made the final push to take the title and the sustained applause of the spectators.

The Mens singles went true to seeding with Terry Young, Gareth Herbert, Darren Blake and Ritchie Venner getting to their semi-final positions dropping only 2 sets between them along the way. Young beat Sussex No.1 Venner in straight sets, but Herbert needed three sets to beat defending champion Blake. In the final Young comfortably beat Herbert for his first Mens Singles title.

The Veterans Mens Singles saw Nigel Eckersley extend his run of victories to four with a win over Belgium's Christian Baise in a repeat of last year's final.

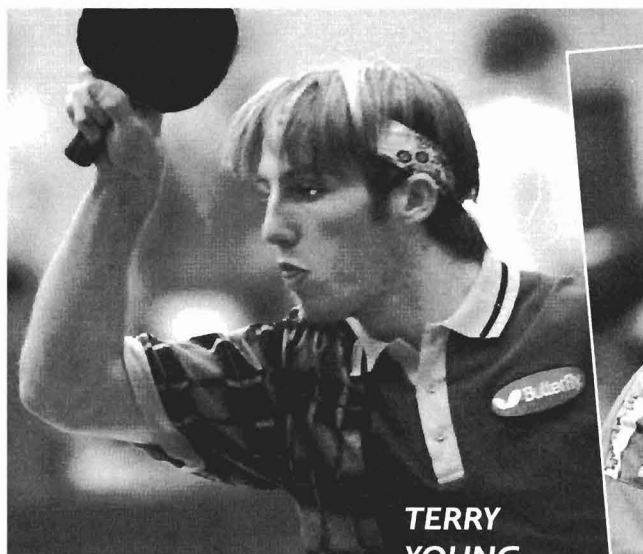
In the Veterans Womens Singles, Sheila King, ranked 23rd, had a hard fought semi-final victory over No.2 seed Marjorie Dawson, ranked 14th, - 16,16, 22, but lost comfortably to the very experienced Lesley Radford in the final.

The banded events as expected produced some excellent matches. After a hard fought event, Tommy Cutler took the Mens Band 1 honours with a straight sets win over Clive Carthy with Phil Cox beating Andy Walker in the Mens Band 2 final. The local theme was evident in the Mens Band 3 event with Hastings' Robert Abbotts beating Han Gehlot in three sets. Former Hastings player Keith Yarnley took Mens Band 4 with a close two set win over Andy Walker.

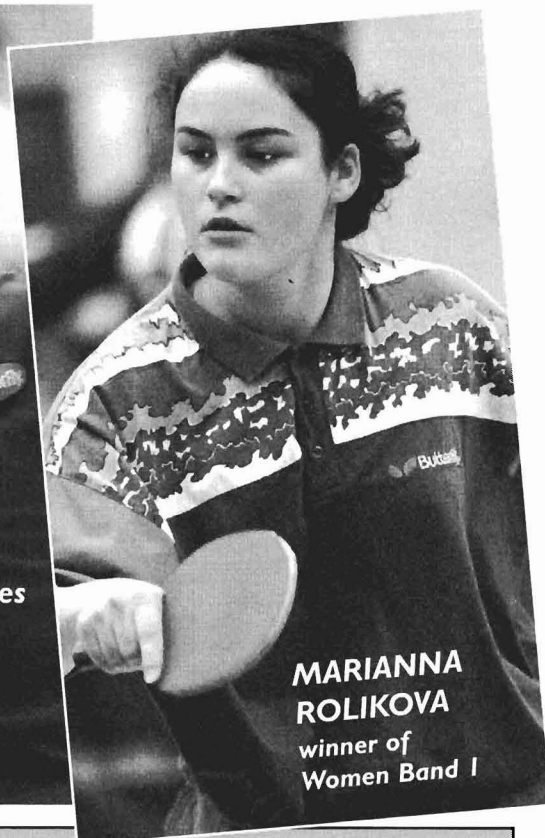
Sussex's Joanna Bush-Harris had a good day in the Womens Banded Events. In Band 1, she lost in the final to Marianna Rolikova in straight sets but took Band 2 with a three set win over Ann Humble. Band 3 was taken by Sarah Horsnell over Sue Hayes.

The main trophies were presented by the Mayor of Hastings, Cllr.Godfrey Daniel and Mr.John Cornelius on behalf of the sponsors, Stamco Timber.

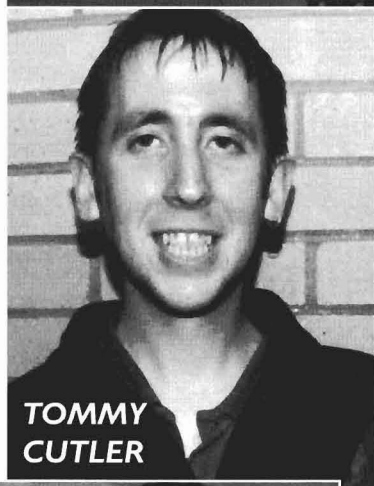
...WHILST YOUNG TAKES FIRST



TERRY YOUNG
Mens Singles
Champion



MARIANNA ROLIKOVA
winner of
Women Band 1



TOMMY CUTLER



ROBERT ABBOTTS

**STAMCO
TIMBER**

RESULTS

STAMCO SUSSEX OPEN 3 STAR ETTA GRAND PRIX
10th/11th October 1998 - Hastings

Mens Singles: T.Young (Bk) b. G. Herbert (Bk) 10, 17
Semi Finals: T.Young (Bk) b. R.Venner (Sx) 10, 18
G.Herbert (Bk) b. D.Blake (Su) -11, 11, 10

Womens Singles: R.Rainton (Sx) b. S.Collier (Bk) -18, 13, 16
Semi Finals: R.Rainton (Sx) b. S.King (Sx) 16, 15
S.Collier (Bk) b. M.Rolikova (Su) 20, 12

Band 1 Men: T.Cutler (Mi) b. C.Carthy (E) 16, 19
Band 2 Men: P.Cox b. A.Walker 18, 19
Band 3 Men: R.Abbotts b. H.Gehlot -19, 14, 16
Band 4 Men: K.Yarnley b. S.Gibbs 14, 17

Band 1 Women: M.Rolikova (Su) b. J.Bush-Harris (Sx) 13, 19
Band 2 Women: J.Bush-Harris b. Ann Humble 13, -13, 14
Band 3 Women: S.Horsnell b. S.Hayes 9, 13
Veteran Men: N.Eckersley b. C.Baise (BEL) 11, 6
Veteran Women: L.Radford b. S.King 10, 14

YOUNG THE KING OF KINGS LYNN

TERRY YOUNG won his second consecutive ETTA Grand Prix Mens Singles title, when he comfortably won the final of the Kings Lynn Open Grand Prix, in October, beating the Welsh rising star Adam Robertson, writes John Wood.

Young's win over Robertson, following on from his victory against Gareth Herbert in the Hastings Grand Prix, plus his tremendous victory in the Sheffield Grand Prix last season, where he became the only Englishman to beat Matthew Syed in 7 years, proves that he is the young man most likely to succeed and become the next English No.1.

Terry's dedication to table tennis is second to none, he not only put in an appearance on the Friday evening at the Coaching Session, he then did an exhibition match with Mark Smith. On the Saturday he flew to Germany to play in a Bundesliga match, then returning to Kings Lynn on Sunday.

Young's awesome power and aggression saw him see off all

comers in Lynnsport Leisure Centre, including Derbyshire's Michael Isherwood 10, -20, 10, in the semi-final, before going onto out-hit Robertson 12 and 19, in an all action topspin final.

Young also took the Mens Doubles title in partnership with Yorkshire's Mark Smith.

Sweden's Malin Johansson played superbly to take the Womens Singles crown beating Essex's Tracy Davies in the final 10,-20, 16, and Sue Collier in the semis 15 and 11.

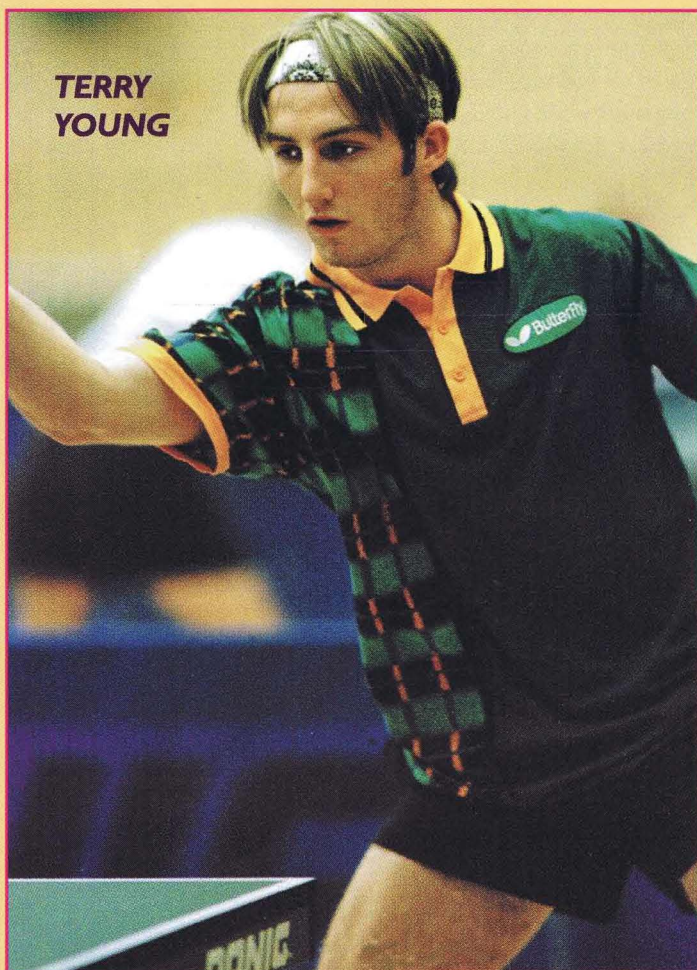
Johansson also won the Womens Doubles with Sue Collier.

In an all Middlesex affair, Neil Charles beat Danny Fesehatsion 19 and 8, in the Mens Band 1 Final.

Whilst Yorkshire's Emily Dearing won the Womens Band 1 trophy beating Sarah Smith from Nottingham 18 and 17.

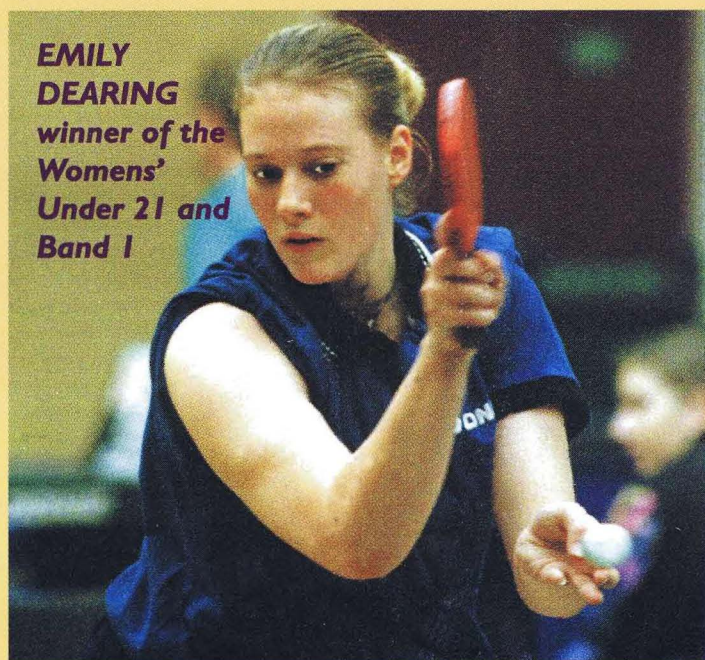
Dearing's weekend was very special because she also won the Womens Under 21 Final, overpowering the former England Junior star, Tracy Davies from Essex, -14, 18, 16.

Adam Robertson bounced back



TERRY YOUNG

KINGS LYNN S



EMILY DEARING
winner of the
Womens'
Under 21 and
Band 1

from his defeat in the Mens Singles final by beating Yorkshire's Michael James, 16 and 17.

ETTA National Youth Development Officer, Wesley Bush-Harris took a few scalps in winning the Mens Band 2 Singles, in the semis he beat Christopher Nichols 20 and 16, and then in the final he won an exciting three setter, 19, -12, 18, against Lancashire's Steven Turner.

Turner, who lives in Preston, has just returned to table tennis after a 7 year lay-off, and now plays for Seasiders in the British League.

Winner for the first time in the Mens Veterans was Yorkshire's Bill Grant, who narrowly beat Kings Lynn's Chris Brewer, 19 and 19 in the final.

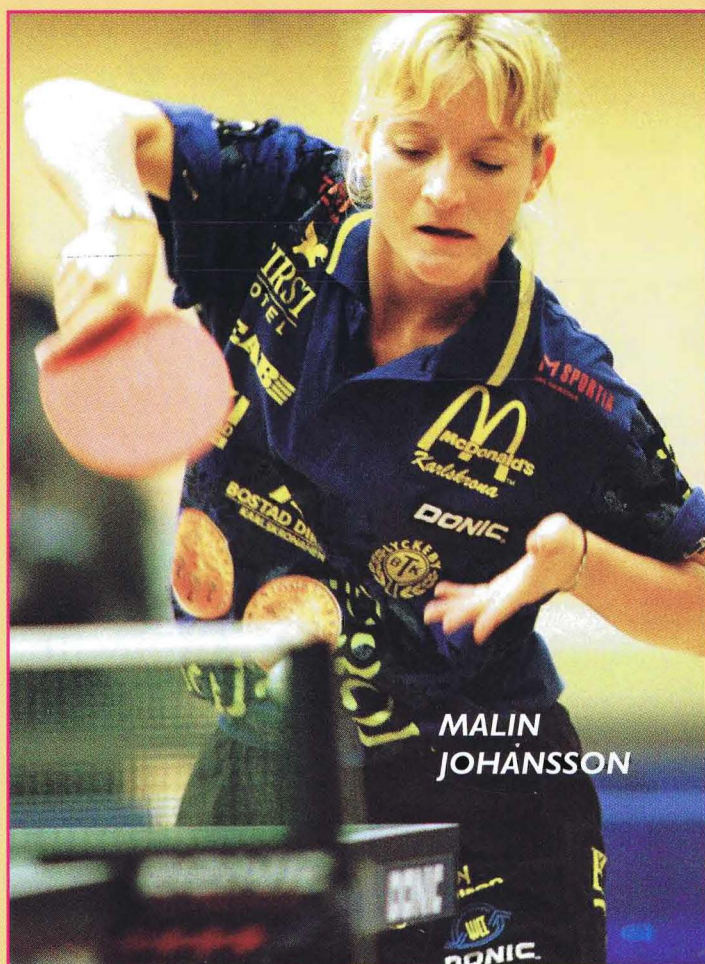
The Womens Veterans Singles final was between two Essex girls, Linda Hales and Shirley Carroll. And it was Hales who came out on top, winning her very first Grand Prix Final 19, 17.

This was also a very special moment for Carroll, as she was playing in her first Grand Prix final.

