

TABLE TENNIS

NEWS



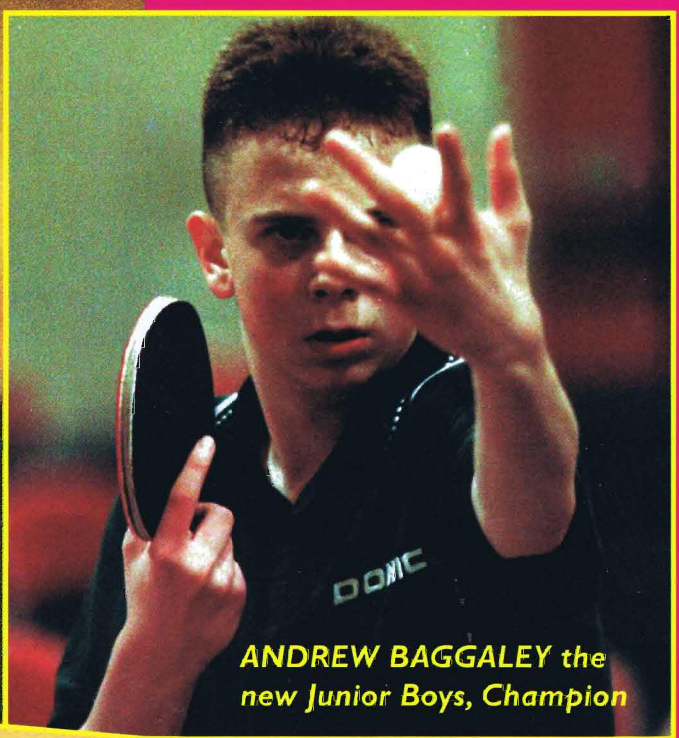
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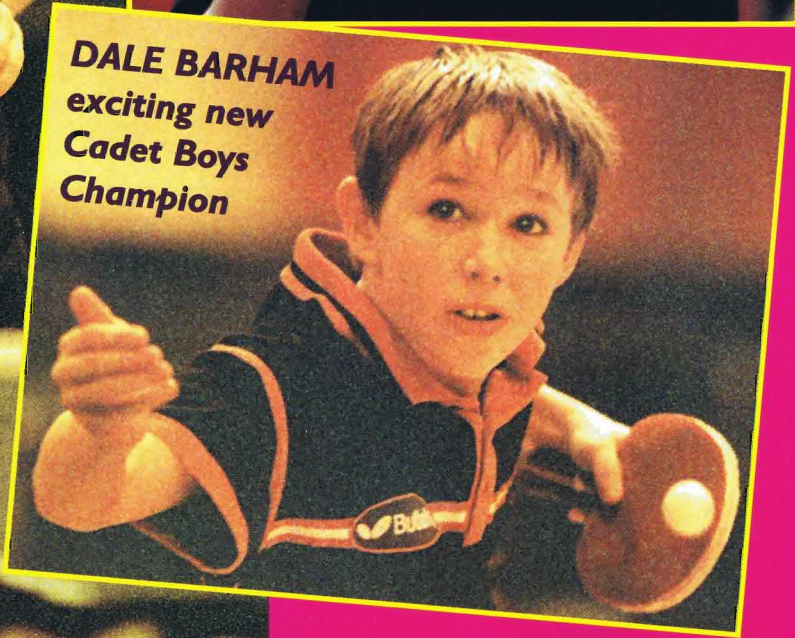
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The ETTA would like to thank the following companies for the support they give to English Table Tennis Association



THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN !

THE North West Region of the English Table Tennis Association has retained its title as the best governing body in the region for investing in volunteers.

At the time of going to press the ETTA North West was the only table tennis winner in the annual Volunteer Investment Programme Recognition Awards, announced by the English Sports Council. Other regional winners were due to be announced at the Regional Sports Conventions.

In 1997 the ETTA North West scooped the first ever regional governing body title in the North West and a £1,500 prize. In retaining their title this year they have earned themselves another £1,500 and entry to a national final with the chance to win a further £3,000 and invitations to a star-studded dinner in London in December.

Judges described the entry by the ETTA North West as "outstanding". Chairman Karen Tonge submitted the application on behalf of the ETTA and received the award at the Regional Sports Convention in Bolton on October 8. The organisation's investment in training

TOP SCORER!
The North West Region of the ETTA has won a VIP Recognition Award title for the second year running for its investment in volunteers.



Photo: Alan Edwards

volunteers for the World Veterans Table Tennis Championships and also the links it has forged with local schools to encourage more participants and volunteer

administrators earned the ETTA the accolade for a second year.

Afterwards Karen Tonge said: "We're floating on air at the moment. It's fantastic but we nearly didn't enter the VIP awards this year because we didn't think we could win it two years running. Nothing could happen in table tennis without volunteers and we owe this award to all of them."

The ETTA plans to spend its winnings on more training courses for its band of volunteers.

INFORMATION OFFICER



Editor of Table Tennis News John Wood, has asked me to write something on my credentials for my forthcoming new post, which commences on 1st February 1999. I have been writing on table tennis

WOODY'S World

THE New Year has burst in with a new name at Hastings, Ken Muhr, who has been appointed as the ETTA Information Officer. Ken's first duties will be to publicise the English Open.

On behalf of Table Tennis News I wish Ken every success in his new post.

Ken eloquently introduces himself to those who are not aware of his abilities, on this page.

John Wood

for around 30 years, starting with regular reports (often scribbled in the very early hours of Monday morning to hit the evening paper) for the Cambridge Evening News and Cambridge TT League Newsletter, my subject being mostly the exploits of talented Cambridgeshire youngsters like Paul Day, Emma Swan and Keith Richardson on the open tournament circuit. I have since been Press/Publicity Officer for several leagues, clubs and major tournaments. A qualified teacher of English, I enjoy writing and have long been a regular contributor to various table tennis publications as well as producing my own newsletters. I am a member of the ETTA Public Relations Committee. Briefly in the early 90's I was a freelance journalist for local/regional papers and radio, covering events all over the country.

I took media studies as part of my MSc for Kings College, University of London. Although employed to cost rather than make programmes, I have worked for BBC TV. In my time in Health Education I have run a Resources service and had frequent contact with the media, giving interviews (press and radio), writing press releases and articles, setting up press conferences etc. Some of the health issues required considerable diplomacy and tact! The Milton Keynes Health Information Service 'Health Matters' was initially set up in my (Health Education) department I have also done off air counselling for local (London) radio.

To sum up, I am passionate to see more and better media coverage of Table Tennis and hope that with the help of everyone, I can deliver.

Ken Muhr

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

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SUPERB SYED IN MAIDENHEAD



Alan Ransome OBE,
Chairman of the English
Table Tennis Association

IN one of the best recent performances in the Joola European League England defeated the Czech Republic by 4 sets to 2 in the first leg of the semi-final of the 1st division at Maidenhead on 15 December. England's top two men, Matthew Syed and Carl Prean, retained their unbeaten record in the league this season. Syed, playing in front of his home crowd, played some his best table tennis to beat the Olympic Bronze medallist, Petr Korbel, with some spectacular defending that thrilled the audience at the Magnet Centre. Carl Prean played his part by defeating Josef Plachy, a player who had beaten him on three previous occasions.

The team are now in a strong position for the second leg which is due to be played in Ostrava on 26 January with the overall winners likely to face Denmark in the second leg playoff for promotion to the Super Division. Denmark enjoyed a spectacular 4-0 victory over Yugoslavia in their semi-final first leg and are therefore very strong favourites to reach the final. England should have no fears about meeting Denmark as they won a European League group match at Bury St. Edmunds by 4-2 against Denmark in the early part of the season.

The match at Maidenhead was supported by Windsor and Maidenhead Council who also co-operated with the ETTA in staging the Grand Prix in Windsor the following weekend.

The England Women's team on the other hand are facing the prospect of relegation from the 1st Division of the Joola European Women's League after their 4-1 defeat to Belgium in the first leg of the semi-final which was played at Holme Pierrepont on 17 December. The Return leg is to be played on 21 January in Spa, with the losers likely to play Poland in a two-leg relegation series in February and March. Andrea Holt won the only match for England.

CADET GIRLS OUTSTANDING

The National Junior Championships supported by Stratford Upon Avon Borough Council were dominated by players who either live at or attend regularly the National Training Centre at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham. It was evident from the play in the later stages that attendance at Holme Pierrepont is benefiting our young potential national team players and their improvements was encouraging to see.

Amongst the finals, the most interesting contest was between Katy Parker and Natalie Bawden, with Natalie winning the junior event on Saturday and Katy the cadet girls singles on Sunday. Both finals were excellent matches.

Andrew Baggaley was superior in the junior boys singles final against Michael Chan, whilst Dale Barham was outstanding against an improved Michael Gomersall in the cadet boys.

Shortly after the National Championships, five of our best prospects received a full weeks training in China at the Beijing Table Tennis Club, managed by Liu Jia Yi and former National Champion Alison Broe, Katy Parker, Louise Durrant, Dale Barham, Michael Gomersall and Andrew Rushton, were given an intensive week working with leading Chinese coaches as well as our own National Coaches.

To be able to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by being a member of the National Squad within the World Class Performance programme needs excellent co-operation from the school in Nottingham that the youngsters attend. An example of this co-operation was the concession given to Andrew Rushton who was due to take his mock GCSE exams at the time of the trip to China. With the agreement of Dayncourt School, the establishment which provides for the young players at Holme Pierrepont, Andrew was able to take his examination during the Christmas holidays. This he completed, including four hours on Boxing

day, giving him sufficient time to attend the Junior National Training Camp from 28-30 December. This level of co-operation and dedication is necessary if our players are to have the opportunity to become world class.

With one term behind us a settled routine has now been established at Holme Pierrepont. Under the management of Michel Gadad, who has spent endless hours designing a scheme to give our top players the best possible chance of success in the new century, a programme of training/coaching, competition, education and relaxation has been introduced together with new innovations. One of the new ideas which has proved a success is the introduction of a Selection tournament with eight players invited in each category of junior boys, junior girls, cadet boys and cadet girls. This competition was played at Nottingham over Christmas with no ranking points and no coaching allowed.

Michel has developed a strong support team including Ian Marshall as Squad Manager, Coaches Alan Cooke, Lij Jia Yi, Bradley Billington and Kevin Satchell at the Centre, plus Mark Hawden (Psychologist) and Matthew Weston (Physiologist) as well as Reg and Pauline Rockall who work long hours to ensure that the welfare of the players is well looked after.

The under 12 programme under the control of Sylvia Broadbent and Lisa Lomas has been running for nine months and has also made good progress.

In addition to the activities at Holme Pierrepont, Michel Gadel has established Regional Training centres designed to assist players who are either unable to attend regularly at Nottingham or are contention for places. These have been established at Brentwood, Maidstone and Footscray in the South under the direction of Lisa Lomas, in the Midlands at Milton Keynes and Lilleshall under Denis Neale and

Desmond Douglas, and in the North, Leeds and Doncaster with Denis Neale and Sylvia Broadbent. All centres report a high attendance level with players making good progress.

MORE FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS

The ETTA's facilities programme is moving ahead. At a cost of over £500,000 supported by the school, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the National Lottery, the latest new centre to open is at the Hitchin Boys School where a dual use facility comprising a four badminton court hall has been developed for shared use between table tennis and badminton. The Sports Council in conjunction with the ETTA are using this scheme to carry out a wall colour experiment and have painted eight different colours on the walls to see which is the most suitable for table tennis and are seeking the advice of the hallusers.

The Mossford Centre in Ilford has recently received an additional £20,000 grant from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts for the purpose of upgrading. The club has recently been taken over by St. Marks TTC and a full programme of table tennis activities is continuing.

Another development well on the way to completion is the BATTIS Centre at the Burnt Mill School in Harlow. Substantial improvements including a new floor in the sports hall, new entrance foyer, social area, changing rooms, toilets and equipment store are being completed. The total grant aid received for this programme is close on £500,000 from the National Lottery and Essex County Council.

At the suggestion of the Sports Council, the ETTA's Development Department are carrying out a Top Club location planning exercise to

identify the locations of clubs who are likely to be included in the ETTA's Top Club programme. The Exercise will build on the nationwide structure of work which has already been completed with the Top Club pilots. Initially it will include existing clubs but also seeks to plan ahead to identify gaps in the provision of Top Club network. The planning exercise is expected to be completed by September but will involve formal consultation at all levels within our sport and will also include potential partners in the development of new club facilities, particularly local authorities and education authorities/schools. The end result will produce an authoritative plan for implementation of the Top Club programme over the next four years which at the same time clearly identifies the sports facilities needs. Clubs registering under the Top Club programme will receive priority consideration for ETTA support with the application for financial support under the Small Grants and other National Lottery programmes.

TABLE TENNIS WINS AGAIN !

Following on last year's success by the Eastern Region, the North West Region of the ETTA has won the National, Regional Governing Body Sports Council Award. The North West Region Chairman, Karen Tonge, accompanied by Martin Ireland, the Regional Development Officer, were presented with a plaque and cheque for £3,000 from former Olympic athlete, Steve Cram on 14 December at the Holton Hotel in London. The Acting Sports Council Chairmen, Trevor Brooking said "There are 1.5 million volunteers in the UK who play a pivotal role in helping sports clubs and events to survive and thrive. These volunteers contribute the equivalent of £1.5 billion of their own time to help sport every year. The annual Volunteer Investment Programme Awards recognise those organisations which excel at managing these vital volunteers through effective training and reward programmes."

This is the second year that the North West Region have won their Regional award, but the first time that the National Award has gone to the North West. The Award was for outstanding management of

volunteers particularly in connection with the World Championships and World Veterans Championships in Manchester where many local volunteers were recruited to assist with the running of the events. Congratulations to all, including Ken Armstrong MBE, who was responsible for Volunteer Management at the World Veterans Championships.

The ETTA fully recognises and appreciates the work carried out by volunteers at all levels. We are putting together a wide range training programme for development officers, coaches, umpires and referees and tournament organisers for implementation next season with the object of helping our volunteers who wish to upgrade their skills.

ITTF CONFERENCE

There has been concern expressed in ITTF circles for sometime with regard to the attractiveness of table tennis to spectators and the media. The ITTF are holding a conference in Copenhagen on 17/18 January to discuss this subject in some depth. They have attracted speakers from sponsorship agencies, television, Bundesliga clubs and the industry. Two points that are certain to be considered are the rules and the equipment of the game and in particular, the use of the larger 40mm ball which is intended to slow the game down. Another suggestion which is likely to be on the table is to increase the height of the net. Under discussion will also be the current 21 up scoring system which is regarded by some as having too few crisis points. Alternatives such as best of five 11 up and best of seven 7 up are likely to be discussed.

From my viewpoint it is essential that the game is attractive to spectators and therefore essential that the rules are such that it gives the defensive player a chance to win. In recent years the development of the equipment with fast rubbers and glue has turned the pendulum strongly in favour of the attacking player and it is rare to see defenders winning major events. The number of defenders in the world top 100 is only very small. A match between an attacker and defender often produces the most interesting and spectacular table tennis and if this conference can go part way to achieving this goal, then it will have made contribution to the future popularity of the sport.

Being staged at the same time as the conference is the Pondus Cup a long standing Danish invitation tournament which attracts a number of the world's best players. This year's competition is being played with the 40mm ball and is the first major championship in Europe to adopt this new size. Matthew Syed has been invited to this event and it will be very interesting to see how he fares against some of the best attackers in the world, including Jan-Ove Waldner, Vladimir Samsonov and Kong Linghui, with the new innovation.

OPPORTUNITIES IN TABLE TENNIS

With five of the 10 "Opportunities in Table Tennis" conferences having taken place in East Grinstead, Mildenhall in Suffolk, Durham, Sandwell in the West Midlands, and Weston-super-Mare. The reaction from the members who have attended has been positive. It is clear that our members are keen to learn about the opportunities that are available to their club and association and that there is real enthusiasm to take advantage of new programmes that both the Sports Council and ourselves are putting into place. There are 5 conferences remaining, as per the schedule below. Any members from the five regions which have held conferences so far who have been unable to attend are welcome to a place at any of the remaining 5 venues. It is our intention to publicise as widely as possible the opportunities that are available and to encourage our members to take full advantage of them.

MOVING

Ken Muhr, the ETTA Regional Development Officer for the Northern Region, has been appointed as the new ETTA Information Officer from 1 February. Ken has worked for the Association for the last three years in

the Northern Region and has produced some very good results with the development of table tennis throughout the four counties. Particularly major development programmes are now taking place in Kendal and Barrow in Cumbria, two new table tennis centres are up and running or in the advanced planning stage in Northumberland, there are a number of significant facilities in the implementation stage in Durham and, amongst others, Ken has assisted the Northfield School in Cleveland with their application to become a specialist sports college specialising in table tennis and their extensive development programme.

In Ken's new role, he will be based at the head office in Hastings and will concentrate on the development of press and promotion at national and regional levels as well as developing promotion programmes in specialist sectors such as education and health. He will also join the Events team to handle the promotion of national championships and international matches. Ken's recruitment will add considerable strength to our team of national officers in Hastings.

National Junior Development Officer, Wesley Bush-Harris has changed roles and from the New Year will become the Regional Development Officer for the Southern Region. Wesley has had a good grounding being at head office for the last 2 years but will have no easy task in following two very good RDO's in the Southern Region, Steve Joel and Steve Chu. I wish both Ken and Wesley the very best of luck in their new positions.

Alan Ransome, Chairman

"OPPORTUNITIES TABLE TENNIS"

DATE	REGION	VENUE
Saturday 30st January	London (33 London Boroughs)	Britannia Conference Centre, (Kings Cross)
Sunday 31st January	East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leics., Lincs., Northants., Notts.)	Holme Pierrepont Nottingham
Sunday 20th February	Southern (Berks, Bucks, Hants, Isle of Wight, Oxon.)	Cippenham TTC (Westgate School, Slough)
Sunday 21st February	Yorkshire (Yorkshire, South Yorkshire)	To be confirmed
Sunday 28th February	North West (Cheshire, Lancashire)	Auto Quest Stadium (Halton, Cheshire)

POSTBAG

WIZARD ?

RECENTLY I acquired two 78 gramophone records. Both were made by Stephen Bettiscourt Wizard of Ping Pong and are entitled 'Ping Pong Samba' and 'Ping Pong Lullaby'.

Would any of your readers remember this Stephen Bettiscourt? If so I would be pleased if they would contact me and so help my history of the game.

Many thanks,
Pat Archdale
26 West View Road, Keynsham
Bristol. BS31 2UA

WORST OF ALL WORLDS?

FIRST my warmest thanks to those who have written to me or phoned about my articles 'Heaven preserve us from our Friends'. Since then, things have moved on, but not perhaps as we would have hoped.

The English sport's supreme body, the National Council, has approved the change, but has suggested that our delegate(s) should press for a year's postponement.

This will have two effects: (1) It will send our delegate, Alan Ransome, "naked into the conference chamber" to quote the late Mr Aneurin Bevan and (2) the greatest of sporting events, the Olympics would be played with the old, longer pimples, which it has attempted to eradicate.

This seems to give us the worst of all possible worlds. Either the old, long pimples are a bad idea or they are not. If they are and they really hurt the game so much, as the German delegate has told us, then surely we must get rid of them and the sooner the better. In suggesting the postponement, opponents of the long pimples confirm that this is a non-event in terms of improving the game, if not in terms of losing us yet more members. Nor in terms of further

destroying the world class defender.

How can one take seriously those who state via their votes that the long pimples spoil the game and make it awful to watch and then suggest at the same meeting on the same day that the Olympics should be played under those conditions?

Is it too late to hope for a return to sanity

John Preat
Isle of Wight

HEALTHY

HOW healthy to see two members of the management discussing a matter at the very heart of some of the problems which beset us at the moment. Both of these letters to the editor will I hope stimulate some serious discussion of the subject. Then a paper can be formulated enabling relevant committees to draw up recommendations either for Council or our AGM.

In 1994 management mooted the idea that a new structure be devised which would have meant the disappearance of the National Council and as Ms McCulloch feared this was not accepted. Mr. Halliday's letter implies he was not aware this had happened. The Council has been constant in rejecting any suggestion that diminished their control indeed just this year it insisted on retaining at least four meetings per year.

I am concerned about more fundamental issues, though I believe the process of sorting them out is now under way.

At the 1996 AGM I expressed a concern that I have held for quite some years, namely that we are merely an Association of Table Tennis leagues. The point I raised was that we should, without detriment to local league table tennis, open our Association membership beyond this form of competition. This

suggestion gained almost unanimous support and that AGM instructed Council to bring forward after proper discussion further ideas.

Like at least 95% of your readers I began my table tennis in a local league and I continue to believe that for many years it will be the backbone of our Association. The danger is though that our efforts are towards the continued development of this form of competition, and it is evidently developing downwards. We need to look at other forms of competition and enlargement of our membership base. Indeed to develop it so that we can in fact be the English Table Tennis Association

Recently the Sports Council also asked us to look at our membership situation and the level of subscription provided by our members. This has since been taken on board by the management committee and the Council and at our last AGM some fundamental changes were made, as the result of many hours of work by the membership committee. The current success of the Player License Scheme in its first year should be for all of us a source of great encouragement. It may only be a small beginning but for once it is in the right direction.

Ought we now to be looking at the rights of those who hold a Player License. They provide a level of subscription, as a group, if not individually, out of proportion to the rest of our members who express their voice and control at the National Council. The Council tries each year to find a 'Players Representative' to attend without a vote at Council meetings. Perhaps this would be more successful if the Players Representative was elected by those who hold a License, and that person should be a full voting member of the Council.

Most of our members realise that changes need to be made. All suggestions need to be examined, but change, while it cannot rule out risks has to be slow and cautious. Ms. McCulloch is, albeit tongue in cheek, provocatively putting a positive suggestion for change for a purpose.

continued on page 33

COURTSIDE by John Woodford

JOHN WOODFORD is resurrecting this column that appeared a few years ago when he was editing. Readers might like to help dig out some items - sources are never revealed unless requested. Short, sharp, concise items are on the menu. Not all will please those in the corridors of power but many of the pieces may interest or even amuse readers.

• **MY** vote for the Umpire of the Year goes to Roger Vardon who reports indicate, faulted our coaching vice-chairman, McCulloch when she was playing for Surrey in the county championships, on her service.

• **STAYING** with the umpires, next season more steps will be taken by Grand Prix organisers to obtain qualified umpires for the second day and the finals. It really is completely out of order to have to force players to umpire finals and the problem worsens should there be disciplinary problems, as happened at Bath.

• **KEEPING** with discipline mainly on court, I do not expect all the young players to behave themselves all the time, that would be against human nature. But, I do expect referees and umpires to take immediate action when there are breaches of the discipline code, as I am told there were at Stratford-on-Avon.

• **ALEX PERRY** is about to buy a house in the Nottingham area - that is a welcome commitment to the sport, although houses can be bought and sold. Alex is also continuing to play some matches and tournaments in Sweden.

• **ADAM ROBERTSON** possesses in my view one of the best backhand shots I have seen in the ranks of the youngsters. It is frequently delivered standing a pace back. If there is a better prospect in his age group from Lands End to John O'Groats, I have yet to find him. I have watched him recently in Scotland and at Bath. How badly England needs such talent and the ice-cool temperament.

• **SOMETHING** I did not know regarding the number of players estimated in England and China: three million in England, one hundred million in China. One interpretation of those figures is that we have three chances in a hundred of producing a senior world champion!

• **WHY** did John Wood move to Cornwall? That is the question. Arguably, Cornwall is the most attractive county in England. I came to that conclusion fifty years ago when I first visited that scrumptious county. To those of us lucky enough to always have lived by the sea, it is relaxing in many ways. Away from the Rat Race say writers on Cornwall. The major problem is for the Editor is that on some trips to events he has to add 400 miles to his journey on the road. For me the train takes the strain - returning from Bath I was in London by 8.30 am and home in Eastbourne by 11 am - full marks to Great Western!

TABLE TENNIS on TV

ITTF PRO TOUR FINALS (PARIS) COVERAGE WITH SKY TV

Event	Transmission Date	Time	Channel
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)
Frickenhausen-Grenzau	8 January 1999	9 January 1999	16.00
Frickenhausen - Dusseldorf	15 January 1999	16 January 1999	16.00
Gonnern-Grenzau	5 February 1999	6 February 1999	16.00
Dusseldorf-Ochsenhausen	19 February 1999	20 February 1999	16.00
Gonnern-Dusseldorf	26 February 1999	27 February 1999	16.00
Gonnern-Ochsenhausen	19 March 1999	20 March 1999	16.00
Grenzau-Dusseldorf	26 March 1999	27 March 1999	16.00

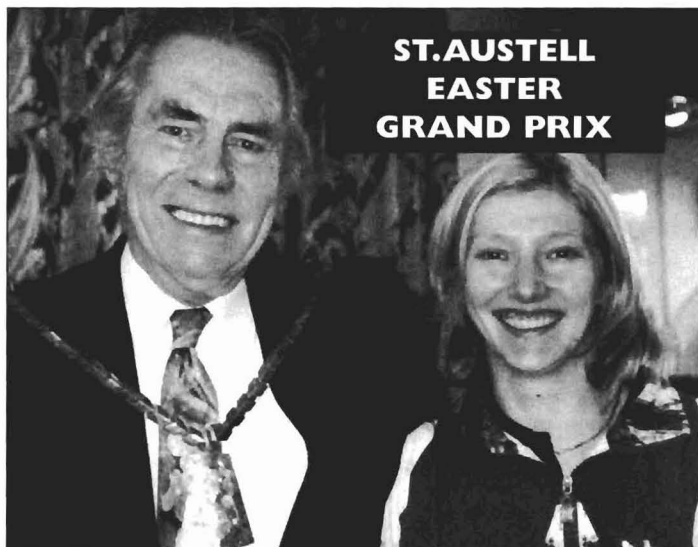
ETTA GRAND PRIX 1998/99

WITH half of this seasons 12 Grand Prix events completed any fear that the extra events would lead to smaller entries proved unfounded. The first event of the season the Merseyside Open had approximately the same entry as last season (250). The Clare Pengelly Memorial Championships had an increase as did the Stamco Sussex Open in it's first Grand Prix year.

Entries were down slightly at the Eastern Open (-25) and the Western Open (-10) but the Southern Open, held at Windsor just prior to Christmas received an entry of almost 300, of which referee Mick Strode had to reluctantly return 40.

The programme for the second half of the season looks quite exciting. The next event, on the 13th-14th February, is the first Potters East Anglian Open. An event which will offer perfect playing conditions, a sprung wooden floor, covered with table tennis flooring and individual lights over each table, plus the opportunity for players and officials to stay on site and enjoy Potters famous meals and entertainment. On the 27/28th February we return, once again, to the Stratford Leisure and Visitors centre for the 3rd West Midlands Open. Having only enough room for 18 tables we will no doubt again have to restrict the number of entries. The 20/21st March see's the welcome return of one of English Table Tennis's most popular tournaments, the Middlesex Open. My memories of this event go back to the 60's when it was played at the Hanwell Community Centre, possibly the coldest venue I ever played in. I can remember Sweden playing one year and also Hungary plus of course all the top English players. it was for many years the strongest tournament outside the English Closed. This years event will be played at Picketts Lock which has become it's regular home since the late 70's.

Over Easter we will be staging the 2nd South West Open in the lovely town of St Austell. Play will commence on the afternoon of Friday 2nd with the finals scheduled to start at 1pm on Monday 5th. We have again been able to obtain



ST. AUSTELL
EASTER
GRAND PRIX

Winner of the Womens Singles event last year, Michele Cohen, is pictured with the former Mayor of Restormel Borough Council, Cllr. Anthony Parkyn.

special accommodation rates at The Duporth Holiday Village, further details will appear in next months magazine. Matthew Syed has indicated that he hopes to defend his title but, no doubt, some of the other leading players will be keen to see that he does not win for a second time.

On the 17/18th April the Grand Prix moves up North. The Blackpool Open will I am sure prove to be as popular as ever, and the organisers will almost certainly have to restrict the number of entries they accept. The last qualifying event will be the South Yorkshire Open, which will be held at the fantastic Ponds Forge Leisure Centre, Sheffield on the weekend of 8th and 9th May. Many players will be desperately chasing points in order to qualify~ for the finals.

For the 3rd year running the finals will be held in the Bath Leisure Centre on the 29/30th May. £11,000 in prize money will be up for grabs, the biggest prize in domestic competition. The weekend will be supported once again by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

TABLE TENNIS ON-LINE ETTA TO BECOME INTERNET PROVIDER

From 1st February 1999, the English Table Tennis Association will become internet providers, offering members and their friends the

opportunity to get on the internet from as little as £1.50 (+ VAT) per month.

TTOL offers a pay-as-you-go service but with the added bonus of a payment ceiling of £9.00 (+ VAT) per month. The effect of the payment ceiling is that although you can enjoy the benefits of pay-as-you-go, you are not threatened with the possibility of paying more per month than if you were to subscribe to existing unlimited access deals.

As an additional bonus, TTOL offers to each subscriber five free e-mail accounts plus 5mb of Web space.

• In conjunction with TTOL the ETTA will be launching it's very own Web Site on www.etta.co.uk featuring information on the English Open, British League matches, ETTA Grand Prix, County matches and much, much more.

• How do you join? just write to the ETTA Marketing Department requesting your free access disk and as soon as they become available, one will be forwarded to you.

So don't delay; get a great deal AND help Table Tennis.



Mike Johns,
ETTA
Events
Manager



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We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.



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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

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The card brings you significant financial advantages. But it also helps us raise money to promote the sport - at no extra cost to you! We receive a royalty from MBNA for every new cardholder, plus ongoing income every time you make purchases on your ETTA Visa card.



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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, Starfield House, Chester Business Park, Chester, CH4 9JZ 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 quotations available on request.

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QUOTING REF: BT06

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BC06

A FEAST OF WORLD CLASS TABLE TENNIS

THE 63rd English Open Table Tennis Championships will be staged at the prestigious Potters Leisure Resort, Hopton on sea, near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, from Tuesday 9th March to Sunday 14th March 1999, writes Mike Johns.

The championships are part of the International Table Tennis Federations Pro-Tour and have for the second time be awarded 'Major' status. Coming approximately 6 weeks before the World Championships most of the leading players will see this as the ideal opportunity for some top class competition prior to their pre worlds training camp. Top European players will also be chasing ranking points in an effort to qualify for the Sydney Olympics.

At the time of writing the following countries have submitted 'intention to enter' forms; Japan, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Sweden, Netherlands, Austria, France, Slovenia, Denmark, Hungary, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan, Greece, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Norway and Switzerland. Entries are also expected from the other countries staging Pro-Tour events, Qatar, Croatia, Lebanon, Brazil, Australia, Taipei, China and Germany. Belgium, Canada, Italy, Russia and Turkey normally send a team so we are hopeful that the 63rd English Open will be the strongest yet.

It will certainly be an English Open with a difference. For the first time we will not be faced with the problem of 'coaching' players and officials back and to their Hotels. Everyone will be accommodated, fed and entertained on site. For those of you who have not been to Potters it certainly is something special. Good accommodation with satellite TV. Good and plentiful food and a world class entertainment programme. During the championships the entire resort will be taken over by table tennis, and special prices are being offered

for spectators who wish to join the players and officials as resident guests. Another first will be that the results will be regularly 'downloaded' on to the Internet, so if you are unable to attend the championships you will not have the problem of trying to find the results in the Daily papers.

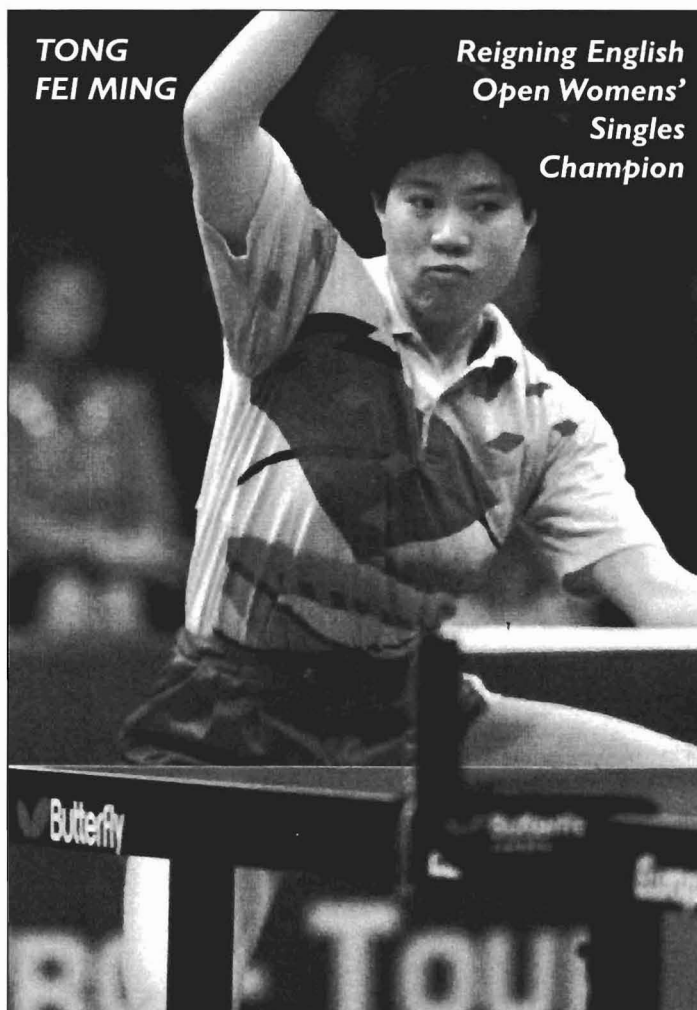
The Championships will, like the Worlds in Manchester, feature a 'Fun world' where spectators will have the opportunity of being coached, playing against a robot or just having a 'knock'. Situated in the same hall will be a number of trade and information stands.

For the keen players the Pre-Qualifying competition allows them the opportunity to play in an International Open Championships and possibly qualifying to play against some of the worlds leading players.

Entry forms, accommodation package details and tickets are available from the ETTA Events Unit. With a spectator capacity of 1200, a 'Full House' is expected for Sunday 14th, consequently on that day all seats will be numbered and reserved.

**TONG
FEI MING**

*Reigning English
Open Womens'
Singles
Champion*



*Players like Jan
Ove Waldner (left)
will probalby take
the opportunity for
some world class
opposition at the
English Open in
preparation for the
World
Championships,
which take place
six weeks later*

NORTHERN NOTES

by Ken Muhr

DISAPPOINTMENT at the poor entry for the Stockton Junior 4 Star Open at Thornaby Pavilion on 31 October /1 November was partly mitigated by the success of Northern Region players.

Cleveland's Nicky Chapman took his first major singles title in beating Simon Nouch (Yorkshire) in the final, 21-12, 15-21, 21-10, and Ormesby Club team mate Steven Bailey, semi-finals, of the Grade 1 Junior Boys Singles. Nicky and Steven also reached the Junior Boys Team final where they lost 3 - 0 to Scotland. Another losing finalist was Jonathan Crawford (Cumbria) who went down 9-21, 18-21 to Daniel Rees (Essex) in the Under 11 Boys Singles. And Paul Costello (Cleveland) and Christian Polkinghorn (Cumbria) won through to the semis of the Junior and Cadet Boys singles respectively.

Stockton Council were delighted with the 50 plus youngsters who attended the 'come and try it' on the Friday evening (30 October). My thanks go to all the stalwarts who helped with the Junior open and the taster evening.

The Cleveland trio of Steven Bailey, Nicky Chapman and Paul Costello came first, second and third in the Northern Regional Junior Trials at Northfield School, Billingham on Saturday 14 November. They and fourth placed Grant Woodhouse (Cumbria) will go on to the national trials, with Matthew Allen (Cumbria), who came fifth, the reserve. The cadet boys was won by Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland), with Phil Wared (Cleveland) second and Chris Polkinghorn (Cumbria) third. The reserve for the national trials will be Richard Turner (Durham) who came fourth. Another Cleveland player, Stacey Brown, won the cadet girls, followed by Cumbrian sisters Chloe Gasson and Fay Gasson (first reserve). In the absence of competition, Ellie de la Hunt (Northumberland) will go straight through to the national finals where she will be joined, by virtue of their high England rankings, by Jade Kendall (Cumbria), Katherine Swan (Cumbria) and Kate Vickers



Reckitt & Colman Managing Director, Tim Vernon, presents the 'Player of the Tournament' trophy to South West Region's Derek Mothersele.

(Durham). Daniel Welsh (Durham) and Michael Gomersall (Cumbria) also automatically qualify for the junior boys, while Michael and Grant Woodhouse also automatically qualify for the cadet boys national finals.

Former 1980 European Mens singles champion and 1998 world over 50s bronze medalist John Hilton, a member of the Darlington British League Premier Division Champions team, is a sports patron of the Durham Millennium Youth Games. With other sports patrons such as Brendan Foster (Athletics), Sue Rolph (Swimming), Tannie Grey (multi athletics gold medalist at Paralympics), Graeme Fowler (Cricket), Greg Modzelowski (Basketball) and England internationals from rugby, netball etc., he supported the official Launch in Durham on 5th November, before assisting with coaching Ormesby Club juniors in Middlesbrough.

Someone who has caused a stir in

Sunderland circles and stimulated local stars Dave Robson and Tony Gelder to get back to practice, is former Greek junior international George Pittas. Currently a sports science student at Sunderland University, George was reputedly once ranked 5 in Greece and plays something like compatriot Kalinikos Kreanga, with big booming, two wing loops. He is a little rusty though.

Keith Rodger and Tom Welsh have started new Champion Coaching sessions at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, in County Durham. The Durham Schools League being run by Barrie Coleman, has stimulated massive new interest by youngsters in table tennis with large numbers reported to be playing at Framwellgate Moor School (Durham), Dene House (Peterlee), Carmel (Darlington) as well as at Tudhoe Grange (Spennymoor), Greencroft (Stanley) and Teesdale (Barnard Castle). If only we had more volunteers to help the

schools develop table tennis!

SOUTHWEST NEWSLETTER

by Alf Pepperd

IN the Reckitt & Colman National Table Tennis Championships for People with Disabilities, held at the Woodford Leisure Centre, Kingston-upon-Hull, the South West Region were well represented by Barbara Francis from Somerset, Derek and Sonia Mothersele from Devon and Glynn Lloyd and Elaine Marshall, who play together with Team Manager Peter Humble in the Gloucester League for Rudford and Highleadon Table Tennis Club.

It was a very successful Championship for the S.W.R. even though they were one of the smallest teams, their overall spirit was nevertheless undiminished, especially with each team member supporting the others.

Elaine Marshall was the outright winner in both her class and the Open Singles, Glynn Lloyd was runner-up in his class getting closer to the Gold Medallist Clive Warley than he had ever done before.

A much improved Barbara Francis reached the final in her class after winning her group. Derek Mothersele won the prestigious 'Player of the weekend' Trophy, for his effort and determination which ended up with him forced to retire after, at a game up and the score 20-20, he went for a spectacular shot, fell, and damaged his good knee.

Both Glynn Lloyd and Derek Mothersele were re-assessed by the Physiotherapist in Hull, and will be playing in wheelchairs rather than Standing Class in future tournaments.

The writer would like to thank Peter Humble the Team Manager for the SWR report, and perhaps add a rider: Congratulations to both Elaine Marshall and Glynn Lloyd who play in the Gloucester City League upon their recent National Rankings, issued by the B.T.T.A.D.

Both are at present ranked in the Standing Classes 6-11. Elaine is ranked at No.2 out of 20, and Glynn at No.19.

Well done both of you.

POLICE SWEEP THE BOARD



Gillian Knightley (above) of the 4J's team, receiving the 'Woman of the Weekend' award, from the English Sports Council Director North West, Sheldon Phillips. Gillian managed a 90% average and in doing so gave her team an outstanding chance of promotion to the Premier Division.



Denis Neale

THE Police Athletic Association are the leaders of the Premier Division at the end of the first session of the Veterans British League, writes Jim Beckley.

While most bets were being placed on Darlington and Larkhall Spicer the local side almost swept the board by finishing the opening matches at Widnes two points clear of Darlington.

Last season's champions Larkhall Spicer finished third behind Darlington and were unlucky to have two injuries that clearly could have a devastating effect on their chances of retaining the title.

First to go was Mike Johns who pulled out with a knee injury. Then on the second day anchor man Mike Short pulled up with a similar problem.

Full marks to Richard Yule and Dave Welsman who played the

second day a player short, but still managed to keep their unbeaten record intact.

But that gave the Police the chance to go top of the division with Dave Harding, Brian Johns and Dave Newton pulling together winning 18 matches between them.

Ironically Denis Neale was the only player with a 100% record although it must be said that he only played four matches. His team Seasiders failed to win a match over the two days and are bottom of the table.

Favourites Bribar Bramley seem to be on their way to their second title after they finished top of the womens premier division.

Diane Pearce, Carol Judson and Doreen Schofield all performed admirably to make it a real team effort. But they will still have quite a tussle to keep their title.

Dagenham Ladies with Lesley

Radford and Sheila King in form are a close second, and don't count out last season's runners-up Colebridge BC. They were the only team to take a point from the leaders and are third just three points behind Bribar and one point behind Dagenham

thanks mainly to a superb individual performance from Jan Dunning who finished with an 80% average.

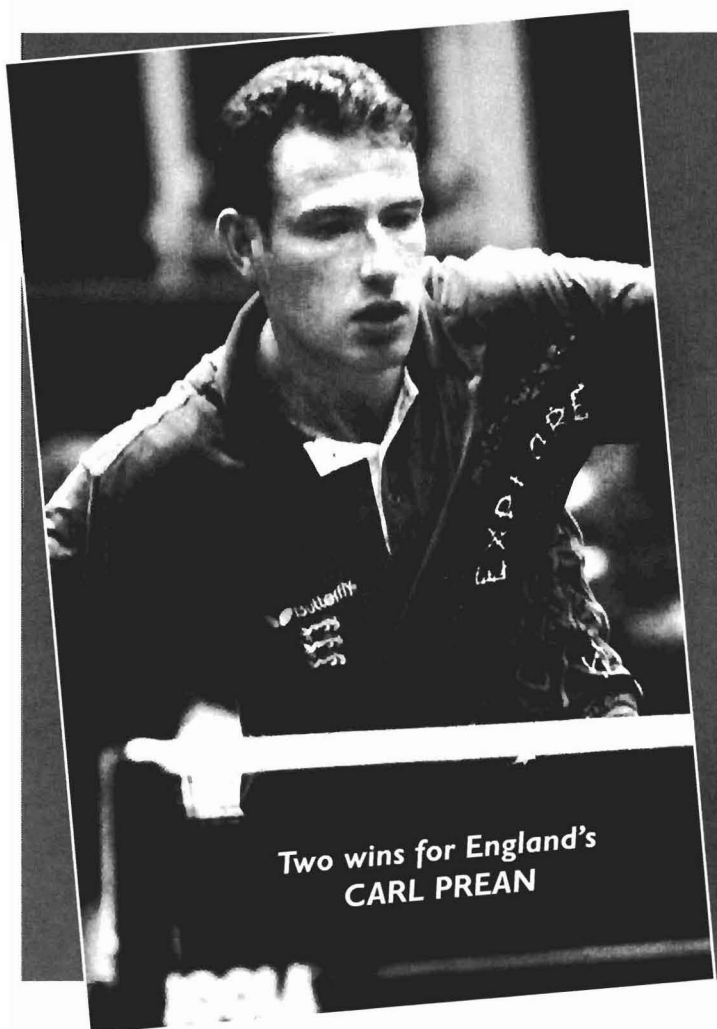
So everything points to a thrilling climax at Potters in February. Both titles are wide open as are many of the other divisions.

LEAGUE TABLES

Mens Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Police Athletic Assoc. I	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Darlington I	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Larkhall Spicer	5	1	4	0	18	12	6
Swinton	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Bournemouth	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Seasiders Blackpool I	5	0	1	4	8	22	1
Mens Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fullerians	5	3	2	0	22	8	8
Racquetsports 'A'	5	2	3	0	19	11	7
OLOP	5	2	2	1	16	14	6
Merrow	5	1	2	2	12	18	4
British Gas	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Shamrocks	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Mens Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Barclays Bank	5	4	1	0	21	9	7
Plymouth Extremes	5	2	0	3	15	15	4
Police Athletic Assoc. II	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Tokyu World Transport	5	1	1	3	10	20	3
Darlington II	5	0	1	4	10	20	1
Mens Division 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury Park	5	3	2	0	18	12	8
Ellenborough	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
Thompson Insurance	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Lillington Free Church	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Graham Spicer	5	0	2	3	12	18	2
Aldborough	5	1	0	4	7	23	2
Womens Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bribar Bramley	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Dagenham Ladies	5	3	1	1	21	9	7
Colebridge BC	5	2	2	1	16	14	6
H.E.L. Ladies	5	2	1	2	15	15	5
Hammond Suddards	5	1	1	3	14	16	3
Ellenborough	5	0	0	5	3	27	0
Womens Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colleens	5	5	0	0	23	7	10
Worcester Ladies	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
The 4 J's	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Billwood	5	2	0	3	10	20	4
Halton & Friends	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Combined Counties	5	0	0	5	9	21	0

FIRST WEEKEND

PREAN THE STAR AS ENGLAND CRUSH THE CZECH REPUBLIC



ENGLAND'S MEN made a giant step towards promotion to the Joola Mens Super Division, with a big 4-2 victory over the Czech Republic, at Maidenhead in December, writes John Wood.

First on the table was Matthew Syed, who with majestic style put England into the lead with a superb display of defensive table tennis, beating the Czech Republic's Tomas Pavelka 21-16, 21-10.

Alex Perry was next on for England playing against the mighty Peter Korbel, who on paper was red hot favourite to win this one, but Perry had other ideas playing some of his best table tennis of this season, he stormed to victory in the first leg in a nail-bitingly close opener 22-20.

Korbel obviously shaken by Perry's awkward left-handed style, rallied to play some superb attacking table tennis, taking the second and third, 21-16, 21-15, to level the match.

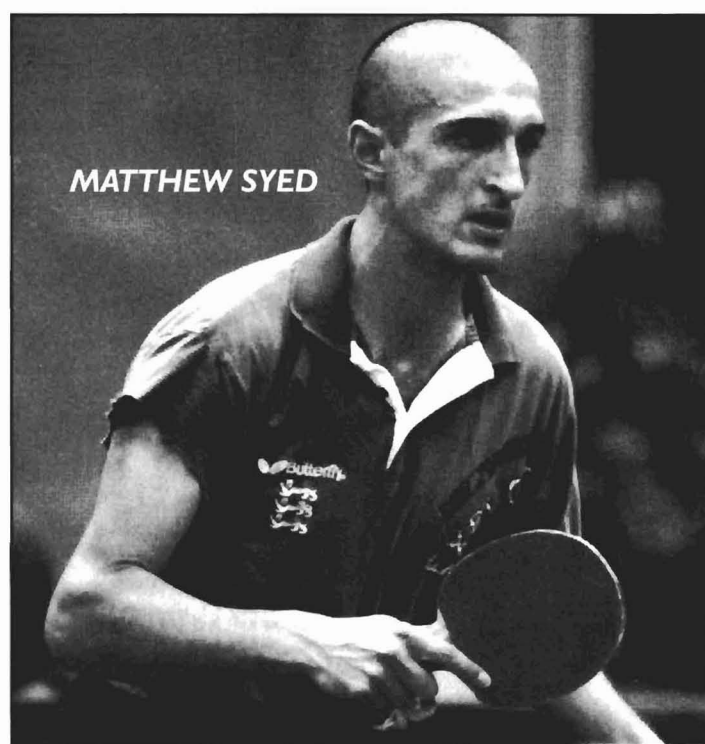
With the match at 1-1, Carl Prean stepped into the arena to face Joseph Plachy, a player he had never beaten before, so the crowd of 400 held-it's breath, but Prean played proudly for his country taking the opener 21-17.

Then in the second Prean played absolutely brilliantly, displaying his best shots and rhythm, to crush his opponent 21-12.

The doubles saw the Czech Republic once again level the match when Korbel and Plachy beat Prean and Perry, 21-16, 22-20.