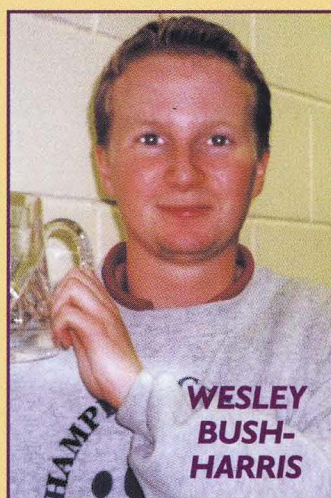


NEIL CHARLES

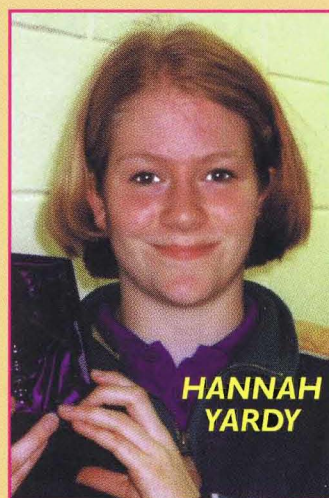
SWEDEN'S JOHANSSON TAKES TITLE



MALIN
JOHANSSON



WESLEY
BUSH-
HARRIS



HANNAH
YARDY

PECTACULAR

RESULTS

3rd EASTERN OPEN GRAND PRIX 31st Oct/1st Nov 1998

Mens Singles: T.Young (Bk) b. A.Robertson (WAL) 12, 19
Semi Finals: T.Young (Bk) b. M.Isherwood (Dy) 10, -20, 10

A.Robertson (WAL) b. J.Sugrue (Mi) 16, 15

Womens Singles: M.Johansson (SWE) b. T.Davies (E) 10,-20, 16

Semi Finals: M.Johansson (SWE) b. S.Collier (Bk) 16, 15

T.Davies (E) b. C.Lowe (Sk) 8, 7

N.Charles (Mi) b. D.Fesehatsion (Mi) 19, 8

W.Bush-Harris (Sx) b. S.Turner (La) 15, 19

Band 3 Men: T.Cleminson (E) b. R.Keats (Np) 13,-16, 20

Band 4 Men: G.Babcock (Bd) b. E.Baraty (Mi) 14, 15

Band 5 Men: N.Page (WAL) b. E.Baraty (Mi) 19, 12

Band 1 Women: E.Dearing (Y) b. S.Smith (Ng) 18, 17

Band 2 Women: H.Yardy (E) b. S.Horsnell (Mi) 11,-21, 19

Band 3 Women: A.Alabaster (K) b. R.Fisher (Mi) 12, 13

U21 Men: A.Robertson (WAL) b. M.James (Y) 16, 17

U21 Women: E.Dearing (Y) b. T.Davies (E) -14, 18, 16

Veteran Men: B.Grant (Y) b. C.Brewer (Nk) 19, 19

Veteran Women: L.Hales (E) b. S.Carroll (E) 19, 17

Mens Doubles: T.Young (Bk)/M.Smith (Y) b.

M.Isherwood(Dy)/S.Shaw (Dy) -11, 2, 11

Womens Doubles: M.Johansson (SWE)/S.Collier (Bk) b.

V.Murdoch (Bd)/N.Broome (Do) 12, 6



BILL GRANT



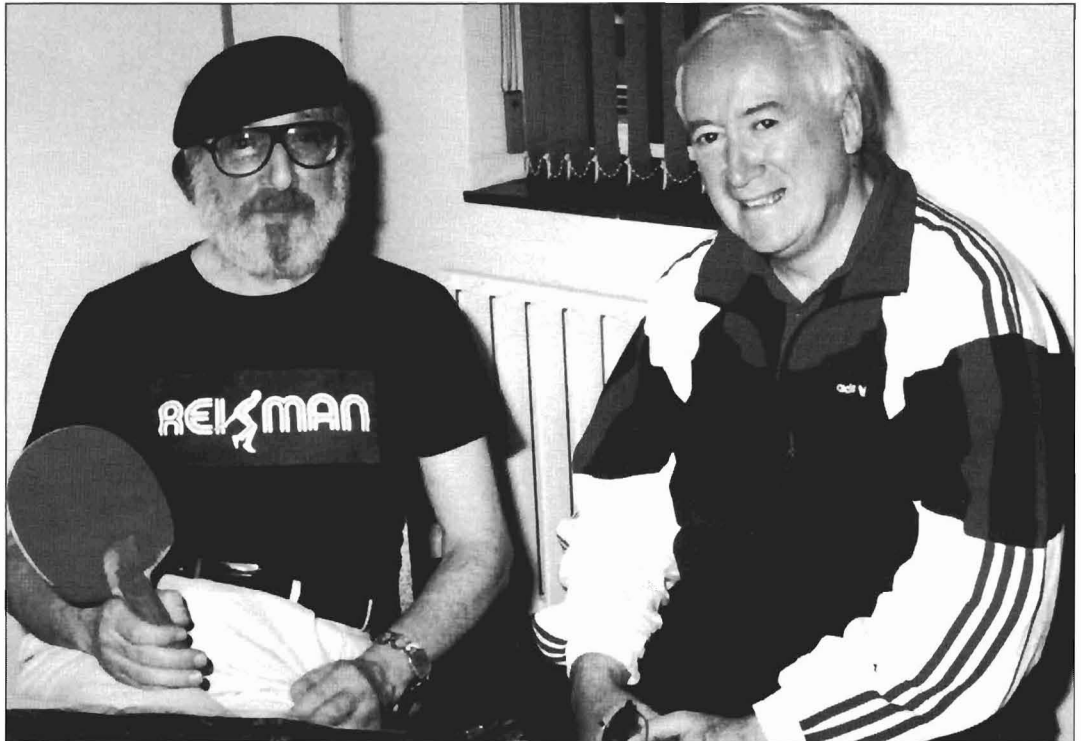
ESSEX GIRLS

LINDA HALES (left) & SHIRLEY CARROLL

“A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE and A RESOLUTION”

**BRIAN
HALLIDAY**
meets
**MARTY
REISMAN**

**PART
2**



TIME has not caught up with Marty Reisman. He is still the same colourful, multi-talented, eccentric performer that has been delighting crowds worldwide for close on 50 years. Now in his 69th year he recently had the effrontery to issue a challenge to United States senior No.2, Jim Butler to a winner take all, hard bat challenge. The stake was \$25,000, writes Brian Halliday

When I interviewed him at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester he turned up as his own Public Relations Department. He produced masses of leaflets promoting his forthcoming challenge match with Butler, together with items about his own interesting and varied life. So often we hear the

cry that the English game does not produce players of character and the necessary charisma. Maybe one or two could take a leaf out of Marty's book! Anyway I hope he is around for many years to come.

Q. You have seen all the players, from the time you call 'The Golden Age', through performers like Li Fu Jung, Chung Tse Tung etc. Now we have our own superstars like Waldner and Samsonov. Obviously they are from a different era, but can you explain why the crowds don't come to see them in the numbers that came to see you?

A. My belief is that the game as played in the golden era - pimpled rubber or hard bat however you want to describe it - was a dialogue

between two players that a six year old child could understand and follow. Today the game is played with that imperceptible twist of the wrist that the audience cannot see. It doesn't transmit to the spectator. Another aspect is that in the golden age you had a beginning, a middle, and a resolution. Today you just have a beginning and an end. There is no development of a point, so this becomes boring to the spectator.

Q. A little about yourself. Am I correct in saying that you ran a club in New York?

A. Yes.

Q. How large was the club and what went on there?

A. The club was in business since 1932 and I took it over in 1958. I think its success was based around

my playing anybody for money at any time of the day. It gave the place a flavour that was unique. We were open 24 hours. In the afternoon we had the children come in and the more serious stuff was played in the evenings. About midnight things really started to heat up. That's when the serious money changed hands.

Q. Really. What sort of money?

A. Well we played \$500 a game which was a lot of money in those days. I created the action, the excitement, and the drama of it all.

Q. Did you cultivate this image you've got? You know - you walk in - everyone says, "Look there's Marty - a bit of an eccentric." Is it something that you have developed over the years to push the sport - or is it just

something that comes naturally?

A. I didn't plan it. It's just my personality. I like the action. I like the excitement. I just like to brew up a storm. I have a lot of confidence in myself and I will take on anyone for money. By the way, the thing that made me a great competitor is I never practised seriously the strokes. Most of my matches were money matches. Dick Miles and I would practice for a couple of minutes and then it was straight into a money match. Since I was 12 years old I have been playing these money matches.

Q. When you wrote your book "The Money Player" you wrote about these matches?

A. Sure. The book is out of print now but there are moves to do a re-print. I tried to make it a story of my life. You see playing table tennis I had many interesting experiences. For example living 3 years in the Orient. It was pretty exotic in those days - no Macdonalds or Hiltons. When I lived there it was much like it must have been at the turn of the century.

Q. Did you get into any scrapes?

A. Have we got enough time? Well there were numerous incidents. I was in Hanoi playing table tennis at the time the French were fighting in Dien Bien Phu - that was hairy. I also got involved in smuggling gold. I described in my book the people I worked for and the mechanics of the operation. When I disembarked at Kai Tek airport Hong Kong I weighed 135lbs - one hour later I weighed 156 lbs. Now if I tell you any more no one will buy my book.

Q. How did you get on with the Barnas, Bergmans etc. Was there a big camaraderie then?

A. Tremendous friendships. Much more so than now. They don't seem to have that individualistic and temperamental attitude prevalent then. The personalities today seem suppressed and I don't think we will see the likes of Bergman, Barna, Vana etc. They were personalities in their

own right. Of course there are fascinating players today but we don't see the blossoming of stars that shone yesterday. I believe that the rubber racket game encouraged that type of personality. They were my heroes and I miss them.

Q. There is of course a Video tape of the old time players that has sold well.

A. Yes and I understand that a further tape is to be issued.

Q. Some years ago Ivor Montagu wrote how much he enjoyed watching the finger spin services prevalent before World War 2. Sol Schiff was the main exponent wasn't he?

A. Correct

Q. How difficult were they to return?

A. Extraordinarily difficult. I will tell you that some time ago I thought it would be a good idea to record the finger spin in slow motion - really for memorabilia purposes. I approached Sol to ask him if he would demonstrate the many and varied methods he used to win points outright by his skill. His spins were uncanny and most of them unreturnable. I thought it would be good to record him from the historic perspective. I got on the phone to Sol and Sol says "What are you talking about? I never used finger spin serves". I called up Jimmy McClure. Jimmy says "Sol's a liar. You see Sol has a hang up about it all. He objects to just being remembered as a finger spin expert". So I regard it as a great loss not to be able to capture on tape the master of an art which has completely disappeared.

Q. Why do you think U.S.A. table tennis was so good then. You know - Miles, Cartland, Schiff, yourself. Why has there been such a levelling off?

A. Difficult to answer that. You see we are talking about two different games. It is a tragedy what has happened in the game today. I don't know how we are going to extricate

ourselves from the mess we are in. Singularly and collectively things got twisted out of shape for our sport. It may be that the commercial aspect reared its ugly head - and a lot of people got caught up in it all. You know years ago the game was hypnotic and mesmerising, and when you don't have that there is something sad about it all.

Q. Do you think maybe there is too much politics within the sport both here and in the States?

A. Yes I do. You know power corrupts. In the States even now there is a power struggle going on within the game. The pot is small but there are those that will grab the goodies that are available. This has been going on for years. To get back to your original question about the downward spiral. I believe that there is so much emphasis on equipment that the players starting to play our sport are deceived by the mechanical advantages of the equipment they are using. They mistake effectiveness for the quality of play. The racket is such a powerful weapon that a point is won not by a basic underlying foundation that is necessary to be a real champion. The basic difference between rubber bat and sponge players is that years ago there was no such thing as deception, trickery, or fakery. You had to have the goods - pure strokes - so there was a very small window to go through to reach world class. With the advent of sponge, poor players could cover weaknesses (e.g. - footwork) by power play or services. So it opened up the possibility of many players becoming effective. In the States too many players rely on equipment.

Q. It seems that the skill level in the 1940's and 50's and before was very high. People like Bellak could produce very weird and wonderful moments of skill. Do you agree?

A. Yes. For example I toured as a table tennis act with the Harlem

Globetrotters Basketball Show. Doug Cartland and I developed an act. For example we could play with five balls at one time. We also had a whole set of frying pans tuned to various pitches which we could pick up as we played. Neither Doug or I had a musical ear but we took along a musician to this shop to select a whole set of pans of different thickness, and after numerous experiments and much practice we were able to perform "Mary had a little lamb" and "Jingle Bells" by picking up each pan in turn and batting the ball across the net. I remember playing this at Wembley when Abe Saperstein, who ran the Globetrotters, came over after the show and said, "You guys have got the rest of the week off. We have received a complaint from the Musician's Union". So we got thrown out of Wembley Stadium for playing "Jingle Bells".

Q. I have heard that you were often at loggerheads with the USSTA authorities over the years. Do you wish to comment on that?

A. I feel that Miles, Doug Cartland and I were persecuted by past administrators. The reason was that the best players came from New York City, but the game was run by guys much further west. They wanted their own favourites in the American team. We were always getting suspended for quite small reasons.

Q. Now what about this mammoth money challenge with Jim Butler?

A. This is the big one and I am looking forward to playing Jim real soon. Certainly we will attract many spectators. Should be very special. I'll let you know what happens.

BH. "Many thanks for coming in today."

MR. "Thanks for inviting me. I regard England as my second home. It has so many wonderful memories - especially those golden days fifty years ago."

FUNNY RUBBERS

Upon opening the Table Tennis News issue of October 1998 Number 255, and first reading Bryan Halliday's Face to Face article on Ebby Scholer, and then turning the page and reading John Preat's article, my very first thoughts were, 'Here we go again', writes Stuart Greenberg.

Well, you see some years ago, I wrote a letter to Table Tennis News, which was published, criticising what I termed, 'Funny Rubbers' and in particular long pimples rubber. I went on to say how I believed that the game had become a sport based on trickery. I also criticised the number of differing bat blades on the market, as well as the then innovation of 'gluing up'.

Bearing in mind the history, I felt I had to respond to both of John's articles in the previous month's and in last month's issue of Table Tennis News.

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE

I would like to see, long pimples banned altogether and I do not feel that Ebby Scholer has gone far enough, it is too little far too late, although mercifully it is something. I would like to see combination bats banned completely with a stipulation that the same rubber and thickness be used each side, together with the same thickness and type of sponge, plus I would like to see a rationalisation of bat blades and unquestionably the banning of glue.

Okay, I know I will be accused of a retrograde attitude and being behind the times, etc, but let me build up my case.

John Preat mentions John Hilton's marvellous feat in winning the European Championships in 1980. With the greatest of respect to both Johns, there was, contrary to what John Preat states, an element of the bat in Hilton's performance. I would be amazed if John Hilton himself denied this, for there had to be, as he was not considered to be in contention of winning the title at that time and it was considered a major surprise within the sport.