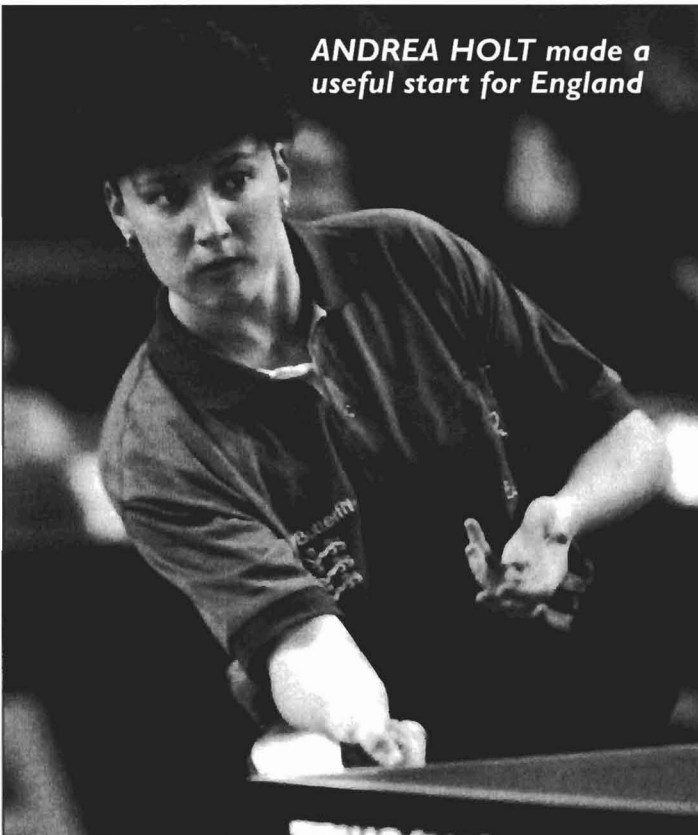
Syed had to then face his old foe Korbel to restore England's lead, and he did us proud by taking the first absolutely brilliantly, winning 21-13, 17-21, 21-13.

This left the moment of glory to Prean, and he didn't let his country down, winning against Pavelka 21-14, 14-21, 21-17, to rapturous applause.



**TABLE TENNIS
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BELGIUM CREATE RELEGATION THREAT



ANDREA HOLT made a useful start for England

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS after England men fuelled hopes of promotion to the Super Division at Maidenhead, hopes that England women's team might provide another boost against Belgium at Home Pierrepont evaporated in just over two hours play as the visiting team outgunned their hosts 4-1, writes John Woodford.

Belgium have managed to make progress with their womens team that is the envy of several European nations including England and Holland who were brought down 4-3 in the groups by Belgium.

In the recent past we have managed to overcome Belgium, especially before the retirement of Lisa Lomas.

Andrea Holt made a useful start, defending and attacking to stop 15-years-old Carole Detrigne 12, 17, but the Brussels teenager, athletic,

strong and with a devastating service showed us the sort of talent that we are hoping to produce at Nottingham.

From that point, the England team seemed to lose its confidence. Helen Lower, short of real match practice for six months due to injuries, battled hard as she always does but made little impression on Cecile Ozer the Belgian No.1, who has also just returned to serious play after having a baby.

Nicola Deaton attacked with power on both wings, winning the first game 15, to the delight of the crowd of 90, but again, experience triumphed as Martine Hubert's incisive counter-hitting proved too accurate, winning through 12, 15, at the interval break.

Deaton and Lower it was thought must have a chance in the doubles to stop Hubert and another brilliant teenager Natacha Reginster, but again the Belgians stormed in 17,17.

The final game saw Andrea Holt in an exciting battle with Ozer - although she lost the first -17, the Manchester player came from behind to take the second 21, but in the final game Ozer built up a huge lead and finally clinched the match as Andrea could only manage 13 points.

Captain Alan Cooke said, "Yes, that was disappointing. The England womens team is in a re-building programme that could take some time. We are like several other countries in Europe, trying hard to bring on our young players after the older ones retire.

On this show, England women have little chance of reversing the trend in the second leg at Spa, near Leige on January 21, leaving a real threat of relegation if they can do no better in the third stage against either Poland or Holland. If not, then its down to Division 2 !

RESULTS

ENGLAND 1, BELGIUM 4

A. Holt bt C. Detrigne 12, 17
H. Lower l C. Ozer -15, -13
N. Deaton l M. Hubert 15, -12, -15
Deaton/Lower l Hubert/N. Reginster -17, -17
Holt l Ozer -17, 21,-13.



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
Employment Opportunity

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER NORTHERN

This ETTA appointment, supported by the English Sports Council, offers an exciting challenge for people interested in table tennis with the necessary experience, commitment and enthusiasm to drive the development of the sport in the regions.

- Funding for this position has been secured for a three year term.
- Office based initially at Durham University.
- Salary - £16,000 p.a. - rising to £18,000 p.a. after satisfactory performance and length of service (plus travel expenses and car allowance).
- 48 hours (average) per week.

Job Summary

To initiate and co-ordinate table tennis development in the region in accordance with ETTA national policy and priorities.

Ideal candidates will:

- have a recognised involvement and knowledge of table tennis
- have a BTEC higher level or NVQ equivalent in a subject area relevant to requirements of a sports related position
- have practical experience of sports development issues
- have effective communication skills
- be willing to work long and some unsociable hours
- hold a current full British driving licence and have full use of a suitable vehicle
- the ambition to help table tennis progress.

For job background, person specification, job description and an application form, contact:

Diccon Gray (Director of Development)
The English Table Tennis Association,
Queensbury House, Havelock Road,
Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF.
Tel: 01424722525 Fax: 01424422103

Closing date: Monday 22nd February 1999



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ST. NEOTS' SHOCK OF THE SEASON

St Neots produced the shock of the season when they beat Horsham 9-5 in the Premier Division of the British League. Keith Richardson was unbeaten with victories over Ritchie Venner, Nigel Eckersley and Dominic Hall. Venner had a particularly bad day for him, also losing to Stuart Palmer and Chris Rogers, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

JAGS also produced a shock result by defeating Darlington 8-6, Selwyn Campbell and Tom Cutler both winning twice in their singles matches.

DML White Hart Launceston picked up two much needed points at the expense of OLOP, Ben Johnson being in superb form.

Previously Horsham had a resounding 13-1 victory away to the Dulwich Club, JAGS. Chris Sladden, Adrian Moore and Nigel Eckersley were all unbeaten with Moore looking most impressive. The only set dropped was when Ritchie Venner went down -16 -20 to Clive Carthy. This was Venner's first defeat of the season in the British League.



Brent Sports Progress kept on the heels of the leaders by beating DML White Hart Launceston although they were made to fight all of the way, especially by Mike Short who showed

very aggressive play in defeating Marco Essomba and inflicting a rare defeat on Darren Blake. Surprisingly he lost to Danny Fesehatsion in between these two impressive victories.

Eddie Smith was in fine form for Darlington and his three singles helped his side to a 9-5 win over OLOP AWCS Ltd. There was a close match at St Neots when the visitors Grove were pulled back from 6-2 to 6-4 before winning 8-6.

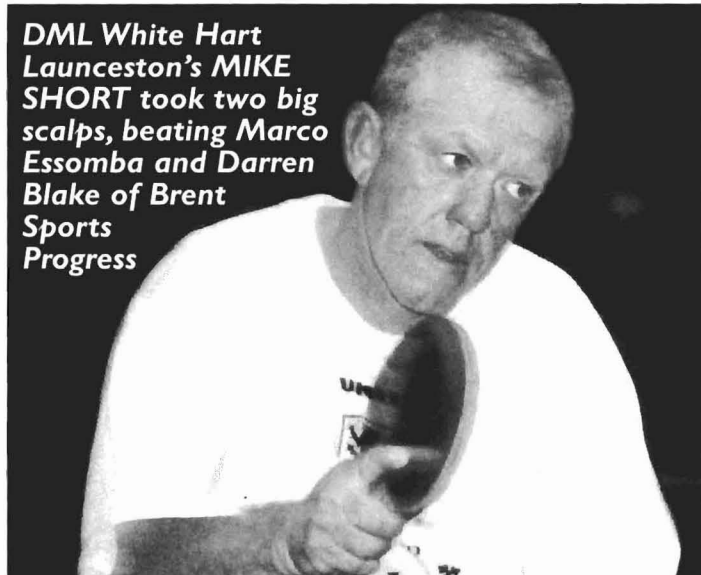
Darlington seconds retained the leadership of division 1 North by virtue of a 5-3 home victory against Kingshurst Bribar. Keith Rodger and Mark Simon were both unbeaten but Kingshurst's Pete Waite confused the opposition with his serves and earned the 'Player of the Match' award.

Tim Sheppard won two hard fought games for Uxbridge Burton but his team slipped to a 5-3 defeat at the hands of second placed Derwent for whom Andrew Horsfield was unbeaten. Seasiders Blackpool drew

ST.NEOTS, who produced the shock result of the season by beating Horsham 9-5.

for the third time this season when they held Syntegra Worcester City. Darren Griffin was very sharp for Worcester and won both of his sets as did Dave Harvey but two from Steve Turner plus one each from Chris Dunne and Chris Ford earned Seasiders the draw. Worcester then played a 4-4 draw with Darlington, Uxbridge beat Bulldog 5-3, Lincoln moved up to second place by beating Kingshurst 5-3 and Seasiders Blackpool gained a shock 6-2 win over Derwent, Kevin Dolder and Steve Turner both being unbeaten.

In Division 1 South, Harvey Barnet gained both points against C & M Insurance Brentwood who were beaten 5-3 after being level at 3-3. John Taylor and Glen Wilkes got the last two for Barnet against Mark Wicker and Peter Radford



DML White Hart Launceston's MIKE SHORT took two big scalps, beating Marco Essomba and Darren Blake of Brent Sports Progress

respectively.

Colley Hyundai moved up to second place when their team of Wang Rui, David Barr, Mark Owen and Mike Owens won 7-1 away to Moonrakers whose only success came when Phil Payne beat Barr in the first match of the day, showing some excellent defensive play.

Phil Cox showed good control in helping his side, Byng Hall Farningham Print, to a 4-4 draw with Hastings whilst Tony Clayton was in a class above the rest as Poole beat DML White Hart Launceston seconds 5-3.

Barnet then lost their 100% record to Hastings when they were unable to beat either Nicky Mason or Robert Abbotts. Colley Hyundai kept up their good form by defeating Poole 7-1, Byng Hall beat Moonrakers 6-2 and C & M Insurance Brentwood eased to an 8-0 victory over DML White Hart Launceston.

Grantham Kontak easily beat a young Ormesby side 8-0 to open up a two point gap at the top of Division two North, Darlington seconds surprisingly being beaten 5-3 at home by Abbeydale. David Charlton won two for the visitors but it was Sarah Smith who took the Player of Match award, keeping her composure throughout.

Derwent seconds had Darren Ashall in form as they beat Grove seconds 6-2 whilst Drumchapel Glasgow played a 4-4 draw with Rushey Mead, Craig Christie and Andrew Dunlop getting all of their sets.

Grantham were then held to a 4-4 draw by Grove seconds and Darlington thirds lost 2-6 in Glasgow. Abbeydale Park took over second spot with a 6-2 win at Ormesby.

Cippenham proved to be too strong for the Aylesbury League in Division Two South. Martin Adams, Clive Payne, Kimba Choda and Martin Rule ran out 8-0 victories. TAD-Ellenborough paraded new signing Martin Rogers against KCD Stiga and he too duly won both of his singles to help his side to a 7-1 win although Danny Burns was accurate and sharp to beat Chris Marlow and put up a tough fight against Jimmy Walsh. Norwich Todd

Foxwood kept up their improved form by beating Fellows Cranleigh 7-1 with Ian McLean outstanding.

TAD-Ellenborough, with both Graham Sandley and Martin Rogers in their side, then defeated Cippenham 7-1, the latter then going on to beat KCD Stiga 6-2. Norwich were again in form to crush KCD Stiga 8-0 and Horsham

seconds won 6-2 away to the Aylesbury League.

Catsoft Puma's Adeyfield have a well assembled mixture of youth and experience in their side of Reagan Nettleingham, Lawrence Trumpauskas, John Holland and Michael Boardman and proved to be far too good for OLOP seconds whom they beat 7-1. Indeed they will take some stopping in Division Three South and West, beating Cippenham seconds 7-1 in their next match.

Harvey Barnet were too good for Guildford who were beaten 7-1 with Tim Waller outstanding.

Trevor Lloyd was in good form for Moonrakers seconds who beat Brent Sports Progress seconds 6-2 to record their first victory of the season. Lloyd (2), Terry Parkins, (2) Michelle Cohen and Dave Richards got their sets. Moonrakers were then held to a draw by Guildford and OLOP seconds, beat Harvey Barnet thirds 5-3 and Cippenham seconds 6-2 to climb into second place.

The top two teams in division three North, Jack Spratt Wellowhouse and Seasiders seconds, met at Newark where the home side led 4-1 only to be pulled back to 4-3 before getting the two points. Jason Ramage was outstanding for Jack Spratt but Louis Rosenthal's display for Seasiders deserves a mention even though he lost both of his matches.

City of Leeds secured their first victory of the season with a narrow 5-3 win over Ormesby seconds. Richard Lightowler and Darren Page were both unbeaten as was Ormesby's Steven Bailey who gave an excellent performance. Seasiders then lost 2-6 at home to Derwent who moved above them in the table, whilst Syntegra picked up two points at the expense of Ormesby.

In Division Three South, De Vere Sudbury drew level on points at the top with Harvey Barnet seconds when they won 5-3 at Ashford. Tim Avis was outstanding and Steve Kerns also won both of his sets. Byng Hall Farningham Print seconds picked up their first points of the season by beating KCD Stiga seconds 6-2, Chris Knight and Chris Ross both being undefeated and the latter giving an impeccable and consistent display.

Harvey Barnet seconds went on to beat KCD Stiga seconds 8-0 and De Vere Sudbury won 6-2 at home to Horsham.

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Horsham	6	5	-	1	60	24	10
Brent Sports Progress	5	4	1	-	48	22	9
Darlington	6	3	1	2	48	36	7
Grove	5	3	-	2	41	29	6
DML White Hart Launceston	6	2	1	3	35	49	5
St. Neots	6	2	-	4	34	50	4
JAGS	6	1	2	3	30	54	4
OLOP AWCS Ltd	6	-	1	5	26	58	1

DIVISION I NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Darlington II	6	4	2	-	33	15	10
RMSC Lincoln	6	4	-	2	29	19	8
Syntegra Worcester City	6	3	2	1	28	20	8
Derwent	6	4	-	2	27	21	8
Uxbridge (Burton)	6	3	-	3	20	28	6
Seasiders (Blackpool)	6	1	3	2	23	25	5
Kinghurst Bribar	6	1	1	4	21	27	3
Bulldog Security	6	-	-	6	11	37	-

DIVISION I SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Harvey Barnet	6	5	-	1	29	19	10
Colley Hyundai	6	4	1	1	34	14	9
Hastings	6	3	2	1	30	18	8
Byng Hall Farningham Print	6	3	2	1	29	19	8
C & M Insurance Brentwood	6	3	1	2	28	20	7
Limberlost Pine Poole	6	2	-	4	19	29	4
Moonrakers, Westbury	6	1	-	5	18	30	2
DML White H. Launceston II	6	-	-	6	5	43	-

DIVISION 2 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grantham Kontak	6	4	2	-	33	15	10
Abbeydale Park	6	3	2	1	27	21	8
Darlington III	6	3	1	2	24	24	7
Derwent II	6	2	2	2	25	23	6
Rushey Mead Club	6	1	4	1	24	24	6
Drumchapel Glasgow	6	1	2	3	21	27	4
Ormesby	6	1	2	3	18	30	4
Grove II	6	-	3	3	20	28	3

DIVISION 2 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cippenham	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
TAD - Ellenborough	6	5	-	1	34	14	10
Horsham II	6	4	1	1	33	15	9
Norwich Todd Foxwood	6	3	-	3	30	18	6
Aylesbury League	6	3	-	3	24	24	6
Fellows Cranleigh	6	2	1	3	21	27	5
KCD Stiga	7	1	1	5	15	41	3
DML White H. Launceston III	6	-	-	6	7	41	-

DIVISION 3 SOUTH & WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CATSoft Puma's Adeyfield	5	5	-	-	35	5	10
OLOP AWCS Ltd II	6	4	-	2	23	25	8
Harvey Barnet III	5	3	-	2	25	15	6
Brent Sports Progress II	5	2	1	2	19	21	5
Moonrakers, Westbury II	5	1	2	2	17	23	4
Cippenham II	6	1	1	4	17	31	3
Guildford	6	-	2	4	16	32	2

DIVISION 3 NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Jack Spratt - Wellow House	5	5	-	-	34	6	10
Derwent III	5	3	2	-	24	16	8
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	5	3	-	2	24	16	6
Darlington IV	5	2	1	2	19	21	5
Syntegra Worcester City II	6	2	-	4	19	29	4
City of Leeds	5	1	-	4	14	26	2
Ormesby II	5	-	1	4	10	30	1

DIVISION 3 SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Harvey Barnet II	5	4	1	-	32	9	9
De Vere Sudbury	5	4	1	-	28	12	9
Byng Hall Print II	4	2	-	2	16	16	4
Horsham III	4	2	-	2	16	16	4
Ashford	4	-	-	4	10	22	-
KCD Stiga II	4	-	-	4	3	29	-

LEAGUE PLACINGS, INCLUDING ALL MATCHES PLAYED UP TO THE 29th NOVEMBER 1998

WTSP

ROBERTSON CLEANS-UP...

THE young Welsh wizard with the potential to go a very long way, Adam Robertson, really cleaned up in Bath by taking both the Mens singles and Under 21 Mens Singles titles, at the 3rd Western Open Grand Prix, at the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre, in December, writes John Wood.

Robertson, who is only 14 years old, was just too good for the opposition at Bath, although Derbyshire's Michael Isherwood did push the Welsh lad to three games in the final. In fact he only narrowly lost the first 20-22, and actually took the second 21-14, where his sharp blocking made all the difference, setting up hopefully an exciting third. But sadly it didn't materialise, because Isherwood's

Exciting Welsh prospect ADAM ROBERTSON, who won both the Mens Singles and the Under 21 event.



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lack of power was exposed by Robertson, who really turned on a super show of powerful topspin shots from both wings to run out a worthy champion 21-10.

Isherwood, who is a superb blocker and has good eye for the ball, is an up and coming young player in English table tennis and if he could develop some real power to enhance his speed blocking, like the awesome power of Terry Young,

...AS RUOCCO WINS IN BATH

then he would become a formidable prospect and go a long way, possibly to the top three in England.

Robertson, who created history by becoming the youngest ever winner of a Mens Open Singles Grand Prix title, beat Derbyshire's Stephen Shaw 21-10, 21-15 in the semi-finals, whilst Isherwood had a much tougher battle against Richie Venner in the other one, winning 21-18, 21-23, 21-15.

Shelley Ruocco won the Womens Singles title when she beat Surrey's Marianna Rolikova in three.

Rolikova won the first in flamboyant style 21-13, looking in total control of this final, but Essex's Ruocco really bounced back with flashing forehands, taking the second 21-8.

Once again the spectators expected a real close battle for this prestigious crown, but sadly once again it didn't happen, as Ruocco dominated this deciding leg winning comfortably 21-15.

In the semi-finals Ruocco had a much tougher battle where she only just managed to narrowly defeat Worcester's Jan Dunning 21-23, 21-14, 23-21, whilst Rolikova eventually rolled-over Grand Prix stalwart Sue Collier 17-21, 22-20, 21-17, following three exciting games.

The Mens Under 21 final saw Robertson collect his second trophy when he overpowered Surrey's Robert Pountney 21-19, 21-13.

Siwan Davies added to the Welsh collection of trophies by winning the Womens Under 21 Singles trophy, beating Yorkshire's Emily Dearing 21-8, 21-16.

The Mens Doubles saw the shock results of the tournament when unseeded veterans from Gloucester, Darren Griffin and William Dawe, unbelievably knocked out the No.1 seeds Michael Isherwood and Steven Shaw, 16-21, 21-19, 21-17, in the quarter-finals, then in the semis they amazingly defeated the Johns' Brothers, Brian and Mike, 19-21,

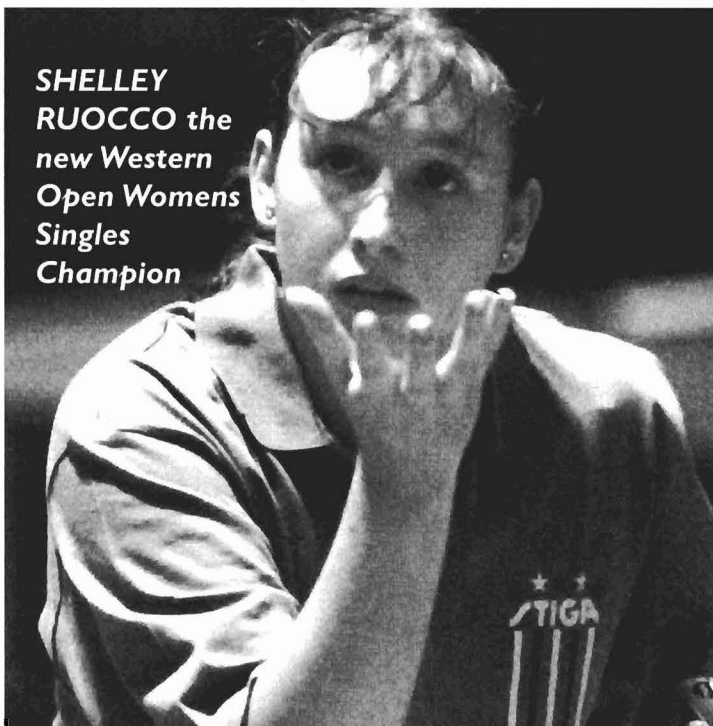
21-17, 21-16.

The Gloucestershire pair finally met their match when they lost to the No.2 seeds, Richie Venner from Sussex and Yorkshire's Mark Smith, 17-21, 11-21.

This win for Venner was his 5th Grand Prix Open title.

The Banded events saw some new names on the winners rostrum, with Hertfordshire's Michael Boardman winning his first after trying for three years, when he won Mens Band 3, beating Essex's Colin Carslake in the final. Whilst Devon's exciting young prospect James Whiteman won his first senior title when he won the Mens Band 5, beating Kent's Ross Walker, 21-11, 21-8, in the final.

Abdul Wuraola was in fine form out-hitting Tommy Cutler in the Mens Band 1 final, whilst Wesley Bush-Harris won his second consecutive Mens Band 2 title, beating Kent's Scott Friday in the final.



SHELLEY RUOCCO the new Western Open Womens Singles Champion



ABDUL WURAOLA



MICHAEL BOARDMAN winner of Mens Singles Band 3

RESULTS

The 3rd WESTERN OPEN GRAND PRIX
5/6th December 1998 - BATH

Mens Singles:	A. Robertson(WAL) bt M. Isherwood(Dy) 20,14,10
Semi-Finals	A. Robertson(WAL) bt S. Shaw(Dy) 10,15 M. Isherwood(Dy) bt Ritchie Venner 18,-21,15
Womens Singles:	S. Ruocco(E) bt M. Rolikova(Sy) -21,14,21
Semi-Finals	S. Ruocco(E) bt J. Dunning(Wo) -21,14,21 M. Rolikova(Sy) bt S. Collier(Bu) -17,20,17
Band 1 Men:	A. Wuraola(Sy) bt T. Cutler(Mi) -16,13,19
Band 2 Men:	W. Bush-Harris(Sx) bt S. Friday(K) -19,18,15
Band 3 Men:	M. Boardman(He) bt C. Carslake(E) -16,15,13
Band 4 Men:	J. Ramage(Ng) bt N. Page(WAL) 10,19
Band 5 Men:	J. Whiteman(Dv) BT R. Walker(K) 11,8
Band 1 Women:	C. News(Sk) bt E. Dearing(Y) 11,-19,20
Band 2 Women:	H. Yardy(E) bt S. Robinson(Gs) -14,16,13
Band 3 Women:	S. Horsnell(Mi) bt S. Robinson(Gs) 15,-15,14
U21 Men:	A. Robertson(WAL) bt R. Pountney(Bk) 19,13
U21 Women:	S. Davies(WI) bt Emily Dearing(Y) 8,16
Veteran Men:	N. Eckersley(Sx) bt D. Harding(Sy) 17,11
Veteran Women:	J. Dunning(Wa) bt M. Bawden(E) 9,-11,16
Mens Doubles:	R. Venner(Sx)/M. Smith(Y) bt D. Griffin(Gs)/W. Dawe(Gs) 17,11
Womens Doubles:	M. Bawden(E)/J. Dunning(Wa) bt S. Collier(Bk)/M. Rolikova(Sy) 16,18

POTTERS FESTIVAL OF TABLE TENNIS

THE first ever Potters Festival of Table Tennis, held in association with the ETTA, will take place at Potters Leisure Resort during January, February and March. Consisting of 6 events including some of the most attractive in the sport's calendar, the festival reaches a thrilling climax with the 63rd English Open, writes Mike Johns.

The staging of these events at the award-winning Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-Sea, near Great Yarmouth, enables players, supporters, officials and spectators to take advantage of the specially discounted rates for accommodation. The tariff includes centrally-heated en suite bungalow accommodation, three meals each day, use of nearly all Potters wonderful sports and leisure facilities and entertainment in the fabulous Atlas Theatre.

On the weekend of the 29th-31st January the Festival gets under way with the Womens British League, second weekend. Play takes place in Potters International Arena on the Saturday and the Sunday. The



weekend includes a star cabaret in the Atlas Theatre featuring top 60's band 'The Ivy League', plus a full entertainment programme from Potters talented resident team.

The following weekend (5th to 7th February) see's the second stage of the Woolwich Junior British League take place. Britain's stars of the future take centre stage for an exciting event featuring the country's leading junior teams. It's a real family weekend. Potters has outstanding sports and leisure facilities and is presenting a family-oriented cabaret with zany comedian David Copperfield, together with a Disco and entertainment from it's own team.

The first ETTA Open Training camp, open to any interested players of all ages and standards, will take place from Monday 8th to Friday 12th February. Course Director is former European Silver medallist Lisa Lomas and a number of leading players and coaches will be assisting her. There are still a few vacancies so anyone wishing to improve their game whilst taking advantage of Potters unique facilities should contact the ETTA Events Unit immediately.

Following the Training Camp, players will be able to find out just how much they have improved by taking part in the Potters East Anglian Open, part of the popular ETTA Grand Prix. These events cater for all standards of players. On the Saturday the Banded Events are held. Players play in their own band and the one above, depending on the number of ranking points they have. On Sunday, the Open events are held. This gives players of all standards the opportunity to play against some of England's leading players. At the end of the season the leading 16 players in each event will be invited to play in the Grand Prix finals in Bath, where a prize pool of £11,000 awaits them. Star Cabaret for the weekend is top comedy show band 'The Rocking Berries'.

One of the most popular Veterans events on the calendar reaches a climax on the weekend of 19th-21st February. The Veterans British League features Britain's top Over 40's teams and whilst in the Arena, competition will be intense, during the evenings the players will have the opportunity to unwind with some top class entertainment featuring top 60's band 'The Searchers'. A popular event for players and spectators alike.

The 63rd English Open Championships will bring Potters Festival of Table Tennis to a spectacular climax. Many of the worlds leading players are expected to take part in an event considered by many to be the 'Wimbledon' of table tennis. Tickets, which should be booked in advance, are available from the ETTA.

For further details of all the events in Potters Festival of Table Tennis please contact the Events Unit at the English Table Tennis Association on 01424 722525.



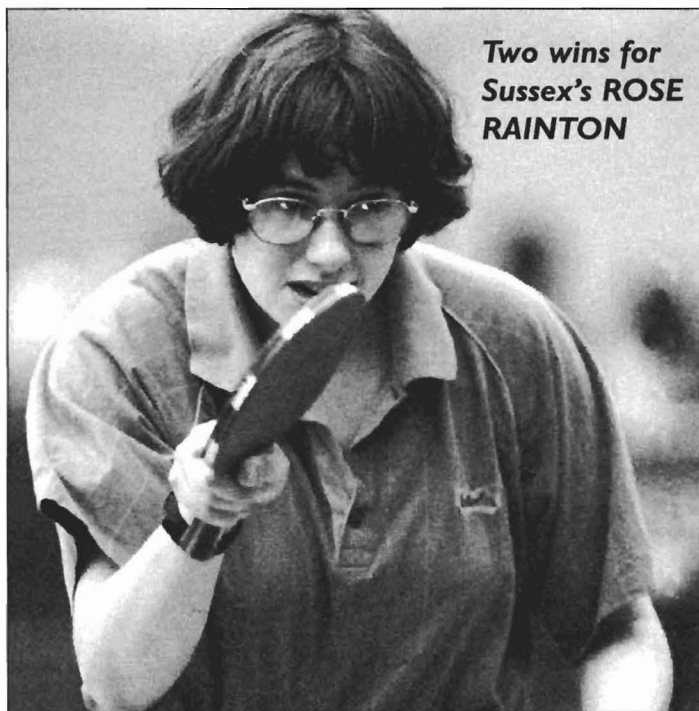
SUSSEX SITTING ON TOP OF THE PREMIER

IS it my imagination or are counties finding difficulty in turning out their strongest teams? Or indeed a full complement of players? I don't pretend to know the answer to the problem, the increased demands on players is obviously a problem with an ever more cluttered diary of events. I seem to recall that a short time ago the weekend of the Senior Premier Division was blank of other events. Not so anymore, this Season there were two other major events, not least of which was the Veterans British League which places many players in the dilemma of choosing between County or other events which may be more attractive in terms of ranking points, writes Stan Clarke.

The first Senior Premier Weekend was held at Cippenham on 14/15th November, at the end of play Sussex were sitting at the top of the league, being the only team with a 100% record with three wins from three matches. Surrey, Middlesex and Hertfordshire are level on 4 points each, just one set advantage putting Surrey in second place. Yorkshire are in fifth place with three points, whilst Derbyshire, Devon and Berkshire are fighting out the relegation places with one point a piece and only sets difference separating them.

In the first round of matches which produced two drawn matches and two wins by the tightest margin of 6/4. David Barr of Berkshire won both of his sets beating the dangerous Richard Hyacinth 12 and 14 but found Neil Charles more difficult before winning 15, - 15, 18. Sue Johnson being the other winner for Berkshire with defeats of Aparna Narandzan and Yuki Cresswell, Middlesex running out winners 6/4.

The match between Hertfordshire and Devonshire ended in a draw, Paul Whiting winning his two Sets in a tight match, unusual in such a tight match that only one set went to



Two wins for Sussex's ROSE RAINTON

three games. Surrey and Yorkshire also fought out a draw, but with Surrey conceding the first set by arriving late at the venue. Yorkshire were off to a flier, Michael James taking the second set against Selwyn Campbell, but then the wheels came off and Surrey took a 3/2 lead before Michael again steadied things beating Abdul Wuraola to bring the match level again. Unusually Yorkshire were unable to take any sets in the women's matches and it was left to Mark Smith to level the match at 5/5, in the last set of the match, seven of the nine sets played required the third game to determine the winner.

Michael Isherwood and John Holland were unbeaten for Derbyshire against Sussex, but wins by Rosemary Rainton (2), Sally Weston (2), Paul Barry (1) and Adrian Moore ensured the win for Sussex. The Sunday morning matches were more decisive, Sussex hammered Berkshire 8/2, Ben Johnson and David Barr, with wins over Adrian

Moore and Paul Barry respectively managing to slow the Sussex charge. Devonshire lost 7/3 to Surrey, Paul Whiting again winning both of his matches and Greg Bridgett chipping in with a win over Abdul Wuraola. Yorkshire beat Middlesex 6/4 but not before going 0/3 down, enter Peter Marshall with two wins aided by Nicola Silburn with 2 wins, Mark Smith and Emma Smith contributing with one win each. Derbyshire went down to their second defeat of the weekend at the hands of Hertfordshire. Despite both John Holland and Michael Isherwood winning two each they were unable to find the other win and John Taylor with a defeat of Geoff Gill made sure of the win for Hertfordshire by 6 sets to 4.

The final round of matches on the Sunday afternoon produced wins for Sussex over Yorkshire by 7 sets to 3 and Middlesex over Devonshire 6/4 with Surrey against Hertfordshire and Derbyshire against Berkshire both

ending in draws. So it's all there to play for in the next round of four matches, with things so tight only a fool would attempt to predict the final outcome, so I won't try.

DIVISION 1A

Played at St Neots TT Centre on 14/15th November, all of the Sixteen matches played were decisive, not a single draw amongst them with Nottinghamshire finishing in top place with four straight wins. Dropping only eleven sets in their four matches, they must be in a strong position for promotion if they can maintain this form. In joint second place are Leicestershire and Suffolk, each with six points and on identical sets average. Lancashire are in fourth place with four points, whilst Cambridgeshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire and Warwickshire are level on two points. Separated only by sets difference, very tight at the bottom and the final relegation places could well be decided on sets difference.

MISSING UMPIRES

The one complaint I have heard from the weekend was once again the old complaint of Counties not providing umpires for the weekend. I am told that only three counties provided umpires for the weekend, despite the County Championship regulations requiring each County to provide at least one umpire for their home games. I know that these matches are played at a central venue over a weekend, but it is still a requirement for each County to provide an umpire. It is, in my opinion, grossly unfair to expect players or team captains to umpire matches. Those Counties who do provide umpires are involved in extra expenditure, so come on folks, play fair, fulfil your obligations or agree to pass the umpiring duties to the NURC with each county involved paying an equal share of the costs.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS TABLES compiled by Les Smith

Tables include results received up to 19th December 1998

SENIORS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PREMIER							
Sussex	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Surrey	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Hertfordshire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Derbyshire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Devonshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Berkshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
DIVISION 1A							
Nottingham	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Leicestershire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Suffolk	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Lancashire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	18	21	4
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Warwickshire	4	0	0	4	11	28	0
DIVISION 1B							
Kent 1st	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Essex 2nd	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Essex 1st	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Kent 2nd	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Middlesex 2nd	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Buckingham	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Wiltshire	5	1	0	4	7	43	2
Sussex 2nd	4	0	0	4	13	27	0
DIVISION 2A							
Northumberland	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Cheshire	4	2	2	0	27	13	6
South Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Cumbria	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Warwick 2nd	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Lancashire 2nd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Leicester 2nd	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
DIVISION 2B							
Devonshire 2nd	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Glamorgan	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Cornwall 1st	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Herefordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Avon	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Worcester 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Devonshire 3rd	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Somerset	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Cornwall 2nd	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
DIVISION 2C							
Bedfordshire	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Suffolk 2nd	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Hertford 2nd	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Cambridge 2nd	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Norfolk 1st	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Northampton	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Norfolk 2nd	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Huntingdon	5	0	0	5	14	36	0
DIVISION 2D							
Hampshire	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Gloucestershire	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Kent 3rd	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Sussex 3rd	4	1	1	2	19	19	3
Surrey 2nd	4	1	0	3	34	27	2
Dorset	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Wiltshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	6	32	0
DIVISION 2E							
Cheshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Surrey	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Kent	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Glamorgan	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Middlesex	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Clwyd	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Hampshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
DIVISION 1A							
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Essex	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Warwickshire	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Yorkshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Suffolk	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Lincolnshire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Derbyshire	4	0	1	3	17	23	1
Hertfordshire	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DIVISION 1B							
Glamorgan 2nd	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Devonshire	4	2	2	0	33	17	6
Worcestershire	4	1	3	0	21	19	5
Avon	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Berkshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Glamorgan 3rd	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
Middlesex 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Sussex	4	0	0	4	6	34	0
DIVISION 2A							
Cumbria	4	3	1	0	23	17	7
Lancashire 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Norfolk	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Leicestershire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Essex 2nd	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Warwick 2nd	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Durham	4	0	0	4	15	25	0
Huntingdonshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
DIVISION 2B							
Buckingham	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Surrey 2nd	5	3	0	2	33	17	6
Glamorgan 4th	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Dorset	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Kent 2nd	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Surrey 3rd	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Kent 3rd	4	0	0	4	4	36	0
DIVISION 3A							
Bedfordshire	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Buckingham 2nd	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Suffolk 2nd	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Norfolk 2nd	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Cambridgeshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Hertford 2nd	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Norfolk 3rd	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Huntingdon 2nd	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
DIVISION 3B							
South Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Nottingham 1st	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Northampton	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Cleveland	4	0	3	1	17	23	3
Nottingham 2nd	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Lincolnshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	3	37	0
DIVISION 3C							
Somerset	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Cornwall	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Devonshire 2nd	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Gwent	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Gloucester 2nd	4	1	2	1	22	18	4
Powys	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Herefordshire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Shropshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
DIVISION 3D							
Sussex 3rd	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Essex 3rd	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Wiltshire	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Sussex 2nd	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Oxfordshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Dorset 2nd	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Berkshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	17	23	1
Hampshire 2nd	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

VETERANS

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
PREMIER						
Cheshire	3	3	0	22	5	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	16	11	6
Surrey	3	2	1	18	9	4
Essex	3	2	1	17	10	4
Norfolk	3	2	1	11	16	4
Devonshire	3	0	3	10	17	0
Dorset	3	0	3	8	19	0
Lancashire	3	0	3	6	21	0
DIVISION 1A						
Essex 2nd	4	3	1	25	11	6
Leicestershire	4	3	1	21	15	6
Worcestershire	4	3	1	20	16	6
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	19	17	6
Cheshire 2nd	4	2	2	22	14	4
Yorkshire 2nd	4	1	3	15	21	2
Bedfordshire	4	1	3	12	24	2
Warwickshire	4	0	4	10	26	0
DIVISION 1B						
Kent 1st	3	3	0	24	3	6
Hampshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Berkshire	3	2	1	13	14	4
Hertford 2nd	3	1	2	15	12	2
Sussex 1st	3	1	2	13	14	2
Kent 2nd	3	1	2	12	15	2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
(DIV.1B cont.)						
Avon	3	1	2	9	18	2
Sussex 2nd	3	1	2	6	21	2
DIVISION 2A						
Northumberland	4	4	0	27	9	8
Lancashire 2nd	4	3	1	28	8	6
Durham	2	2	0	12	6	4
Northampton	4	2	2	20	16	4
Yorkshire 3rd	4	2	2	20	16	4
Warwick 3rd	4	1	3	10	26	2
Worcester 2nd	3	0	3	6	21	0
Lincolnshire	3	0	3	3	24	0
DIVISION 2B						
Essex 4th	4	4	0	29	7	8
Norfolk 2nd	4	4	0	24	12	8
Suffolk	4	2	2	17	19	4
Middlesex 3rd	4	2	2	14	22	4
Cambridgeshire	4	1	3	16	20	2
Kent 5th	4	1	3	16	20	2
Buckingham 2nd	4	1	3	16	20	2
Norfolk 3rd	4	1	3	12	24	2
DIVISION 2C						
Middlesex 1st	4	4	0	31	5	8
Surrey 2nd	4	4	0	27	9	8
Buckingham 1st	4	3	1	26	10	6
Kent 3rd	4	2	2	21	15	4
Essex 3rd	4	2	2	16	20	4
Middlesex 2nd	4	1	3	12	24	2
Kent 4th	4	0	4	9	27	0
Berkshire 2nd	4	0	4	2	34	0
DIVISION 2D						
Oxfordshire	4	4	0	27	9	8
Warwick 2nd	4	3	1	25	11	6
Hampshire 3rd	5	3	2	24	21	6
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	19	17	6
Hampshire 2nd	4	2	2	21	15	4
Somerset	4	1	3	14	22	2
Dorset 2nd	4	0	4	12	24	0
Devonshire 2nd	3	0	3	2	25	0
DIVISION 3A						
Leicester 2nd	4	4	0	25	11	8
Cheshire 3rd	5	4	1	30	15	8
Nottingham	5	4	1	26	19	8
Staffordshire	5	3	2	30	15	6
South Yorks	5	3	2	27	18	6
Clwyd	5	3	2	22	23	6
Yorkshire 4th	5	1	4	20	25	2
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	1	3	11	25	2
Hertford 4th	4	0	4	9</		

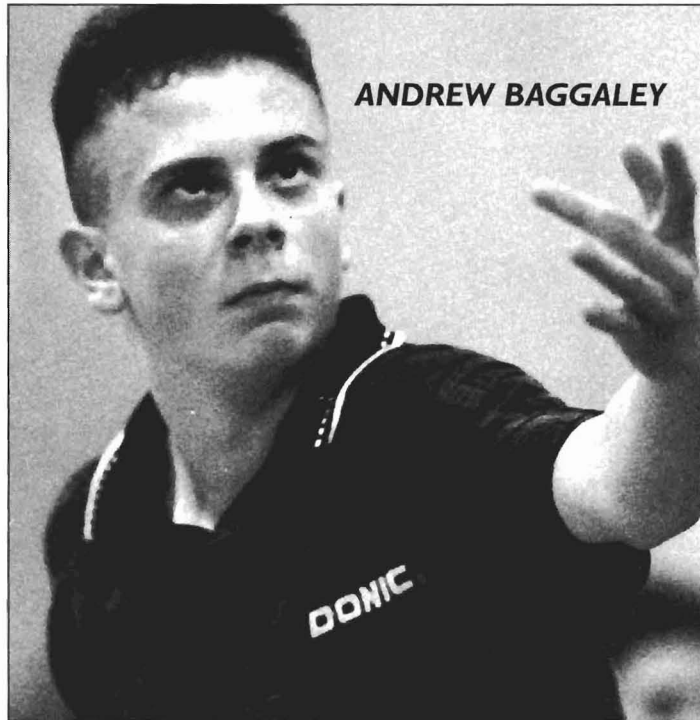
BAGGALEY IS NEW BOYS' CHAMPION

ANDREW BAGGALEY lived up to expectations and duly became National Junior Boys Singles Champion at the Stratford Leisure & Visitors Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, on Saturday 28th November 1998, when he systematically defeated Kent's Justin Dodd in the final 21-11, 21-7, writes John Wood.

Baggaley's pedigree is second to none in the English junior ranks, and he fulfilled his ambitions by taking this coveted crown in swashbuckling style sweeping all before him, including highly rated Michael Chan from Surrey, 21-15, 21-13, in the semi-finals, whilst Dodd beat fellow boy from Kent, Oliver Stevens in the other semis, 19-21, 21-15, 21-18.

The Girls Junior Final was a battle between two friends and fellow inhabitants at the Holme Pierrepont training academy in Nottingham, Natalie Bawden and Katy Parker, and as expected was a desperately close affair, which in the end was won by Essex's Natalie, 19-21, 22-20, 22-20.

The first game was won by Katy, who looked home an dry at 20-14, but Natalie staged a late revival before going down 19, and in the second once again Katy appeared to have the title within her grasp at 19-16, but once again Natalie made a late challenge and this time she won 22-20.



ANDREW BAGGALEY

This set up an exciting decider and the spectators were treated to a thrilling spectacular finish, with Katy once again leading 17-13 and looking in command, only for Natalie to battle her way back into contention levelling it at 18-18, before going on to win 22-20.

This final was a treat to watch with two cadets battling for the right to

be known as the National Junior Girls Champion of 1998/99, so it was a shame that it was slightly marred by crowd barracking.

CADETS

KATY PARKER from Lancashire took both cadet titles available to her but her finals were a tough battle, writes Ken Muhr.

In the girls singles she won through without dropping a game, beating Kathryn Steward of Somerset, the conqueror of Lucy Pointer from the Isle of Wight 21-8, 21-10 in the semis. After the drama of the junior final the previous day, Katy started the cadet final determined for revenge against Natalie Bawden of Essex, and with sharp backhand counter-hits combined with her usual fierce forehand drive, stormed 15-5 ahead in the first game. She took that one, but Natalie, who plays the kind of two wing looping game (plus all round skills) I like to see in a girl, fought back strongly to level scores. Katy shot ahead once more to 12-6 in the decider, faltered briefly as Natalie recovered to 13-11, before pulling away for a 21-14, 16-21, 21-15, victory.

Natalie's semi had gone according to seeding, her 21-18, 21-11 victim being Georgina Walker from Nottinghamshire. She and Katy combined to take the girls doubles 9-21, 21 - 15, 21 - 18 against Georgina and Lucy Pointer who were in a very serious contention.

On looking at Tony Pacitto's photo albums, I was struck by how alike Katy looks to the young Jill Shirley (her mother), and her pushing and backhand chop (when occasionally she plays it) are a 'chip

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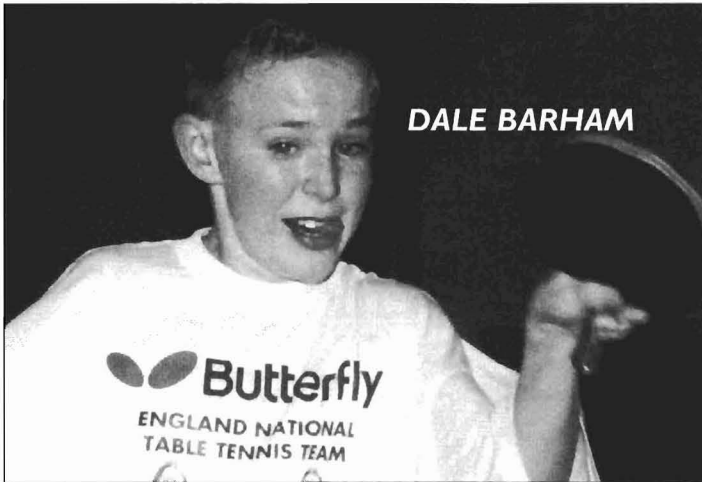
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NATALIE BAWDEN



KATY PARKER



DALE BARHAM

off the same (I daren't say old!) block.' Sorry to embarrass you both!

Dale Barham of Cambridgeshire, was a talent apart in the boys' singles. As well as two wing speed and power he has the ability to create shots as required. Only the stylish Peter Cleminson from Essex, in the quarterfinals, took a game off him. In the semis Dale beat Dominic Hall of Kent a pair of 16s and in the final Michael Gomersall from Cumbria could gain only 13 points apiece. That said, the final was unusual and very entertaining, with both the left handed attacker Dale and combination bat, defender displaying a wide range of touch, containing, offensive and defensive (Dale - lob, Michael - chop) shots.

In the semi-finals, Dale's brother Lee had made little impression on Michael with his long pimples forehand drives but his tense 21-16, 16-21, 21 -19 quarter-final victory over

Matthew Kenny (Essex) was one of the best matches of the tournament.

Michael Gomersall gained some compensation for his singles loss when with Dominic Hall, they beat the Barham brothers 21-15, 11-21, 21-19 to win the boys doubles.

A couple of observations. The Institute has undoubtedly significantly raised the standard of those gifted few attending it. They are faster, fitter, more complete, more positive! But it has also increased the gap between the best and the rest and I am concerned about (lack of) strength in depth. It was also interesting to note the number of top cadets using pimples/combination bats (eg Katy Parker, Lucy Pointer, Kathryn Steward, Michael Gomersall, Lee Barham). Overall, the cadets give confidence for the future.

CIPPENHAM UNBEATEN

The original concept was to have separate boys and girls divisions and last season there were 2 divisions of 4 girls teams out of the 55. One reason was that the ranking system could not cope with boy/girl matches and the other was the possible difference in standards. This season the response from girls teams was patchy. After discussion with both boys and girls teams I decided to accept mixed teams and mixed divisions. I would rather have girls teams playing than not, writes Michael Payne.

The only good response was in the Southern Region where Mike Atkinson and Ken Philips have done a great job in promoting the NJL. Their efforts brought 8 teams and Clifdale Chandlers of Grantham joined from the East Midlands. This division plays at Cippenham Centre and after 2 days play is headed by the unbeaten Cippenham team followed by Progress. The Cippenham team of J Parker, R Eldridge and C Smart have only lost one or two games each out of a total of 16. Incidentally what other tournament gives the certainty of 8 singles per day. For the boys in divisions of 6 the number of matches could be 10 per day.

The other girls only division is of 4 in the Eastern Region and this is currently led by St. Ives. With fewer teams the format is changed to 'best of 9 singles rather than best of 6.

In other areas there are girls and mixed teams. The numbers vary. At Armley just Charlotte Stamp is playing for the Rotherham Scorpions. At the Hilton Centre at Bolton the home side play Emma Dunn and Naomi Harrison. Emma is on 75% after 2 days. At Cartmel there are 2 divisions of 4 with 2 up and 2 down after 2 sessions. Here the Barrow Girls are putting up some good performances against teams from Lancaster and Kendal.