John Preat states that in 1983 the introduction of black and red rubbers to a bat, did great harm to England's combination bat players, and he quotes various leading players that were affected. My view is, "Good!". Those players, whilst playing with legal bats, were unquestionably relying upon



'trickery', because basically that is exactly what it was, if not why were such players 'spinning the bat'? And why did they need to rely on the same coloured rubbers? John states that long pimples are essential for defenders at International level and as if to emphasise this his headline to his article in the last issue "Thinking Is No Longer Needed" is spread across the page. Surely a more appropriate headline would have been "Trickery Is No Longer Needed", for that is what long pimples are, particularly when used in combination bat form. Obviously I agree, the best type of game to watch is a defender against an attacker, but the ITTF in looking at reducing long pimples should now be looking at the game as a whole, which brings me back to the content of the seventh paragraph of this piece.

The problem now of course is that the manufacturers have seen the 'S' signs and they are too entrenched in the game now, 'for my back to basics view point'. At least my way there would be attackers playing good defenders using standardised

equipment fairly without trickery, so be it legally as such!

John criticises Ebby Scholer's proposals, I do also, but our reasons are so wide apart! John criticises because he is infuriated that pimples should be shortened, I criticise it because Mr Scholer has not gone anywhere near far enough nor widespread enough. The innovation of all that John Preat argues to retain, is at the expense of table tennis as a sport "losing its magic for the trick"!

ELEMENTARY ERRORS

Ebby Scholer is right, the game has declined, it just cannot be televised in its present form, with players making what appears to be elemental errors because of the trickery of long pimples and combination bats, and any commentator clearly being embarrassed to explain why the error has occurred!

You may gather my dear friend and reader, that John Preat and I rarely agree particularly on the debate regarding funny rubbers and equipment. Yet I do agree with John in his article last month

regarding fast rubbers and glues. They do indeed need to be re-looked at, as I have said, as well as long pimples.

Combination bats, long pimples and the like, have actually had a dramatic effect in local league play as well as at International level, with previous inferior players suddenly beating more able players, because of the equipment, and this to a degree applies to fast rubbers and glue also.

No other sport relies on the equipment as does our sport, and again it is worth recording that in tennis, as soon as alternative equipment was being suggested, it was immediately banned, sadly our legislators, including our dear English ones, have let us down.

John's comments regarding the Veteran scene, I find nonsensical. My same argument regarding the equipment applies to this faction as to all others, and logically follows through accordingly.

Years ago John also accused me of not appreciating the skill required in using a combination bat and/or long pimples. He was wrong of course, I certainly do appreciate it, what I do not appreciate is that the skill be channelled in the wrong direction. Surely now at long last there could possibly be light at the end of the tunnel in July 1999. The ETTA in my opinion should not just support the proposals for shorter pimples but request an addendum to the ruling by proposing the wide ranging adaptations that I have proposed within this article together with the shorter pimples if necessary.

Many years ago John, through Carl, challenged me to a game of table tennis which for obvious reasons I never took up. So I now propose a challenge for both John and Carl to prove my point and settle our longstanding argument once and for all, that is that the equipment is based on trickery, because with players of equal ability, one has an edge using such equipment. So I would like to propose a challenge match between Carl, using what I would term a normal bat, against a player that I will propose in my place of equal playing ability to Carl, also using a normal bat, the match to be best of three with a possible side stake, the loser paying to a charity of his choice.

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John Preat mentions John Hilton's marvellous feat in winning the European Championships in 1980. With the greatest of respect to both Johns, there was, contrary to what John Preat states, an element of the bat in Hilton's performance. I would be amazed if John Hilton himself denied this, for there had to be, as he was not considered to be in contention of winning the title at that time and it was considered a major surprise within the sport.

John Preat states that in 1983 the introduction of black and red rubbers to a bat, did great harm to England's combination bat players, and he quotes various leading players that were affected. My view is, "Good!". Those players, whilst playing with legal bats, were unquestionably relying upon



'trickery', because basically that is exactly what it was, if not why were such players 'spinning the bat'? And why did they need to rely on the same coloured rubbers? John states that long pimples are essential for defenders at International level and as if to emphasise this his headline in his article in the last issue "Thinking Is No Longer Needed" is spread across the page. Surely a more appropriate headline would have been "Trickery Is No Longer Needed", for that is what long pimples are, particularly when used in combination bat form. Obviously I agree, the best type of game to watch is a defender against an attacker, but the ITTF in looking at reducing long pimples should now be looking at the game as a whole, which brings me back to the content of the seventh paragraph of this piece.

The problem now of course is that the manufacturers have seen the 's' signs and they are too entrenched in the game now, 'for my back to basics view point'. At least my way there would be attackers playing good defenders using standardised

equipment fairly without trickery, so be it legally as such!

John criticises Ebby Scholer's proposals, I do also, but our reasons are so wide apart! John criticises because he is infuriated that pimples should be shortened, I criticise it because Mr Scholer has not gone anywhere near far enough nor widespread enough. The innovation of all that John Preat argues to retain, is at the expense of table tennis as a sport "losing its magic for the trick!"

ELEMENTARY ERRORS

Ebby Scholer is right, the game has declined, it just cannot be televised in its present form, with players making what appears to be elemental errors because of the trickery of long pimples and combination bats, and any commentator clearly being embarrassed to explain why the error has occurred!

You may gather my dear friend and reader, that John Preat and I rarely agree particularly on the debate regarding funny rubbers and equipment. Yet I do agree with John in his article last month

regarding fast rubbers and glues. They do indeed need to be re-looked at, as I have said, as well as long pimples.

Combination bats, long pimples and the like, have actually had a dramatic effect in local league play as well as at International level, with previous inferior players suddenly beating more able players, because of the equipment, and this to a degree applies to fast rubbers and glue also.

No other sport relies on the equipment as does our sport, and again it is worth recording that in tennis, as soon as alternative equipment was being suggested, it was immediately banned, sadly our legislators, including our dear English ones, have let us down.

John's comments regarding the Veteran scene, I find nonsensical. My same argument regarding the equipment applies to this faction as to all others, and logically follows through accordingly.

Years ago John also accused me of not appreciating the skill required in using a combination bat and/or long pimples. He was wrong of course, I certainly do appreciate it, what I do not appreciate is that the skill be channelled in the wrong direction. Surely now at long last there could possibly be light at the end of the tunnel in July 1999. The ETTA in my opinion should not just support the proposals for shorter pimples but request an addendum to the ruling by proposing the wide ranging adaptations that I have proposed within this article together with the shorter pimples if necessary.

Many years ago John, through Carl, challenged me to a game of table tennis which for obvious reasons I never took up. So I now propose a challenge for both John and Carl to prove my point and settle our longstanding argument once and for all, that is that the equipment is based on trickery, because with players of equal ability, one has an edge using such equipment. So I would like to propose a challenge match between Carl, using what I would term a normal bat, against a player that I will propose in my place of equal playing ability to Carl, also using a normal bat, the match to be best of three with a possible side stake, the loser paying to a charity of his choice.

"I LOST MY HAIR BECAUSE OF TABLE TENNIS"

TABLE TENNIS AMONGST THE STARS explores the extent to which the famous past and present immersed themselves into the game that we love so well.

TIM HEALEY

"I was a very keen table tennis player - County Durham champion. My dad made me a table tennis bat, and engraved my name on it," says the former star of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*.

ALMA TAFT

"Ping-pong is classless, I gave up tennis because of the snobbery", says the documentary maker. "You can play in the most unlikely places with the most amazing people. I've played on dangerous assignments in Beirut, Chad, El Salvador. It breaks down the barriers".

JONATHAN SACKS

"The nicest way for me to end the day is over a game of ping-pong with the kids", says the Chief Rabbi. "I prefer to be taught by my children than to teach them. I believe in empowering children and having fun with them. They ask for help with homework, but I'm not good at that".

STEVE TILSON

"I started playing when I was ten and picked it up quickly", says the Southend United footballer. "Table tennis is instinctive, there's no time to adjust. You've got to out-fox the other person. It's as competitive as football, but there's less money in it".

PAUL SHANE

"It's harder than people think - you have got to have a good eye for, and you use a lot of energy diving around the table," says the actor who won a junior championship at 16. "I was never off the table in those days. I would not be any good in

I HAVE BEEN reading of 'Times Past' in the Newsletter which has reminded me of a business meeting I had with an actor Anthony Quinn. He knew I played table tennis and produced a 1993 copy of the "Table Tennis Today USA" magazine. In this edition Tim Boggan wrote an article on the number of show business legends who played the sport. I believe the following highlights are of interest, writes Barry Melsel.

"The Gershwin family lived (in New York City) on 103rd Street at Riverside Drive, keeping a kind of artistic open house that drew hordes of showbusiness folk and Broadway and film stars. You'd walk in the entrance and there'd be people standing all around, with very exciting Ping Pong games going on. Ruth Aarons, the US's only World Singles Champions, among them. Her father was a famous Broadway theatrical producer and it seems possible that these games were played before, during and after Ruth won the US title in 1934. She lived in Riverside Drive at that time and quite likely learnt to play at the home of George and Iva Gershwin."

"The July 7, 1993 New York Times features an article on Mickey Rooney. The star went on record as saying "I lost my hair because of tennis and Ping Pong. I was the Southern Californian Ping Pong Champion for five years. But I took too many showers and the soap was not Vidal Sassoon". Tim Boggan is pretty sceptical as to the truth of Rooney's claim, but he does reveal that in the 1930's Hollywood stars did all they could to hype the game. Dick Powell, Jane Withers, Marsha Hunt, Jimmy Durante, Ginger Rogers, and Betty Grable were all featured on the covers of TT Topics Magazine.

It is on record that Harold Lloyd, Fay Wray (of King Kong fame), Lew Ayes, Robert Cummings, Bob Hope and Anthony Quinn all played and loved the sport. Tyrone Power, Jimmy Stewart, Henry Fonda, and Joel McRea were also participants. Peter Lorre and Judy Garland were described as 'clever players' as was Edward G. Robinson. There must have been a little truth in Rooney's claim as there is an article in the 1938 TT Topics that stated "Freddie Bartholomew and Mickey Rooney are players of almost professional skill".

Last word goes to Ginger Rogers "Encouraged by friends and chiefly as a lark, I entered the Women's Table Tennis Championships of Southern California at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Pitted against champions from far and near I fought my way through the preliminaries and into the final where Alice Marble (of lawn tennis fame), beat me out".

competition now - I'm too slow."

NORMAN LAMONT

"I'm a fiend," says the former Tory Chancellor, who trains at his weekend breaks at his country residence. "I have seldom met anyone who can beat me."

ANGELA FLOWERS

The art dealer includes ping-pong in her annual cultural weekend. "It's cultural because everyone can appreciate it, even an amateur. But it's serious, people dress up in white and place bets. In fact, some people seem to come for the ping-pong, not for the art."

ROGER MCGOUGH

"It's not ping-pong, it's table tennis. In ping-pong you get it into the net, in table tennis you get it over the net," says the poet. "You can tell people's characters by the way they act behind the bat - there are sneaky ones and killers. It brings out the worst in me - I'm aggressive."

PATRICK HUGHES

"I'm a spin merchant," says the Surrealist painter. "I love the game because it's both defence and attack, ping and pong. But it is a sign of misspent youth, all those hours in the youth club. The moment you pick up the bat you revert back to adolescence."

FRED PERRY

The former tennis player was World table tennis champion before he won Wimbledon. His father told him "You play at night-time in smoky rooms. You look like death warmed up - why not concentrate on tennis?" He did, but says, "I played tennis with table tennis strokes."

Avon

by David Hockney

UNLUCKY

AVON JUNIORS were unlucky not to start the season with a win in Junior Division 1B following gaining promotion last year, going down 4 - 6 to a very good Berkshire team. Despite having lost two experienced players in Katie Hardidge and Jessica Orlik, the team put up a good display with both young replacements Stephanie Dauncey and Rachel Allen acquitting themselves well. The star of the match for Avon was Leigh Iles who won both his games with Brian Smith and David Riddle contributing one each. Disappointingly, the Seniors matches against Devon had to be postponed because Avon were unable to field a second lady player. These matches have now been rearranged for November.

Turning to the local leagues, disappointingly Bath lost another 4 teams from their league but have managed to maintain 5 divisions just!), with the Premier Division now only comprising 8 teams. Concerns for the future of the game continue with only 6 junior players registered with the League. Bath have now set up a working party to examine the problems that exist and determine the future make up of the game in the Bath area. On a more positive note, the Bristol League continues to thrive. Both Leagues have invested heavily in coaching with Bernard Nash and Marcus Berry making determined efforts to ensure that we have good calibre players coming through for the future. Whether they will be in enough numbers though remains to be seen.

Forthcoming events in the county include the Bristol Closed Championships in November 98 and the Grand Prix Western Open to be held in Bath on 6 and 7 December 98. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Cornwall

by John Wood

JUNIOR SUCCESS

OCTOBER brought success for the county Junior 1st team in Division 3B of the County Champions, when they beat Shropshire 8-2, at Tregorick Park Table Tennis Centre.

Star of the match for Cornwall was St. Austell's Matthew Nichols who won both of his games, with Andrew Gavin and Mark Poyner winning one each.

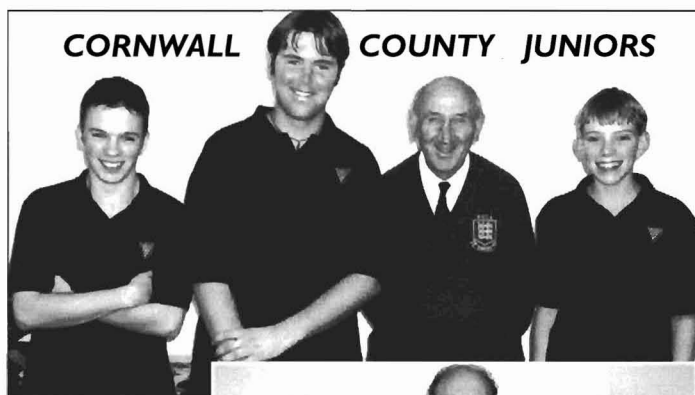
The other four wins came from the girls Sarah Harris and Michelle Turner who won one each, with the other two being walkovers as Shropshire turned up with only one girl.

In the Eastern Open Grand Prix at Kings Lynn last month, DML White Hart Launceston's Peter Thomas did really well reaching the last 16 of the Mens Singles where he narrowly lost to Yorkshire's Michael Isherwood. Whilst I was reasonably pleased to have reached round 2 of the Mens Singles Band 5, and to have gained some valuable Grand Prix points.

I would like to wish everyone in table tennis in Cornwall a very happy Christmas and successful new year.

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.



Cornwall's Junior County 1st team (left to right) Andrew Gaved, Matthew Nichols, Fred Ingram (Cornwall's Fixture Organiser) and Mark Poyner. Whilst pictured right are Sarah Harris and Michelle Turner, with Cornwall's County Secretary and County Umpire Brian Holloway.



Derbyshire

by Colin Deaton

TALKING point in Derbyshire to date is the North West Grand Prix 3, which witnessed an all Derbyshire Final in the Men's Singles event.

Derbyshire champion, Michael Isherwood, defeated his colleague Steven Shaw, to win his first ever Open Singles title.