At St Austell again the format is 2 by 4 teams and this time there are girls teams from Torridge and Launceston. You can get the lowdown on progress from Dave Lancaster at this venue.

At the YMCA in Tunbridge Wells, Tracey Zimmatore for the East Grinstead team has a 25% score-line but despite this the team is bottom of the division after 10 matches.

At the Bishop Reindorp Centre in Guilford, the Spicer Girls A team are on top of Division A whilst Spicer Girls B and Challoner Hall Girls are 4th and 3rd in Division B. Jessica Lee of Spicer A is on 83%.

Despite some misgivings about mixed divisions there has been no adverse comment and the idea will be in the calling notice for next season.

RESULTS

- Junior Boys:** Andrew Baggaley (Bu) bt Justin Dodd (K) 11,7
Semi-Finals: Baggaley bt Michael Chan (Sy) 15,13. Dodd (K) bt Oliver Stevens (K) 19,15,18.
- Junior Girls:** Natalie Bawden (E) bt Katy Parker (La)-19,20,20
Semi-Finals: Parker bt Louise Durrant (Ng) 18,18
 Bawden (E) bt Hannah Yardy(E) 17,10
- Junior Boys Doubles:** Andrew Rushton (La) & Michael Chan (Sy) bt Justin Dodd(K) & Scott Friday(K) -19,20,11
- Junior Girls Doubles:** Katy Parker (La) & Natalie Bawden(E) Karen Lockwood (Ch) & Teri-Ann Nolan(Ch) 13,16
- Junior Mixed Doubles:** Emily Dearing(Y) & Justin Dodd(K) bt Louise Durrant(Ng) & Dale Barham(Ca) 16,18
- Cadet Boys:** Dale Barham(Ca) bt Michael Gomersall(Cv) 13,13
Semi-Finals: Barham (Ca) bt Dominic Hall (K) 16,16
 Gomersall bt Lee Barham (Ca) 13,11
- Cadet Girls Singles:** Katy Parker bt Natalie Bawden 14,-16,15
Semi-Finals: Parker bt Kate Steward (So) 8,10
 Bawden (E) bt Georgina Walker (Ng) 18,11
- Cadet Boys Doubles:** Michael Gomersall & Dominic Hall bt Dale Barham & Lee Barham 15,-11,19
- Cadet Girls Doubles:** Katy Parker & Natalie Bawden bt Georgina Walket & Lucy Pointer (LOW) -9,15,18

Cornwall
by John Wood

SUCCESES

CORNWALL tasted success at both Junior and Senior level, pity we don't have a Veteran team as well !

Saturday 12th December saw the Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre in St.Austell buzzing with activity, with both Senior and Junior teams in action.

First battle was between the two Senior teams at 12 noon in Division 2B, which was won by the 1st team, Jeremy Williams, Graham Worth, Steven Lobb, Esme Stephenson and Shirley Luckhurst, 10-0. They then went on to beat Somerset 8-2 in the afternoon, where the most exciting game was between Cornwall's No.1 Jeremy Williams and Somerset's No.1 Jeremy Musselwhite. Williams won the first quite comfortably 21-12, but was trailing 16-19 in the second. He then with service won five consecutive points to win 21-19.

The second team lost to Somerset 4-6, where Adrian Noott, Austin Chapman, Anna Reed and Juliet Walters all won one apiece, whilst Cornwall's No.1 junior Matthew Nichols, who was making his senior debut, failed to record a win although he played extremely well.

But in the Junior match in Division 3C against Hereford, Nichols lead the charge to a magnificent 9-1 victory, which saw them attain second spot in the table, just 2 points behind leaders Somerset. Matthew, Mark Poynter, David Phillips and Michelle Turner won 2 each, whilst Sarah Harris was so unlucky not to have recorded a maximum, narrowly losing 17-21, 21-12, 20-22.

Flying a lone flag for Cornwall at the ETTA Southern Grand Prix at Windsor on Saturday 19th December, was St.Austell's Adrian Noott. Not only did he proudly represent the county, but he went on to win the Band 4 Mens Singles title, beating Robin Pearce from Derby 21-18, 21-18, in the final.

In the National Schools Team county finals, Truro's Penair won the Under 16 final beating Brannel from St.Stephens 7-1, whilst Cape Cornwall won the Boys Under 13 title when they overpowered St.Austell's Poltair 8-0. These finals were played at the County's new Table Tennis Centre at Tregorrick Park, St.Austell.

Essex

by Steve Kerns

NICOLE & BEN WIN JUNIOR TRIALS

ALAN SHEPHERD reports from the County Junior trials held at the Warehouse Centre in Rayleigh which were dominated by Ben Warner, Joe Benson and Nicole Todd. Ben beat Joe in the Junior Boys final but it was not enough to hang on to the No.1 spot which went to the higher-ranked Micah Evans who was exempt on religious grounds.

Nicole was perhaps the performer of the weekend as she remained unbeaten although the junior girls event suffered from more withdrawals than the other categories. Karla Bryant also came to the fore only losing out to Nicole and she will be an excellent addition to the county teams. The hitherto unknown 11 year-old

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.



Pictured above are the Penair School Under 16 Boys Team that won the county title, Alaister and Jonathan Randall, David Croiser and Adam Tatloe, who now compete at the Regional Finals in Plymouth on Saturday 23rd January 1999.

Tony Halling created a sensation in the cadet boys by finishing second with superb wins over Daniel Spurling and Matthew Staines before losing out to the controlled play of Lee Dames in the final. Amy Wright dominated the Cadet Girls event by staying unbeaten and Leanne Bentley followed her home in second place. The U12 boys event had an excellent entry of 18 players and new names to impress were Umar Mauthoor (son of county veteran Feisal), Nahum Evans (younger brother of Micah and Nathaniel), Michael Andrews and Christopher Todd (brother of Nicole). Ranking lists are as follows:

Junior Boys: (1) Micah Evans, (2) Ben Warner, (3) Joe Benson, (4) Casey Cross, (5) Daniel Cantale, (6) Arron Fennell, (7) Keith Lesser, (8) Zayd Mauthoor, (9) Daniel Cannon, (10) Stephen Menon, (11) Paul Woodcock, (12) Neil Disley, (13) David Knights, (14) Peter Ashworth, (15) Allan Steel.

Junior Girls : (1) Natalie Bawden, (2) Nicole Todd, (3) Amy Wright, (4) Lorraine Johnson, (5) Hannah Cook, (6) Karla Bryant, (7) Kay Barham, (8) Leanne Bentley, (9) Laura Lesser, (10) Katie Siveyer.

Cadet Boys: (1) Lee Dames, (2) Tony Halling, (3) Nathaniel Evans, (4) Matthew Staines, (5) Daniel Spurling, (6) Ian Witteridge, (7) Jack Leather, (8) Robin Ashleigh, (9) Umar Mauthoor, (10) Daniel Brongiet.

Cadet Girls: (1) Natalie Bawden, (2) Amy Wright, (3) Hannah Cook, (4)

Leanne Bentley, (5) Laura Lesser, (6) Vicky Stredder, (7) Kerry Bentley, (8) Elizabeth Heath, (9) Rebecca Metson, (10) Rebecca Jackson.

Under 12 Boys: (1) Tony Halling, (2) Umar Mauthoor, (3) Nahum Evans, (4) Michael Andrews, (5) Chris Todd, (6) Oliver Oxland, (7) Peter Colver, (8) Darrol Blake, (9) Chris Albon.

Under 12 Girls: (1) Vicky Stredder, (2) Kerry Bentley, (3) Rebecca Jackson, (4) Emma Hopson, (5) Lindsey McNutt.

50 YEARS

The Braintree League celebrated their 50th Anniversary on Saturday 31 October 1998 with an outstanding attendance of 154 people at their Dinner/Dance at the Rivenhall Hotel, Witham. Guest speaker Donald Parker was quick to praise the achievement of attracting such a large turn-out, and he kept everyone amused with his anecdotes. League Chairman Ron Fosker praised the league's founder Harry

Warde and it was pleasing that Harry was also present. Ron recounted how the league had started with matches of five players on each side with inter-league matches made up of teams of nine !! 50 years ago Finals night was watched by over 300 people. Rather uniquely the league has also published a scrapbook chronicling 50 years of press-cuttings from the Braintree & Witham Times. It is excellent value at £5.00 per copy and can be purchased from Dean Andrews, telephone no. 01376-340994.

OBITUARY

STAN BATTRICK.

The County Committee of Essex was deeply saddened by the death of Stan Battrick, one of the county's best known players who died at a Thurrock League match on 26 November 1998 aged 67. Affectionately known nationally as "Stan the Bat" he was one of the first players to use long pimped rubber and in his hey-day one of the best. Arguably his finest achievement came in the inaugural World Veterans Championships in Gothenburg in 1982 when he was runner-up in the 050s singles. In subsequent championships at Rimini in 1986 and Baltimore in 1990 he was runner-up in the 050s doubles, on both occasions paired with Billericay ace Fred Lockwood. Even at the age of 65 when giving away up to 25 years in age to younger opponents Stan was still a regular member of Essex veterans fourth team. He will be long be remembered as one of the county's most popular players.

'Gloucestershire

by Alf Pepper

SURFING

AT a recent county meeting Gill Smith (Vice-Chairman) said that she had been "Surfing the Internet", and further thought that it was high time for the county T.T.Association to possibly come up-to-date and use it too.

Mrs Smith proposed that the GTTA should start by finding out more about Gloucestershire's Web Site GLOSNET. This then could be used to promote table tennis news.

This proposal was received favourably by all the members present, and it was agreed that Strouds' David Dean, together with the County Press Officer should make the first tentative inquiries.

The first provisional County Junior Rankings are as follows:
BOYS: 1. Dominic Wynn-Sands, 2. Chris

PLEASE NOTE

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johnwood@macace.co.uk

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Roberts, 3. Robert Lane, 4. Daniel Nelmes, 5. Matthew Brooke-Smith, 6. Andy Shaw, 7. Sam Ewens.

GIRLS: 1. Suzy Robinson, 2. Tiffany Hopton, 3. Stella Davis, 4. Celina Bell.

FINAL NEWS

By the time this is published the Glo'shire T.T.A. will have staged one Cadet 2 Star Open Graded Tournament. One Junior 2 Star Open event, and Ken Bridle organised the first ever 1 Star Cirencester Open for U12's and U14's early in November.

All of these Tournaments have been exceedingly well supported. In fact in a few instances a small number of entries just could not be accommodated such was the overall enthusiasm of youngsters to enter.

From time to time I hear rumours circulating that table tennis is NOT what it used to be. Some of our sports sternest critic's should perhaps pay a visit to some of the events that are staged annually by the County, and pay note to the attendance and pleasure derived. Maybe there might be a change of feeling?

Congratulations to both Gill Smith and Ken Bridle for all the hard work that they have put into these events, and also to the many umpires who have so willingly supported them.

The Glo'shire (Closed) Senior Event took place on the 29th of November, closely followed one week later by The Junior Closed, hopefully results of both will appear in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

OBITUARY

I end this report on a very sad note. In last months Table Tennis News, I reported that Stroud's Dennis Jackson had to retire from his coaching activities on health grounds.

Dennis collapsed and died whilst playing in a 2nd Division match on the 8th of October 1998. I understand that he was widowed and that he lived on his own.

Hampshire

by Brian Lamerton

CHAMPIONS

CHRISTOS HANNIDES and Barbara Savage are this seasons Hampshire singles champions. Both of these players have provided stalwart service to Hampshire Table Tennis over many seasons but for both it was also their first county singles title.

Hannides overcame Southampton colleague Graham Pointer 21-18; 21-17, in the final and another Southampton player in the semi's in the veteran Chris Wilshere who went down 21-18, 21-16. Pointer's semi-final opponent was Andover's Jeremy Wilson, beaten 21-19, 21-14.

For Barbara Savage, who has many county doubles titles to her credit, her singles title was ample reward for continuing to offer her services to Hampshire following recently moving her home to Avon. Gill Larking was runner-up and later won the Ladies Veteran title for the seventh time in eight seasons. Chris Wilshere took the Mens Veteran title having previously won in 1995.

Chris Butt, last seasons junior winner, took the Intermediate (under 23) event which he had also previously won in 1996.

Doubles winners were: Mens, Graham Pointer & "Charlie" Childs. Ladies, Janet Guess & Sandra Simpson. Mixed, Graham Pointer & Barbara Savage.

Hampshire who are reduced to one senior team this season due to a lack of women power have made a good start as their team of Mark Butler, Ramesh Bhalla, Graham Pointer, Lucy Pointer and Barbara Savage have decisively won their first three matches. The juniors who so often have had to face promotion together with the loss of players (due to age) were not overawed by their excursion into the Premier division taking two sets each off Surrey and Middlesex and three off Yorkshire. The experience gained will also be invaluable to Dean Whittington, Stuart Williams, Richard Cooper, Nic Anderson, Lucy Pointer and Emma Dobson. Williams was the only Hampshire boy seen at the recent Woolwich British league (playing for Edmonton), Anderson is Hampshire's sole qualifier to the final regional trials (together with Whittington representing the Isle of Wight) and for Lucy, of course, now a resident at the academy every day must be a new experience.

After the first inter-town "block" session Southampton & Basingstoke jointly lead the mens first division, and Andover the second whilst Portsmouth head the Junior first division and Aldershot and Southampton are joint top of the second. At this early stage individual 100% records are held by Chris Wilshere (Southampton seniors), Jeremy Wilson & Malcolm Cummins (Andover seniors), Nic Anderson (Portsmouth juniors) and Robert Mead & Daniel Noronha (Aldershot juniors).

The latest copy of the very readable Aldershot magazine (edited by Dave Brown who I recently met for the first time) asks the question "How many leagues have a regular magazine and a website" - As Aldershot are proud to have. Not wishing to belittle a very go-ahead league but their page entitled "Twenty years ago" indicates that since that time the number of divisions has dropped from twelve to five whilst many of the officials, and some leading players, have remained the same. In this I suggest Aldershot are on much more common ground!

Herefordshire

by Harry Rutle

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

IN the Senior Div 2B of the English County Championships, Hereford played a double match away against Devon 2 and 3, on Saturday 7th November 1998.

Hereford beat Devon 3 8-2! Michael Owens, Andy Castle and Christina Matro-Tomas won both their games, with Mark Stubbs and Anke Althammer winning one each. Mark was pushed to 3 sets in both games, as was Anke in her win.

Hereford lost to the top team Devon 2 4-6, with double wins for Michael and Andy. Michael was pushed to a decider in one to win 21-7, 20-22, 21-19. Mark lost both games in 3 sets and Christina was unlucky in one to lose, 16-21, 21-14, 20-22.

In the Junior Div 3C Hereford played home to Gwent resulting in a 6-4 win

Jenny Spencer and Emily Birt won both their matches, with Tom Peters and Sam Lloyd winning one each. Tom forced a decider for his win, 16-21, 21-15, 21-11. Sam's win was dramatic at 23-21, 23-21 and Joe Davies was forced into a decider to lose, 21-15, 14-21, 12-21.

In the Veterans Div 3D Hereford First played away to Gloucester resulting in another 4-5 loss. This was very disappointing as we started off 3-0 up. Richard Smith won both games. Harry won one comfortably and should have won the second but was unlucky to have a net and an edge against him at 20-18 up in the second, losing 22-20, 20-22, 16-21. Gordon's win was in 3 sets 18-21, 21-17, 21-12. Harry and Gordon lost mens doubles 19-21, 21-16, 16-21. Richard and Linda lost mixed doubles, 16-21, 20-22.

Hereford Third also in this Division played away to Devon 3 resulting in 0-9 loss. Devon proved to be too strong for Mike Belfield, Ray Cooke, James Palmer and Margaret Stock to win in straight sets.

In the Veterans Div 3C Hereford Second played away to Hampshire 4 resulting in 0-9 loss. Team members Richard Owens, Norman Merchant, Neville Meredith and Carol Milnes.

MORE COUNTY RESULTS on Saturday 12th December 1998

In the Senior Div 2B Hereford played host to Worcestershire 2 and beat them 6-4. Mark Owen and Michael Owens won both games each, with Christina Matro-Tomas and Sally Davies winning one each. Andy Castle pushed one to 3 sets.

In the Junior Div 3C Hereford played against Cornwall resulting in 1-9 loss. We were unable to field our best side with Tom Peters and Jenny Spencer missing this fixture. There was a great atmosphere and tension during the ninth game when Emily Birt came from behind in the deciding game to win 21-17, 12-21, 22-20. Other team members were Sam Lloyd, Joe Davies and Alistaire Dawson.

In the Veterans Div 3D Hereford First played home to Wiltshire resulting in 1-8 loss. Wiltshire proved to be too strong. The only win came from the mixed doubles partnership of Richard Smith and Linda Ashman 16-21, 21-16, 21-19. The mens doubles also went to a decider with Harry Jutle and Gordon Stables going down 21-16, 17-21, 13-21.

Hereford First also played against Hereford Third achieving their first win at 8-1. The Ladies singles was hard fought with Linda losing to Pauline Hart in the deciding game 15-21, 21-17, 18-2. Harry Gordon and Richard won both their singles in straight sets. Both the doubles were also won in straight sets. Other players were Ray Cooke, James Palmer and Bill Nelson.

Hereford Third also played home against Gloucester 2 resulting in 0-9 loss. Mike Wheatley pushed one to 3 sets and the mens doubles was also decided in the 3rd set, with Mike and Ray partnership. Mike Belfield and Margaret Stock completed the team.

In the Veterans Div 3C Hereford Second played home to Devon 4 resulting in 2-7 loss. Carol Milnes won her singles 21-18, 21-16. The other win was the mens

doubles partnership of Norman Merchant and John Hunt 14-21, 25-23, 21-18. The remaining games were lost in straight sets, with Mike Belfield to complete the team.

Hertfordshire

by Doug Tomsett

JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

THIS season's Junior Closed Championships, which were held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in December saw some new names on the trophies.

The Boys Under 17 final was between Hemel Hempstead's Richard Murrell and Cheshunt's Daniel Gillett, which saw Murrell carve his name with pride on the Silver trophy following a super show of topspin attack which toppled Gillett, 21-15, 21-17.

Winning the Junior County title seemed to have spurred Murrell on to greater things, when he made his senior British League debut for CATS'oft Puma's Adeyfield, in the Division 3 South & West, in December, winning one in his sides 4-4 draw.

This win by Murrell was even more spectacular because, when he went on to the table his side were trailing by 3-4.

In the semi-finals Murrell beat James Dance from Stevenage, 21-9, 21-18, whilst Gillett beat Barnet's William O'Leary, 21-15, 21-17.

This year's Girl's under 17 Champion is Donna Greenberg from Barnet, who beat Hemel Hempstead's Sarah Fraser 21-16 21-12, in the final.

Mark Cruse-Jungling from Stevenage won the Boy's Under 14 title, when he beat Borehamwood's Jamie Gordon in the final, 21-14, 21-17.

In the semi's, Cruse-Jungling narrowly beat James Dick 22-20, 27-25, whilst Gordon knocked out Cheshunt's William Why 24-22, 21-18.

The Under 12 Boys Final was won by Rory Bone who beat Tony Scibetta 21-14, 21-16.

Daniel Gillett and William O'Leary won the Boys Doubles final when they beat Christopher Stone and Richard Murrell, taking the trophy 21-13, 21-18.

The new singles junior county champions, Richard Murrell and Donna Greenberg, teamed up to win the Mixed Doubles crown, beating Daniel Gillett and Sarah Fraser, 21-9, 21-23, 21-17.



Richard Murrell the new Hertfordshire Junior Boys Champion

Kent

by Adrian Hall

KENT JUNIORS EXCEL AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

KENTS top juniors excelled at the National Junior Championships at Stratford-upon-Avon on 28/29th November 1998, winning two gold, three silver and two bronze medals. Pride of place goes to Cravesend's Justin Dodd, who on Saturday appeared in three finals winning the Junior Mixed Doubles with Yorkshires Emily Dearing, and picking up a silver medal in the Junior Boys Doubles with Medway's Scott Friday. Kent supplied four of the last eight in the Junior Boys Singles, Thanet's Stephen Beerling and Friday both lost at the quarter final stage. Rotherhithe's Oliver Stevens exceeded all expectations by reaching the semi-final, coming back from 14-20 in the third game of the second round to beat the sixth seed Chris Dunne (Cheshire) and then in the quarter final beat second seed Andrew Rushton (Lancashire) before finally losing to fourth seeded Dodd in three close games. Dodd then lost in the final to Buckinghamshire's England Senior International and No.1 seed Andrew Baggaley.

Maidstones Dominic Hall won a further two medals for the county on the Sunday. Hall, in partnership with Cumbria's Michael Gomersall won the Cadet Boys Doubles beating top seeds Dale and Lee Barham (Cambridgeshire) 21-19 in the third leg. Hall also won a bronze medal in the Cadet Boys Singles losing in the semi-final to the eventual champion Dale Barham.

National Champions: Justin Dodd (Gravesend)/Emily Dearing (Yorkshire) - Junior Mixed Doubles, Dominic Hall (Maidstone)/Michael Gomersall (Cumbria) - Cadet Boys Doubles.

Silver Medallists: Justin Dodd (Gravesend) / Scott Friday (Medway) - Junior Boys Doubles, Justin Dodd (Gravesend) - Junior Boys Singles.

Bronze Medallists: Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) - Junior Boys Singles, Dominic Hall (Maidstone) - Cadet Boys Singles.

KENT TRIO SELECTED FOR ENGLAND TRIP TO PORTUGAL

Kent's successful National championship finalists Justin Dodd (Gravesend), Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) and Dominic Hall (Maidstone) were rewarded with selection for England for the Portuguese Youth Open in Oporto, Portugal, from 18-20th December 1998.

KENT CHAMPIONS AT SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Maidstone's Dominic Hall and T.Wells Hazel Clucas both put in good performances at the South of England Championships on 14/15th November 1998. Hall seeded at No.1 won the Cadet Boys Singles as expected but was then disappointed to lose in an excellent quarter final clash to the defensive skills of Essex's Tim Yardy in the Junior Singles. 13 year old Hall then reached the final of the U2 I Mens Singles beating the reigning Medway champion Paul Cronin in the quarter final before finally losing to Leicestershire's Aberham Conteh.

Hazel Clucas won the Cadet Girls Consolation event to bring another title to Kent.

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Kent Junior 1st's started the County Premiership campaign at Ashford, Middlesex on 24th /25th October 1998 with 3 points from a possible six with Maidstones Dominic Hall being unbeaten over the weekend.

CHESHIRE JUNIOR I 6

KENT JUNIOR I 4

This was always going to be a tough start for Kent with Cheshire fielding England No.1 Girl Karen Lockwood, No.8 Terri-Ann Nolan and No.7 Boy Chris Dunne who between them won all six for their county.

Kent I - Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (1), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (1), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (2), Ellen Grant (Thanet) (0), Emma Etheridge (T. Wells) (0)

KENT JUNIOR I 8

HAMPSHIRE JUNIOR I 2

A good if not unexpected win for Kent with only England No.6 Cadet Lucy Pointer proving too strong for the Kent girls winning both her matches.

Kent I - Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (2), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (2), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (2), Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells) (1), Emma Etheridge (T.Wells) (1)

KENT JUNIOR I 5 - CLWYD JUNIOR I 5

Kent went into a 4-2 lead only to find themselves 4-5 in arrears before Hall beat Brian Hayes 21-15, 21-15, to earn the draw. Welsh Senior International Adam Robertson was in impressive form for Clwyd and Iona Davies was also unbeaten but only just got the better of Grant 2-5, 7-21, 17-21.

Kent I - Oliver Stevens (Rotherhithe) (1), Stephen Beerling (Thanet) (1), Dominic Hall (Maidstone) (2), Ellen Grant (Thanet) (1), Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) (0)

KENT SENIORS IN GOOD FORM

Kent I 7 - Middlesex II 3

Kent senior 1st team still look good prospects for a quick return to the Premier division of the County Championships with a 7-3 win over Middlesex 2nds. Bromleys Joe Kennedy and Tunbridge Wells Mark Brown and Angie Bristow were all unbeaten for Kent.

Kent: Joe Kennedy (Bromley) 2, Justin Goodall (Thanet) 1, Mark Brown (T.Wells) 2, Angie Bristow (T. Wells) 2, Kristina Brocklebank (Canterbury) 0.

Buckinghamshire I 2 - Kent II 8

Kent senior 2nd team playing in the same division this year as the first team did the counties promotion prospects no harm beating Bucks 8-2. Bromley's Paul Rainford and Phil Cox and T.Wells Mark Romano each won their two games for Kent as did Samantha Marling for Bucks. Kent: Paul Rainford (Bromley) 2, Phil Cox (Bromley) 2, Mark Romano (T.Wells) 2, Sandra Collins (Gravesend) 1, Carol Homewood (N. W.K.) 1.

KENT JUNIOR 2nds UNBEATEN

Kent Junior II 7 - Dorset Junior I 3

Kent juniors had an excellent 7-3 win against the previously unbeaten Dorset 1st team and in the process remain undefeated this season. Tunbridge Wells Wesley Cheeseman and Thanet's David

Jeavons were both unbeaten for Kent and were well supported by Ross Walker (Medway), Hazel Clucas and Joanne Hubbard (T.Wells). Nicky Broome won both her singles for Dorset.

Kent: Ross Walker (Medway) 1, Wesley Cheeseman (T. Wells) 2, David Jeavons (Thanet) 2, Joanne Hubbard (T. Wells) 1, Hazel Clucas (T.Wells) 1.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN

Contrary to my report in the last issue of the magazine there is still a possibility of a Kent Junior Open sometime in June. The only problem the committee have at the present is finding a suitable venue and hotel accommodation that is not already booked.

Leicestershire

by Derek Butt

A BREWER MAXIMUM

Rushey Mead third team lead Division One of the Leicestershire and District Table Tennis League, they are still with a 100% record after seven matches, they are now the only side in this position. Their latest win was against their own first team to the tune of 7-3. Chris Brewer was in fine form and secured a maximum, while Maurice Newman chipped in with a brace and Alan Philpott one. On this form they are going to take some beating and look firm favourites for the title. In 2nd place are Great Glen, and having a good season.

Most of the cup competitions have reached the semi-final stages. The Countys competition, the Rose Johnson Bowl has had a good entry with teams from Loughborough, Hinckley, Leicester and Long Eaton. A total of sixteen teams are taking part.

The Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy, a handicap competition for all female players, was held at Knights Park Table Tennis Club a couple of weeks ago and we witnessed some excellent table tennis. The competition was finally won by young Lucy Spary beating Pauline Turton, both of Knights Park, in an exciting three-setter. The competition was well organised by Shirley Pickering and I was honoured to present the trophies.

Leicesters Woolwich Junior League has got off to a good start with two divisions of eight teams. They have now played two matches each. The matches are played at the Rushey Mead Centre, where coaching is also available on the same day. I was there recently and the enthusiasm of the youngsters was tremendous. There were about 46 at this meeting - really excellent news.

On to the Hinckley (Calor Gas) Division One, and Nalgo B are the current leaders, being the only team of ten to be unbeaten. Ridge Lane are in second place, but have played a game extra. Nalgo A are third and will no doubt be looking to improve on that. At the other end of the table only Ashby Parva Buffaloes have yet to win. Market Bosworth B are having a fairly good season and at present are in fourth place.

I have no news on how the Woolwich Junior League is going on, but knowing how keen they are, it will be up and running by now. Hope to have more news on this next time round.



Chris Brewer was in fine form for Leicestershire's Rushey Mead team

Lincolnshire

by Betty Brown

SATURDAY, 14th November saw the Lincolnshire Junior Closed Table Tennis Tournament in Grantham, when talented young players from throughout the County came together to play each other. The standard of play was high, as was the level of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Players new to the sport met up with more seasoned players, which all helps to develop their skill and understanding of the game.

The day got off to a fine start with the Under-10's. It was good to see there are so many young players starting the game. The final of the girls was an all Grantham affair with Lauren Springthorpe defeating Susie Staples 21-9 and 21-7. Grantham must be producing some good players at the moment, because young Simon Rogerson was victorious in the boys event. The runner up was Neil Webdill from Lincoln, quite an achievement for it was Neil's first competition.

The Rogerson family were in the trophies again in the boys Under-12's tournament. Simon's brother Shaun took the honours by beating Ashley Toulson (Grantham) in the final. Lauren Springthorpe's name came up again as this young Grantham girl won the Under-12's girls event as well. This time her victim was Charlotte Palul, also from Grantham. The Cadet boys' final was an all Lincoln battle between Chris Barnard and Darren Swift. It was a good final with Chris coming out the champion by virtue of a 21-18, 21-13 win. Grantham were back in the trophies again in the Cadet girls' event. Laura Dixon beat Charlotte Palul 21-13 and 21-7.

The boys' Under-17 final saw county No.1 junior Mark Sharman of Boston in action. The other finalist was Chris Barnard whose county ranking is 2. Although the outcome was predictable, Chris put up a spirited fight by taking the first game but failed to keep up the momentum, losing the next games and giving Mark the match 16-21, 21-19 and 21-14.

The girls Under 17's event, because of the low number of entries, was run as a 'Round Robin' event. Despite the low

entry, the quality of table tennis was very high. The winner was Grimsby's Katie Barwood who won all her games and proved to be a worthy champion. The runner up was Hayley Hooton of Boston.

The Boys' Doubles was won by the Lincoln pair of Steve Hockett and Chris Barnard who beat Stephen Jones and Ashley Roberts of Spalding and Grimsby respectively 21-10 and 21-17.

The Open Consolation Competition was won by Oliver Brown of Grantham who beat Spalding's Stephen Jones 18-2 1, 21-16, 21-12, in the final

Lancashire

Tony Meredith

A happy new year to all readers and I hope everyone had a good Christmas. The dreaded long pimple saga continues. The new year could see some interesting developments in this and other issues (one way or another). I am hoping to write a separate letter with views on one or two subjects. I feel that County notes should be confined to County news.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

The League continues to maintain interest with fourteen divisions (four men's, one ladies, two juniors and seven vets). The seven vets divisions are obviously 50% of the League but this is sadly about the average throughout table tennis.

Liverpool seem invincible in men's one - not surprising with Adam Robertson, Kevin Dolder and Keith Williams the first choice. They whitewashed both Ellesmere Port and Manchester. Ken Jackson made his debut in the Manchester match at age 53 (the selection committee lost his phone number in 1969). Wirral are unbeaten after three with wins over Manchester 9-1, Bumley 8-2 and Mid-Cheshire 10 nil. Bernie Wentworth remains unbeaten at this point. Bolton drew with Stockport where Darren Howarth beat both his DL team mates Dave Sefton and Jeff Craighill. They went down 4-6 at Bumley where Dave Newton took the scalp of Howarth 17 and 18. Salford Farnworth did well to oust neighbours Bolton 6-4 with Dave Griffith in sparkling form.

Preston could be the team in two north with wins over Bumley 'A' 8-2 and Barrow 10 nil. The Lytham St. Annes - Blackpool derby match ended in a draw with Blackpool's Martin Ireland the top man. Promoted Oldham lead the way in two south after defeating Rochdale 8-2 and Warrington 'A' 10 nil. Trafford and Manchester 'A' are both in contention for division three honours. Trafford have beaten Rochdale 'A' 7-3, Lytham St. Annes 'A' 6-4 and Warrington 'B' 7-3. Manchester 'A' were victors over Ellesmere Port 'A' 6-4, Glossop 10 nil and Lytham St. Annes 'A' 9-1.

Can anyone topple Liverpool in the ladies division? With wins over Macclesfield 10 nil, Bumley 9-1, Wirral 9-1 and Halton 10 nil, it looks like a one-horse race. Welsh import Delyth Davies (at uni in the city) has strengthened their already formidable ranks.

Wirral look to be very strong in the junior premier. They had victories over Oldham 7-3 and Manchester 10 nil and

NORTHANTS'

Margaret Maltby retained her 100%, playing against Lancashire 2nd's and Worcestershire Veterans



Chris Dunne has yet to make an appearance. Blackburn beat Preston 6-4 and Manchester 8-2. Halton appear to be the leading team in division one with successes over Chester 6-4 and Barrow 10 nil.

Stockport are still the team to beat in vets premier, although only one result to date, a 9-1 victory over Preston who beat a strong Blackburn 6-4. Oldham beat a very handy Liverpool 'A' 8-2 in vets one but then drew with LBH who could be the team to watch. Salford ~ Farnworth are unbeaten in vets two with wins over Tamside 6-4, Oldham 'B' 7-3 and Trafford 'A' 8-2. Blackpool drew at Manchester 'A' where chairman Mick Parker had two excellent wins.

Not many results for vets three but Wirral and Bolton could be in contention. Wirral edged out Barrow 6-4 and Bolton won 9-2 at Mid-Cheshire 'A'. Rochdale 'A' will take some stopping in vets four. They overhauled Lytham St. Annes 'A' 9-1 and Lytham first team 7-3. Oldham 'D' are also unbeaten with victories over the same two teams, both 9-2. Lancaster & Morecambe 'A' are leading the way in five north with comfortable wins over Blackburn 'A' 10 nil and Bolton 'A' 9-1. Only four results so far in five south with Wirral 'B' beating Warrington 'A' 9-1 and looking good.

Seaside's (Blackpool) Grand Prix Junior 2 Star 29/11/99

Essex boy Aaron Fennell came through to win the Junior boys band 1, defeating the long pimplers of Antony Kelly of Birmingham in the deciding game. Cheshire's Clara Howard got the better of Birmingham's Sarah Riach in the girls' band 1, also in three. Newcomer Chris Polkinghorn from Cumbria eased out Yorkshire's Andrew Woodhead in the cadet boys band 1 and Clara Howard beat Katie Lightowler of Yorkshire in the cadet girls. Anthony Marshall flew the flag for Lancashire when he won the under 12 boys singles over Derbyshire's George Yardley (grandson of N.6.) and Clara Howard made it three main events in one day when she saw off Elizabeth Dennett (Cheshire) in the under 12 girls.

Other results- Junior Boys Singles Band 2, Iain Lindley (La) bt Simon Gleeson (Wa) -13, 17, 15. Junior Girls Singles Band 2 Sarah Riach (Wa) bt Clara Howard (Ch) 20,12. Cadet Boys Singles Band 2: Lea Turner (Y) bt Paul Lindley (La) 21, 17. Cadet Girls Singles Band 2i C. Howard bt Katie Lightowler (Y) 10, 20.

British League

The County's representative, Seasiders (Blackpool) Club continues to compete with mixed results. The first team is holding its own in division one north. Having drawn with Kingshurst, Darlington and Worcester, they have beaten second placed Derwent and Bulldog and are now well placed in a very even division. Only Darlington look superior to the rest and they will not be eligible for promotion. This means that there is all to play for in the second half. The second string have had mixed results due to the unavailability of players, in division three north.

Norfolk

by Graham Rogerson

END OF AN ERA

WE have now reached the end of an era in Norfolk with Ray Hogg relinquishing the roles he has performed for more years than I can remember. Fortunately he is still going to be involved in the sport although to a lesser degree.

The future for Norfolk Table Tennis ought to be very bright indeed. The County has a wide range of top class events this season, the English Open at Potters, two Grand Prix Tournaments, an England International, plus a host of other excellent events many of which are centred around Potters.

Yet, unfortunately all is not as rosy as it should be. Attempts to run Intertown matches at Senior and Cadet levels failed to attract enough entries to run, and some of our local leagues are now so small that they may not survive into the next season.

The recent Norfolk Schools Team Championship run over 4 age groups for each sex, failed to raise enough teams for even a single girls match to take place.

The boys were only slightly better with just two teams entering each category.

Yet the interest is there in the local schools. Many have already expressed an interest in including table tennis in school activities and several schools have enquired about sending teachers on a Level 1 course. There is also interest amongst the children, the coaching sessions run by Sally Shaw at Yarmouth and Steve Goodale in Kings Lynn are going from strength to strength.

The interest is such that I am trying to organise a Schools League, initially in the west of the county.

Norfolk suffers from being a large rural county and there is little or no communication between the different parts. For instance many players in the County would have come to the recent England match had they known about it. This is far from an isolated incident.

A good first step would be to try and improve communications within the County. Anyone with anything they want to publicise, want help with or just to tell people about. Send it to me or e-mail jgrog@msn.com and I will try to produce a County newsheet.

Northants

by Dennis Millman

AFTER an initial win over Lincolnshire, the veterans experienced mixed fortunes with a defeat at the hands of Lancashire 2nds and a good win over the Worcestershire second string.

When the team arrived in Lancashire they found an opposition without a venue and from the Northants point of view it was a pity that it didn't stay that way. An hour later after a twenty mile dash the home side demonstrated that their problems didn't extend to their playing ability, and the only rewards Northants received for their sportsman like approach were successes for Gordon Shaw and Margaret Maltby.

Against Worcestershire it was an unbeaten Michael Edwards turn to shine. Margaret Maltby retained her 100% record, with a Phil Snelling singles and doubles completing a six three scoreline.

In a weekend series of five county championship matches, the seniors started with a defeat against Bedfordshire and finished with a defeat against Herts, after leading three one. In between, the side registered wins over Hunts and Cambridgeshire Seconds, and drew with Norfolk after converting a three one deficit to a five three advantage.

Individually Andy Trott won all six of his matches, skipper Ryan Keates finished on top in eight out of ten, David Gallo was successful in three out of four, while Sarah Creasey's five from ten and Ruth Huddle and Adrian Ropers' two out of ten completed the tally.

In the Wellingborough League, Andy Trott's winning sequence, keeps title holders Higham Band clear at the top of the Premier Division, followed by Old Grammarians and Thrapston, both with games in hand, while the situation

is reversed in Kettering, with Thrapston in pole position but Higham lurking ominously in second place.

Wellingborough Premier

Higham Band A	6	6	0	0	53
Old Grammarians A	5	4	0	1	38
Thrapston A	4	3	1	0	35

Kettering Premier

Thrapston A	6	5	0	1	46
Higham Band	5	5	0	0	45
Thrapston B	6	4	0	2	34

Higham Band's Richard Elliott heads the latest Kettering League ranking list, with Ryan Keates in second place. Other leading placings, 3. Mark Nannery, 4. Ian Slater, 5. Gordon Shaw, 6. Steve Brown, 7. Mick Perry, 8. Geoff Atkinson, 9. Alan Ashberry, 10. John Palmer, 11. David Hoddle, 12. Gerald Finney.

Northumberland

by Pauline Long

UNBEATEN

It has been a busy November and December for County fixtures with the Veterans, seniors and juniors all being in action at various times.

The veterans team of 'Benny' Robertson, Geoff Salter, Jimmy Scope and Pauline Long ended 1998 unbeaten in four successive matches and current are leaders of Division 2A. Following their narrow 5-4 win over Lancashire II on 7th November at North Shields YMCA, they made the long journey to Northants on 12th December and came back with a 6-3 victory. 'Benny' and Geoff each won two singles, Jimmy one, and Geoff and Jimmy combined to take the men's doubles.

The seniors travelled to Norwich for the first of the Division 2A weekends on 14-15th November and finished unbeaten with wins over Lincs II (9-1), Lincs (8-2), Leics II (10-0) and a 5-5 draw with Cheshire. Eddie Smith was unbeaten, Andrew Wilkinson lost only one and Dave Godbold two. The women's singles also went well with Karen Newby taking six sets out of a possible eight, and Caron Guthrie winning only one set less.

The junior team of Richard Chapman, Shaun Jackson, Chris Leyland, Ellie de la Hunt and Rhoda Anderson travelled to Grantham on 12th December to play an incredible total of four matches in one day against Cheshire II, Northants, Notts and South Yorkshire in Division 3B. Unfortunately they were well beaten by 1-9 in three of their matches and 0-10 in the other, with Ellie winning two sets and Richard one. However, the boys are gaining valuable experience in the Woolwich Junior League at Armley near Leeds, and played well in their first series of matches on 29th November, winning two, drawing one (against a previously unbeaten team) and being awarded a walkover, collecting 7 out of 8 points available. Chris won 8 sets, Richard 6 and Shaun 5. None of the boys progressed to the National trials following the recent Northern Region Junior Trials at Billingham, but Ellie has been invited to attend for the girls' events.

The Wenade (UK) Ltd., Northumbria League, Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl representative sides both progressed to

the next round. The mens' team beat both the Harrogate and Middlesbrough Leagues by 5-2, with Andrew Wilkinson winning 5 sets, Dave Godbold 3 and 'Benny' Roberston 2. The women lost to a strong Leeds League 2-5, but beat the Nottingham League by the same score reversed. Lynne Herrington won three sets and Caron Guthrie and Karen Newby two each.

Our thanks go to Wenade (UK) Ltd., for their continued sponsorship of all three County teams as well as the Northumbria League. I hope to go into more details of League team performances in the next issue.

Nottinghamshire

by Brian Jones

GOOD NEWS

JIM HUGHES with the assistance of the Retford League organised a county junior trial at King Edwards School. It was attended by 20 boys and 9 girls. The winners were Alan Ford, Jonathan Bramley, Peter Henderson, Andrew Gascoyne, Michael Bradley, Cheryle Ripley, Ashley Edwards, Charlotte Fowler, Kerry Radford and Helen Jellis. This is particularly good news because it represents a wide spread of the county with all the league and major towns contributing players. Add these to the first team of Craig Gascoyne, John Taylor, Edward Croyden-Fowler, Louise Durrant and Georgina Walker and the county can boast a formidable line-up.

The Nottinghamshire Table Tennis Focus Group is asking all leagues to consult their clubs and help them to produce a 11 Top Ten Development Targets" which you would like to see the county prioritise and develop. The hope is that by getting the individuals at the grass roots to speak their minds and to put their ideas down in their own terms rather than in the officialese which we have so far had to endure, we might get some more enthusiastic responses and get something done. If this article is the first you have heard of these top ten points then the democratic process in your club and your league is not working. Do something about it! Responses are supposed to reach Louis Roberts at the Sports Development Unit by the end of January so this reminder should reach you in time for you to have your say.

Tournament reminders The Wellow House 1 Star (Cadets, U12, U10) on Saturday 27 February and the Notts Schools' Individual Events on Tuesday 2 February (also at Wellow). This latter event will have a few changes in procedure. All events will be grouped and starting times will be staggered so that you will get at least a couple of games without too much hanging around. To make this possible, entries will only be accepted on the official forms with payment in advance. More details from John Wilde.

Oxfordshire

by Avril Haynes

OXON VETS ON WINNING COURSE Devon (2) 0 Oxon (1) 9 OXFORDSHIRE travelled to Plymouth and had an emphatic win in their victory of the season. Karl Bushell, Nat Richardson

and Eddie Herrity all won two singles each. Janet Brown won her singles and the mixed doubles with Eddie Herrity, Karl Bushell combined with Nat Richardson to win the mens doubles. Oxon (2) 8 Herts (6) 1 Oxfordshire had a good win at Didcot. George Pullin, Alf Davies and David Harse all won two singles each. Alf Davies and George Pullin won the mens doubles. Sue Gokhor combined with David Harse to take the mixed doubles.

Midland League Seniors

Oxford's mens team opened their Midland League programme with a comprehensive 10-0 whitewash of visitors Dudley at the Crown Club. The trio of Karl Bushell, Ian Packford and Andy Packford were too strong all round.

Midland League Vets

Oxford 5 Leamington (B) 5 Oxford are holding their own in Division 2 with a well deserved draw. Chris Lansley who played his first Midland League match of the season had two good singles wins as did Ian Arnold, Nigel Taylor had one singles win.

South Yorkshire

by John Hatfield

UNKNOWN

FOR the second season running membership of the Hallam (formerly Sheffield) league has fallen below 100 teams - a situation unknown for nearly forty years.

Competition from other sports, lack of media coverage, funny bats, television, computers and shortage of premises have all been blamed but here is food for thought on the last reason. The Vulcan club in Sheffield now fields a record 18 teams in the league due mainly to the energy and enthusiasm of super-secretary Dennis Green. When other clubs fold because of loss of premises, the players usually turn to Dennis for places in his set-up. The irony is that he has to find extra playing premises to accommodate

them and Vulcan TTC now has three venues. Work that one out.

Nevertheless, competition for the Division One title in the Hallam league remains intense with the promise of a three-horse thriller this season. Defending champions Abbeydale lost 7-3 to 1996/97 winners Stocksbridge who then dropped a point to Michael Isherwood-inspired Crookes, the other unbeaten side. All exciting stuff and, no doubt, much more to come.

Under the new management of Andrew Gledhill, Abbeydale TTC have made a promising start to their Division 2 North campaign in the British League. There have been wins over Drumchapel Glasgow and Darlington III with draws against Rushey Mead and Derwent II and just one defeat at the hands of Grantham Kontak.

Surrey

by Glenda Ashison

CURRENT LEADERS

CONGRATULATIONS to both junior and senior first teams for their respective positions in the premier divisions. The junior team are current leaders whilst the seniors are a close second.

As expected the South of England Junior tournament was a huge success. Although the majority of titles went to Essex players, Surrey did have a couple of stars in the form of Harry Slater and Jo Parker. Harry narrowly lost to G. Baker (Wa) 12 and 22 in the semi-finals of the U12 Boys, whilst Jo was a losing semi-finalist in the Girls U12 event and also the winner of the Girls U14 event. There was however one casualty in the form of Glenys Ashison who managed to tear ligaments in her shoulder whilst going for a wide forehand. Fortunately she had not dislocated her shoulder as most suspected. All in all the tournament proved to be a huge success with

continued on page 30

PLEASE NOTE

MY NEW ADDRESS

JOHN WOOD,

TABLE TENNIS NEWS,

CENTENARY COTTAGE,

CHURCH ROAD,

CHARLESTOWN,

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Attachments: save as

"Word 5.1 for Macintosh"

several umpires choosing to attend the tournament over and above any other tournaments that weekend because (and I quote) "the food is better."

In the Thames Valley League Graham Spicer I lead division 1 with Graham Spicer II and Chessington I following a close second and third. Head of the averages are K.Mellor (Graham Spicer III) and S. Giles (Graham Spicer II). Welcome returns to Dave Harding (Graham Spicer I), Richard Tanner (Graham Spicer V) and Jane Barella (Graham Spicer V).

Altogether not a bad month for Surrey table tennis, see you next month!

Sussex

by John Woodford

MAKING HISTORY

ROSE RAINTON has hopes of jumping up the next England ranking list after winning the Stamco Sussex Open Grand Prix at Hastings and making history - It is doubtful if any player with a national ranking of No.34 has ever won a Grand Prix event.

Rose, from Bexhill, is Hastings born. She holds the Sussex championship and the Hastings and Eastbourne womens singles crowns. She is of course, the first Hastings-born player to win the title, but not the first Sussex-born.

Thanks to the superb memory of the doyen of retired Sussex players ex-international Charles Seaman, a search of the files shows that in 1933, one Connie Hollick (Brighton) won the title - the story goes that she was a close friend of Charlie's!

That makes Rose the SECOND Sussex-born player to win the title, but the THIRD Sussex resident as in 1991, Scottish international Janet Smith, born in London but then a resident in Woodingdean (Brighton) also won the crown. That puts the records straight - Rose's victims through to the final were Shelley Ruocco, Sheila King and in the final Sue Collier from Berkshire.

Another success for Hastings - Paul Barry was set to make his premier division county championships debut at Cippenham on November 15. Paul, 32 has been playing more consistently than ever in recent months for Hastings in the British League, (Division 1) and deserves his place alongside the other four Sussex players - Ritchie Venner, Adrian Moore, Rose Rainton and Sally Weston. I have yet to visit Cippenham. I am told the only main snag is the high cost of hotels in the area of Heathrow.

• Gina Rogers aged 12, daughter of the ETTA's Disabled Facilities Officer Judy Rogers will move counties from Suffolk to Sussex next September. Much interest will be shown in her performance level when opposed to the other Sussex girls.

Warwickshire

by Caroline Williams

SUCCESS AT ST.IVES

LILLINGTON Free Church seized three of the awards at the prestigious St.Ives Fourteenth Annual Inter-Club Team Tournament held at St.Ives, Cambridgeshire. Gilly Matthews, unchallenged with 100% in the under 17 and Kelly Sibley in the Under 12 both collected "The Top Girl" awards and also

in the Under 12 event Jaz Allen-Sutton, with only one defeat, was the top player in the 9th to 12th finishing positions.