Isherwood has made a rapid rise up the National ranking list and his followers firmly believe that this title he won will be the first of many. To notch a double in this event he also lifted the Under 21 title.

Both Isherwood and Shaw, coached by Derrick Marples, are doing the rounds of all five Opens, and this will certainly keep the Derbyshire Flag flying, which is most pleasing, particularly with Nicola Deaton spending most of her time playing in the French Ladies League, where she represents her club, Metz.

The Chesterfield new youth league is

proving popular with fourteen teams at junior level being involved. Ages range from 11 to 17 year olds and the league functions on a Wednesday evening, every fortnight at the Springbank Centre.

Fourteen year old Sam Boulton, produced some good form in qualifying for the National finals, when he won first place to qualify at the East Midlands Area Finals at Grantham. Sam is the current Derbyshire Cadet Champion and he could well develop into being a more successful player than his brother Jack, who has represented Derbyshire on numerous occasions.

The Derby league operated with five divisions this season and the entire Derby area is making a determined bid to encourage youngsters throughout the city to play our game.

Throughout the half term break coaching sessions under the direction of active E.T.T.A. coach Roy Bayliss, are being featured.

Also a half term taster and exhibition has been arranged at the Belper Sports

Centre which in the words of one of the areas top officials Mike Payne, 'in an effort to work up some enthusiasm'. Mike went on to say how disappointing it was that Derbyshire had only one team which is UXBRIDGE, currently competing in the National League.

I endorse Mike's comments, and big efforts must be made in this direction in the future.

Several of our member league throughout Derbyshire are busy chasing the services of a sponsor. Chesterfield's, 13 year old Jenna Davey has been sponsored by a local Rotary Club and the promising Jenna who has already attained the East Midland Cadet trials is absolutely thrilled to bits.

Meanwhile, the ambitious Jenna continues to work hard at her game and plays each week in Division Five of the Chesterfield and District League.

Finally, our congratulations are extended to Sue and Alan Cooke on the birth of their second daughter, Charlotte. Both mother and daughter are fine and Sue hopes to resume playing in the Chesterfield League in the not too distant future.

Essex

by Steve Kerns

CRIS SLADDEN WINS SOUTHEAST INVITATION TOURNAMENT

THE Southeast Invitation Tournament held at the Warehouse Centre, Rayleigh Weir on Sunday 27 September 1998 provided the highest-class domestic field in an Essex table tennis event for many years.

Predictably the final was fought out between the two favourites, Cris Sladden from Southend and John Holland from the Brentwood-based Peniel club and Sladden the current England No.17 ranked player took the title with a tense and tactical 19, 18 victory over his equally illustrious rival who reached No. 7 spot on the England ranking list three years ago.

With prize-money on offer for the top four-placings the battle for the minor positions was equally fierce and no match was harder fought than the third-fourth place play-off between Clive Carthy (Beckton) and Steve Tilson (the former Southend professional footballer) which Carthy edged - 21,17,19 after a truly epic battle.

The initial stages were organised into two groups of six and although group A went to form with Holland staying unbeaten and Carthy winning four matches out of five group B proved the more exciting with Sladden staying unbeaten but with all the other five players coming close to qualifying. It was Tilson whose never-say-die spirit and extra fitness saw him clinch second place with excellent wins over former England international Stuart Gibbs, current Chelmsford champion Rik James and former county-first team-star John Dennison. Gibbs aged 50 the newly-crowned World Veterans Post Office champion also played his part with some outstanding table tennis which included equally impressive wins

over James, Dennison and former England junior international Reagan Nettleingham. With Tilson and Gibbs both emerging with three wins out of five, Tilson qualified for a place in the semi-finals by virtue of having beaten Gibbs. Semi-finals: John Holland beat Steve Tilson 15,13. Cris Sladden beat Clive Carthy 13,17. Final: Cris Sladden beat John Holland 19,18. Third/Fourth place play-off: Carthy beat Tilson -21,17,19.

VETERANS TEAMS MAKE WINNING START

The county veterans third and fourth teams both made successful starts to the season with the third team scoring a fine 5-3 home win over Kent IV. Brian Adams and Chris Jacob were both unbeaten and Glenn Johnson won once. The fourth team excelled with a convincing 8-1 win over Cambridgeshire I, with Peter Ballard, John King and debutant Hamish Innes all winning their singles. A great result for Essex and a fair reflection on the strength in depth in Essex veterans table tennis when a fourth team beats a first team so convincingly.

Essex have also published their first veterans ranking lists of the season which are as follows:

Veteran Men

- (1) Dave Tan
- (2) Don McGilvray
- (3) Dave Randall
- (4) Terry Guymier
- (5) Neil Brierley
- (6) Fred Lockwood
- (7) Dave Wright
- (8) Ray Murray
- (9) Brian Adams
- (10) Glenn Johnson
- (11) Chris Jacob
- (12) Peter Ballard
- (13) John King
- (14) Hamish Innes
- (15) Brian Mailey
- (16) Stan Battrick
- (17) Paul Morris
- (18) Dave Bowles
- (19) Feisal Mauthoor
- (20) John Andrews

Veterans Ladies

- (1) Marjorie Dawson
- (1) Marilyn Bawden
- (3) Linda Hales
- (4) Shirley Carroll
- (5) Sue Hickman
- (6) Jenny Harrison
- (7) Carol Nelson
- (8) Ann Gilliam
- (9) Jean Chasmer
- (10) Maureen Pemberton
- (11) Linda Murray
- (12) Joan Hand
- (13) Joyce Bassett
- (14) Marie Know

Herefordshire

by Harry Rutle

Steve Watkins recently ran a FIRST Veterans Tournament and it proved to be an extremely tough event requiring endurance, as up to 10 matches were played by most competitors. The winners, Harry Jule (40+), Mike Wheatley (50+) Norman Merchant (60+), the most improved James Palmer and the Ladies winner Pauline Hart.

County Results played on 19th September: We entered a Senior Team for

the first time in the ETTA County Championships and won our first home game against Somerset 7-3. Mark Owen and Michael Owens won both their games, Andy Castle, Sharon Powell and Emma Allan winning one each.

Our Juniors lost 307 points to Powis, with two wins for Tom Peters and one for Emily Birt. Sam Lloyd pushed one to 3 sets and Joe Davies was unlucky to lose 2 games at duce.

Veterans first played a double away match against Berkshire 3 and 4. Lost 207 to Bk3, a singles win each for Harry Rutle and Gordon Stables. Lost 4-5 to Bk4 with 2 wins for Gordon, one for Harry and a mens doubles for Harry and Richard Smith. We should have won this match when in the mixed doubles Gordon and Carol Milnes, having won the first were 20-17 up, and Gordon missed 3 opportunities to finish the game.

Veterans second also played a double away match against Sussex 3 and 4. Lost 1-8 to 5 x 3, a singles win for Norman Merchant in 3 sets and 0-9 to 5 x 4. Neville Meredith, John Hunt and Pauline Hart were the other team members.

Veterans third played away to Wiltshire, resulting in a 0-9 loss, team members being Mike Wheatley, Mike Belfield, James Palmer and Margaret Shock.

County Results played on 10th October; Juniors played home to Devon 2, resulting in a 4-6 loss. Emily Birt won both her games, with Tom Peters and Jenny Spencer winning one each. Their Coach, Dave Gough said Jenny and Sam Lloyd played under par, with Joe Davies unlucky once again to lose at duce.

County Results played on 17th October; Seniors played away to Avon, resulting in a 4-6 loss. Michael Owens and Christina Mastro-Thomas won both their games. Andy Castle pushed one to 3 sets otherwise lost in straight games, as did Mark Stubbs. The team felt they would have won 6-4 if they had been able to field a second lady.

The Veterans first team played home to Devon 3 resulting in a 405 loss. Harry Rutle played well to win both his games easily in straight sets. Gordon Stables and Richard Smith won one each. Welcome to Linda Ashman who played her first County game for the team.

The Veterans second team played home to Surrey 3, resulting in a 1-8 loss. The single win came from Carol Mimes in 3 sets. Neville Meredith pushed one to 3 sets, and the rest were straight games for Richard Owens and Norman Merchant.

The Veterans third team played a double home fixture with Berkshire 3 and 4 which resulted in 0-9 loss to both teams. A men mens doubles partnership of Mike Wheatley and James Palmer, and a singles game for John Hunt went to 3 sets. The rest of the team members were Trevor Seymour, Ray Cooke, Mike Belfield and Margaret Shock.

Isle of Wight

by John Pream

Pimple-phobia?

In my last notes I feared more membership losses, if new anti-long pimples legislation reached these shores. It was a 'cri de couer' unheeded by the

ETTA National Council and so, it seems, we shall have to pin our hopes on the success of other nations who may seek to reverse an earlier ITTF Council decision. Obscure, badly drafted, misguided as this new regulation may be, in the view of some of us, it now looks likely to become part of the game, sooner rather than later.

There was as so often, a degree of fudging, which seeks to delay the inevitable until after the 2000 Olympics. It would give the main sufferers in England, Andrea Holt and Matthew Syed, another year with their current rubbers and a better chance to get to the Olympics and play there with their current equipment. Such small mercies do little for the local player and local numbers. Evil days can be delayed, but they always come, if majorities intend such an outcome.

My own view remains that the real 'enemy' is in the factors that make the game so fast and rallies so short. I note the intention to make the ball a little larger in the cause of reform. It seems the tale of the sledge-hammer to crack the proverbial nut. One can imagine the huge costs of changing all the tools of production and the cost of the finished article which has to absorb these costs. Simple, quick remedies like increasing the height of the net were, I suppose, too easy. It would be easier still to ban glue and the smell which one can note everywhere on the so-called big occasions and reduce the thickness of rubbers to 1.8 or 1.5mm.

I foresee an awful lot of broken hearts and ruined games and many will not forgive us for destroying what they have worked hard to achieve. The exodus to other sports will continue. Once again, Table Tennis has found the worst of all worlds with its usual unerring touch.

No criticism in all of this of our ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, who tried to guide the ship through this crisis with considerable tact. Unfortunately our National Council, so silent so often, has sent him 'naked into the conference chambers' to quote the late Aneurin Bevin. Our main hopes are now pinned on Japan and China, who seem to understand this foolishness, launched at such short notice by a German resolution. One recalls the dictum of an earlier cynic, "You can say what you like about our sport. In the end it always lets you down."

Now to the local scene, now down to four divisions, where once there were seven. The most pressing problem, that of finding a new league secretary was solved when Roy Wiltshire was persuaded to take on the job. Our luck continued, as he is doing an excellent job. I liked particularly his first report in the local paper. A star is born.

Despite the departure of Danny Burns (Southampton and British League) and Roger Hookey (Portsmouth and British League) our first division could prove no less interesting. Alex Rourke, whom I regard the best player of those still in our league, lost his first match to Dean Whittington, who is perhaps the leading junior in Hampshire, a first rate surprise. The most remarkable newcomer to

division I has to be Pat Knowles, who at 78, has fought his way back after many operations which he faced and put behind him with great gallantry. He was, of course, one of the greats of the Island game some time ago, but this season may well prove to be his finest hour. Ray Turner has also returned to the premier section, another remarkable come-back.

Our cadets, lacking the Hampshire U-12 Champion Harry Ovnik, won one and lost one in their first excursion to the Inter-Town League. Chris Hughes and Andrew Hookey played extremely well.

Interesting times ahead for Dean Whittington and Lucy Pointer, as Hampshire Juniors gained promotion to the Junior Premier, a chance to measure themselves against the best. A ranking system that encourages inactivity will give them few other chances. I was sad that James Ovnik did not go to the County Trials. In my view he was a certainty for a place in the first team, but he prefers mountain-biking, in which cause he travels the country most week-ends.

Carl Pream won his singles for England in the European League which helped towards wins against Denmark and Slovakia and a probable place in the play-offs, which will decide promotion to the Superleague, still a tough hurdle. He was relieved to hear that his pimples were in the right 'aspect ratio' and so he will be unaffected by the new regulation, if and when this comes about. Apparently his chosen pimples were not long enough or thin enough. It looks as if the defenders will be the main victims, as the longer, thinner pimples are best at neutralising the fast loops and top spins which dominate the game at the higher levels. I find it hard to see this as a good idea, all things considered.

Kent

by Adrian Hall

JUSTIN AND EMMA UNBEATEN

Gravesends Justin Dodd and Tunbridge Wells Emma Etheridge were both unbeaten in the Junior County Trials that took place at Sittingbourne on Sat 3rd October 1998.

No real surprise for Justin who is nationally ranked at No.5, but with Kent boasting 5 Juniors in the top twenty in England and only three places available in the Kent 1st team the other places were keenly contested.

Not so straight forward in the Girls event with County Champion Ellen Grant (Thanet) only managing to finish in fourth place behind unbeaten Emma Etheridge and surprise runner up Michelle Hogben (Ashford).

Results of trials (not a county ranking list):

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1 Justin Dodd (Gravesend)
- 2 Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe)
- 3 Dominic Hall (Maidstone)
- 4 Stephen Beerling (Thanet)
- 5 Ross Walker (Medway)
- 6 Wesley Cheeseman (T.Wells)

- 7 Paul Dunmall (T. Wells)
- 8 William Power (Sittingbourne)
- 9 Lee Broad (Sittingbourne)
- 10 David Jeavons (Canterbury)

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 Emma Etheridge (T. Wells)
- 2 Michelle Hogben (Ashford)
- 3 Hazel Clucas (T. Wells)
- 4 Ellen Grant (Thanet)
- 5 Anusha Seneviratne (Ashford)
- 6 Joclie Stringer (Medway)
- 7 Emma Newsham (Folkestone)
- 8 Gemma Yamley (Folkestone)
- 9 Lisa Hogben (Ashford)
- 10 Jenny Ewer (T. Wells)

KENT SENIORS IN PUSH FOR COUNTY PREMIERSHIP

Kent 1st's made no mistake this season when in a clash with the county 2nd team they won 10-0. Kent missed out on promotion to the premier division of the county championship last season on games count back, mainly due to the fact that they dropped 4 games to the second team. This time Joe Kennedy, Paul Rainford, Justin Goodall, Angie Bristow and Kristina Brocklebank made no mistakes against John Huckle, Chris Knight, Paul Cronin, Heidi Steers and Sandra Collins.

BUCKS JUNIOR I 8 - KENT JUNIOR III 2

Ross Walker and Lee Broad got Kent off to a great start but all went Bucks way in the remaining eight matches. Warren Brooks, Gemma Chapman and Jane Dickens were all unbeaten for Bucks. Kent III - Ross Walker (1), Paul Dunmall (0), Lee Broad (1), Joanne Hubbard (0), Hazel Clucas (0).

HALF TERM IN SOUTH OF FRANCE

Kents top Juniors Justin Dodd and Scott Friday and Cadet Dominic Hall were selected to represent England at an International Training Camp at Meze in the South of France from the 27th Oct to 1st Nov 1998.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN CANCELLED

It is with regret that we must advise players, coaches and parents that due to circumstances beyond our control the Kent Junior Open will not take place during the 1998/9 season.