With two girls playing for the team in a mixed competition, the Under 17 squad of Mark Williams, Robert Booth, Gilly Matthews and Kay Nason were, on paper, a weaker team than in previous years. However they steamed ahead to finish second in their group defeating Byng Hall B, City of London B, Wisbech and Cippenham B all 3-0. Their only loss was to Stadtallendorf A from Germany who fielded German National squad players and went on to their fifth successive victory at St.Ives. This second placing put LFC into the 5th to 8th play-offs. Unluckily a narrow 1-2 defeat by Peniel A hinging from two 19 in the third results and another 1-2 to City of London A meant an 8th spot finish out of 24 teams.

Two Under 12 teams were in the hunt. The A trio of Kelly Sibley, Jaz Allen-Sutton and Barry Hobbins won 5 of their 7 matches but surprisingly this placed them only 5th in their league. Overall winner Ellenborough, Sudbury, Cippenham B, Peniel A and Chelmsford were all defeated with the youngsters only falling to St.Ives A and bottom placed Byng Hall. Meanwhile the B side quartet of Stephanie Hawkins, Ben McNally, Craig Tunney and Nicola Sensicle finished 7th in their group, defeating St.Ives B in the process. The A team easily won their 9th/Oth play-off against St.Ives B whilst the B side fell to Byng Hall and finished 14th.

Welsh in front

The third Free Church Tournament of this season was held in better weather than the second. The day however produced a considerable surprise for the Welsh contingent. As in October the Senior event was won by top Welsh player Steve Hall (Penarth) defeating cadet Owen Griffiths (Blaenavon) in the final. However the tables were turned in the Grade A during the afternoon. Owen Griffiths overcame for the first time ever Steve Hall in their semi-final 21-8,22-20 and then went on to edge out Leamington's Mike Bridgman to lift the title. This result will no doubt have raised Owen Griffiths' profile in Wales as the Free Church Tournaments are counted for Welsh ranking points.

The Senior consolation went to Nuneaton's Derek Thompson who overcame Tim Giles (Kidderminster) in their final. The Grade A consolation was won by Ken Baker (Evesham) from Neil Simpson (Coventry). For the second successive time Welsh cadet Lee Davies (Blaenavon) lifted the Under 17 crown from a very large entry. His final opponent was Solihull's Jonathan Madeley. Consolation honours were picked up by Chris Parry (Chester) against Merthyr's Lyndon Jones. In the absence of his brother Greg who had won it last time, previous Under 12 winner Tim Yarnell (Northampton) stepped up to take the Under 14 trophy emphatically from runner-up Leigh Bradford of Birmingham. Craig Norwood (Stourport) gained the consolation from Ian Jones of Merthyr. The Under 12 event was reduced in size though not in

VETERAN'S VOICE



Hilton wins first in North West

THE first ever veterans tournament in the North West was given stamp of approval by players and organisers alike. Now there is talk of making the Knowsley 2 Star Open a two day event and bringing it forward a few days so as not to clash with other events, writes Jim Beckley.

The fact that it was put together at such short notice was a tribute to the organising committee and whilst the quantity may have been on the light side (60) any shortfall in numbers was made up by the sheer quality of the players.

Chief Organiser Ken Armson MBE admitted that not everything had run smoothly at the Heatwaves Leisure Centre in Knowsley but that any shortcomings had been quickly overcome.

"Bearing in mind that this was the first time the Knowsley people had held such a tournament it went off well". He added, "Nothing was too much trouble and all the staff at the centre were very helpful".

Former European champion John Hilton was seed number one and didn't fail the selectors by winning the Open event.

The North West has always been strong in the over 40s and it showed. Besides Hilton, there were victories for several other North West Players who even if they didn't win a title, came a good second.

But it was local player, unseeded Ted Birch (61) from Liverpool who raised a few eyebrows. He played through his group and made his way to the final where he found Hilton just too strong.

The 52 year old Manchester player won but not until Ted had taken him to three games eventually going down 21-8,14-21,21-9.

Peter Lee also from Liverpool lost in the final of the Band One tournament but reached the final of Band Two beating another local player Ian McElwee in three games. In Band Three it was McElwee who triumphed this time against Surrey's Michael Pearson in two straight games.

Stockport's Doreen Schofield as expected won the ladies open beating Karen Judson, while Eileen Shaler, who travelled all the way from Leicester, made her journey worthwhile by taking the Band 1 event with a win over Sylvia Graham.

Cheshire's Karen Tonge played some her best table tennis to reach the final of Band 2 event, but lost to unseeded Shirley Gelder in three games. Then she picked up the North West's award from the English Sports Council for winning the Volunteer Investment Programme. But that's another story.

RESULTS: Mens Open Singles: John Hilton (Manchester) bt. Ted Birch (Liverpool) 18,-14, 9. Mens Band 1: Bill Grant (Yorkshire) bt. Peter Lee (Liverpool) 12, 10. Mens Band 2: Lee bt. Ian McElwee (Liverpool) 19,-7, 18. Mens Band 3: McElwee bt. Michael Pearson (Surrey) 18, 16. Womens Open: Doreen Schofield (Stockport) bt. Karen Judson (Yorkshire) 14, 12. Womens Band 1: Eileen Shaler (Leicester) bt. Sylvia Graham (Liverpool) 15, 15. Womens Band 2: Shirley Gelder (Scotland) bt. Karen Tonge 11,-16, 11.

standard by the absence of Free Church players who were at St.Ives. The whole entry of 6 played each other in a round robin with Sam Harrison from Kidlington the undefeated champion. Kidlington club-mate Ben Shepherd was second and Lewis Cox of Banbury who had the crown at the September tournament third. Eight year old Shaun Hall (Penarth) picked up his first trophy ever with his fourth placing to follow in his dad's and sister's successes at this and previous tournaments.

Lee Davies gained his second title to take home to Blaenavon in the Grade B/A3 at the expense of Coventry's Lee Healey. The Consolation final went the other way with Coventry's Carl Sanford excelling over Blaenavon's Nathan Thomas. In Grade C Chris Parry from Chester overcame Purdip Singh from Baverstock and Lyndon Jones (Merthyr) gained the consolation from Jason Essex (Birmingham) in a close 3 setter. The Improvers proved to be ideal for three Birmingham players with Leigh Bradford overcoming Scott Prime in the main event and Seb Pickett seeing off Leamington's James Taylor in the consolation. Sam Harrison from Kidlington achieved his second success by taking the hotly contested Beginners 21-18 in the third from Stourport's Kevin Hatton. The consolation was an Evesham affair with James Green beating Stuart Shaw.

Further Tournaments are to be held on 13 February and 17 April organised by Hugh Matthews 01926 314539.

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 2nds 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 2nds 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.

Yorkshire

by Rea Balmford

FOCUSSED

EARLY season activity at County level has been largely focussed on the County Junior weekends with both our sides making a useful start to their programme.

Scott Taylor, Emily Dearing and Sarah Nutch have all tasted Junior Premier competition previously, while Jamie Marshall and Phil Lowe moved up to complete a Junior Premier quintet which won twice and lost out 4-6 to Surrey.

The second string however, dipped into the seemingly endless reserve of talent to bring out two Hull boys, Robert Owen and David Innes, David White from Leeds and Doncaster girl, Cheryl Dainty, all of whom showed up well in the opening series of matches at Grantham, finishing in fourth place in the eight team table, but only four points adrift of leaders and arch-rivals Lancashire. And, before I leave this topic, congratulations to that band of youngsters from across the Broad Acres who are pushing ahead in the national lists - with Simon Nutch (12B), Nicola White (12G), both from Leeds, and Scott Taylor (JB) and Emily Dearing (JG) from Hull, all in the top ten of their respective categories.

The Yorkshire League is now under way with twelve teams competing in the two mens' Divisions, twelve in the two Junior boys section four Junior girls and six Cadet girls, while, as seems to be the pattern in inter-League competition over recent years, the Veterans hold centre stage with 25 teams competing in three divisions.

DUNLOP SECURES BALL SPONSORSHIP AT ENGLISH OPEN

AS part of a major relaunch of its table tennis business Dunlop has secured an exclusive ball sponsorship deal at the most prestigious event on the UK table tennis calendar - the English Open.

The Dunlop Revelation Championship 3 star ball has been selected as the official ball and the decision, made by the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA), confirms Dunlop's status as a major force in the table tennis market.

Gary Booker, international marketing manager, Dunlop table tennis said; "The English Open draws in many of the top ranking players from around the world and Dunlop's presence at such a high profile event places the brand at the forefront of the sport. The ball sponsorship is a further demonstration of the company's commitment to table tennis and we are very excited to be involved."

Dunlop make table tennis equipment for players of all ages and abilities and the relaunch aims to change people's perceptions of the game.

Booker commented; "Table tennis is a fast, dynamic and exciting sport and our brand reflects this. Dunlop has long been synonymous with table tennis and has a great heritage in the game. We aim to take these strengths and build on them to take the sport and our brand into the Millennium - watch out for us!"

During 1999 Dunlop will launch a brand new table tennis range with striking new imagery, and will be working with some of the world's top players and coaches to develop the very best product using the cutting - edge technology the brand is famous for.

A KETTLER WINTER WORKOUT

REGULAR exercise goes hand in hand with a sensible diet as the only lasting way to lose weight and feel great. But just when we need to shed those Christmas inches, the British weather can be at its worst. Sitting in front of the telly seems the tempting alternative to a brisk jog around the block - or to parading your excess pounds in public, down at the gym.

Perhaps that's why Kettler GB reports a growing demand for its home fitness equipment - especially since the introduction of cross-training exercisers.

Cross trainers are designed to tone up all the main muscle groups and make your whole body feel good. You don't need to give up the spare room either, Kettler cross-trainers are compact so you can puff and pant away in the privacy of your own bedroom!

Best seller in the Kettler range at the moment is the Comet. Expect to pay just under £400 for this exerciser, which features a training computer and a new elliptical movement that strengthens legs seat and thighs but goes easy on those aching joints.

Naturally, there are other more elaborate (and expensive) 'home gyms' in the Kettler range; including the Multi Fitness Centre, a complete home gym which at £1,500 is probably still cheaper than a two annual subscriptions to a posh health club.

Most UK specialist retailers of fitness equipment stock and sell Kettler - but the company will happily send you a catalogue and give you the name of the nearest stockist; phone 01527 591901.

WHY NOT SEND YOUR COPY BY THE INTERNET SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 29



ETTA National Ranking

TOP OF THE TABLE

Period 63 Date of run: 3th January 1999
1998/99 SEASON



Doreen Nightingale
Ranking Co-ordinator

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

Senior Men			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4599	
(2)	2 PREAM, Carl (IW.)	4471	
(3)	3 YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4286	
(4)	4 PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4277	
(5)	5 BILLINGTON, Brad (DY.)	4127	**
(6)	6 HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4090	
(7)	7 BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	4076	
(8)	8 EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4024	****
(9)	9 BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	3928	
(10)	10 TAYLOR, Jon (LA.)	3732	*
(11)	11 MASON, Nicky (SX.)	3707	
(12)	12 ISHERWOOD, Mic(DY.)	3609	
(13)	13 SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3579	*
(14)	14 SLADDER, Eddie (ND.)	3567	*
(15)	15 SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3556	
(16)	16 SATCHELL, Kevin (WI.)	3554	I**
(17)	17 VINNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3499	
(18)	18 ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3486	
(19)	19 SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3420	
(20)	20 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (CH.)	3412	
(21)	21 ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)	3396	
(22)	22 PALMER, Stuart (SK.)	3389	
(23)	23 WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3377	
(24)	24 JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3364	
(25)	25 MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3346	*
(26)	26 MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3346	*
(27)	27 HILTON, John (CH.)	3342	*
(28)	28 RICHARDSON Keith (CA.)	3333	
(29)	29 SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3318	*
(30)	30 BARR, David (BK.)	3310	
(31)	31 THOMPSON, Chris (K.)	3305	***
(32)	32 CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3288	
(33)	33 SMITH, Mark Ric (Y.)	3266	*
(34)	34 CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3264	*
(35)	35 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3216	*
(36)	36 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3216	*
(37)	37 CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3193	*
(38)	38 RUSHTON, And (LA.)	3168	*
(39)	39 FESEHATSON, Dan (MI.)	3164	*
(40)	40 GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3162	*
(41)	41 HORSFIELD, And (YS) (Y)	3150	*
(42)	42 MORRIS, David (SP.)	3150	*
(43)	43 CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3138	*
(44)	44 WILKINSON, Andre (ND)	3134	*
(45)	45 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3111	*
(46)	46 MUSK, Ian (BU.)	3110	***
(47)	47 HOWARTH, Dar (LA.)	3110	*
(48)	48 AUCHTERLONIE, Mi (BK)	3104	*
(49)	49 WURADLA, Abdul (SY.)	3103	*
(50)	50 JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3102	*
(51)	51 SAMUELS, Keith (BD.)	3071	*
(52)	52 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3066	*
(53)	53 THOMAS, Peter (DV.)	3066	*
(54)	54 BROWN, Mark (K.)	3060	*
(55)	55 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3056	*
(56)	56 DOLDR, Kevin (LA.)	3050	*
(57)	57 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3043	*
(58)	58 GANNON, Dave (LE.)	3035	*
(59)	59 CORBIN, Anthony (HE.)	3032	*
(60)	60 PAPANTONIOU, Cos (ML)	3030	*
(61)	61 NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3029	*
(62)	62 HYACINTH, Ric (MI.)	3019	*
(63)	63 WALKER, Andy (SX.)	3012	I
(64)	64 DYSON, Tim (Y.)	3011	***
(65)	65 BRIDGETT, Greg (DV.)	3004	*
(66)	66 OWEN, Mark (HR.)	2989	*
(67)	67 WELSMAN, David (NP.)	2987	*
(68)	68 GREEN, Mark (NG.)	2985	*
(69)	69 HARDING, David (SY.)	2982	*
(70)	70 KENNEDY, Joseph (E.)	2980	*
(71)	71 HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	2979	*
(72)	72 READ, Mark (WA.)	2977	*
(73)	73 RAND, Steven (E.)	2960	*
(74)	74 PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	2958	*
(75)	75 RAINFORD, Paul (K.)	2951	*
(76)	76 ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	2946	*
(77)	77 MAJITHIA, Christ (SY.)	2925	**
(78)	78 BECKLEY, Mayor (SX.)	2923	*
(79)	79 STODDART, Co (JUN) (NG)	2914	*
(80)	80 BARRY, Paul (SX.)	2912	*
(81)	81 LOGSDON, Phillip (NK.)	2907	*
(82)	82 POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	2879	*
(83)	83 BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2870	*
(84)	84 BOWEN, Phillip (LA.)	2863	*
(85)	85 GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	2853	*
(86)	86 SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	2846	*
(87)	87 JOHNS, Mike (CH) (SX.)	2841	*
(88)	88 TENDLER, Gary (E.)	2837	*
(89)	89 HILL, Brian (LI.)	2827	*
(90)	90 WITHERS, Andy (HE.)	2813	*
(91)	91 ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	2812	*
(92)	92 ROBERTSON, Ian (ND.)	2812	*
(93)	93 DODD, Justin (K.)	2808	*
(94)	94 GODDOLD, Dave (DU.)	2806	*
(95)	95 BUSH-HARRIS, Wes (SX)	2799	*
(96)	96 MCKOY, Nicholas (MI.)	2795	*
(97)	97 BEVAN, Steve (LA.)	2795	*
(98)	98 SHORT, Mark (YS) (Y.)	2793	*
(99)	99 ELPHICK, Paul (SX.)	2784	*
(100)	100 DAVIES, Nicky (Y.)	2774	*

Senior Women			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 HOLT, Andrea (LA.)	3814	
(2)	2 DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3680	
(3)	3 LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3662	
(4)	4 RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3501	*
(5)	5 OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3494	*
(6)	6 SCHWARTZ, Gem (BK.)	3378	*
(7)	7 THORNTON, Lind'ly (LA)	3369	****
(8)	8 SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3187	*
(9)	9 MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3168	***
(10)	10 RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3165	*
(11)	11 DAVIES, Tracy (E.)	3130	*
(12)	12 BARRACLOUGH, Jo (CO)	3123	*
(13)	13 COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3078	*
(14)	14 HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3073	***
(15)	15 ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3042	*
(16)	16 DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	2996	*
(17)	17 HURLING, Emma (HE.)	2970	***
(18)	18 COHEN, Michele (AV.)	2948	*
(19)	19 RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	2937	*
(20)	20 RADFORD, Lesley (E.)	2929	I*
(21)	21 NEWNS, Claire (CH.)	2920	*
(22)	22 DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	2889	*
(23)	23 ROLIKOVA, Maria (SY.)	2886	*
(24)	24 RAINTON, Rose (SX.)	2876	*
(25)	25 SMITH, Emma (Y.)	2870	*
(26)	26 BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	2863	**
(27)	27 LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH)	2863	*
(28)	28 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2846	*
(29)	29 AMOS, Helen (K.)	2837	*
(30)	30 SCHOFIELD, Dor (CH.)	2832	*
(31)	31 BENNETT, Teresa (SX.)	2822	*
(32)	32 MARLING, Sama (MI.)	2821	*
(33)	33 MORRIS, Claire (SP.)	2808	*
(34)	34 DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2796	*
(35)	35 WESTON, Sally (SX.)	2779	*
(36)	36 BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	2765	*
(37)	37 MOORE, Claire (K.)	2763	*
(38)	38 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	2761	*
(39)	39 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2760	*
(40)	40 SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2759	*
(41)	41 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2743	*
(42)	42 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2737	*
(43)	43 SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2731	*
(44)	44 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2730	*
(45)	45 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2730	*
(46)	46 SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2724	*
(47)	47 RUSS, Tina (NG.)	2722	*
(48)	48 LOWE, Claire (SK.)	2716	*
(49)	49 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2716	*
(50)	50 PERRY, Penelope (DV.)	2706	*

Veteran Men			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1 ECKERSLEY, Nigel (CH)	3412	
(3)	2 HILTON, John (CH.)	3342	*
(4)	3 JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3216	*
(5)	4 TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3111	*
(6)	5 SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3066	*
(7)	6 NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3056	*
(8)	7 CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3043	*
(9)	8 WELSMAN, David (NP.)	2987	*
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(15)	14 ROBERTSON, Ian (ND.)	2812	*
(16)	15 DAVIES, Nicky (Y.)	2774	*
(17)	16 HARPER, Mick (BD.)	2758	*
(18)	17 NEWTON, David (LA.)	2727	*
(19)	18 CRAWFORD, John (DU.)	2719	*
(20)	19 WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2692	*
(21)	20 BUIST, Henry (K.)	2686	*
(22)	21 HILL, Barry (DO.)	2663	*
(23)	22 SEARHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2660	*

Junior Boys			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BAGGALEY, And (BU.)	3928	
(2)	2 ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)	3396	
(3)	3 CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3216	*
(4)	4 RUSHTON, Andr (LA.)	3168	*
(5)	5 DODD, Justin (K.)	2808	*

Junior Girls			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 DUNNING, Janet (ST.)	2996	
(2)	2 RADFORD, Lesley (E.)	2929	I*
(3)	3 BUOYE, Brenda (LA.)	2846	*
(4)	4 SCHOFIELD, Dore (CH)	2832	*
(5)	5 RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2760	*
(6)	6 KING, Sheila (SX.)	2743	*
(7)	7 SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2737	*
(8)	8 BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2730	*
(9)	9 PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2730	*
(10)	10 SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2716	*
(11)	11 PERRY, Penelope (DV.)	2706	*
(12)	12 JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2654	*
(13)	13 HEWETT, Carl (SX.)	2648	***
(14)	14 KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK)	2636	*
(15)	15 DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2605	*
(16)	16 MALBY, Marg (NP.)	2604	*
(17)	17 DIGNUM, Marg (WO.)	2583	*
(18)	18 H-MIDDLEMORE Jo (WA)	2557	*
(19)	19 HUNT, Janet (WO.)	2547	*
(20)	20 STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2523	*
(21)	21 SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2521	*
(22)	22 HALES, Linda (E.)	2508	*
(23)	23 HARRISON, Jen (E.)	2507	*
(24)	24 POGMORE, Hel (WO.)	2498	*
(25)	25 BAX, Sally (HE.)	2494	*
(26)	26 WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2489	*
(27)	27 HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2487	*
(28)	28 HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2482	*
(29)	29 VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2476	*
(30)	30 BURGESS, Sue (CH.)	2463	*
(31)	31 BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2451	*
(32)	32 FELSTEAD, Sue (HE.)	2426	*
(33)	33 STAFFORD, Mary (BK.)	2423	**
(34)	34 BUTCHER, Pamela (K.)	2400	*
(35)	35 BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2389	*
(36)	36 REID, Lynda (WO.)	2389	*
(37)	37 LLOYD, Ann (WA.)	2386	*
(38)	38 GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2368	*
(39)	39 GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2362	I*
(40)	40 RAYMOND, Sally (MI.)	2358	I
(41)	41 CARROLL, Shirley (E.)	2332	*
(42)	42 DARK, Shirley (SO.)	2332	*
(43)	43 HOOKER, Muriel (BU.)	2328	*
(44)	44 MURDOCH, Val (HE.)	2328	*
(45)	45 SMITH, Louvain (Y.)	2322	*
(46)	46 LARKING, Gill (HA.)	2321	*
(47)	47 NEARY, Mabel (LA.)	2316	*
(48)	48 GILLAM, Jenny (SY.)	2285	*
(49)	49 THOMAS, Jack (BU) (BK.)	2282	*
(50)	50 STEWART, Tina (K.)	2281	I

Cadet Boys			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	2515	*
(2)	2 GOMERSALL, Mich (CU.)	2298	*
(3)	3 BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2228	*

Cadet Girls			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 PARKER, Katy (LA.)	2761	*
(2)	2 BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	2701	*
(3)	3 WALKER, Georg (NG.)	2352	*
(4)	4 POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2220	*
(5)	5 CHAPMAN, Gem (BK.)	2180	*
(6)	6 STEWARD, Kath (SO.)	2161	*
(7)	7 SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2045	R
(8)	8 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	1767	I*
(9)	9 BROWN, Grace (E.)	1534	*
(10)	10 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	1477	*

Under 12 Boys			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1102	*
(2)	2 YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	1032	*
(3)	3 BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	1029	*
(4)	4 CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	906	*
(5)	5 MITCHELL, Thom (BU.)	855	*
(6)	6 FLETCHER, James (LA.)	831	*
(7)	7 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	822	*
(8)	8 MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	759	*
(9)	9 SLATER, Harry (SY.)	700	*
(10)	10 BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	689	*

Under 12 Girls			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1 SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	1767	I*
(2)	2 EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	1477	*
(3)	3 CRAVEN-GRIFFS, Ke (LE)	1371	*
(4)	4 CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	1346	*
(5)	5 WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1143	*
(6)	6 PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	998	I
(7)	7 HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	926	*
(8)	8 GASSON, Fay (CU.)	792	*
(9)	9 BROWN, Sarah (E.)	707	*
(10)	10 STONE, Hannah (BK.)	589	*

BTTAD RANKING LIST			
MEN'S STANDING CLASSES 6-11			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Class
1	CROOK, B (Preston)	3424	9
2	TAYLOR, P (Caistor)	2783	9
3	ANTHONY, F (S'field)	2591	9
4	CHARLEMAGNE, E (Lon)	2347	9
5	HOPE, D (C'head)	1971	7
6	GABRIEL, P (Wrexham)	1637	8
7	HEAPS, T (W'head)	1338	10
8	PITMAN, M (Ilford)	936	8
9	BUCKLE, E (W'ham)	791	9
10	MASSEY, P (C'head)	641	8

WOMENS' STANDING CLASSES 6-11			
Pos	Name	Rtg	Class
1	SMITH, J (Grimsby)	2093	10
2	MARSHALL, E (G'ster)	1778	9
3	SMITH, M (Bromley)	934	10
4	DAVIS, J (C'ford)	716	11
5	WOODHEAD, B (Devon)	696	8
6	WHITE, A (S.Ock'don)	601	8
7	ADDIS, B	540	11
8	CREE, E (E.Region)	521	8
9	LEY, K (F'borough)	380	11
10	PEARSON, M	356	11

While I like the caution expressed by Mr. Halliday I am disturbed however by the mixture of premises in his argument as he moves from one type of system to another even equating them without showing the fundamental differences. I was tempted to write an answer pointing out the non sequiturs in most paragraphs of his letter. Perhaps it is more relevant to go to the point of his argument and ask what company would not make radical changes as soon as possible if it paid a management committee £150,000 per annum and saw a drop in customers and income equal to our drop in membership and income over a period of more than ten years. Mr. Halliday says it is how you manage change that counts. I for one think that for us he is right and the sooner he gets managing it the better.