REVISED LOTTERY BID FOR COUNTY CENTRE

With the support of the Kent County Council Sports Development Unit and Maidstone Borough Council and under the Chairmanship of Reg Thompson a revised bid has been put to the lottery for a Kent County Table Tennis Centre. Although slightly smaller than the original bid and without accommodation for a resident coach the centre will still have sleeping accommodation for 40 making it ideal for international and weekend training camps. Lets all hope for better luck than last time.

Lancashire

by Tony Meredith

CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to commence these notes by congratulating Adam Bleakley of the Salford and Farnworth League on winning the National under 10 boys singles at the National under 10/11/12 Championships held in Widnes. He beat Northampton's Tim Yarnall in the final. Adam is a member of the National under 12 squad

and it would appear that he is benefiting from the under 12 training camps.

COUNTY TRIALS

The County junior trials took place in September with some interesting results. Andrew Rushton and Katy Parker were both exempt. Louis Rosenthal came through to win both the junior and cadet boys. Louis has improved almost 100% since last season and at thirteen he is looking like a serious contender for National honours. When one considers the short time he has been around, it is very evident that he has done remarkably well. He has received only a small amount of coaching (relatively speaking) and attended few tournaments so far. He is possibly the most naturally talented player to appear on the scene for a long time. With more serious coaching to improve his technique added to his gritty, cool temperament, there is no reason why he shouldn't make it to the top. It all hinges on how far he and his parents are prepared to go with the time and cost commitment.

It could be a very busy future for the Rosenthals as they have a younger son, ten year old David, who finished fifth in the cadet section. David has only been playing the game for a short time (he has a number of sporting interests) but watching him play at the Lancashire Junior Open he looks to be a born natural and he is left handed. If he chooses to devote his leisure time to table tennis we could well have another future star.

It pleases me to see some Jewish players coming into the game again. In years gone by the game was dominated by Jewish players like Cohen, Lurie, Casofsky, Goodman, Ingber and many more too numerous to mention. Stuart Landis has been responsible for starting the Jewish youngsters off. He has been running a coaching session at St. Monica's School, Prestwich and has coached a number of his charges to tournament standard.

Getting back to the trials, Joanne Cain did well to win the junior girls section but the success story was Rebecca Tong. She came second after only fifteen months in the game. Father Mark's investment in Denis Neale's coaching ability appears to be paying off. Hannah Roberts finished top of the cadet girls. Full list as follows: Junior Boys: 1. Andrew Rushton 2. Louis Rosenthal 3. Paul Whitehead 4. David Pilkington 5. Paul Bramham 6. Iain Lindley 7. Nick Ball 8. Daniel Dean. Junior Girls: 1. Katy Parker 2. Joanne Cain 3. Rebecca Tong 4. Rachel McHugh 5. Kim Barnard 6. Hannah Roberts 7. Cherith Graham 8. Emma Dunn. Cadet Boys: 1. Louis Rosenthal 2. Paul Lindley 3. Adam Bleakley 4. Alex Cairns 5. David Rosenthal 6. Brendan McAleese 7. Ben Homby 8. Neil Dunn. Cadet Girls: 1. Katy Parker 2. Hannah Roberts 3. Rebecca Tong 4. Cherith Graham.

ACADEMY PLAYERS

Two Lancashire players, Andrew Rushton and Katy Parker, have accepted places at the new Nottingham Academy. I have no details of any results for Katy Parker. Andrew Rushton, however, has been busy playing senior and junior

British League. He was 'player of the Match' in the Premier Division Darlington/Grove encounter with wins over Tim Dyson and John Hilton. In the recent Woolwich Junior British League Premier Division he finished with 100% again playing for Grove. Andrew has put in a lot of hard work and must be congratulated on his successes.

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

Seaside Boys and Girls teams, playing under the banner of sponsors Berryman's Lace Mawer, competed in the first weekend staged at Kettering. Both teams played in division two and finished higher than their initial ratings. Louis Rosenthal topped the Boy's averages with 100% and Karen Shepherd was top girl with 75%. Other percentages were: Iain Lindley 60, Charles Howard 33, Paul Lindley 25, Clara Howard 50, Cherith Graham 33 and Sophie Smith 25. The Boys won 3, drew 1, lost 1, and the Girls won 2, drew 1, and lost 2.

Leicestershire

by Derek Butt

UNBEATEN

After three matches in Division One of the Leicester and District League Rushey Mead third team lead, with their first string in second place, and level on points in third place are Great Glen, all with a one hundred per cent records. Knighton Park first team are also unbeaten with two wins from two outings.

So as expected the Rushey teams have made an excellent start to the season, and will certainly take some good team to prevent from taking the championship again.

The Second Division early leaders are Blaby and Whetstone, they have more strength in their squad now, and I feel they will be there near the top at the end of the season.

The Woolwich Junior League in Leicester will be starting again at the end of October and sixteen teams will be taking part. That is excellent news.

All the local cup draws have been made and I will report on these at a later date.

On to the Hinckley League and the Calor Gas Division One got off to a lively start with newly promoted Nalco 'B' beating East Midlands Electricity 'A' 9-1.

Last seasons champions Nalco 'A' have also started well recording two 7-3 victories, and will be hoping for a repeat of last season.

No news about their Junior Woolwich League at the moment, but I know they will be running it again this year. I will report on this in the next issue.

Middlesex

by Tony Taylor

SILVER MEDAL

David Ayinde won a silver medal at the World Corporate Games in the 30 - 39 aged category, losing in the final in a close fought 3 set match.

In a recent Junior County Match managed by Bob Sydney, our second team lost 7-2 to Glamorgan 2nd team - the only successful players being Hagi Ahmad and Tim Holton who won one singles each.

In the Vets Matches there was mixed success. The first team beat the second team 8-1 but Ian Mablin fought hard only to lose 2 close matches. The 3rd Vets team managed to lose 5-4 against Bucks 2nd team after leading 4-1 only to lose the final 3 singles matches. However the 4th Vets team with the aid of winning both doubles matches started with a close 5-4 victory.

Norfolk

by Ray Hogg

This is the last time I shall be putting fingers to word processor as I am retiring after about 50 years of playing and organising but I leave the County in good hands with Debbie Willett (Nee Wickham) in the hot seat as Gen. Sec. My 9 years have been most enjoyable and have flown by and I will stay on the County Committee as representative for the Norwich League, and advisor should anything come up that I know about from the past. Kim Chambers has taken over the Senior teams and if she cannot entice the 'better' players to perform, no-one can.

Mike Chapman is the Junior man with full responsibility for 3 teams. Round the County there are junior sessions regularly held at Dereham with Doug Bennett in charge and Mary Sawyer in North Norfolk. Norwich has had to make do with odd weeks as the Norman Centre has been closed for 6 months for refurbishment. On re-opening Saturday night sessions will once again recommence. It is a pleasure to report that one of my beginners squad for Taverham has been spotted at the schools finals and is now a member of the U.12 training squad. I speak of Lauren Spink who has just reached 10 years and the best prospect in the County for years. Veterans 1st team play in the premier for the 1st time and know what to expect - Steve Howlett and Chris Brewer were at Kettering spying on the opposition - incidentally Steve and his partner Dave Henderson in their first ever VETTS tournament played above themselves to get through 3 rounds of the O.40 doubles and Dave gave Eck a fright losing only 20 and 18. Vets 2nd team have welcomed Mike Watts to the County having played against him several times when he was with Essex. In his first match wearing a Norfolk shirt Mike played as though it was his first ever County match - he still has to get used to the clean Norfolk air. Vets 3 and 4 based at Kings Lynn have plenty of players to choose from and in Gerry Rudley and Steve Barratt captains who have been around a long time. I am still trying to collate whether we have lost or gained any teams this season - league handbooks still to come.

We are getting plenty of quality table tennis in this area at last with Lynnsport and Potters staging numerous tournament. Knowing the Potters set up, any one staying there will be spoilt rotten.

I will now prepare for my last committee meeting as Gen. Sec. and wish my successor good luck for the

future.

Northants

by Dennis Millman

Northants Veterans made an excellent start to the County Championships campaign when they met a Lincolnshire side deprived of the service of both Brian Hill and Brian Allison. Barry Johnson provided the only resistance, taking both Gordon Shaw and Michael Edwards to deciders, but all to no avail. With Phil Snelling and Margaret Maltby always in complete control, the remaining seven rubbers were all won in straight games to give Northants an uncharacteristic clean sweep.

At a recent assessment session, five participants were promoted to the County Junior Squad. They were Damian Carr (Kettering), Keith Lucas and David Gibbons (Northampton) and Danny Lyden and Ben Lyden (Yardley Gobion). Previous members retaining their places are Gabriella Evans, Lucy Ellingham, Bryna Holmes, Carlton Elwood and Robert Williams (Wellingborough), Imran Soorty, Daniel Pang and Dickson Pang (Northampton) and Lee O'Boyle, Kenny Clarke (Kettering).

Defending champions Higham Band got off to their customary convincing start when the Wellingborough League session started with four divisions of eleven teams. The Premier side took maximum points against newly promoted Old Grammarians C, who were undefeated last season. Hat-tricks here from Steve Brown, David Gallo and Andy Trott, while last years runners-up Thrapston A relied on Geoff Atkinson, Gordon Shaw and Steve West to produce an identical tally against O.G.'s B. O.G.'s A, however confirmed that they will be a force to be reckoned with when Michael Edward Pauls Gatiss and Chris Gibbons ensured that Wanderers A would remain pointless. Westfield A also made a sound start with Malcolm Francis and Greg Yarnell contributing seven wins and young Tim Yarnall adding a further two against Higham Band C.

In the first week of the Kettering League Programme, Higham Band met Thrapston and three wins each from Richard Elliott and Steve Brown, plus two from Mark Nannery made certain that Band started the season in pole position. With long term rivals Rifle Band no longer in contention, Higham should have no difficulty in retaining their title.

Dick Cole, John Palmer and Dennis Millman, who kept Kettering Town at the top of the Premier Division in the 1960/70's, again found themselves in the fore front of the action when Town A faced Rothborough A in the first match of the new season. With a combined age tally of exactly 200, the Town trio soon discovered that experience alone was not enough to disturb determined opponents Phil Cross, Martin Watts and Kevin Shield, and Town trailed 5-2 after more than three hours play. Surprisingly the veterans finished the stronger of the two sides and all contributed as they fought back to level the match.

Northumberland

by Pauline Long

The WENADE (UK) LTD. County veterans' team of "Benny" Robertson, Geoff Salter, Jimmy Scope and Pauline Long started their season on the right note with an 8-1 win over newly-promoted Yorkshire III in their Division 2A fixture on September 19 at North Shields YMCA. All the players won their singles matches and "Benny" and Pauline also took the mixed doubles. The only set lost was in the men's doubles, which resulted in a narrow defeat for Geoff and Jimmy. Their next match will be away to Lincolnshire on October 17.

The WENADE (UK) LTD Northumbria Winter League season commenced on September 21, and already North Shields YMCA 'A', last season's champions are setting the pace in the Premier Division, with successive 9-1 and 10-0 victories over St Jude's and YMCA 'B' respectively. Their chances of retaining their title will, of course, depend on how often their regular team of "Benny", senior County Champion Andrew Wilkinson and Steve Penman is available. There are four Divisions consisting of 12 teams in each Division, plus one of 11 teams, making a total of 59 teams in five Divisions. Other early leaders are as follows: Division 1: North Fire 'A'; Division 2: Lemington 'A'; Division 3: Dunston 'A'; and Division 4: Cramlington Rejects.

Most of the County Officers and Management Committee have retained their posts from last season, but just as a reminder, they are listed below. President: HARRY DIGNAN. Chairman and League Secretary: DAVE SCHOLFIELD. Vice Chairman: JOHN DONNELLY. County Secretary: ALAN MORPETH. Treasurer: BRIAN PIERCE. Press Secretary: PAULINE LONG. Auditors: JOHN RUSSELL and JIM JACKSON. County Umpires Committee Secretary and National Councillor: AUBREY DRAPKIN. Coaching Officer: PETER WILKINSON. The Management Committee also consists of ALAN HEDLEY (Handicap Knock-out Cup Organiser), JIMMY SCOPE, RON BELL, RAY LYDALL, LESLEY BLAKEY and BOB ATWELL.

Unfortunately the County League Trophy Presentation night at LEO'S RESTAURANT, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE on Friday October 9 had to be cancelled through lack of support. It seemed that even teams who had won trophies had difficulty in finding someone to represent them at the event which was to have included a hot buffet and disco. Grateful thanks go to KAREN NEWBY for at least trying to organise the event. It is possible that another date may be arranged, but more likely the trophies will be presented at the next Annual General Meeting, where representation by all clubs is compulsory.

Nottinghamshire

by Brian Jones

EARLY STAGES

With the season still in its early stages, we

are full of ambition for our teams and clubs and anticipating successes to come. Spare a thought for the young players who have been working hard during the summer and developing their skills while we ... ahem... more mature players take a well earned break. A long season of competitive play will no doubt bring its own rewards and disappointments for many of them and for their coaches and parents but at this stage it is worth noting who has been putting in the time and effort. From the end of last season we have the successes of Newark in the Leach and Carter Cups, winning one trophy and finishing runner-up in the other competition. Matthew Kenny, Thomas Hughes, Andrew Gascoyne and Jason Williams are part of the county's core of very promising young players. Craig Gascoyne is an integral and successful part of the British League Division 3 team Jack Spratt-Wellow House, which is marching forward and unbeaten at the time of writing. Worksoy with three teams and Huthwaite are making a big impression on the East Midlands Cadet League with Carl Stones and Lisa Ripley winning two out of three matches despite being a team member short. Peter Gascoyne (same family!) is also making a big impression in this competition. Despite handing on many players to the main league competition, the Worksoy Cadet League has maintained an entry of 14 teams who are competing fiercely in a Woolwich type pairs competition. All these players are from the north of the county. I hear good reports of Edward Croyden-Fowler's progress in the "A" Performance Squad and I have witnessed good works by John Taylor in the British League but by and large, Nottingham seems to be much more reticent about the progress of their young players. Of course, there are plenty more promising youngsters to mention, Redlands' Nicholas Staff, Graham White and Wellow House's George Yardley and Mark Layfield. It is perhaps worth noting that many coaches and clubs are too modest about their achievements, forcing me to don deerstalker hat and briar pipe and go rooting for more information. If your star youngsters are not receiving the plaudits they deserve, have you told me about them?

Oxfordshire

by Avril Haynes

JUNIORS GET OFF TO GOOD START LEAMINGTON 4 OXFORD 6

Oxford had a brilliant win with their youngest ever team to play in the Midland League. Kevin Cruickshank captained the side at the age of 15 and won all his three singles and the doubles with Greg Boone. Greg Boone, only 12 years of age did extremely well to win two singles. The other player was Sam Harrison 10 years who gained valuable experience playing in his first representative match.

JUNIOR COUNTY

ESSEX (3) 7 OXON 3

Oxfordshire travelled to Enfield for their match with John Camilleri winning two singles and Ashley Cox picking up one singles.

OXON 6 HANTS (2) 4

Oxfordshire had a good win with Kevin Cruickshank available who together with John Camilleri and Ashley Cox picked up two singles wins each.

MIDLAND LEAGUE VETS

COVENTRY (A) 8 OXFORD 2

Oxford travelled to Coventry for their match having been promoted two divisions to division two. There were some close encounters with Nigel Taylor playing well for his two singles victories.

OXFORD 6 WEST BROMWICH 4

Oxford had a good win in their second match in division two. Tony Wheeler was on good form to win his three singles ably supported by Nigel Taylor who had two singles wins and Ian Arnold who won one singles.

VETS COUNTY MATCHES

DORSET (2) 3 OXON (1) 6

Oxfordshire gained their second victory of the season with Karl Bushell winning both his singles and the mens doubles with Nat Richardson. Eddie Herrity and Nat Richardson both won a singles. Eddie Herrity combined with Janet Brown to win the mixed doubles.

OXON (2) 4 SUSSEX (3) 5

Oxfordshire lost a close match with George Pullin playing well to win both singles and the mens doubles with Alf Davies who had a singles win.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (2) 5

OXON (3) 4

Oxfordshire travelled to St Neots and lost a close match. Tony Wheeler Chris Lansley and Ian Arnold all had a good singles win each. Chris Lansley won the mixed doubles with Anne Borrowdale. MIDDLESEX (4) 5 OXON (3) 4 Oxfordshire travelled to Ashford and at one point were 3-0 up and then 4-2 up but lost the last three singles. Tony Wheeler Chris Lansley Neil Hurford and Anne Borrowdale all won a singles each.

Surrey

by Glenda Ashison

KICK-OFF

"What a kick off to the new season!" Hundreds of up and coming youngsters turned up to both the Surrey trials and the London Junior rankings last month. Two prominent players from York Gardens gained reputable positions as shown below:-

Danny Lewis 6th
JJ Mitchels 2nd

Paul Moore was unable to make the tournament but is looking to gain a place in this year's England U12 squad.

This year, Surrey's prospects are looking good for both Junior and senior teams as both are now in their respective Premier Divisions. The Senior team for the first weekend is as shown below:-

MEN

1. Euan Walker
2. Darren Blake
3. Marco Essomba
4. Nicky Mason
5. Abdul Wuraola (Captain)

WOMEN

1. Glenda Ashison
2. Jane Barella
3. Marianna Rolikova

In November 1998/99 Surrey are hosting the South of England three star tournament for young players and the turn out is expected to be high. The venue is to be my brother's former school - Trinity. Speaking of schools, my sister, Glenys, has just recently started my previous school, Croydon High. We all wish her the best of luck for her GCSE exams to be taken in the year 2000!

John Koffman of Progress TTC has recently been appointed Development Officer for Greater London. He has taken over from Colin Wilson and is doing an impressive job. Visiting clubs such as York Gardens in Battersea where the coaches (Gideon Ashison, Tom Draper, John Sheen and Frances Grace) are encouraging youth of all ages to take up Table Tennis. We wish him all the success he deserves in his new position.

I have just started Uni so my new term time address for anyone wishing to send me anything will be as follows:-

**Rm 6, 10 Bevington Road
St. Anne's College**

**Oxford
OX2 6HS**

Tel: 0467 370 932

See you next month,

Sussex

by John Woodford

EXTRAORDINARY

JUST two extraordinary happenings concerning Sussex last month - County president Bill Goldfinch 75, cycled on a push-bike from his home in North Kent to Brussels to the house of former Sussex stalwart Derek Tyler!

And, for the first time in the history of the Sussex Open, still sponsored by Stamco Timber, a Sussex and Hastings-born player won the womens singles title.

The tournament, the oldest in Britain, is 63 years old and now a member of the Grand Prix circuit.

Derek Tyler was one of the early organisers for the Hastings TTA who are still running it (bit of a squash on 11 tables) mainly through the work of a team led by Ron Spencer and Colin Hyland.

Hastings born, Bexhill-based Rose Rainton, 28, cut holes in the England womens' ranking list on October 11 when she tossed caution aside, top-spinning and flat-hitting her way through past the No.8 Shelley Ruocco in the quarters, veteran Sheila King in the semis and then a stunning victory, still attacking, against the consistent Grand Prix winner Sue Collier from Berkshire, ranked No.11. Rose is on 34, but it would appear, on the way up, into the high twenties.

Sussex juniors under their new supremo Peter Baldwin are going through a period of re-building a strong side that could last through next season.

Gareth Mann (Hastings) might have been the Sussex No.1 junior this campaign but he has elected to pull out in favour of his studies.

But two juniors from Sussex are now members of the England Under-12 squad - Luke Bridge and Gina Rogers. Gina, daughter of the ETTA Disabilities Officer Judy Rogers, has only just moved to

Sussex from Suffolk, but Sussex have hopes that she will transfer her registration to Sussex for next September.

Warwickshire

by Caroline Williams

County rankings have been decided this season on past performance at local and national level coupled with trial results from the Juniors. They are as follows with players local League denoted by B (Birmingham), C (Coventry), L (Leamington), N (Nuneaton), R (Rugby), and S (Stratford).

Junior Boys: 1. Mark Williams (L), 2. Gurdeep Singh (L), 3. Gareth Hayward (B), 4. Kabir Mohammed (B), 5. Gregory Baker (B), 6. Jonathan Madeley (B), 7. Antony Kelly (B), 8. Purdip Singh (C) 9. Simon Gleeson (B), 10. Andrew Meredith (L), 11. Tim Carroll (B), 12. Lee Healy (C) 13. Leigh Bradford (B).

Junior Girls: 1. Samantha Meredith (L), 2. Gilly Matthews (L), 3. Claire Baker (B) 4. Kay Nason (L), 5. Sarah Riach (B), 6. Kelly-Jayne Walden (N).

Veteran Men: 1. Barry Johnson (B), 2. Kevin Pilgrim (C), 3. Pat McCabe (L), 4. Phil Paine (L), 5. Alan Cotton (L), 6. Peter Dunnell (L), 7. Michael Howell (B), 8. Graham Hoskin (B), 9. Roy Prosser (B), 10. Alan Peirson (C), 11. Barry Hunt (B), 12. Neil Wheatley (B), 13. Alan Jones (L), 14. Paul Calloway (C), 15. Malcolm Macfarlane (L) 16. Allan Stockham (L), 17. John Chandler (B), 18. Hugh Matthews (L), 19. Robert Bennett (L).

Veteran Ladies: 1. Joan Humphrey-Middlemore (B), 2. Margaret Dignum (B), 3. Ann Lloyd (B), 4. Dorothy Macfarlane (L), 5. Linda Clempson (C).

County matches for the Veterans have already started - with mixed results! The Birmingham quartet of Mike Howell, Graham Prosser, Roy Prosser and Margaret Dignum had a very convincing 9-0 win as Warwickshire 2 when they travelled to Somerset in September in their first Division 2D match. Warwickshire 3 were however swamped 7-2 in a home fixture in Division 2A against a strong Durham side. Alan Jones and Paul Calloway taking one each in consolation.

LFC are doing it again!

Gilly Matthews and Kay Nason from Lillington Free Church are last year's **Woolwich Junior British League** champions of Division 2 and look set to do it again this year. Teamed this season with Samantha Meredith from AP the trio completed the first weekend (10/11 Oct) at Kettering unbeaten in first place two points ahead of their nearest rivals. On the Saturday the quad saw off Hollingbury Girls 5-1. Berrymans Lace Mawes 4-2 and Team Peniel B 6-0. The two Sunday matches were against stronger opposition. Against Peniel A, Kay Nason (ranked 72 and playing in third position) pulled off an excellent 3-setter over Grace Brown (ranked 56) to edge the match 4-2. The last round was versus, also unbeaten Club Mid Cheshire and once again Kay Nason was the stalwart winning both of hers against Hannah Roberts (62) and Katy Ingham (60). Gilly Matthews and Samantha Meredith gained

one each so LFC won 4-2 and thus finished at the halfway stage on 10 point points, 2 ahead of Club Mid. Cheshire. Leader of the individual averages is of course Kay Nason on 100% with 10 wins from 10, well clear of anyone else. Her team-mates Samantha Meredith took 7 wins from 10 and Gilly Matthews (playing in the awkward second spot) made 6 from 10. The second weekend takes place at Potters Leisure Centre in February.

Leamington goes global

The Leamington League is now on the internet thanks to a lot of hard work by League Chairman Malcolm Macfarlane. The web site has details of league match results, league status, player ratings, tournaments as well as the latest news and will be updated as frequently as possible. Anyone interested can access the site at:

<http://members.xoom.com/leamingtont>

It is intended that a second site will be set up shortly for Warwickshire news.

Worcestershire

by Martin Clark

SENIOR 2NDS

Mixed fortunes followed the team on the long trip to Cornwall in Division 2B. Matches against both Cornwall 1st's and 2nd's finished up with mirrored results. The games were played in tandem and finished with a defeat 4-6 against the 1st's with Zia Khan winning two, Dave Rogers and Sarah Stone one each. A 6-4 victory over the 2nd's redressed the balance with captain Mark Brookes and Dave Rogers picking up two each with Zia Khan and Stephanie Price completing the scoring.

VETERANS 2NDS

Having given Lancashire 2nds a run for their money last season at Blackburn, the county had high hopes of a good result at home in division 2A. However it was not to be their day as Lancs. brought a particularly strong team to run out 8-1 winners with our only success coming with the doubles partnership of Eric Hardman and Chris Maiden.

JUNIORS

The match versus Glamorgan 3rds in division 1B was keenly contested and ended in an honourable 5-5 draw.

Leigh Hipkins and James Perks, the two new players in the team, were on first, very nervous, and lost their games to put us 0-2 down.

Our two number one's were on next and both won to level the scores at 2-2. Kate Hughes played her normal devastating attacking game to win in single figures and Lewis Cook also had a comfortable victory.

After Jenny Burchill had been beaten by the opposition's number one, Leigh Hipkins played more like his normal self to again bring the match score level.

Jenny made amends for her earlier defeat with a 26-24 win in the second before Lewis surprisingly lost easily to his opposite number.

Kate Hughes set up the match for an exciting finale with victory seemingly within grasp, however, James Perks, having recovered from being a game down, could not keep up the momentum and lost 13-21 in the third.

SUPERVETS

Roy Norton and Jan Dunning were honoured with their selection to represent their country in the four sided tournament in the Isle of Man. Not only did they share in the distinction of winning their respective over 50 mens and over 40 womens team events but took individual titles too. Jan won the over 40 women's singles and doubles with Devon's Penny Perry, whilst Roy joined forces with Brian Alison to take the men's over 50's doubles crown.

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS

**JOHN F.A. WOOD,
TABLE TENNIS NEWS,
CENTENARY COTTAGE,
CHURCH ROAD,
CHARLESTOWN,
ST. AUSTELL, CORNWALL.**

PL25 3NS

Tel/Fax: 01726 70607

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NORTHERN NOTES

BY KEN MUHR

DARLINGTON went down 4-1 in their second round home European Champion of Champions Cup tie on Saturday 10 October to a young and very fit side from Ostrava, Czech Republic. Sponsored by the biggest metallurgical company in the Czech Republic (equivalent to British Steel), with superb dedicated facilities and a professional manager, T J 'Nova Hut' players have the kind of support - top company directors had travelled to England with their team - that is the envy of England.

In the absence of Des Douglas and Bradley Billington, Jonathan Taylor played at No 1 for Darlington, but he was made to look slow and rusty, going down in straight games to both Ukrainian international Dimitrij Prokopcov and a former European Youth Championship cadet finalist Jiri Vrablik. 15 year old Czech Vrablik also thrashed Andrew Wilkinson, his serves and booming backhand loop particularly effective.

With Darlington losing the doubles, it was left to 1980 European men's champion and 1997 World over 50's bronze medalist John Hilton to provide some respectability to their scoreline. Rising to the occasion he used typical mixing tactics to bamboozle the highly Czech ranked Radek Kostal.

Scores (Darlington names first) Taylor lost to Prokopcov - 16, - 17; Wilkinson lost to Vrablik - 8, - 11; Hilton beat Kostal 14, 20; Keith Rodger/Eddie Smith lost to Prokopcov/Alexei Sarmator -13, -14; Taylor lost to Vrablik -16, -12.

The match was well covered by the media, particularly by television (Tyne Tees) and as MC my pronunciation of foreign names improved! Incidentally, the launch of this seasons Whitehaven Woolwich Junior League was covered by Borders TV.

Charles Usher advises me that including the new fourth division and the Woolwich Junior League, the Kendal league now has 193 registered members. They hope to hit 200 during the season. And at Stanley, County Durham, where table tennis had until recently been virtually on its deathbed, Alan Westwater is well on the way of achieving his declared aim of 100 players (not necessarily registered). Now he desperately needs a specialist facility, planned for the Oxhill Youth Centre.

Unfortunately, in many other traditionally strong areas the

situation is precarious with, for example, Carlisle, Hartlepool, Durham and Darlington Leagues all down to one division. Unless as custodians of the cause in their area they take on some responsibility for bringing on new players, they will die.

Although indications are that the 'Come and Try it' on Friday 30 October will be well supported, there is great disappointment over the poor entry for the Stockton 4 Star Junior Open Championships at Thornaby Pavilion on 31 October/1 November. It would be a tragedy if about the best junior open in the country was lost, and it is to be hoped that the Calendar Working Party and World Class Performance Team will liaise to avoid clashing of major competitions/fixtures in the future.

EASTERN REGION

Hitchin Boys School

During the weekend of 24th and 25th October, the first major sports event took place at the new Hitchin Boys Sports Centre. Eight table tennis teams from the Eastern Region played a total of 20 matches in the division 2 of the ETTA's National County Championship.

Each team consisted of 3 men and 2 ladies and matches between counties were 10 singles, the best of three legs. This meant that there were 200 top class games taking place during the whole weekend.

Counties involved were from Herts, Beds, Cambs, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hunts and Northants. All the players taking part had national rankings.

As a result of this first weekend, the balance of matches will be played in Hitchin on 6th March 1999. Bedfordshire lead the division unbeaten with 10 points, followed by Herts, Cambs and Suffolk on 6 points.

The players of the Weekend were Sandra Harper from Biggleswade who won 10 out of 10, and Graham Babcock. Graham is only 15 years old and is a leading junior in the UK and has already represented the UK at Schools International Level.

All of the players and spectators numbering at times over 80 praised the Centre owners and staff not only for their assistance during the weekend but for the excellent playing conditions. Most of the players have played in matches around the UK and in some European countries and none could find fault with the centre.

MEDIA and COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The ITTF is seeking the services of a 'Media and Communications Manager' to manage and co-ordinate the media, press and communications activities of the ITTF in close co-operation with the ITTF Media Committee and the ITTF Marketing Division.

The Media and CommunicationS Manager PQsition will be located at the ITTF's new branch office in Lausanne, Switzerland, and will have the following general responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate the media and communications activities of the ITTF.
- Prepare and distribute ITTF press releases, media communiques and announcements.
- Develop close relations, on a daily basis, with members of the media and develop systematic plans to attract members of the media to ITTF events.
- Prepare and provide all the necessary information and press kits for distribution to the press
- Assist organisers of ITTF sanctioned events in servicing the press and maintaining a high standard press centre. Arrange for the wide distribution of results of ITTF events.
- Act as the media liaison and co-ordinator of the press centre at World Championships, ITTF Pro Tour Finals and other ITTF major events.
- Organise and co-ordinate on behalf of the ITTF press conferences and press information sessions.
- Develop and maintain all the material necessary to provide information requested by the press and event organisers such as athlete profiles, statistics, results, human-interest stories, etc.
- Supervise and co-ordinate the maintenance of an ITTF resource centre, photo archive and database.
- Supervise and co-ordinate the publication of the ITTF's magazine the ITTF's web-site.