*Bernard Rowley
ETTA Vice President*

EXCELLENT

What an excellent article on Long Pimples by Stuart Greenberg in the December magazine, I agree with every point he makes. I was a regular player on the Northern tournament circuit from the mid-forties to the late fifties when sponge started to rear its ugly head. For various reasons I retired from competitive play in the early sixties but have retained a keen interest in the game and always subscribed to TT News.

On retirement eight years ago, with more time available I considered playing in the local league again so I went along to the Armley Table Tennis Centre one evening to see how I would fare against different players. Unfortunately I came across a combination bat player for the first time and I hadn't a clue how to deal with it so I decided there and then that this type of table tennis was not for me.

I was first attracted to the game as a 14 year old after watching an exhibition match between a good attacking player and an equally good defensive player producing long and exciting rallies. How often are today's youngsters and potential players given such an opportunity?

*Ken Park
Brambope, Leeds*

TOPIC OF PIMPLES

I would like to make a contribution to the topic of the moment, the question of long pimples, and in particular to comment on the article by Stuart Greenberg in the December issue.

Although I have been involved in the game for more years than I care to remember as both a player and an administrator, I fear that Mr Greenberg is not known to me so it is not possible to evaluate what credence can be given to his views on long pimples. He suggests that "the same rubber and thickness be used on each side, together with the same thickness and type of sponge" and he would like to see combination bats banned completely.

With great respect to Mr Greenberg, this is of course a totally fatuous suggestion. What does he mean by the

same rubber? Does he mean the same reverse rubber? If so, does he appreciate that two sheets of the same rubber, be they Sriver, Mark V or any of the remaining vast array of reverse rubbers, can be made to play completely differently by leaving one of the sheets in the sun (when we get any of course!). You will then have a combination bat consisting of one side with a spiny surface and the other virtually anti loop, yet the rubbers to all intents and purposes are the same. Alternatively, the player could keep one side clean and leave the other to pick up the dirt and dust which inhibits spin. Maybe he would visualise an army of inspectors going around tournaments checking the gripping characteristics of each player's rubbers.

Would ordinary pimples rubber still used by the odd player also face his axe? Even in the old days, when I began playing and almost everybody used pimples rubber, the pimples could be of different lengths.

The biggest problem with the game today is that at the top level it is becoming more and more like the very top level in tennis. Our spin serves are akin to the big boomers in tennis with rallies almost non-existent. As John Prean points out, the average length of a rally is 3.4 shots, including the service. The Over 40's Mens singles final at the Manchester Worlds was an absolute shocker, 21-6, 21-13 and over in no time. I almost dozed off and afterwards wished I had. That was in direct contrast to a magnificent affair between Kent's Henry Buist and America's Marty Reisman, with both players using pimples rubber.

For years I have been saying that the height of the net should be increased. When I started playing it was 6 3/4 inches and was reduced to its present height to assist the attacker. With fast glue, and how is it possible to ban it, it is the defender who needs assistance.

The argument that a long pimples return is unpredictable is nonsense. It is only so if the opponent plays the one stereotyped game of spin serve, loop and kill with no knowledge of how to handle the spin when the ball is returned. The idea that one has only to pick up a long pimples bat to become a vastly improved player is also nonsense. If it were so virtually everybody would be using long pimples. How many of the top 100 players in the world at present do so?

Mr Greenberg uses the word "trickery" to describe long pimples play. In using this word I fear he displays a total misunderstanding of the effect of long pimples. Perhaps he believes the advertisers whose blurb talks of "unpredictability" and "contusing" returns when selling long pimples rubbers. My own personal experience is that the attacking player has it within his own power to decide what sort of return he will get from an opponent using long pimples.

The main argument appears to be that young players give up the game because

of long pimples and this is equally nonsensical. A young player can be just as frustrated against an opponent using normal reverse rubber who varies his chopped returns, or one who produces sudden hits. Any coach worth his salt should be able to teach a young player how to handle varied spin, whatever type of rubber his opponent is using. Indeed, I find it easier to advise a player how to counter the effect of long pimples than how to counter a really crafty opponent with reverse rubber. The trouble is that these days too many youngsters are not taught the in-between game, only how to serve and try to win the point very quickly. This is a direct result of ultra fast rubbers and blades, allied to fast glue.

One final comment needs to be made on Mr Greenberg's assertion that no other sport relies on the equipment as does our sport. Does he not realise that tennis rackets now are vastly more powerful than in the old days? Does he not realise that cricket bats are much heavier and more powerful than was once the case? Graham Gooch used a much heavier bat than did Don Bradman and Dennis Compton. Does he not realise that golf clubs are very different in the modern era, enabling players to drive yards further? It seems to me Mr Greenberg is guilty of tunnel vision all directed towards his hated long pimples.

*Ron Etheridge
Beckenham, Kent*

INCREDIBLE

THE interview by Brian Halliday with Marty Reisman in the November issue of TTN, talking about those incredible players of the past, Richard Bergman and Victor Barna reminded me of an interesting story.

I was recently watching our club, Irving Sports playing Clifford Chance in the Central League at our club at New Cross, and I had a chat with one of the opposing team who told me his name was Malcolm Stennett. This name rang a bell.

During the last war, the ETTA and the British Red Cross organised exhibition table tennis matches all over the country with touring internationals taking part. On December 19th 1940, I was fortunate to play for an Army team in one of those matches at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Taking part in this match were Victor Barna (15 World Championships) and Richard Bergman (at that time World and English Champion), also Bill Stennett (Civil Service Champion). Bill, who has since sadly died, was Malcolm's father. I sent Malcolm a copy of the autographed programme.

*David Gibbons
Orpington, Kent*

COACHING OPPORTUNITY

Barnet Table Tennis Centre Ltd are seeking to appoint a 'CLUB COACH' with responsibilities for Co-ordinating the coaching of all members, prospective members and local school children. The successful applicant will receive honorary membership of the club, free access to tables for one to one coaching and access to the club and its facilities outside normal opening hours to run coaching courses. He/She would be expected to run a Woolwich League Programme at the Centre as well as a number of coaching courses during the school holiday periods.

Applicants should be in possession of coaching qualifications and live within a manageable distance from the club. The successful applicant will also be paid an annual retainer of between £1,500 and £3,000 (negotiable).

All applications in writing please together with a CV, and the name and addresses of two referees to: Mr Chris Budden, 13, Causeway Close, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HW. Any enquiries by phone on 01707 654176 during the evenings or 0171 421 0577 during working hours.

**Closing date for applications:
Monday 15th February 1999.**

**Interviews will take place during week commencing
22nd February 1999.**

CIRENCESTER 1 STAR OPEN U12 & U14, DEER PARK TTC, 8th November 1998

THE first ever Open Tournament organised by the Cirencester Table Tennis League was held at the Deer Park Centre on Sunday 8th November. It was designed to appeal to those new to competition as well as to the more experienced and, indeed, attracted many names new to the venue as well as those familiar from previous Gloucester 2 star events.

A total of 50 boys and girls in the older age group and 32 in the younger category were attracted from 15 counties including as far afield as Shropshire and Essex. The main girls' events were predictably won by Joanna Parker from Surrey although Laura Hall from Wales ensured that it was not a mere formality.

There were a number of upsets of form in the boys events but Dorset's Neil Cartwright continued his fine run by winning both the U12's and the U14's where he resisted the challenge from higher-ranked Welsh players, notably in his defeat of Lee Davies who had previously accounted for the host county's main hope, Dominic Wynn-Sands.

The format of playing in groups of at least 4 and then including consolation knockouts proved ideal for this particular venue (ten tables in use) and appeared to be welcomed by the competitors.

The next 'Cirencester' tournament is on Saturday 5th December when a similar format will be employed for the under 10's and Under 12's.

BOYS U12: s/f: N. Cartwright bt L. Thomas 17,17. R. Lemon bt G. Boone 8,18. Final: Cartwright bt Lemon 18,7.

BOYS U14: s/f: N. Cartwright bt M.Daniels 10,11. C. Bryant bt A.Hayward 11,18. Final: Cartwright bt Bryant 11,20.

GIRLS U12: s/f: J. Parker bt S. Davis 12, 6. L. Hall bt S.Hall 9,7. Final: Parker bt L. Hall 12,19. **GIRLS U14:** s/f: J.Parker bt R. Allen 11,16. L. Hall bt K. Matthews 18,19. Final: Parker bt L. Hall 17,18.

BOYS U14 Consolation: T. Andrews bt C. Marshall 13,20. **BOYS U12**

Consolation: S. Harrison bt O.Gibbs 11,13. **GIRLS U14 Consolation:**

S.McMillan bt E.Dobson 20,17. **GIRLS U12** Consolation: S. Carroll bt C. Linz 20,21,18.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3 STAR YOUTH OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT, TRINITY SPORTS CLUB, SHIRLEY PARK, CROYDON, SURREY. 14th & 15th November 1998

BOYS U12: s/f: G.Baker bt H.Slater 12,22. M.Simpson bt L.Bridge 18,-14,9.

Final: Baker bt Simpson 10,11. **GIRLS U12:** s/f: A.Embling bt J.Parker 12,20,14.

K.Craven-Griffiths bt S.Brown -14,14,13. Final: Embling bt Craven-Griffiths 9,10.

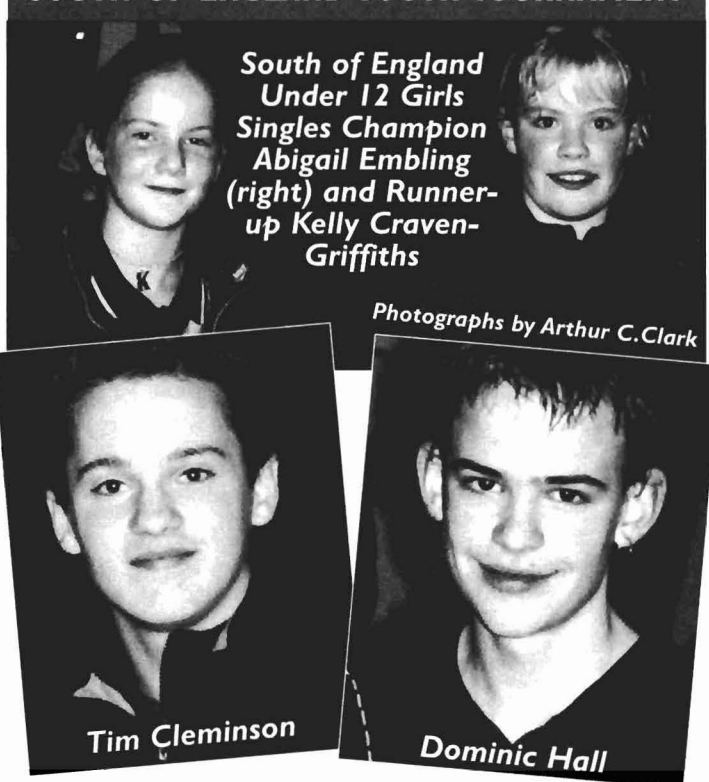
GIRLS U14: s/f: K.Steward bt E.Human 13, 7. J.Parker bt S.Brown -13,15,10.

Final: Parker bt Steward -11,19,17. **GIRLS U14 Singles Consolation:** H.Clucas bt L.Weil 10,3. **BOYS U14 Singles:** s/f:

D.Hall bt C.Bryant 12,-22,16. D.Horner bt T.Holtman 23,-14,10. Final: Hall bt Homer 18,22. **Singles Consolation:**

RESULTS

SOUTH OF ENGLAND YOUTH TOURNAMENT



South of England Under 12 Girls Singles Champion Abigail Embling (right) and Runner-up Kelly Craven-Griffiths

Photographs by Arthur C. Clark

Tim Cleminson

Dominic Hall

L.Davies bt M.Simpson 19,18. **BOYS U17 Singles:** s/f: T.Cleminson bt C.Jamieson 17,-7,22. P.Cleminson bt T.Yardy 19,-20,18. Final: T.Cleminson bt P.Cleminson 18,14. **Singles**

Consolation: A.McMillan bt E.Qualtrough 9,-18,17. **GIRLS U17**

Singles: s/f: A.Embling bt G.Brown 14,-18,23. H.Yardy bt J.Dickens 10,16.

Final: Yardy bt Embling -17,19,17. **Singles Consolation:** A.Wright bt K.Ingham 13,-15,17. **GIRLS U21:**s/f:

H.Yardy bt G.Chapman 13,12. C.Cooksley bt K.Grant 7,8. Final:

Cooksley bt Yardy 15,19. **MENS U21:** s/f: A.Conteh bt T.Yardy 13,20. D.Hall bt O.Griffiths 15,-14,18. Final: Conteh bt Hall 13,12.

K.Radford bt L.Ripley 9,14. Final: Edwards bt Radford -21,12,11.

EAST MIDLAND SENIOR 2 Star, SOUTH KESTEVEN TTC, GRANTHAM, 29th November 1998

MENS SINGLES: s/f: L.Trumpauskas

EAST MIDLAND JUNIOR 2 STAR SOUTH KESTEVEN TTC, 28th November 1998

GRADE 1 JUNIOR BOYS: s/f: R.Wesley bt S.Marples 16,18. A.Ford bt I.Parker 19,13. Final: Ford bt Wesley 7,13. **GRADE 1 GIRLS:** Final: L.Spary bt H.Hooton 19,16. **JUNIOR BOYS:** s/f:

A.Ford bt Parker 12,14. S.Huckett bt C.Barnard 16,-18,18. Final: Ford bt Huckett -14,11,17. **JUNIOR GIRLS:** Final: H.Hooton bt C.Fowler 16,-18,17.

CADET BOYS: s/f: C.Barnard bt L.Turner -19,11,19. S.Marples bt R.Wesley 13,8. Final: Barnard bt Marples 13,20. **CADET GIRLS:** s/f:

A.Fowler bt C.Fowler -19,18,19.

bt A.Nicholls 21,19. M.Auchterloine bt B.Allison 12,16. Final: Trumpauskas bt Auchterloine 9,-19,8. **WOMENS SINGLES:** s/f: G.Stennett bt K.Fisher 19,-10,10. J.Harrison bt D.Charlton 10,17. Final: Harrison bt Stennett -18,13,19. **MENS BAND 1:** s/f:

A.Wuraola bt A.Isaac 20,16. A.Nicholls bt C.Nicholls 14,11. Final: Wuraola bt Nicholls 21,11. **WOMENS BAND 1**

Final: J.Harrison bt K.Fisher 21,-16,8. **MENS BAND 3:** s/f: J.Jonah bt J.Ramage 10,13. M.Wilcockson bt G.Gill 19,18. Final: Wilcockson bt Jonah (withdrew injured) 17,-16. **WOMENS BAND 3:** s/f: P.Thorley bt T.Walker -19,21,16. G.Stennett bt D.Charlton 18,6. Final: G.Stennett bt P.Thorley 14,14. **MENS VET:** s/f: B.Allison bt M.Broughton (withdrew) G.Gill bt A.Isaac 19,18. Final: Allison bt Gill 14,8. **LADIES VET:** Final: G.Stennett bt P.Thorley 19,-9,14. **MENS U21:** A.Conteh bt S.Rudland 11,11. **WOMENS U21:** A.Harrison bt D.Charlton -16,19,16. **DISABLED STANDING:** E.Charlemagne bt D.Hope -13,16,11.

CIRENCESTER 1 STAR OPEN - U10 & U12, DEER PARK TTC, CIRENCESTER, 5th December 1998

BOYS U12: s/f: S.Poyner bt G.Brown 10,10. B.Evans bt D.Hayes 13,15. Final: Evans bt Poyner 20,-18,19. **BOYS U10:** s/f: B.Evans bt S.Poyner -13,24,19. H.Shahlaei bt L.Alderson -4,16,13. Final: Evans bt Shahlaei 14,18. **GIRLS U12:** s/f: L.Bosley bt L.Hall 21,-12,13. N.Owen bt S.Hall 14,12. Final: Owen bt Bosley 17,-24,19. **GIRLS U10:** s/f: S.Hall bt C.Howe 9,15. S.Davis bt M.Farquhar 19,-20,9. Final: S.Hall bt Davis 18,17. **BOYS U10 Consolation:** A.Hodges bt H.Shahlaei 11,13. **GIRLS U10 Consolation:** A.Walker bt C.Linz 14,12. **GIRLS U12 Consolation:** S.Howkins bt A.Walker -18,15,16.

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TABLYLOPOLYBAT

POLYBAT is a game devised by the 'Project Adapted Unit' based at the Nottingham Trent University led by Doug Williamson. The aim of the game is to allow severely disabled people the opportunity to play a form of table tennis.

The game is normally played on a conventional table tennis table and consists of the attachment of side panels and no net. The players use a paddle-like bat and a plastic airflow ball (golf ball size). The idea of the game is to hit the ball past your opponent along the surface of the table i.e. no bouncing allowed. Scoring is the same as table tennis.

Disabled players are encouraged to progress from Polybat to table tennis as quickly as their disability allows, although in some cases severely disabled players may never be able to play the mainstream game, and for those people, Polybat will remain a sport in its own right.

There is also a use for Polybat as a coaching tool amongst very young players when introducing them to table tennis. It will assist with developing their hand/eye co-ordination allowing them to play rallies from an early stage in their introduction to the sport.

Polybat has now been given the chance to enter a new era of development due to the adoption of the game by the ETTA, and also as a result of a new three way co-operative involving the Youth Sport Trust (YST), the ETTA and Nottingham Trent University (NTU).

As a result of Ken Black's work within the YST, Polybat has been adopted as one of the games in the Sportsability bag (produced by Davies - the Sports People) and includes plastic sides, clips, bats and ball. Thus the DIY era of Polybat is over. The bags, thanks to generous funding from Camelot, will be distributed to 1500 special schools across the country over the next 3 years.

The work being carried out by the YST and the ETTA will help the game to grow to its full potential, as dreamt of by those involved with Polybat during the last decade. There are some who believe it could go on to achieve full paralympic status!

From January 1999 Clubs will be able to purchase Polybat equipment sets direct from Davies tel: 0115 945 2203.

For any further information contact

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BTTAD, NOVEMBER 1998

THE AGM took place at Stoke Mandeville during a squad training weekend. The main topic during what was a fairly low key meeting was the introduction of Judy Rogers, the new ETTA National Development Officer for People with Disabilities. She briefed everyone on her background and experience in table tennis, and then went on to outline the aims for developing the sport over the next few years.

The usual election of officers and committee took place, after which the chairman thanked the existing officers for their hard work over the past year. The meeting then proceeded to elect the same officers to continue for another year!

The appointment of Judy as development officer should lead to a more promising outlook for BTTAD strengthening their links with the ETTA and providing more opportunities for disabled tennis players, so the future looks bright.

In closing the meeting, Phil Lewis, BTTAD Chairman, thanked every one for attending and wished all the players a successful training weekend.

Ian Littlewood

Judy Rogers at ETTA Head-quarters.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT (1995)

All League and County Secretaries have been sent an Information Bulletin on the above Act, and its possible implications for table tennis. If any members would like a copy or need any further information please contact Judy Rogers at ETTA headquarters.

WORLD RANKING

The BTTAD NW Open Tournament to be held at Hyndburn Table Tennis Centre on 23 January 1999 has been given WORLD RANKING STATUS, and we understand a number of foreign players will be attending. Spectator admission is FREE, so please come along and support our home players in what promises to be a very exciting competition.

DISABLED TABLE TENNIS ON THE WEB

International rules, information, tournaments and current world ranking lists can be found on the internet on web site: <www.tabletennis.org/ittc>.

MOVING DISABLED TABLE TENNIS FORWARD

Since the last newsletter there have been some successes in moving

disabled table tennis forward which members should be aware of. Two of our top wheelchair players, Arnie Chan and Mark Palmer, will be performing exhibition work between matches at the English Open at Potters Leisure resort, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk on 12/13th March 1999.

Also during the festival of table tennis being held at Potters on 19th February at 2.30 p.m. there will be a disabled coaching session, for more information contact Judy Rogers on 01424 722525.

Still on the English Open, there will be a limited number of discounted tickets available for wheelchair users to see the finals of this event on 13/14th March. Tickets will be strictly on a first come first served basis, again for more information please contact Judy Rogers.

SPORTSABILITY

New sports equipment specifically adapted for young people in special education will be introduced from the New Year throughout the country by the Youth Sport Trust, thanks to a donation of £800,000 over the next three years by the Camelot Foundation.

The initiative, recently launched by Tony Blanks MP, Minister for Sport,

will be introduced to 100,000 young people in 1,500 schools during the three year period. The Sportsability Bag contains special equipment to allow young disabled people, particularly those with high support needs, to take a greater part in sporting activities. Included in the bag is Polybat, Bocchia, Goalball, Table Cricket, Table Hockey and a set of 16 colourful resource cards illustrating the games.

Within table tennis we are delighted to see Polybat included, and Judy Rogers is currently working with coaches to ensure that local clubs can quickly establish links with the schools receiving Sportsability Bags. This will allow us to progress those disabled players on to mainstream table tennis as quickly as they are able.

Thanks to this initiative the ETTA and BTTAD hope to see a substantial increase in the numbers of young people playing table tennis over the next three years.

Sue Campbell, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust said, "So often in the past disabled children have been denied the opportunity to take part in sport, not because of their impairment but because of the lack of appropriate resources and equipment. Through sportsability, children in special education can now enjoy quality sporting activities geared to their particular needs".

STOP PRESS

Commonwealth Games 2002 Members may have seen recently in the national press that disabled table tennis is under consideration, with four other sports, for inclusion in the Manchester Games. The decision is to which will be selected will be made shortly so we will keep members informed. Watch this space..

DIARY DATES

DATE

23 January 1999
20-21 March 1999

EVENT

BTTAD N.W. Open
BTTAD Closed

VENUE

Southport
TBA

EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 1999

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	Women's British League	Potters
30th	Under 12 Training Camp	Lilleshall

FEBRUARY 1999

6th	East Midland Junior 2 Star	
6th	Exeter Junior 1 Star	
8th	Gainsford Cup Round 2	
6th	Alec Brook Trophy Round 2	
6th	Pat Archdale Cup Round 2	
6th	Woolwich National League	
6th - 7th	Woolwich Junior British League	Potters
6th - 7th	Welsh Open	
7th	East Midlands Graded & Disabled 2 Star	
7th	Civil Service Regional	
13th - 14th	Potters East Anglian Open (Grand Prix)	Potters
13th - 14th	BWSF Training Weekend	Stoke Mandeville
14th	ESTTA Regional Team Finals	
20th	Derwent Junior 2 Star	
20th	South Shropshire 2 Star	
20th	County Championships	
20th - 21st	Junior Premier	Harlow
20th - 21st	Veterans British League	Potters
21st	Seasiders Junior GP 2 Star	
21st	Cirencester Junior & Cadet 1 Star	
21st	Whitchurch 2 Star	
21st	British League	
27th - 28th	National Junior & Cadet Trials	
27th - 28th	West Midlands Open (Grand Prix)	Stratford-on-Avon
27th - 28th	VETTS Southern Masters	
28th	Cippenham Cadet 3 Star	

MARCH 1999

6th	Cippenham Veterans 2 Star	
6th - 7th	Derby Junior 4 Star	
7th	British League	
9th - 14th	English International Championships	Potters
13th	Humberside Cleefield Junior 2 Star	
13th	ESTTA National Team Finals	
20th	Leach Cup R2	
20th	Hammersley Cup R2	
20th	Selby 2 Star	
20th - 21st	Middlesex Open	Picketts Lock
20th - 21st	VETTS Northern Masters	Halifax
20th - 21st	BTAD Closed	
20th - 21st	BWSF Training Weekend	Stoke Mandeville
21st	Junior Training	
27th	Brighton Newman School Junior 2 Star	
27th	County Championships	
27th	Woolwich National League	
27th - 28th	Veterans Premier	
27th - 28th	Senior Premier	
28th	Carter Cup R2	
28th	Bromfield Trophy R2	
28th	Gloucester Graded 2 Star	
28th	Brighton Newman School 2 Star	