The Media and Cornnunications Manager will advise the Executive Comrnittee, Executive Board and Council of the ITTF on all media and communications matters. The successful candidate will work closely with the Chairman of the Media Committee, the Marketing Director and the responsible Executive Committee member. This position is an integral part of the new professional structure of the ITTF and requires a close-knit working relationship with all professional positions within the ITTF.

The ideal candidate would have occupied a similar position at the national level, or international level for another sport, would have extensive experience in the media and communications field and first hand experience as a media officer. The ITTF is seeking a creative and dynamic communicator with excellent organisational skills and vast experience in sport. A command of the English language is necessary, and a working knowledge of other languages is a definite asset. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The expected starting date is within the first two months of 1999.

All interested parties can apply, in strict confidence, by sending an application letter and a curriculum vitae, stating the expected salary range, to be received before 10 December, 1998, to:

The Chief Executive Officer, International Table Tennis Federation.

By mail: P.O. Box 27057, Gloucester, Ontario K1J 9L9, CANADA

Byfax: +16137485720

By e-mail: ittf@ittf.com

HOLLAND & RUOCO CORPORATE STARS

NEARLY 150 weekend sports warriors took part in the table tennis section of the Bracknell hosted, UK and Ireland Corporate Games 1998. As with all the other sports in this remarkable event, top class play and sportsmanship were the order of the weekend. Individual standards ranged from local league to national level, with several highly ranked England players leading the way. England player and Berkshire number one, Gemma Schwartz, as Honorary Vice President, was on hand to present the awards.

Several local companies were represented including Artel Services, I.C.L. and Logica. In the earlier rounds it was Wokingham players who led the way. Bracknell Table Tennis League chairman, Allan Bruton, the Artel Services captain won the under 60s age group, beating P. Shepherd (TEXACO) 21-14, 25-23 in the final. Peter Goatly from Wokingham representing Logica was 3rd after defeating R. Maddocks (MANCHESTER AIRPORT) 21-13, 21-18, in the play off for 3rd/4th position. Alan Leason (PROCTOR AND GAMBLE) was just out of the medals in 5th place.

Sylvia Bruton, also of Artel Services, achieved a remarkable family double, by winning the women's over 60 final at the expense of the oldest warrior, 78 years old Dolly Harmer. Dolly, who raised £150 for her team SCOPE then headed for the World Veteran Table Tennis Championships in Manchester.

Wokingham's Caroline Goatly took maximum points for LOGICA upstaging her father to win the under 30s women's event. A. Dunn and C. Greenwood (BP) just got the better of R. Clarke and N. John representing TEXACO with M. Barrett and D. Morris (BARCLAYS) a creditable third in the 40+ team event. The Artel pairing of Nigel Lynch and Sylvia Bruton were just edged out in 4th place but gained a vital five points for their team. Another local pairing P. Worrell and D. Smithers took 5th place for BRITISH AIRWAYS.

The Open Singles provided some of the best contests of the weekend with four top players winning through to the last four. John Holland (SCOTT MERRICK) and Welsh international David Buck (HYDER) were involved in a cracking final with Holland's all

round play overcoming the attack of Buck. Earlier Nick Heaps (I.C.L.) who had a great tournament, went down to Holland and finished in 8th place.

The play off for 3rd place typified the play throughout, with Stuart Hall (HYDER) beating Eddie Roofe (NATIONWIDE) 21-13, 17-21, 21-15. Artel Services number one Cliff Putterford had a remarkable weekend beating a whole host of top players to reach the final of the men's under 40s. In a ding dong battle the popular Wokingham player just lost out to J. Linsky 21-17, 21-19. Y.Shah (SYNTEGRA) won the 3rd sport medal at the expense of J. Adams (TEXACO)

In the Women's Open event, British League player Shelley Ruocco (GENERAL ACCIDENT) defeated the Ireland player Nora Tallon (BP) to secure the title.

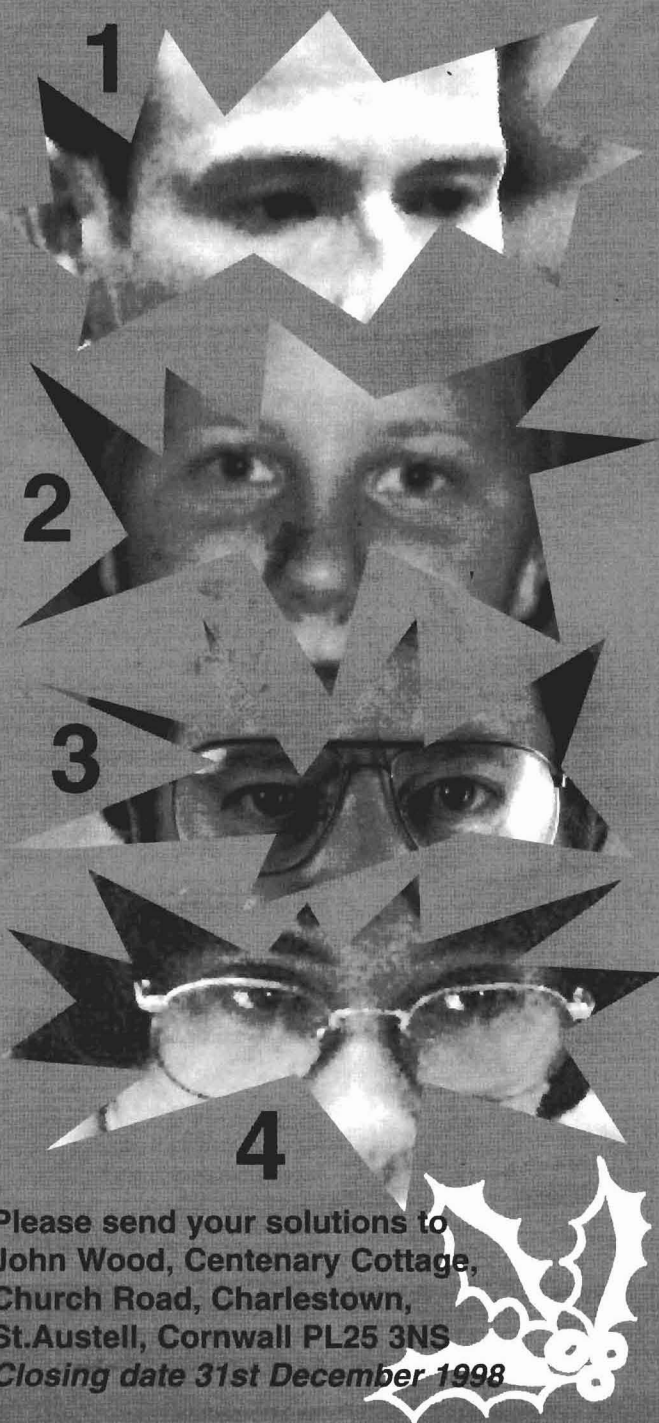
BARCLAYS won a very competitive over 60s men's final, with Paul Morris beating team mate Mike Barrett 21-16, 21-16. BARCLAYCARD player Cliff Bull was 3rd. SCOTT MERRICK player Dave Tan was the under 50 champion, beating Alan Dunn (B.P.) in the final, Alan Holloway (TEXACO) secured 3rd place at the expense of Ron Man (MOBILE). In the team final it was Tan again joining the men's singles champion John Holland to take maximum points for SCOTT MERRICK with Shelly Ruocco and Colin Carslake the unlucky losers. Holland was made to fight all the way before beating Carslake 21-16, 19-21, 21-16. The ARTEL SERVICES pairing of Allan Bruton and Cliff Putterford concluded a great weekend for their team, finishing a creditable 6th place.

Table Tennis Co-ordinator, John Cunningham and all the players would like to thank PANASONIC for allowing the use of their venue and excellent refreshments. Also the Tournament officials, Fred Brewster, Tony Morton, Beryl Cunningham, Caroline Goatly, Malcolm Griffiths and in particular results co-ordinator Mike Stickland without whom the weekend would not have been possible. Finally John would like to thank all the players for taking part in a friendly but competitive sporting weekend.

See you in Limerick next year?

Christmas Competition

**PUT A NAME TO THE EYES
BELOW AND WIN A MYSTERY
PRIZE. ALL THE
PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAR IN
THIS ISSUE.**



**Please send your solutions to
John Wood, Centenary Cottage,
Church Road, Charlestown,
St.Austell, Cornwall PL25 3NS
Closing date 31st December 1998**



ETTA National Ranking

TOP OF THE TABLE

Period 61 Date of run: 8th November 1998

1998/99 SEASON

ANY QUERIES OR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE RING DOREEN NIGHTINGALE - 01424 722525



Doreen Nightingale
Ranking Co-ordinator

Senior Men				Senior Women				Cadet Girls				Under 12 Boys				Junior Girls				Under 12 Girls				BTTAD RANKING LIST				MEN'S STANDING CLASSES 6-11				WOMENS' STANDING CLASSES 6-11			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg	Pos	Name	Rtg	Class	Pos	Name	Rtg	Class	Pos	Name	Rtg	Class
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4596		(1)	1 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3810		(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	2696		(2)	1 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	971		(2)	1 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	2865		(1)	1 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH)	1786	I					1	1 CROOK, B (Preston)	3424	9	1	1 SMITH, J (Grimsby)	2093	10
(2)	2 PREAN, Carl (IW.)	4440		(2)	2 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3673		(2)	2 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	2483		(1)	2 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	954		(2)	2 LOCKWOOD, Karl (CH.)	2856		(2)	2 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	1205						2	2 MARSHALL, E (G'ster)	1778	9	2	2 MARSHALL, E (G'ster)	1778	9
(3)	3 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4183	*	(3)	3 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3667	*	(3)	3 WALKER, Geo (NG.)	2255		(3)	3 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	920	*	(3)	3 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	2737		(3)	3 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	1137						3	3 ANTHONY, P (S'field)	2591	9	3	3 DAVIES, M (Bromley)	934	10
(5)	4 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4129		(4)	4 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3501		(6)	4 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2001		(4)	4 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO)	818		(4)	4 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	2696		(4)	4 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1058						4	4 CHAPMAN, Gem (K.)	1009		4	4 SMITH, J (C'ford)	716	11
(4)	5 BILLINGTON, Brad (DY.)	4127		(5)	5 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3463		(5)	5 STEWARD, Kat (SD.)	1938		(5)	5 SIMPSON, Michael (SK)	805		(5)	5 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2600		(5)	5 CRIVEN-GRIFFS, K (LE)	1009						5	5 CRIVEN-GRIFFS, K (LE)	1009		5	5 WOODHEAD, B (Devon)	696	8
(6)	6 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4062		(6)	6 THORNTON, Lin (LA.)	3369	**	(7)	6 CHAPMAN, Gem (BK.)	1927		(7)	6 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	721		(6)	6 KENDALL, Jade (CU.)	2595		(6)	6 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	998						6	6 GABRIEL, P (Wrexham)	1637	8	6	6 ADDIS, B	540	11
(7)	7 DOUGLAS, Des (WA.)	4054	***	(7)	7 SCHWARTZ, Gem (BK.)	3348	*	(8)	8 STEWARD, Kat (SD.)	1938		(8)	8 MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	686		(7)	7 JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2497		(7)	7 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	852						7	7 FARRELL, Victoria (E.)	602	***	7	7 HARRIS, J (C'ford)	716	11
(8)	8 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4024	**	(8)	8 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3168	*	(9)	9 SHEPHERD, Kat (CH.)	1786	I	(9)	9 SINGH, Gurdeep (WA.)	1343	*	(8)	8 JOHNSON, Rich (DU.)	1338	***	(8)	8 FLETCHER, James (LA.)	686						8	8 GASSON, Faye (CU.)	601		8	8 LEY, K (F'borough)	380	11
(9)	9 BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	3901	*	(9)	9 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3164	*	(10)	10 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	1584		(10)	10 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	550	I*	(10)	10 NARENDRA, Apa (MI.)	2294		(10)	10 Denny, Stephen (Y.)	526						9	9 MASSEY, P (C'ham)	641	8	9	9 CREE, E (E Region)	521	8
(10)	10 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3825		(10)	10 DAVIES, Tracy (E.)	3143	***	(11)	11 WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	1480		(11)	11 DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	526		(11)	11 THOMPSON, Han (WI.)	2263		(11)	11 WEIL, Lucy (E.)	501	I**					10	10 PEARSON, M	356	11				
(11)	11 TAYLOR, Jo (LA.)	3735		(11)	11 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3142										(12)	12 DONNELLY, Janine (Y.)	2227																	
(12)	12 MASON, Nicky (SX.)	3703		(12)	12 COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3125										(13)	13 NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2218																	
(13)	13 VENNOR, Ritchie (SX.)	3598		(13)	13 BARRACLOUGH, Nigel (CH.)	3074	***									(14)	14 COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3125																	
(14)	14 SLADDEN, Crisr (E.)	3592		(14)	14 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3073	*									(15)	15 HUGHES, Thom (NG.)	1572																	
(15)	15 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3562		(15)	15 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3042	*									(16)	16 BARATY, Eli (MI.)	1564																	
(16)	16 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3561		(16)	16 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	2970	*									(17)	17 POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1514																	
(17)	17 SATCHEL, Kevin (WI.)	3540	I	(17)	17 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	2959										(18)	18 WHITEMAN, Jam (DV.)	1486																	
(18)	18 ISHERWOOD, Mic (DY.)	3540		(18)	18 SMITH, Emma (Y.)	2945	*									(19)	19 WILLIAMS, Mark (WA.)	1485	*																
(19)	19 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3518		(19)	19 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	2944										(20)	20 COYSH, John (LA.)	1473																	
(20)	20 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3446		(20)	20 DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	2936										(21)	21 MARSHALL, James (Y.)	1437																	
(21)	21 OLDFIELD, Chris (Y.)	3441	***	(21)	21 NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	2912	*									(22)	22 WARNER, Ben (E.)	1420	I																
(22)	22 SOUTER, John (MI.)	3399	***	(22)	22 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	2865	*									(23)	23 CHEESEMAN, Wes (K.)	1417																	
(23)	23 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3396		(23)	23 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	2863	*									(24)	24 WHITEHEAD, Paul (CH.)	1403	***																
(24)	24 ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)	3389		(24)	24 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	2856										(25)	25 SMITH, Brian (AV.)	1397																	
(25)	25 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (CH.)	3367		(25)	25 RAINTON, Rose (SX.)	2850										(26)	26 MURRELL, Rich (HE.)	1358																	
(26)	26 GILES, Paul (CO.)	3357	***	(26)	26 AMOS, Helen (K.)	2845	*									(27)	27 CROYDON-FOWL, NG	1347	I																
(27)	27 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3356		(27)	27 SCHOFIELD, Dor (CH.)	2836										(28)	28 SINGH, Gurdeep (WA.)	1343	*																
(28)	28 PALMER, Stuart (SK.)	3339		(28)	28 MARLING, Sam (MI.)	2836	*									(29)	29 BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1342																	
(29)	29 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3338		(29)	29 PERRY, Penelope (DV.)	2824										(30)	30 JOHNSON, Rich (DU.)	1338	***																
(30)	30 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3333	*	(30)	30 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2820	*									(31)	31 WILLIAMS, Mark (WA.)	1485	*																
(31)	31 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3318		(31)	31 MORRIS, Claire (SP.)	2808										(32)	32 COYSH, John (LA.)	1473																	
(32)	32 BARR, David (BK.)	3314		(32)	32 BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	2796	*									(33)	33 MARSHALL, James (Y.)	1437																	
(33)	33 THOMPSON, Chris (K.)	3305	*	(33)	33 MOORE, Claire (K.)	2763	*									(34)	34 WARNER, Ben (E.)	1420	I																
(34)	34 SMITH, Mark Ric (Y.)	3298		(34)	34 LOWE, Claire (SK.)	2755										(35)	35 CHEESEMAN, Wes (K.)	1417																	
(35)	35 RICHARDSON, Ke (CA.)	3293		(35)	35 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	2748																													

GIVE YOUR BODY EVERY ADVANTAGE

PHYSIO SPORT

SPORT: the ultimate challenge. Focus, effort, exhaustion, elation. Push your body to new limits and your mind through new boundaries.

If you work hard at your sport, you deserve to give your body the best chance you can in order to perform: after all, it's the most important piece of equipment you have. Now, a new range of sports body care products, formulated with athletes in order to understand and address their specific needs, helps you keep your body looking and feeling good, so that you can focus on performance. Physio Sport, available from July onwards, is designed to help in the preparation and recovery your body needs in order to perform to the level that you require in your chosen sport.

Approved by the IOC Medical Commission

In order to fully understand the importance of effective preparation and recovery, Physio Sport has developed a unique relationship with the International Olympic Committee, which enables it to work in close partnership with the IOC Medical Commission.

For the last 30 years, the Medical Commission has been working for the health of athletes and the promotion of high standards of medical and sports ethics. The research conducted by the Medical Commission has led to better athlete performance and technical innovations. We are therefore delighted to announce that the IOC Medical Commission has approved the Physio Sport range.

This relationship with the IOC also enables Physio Sport to work closely with the British Olympic Association. Through working in close partnership with both the BOA and the IOC Medical Commission, Physio Sport is supporting British athletes and promoting the importance of effective body care in sport.

Developed with athletes and experts

Physio Sport is the result of expert advice and opinion from all areas of the sporting community. We know that an athlete's body undergoes a gruelling routine, so we've spent three years making sure that Physio Sport meets the high demands expected. During this time, we have also sought the advice of more than 1,000 athletes and experts from almost every sport and from countries including the UK, Argentina, USA and Australia. Comments from the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, given by athletes at their most focused and at possibly the most demanding event of their career, were particularly useful.

Sarah Cooper, physiotherapist to the British Track & Field squad was one of the first experts consulted. "Two years ago I was asked to participate in a brainstorm to create a range of sportscare and toiletries products designed for the specific needs of athletes. Since then the company has listened to hundreds of top athletes and practitioners like myself and we have been asked to put these products through their paces to try and make sure they meet the requirements we requested. For example, I took the prototype 'massage oil' to the World Track & Field Championships in Athens with the GB squad. It was very well received.

"The amalgamation of scientific testing and retesting in practical situations gives me 100% confidence that they are going to be a boost to athletes in their preparation and recovery from training and competition."

Tested with athletes

Fragrance, function and the formulation of each product was tested with athletes. What they needed was a range that would help them grip, battle the elements and push themselves harder but also help them cool down, revitalise and recover afterwards. No detail was ignored. Even the packaging was designed with sports people in mind and features a unique locking system on the aerosol and bottle caps, so once closed, they won't leak or spill in your kit bag. They are also easy-to-grip and non-breakable.

Billy Cusack, Great Britain Judo

Junior Men's Team Manager and Coach also assessed Grip, the liquid hand powder. "This grip product is quite amazing, my athletes have been putting it on their feet and I'm sure it's giving them that extra edge over their competitors. I'll even go as far as saying it's giving them that extra 1% in performance terms, because a firm footing is crucial in this arena. Physiologically in Judo it's so important not to slip on the mat."

"Prior to a competition I insist my athletes stay warm, but by doing so they naturally sweat, with this product they can apply it at the last moment and know they're not going to slip. Brilliant."

Commitment to sport

Physio Sport's commitment to sport doesn't stop with the products. A comprehensive support programme is currently being put in place, focusing on the latest thinking and practical support in the areas of preparation and recovery for sports enthusiasts. These activities are designed to help sports men and women look after their bodies, allowing them to focus their attention on the main event, be it a race, a jump, a length, a table tennis match or the weekly aerobics class.

So, whatever your sport, whatever your level, Physio Sport CLEAN, HYDRATE, DRY, DEO, EQUALISE, ANTI-FRICTION, MASSAGE and GRIP are a winning combination of products which help you look after your body, allowing you to concentrate on how to push yourself faster, further and higher.

FIVE MILLION BATS

STIGA the world famous competition brand, has launched a new range of table tennis bats that retail from £2.50 to £49.99.

Stiga's range covers all price

points. The current Olympic mens singles champion Liu Guoliang won the title playing with Stiga.

The technologically advanced new Stiga WRB system (Weight, Rate of recovery, Balance) has proved a key reason for players of all levels choosing Stiga, and the brand is also proving to be the first choice with leading London department stores.

The Stiga table tennis range is ideal for schools sports centres and recreational play. The new design Stiga compact storage system means that tables take up less space in the sports hall. Heading the range is the Stiga VM table - the model used frequently in World Championships.

The Lion brand in terms of volume dominates the UK market. Anthony Fung, the owner of the world's largest factory for the production table tennis equipment, and Alan Hydes, former English Champion and four times Commonwealth Gold Medallist, launched Lion Sport (UK) Ltd. in 1988. Sales have rocketed and the Lion Factory currently produces almost five million table tennis bats per annum.

The Lion bat range starts at £1.99, rising to £15.99 for the Lion Super Attack bat. Lion table tennis balls meet the market requirement for recreational use. These go from the Lion Training ball up to the Lion Tournament 3 Star ball as used at the English International Open and Closed, plus the County Championships.

Also available from Lion are the Club net and posts sets which retail at £7.75, and the Lion Automatic Net and Posts set which retails at £8.99.



continued from page 5

run by professionals, who devote all their working day to making the correct decisions for the good of the sport. The money that is now involved is far too great to be controlled by amateurs - no matter how willing and well intentioned they may be.

But will change ever happen? I doubt it. For the structure to alter, the very people who control the game would have to vote themselves out - and will turkeys vote for Christmas? Change will only occur if YOU the member, pressurise your league/county to see the necessity for change and then democratically mandate your councillor to vote accordingly.

But when did you last go to an AGM? Do you care enough and have you the courage to do it? "The great end of life is not knowledge but action" (T Huxley) Gail McCulloch, Vice-Chairman, Coaching.

Brian Halliday, Vice Chairman Public Relations replies:

GAIL'S remarks are certainly challenging but I wonder if there is an element of 'tongue in cheek' in the views expressed. In the words of John McEnroe "You cannot be serious!" If her intention was for someone to rise to the bait, then she has succeeded.

She makes a plea for change but seems to dismiss the strengths of the present structure. Our sport has evolved from its play for fun dining table origins to the fast athletic sport it is today. There has always been change. Its how you manage it that counts.

We have been served over the years by some enlightened and far sighted individuals - we were of course one of the first to eliminate the separate amateur and professional status, a concept that Lawn Tennis, for example, only latched onto years later.

Contrary to Gail's statement, our sport is administered by professionals, although there is a Management Committee that

oversees the whole system, rather like a Board of Directors of a Company. Of course they are responsible to the National Council in a similar fashion that a Cabinet recommends policy to Parliament. It is however quite incorrect to insinuate that all decisions are referred to National Council - that system just would not be workable, and National Council would not expect it anyway.

Management Committee is an elected body that usually comprises individuals that bring a lifetime dedication to the sport and who are specialists within their own professions. The Sports Council have introduced a special programme which does in fact encourage volunteers to bring the experience gained in their own professions to sports administration. The unpaid expertise and workload that is available to our own Association has been calculated to be equivalent to approximately £150,000 a year for Man. Comm alone., and Gail makes no comment as to how such a sum could be found if their' contribution were charged on a commercial basis, or extra staff needed to be employed to under take this work.

Complacency? The dreaded words "Ping Pong" and the image it conjures has always kept successive Management Committees focused towards creating a sport that is dynamic and attractive to the young and the old.

The high esteem in which the Sports Council hold our Association is no accident. Very careful administration by a host of dedicated 'amateurs' coupled with a high calibre professional staff has produced a mix of expertise that other sports envy.

Gail seems to suggest that National Council is a moribund body, out of touch with reality, and which lacks the impetus to carry us forward. What she fails to grasp is that its members are elected to represent their' counties by a democratic

process, and that they bring a wealth of table tennis experience to the forum. The Association is already administered by professionals but they cannot be expected to know every nuance and detail of the sport that their National Council colleagues can contribute.

I agree with Gail that with more

money available there is an onus on everyone to be more accountable, administrators, players, and yes coaches. Positive results in all areas are paramount. I believe we can achieve these goals provided we build on our worthy traditions and on the sound structure already in place. Of course we must develop and listen with care to all new ideas - our players deserve nothing less - now is the time to build on the initiatives already in place. We will never have a better opportunity.

POSTBAG

CONTINUED

TOURNAMENT



PHOTOGRAPHS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE

8" x 6" Colour Prints £5 each
12" x 8" Colour Prints £10 each

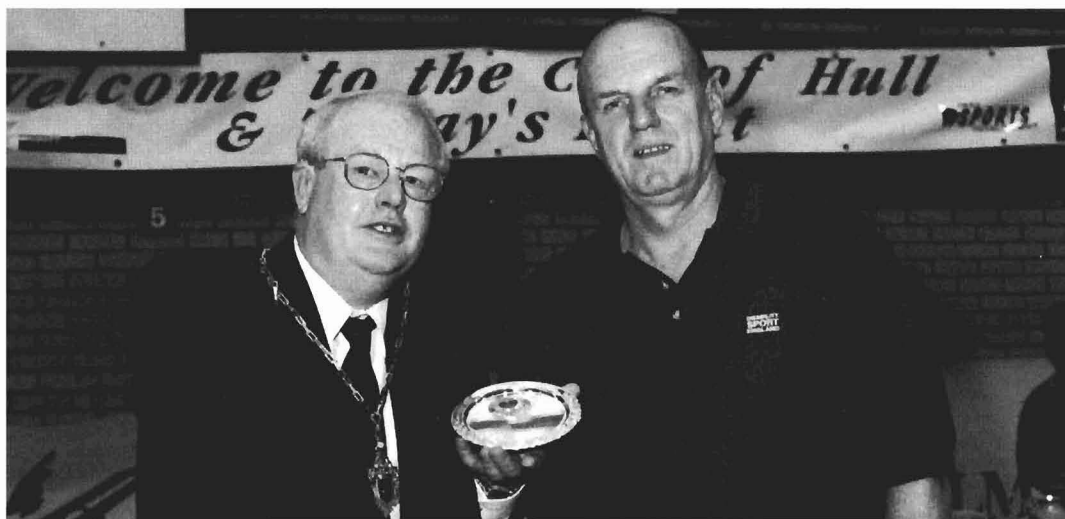
Telephone John Wood 01726 70607 or write to: Centenary Cottage, Church Road, Charlestown, St.Austell, Cornwall. PL25 3NS

RECKITT & COLMAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIGHT: The Deputy Lord Mayor of Hull, Councillor Brian Wilkinson, receives a commemorative plate from D.S.E. Chief Executive Gordon Neale.

BELOW RIGHT: Yorkshire and Humberside Coach, Wayne Marsh (right) and Regional Chairman Wendy Watson, receive the National Team Trophy from Tim Vernon (left), Managing Director of Reckitt and Colman.

BELOW LEFT: Tim Vernon, Managing Director of Reckitt and Colman, presents a Special Award to a jubilant Michael Wade, from the North West Region.



DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
29 November 1998	East Midlands Open 2 Star Table tennis Tournament including 2 events for disabled people	Grantham
23 January 1999	BTTAD N.W. Open	Southport
20-21 March 1999	BTTAD Closed	TBA

EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 1998

7th	County Championships	
7th-8th	U12 Training Centre	Lilleshall
8th	Cirencester U14 & U12 1 Star	
8th	British League	
14th-15th	South of England Junior 3 star	
14th-15th	Junior Training Days	
14th-15th	Veterans British League	Widnes
14th-15th	Senior Premier	Cippenham
21st	Derwent Cadet 2 Star	
21st-22nd	VETTS Eastern Masters	
21st-22nd	U12 Training Centre	
22nd	Derwent 2 Star	
22nd	British League	
28th	Wilmott Cup	
28th	Rose Bowl	
28th	Woolwich National League	
28th-29th	Junior National Championships	Stratford-on-Avon
29th	Seasider's Junior GP 2 Star	Blackpool
29th	Ormesby Cup	
29th	Gainsford Cup	
29th	East Midlands Graded & Disabled 2 star	
29th	Whitchurch 2 Star	

DECEMBER

5th	Cippenham Junior 3 Star	
5th	Cirencester U12 & U10 1 Star	
5th to 6th	Liverpool Junior 3 Star	
5th to 6th	Western Open (Grand Prix)	Bath
12th	County Championships	
12th to 13th	Under 12 Training Camp	
13th	British League	
13th	Junior Training Day	
19th	Chesham School Cadet Graded 2 Star	
19th to 20th	Southern Open (Grand Prix)	Windsor
27th	British League	
28th-31st	U12 Training Centre	Lilleshall

JANUARY 1999

2nd	Junior Regional Trials	
3rd	Gloucester Cadet Graded 2 Star	
3rd	Cippenham 2 Star	
7th - 10th	Pro-Tour Finals	Paris
9th	Carter Cup Round 1	
9th	Bromfield Trophy Round 1	
9th	Wilmott Cup Round 2	
9th	Rose Bowl Round 2	
10th	Leach Cup Round 1	
10th	Hammersley Cup Round 1	
10th	British League	
15th - 17th	National Championships	Bath
16th	Cippenham Under 9/10/11	
17th	Junior Training Day	
23rd - 24th	ESTTA Team Area Finals	
23rd	Hull Graded Junior/Cadet 2 Star	
23rd	Ormesby Cup Round 2	
23rd	Alec Brook Trophy Round 2	
23rd	County Championships	
23rd	BTTAD North West Open	Southport
23rd	National Council	Milton Keynes
24th	British League	
30th-31st	Cotswold Junior 3 Star	
30th-31st	Womens British League	
30th	Under 12 Training Camp	Lilleshall